



### BRIEF



Patients being evacuated after a fire broke out due to a short circuit at Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital, in Chennai, Wednesday.

### Mishap

**New Delhi:** An 18-year-old ragpicker died on Wednesday after he entered a sewer in Outer Delhi's Bawana to collect plastic waste, while another man who went inside to save him was also killed, officials said. According to police, Abdul Salam, a ragpicker, removed the cover of the sewer on Ganga Toli Road near Balaji Chowk in Bawana and entered inside. When Salam did not come out, his younger brother Sahil, who was near the spot, raised an alarm, they said.

### Shot dead

**Amritsar:** A 17-year-old boy was allegedly shot dead near his native village Nangli here, police said on Wednesday. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Balbir Singh Sandhu, said the victim has been identified as Vijay Singh. He had gone out with a couple of friends. The police found his body in a field with a bullet mark on his face on Tuesday. "On the complaint of his parents, a murder case has been registered against his two friends," the DSP said, adding teams have been sent to nab the accused.

### Fire

**Chennai:** A fire broke out at one of the buildings of Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital here on Wednesday, but no casualties or injuries were reported. Three oxygen cylinders kept in the old building exploded, triggering panic among the people. Patients undergoing treatment in wards on the floor, where the mishap occurred were quickly moved to safety, hospital sources said.

### Reopen

**Jammu:** The historic Mughal road, connecting the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, was reopened for one-way vehicular traffic on Wednesday after remaining closed for over four months due to heavy snowfall during the winter, officials said. A traffic department official said the traffic on the road was allowed from Poonch towards Shopian around 9 am, marking the reopening of the alternate link between Kashmir and the rest of the country.

Weather	
High	43
Low	28
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,038.40
SENSEX	56,819.39
BULLION	
GOLD	51,258
SILVER	64,808

### STAY ALERT ON COVID

## 'Priority is to vaccinate all eligible children'

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the challenge of the Covid pandemic is not fully over yet, with the increase in coronavirus cases in the last two weeks manifesting the need to stay alert, and underlined that vaccination remains the biggest protective shield against the virus.

Speaking at an interaction with chief ministers on the emerging COVID-19 situation in the country, the prime minister also said the government's priority is to vaccinate all eligible children at the earliest with special campaigns needed in schools.

At the interaction, Union Health Secretary



Rajesh Bhushan gave a presentation where he discussed the rise of cases across several countries in the world and in some Indian states, a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) statement said. Asserting that India has fought a long battle against Covid in the spirit of cooperative federalism enshrined in the Constitution, Prime Minister Modi lauded the chief ministers, officers

and all corona warriors for their efforts. Modi asserted it was clear that the coronavirus challenge is not fully over yet.

Omicron and its sub-variants can create problems as is evident in case of many countries of Europe, he noted, adding that these sublineages are causing a surge in many countries.

He said India has been able to deal with the situa-

tion better than many countries. Still, in last two weeks, increasing cases in some of the states show that we need to stay alert, Modi said. The Omicron wave was handled with determination and without panic, and in the last two years, all aspects of the coronavirus fight whether related to health infrastructure, oxygen supply or vaccination, have been strengthened, he asserted.

### PM interacts with CMs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with chief ministers on the emerging COVID-19 situation in the country on Wednesday through video conferencing. Several chief ministers, including West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee, Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel and Punjab's Bhagwant Mann, participated in the interaction. With several festivals coming up, Modi had on Sunday urged people to stay alert to the threat from coronavirus and continue to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour such as wearing masks and frequently washing hands. "In the midst of coming festivals, you also have to be alert of corona (virus).

## Additional funding of Rs 820 crore for India Post Payments Bank

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an additional funding of Rs 820 crore for India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) that will be utilised for expansion of its services to all post offices in the country. Briefing the media, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said that out of the little over 1.56 lakh post offices, IPPB, currently operates from 1.3 lakh post offices.

He also said the Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for future fund infusion worth Rs 500 crore into IPPB for meeting regulatory requirements and technological upgradation.

"IPPB is going to expand its banking service to 1,56,434 post offices and for decision has been taken to invest Rs 820 crore in it so that poorest of the poor,

mothers and sisters living in rural areas can get access to banking facility," Thakur said. According to an official statement, the Cabinet has approved the revision of project outlay for setting up of IPPB from Rs 1,435 crore to Rs 2,255 crore as equity infusion to meet regulatory requirement. "The objective of the project is to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man; spearhead the financial inclusion agenda by removing the barriers for the unbanked and reduce the opportunity cost for the under-banked population through assisted doorstep banking.

"The project supplements the Government of India's vision of a 'less cash' economy and at the same time promote both economic growth and financial inclusion," the statement said.

### FINANCIAL PROBLEM Mother-son duo commit suicide

**Bilaspur, Apr 27:**

A 45-year-old woman and her son allegedly committed suicide due to financial crisis at their home in Bilaspur district, police said on Wednesday. Krishna Bai Manikpuri and her Ashok Das (21) were found hanging from the ceiling of a room in their house in Kalartarai village under Kota police station limits on Tuesday morning, station house officer Dinesh Chandra of Kota police station said. The deaths came to light when the duo did not come out of the room and the woman's husband Prem Das, who is differently-abled, peeped in through a window with the help of his neighbours, he said.

According to villagers, the woman worked as a maid in the village, while her son was a labourer. His husband stayed home due to his handicap," the official said.

## India likely to reduce Covid booster gap to 6 months

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

The government is likely to soon reduce the gap between the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine and the precaution dose from the current nine months to six months, official sources said on Wednesday.

A recommendation on lessening the gap is expected to be made by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) which is set to hold a meeting on April 29, they told PTI. Studies at ICMR and other international research institutions have suggested that antibody level wanes after about six months from the primary vaccination with both doses and giving a booster increases the immune response. All those above the age of 18 who have completed nine months after the administration of the second

dose are eligible for the precaution dose.

"Taking into account the scientific evidence and findings of the studies done here and internationally, the gap between the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine and the precaution dose will most likely be reduced from the current nine months to six months soon. A final decision will be taken based on the recommendations by the NTAGI which is set to meet on Friday," a source in the know of the developments told PTI. India began administering precaution doses of vaccines to health-care and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10.

The government removed the comorbidity clause making all people aged above 60 eligible for the precaution dose in March.

### CITIZENS TO CENTRE

## Don't conduct aerial attacks in Chh'garh

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

About 30 eminent citizens of the country have urged the Centre not to conduct aerial attacks in Chhattisgarh or any other tribal area and to engage in talks with villagers protesting against security camps, fake encounters and mass arrests.

According to media reports, tribals in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district have alleged that on the intervening night of April 14 and April 15, police carried out air raids and bombarded parts of the forest around their villages in an attempt to neutralise Maoists.

Referring to the reports, the aforementioned people, in a statement, have said the government should not conduct aerial attacks in

Chhattisgarh or any other tribal area. They have also urged the government to engage in talks with the villagers protesting against security camps, fake encounters and mass arrests.

"Address human rights violations by security forces. Despite clear-cut findings by more than one judicial enquiry, CBI, NHRC and the Supreme Court that there have been grave violations of human rights in Chhattisgarh by the security forces, no action has been taken against them," they said.

They further said the government must provide justice to the innocent victims of mass killings by security forces in Sarkeguda and Edesmetta and to the victims of mass arson, rape and killings in Tadmetla, Timapuram and Morpalli.

## 11 killed after temple chariot grazes power line

**Thanjavur, Apr 27 (PTI):**

It was all over in a matter of minutes and before people could realise what was happening, 11 persons were electrocuted to death and others ran helter-skelter in disbelief while the temple chariot was ablaze.

The Appar temple car procession in Thanjavur on Wednesday ended in a tragedy that led to an outpouring of grief and anguish from various quarters. "People were thrown away, they just fell down. I could see a man lying here and another one there and the unfolding scene was frightening as we could not understand what was happening," a woman eyewitness said.



Mangled remains of the chariot after several people were electrocuted during a chariot procession, in Kalimedu area of Thanjavur district, Wednesday.

Villagers say that the wooden temple chariot, with parts being iron based fitment, was decorated

with colourful lights especially on the top, and it came into contact with the overhead electricity line.

### PM SVANidhi for street vendors till Dec 2024

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

The Centre on Wednesday approved the continuation of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme till December 2024, according to an official statement.

The approval was given by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the statement said, adding that through the scheme, affordable collateral-free loans are given to street vendors. "The scheme had envisaged to facilitate loans for an amount of Rs 5,000 crore. Today's approval has increased the loan amount to Rs 8,100 crore, thereby providing the street vendors working capital to further expand their business and making them AtmaNirbhar," according to the statement.

## 'Why can't Rajiv Gandhi case convict be released after serving 36 years in prison'

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

The Supreme Court Wednesday asked the Centre why it cannot release A G Perarivalan who has served 36 years of his life term in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, noting that the government took a bizarre stand that the Tamil Nadu Governor had forwarded the decision of the state cabinet of releasing the convict to the President, who is the competent authority to take a call on the mercy plea.

The apex court said when people who have served lesser periods are being re-



leased, then why can't the Centre agree on releasing him. The Tamil Nadu government said the Centre is only trying to unsettle the settled position in law. The top court said that prima

facie it finds the governor's decision to be wrong and against the constitution as he is bound by the aid and advice of the state cabinet and it strikes a blow on the federal structure of the constitution. A bench of Justices LN Rao and B R Gavai told Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, to seek proper instruction in a week or it will accept the submission of Perarivalan and release him following the earlier decision of this court. Nataraj said that in certain situations, the President is the competent authority and

not the governor especially when a sentence of death has to be commuted to life.

The bench told the law officer that the convict has served 36 years in prison and when people who have served lesser periods are being released, then why can't the Centre agree on releasing him. We are offering you an escape route. This is a bizarre argument. Your argument that the governor does not have the jurisdiction to take a decision on the mercy plea under Article 161 of the Constitution actually strikes a blow on the federal structure of the constitution.

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# Cleanliness worker electrocuted; CMM demands Rs 25 lakh compensation

# Karm Shiromani awards given away in BSP's RMP

Central Chronicle News

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** A cleanliness worker was electrocuted to death at a gauthan in Patan on April 26. Devendra Markande (40), a resident of Patan, District Durg was employed on honorarium basis in Nagar Panchayat Patan. He conducted cleanliness works in Nagar Panchayat Patan's Manikanchan Compost Center and the Gauthan since last 2019.

He suffered an electric shock while working at Gauthan on April 26 around 13:00 hrs. The departmental officers tried to rescue but he had succumbed. The state government immediately provided a financial assistance of Rs 25000 and assured to give Rs 4 lakh as compensation and compassionate employment to a dependent as



placement worker. CMM Mazdoor Karyakarta Samiti President Kaladas Daharia informed that the deceased was the only earning person of the family. Parents, wife, a divyang son and two daughters (aged 12-13 years) were dependent on him. The compensation amount declared by the government is insufficient for the family, he

said. He asserted that the incident occurred due to the lack of qualified electricians at the newly established gauthan. The state government and concerned departments must deploy trained and qualified electricians for maintenance of the electrical systems at the Gauthans, he said.

A delegation of Nagriya Nikay Janwadi Safai

Kamgar Union Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha Mazdoor Karyakarta Samiti submitted a memorandum at District Collectorate on Wednesday demanding proper compensation from the state government. They complained that the workers are not getting the benefits of PF and ESIC. They demanded Rs 25 lakh com-

and regular government job to one of the members of the bereaved family.

ESI and PF cover for all swachhata didis and other workers who work on honorarium basis; proper arrangement of electronic equipment and appointment of electricians at the newly constructed Gauthans; and registering FIR against the people who are responsible for this mishap.

Manoj Kosre, Gayatri, Erich Kurre, Ramkali Mandle, Lata, Geeta, Nirmala, Madhukar, Rekha, Girija, Pritam, Chandrakala, Meena, Pramila, Sulochana, Ambika, Bhavna, Pushpa, Kalendri, Sunita, Koshi, Neera, Hema, Dulaurin, Devaki, Poornima, Manju, Asabti, Kaladas Daharia and others were present.

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** Karm Shiromani awards were given away in SAIL-BSP's Refractory Material Plant (RMP 1, 2 and 3) recently. RK Srivastava, CGM (RMP) was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

RK Srivastava, CGM (RMP) in his address said that employees of RMP1, 2 and 3 have reached new heights and set new records with their sincerity, hard work and dedication. We must tighten our slacks to achieve targets in the new financial year. Our awardees who have experience of both knowledge and skill must share their treasure with their juniors.

K Turkey, GMI/c (RMP 1) was the Special Guest on the occasion. He spoke about Safety and cleanliness, Ratan Mukherjee, GM (RMP 3) talked about



Safety and housekeeping, Sushanta Pal, GM (RMP 3) talked about health aspects while VK Ogale, GM (RMP 2) shared his views on 5 S.

Umashankar, Suraj Bhan Kerketta, D Srinivas, Nagesh, Srikant Gyameshwar Balbir and Rambabu were felicitated with the Karm Shiromani awards for their outstanding performance.

Employees are shortlisted for this award for innovations, better resource utilisation, following

Safety standards etc at the workplace. A certificate, letter of appreciation and a sweet packet was given to Karm Shiromani awardees.

The programme was compered by Vijay Kumar, Assistant Manager (P-Steel zone 2) while the Vote of Thanks was proposed by Harshal Aggarwal, Manager (Pers.-Steel zone 2). KD Baghel, ALWO, Puran Lal Sahu helped in making the programme successful.

# BN Meena takes charge as IGP, Durg Range

# Water woes: Denizens stage gherao at BMC Zone office

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** 2009 Batch IPS Officer Badri Narayan Meena has taken charge as Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) on Tuesday. Earlier he was posted as SSP of Durg. After his promotion to the rank of IGP on April 25, he was posted as IGP of Durg Range. He replaced IGP Om Prakash Pal who has been transferred and posted as IGP of Raipur.

Meena has worked as SP of Balrampur, Kawardha, Rajnandgaon, Bastar, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Janjgir Champa. He worked for three years in central deputation. Meena is known as an expert of effective policing and maintaining law and order. He took charge of



IGP (Durg Range) Office on Tuesday evening. Lal Umed Singh (SP, Kabirdham), ASP Neha Pandey, ASP (Rural) Anant Sahu, ASP (Traffic) Kavilash Tondon, ASP (Naxal Ops) Jitendra Kumar Yadav, CSP Rakesh Joshi, DSP (Crime) Nasar Siddhiqui, DSP (HQ) Abhishek Jha, DSP (Traffic) Gurjeet Singh, SDOP (Patan) Devansh Rathore and other officials were present.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** On Wednesday, the denizens of Ward 38 staged aggressive gherao at the Shivaji Nagar Khursipar Zone Office of Bhilai Municipal Corporation. They were protesting against the BMC's failure in ensuring sufficient water supply to the localities. The women broke earthen pots at the Zone Office as a mark of their protest.

The women stated that they were facing acute water shortage for the last several weeks. They are not getting water even for drinking and cooking. They are forced to fetch water from other places and sources. They alleged that even after making repeated complaints, the BMC has failed in resolving the problem. Spearheading the

demonstrators, BJP Corporator Piyush Mishra said that the Bhilai Municipal Corporation got over Rs 400 crore during the BJP rule for Extensive Drinking Water Project, Bhagirathi Nal Jal Yojna and Amrut Mission.

The union government has also provided funds under 14th Finance Commission for the Amrut Mission. Through these sanctions, the water of River Sheonath was brought to Bhilai to ensure tap water supply in Khursipar, Chhawani, Housing Board, Kurud, Kohka, Farid Nagar, Nehru Nagar, Vaishali nagar and other important areas.

Many high capacity water tanks, pipeline networks, tap connections and other infrastructure were established for water



supply. He alleged that due to the apathetic attitude of the former Mayor and negligent working of the BMC officials, many areas

are suffering acute water crisis. The officials do not even have the actual layout / drawing of the Amrut Mission project.

Pipelines have been laid multiple times on the same road. Water is being supplied in the reverse direction from Housing

Board to Chhawani and Chhawani to Housing Board. Same is the situation in case of Mother Teresa Nagar to Housing Board and Housing Board to Mother Teresa Nagar.

He alleged that the elected representatives in nexus with the officials have executed such confusing plans just for making money through unfair means. Even after spending such a huge amount on water projects, the denizens are suffering water shortage and are dependent on water supply through tankers.

Piyush added that he is going to make a complaint to the Governor and Prime Minister's Office regarding irregularities in implementation of the Amrut Mission project and will demand strict action against the concerned officials.

# DMC using C&D waste for making pots, paver blocks etc

# Intensive fogging campaign in township area

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** Durg Municipal Corporation under its target of zero waste generation, is utilising the waste generated in Construction and Demolition (C&D) to produce various useful items at its C&D waste management centre in Pulgaon.

Also, women self-help groups and sanitation workers and sanitation didis are using the end products to improve their income. The C & D waste generated in every ward during construction or improvement work is collected by the Municipal Corporation team with the help of special vehicles and brought to Pulgaon C & D



Plant where it is sorted into different types like concrete, brick / mortar, ballast, wood, iron, clay etc. and kept in different sections and different types of products are manufactured from them. The end products include

large pots, small pots, drain covers, skylights, home-use products etc. The women self-help groups then sell this and are getting financially strong. There is a lot of demand for these products in the city and the C&D waste



which had so far been lying useless as garbage in empty plots or on the roads is being used in a very good way and the items made from it are being sold.

This waste management plant has been constructed on the initiative of Mayor

Dheeraj Bakliwal and Commissioner Hareesh Mandavi, which is doing commendable work, in which the employees of the Workshop Department and Health Department of the Municipal Corporation are working together.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** Oiling and spraying of medicines is being done by the Public Health Department of Bhilai Steel Plant to prevent mosquito and water borne diseases in the township. This intensive fogging campaign by the Public Health Department is going on since April 04, 2022.

The department had earlier issued the schedule of the site/sector to be fogged on various dates. Through the press communique, an appeal was also made to the people to guide the fogging work to be done in their area as per the schedule and en-



sure that no place is left behind. Presently fogging is in final stage and remaining in Ruabandha and



Maroda sector. Apart from this, fogging will also be done in the area not covered under the schedule.

# Fire Safety Drill held at DAV Hudco

# BMC takes initiative for water conservation



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** A Fire Safety Awareness Programme was conducted at DAV Public School Hudco on April 23 in collaboration with the Fire Brigade Department of Bhilai Steel Plant with an objective to create awareness about fire safety and usage of fire extinguishing equipment.

The programme aimed at making the students and employees of the school mindful about fire hazards and the safety measures which can be taken during

fire emergency. Dinesh Bhatt (FSO), Chandra Kumar Sahu (LFM) Arun Kumar (FM) Kishan Lal Dhruw (FM) and Nishant Kullu (FM/FED) conducted a mock drill and gave a demonstration of how fire extinguishers can be used to cease a fire.

Their talk revolved around how fire-safety is vital and what are avarious kinds of safeguards which should be taken at different fire-prone areas. Prashant Kumar (ARO, DAV institutions) addressed the gathering and designated his gratitude towards the

fire department for providing such valuable information. He further emphasised on the need to provide a heightened awareness on what to do in the event of an emergency evacuation and also appreciated the efforts of fire brigade department (BSP) as well as the students.

Dinesh bhatt (FSO) also discussed about the safety measures to be taken at home and public places. The talk was followed by a question and answer session. The enthusiastic participation of the students made it a successful event.

• Mayor and Commissioner urge people to install water harvesting system

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** With the objectives of increasing the groundwater level, the Bhilai Municipal Corporation is working vigorously in the direction of recharging the underground water through water harvesting along with rainwater harvesting systems. During summer the groundwater level falls down considerably. In order to conserve ground water even during summer, the building permission department of the Municipal Corporation has made it mandatory to install rain water harvesting system to save rain water in the buildings.

This will be mandatory for all residential buildings of above 150 sq meter area. Mayor Neeraj Pal has directed the Zone Officers to work for the rain water harvesting, motivate the general public and traders to install rain water harvesting system to recharge the falling ground water level. Describing the importance of rain



water harvesting, the Mayor said that it is an easy way to recharge the ground water. The water from the roof of the buildings flows through the drain in the rainy season and gets wasted. This water can be saved by installing water harvesting system in the premises of the houses itself. This system will maintain the level of ground water in bore wells and nearby wells throughout the year.

Acting on the Mayor's instructions, Commissioner Prakash Sarve has directed the officials to conduct publicity and awareness campaign for promoting water conservation and to maintain the level of groundwater. For water conservation, he emphasized on compulsorily installing this system in private houses as well as public places and

commercial establishments, so that natural rain water can be used to recharge the ground water.

Commissioner Sarve has appealed to the common people as well as traders to install water harvesting systems. Rain Water Harvesting System is mandatory for new buildings. This system is beneficial for all of us. In the absence of this system, Commissioner has instructed for not issuing the building completion certificate. He has also directed the officials to collect fine from the building owners who are not installing rainwater harvesting in the under-construction buildings.

According to the data received from the Building Permission Branch of the Municipal Corporation, after 2011, rain water

harvesting systems have been installed at a total of 2496 buildings (of 150 square meter area and above) in all Zones which includes 2350 private buildings and 146 government buildings. Rain water harvesting has not been done so far in 1707 private houses out of a total of 4203 houses. Thus, water harvesting system has been installed in 59.38 percent of the houses.

The FDR amount is Rs 469.79 lakh is deposited with BMC of people who have not installed this system at their buildings. The building permission officer said that according to the rules of the government, it is mandatory to install rain water harvesting while construction of the new building. The earnest money is being taken as deposit from the builders at the rate of Rs 110 per 100 square meter area.

In the event of non-installation of water harvesting, their earnest money is confiscated and a fine of Rs 1000 per year is also being recovered from them. It has also been made mandatory for the people to submit photographs of rain water harvesting for receiving the building completion certificate. Mayor and the Commissioner



have also appealed to construct water absorption pits near hand pumps, taps, wells and other water sources to maintain the ground water level even during summer. These pits prevent wastage of water and underground water level is also maintained. It needs to be mentioned here that due to the steep fall of ground water level, water crisis arises in summer. The situation can get worse in the coming years. Hence, there is a need to work seriously in the direction of rain water harvesting.



## Unity, brotherhood important for country's progress: Uikey

Month of Ramzan motivates one to sacrifice evil and adopt good things

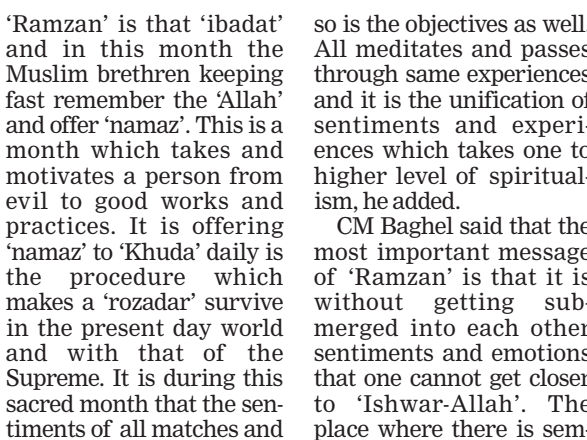
**Guv, CM attend 'Roja-Iftar' at Subhash Stadium**

Raipur, Apr 27:

Governor Anusuiya Uikey and CM Bhupesh Baghel attended the 'Roja-Iftar' organised at Netaji Subhash Stadium and sought blessings for peace and prosperity of all in the state.

Governor Anusuiya Uikey expressed happiness over invitation of all the religious 'gurus' from all the religious communities in this 'davate' 'roja-iftar'. She said that the month of 'Ramzan' motivated one to sacrifice all evils and takes the people towards good behaviour and humbleness as per religious recognition. She termed the presence of all the religious gurus in the Roja-Iftar as novel example of 'Ganga-Jamuni' tradition and added that unity and brotherhood are two important values for development and progress of any country.

CM Bhupesh Baghel addressing the programme said that the month of



'Ramzan' is that 'ibadat' and in this month the Muslim brethren keeping fast remember the 'Allah' and offer 'namaz'. This is a month which takes and motivates a person from evil to good works and practices. It is offering 'namaz' to 'Khuda' daily is the procedure which makes a 'rozadar' survive in the present day world and with that of the Supreme. It is during this sacred month that the sentiments of all matches and

so is the objectives as well. All meditates and passes through same experiences and it is the unification of sentiments and experiences which takes one to higher level of spiritualism, he added.

CM Baghel said that the most important message of 'Ramzan' is that it is without getting submerged into each other sentiments and emotions that one cannot get closer to 'Ishwar-Allah'. The place where there is sim-

blance will lead to mutual harmony and this leads to unity and where there is unity, there is brotherhood. The traditions of Islam motivated one towards mutual harmony and brotherhood and it teaches one to live unitedly and achieve the blessings of the Supreme. It also teaches taking the poor, labourers and weaker sections together. CM said that all the Muslim brethren have observed 'Roza' and offered 'Namaz' to 'Khuda' and hoped that all their wishes come true and extended greetings in advance to all on occasion of Eid.

On this occasion Minister for Food & Civil Supplies Amarjeet Bhagat, Mayor RMC Ejaz Dhebar, Parliamentary Secy Vikas Upadhyay, CHB Chairman Kuldeep Juneja, MLAs Satyanarayan Sharma, Chairman Ch'garh Raja Khadi & Gramodyog Board Rajendra Tiwari, Chairman RDA Subhash Dhupad, Speaker RMC Pramod Dube and people and 'dharum-gurus' from different religions were present in large number.

## WAITING IN OPEN SUN



After the exams school children are waiting for their parents in hot weather and this happens generally near schools in city by the road-side, having no shade of trees.

## Case filed against suspended clerk

**Raipur, Apr 27:** There are reports of creating nuisance and use of foul language by a suspended clerk with a female IAS officer in the state secretariat here on Wednesday. As per reports, a suspended clerk reportedly misbehaved with the female IAS officer and complaint in this regard has been lodged with the police and FIR has been lodged

**For scolding and creating nuisance with an IAS officer**

against the clerk. The incident is reported to be from Rakhi Thana area, near capital city.

As per information in this regard the female IAS Officer is the wife of ACB/EOW Chief Arif Shekh. Shammi Abidi, W/o Arif Shekh is working as Commissioner SC, ST

Welfare Department. It was on Wednesday afternoon that a suspended clerk all of sudden entered her office cabin and started creating nuisance and using foul words loudly, reportedly misbehaved with her. This created sensation in the State Secretariat. This clerk who had misbehaved

with IAS officer, had earlier also misbehaved with Dy. Commissioner of the same department.

Meanwhile the Police has filed an FIR against the clerk and as per complaint from the Dy. Commissioner, police has filed case of threatening, scolding and misbehaving against the clerk and taken the matter under investigation.

## BJP to hold demo against draconian law



Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would hold demonstration to register protest against the recent order of Chhattisgarh government which has made it mandatory to seek approval from Home Ministry before launching agitation against state government.

BJP Core Group meeting held in presence of Party President Vishnu Deo Sai, Leader of Opposition Dharmal Kaushik and former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh, termed the law to a draconian law. Sai said

that the BJP would continue agitation till the Home Ministry withdraws the alleged black law which the opposition members termed it to be prohibition on freedom of expression of people. Apart from holding demonstration at District Headquarters, the saffron brigade would also launch Jail Bharo agitation.

Leader of Opposition Kaushik said that state government has come up with the black law to stop the agitation of employees who have launched agitation against the state government on key issues.

## BJP creating rumour and doubts among public: Markam

**All the rules and laws are of BJP's term and were followed by BJP govt as well**

Raipur, Apr 27:

PCC Chief Mohan Markam addressing a press conference said that he wants to clear doubts which the BJP leaders are trying to create and added that there is no ban on peaceful dharna, protest, movement or religious programmes of any type to be organised in Chhattisgarh in a peaceful manner. He charged that the false rumours and doubts which the BJP is trying to create is sheer imagination and provocative.

Addressing a press conference here at Rajiv Bhavan, PCC Chief Mohan Markam said that the instructions issued for dharna, demonstration, movement, public organi-



sation by Congress are not new at all and they are already implemented in the state for a last few decade, including the earlier term of Raman government. It is just the mention of maintaining peace and system during any such protest or demonstration which has already been mentioned in the rules formed earlier. He questioned as to the rules which were applicable during 15 years of BJP rule and to which the BJP government in the state ensured its adherence, how can it become undemocratic now?

PCC Chief Mohan

Markam said that the very law to which the BJP government used to follow in UP, can become democratic in Raipur and undemocratic in Chhattisgarh. Speaking further Markam charged that it is the character of the BJP which has become undemocratic now. It is sidelining of the constitutional values and institutions, now the BJP has started defining the laws and rules as per their convenience. Markam recalled that the Raman government had even framed laws to seek permission before taking out 'barat', playing 'DJ', and for 'Akhand Ramayana'. It is

the Police who have given the right of putting certain terms & conditions for holding dharna and demonstrations. Under the section 34 of Chhattisgarh Police Act 2007, for sabhas, julus, it is the Police who had given the right to take permission with terms & condition for holding dharna, protest and demonstration and this was formed by BJP only and followed it for 15 years and now they are the one who are protesting it and this shows their double standards.

On this occasion PCC communication deptt head Sushil Anand Shukla, PCC General Secy. Amarjeet Chawla, senior spokesman RP Singh, Ghanshyam Raju Tiwari, Dhananjay Singh Thakur, Nitin Bhansali, Amit Shrivastava, Ajay Gangwani, Subodh Haritwal and others were present.

## IAS Officers appointed Guardian Secretaries of Districts

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** After administrative reshuffle on Monday, the state government on Wednesday appointed 28 Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officers as Guardian Secretary of various Districts under which they would be monitoring the implementation of government schemes and development work in their respective Districts.

Secretary rank officer Alermel Mangai D has been entrusted with the responsibility of Guardian Secretary of Raipur District whereas Siddharth Komal Pardeshi and Gaurav Dwevedi have been assigned the responsibilities of Durg and Bilaspur Districts respectively.

Similarly, the Additional Chief Secretary Renu Pillai has been given the charge of Dhamtari, Manoj Kumar Pingua with Sarguja, Maninder Gaur Dwevedi-Mahasamund, Reeta Sandilya-Bemetara, Niranjana Das-Raigarh, Prasanna R-

**Bureaucrats asked to give synopsis to CS after visits**

Kabirdham, Ambalgan P - Korba, Dhananjaya Dewangan-Janjgir-Champa, S Prakash-Koriya, Ankit Anand-Balod, P Dayanand-Surajpur, CR Prasanna-Jashpur, S Bharatidashan-Rajnandgaon, Shammi Abidi-Kanker, Himshikhar Gupta-Gariabandh, Kaisar Abdul Haq-Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi District, Yashwant Kumar-Bijapur, Neeraj Kumar Bansod-Sukma, Kiran Kaushal-Dantewada, R Tamboli Aijaj Fakirbhai-Bastar, Avinash Kumar Sharan-Balrampur and Kartikeya Goel-Narayanpur District.

State Government has directed the IAS Officers to make monthly visit to review the government schemes and submit a brief synopsis every month to Chief Secretary after visiting their respective Guardian District.

## Fire fighting and evacuation drill held



**By Indian Bank**

Bhilai, Apr 27:

A fire fighting & evacuation drill was conducted on Apr 25 in Indian Bank Bhilai Sector-6 branch in coordination with District Fire Department Durg.

Training session was conducted on identification of fire hazards in bank branches, its prevention, use of first aid fire fighting appliances and emergency evacuation procedure. The training was conducted to enhance fire safety awareness among

Indian Bank staffs of all branches situated in Durg Bhilai City. Shri Narendra Kumar Singh, District Fire officer, Shri Praveen Kumar Dewangan, Zonal Security Officer, Indian Bank Branch Managers, Staffs and customer were present during the event.

## Face masks mandatory for officers-employees of Mantralaya

**Raipur, Apr 27:** As per the instructions issued by the Department of Public Health and Family Welfare, Government of Chhattisgarh to control the spread of coronavirus, it has been made mandatory for all the officers-employees working in all departments in the Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan to apply face masks or face covers. An order in this regard has been issued by the General Administration Department. All the department heads have been asked to instruct all the officers and employees subordinate to them to compulsorily wear face masks or face covers.

## Half-a-dozen couples suffered injuries

As the 'pandal' for marriage collapses due to strong wind

Jashpur, Apr 27:

Many couples tying nuptial knot under Mukhyamantri Samoohik Vivah Karyakram (MSVK) suffered minor injuries when the tent under which the programme was conducted collapsed due to high-speed wind and dust-storm in the afternoon hours here on Wednesday. For a moment there was a chaos among all the couples and their parents present and people were found moving to a safer place in order to avoid



head injuries due to falling of iron rods hold-

ing the 'pandal'. As per reports in this regard major

part of the 'pandal' for the mass marriage programme fell down and there are reports that about a half-a-dozen brides and bride-grooms including Pt. Krishna Panda R/o Bageecha got injured. Those seriously injured were rushed to nearby PHC and after first-aid were discharged and the programme was re-started after re-erection of 'pandal'. It is learnt that in this mass marriage programme, 3 Christian couple and 50 Hindu couples were to join nuptial knot.

## Fire breaks out in top floor of a hotel

**Fire-brigade team comes to rescue**

**Raipur, Apr 27:** Fire broke out on top floor of Hotel Kamal Inn on Station Road here on Wednesday. There are many small shops and other hotels nearby and this cause panic among all the shopkeepers. The shopkeepers immediately started clearing their goods, so that the fire does not spread to other parts. The fire-brigade team was immediately informed about the incident and the team

reached on time and started rescue works. On top of this building there is a hotel and down below is the shop of Patanjali Store. The reason behind the fire could not be known. The fire-fighters first climbed the building nearby and then threw water guns from the balcony of this hotel's building. After gaining some control on fire, the other team went inside from the staircase. From precautionary point of view all the electrical lines nearby have been cut-off.

## NTPC USSC Nava Raipur organizes Vendor Meet



**Raipur, Apr 27:** The first Vendor Meet under the aegis of USSC (Unified Shared Service Centre) NTPC was held today at their office situated at Nava Raipur. Ramesh Babu V, Director (Operations) NTPC Ltd

virtually inaugurated the program. A.K Pandey, RED (WR II & USSC) in his address shared the roadmap of NTPC for procurement of material and services on PAN India basis. He also requested the vendors to develop

their potential to meet the standards and requirements of NTPC. The vendors were welcomed by Subhash Garg, GM(PPG-1) who briefed the functioning of Rate Contract, Enlistment and Bulk procurement under the um-

rella of USSC. The meet which saw the participation of around 70 Vendors saw major companies like BHEL, Siemens Ltd, L&T-MHI Power Boiler, GE Power India Ltd etc.

There was an interactive session where valuable suggestions were provided by the participants and queries pertaining to various issues were deliberated upon in the open forum.

A.K Tripathy, ED(OS), Ashish Kundu, CGM(CPG-1), KL Mahobe, GM (CPC) and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

## Two senior Officers from Mineral Resources removed

**Govt had received series complaints against them**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** In a significant development, two senior officers of Mineral Resources Department have been removed following serious complaints against them.

Under Secretary Mining Kundan Banjare has been shifted to Department of Planning and Statistics as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) fol-

lowing complaint against him whereas D Mahesh Babu too has been shifted to Department of Sports & Youth Welfare as OSD. Babu was working as Additional Director at Directorate Mineral Resources for several years. Sources stated they have been reportedly had delayed the clearance of files related with Mines owned by few Industrial Units. It is understood that both of them have been removed following nexus between them in the working of Mineral Resources Department.



## Railway Ministry orders restoration of six important passenger trains

After CM's intervention

Raipur, Apr 27:

Union Ministry of Railways has issued an order to restore the operation of 6 important passenger trains passing through Chhattisgarh after the intervention of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. This includes Chhattisgarh Express, Samta Express, and Secunderabad-Raipur-Secunderabad Express.

It is worth mentioning here that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel spoke to the Union Railway Minister on Tuesday asking him to continue the operation of the aforementioned train services in view of convenience of the passengers.

Meanwhile, the operation of a total of 23 express and local trains passing through Chhattisgarh has been stopped from the next one month from April 24, 2022, through an order issued by Principal Chief

### CM Baghel spoke to the Union Railway Minister regarding the restoration of trains

Operations Manager, South-East Central Railway, Bilaspur on April 23, 2022.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had strongly opposed this decision of the Railways and as per his instructions, the Additional Chief Secretary wrote a letter to the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board urging to continue the operation of trains passing through Chhattisgarh.

CM Bhupesh Baghel while having a discussion with the Union Railway Minister on Tuesday aware of the problems being faced by the rail passengers due to the sudden suspension of trains for one month without any alternative arrangement. The Chief Minister said

that a major chunk of the passengers in the state belongs to the middle and lower class, who reach their destination daily by traveling in these trains. Besides, due to the closure of local trains, a large number of common people including students are facing difficulties in their daily travel.

The Union Railway Minister agreed with the points raised by Chief Minister Baghel and announced the restoration of a total of six important passenger trains passing through the Chhattisgarh. This includes 18237/18238 Korba-Amritsar-Korba (Chhattisgarh Express), 12807/12808 Visakhapatnam-Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam (Samta Express), and 12771/12772 Secunderabad-Raipur-Secunderabad Express. Order to this effect has been issued late on Tuesday.

## UNAWARE OF RISK



The department in order to decorate the lower part of the flyover have constructed a structure with bamboos and it has covered entire road area meant for smooth flow of traffic and even a slight error by one can put others in trouble.

## Chairman CSCPCR emphasises on all round devp

Mahasamund, Apr 27:

A review meeting cum orientation workshop on child rights was organized here under the chairmanship of Tejunwar Netam, Chairperson, Chhattisgarh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CSCPCR). On this occasion members of Child Development Protection Commission Pushpa Patle and Augustine Bernard, Secretary Prateek Khare, Brijendra Thakur, Additional Superintendent of Police Megha Tembulkar, District Program Officer Sameer Pandey, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. S.R. Banjare, District Education Officer Chandrasen and officials of other departments were present.

Addressing the meeting, Tejunwar Netam said that protection of rights is necessary for children and the foundation of life lies in a secure and prosperous childhood. A childhood full of enthusiasm is the right of every child, she said. In the meeting, the chairman and members discussed the better implementation of the

Right of Children in the District for Compulsory and Free Education Act 2009, work plan for repairable and dilapidated buildings of the school, resources of education available for children with special needs, mental and physical development of children.

Similarly, information about health facilities for infants in district hospitals, nutrition rehabilitation centers, vaccination, and schemes being run by the state government for the health of children, general vaccination and prevention of children from COVID infection review was done.

The Chairman also talked about redressal of cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 and timely compensation and training of child officers from time to time. Similarly, in the residential institutions related to children such as children's homes, ashrams, hostels, the Chairman took a detailed review about their proper care, food, security arrangements and asked the officials to take initiatives for the all-round development of the children.

## '1000 Yoga practitioners performed Surya Namaskar together'

On 2nd day of Yogasan competition and conference

### People were mesmerized by the Malkhamb yoga asanas performed by yogi's

Raipur, Apr 27:

On the second day of the State Level Yogasan Competition cum Yoga Conference, on 26th April, more than 1000 yoga practitioners performed Surya Namaskar and special yoga asanas from 6 am to 8 am in the garden premises of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University campus, Raipur. While practicing yoga together, they spread awareness on individual well being and how it can be attained by practicing yoga regularly.

On this occasion, the yoga practitioners of Kosranji Ashram district, Mahasamund, mesmerized the people by performing amazing yoga asanas through



Malkhamb Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Raipur West assembly constituency, Shri Vikas Upadhyay was present as the chief guest of the program. The program was presided over by Gyanesh Sharma, Chairman, Yoga Commission. It is noteworthy that a three-day yoga conference is being organized in the capital to commemorate the fifth foundation day of Chhattisgarh Yoga

Commission. The aim of this conference is to promote the traditional practice of yoga to achieve a healthy body and mind and to create well being awareness through practicing Yoga.

Praising the yoga competition and conference, Shri Upadhyay said that the Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission is doing a commendable job of taking yoga to the masses, due to which the inclination of people towards

yoga is increasing in the state. Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission Chairman Gyanesh Sharma also performed Surya Namaskar and did yoga practice with the guests and yoga practitioners. He told the general public about the benefits of yoga to attain a balanced and healthy mind and body. The Vice Chancellor of Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur, Kesari Lal Verma was present as a special guest on this occasion. Members of the commission in the program Ravinder Singh, Ganesh Nath Yogi, Rajesh Nara, Secretary, M.L. Pandey, Dr. Bhagwant Singh, Head of Department of Yoga of Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Mulchand Sharma, President of Hasya Yoga Sansthan, and Chhabiram Sahu CL Sonwani joined as the program coordinator.

## Two-day international conference on 'Women Leadership in Contemporary Scenario'

By Kalinga University

Raipur, Apr 27:

A two-day International Conference on "Women Leadership in Contemporary Scenario" was organized by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Kalinga University in association with Sanjeevani Cancer Care Foundation on 25 and 26 April, 2022, on this occasion Registered International Journal was launched in which selected research papers presented in the conference were published. Guest Scholars, Professors and Researchers from the country and abroad were present in the said conference. The International Conference was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr. Yousuf Memon-Director of Sanjeevani Cancer Care Foundation, Dr. R. Shridhar- Vice Chancellor of Kalinga University, Dr. Byju John-

Director General, Dr. Sandeep Gandhi-Registrar, Dr. Asha Ambhaikar-Dean Student Welfare and Mr. Rahul Mishra - Dean Academic Affairs by lighting of lamp before the statue of Maa Saraswati. In the technical sessions on the first day of the International Conference, Prof. Dr. Bhupendra Kumar of Debre Tabor University, Ethiopia, Mrs. Sheetal Shashwat Verma (IRS)-Special Secretary, Finance Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, Professor Dr. Ravindra Raina- North West University, Mahikong (South Africa), Professor Dr. Ravi Shankar Pannikar of B.I.T. Raipur, Dr. Shradha Pandey, Professor of ITM University, Dr. Sudhir Sharma, Professor of Kalyan Postgraduate College, Bhillai, Dr. Revanashekhar M. Kuntimath, Professor of Government First Class College, Bangalore and Dr.

Asha Ambhaikar- Dean Student Welfare of Kalinga University were present and shared valuable information on the topic of women leadership in the contemporary scenario. In the two-day conference, Professors and Researchers associated with various Universities, Colleges and Social Sector presented research papers, which include researchers from the English and Foreign Language University Hyderabad, Osmania University Hyderabad, Aligarh University, Jamia Millia University and from Delhi, Canada (USA), Hyderabad, Bangalore, Kerala, Agartala, Guwahati. The facility of presenting Research Papers in both offline and online mode was available in the research seminar for which the latest facilities were made available in full screen in the auditorium of the University. Dr. Samir

Bajpayee, Professor of NIT was the Chief Guest of concluding ceremony. Dr. Shilpi Bhattacharya-Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities in the concluding session of the International Conference and Dr. Ajay Shukla-Professor of the Department of Hindi in the inaugural session, thanked the guest and research scholars present in the conference with a show of gratitude to all the attendees. Dr. Vineeta Diwan, Dr. Anita Samal, Dr. Namrata Mrvastava, Dr. DM Sahu, Mrs. Anurima Das, Mrs. Swarupa Pandit, Ms. Madhumita Ghosh. Dr. Vijay Anand, Dr. A. Rajasekhar, Vijay Bhushan, Dr. Shradha Hiraakane, A.K. Kaul., Mukesh Rawat, Shekhar Chaudhary, Rajkumar Das, Sheikh Abdul Qadir, Chandan Rajput and other faculty members of the University were present on the occasion.

## An Initiative implemented by SRU under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)



Raipur, Apr 27:

Today in two villages Bhatgaon and Dhaneli of Raipur adopted by the Shri Rawatpura Sarkar University (SRU), an initiative implemented under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan with a motive to send a message of cleanliness in which member of UBA and NSS from the University spray out the bleaching powder and swipe up to clean the complete area of both villages.

According to the Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission (CGPURCS), it has been instructed to all the private universities that social activities



should be carried out by adopting villages under the university's jurisdiction and various social responsibilities such as cleanliness and literacy programs in adopted villages, 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao'.

To follow these instructions SRU carried out the initiative through NSS

unit for promotion of higher education, removal of superstition as well as prevention of corona infection and awareness of fundamental duties and other social activities in adopted villages by the University.

Pro Chancellor of Shri Rawatpura Sarkar University Dr. J.K. Upadhyay appreciate to Vice Chancellor Prof. S.K. Singh and Registrar of the University Dr. Pratap Singh, along with all the members for implementing an initiative based on social work. The initiative was guided by Head of UBA, Dr. Anubhuti Koshle and Head of NSS, Kamal

## More than 19 lakh people benefitted

Under Chief Minister's USHS

Raipur, Apr 27:

The Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) operating in the state under the Chief Minister's Urban Slum Health Scheme is providing medical services and medicine to the urban population living in slum areas. This health scheme is not only meeting the expectations of the people but is also winning the trust of people by ensuring timely treatment. Now, people can be seen by the doctor without having to wait for long hours, which hampers daily work. The organization of health camps in the locality itself has made it easier for people to get timely treatment. Now, underprivileged and needy people no longer have to wander for getting medical care when they fall ill. The scheme is winning the hearts of people belonging to the weaker section of the society. They are heaping praise on this initiative taken by the Chhattisgarh government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for providing immediate medical assistance

to people. The scheme was started in 14 Municipal Corporations of the state on November 1, 2020, under the guidance and supervision of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahariya. The state government has recently expanded the scope of the scheme and now people all the urban bodies of Chhattisgarh are getting its benefits. Since the inception of this scheme, nearly 19 lakh patients have been treated under this scheme so far. Besides, if we look at the number of camps and people receiving health benefits, then every month more than one lakh patients are getting treatment through Mobile Medical Unit. Lab tests of about three lakh 71 thousand 458 people have been done and free-of-cost medicines have been distributed to 15 lakh 61 thousand 281 patients through mobile medical units. Similarly, about 91 thousand women have been treated in 'Dai-Didi clinics'.

## 'Rally Kosa to be procured at support price in Bastar under Silk Mission'

Raipur, Apr 27:

As per the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, important decisions have been taken in the interest of tribal farmers and forest dwellers engaged in sericulture and Kosa production in Bastar division. In the same sequence, Rally Kosa will now be procured by Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association on support price.

It is worth mentioning that Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel had announced the commencement of Silk Mission in Bastar in his budget speech. In accordance with this announcement, State Government has decided to procure cocoons at minimum support price from current year, through the Minor Forest Produce Association. Orders in this regard have been issued by the Minor Forest Produce Association today, Chhattisgarh State Minor

Forest Produce Association (CSMFPA) has fixed the minimum support price for procurement of Rally Kosa in Bastar division, which are as follows- Rally Kosa is Rs 4.20 per unit shell weight 2.5 grams in Whole Grade-1, Rs 3.60 for 2-2.49 grams per unit shell weight in Grade-2 and Rs 1.4-1.99 grams per unit shell weight in Grade-3, Rs 2.80 for Rally Kosa-Poli Grade-1 and Rs.1.50 for 2.5 grams per unit shell weight, Rs.1.25 for 2-2.49 grams per unit shell weight in Grade-2 and Rs 0.70 per unit shell weight 1.4-1.99 grams in Grade-3.

Forest and Climate Change Minister Mr. Mohammad Akbar informed that this important decision of the government would help the local residents to receive double benefits from production and processing of Rally Kosa.

Providing further information in the context, Managing Director, State Minor Forest

Produce Association Sanjay Shukla said that Chief Minister Baghel has given instructions to create more employment opportunities at local level by increasing the local processing of rally Kosa in the state. And in the same sequence, MOU was signed between State Minor Forest Produce Federation and the Directorate of Sericulture, under which the cocoons procured by Minor Forest Produce Association will be supplied to the Silk Department.

Moreover, Silk Department has selected 740 beneficiaries in Bastar division and they are being provided the training in silk rearing. He informed that 8 to 10 crore rally cocoons are produced in the state of Chhattisgarh annually. Rally cocoon collection work is mainly done in 07 district unions including Jagdalpur, Dantewada, Sukma, Kondagaon, Keshkal, Naranpur and Kanker.

## 'Call mother and keep 'bad' uncle away from her'

She is employed in govt service and is the mother of three children. Has kept one and a half year old son with her

### Two minor girls' appeal to woman's commission

Raipur, Apr 27:

Two minor girls have submitted applications to call their mother and keep bad uncle away from her. In view of the seriousness of the application, the Chairperson of the

Women's Commission, Dr. Kiranmayi Nayak, immediately called the Municipal Commissioner and asked to call non applicant with zone commissioner because non applicant is mother is posted as ARI in the zone office.

Non applicant is a government servant is mother of three children and she is keeping her one and a half years old son with her. She



is living away from her two innocent daughters-one aged 7 years and another 11 years for the last four months. Issue of children

is not the subject of cognizance of the Commission. But due to humanitarian point of view, case has been transferred to the District Child Protection Officer and the documents of the application were also handed over to the District Child Protection Officer. Proceedings have been started as per the rules on this case. For the first time

application of 11 and 7 year old daughters has been submitted to the commission. The commission took action on this case within 24 hours considering its seriousness. Though the non applicant (mother) was advised to keep her both daughters together with her, she did not agree with it. Now the district child protection officer will take full action in this case.



# Solve the problems of villagers with priority, says Collector

## Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Apr 27:** District Collector Dr. Saransh Mittar gave a detailed review of all the important priority schemes of the state government and gave instructions to the officers in the time-limit meeting for smooth implementation of the schemes. The Collector categorically said that strict action would be taken against the erring officials if lack of basic facilities is found in the villages.

The Collector also took information from the nodal officers about the camp organized in the gram panchayats from April 07 to April 18 and he directed all the SDMs to visit their respective areas and monitor the schemes.



The Collector emphasized on the presence of Patwari and Panchayat Secretaries at the headquarters and instructions were given to take action against the officers who

were absent in the headquarters.

The Collector also directed all the Chief Executive Officers of Janpad Panchayat and Municipal Commissioner to resolve

the pension cases within a week by running a campaign. After getting complaints about hand pumps getting damaged in the gram panchayats, the Collector directed the offi-

cers of Public Health Engineering Department to get the hand pump repaired and submit the report within a week.

While reviewing the Godhan Nyay Yojana he expressed deep displeasure over the slow progress of lifting of vermi compost manure in Nagar Panchayat Bodri and Kota.

While reviewing the Chief Minister's Haat Bazar scheme, instructions were given to the CMHO to form a team of dedicated people to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme. Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Shri Haris S, Municipal Commissioner Shri Ajay Tripathi, all SDM and departmental officers were present.

# CG Teachers Association meets BEO

## Central Chronicle News

**Dongargarh, Apr 27:** Under the leadership of Manish Pashine, Block President of CG Teachers' Association, the Block Union met the Development Block Education Officer, Dongargarh on April 26 and the union representatives expressed their outrage to the BEO alleging disparity towards the teachers.

Chhattisgarh Teachers Association (CTA) District President Gopi Verma, State Organization Minister Rakesh Tiwari, Block Secretary Atmaram Chandravanshi, Vice President Sitaram Uike, Naveen Yadav Block General Secretary Brijbhushan Rajput and others said that through the Block Education Officer, though the teachers and union officials have been appointed but



lately the union was getting complaints about the misbehavior of the BEO against the teachers.

Due to the working style of the officer, the conflict between the union and the development block education office is increasing the union alleged. The union demanded action to solve the matter or the increasing resentment of the teachers will be upon the public representatives in the coming elections.

Sangh officials Chandrika Yadav, Santosh Temre, Vidyanand Dongre,

Panchsheela Sahare, Rajkumari Jain, Shiv Verma, Shrawan Yadu, Chumman Devangan, Manoj Verma, Ratiram Kannauje, Rajesh Sharma, Raju Kaushik, Yogendra Netam, Rakesh Tembhuakar, Pitambar Chandravanshi, Biselal Nishad, Naveen Vaishnav, Madan Mandavi, Rajendra Sahu, Javed Khan, Gurucharan Netam, Rikhiram Chandravanshi, Manoj Harge, Nakul Devangan, Devendra Ambade, Raghunandan Chandravanshi were present.

# Bharat Kumar Dore makes the state proud

## Central Chronicle News

**Pandariya, Apr 27:** Gujarat State Education Ministry in collaboration with edotur app had launched a quiz contest on the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the architect of the constitution. Hundreds of teachers from across the country participated of which the top five winners of the quiz were to be felicitated by the education minister of Gujarat.

It is a matter of pride for the whole of Chhattisgarh including Kabirdham that Bharat Kumar Dore, an assistant teacher posted in the government primary school Gunjheta of Pandaria block, has bagged a position in the top five winners of the quiz and was felicitated by the



Education Minister of Gujarat Jitu Bhai Waghvani in Gandhinagar.

BK Dore as per information always strives for the overall development of the students including academics and also provides financial help to poor students. The students, parents and all the teachers of the development block and district have expressed happiness on the selection of teacher Dore for the honour from Gujarat.

# Dr Chauleshwar Chandrakar visits Sukma as part of Bastar tour

## Central Chronicle News

**Konta/Sukma, Apr 27:** Dr. Chauleshwar Chandrakar, who arrived in Sukma during a one-day backward class program on Bastar tour, was welcomed by the District Congress Committee Sukma at Rajiv Bhawan. After the welcome, Chandrakar while addressing said that most of the population in the state belongs to the Backward Classes community and the Congress government's head Bhupesh Baghel is also for the Backward Classes.

In such a situation, all the communities and sections of the backward classes need to be organized and all the workers should get involved in providing the benefits of public welfare schemes of the state government to all sections of the people with full

service and dedication.

He said that wherever he goes, he takes information about the population of the district. In the plains of the district, about 50 percent of the population belongs to the backward classes. Bastar also has a large population of backward classes.

He said that the Bhupesh government of the state for the development of the poor and backward sections, loan waiver, electricity bill in half, bought paddy for Rs 2500, 7000 rupees to the landless farmers along with various public welfare works like Narva, Ghurva, Bari especially women.

Schemes are being implemented in all the departments to make self-help groups self-reliant. He said that the need is to bring the welfare schemes of the government which can benefit more and more people in



the path of development. During this, if he is Bhupesh from the stage, he has faith and also got the slogans of Lakhma Dadi Zindabad. Sukma District Panchayat President Kawasi Harish said that Bhupesh Baghel's govern-

ment has started many schemes to provide social rights to the backwards, thereby improving their standard of living.

On the request of Chhattisgarh Minister Kawasi Lakhma, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel

has raised the value of backward class people by making Sonuram Nag, a resident of Sukma district, who has been a resident of Bastar since ancient times and belongs to backward class, as a member of Matikala Board.

During this, State General Secretary of OBC Department Vaibhav Baghel, State Vice President Purshottam Chandrakar, President of District Congress Committee Smt. Maheshwari Baghel, Sukma Municipal President Jagannath Raju Sahu, State General Secretary of Youth Congress Durgesh Rai, City Congress President Sheikh Sajjar, Councilor Smt. Lalma Pujari, Ramsukh Yadav, Pratap Samarth, Sheikh Ghulam, Youthpati Yadav, IT Cell District President Rinku Das, Alderman Haribandhu Sethia, Sports Cell District President Rohit Pandey, Sunil Yadav, Vishal Sah, Samuel Tudu, Nitesh Sahu, Neemu Sahu, Lokesh Nag in large numbers including Congressmen were present.

# Villages of Vananchal area still far away from development

## Central Chronicle News

**Dongargarh, Apr 27:** About 25 km away from the Tehsil office, even today the villages of remote forest area, the villagers are still searching for basic facilities. Villagers of Barnala Khurd and Koh Katta villages, which come under Gram Panchayat Ghotia, have to cross the drain on foot due to lack of road.

The work of Bannara diversion and drain construction is being done at a slow pace, and there is a big drain in the tribal Para of Ghotia, which the villagers are unable to cross from during the rainy days due to non-construction of bridge and culverts. The villagers informed that there is no access road to reach Muktidham and construction of CC road and



drain has not been done in many areas too. Similarly, water comes for irrigation from Kohkatta Reservoir in Gram Panchayat Totalbhari Udri Chhapar, but due to lack of concrete in the canal drain, water is leaking. The primary school Anganwadi center of both these villages is in a dilapidated condition and villagers are also upset due to non-availability of

Nistari pond in Udri Chhapar. Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Ghotia Sanjay Uike and Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Total Bharri Chandan Hathile have said that the public representatives of the area have been made aware of all the major problems of the village, but due to no proper initiative the villagers are not getting the benefit of basic facilities.

# Webinar organized at CU

## Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Apr 27:** A webinar on "Professional Careers and Start-up Opportunities in the Field of Blockchain and Digital Asset Ecology" has been successfully organized by the Industry-Institute Interaction Cell of the School of Studies in Engineering & Technology, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) on April 8.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Manish Srivastava, OSD, Development Section, GGV in the absence of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal. The welcome address was delivered by Dean, School of Studies for Engineering and Technology of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Prof. T.V. Arjunan, in which he mentioned the



importance of industry-institute interaction and how it would help the industry to acquire better new engineers. He also highlighted the various activities of the Industry-Institute Interaction Cell. The Chief Guest and keynote speaker of the webinar, Mr. Ajay Pathak, presented the importance and necessity of crypto currency and block chain technology in the present era. Apart from this, another speaker from

Devesh Chawla also added some new insights in the field of crypto currency and block chain technology. Finally, he took various questions from the students and then the session ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Ganesh P. Shukla, Coordinator, Industry-Institute Interaction Cell. The entire webinar was conducted by Dr. Amit Jain, member of Industry-Institute Interaction Cell.

## Crowd witnessed to submit answer sheets in RL College

**Rajin, Apr 27:** A huge crowd is being witnessed in Rajiv Lochan Post-Graduate College for submission of answer sheets. Annual examinations of the college started online from April 16 and will continue till May 15. The college administration has become helpless in controlling the crowd, and the situation has become such that police forces are deployed to control the crowd.

Till April 24, BA BSc and BCom examinations were being held, and only the answer sheets of these classes were getting deposited, but from April 25, the exams and classes for BA, B.Com, B.Sc., M.A., M. Com, has started simultaneously and the time of submission of answer sheets is also from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, Mrs. Davinder Kaur Bassi, Age 42, W/o Mr. Billor Singh Bassi, R/o Janta 43, C.G. Housing Board Colony, Tatibandh, Raipur, inform the general public that I have changed my old name from Ms. Kuldeep Kaur Garcha D/o Mr. Balwinder Singh Garcha to Mrs. Davinder Kaur Bassi, Age 42, W/o Mr. Billor Singh Bassi, R/o Janta 43, Housing Board Colony, Tatibandh, Raipur, 492099 after marriage. Hereby, from Now, I will be identified by my new name Mrs. Davinder Kaur Bassi, Age 42, W/o Mr. Billor Singh Bassi and this will be recorded in all my official and semi-official documents.  
Mrs. DAVINDER KAUR BASSI  
Janta 43, C.G. Housing Board Colony, Tatibandh, Raipur

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
It is informed to the general public that I, **JAWAHAR LAL S/O LATE MOTI LAL resident of Qu. No. 21-B, street-5, Sector-2 Bhillai, Teh & Distt- Durg, Chhattisgarh, have changed my old name JAWAHAR LAL S/O LATE MOTI LAL, so in future I should be recognized by my new name JAWAHAR ARORA S/O LATE MOTI LAL in all government and other documents.**  
**JAWAHAR ARORA**  
Qu. No. 21-B, street-5, Sector-2 Bhillai, Teh & Distt- Durg, Chhattisgarh

**Public Notice**  
This is to inform the general public that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India (MoEF&CC) has accorded Environment Clearance (EC identification No. EC22A008CG177331) with specific and general conditions to Bharat Aluminium Company Limited on 22.04.2022 for the expansion project of Aluminium Smelter from 5.75 LTPA to 10.85 LTPA under the provisions of EIA Notification 2006 and amendments/circulars issued thereunder. A copy of the EC letter along with Environmental conditions & safeguards is available at MoEF & CC website and is also displayed on our website: <https://www.balcoindia.com/sustainability/environment-compliance/aluminium-smelters/>  
For Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd  
Korba (Chhattisgarh)

**TENDER NOTICE**  
**FIRE DAMAGED LOADER**  
Sealed tenders are invited from interested buyers for disposal of fire damaged CAT 950L - 2017 (MP 65 DA 0267) strictly on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' belonging to M/s. Vipul Coal Transport Pvt. Ltd. lying at Chhal, Near Kharsia Dist.-Raigarh (C.G.). Interested parties may drop their sealed Tenders for the net amount offered excluding taxes in the tender box on or before 04.00 p.m. on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 at The New India Assurance Co. Ltd., Regional Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, LIC Campus, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.). Interested parties for inspection may contact Mr. Gaurav [9826197006] Mr. Ekka [993569006]. In case of any difficulty in inspection the interested parties may contact Mr. U. Shingavekar, Surveyor [9329127799]  
No Tender shall be accepted after 04.00 p.m. of 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. The Tender shall be opened on 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 at 04.30 p.m.

**SHREE NAKODA PIPE IMPEX PRIVATE LIMITED**  
Registered Office: Nakoda House, Near Railway Crossing, Mowa, Vidhan Sabha, Road, PO Saddu, Raipur [C.G.]  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform all the concerned peoples that M/s Shree Nakoda Pipe Impex Private Limited has accorded Environmental Clearance by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India vide its File No. IA-J-11011/99/2021-IA-1(1) and EC Identification No. - EC22A008CG173699 dated 22.04.2022 for Mini Integrated Steel Plant at Villages: Khamarlia, Tehsil: Tilda, District: Raipur [C.G.]. The aforesaid Environment Clearance letter is available on website of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India (MoEF&CC) [parivesh.nic.in] and copies are also available at Head Office of Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Paryavas Bhawan, North Block, Sector - 19, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, District Raipur and Regional Office, Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Commercial Complex, C.G. Housing Board Colony, Kabir Nagar, District Raipur [C.G.]

**MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.**  
CIN-L65910KL1992PLC006623,  
IV/470A (old) W638A(New), Manappuram House,  
Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala - 680 567.  
**GOLD AUCTION NOTICE**  
The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/05/2022 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.  
List of pledges:-  
DURG, CHARODA SQUARE, BHILAI, 134110700014358, 4403, 4414, 4434, 4446, 4447, 4448, 4467, 4469, 4486, 134110730017291, 9440, 9500, 9541, CHOUGHAN ESTATE, 115880700020730, 1348, 1351, 1410, 1487, NEHRU NAGAR BHILAI, 125780700017247, NEW BUS STAND DURG, 126220700011740, 2872, POWER HOUSE CHOWK, BHILAI, 134030700025987, 6250, 7291, 134030730027293, 7294, 7855, 7959, 7987, SANTRABADI, 112610700014263, 5097, 5475, 112610730009212, 112610730010133, 1432, 1462, 1609, 1790, KAWARDHA, INDIRA GANDHI CHOWK, KAWARDHA, 134560700008744, 8874, 8981, 9175, 9186, 9210, 9229, 9233, 9236, 9265, 9340, 9354, 9360, 9362, 9365, 9377, 9381, 9385, 9388, 9389, 9390, 9395, 9396, 9397, 134560730014223, 4238, 4239, MAHASAMUND, BUS STAND MAHASAMUND, CHATTISGARH, 129980700017307, 7742, 7743, 7842, 7843, 7857, 7874, 7905, 7916, 129980730019211, RAIPUR, BANPURI, 114590700022615, 3221, 3248, 3255, 3298, 3312, 3352, 114590730012679, 2795, BUDHAPARA, RAIPUR, 124430700024025, 4098, 4188, 124430730017933, DEVENDRANAGAR RAIPUR, 124680700011744, 2122, 2165, 2207, PACHPEDINAKA CHOWK, RAIPUR, 128700700015074, 128700730015165, PANDRI, 114440700017672, 8240, 8261, 8289, 8344, SANTHOSHI NAGAR RAIPUR, 131480700014104, 4119, 131480730016281, 8476, 9074, 9106, RAJNANDGAON, DONGARGARH, RAJNANDGAON, 133670700008971, 133670730061872, LALBAGH, RAJNANDGAON, 133880700013460,  
Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of Cash on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072604049  
Authorised Officer  
For Manappuram Finance Ltd



## BRIEF

### Guns

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kerala Police raided a house at Venjaramoodu near here, where they recovered country-made guns along with equipment to produce such guns and arrested two persons. The search was conducted based on a tip-off received by the Vithura Circle Inspector, police said. They raided the house of Asim (44) and arrested him along with Surendran (62). Police found parts of many old guns including trigger guards, gun barrels, trigger assembly units.

### Campaign

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan Police will launch a campaign against those who waste time and resources of law enforcers and courts by registering false cases. Additional Director General of Police (Crime) Ravi Prakash Mehra said that instructions have been given to all the officers from time to time by the police headquarters, but this will be taken up as campaign now.

### Reduce

**Bhubaneswar:** All India Institute of Medical Sciences here will undertake research with an aim at reducing snakebite cases in Odisha, where upward trend of deaths due to it has been witnessed. It will help analyse the level of awareness about appropriate first-aid methods, prevailing taboo, and healthcare-seeking behaviour in cases of snakebite, the institute said.

### Gestures

**Pune:** An auto-rickshaw driver has been arrested in neighbouring Pimpri-Chinchwad area for allegedly making gestures at a 12-year-old girl, police said. Sachin Shendge (33) allegedly made gestures while asking the girl for directions when she was heading for her home in Bavdhan area on April 22. During the investigation, CCTV footage was checked.

### Thrashed

**Berhampur:** An woman official of the education department in Odisha's Ganjam district was allegedly assaulted by the husband of a school teacher who has not received her salary for the past four years, police said. The couple was arrested after the official lodged a complaint with the police. Shantilata Sahu, who is the headmistress in charge of a girls' high school in Bellaguntha, has been staging a sit-in at the office premises of the district education officer.

### Suicide

**Sangli:** A 36-year-old sanitation worker allegedly committed suicide at the city police station here where he worked, police said. As per the preliminary probe, he was facing harassment from a private money lender to whom he owed some money, said a police official. Atul Garje-Patil was found in unconscious state on the terrace of the police station with a bottle of a poisonous substance lying nearby.

## 'India not part of greenhouse gas problem'



**Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav participates in Raisina Dialogue 2022 in New Delhi on Wednesday.**

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

India is not a part of the greenhouse gas emissions problem but it will be a big part of the solution to climate change, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said on Wednesday. He claimed that the developed nations were not fulfilling their promises of climate finance and technology transfer.

Participating in the Raisina Dialogue 2022, which entered its third day, Yadav asserted that India was determined to achieve economic prosperity and enhance its renewable energy capacity. "We are determined to achieve economic prosperity as well as fulfil the aspiration of our people. The countries which have

### Will be big part of solution to climate change

already got a major share of their carbon emissions can't ask developing nations to stop the aspirations of their people. "We are very clear that there is no phase-out of coal but phase-down. Simultaneously, India is committed to enhancing its renewable energy capacity," the environment minister said.

He stressed the need for technology transfer as climate change has gripped the world and developing nations are in dire need of climate finance and technology.

"There is so much technology which must be transferred. India is also working on green technology like the hydrogen mission. But, whatever green technology advancement takes place in the world, must be given to developing nations also," Yadav said.

## 'Need alternative agenda, not political fronts or regrouping'

**Hyderabad, Apr 27 (PTI):**

The ruling TRS supremo and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Wednesday said the country needs an alternative agenda, not political fronts or regrouping and called for the emergence of a "new political force" in which his party could play a key role for the country's development.

Addressing his party's 21st Foundation Day celebrations, KCR, as Rao is addressed, asserted he had turned down the Left parties' idea of dislodging the ruling BJP at the Centre and insisted that uplifting people's lives was more important. In his welcome address that stretched for an



**Telangana CM and TRS President K Chandrashekar Rao being welcomed on the occasion of its 21st foundation day, in Hyderabad, Wednesday.**

hour and a half, Rao expressed concern over divisive politics and stressed that a "new political force" should emerge in which

TRS is ready to play a key role for the nation's development. Highlighting the growth story of Telangana to 3,000-odd delegates pres-

## DEMANDING REPAIR



**Residents make a rangoli as protest, demanding the repair of damaged roads at Keshwapur, in Hubballi, Karnataka on Wednesday.**

## 'Quami Chaupals' to be held across UP on merits of UCC

**Lucknow, Apr 27 (PTI):**

To acquaint people, especially the Muslims, with the "merits" of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), the Uttar Pradesh government will organise "Quami Chaupals" all over the state, Minister of State for Minority Welfare and Waqf, Danish Azad Ansari, said on Wednesday.

With discussions on the UCC taking centre stage, he said the BJP government in the state will move towards implementing one law for all, "only after talking to all the parties". "As the society is progressing, some new requirements arise and they should be addressed. Every decision of ours



**Danish Azad Ansari**

will be for the benefit of the public only and their opinion is most important to us," Ansari, the lone Muslim minister in the Yogi Adityanath government, told PTI in an interview. "We will go to the grassroots and tell the people, especially the Muslim so-

ciety, about the merits of the Uniform Civil Code. We will keep the government's intention before them by organising 'Quami Chaupals' all over the state," he added.

The issue gains prominence as the newly-formed BJP government in Uttarakhand recently constituted a committee to prepare a draft of the UCC. Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya had recently said the state government is seriously considering the implementation of the UCC.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), the leading body of Muslims in the country, has already rejected the idea.

## 'Political asylum only for homeless, I have home in Congress'

**Kochi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

Veteran Congress leader KV Thomas on Wednesday brushed aside CPI(M) Kerala secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan's invitation to join the Left party, even though the Congress Disciplinary Committee has recommended his removal from party positions, saying political asylum was only required by someone who was homeless. Thomas, speaking to reporters, said he still has a home in Congress, which is a strong house, and removal from party positions is like taking away a chair and giving a stool instead.

"Party positions are like tables and chairs. If that is taken away and I am given a stool, I have no problem



**KV Thomas**

with that. I will continue to remain a Congressman," he said and added that till now the party has not officially communicated to him the decision it has taken based on the recommendation.

He also said that any future course of action from his side would be decided after he receives the offi-

cial communication from the party. Congress president Sonia Gandhi had on Tuesday approved the disciplinary panel's recommendations which was of the view that Thomas should be removed from the state political affairs committee and the executive committee of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee.

Subsequently, on Tuesday evening Balakrishnan had offered political asylum to Thomas if he were to be expelled from the Congress.

Asked what was his response to CPI(M) leader's statement, Thomas said, "Political asylum is for someone who is homeless. I have a home in Congress. It is a strong house. I can stay there."

at the event, he said the state has emerged as a role model for others in various sectors and even the country has not performed the way the state has done. The party has taken Telangana on a growth trajectory and will work for the development of the nation, he added.

## Pilot project launched to ecologically restore Delhi's central ridge

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday launched a pilot project to ecologically restore the central ridge and it involves replacing invasive Mexican trees 'vilayati kikar' with indigenous species.

The central ridge is spread over 864 hectares and according to a plan announced last year, 423 hectares of it will be restored in five years.

"The invasive 'vilayati kikar' is spread over 7,500 hectares in Delhi which is not conducive to the capital's environment. We have launched a pilot project to remove this tree species from 10 hectares in the central



**Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai launches planting at central ridge in New Delhi on Wednesday.**

ridge," Rai told reporters.

The government had in March last year set up a six-member advisory committee to monitor the progress of the project and ensure timely and effective on-ground compliance.

The forest department plans to remove 'vilayati kikar', which doesn't allow other species to thrive and leads to water table depletion, through canopy lifting and planting native trees, shrubs and grasses suitable for the ridge's soil.

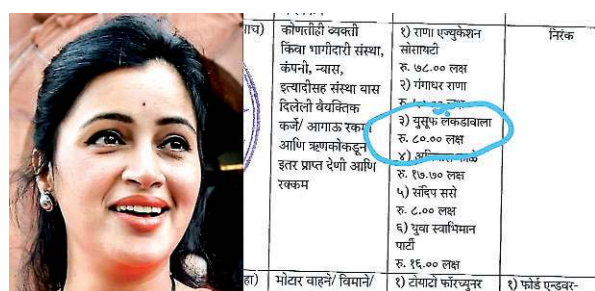
Considered the lungs of the national capital, the ridge is an extension of the Aravalli hill range in Delhi and is a rocky, hilly and forested area.

## Navneet got loan from 'D gang' linked Lakdawala: Raut

**Sanjay Raut demands ED probe**

**Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):**

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut has claimed that independent Lok Sabha member Navneet Rana received a loan of Rs 80 lakh from film financier and builder Yusuf Lakdawala, who was arrested in a money laundering case by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Lakdawala, who died at the Arthur Road jail here in September 2021, had connection with the "D gang" (fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim's gang), Raut claimed, asking when would the ED probe this aspect. Local BJP leader Mohit Kamboj tried



**An alleged document shows loan to MP Navneet Rana from Yusuf Lakdawala.**

to counter Raut by posting on Twitter pictures of Lakdawala with NCP chief Sharad Pawar and late Rajiv Gandhi.

Talking to reporters on Wednesday, Raut also wondered whether there was an "underworld connection" to the political row over recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa, just

like the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts.

He claimed the BJP was trying to save Navneet Rana, who was arrested by the Mumbai police on Saturday along with her MLA husband Ravi Rana after the couple had announced that they would recite the Hanuman Chalisa outside

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's private residence 'Matoshree' here.

The Ranases eventually dropped their plan, but were arrested for various offenses under the Indian Penal Code including sedition and 'promoting enmity between different groups.'

"Navneet Rana recvd a LOAN of 80 lacs from Yusuf Lakdawala who died in Jail recently. The same Lakdawala was arrested by @dir\_ed in a money laundering case & his link with D gang. My questn is- Has ED investigated this matter? This is a questn of national security!" Raut tweeted, while tagging the Prime Minister's Office and BJP leader Devendra Fadnis.

## Alka Lamba appears before police in Rupnagar

**Rupnagar, Apr 27 (PTI):**

Congress leader Alka Lamba, summoned over a case of "inflammatory statements" against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, appeared before the police here on Wednesday as party workers held a protest outside the SSP office over the matter.

The case was lodged against former AAP leader Kumar Vishwas in Rupnagar town's Sadar police station on April 12. Ahead of the Assembly polls, Vishwas had accused Kejriwal of supporting separatists. Lamba has been accused of backing the remarks



**Congress party members crowd along with Alka Lamba in Rupnagar on Wednesday.**

made by Vishwas. Led by the Congress' state unit chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, the party workers staged the protest out-

side the office of Rupnagar senior superintendent of police (SSP) and raised slogans against the Bhagwant Mann government.



## BRIEF

### Passes

**Washington:** Efforts to create a national Asian Pacific American museum in Washington, DC, pushed ahead with House passage of legislation that would create a commission to study the issue. The bill approved unanimously by the House would establish a new commission to consider the feasibility of a new National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture.

### Crash

**Mexico City:** A Mexican military helicopter on a mission fighting forest fires crashed, causing non-life threatening injuries to the five marines on board, Mexico's navy said. The accident occurred shortly after the Russian-built Mi-17 helicopter took off from a landing strip in the Pacific coast city of Mazatlan. The navy said the injured marines were being treated at a navy hospital.

### Applauds

**Washington:** An Indian-American non-profit body working for the cause of persons with disabilities applauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for mentioning its activities in his latest "Man Ki Baat" address. In his monthly address to the nation on April 24, Modi recognised the Voice of SAP's technology initiatives and its impact for Divyangs.

### Pledges

**Boston:** Harvard University in US is vowing to spend 100 million to research and atone for its extensive ties with slavery, the school's president announced, with plans to identify and support direct descendants of dozens of enslaved people who labored at the Ivy League campus. President Lawrence Bacow announced the funding as Harvard released a new report detailing many ways the college benefited from slavery and perpetrated racial inequality, fueled ideas of white supremacy.

### Lifer

**Dhaka:** A Bangladeshi court sentenced an Islamist to life in prison for attempting to kill a prominent secular writer and professor by stabbing him multiple times during a university seminar in 2018. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, a renowned science fiction writer and professor at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in the northern city of Sylhet, was stabbed six times in his head, neck and left hand in March 2018.

### Arrest

**Birmingham:** An Alabama fast-food worker in US who allegedly threw hot grease on a customer during a dispute over service in the drive-thru line, causing severe burns, was charged with assault, police said. The 50-year-old woman was charged following a confrontation that occurred Saturday afternoon at an Arby's restaurant in suburban Birmingham.

## US urges allies to move at speed of war to help Ukraine



Local residents sit in front of a damaged apartment building from heavy fighting in an area controlled by Russian-backed separatist forces in Mariupol, Ukraine.

**Pokrovsk, Apr 27 (AP):**

The US defence chief urged Ukraine's allies to move at the speed of war to get more and heavier weapons to Kyiv as Russian forces rained fire on eastern and southern Ukraine amid new fears

the fighting could spill over the country's borders. Explosions rocked the separatist region of Trans-Dniester in neighboring Moldova, knocking out two powerful radio antennas. And a Russian missile hit a strategic railroad bridge linking Ukraine's

Odesa port region to neighbouring Romania, a NATO member; Ukrainian authorities said.

Just across the border in Russia, an ammunition depot in the Belgorod region was burning early Wednesday after several explosions were heard, the governor, Vyacheslav Gladkov, said on the messaging app Telegram. Early this month, Russia said two Ukrainian helicopter gunships hit an oil reservoir in the same region, causing a fire.

NATO members Poland and Bulgaria said the Kremlin is cutting off natural gas supplies starting Wednesday, the first such actions of the war. Poland has been a major gateway for the delivery of weapons to Ukraine and confirmed this week that it is sending the country tanks.

## Shanghai seeks societal zero COVID with rounds of testing

**Taipei, Apr 27 (AP):**

Shanghai city authorities said Wednesday they will start rounds of COVID-19 testing over the next few days to determine which neighbourhoods can safely be allowed a limited amount of freedom of movement, as residents in Beijing watch carefully on word for whether the capital city will lock down.

On Wednesday, China reported 14,222 new cases, the vast majority of which were asymptomatic. The country is battling its largest outbreak since the pandemic was first reported in Wuhan in late December 2019. Shanghai's vice head of its health



A transit officer controls access to a tunnel during lockdown in Shanghai.

committee, Zhao Dandan, announced Wednesday that the city would begin another round of testing for city residents over the next few days to determine which districts were lower risk during lockdown. Areas that have been de-

clared to have achieved societal zero COVID could see some measure of limited freedom.

The phrase, used by Chinese health authorities, refers to when new positive cases are only discovered in people who are

already under surveillance, such as in centralised quarantine or those considered to be close contacts. At this point, they are considered to have broken off chains of transmission at the community level. Shanghai's total lockdown has been in place for near a month, taking a toll on residents who have been confined to their homes. While a small, lucky portion of people have been allowed to leave their homes in the past week, the vast majority of people remain confined.

Officials reported 48 deaths on Wednesday, bringing the total to at least 238 in the city.

## COMMEMORATION



Demonstration within commemoration of 24th anniversary of Monsignor Juan Jose Gerard's assassination in Guatemala City in Guatemala.

## UAE vows 'responsible' artificial intelligence rollout

**Dubai, Apr 27 (AFP):**

The world's first minister for artificial intelligence says the United Arab Emirates isn't only looking for economic benefits as it seeks to become a leading nation in the sector.

The UAE's minister of state for AI, Omar bin Sultan al-Olama, said "quality of life" considerations were key, and also stressed the importance of a "responsible" rollout — with impacts potentially reverberating for decades. "We are looking at AI as a tool," he told AFP in an interview in Dubai. "It's a



A driverless metro train runs on a monorail over water off the Palm Jumeirah in Dubai.

tool that we need to use to unleash the quality of life aspect."

The UAE also calls AI "machine intelligence", defining it as a branch of technology enabling systems to "think, learn, and

make decisions like humans", which can support everything from virology to transport. "Yes, economic gain is something that every country wants, and we want it too," Olama added.

## Major Japan railway now powered only by renewable energy



Trains run near Tokyu Railways' Tamagawa Station in Tokyo.

**Tokyo, Apr 27 (AP):**

Tokyo's Shibuya is famed for its Scramble Crossing, where crowds of people crisscross the intersection in a scene symbolizing urban Japan's congestion and anonymity. It

may have added another boasting right.

Tokyu Railways' trains running through Shibuya and other stations were switched to power generated only by solar and other renewable sources starting April 1.

That means the carbon dioxide emissions of Tokyo's sprawling network of seven train lines and one tram service now stand at zero, with green energy being used at all its stations, including for vending machines for drinks, security camera screens and lighting.

Tokyu, which employs 3,855 people and connects Tokyo with nearby Yokohama, is the first rail-road operator in Japan to have achieved that goal. It says the carbon dioxide reduction is equivalent to the annual average emissions of 56,000 Japanese households.

## Relief and alarm as El Salvador rounds up gangsters

**San Salvador, Apr 27 (AFP):**

An unprecedented round up of alleged gangsters in El Salvador has netted thousands of suspects and brought relief to citizens living in constant fear. But the clampdown has drawn complaints of rights abuses, and experts say mass arrests are but a stop-gap as long as so many Salvadorans have no feasible exit from a life of penury.

With a poverty rate of 30.7 percent and sky-high unemployment that pushes ever more people to emigrate, a career as a gangster is one of few options available to those who remain. The most prominent



People arrested for alleged gang links are escorted by the National Civil Police at the San Salvador prison.

gangs, Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and Barrio 18, count some 70,000 members in the country of 6.5 million people. Almost half are thought to be behind bars. They eke out a

living by extorting protection money from anyone who wishes to avoid harm and from drug dealing that brings them into regular conflict with one another. In a particularly bloody

weekend in March, 87 ordinary civilians died at the hands of gangs in 72 hours of violence around the country. That bloodbath prompted President Nayib Bukele to announce a state of emergency that has allowed the police and military to round up more than 18,000 alleged gang members in just a month. In the short term, removing criminals from the streets has allowed residents and entrepreneurs to breathe a sigh of relief. At least temporarily.

"On some of my routes, the criminals are no longer collecting protection money," bus company operator Juan Pablo Alvarez told AFP.

## Lebanon vote holds little hope for change despite disasters

**Sidon, Apr 27 (AP):**

Running for parliament for the first time, independent Hania Zaatari walks down the meandering alleyways of the old souk in the port city of Sidon, telling impoverished workers and traders that fixing Lebanon's devastating economic crisis is her top priority.

"The economic plan needs to consider marginalized people like you and give them a chance for revival," she said to 70-year-old Ahmed Abu Dhahr, one of two carpenters remaining on a street that just two years ago boasted roughly 50. The engineer-turned-candidate exuded confidence and hope. Yet her enthusiasm was met by shrugs and resignation, reflecting widespread fears that the mid-May vote will only perpetuate the grim status quo.

With Lebanon in freefall for more than two years, it should be a make-or-break vote for the country's ruling class. Their decades-long grip on power has driven one of the Middle East's



Hania Zaatari, center, independent candidate meets a voter at the old souk, in Sidon, Lebanon.

most spirited countries to ruin.

The May 15 elections for parliament are the first since Lebanon's economic meltdown began in late 2019. The govern-

ment's factions have done virtually nothing to address the collapse, leaving Lebanese to fend for themselves as they plunge into poverty, without electricity, medicine,

garbage collection or any other semblance of normal life.

These are also the first elections since the August 4, 2020, catastrophic explosion at Beirut port that killed more than 215 people and wrecked large parts of the city. The destruction sparked widespread outrage at the traditional parties' endemic corruption and mismanagement.

## Court sentences Suu Kyi to five years for corruption

**Bangkok, Apr 27 (AP):**

A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's former leader Aung San Suu Kyi of corruption and sentenced her to five years in prison Wednesday in the first of several corruption cases against her.

Suu Kyi, who was ousted by an army takeover last year, had denied the allegation that she had accepted gold and hundreds of thousands of dollars given her as a bribe by a top political colleague. Her supporters and independent legal

experts consider her prosecution an unjust move to discredit Suu Kyi and legitimize the military's seizure of power while keeping the 76-year-old elected leader from returning to an active role in politics.

She has already been sentenced to six years imprisonment in other cases and faces 10 more corruption charges. The maximum punishment under the Anti-Corruption Act is 15 years in prison and a fine. Convictions in the other cases could bring sentences of more

than 100 years in prison in total for a Nobel Peace Prize laureate who already spent years in detention for defying military rule.

News of Wednesday's verdict came from a legal official who asked not to be identified because he is not authorised to release such information. Suu Kyi's trial in the capital Naypyitaw was closed to the media, diplomats and spectators, and her lawyers were barred from speaking to the press.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)				
प्रथम ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना				
नि.क्र.08/जनकार्य/न.पा.नि./जोन क्र.08/22-23	बिलासपुर दिनांक 25/04/2022	नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर के जोन क्र.08 अंतर्गत सहाम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-		
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उपरोक्त कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि विस्तृत वस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <a href="https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in">https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in</a> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।				
जोन आयुक्त, जोन कार्यालय क्र.08 न.पा.नि. बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)				

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,  
मनियारी जल संसाधन संभाग मुंगेली, जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.)

//निविदा निरस्तीकरण आदेश//

पत्र क्रमांक...../व.ले.स./2022-23 मुंगेली, दिनांक .....

प्रमुख अभियंता, जल संसाधन विभाग, शिवनाथ भवन, सेक्टर-19 नार्थ ब्लॉक, अटल नगर छ.ग. रायपुर का पृ.क्र. 4262264/निविदा प्रकोष्ठ/2022/5491(10) रायपुर दिनांक 13.04.2022 द्वारा दिये गये निर्देश के परिपालन में इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना क्र. 15/व.ले.लि./2021-22 दिनांक 22.03.2022, सिस्टम नं. 95700 (पंचम आमंत्रण) "मनियारी जलाशय संचय क्षेत्र के विकसित 3100.00 हे. (जल उपभोगता संधा झण्डाफल एवं सुकली के अंतर्गत) प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना के लक्ष्य के अनुरूप कृषकों को एपीकल्वर, हार्टीकल्वर, सेरीकल्वर से प्राप्त योजनाओं एवं सुविधाओं से कृषकों को परिचित कराते हुए जागरूकता कार्यक्रमों का क्रियान्वयन किया जाना है।" (लागत रु. 1045.20 लाख) की निविदा को निविदाकारों की संख्या निरंक होने के कारण अपरिहार्य कारणों से "निरस्त" किया जाता है।

जी.नं. - 68922/3, दिनांक 25.03.2022

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
मनियारी जल संसाधन संभाग,  
मुंगेली, जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.)

G-90628/1

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,  
खारंग जल संसाधन संभाग, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

कार्यालयीन आदेश

आदेश क्रमांक...../व.ले.लि./2022 बिलासपुर, दिनांक .....

निविदा सूचना क्र. 21/व.ले.लि./2021-22 दिनांक 07.03.2022 निविदा सिस्टम क्र. 94475 खारंग जलाशय योजना के बांधी तट नहर आर.डी. 780 मी. से आर.डी. 13350 मी. के मध्य सी.सी. लाईनिंग का मरम्मत कार्य एवं मिट्टी कार्य, गढ़वट माईनर नं. 01 आर.डी. 0 मी. से 480 मी., गढ़वट माईनर नं. 2 आर.डी. 360 मी. से आर.डी. 570 मी. अकलतरी माईनर आर.डी. 300 मी. 900 मी., बाम्बू माईनर आर.डी. 0 मी. से आर.डी. 510 मी., खेरा डगनिया माईनर आर.डी. 600 मी. से 1800 मी. एवं मोहरा माईनर आर.डी. 270 मी. से आर.डी. 1200 मी. का मरम्मत कार्य राशि रुपये 65.21 लाख को ठेकेदार द्वारा अनुबंध नही करने के कारण निविदा निरस्त किया जाता है।

विज्ञापन क्र. 68522 दिनांक 10.03.2022

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
खारंग जल संसाधन संभाग,  
बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

G-90612/1





# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## Heatwave threat

Northwest India has been recording higher than normal temperatures since March last week, with weather experts attributing it to the absence of active Western Disturbances over north India and any major system over south India. A yellow alert warning of a heatwave spell in the national capital starting April 28 has been issued. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there is a heatwave on some days when the average maximum temperature on those days is 4.5-6.4 degree Celsius above the long-term average (or above 40 degrees Celsius in the plains or 37 degrees Celsius in coastal areas). Several state governments have closed or shifted timings of educational institutions due to heatwave. Due to climate change, the heatwave will become more severe every year. India needs separate 'cooling' department at municipal, block and district levels to help people during heatwaves. Heatwave is threat to health of people, productivity of work, growth of crops and loss for economy. In years to come, India will be forced to follow a nocturnal lifestyle, with most economic activities happening at night, when the Sun is not shining. People will be forced to construct underground buildings to be able to protect from heatwaves. Summer temperatures have been rising across India in the past few decades. This is visible in the number of heatwave days the country experiences in the summer months between April and June. Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe, said the landmark Code Red report released in August 2021 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The report by the United Nations' body of climate experts found that averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius of heating. The global average includes places like Antarctica and does not actually hold true all over India, where average temperatures have risen faster and higher. India will suffer more frequent and intense heat waves.

Contrary to the focus of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on climate change mitigation, India's much-hyped Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY), the world's biggest housing programme underway, is not building thermally comfortable houses for poor and marginalised people. This was revealed in the latest State of India's Environment 2022 report by the Centre for Science and Environment. The heatwave exposing hundreds of millions to dangerous temperatures is damaging the country's wheat harvest, which experts say could hit countries seeking to make up imports of the food staple from conflict-riven Ukraine. The heat wave is hitting India's main wheat-growing regions particularly hard. The IMD uses four colour codes for weather warnings - green (no action needed), yellow (watch and stay updated), orange (be prepared) and red (take action). The India Cooling Action Plan aims at reducing cooling demand by 20-25 percent by the year 2037-38. The recently-held Conference of Parties (COP-26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2021 in Glasgow has raised the concern of warming in cities and the need for cooling strategies. According to research by the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment temperatures reached dangerous levels in eight cities around the world, including in India. Studies have also exposed the extra risk posed by inequality. Many of the worst-affected cities are the most densely populated and the poorest. Developing countries are especially vulnerable to sustained high temperatures as most are located partially or entirely within the tropics and typically include unplanned settlements. Some cities plan green spaces and urban forests, but the issue is with vast asphalt network of roads for vehicles and buildings made with concrete, glass and steel. The prices of residential air conditioners may go up by around 5 per cent as the industry faces soaring input costs even though the makers are looking for double-digit growth this year with early onset of summer spurring demand. Most of India's population is not able to afford air conditioning for residential homes and most businesses and institutions do not find air conditioning feasible for workplaces. Underground buildings with green cover above will be the way to live.

## Soft power

Union Minister Anurag Thakur said India has the potential to become the content subcontinent, backed by talent in the fields of technology and culture as it emerges as a hard power in the world. Participating in the Raisina Dialogue-2022 in New Delhi, Thakur said India, with its rich culture and history, has a lot to showcase and emerge as the next AVGC production hub with a mix of hard power and soft power. Soft power is not the only or even the most important source of power, because its effects tend to be slow and indirect. But to ignore or neglect it is a serious strategic and analytic mistake. A country's soft power comes primarily from three sources like its culture, its political values, such as democracy and human rights when it upholds them and its policies, when they are seen as legitimate because they are framed with an awareness of others' interests.

A government can influence others through the example of how it behaves at home, such as by protecting a free press and the right to protest, in international institutions, consulting others and fostering multilateralism, and through its foreign policy such as by promoting development and human rights. During the COVID-19 pandemic, China has tried to use so-called vaccine diplomacy to bolster its soft power. But international polls show that the results have been disappointing. In measures of attractiveness, China lags behind the US on all continents except Africa, where the two countries are tied. One reason for China's lower level of soft power is its heavy-handed use of hard power like Galwan clash. True, international polls showed that the US also suffered a decline in soft power during Donald Trump's presidency. But fortunately, America is more than its government. India's soft power follows a trend similar to US, with India's culture and people being more prominent than political parties in power.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: [editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com)  
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

## 'TELETUBBIES' ANNIVERSARY



(L-R) Tinky-Winky, Laa-Laa, Dipsy, and Po visit the Empire State Building as 'The Teletubbies' TV show characters celebrated their 25th Anniversary in New York City, US.

## Hiring friends and family might actually be good for business

**SHEHERYAR BANURI**

Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Meta/Facebook, recently remarked in a podcast interview that when it came to hiring new staff, his preference was people whose 'values aligned in the things that you care about'. This, he said, was akin to 'choosing a friend or a life partner'. He went on to state that many young people were too 'objective-focused' and 'not focused enough on connections and people'. This speaks to one of the eternal questions for managers in deciding who to hire: do you choose the candidate who has objectively higher ability or the one whose values are more in common with your own? While some would unambiguously select the higher ability candidate, others like Zuckerberg might weigh differences in candidates' abilities against the extent to which they share the values of the employer. Some would go further and hire family or friends.

Many firms actually promote this with employee-referral incentive schemes that encourage hiring individuals of similar characteristics or at the very least those who move in the same networks. The stated purpose of such schemes is to reduce the costs of hiring, increase employee retention rates and improve employee engagement. There are even guides dedicated to helping managers who hire their friends. On the other hand, such a buddying approach to recruitment seems to

contradict anti-discrimination laws. These have been enacted around the world to ensure that certain groups of individuals are not treated more poorly than others. For example, the UK's Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of age, gender, religion, race (among others). The US equivalent, the Equal Employment Opportunities laws, similarly aims to reduce workplace discrimination. Broadly speaking, anti-discrimination laws promote diversity, while prioritising hiring friends, family or those with shared values seems to do the opposite. The American psychologist Gordon Allport, in his 1954 work *The Nature of Prejudice*, noted a distinction between hiring based on negative prejudices (discrimination), and hiring based on positive prejudices (factors other than ability). He claimed that while hiring based on negative prejudices created social problems, hiring based on positive prejudices did not.

Gary Becker, the American economist, made a similar distinction in his 1957 book *The Economics of Discrimination* but reached a different conclusion. He termed hiring based on negative prejudice as discrimination, and hiring based on positive prejudice as nepotism, and he argued that both led to economic inefficiencies. This was because both involved hiring workers for reasons other than ability, which he reasoned was the greatest predictor of output. But why would many companies explicitly focus on recruiting friends and family if it were really bad for business? Could it be that hiring decisions that don't prioritise a candidate's abilities might lead to lower output, but having employees with shared values is still better for an organisation overall? In a recent paper myself and two research colleagues, Catherine Eckel and Rick K Wilson, sought to find out. We conducted a controlled laboratory exper-

iment with a sample of university students with strong social ties at Rice University, Texas. Upon admission, students at Rice are sorted into 'residential colleges', which are essentially housing where they typically stay throughout their studies. Students of the same college live together, eat together and compete against other colleges in a variety of activities, inculcating a strong college-based identity and shared values.

In our experiment, we got the students to play a famous two-player game that economists use to measure trust. This simulates a manager-employee relationship by first giving an individual in the role of a manager a small sum of money, usually USD 10. They are then asked how much they would like to transfer to an individual in the role of an employee. Whatever they transfer is then multiplied, usually by three, and given to the employee. The employee must decide how much to give back to the manager. Both are trying to end up with as much money as possible. Hence the manager is investing in the employee and trusting them to return some of the investment. The employee chooses how much to send back to the employer, which is a measure of reciprocity or effort. In our version, managers had to choose between investing in an employee from the same residential college (meaning they had shared values), and one that was not.

They were also made aware that different employees had different 'abilities', in the sense that the multiplier that determined how much money they received from the investment would be smaller - for example, 2.5 instead of three. In some cases, the employee with the shared values was 'lower ability'. This meant that the manager would need to trust them to give back a higher proportion of their money than the alternative choice would give back. When faced

with employees of equal ability, 80 percent of managers chose the one from their college. Even when their fellow college member was 'lower ability', 40 percent of managers still chose them. In other words, while at least some managers were choosing partners based on ability, a significant proportion incorporated college membership into their decision. Employees from the same college exerted more effort for their managers (meaning they returned a larger share of the money) when they were 'lower ability' than the other candidate.

This suggested that 'lower ability' group members compensated for their handicap by increasing their effort. On average, when managers with a choice of candidates of 'equal ability' went with their college mate, they made 10 percent more money. And among those offered a 'lower ability' college mate and a superior outsider, they made 7 percent more by going with the college mate. These results imply that focusing on ability alone ignores the contribution to output of behavioural factors such as engagement, trust, motivation and effort. As long as differences in ability are not too large, hiring from within employee networks would appear to be a profitable strategy. Becker had it wrong, in other words. So while it was previously thought that hiring based on network or familial ties was mainly altruistic, our research suggests otherwise. It may still bring up managerial challenges, such as having to tell these employees what to do, or calling them out when they don't meet expectations. But employers trust employees more when they share their values, and the employees may compensate for their lower ability by working harder, benefiting the organisation as a result.

(Sheheryar Banuri is Associate Professor, School of Economics, University of East Anglia in UK.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Loyalists

It is for sure that, as long as the Gandhis are at the helm of the Congress, there is no chance for its revival. The thumb rule is that if one fails to deliver, he or she must quit. It applies to the corporate world as well as to political parties. The Congress party has wasted enough time and energy in nurturing Gandhis for too long, but without any tangible result. We know that time is of the essence in our lives. Sooner it is understood by Congressmen, the better would be for the grand old party. The clear warnings of Indian voters can be ignored at its own peril only. If Gandhis were serious to resign from their respective posts, then nobody would have stopped them from doing so. Everything was a staged-managed drama, as seen in the past as well. From the above episode, it clear that the Gandhis have no remorse, along with accountability to the party, which got routed in the recent polls. This apart they have no commitment to the country as well. The Gandhis know it well that they have no other refuge elsewhere. As such, they are clinging like limpets. Loyalists are the real enemies of the party. The so-called loyalists have harmed the party more than Gandhis did. Some loyalists argue that "only the Gandhis can keep the party together". In reality it does not appear so. The real fact is that the Congress party is getting reduced to small-time regional party. All credit goes to Gandhis and Gandhis alone. Man is mortal. By the same logic of the loyalist, should we presume that after the Gandhis, the Congress party would also embrace its natural death? Laughable indeed! Of course, the loyalists or old guards have no takers. Thus, they want to spend last leg of their life's journey by kowtowing to the Gandhis.

Prafulla, via email

### Repudiate

Hardly a day goes by without reports of hate speeches and acts of communal violence in some part or other of our country. We cannot afford to become immune to 'interreligious violence', if the term can be used. We have to repudiate it and remedy the situation before it breaks social bonds. The country should not be torn apart by civil strife. When religious processions are taken out, it is sane to keep them free from religious frenzy. The purpose of religious processions should be to celebrate them and spread the message of love rather than to provoke other religious communities. It is observable that an atmosphere of communal tension is created and exacerbated by those who mix religion with politics.

David, via email



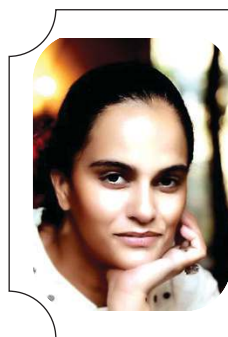
## WHAT THEY TWEET!

**Ashwin@mahesh**

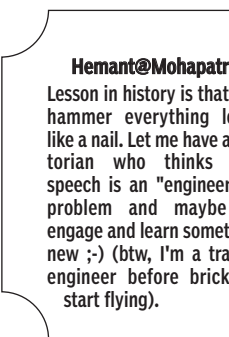
The interest of the Indian public and the interests of the political class are now at odds in urban areas across India. That's why, after 20 years of various urban mission, we don't have anything more than a few streets to show for how we have 'improved' our cities.

**KRK@kamaal**

Our Government was always threatening Twitter officials for legal action. Everyone knows that @elonmusk is not scared of anyone in this world. So what will govt do now? Because now govt can't threaten to block Twitter While nobody in the world can block ElonMuskTwitter!

**Bhavreen@MK**

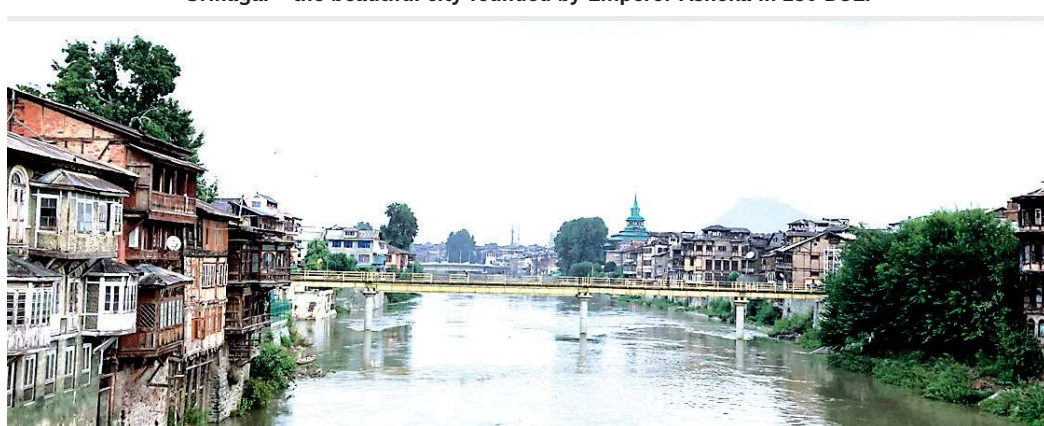
Trees are key to fighting urban heat but it's a pity how they r cut prioritising road widening to building highways, metros et al; Trees r the only saviours for all, especially the lesser privileged without ACs or even authorities who work on the roads in this scorching heat!

**Hemant@Mohapatra**

Lesson in history is that to a hammer everything looks like a nail. Let me have a historian who thinks free speech is an "engineering" problem and maybe I'll engage and learn something new ;) (btw, I'm a trained engineer before brickbats start flying).

**Namrata@SrinagarGirl**

Srinagar - the beautiful city founded by Emperor Ashoka in 250 BCE.

**Karan@bhasin95**

I had expressed concerns about a devaluation given the general slowdown & poor state of the domestic economy. I guess one should empirically check to what extent this devaluation represents a market correction - and/or is it an opportunity to use it as a deliberate trade policy.

**Ruchit@ruchitgarg**

All we need to rebuild here in earth is distributed self sustaining communities with lesser dependency on each other for food - build tech enabled farming co-ops which brings \$ back to the farmer's pocket. Great for food, climate, health .. long tail of sustainable benefits



**BRIEF**

**Collaborate**



**New Delhi:** NTPC has collaborated with Swiss firm Energy Vault for deployment of gravity-based energy storage technology and software solutions. NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh said it will help NTPC in furthering its energy transition goals through a sustainable approach.

**Joins**

**New Delhi:** Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Wednesday said it has joined hands with Indian Bank to facilitate easy finance for customers. As part of the partnership, the company's customers can avail the loan benefits in over 5,700 plus branches of Indian Bank at metro, urban, semi-urban and rural locations. Maruti Suzuki customers, under this exclusive scheme, can avail loans up to 90 per cent of the on-road price of the car besides getting benefits of zero processing charges.

**Raises**



**New Delhi:** TeaMonk on Wednesday said it has raised Rs 3.5 crore from investors including Inflection Point Ventures to expand in domestic and global markets. MD Ashok Mittal said we are delighted to fulfill tea need through our range of 100 per cent pure teas.

**Acquires**

**New Delhi:** IT company Cactus Communications has acquired software as a service platform Mind the Graph for an undisclosed amount. The acquisition will enable Cactus to provide automated, DIY science figures and AI-powered scientific communication solutions to the researcher community, academic publishers, and the life sciences industry.

**Funding**



**New Delhi:** WoodenStreet on Wednesday announced that it raised around USD 30 million (Rs 230 crore) in the latest funding round led by WestBridge Capital. CEO Lokendra Ranawat said we focus on design and innovation, enabling items at affordable price.

**Partners**

**New Delhi:** GMR group firm Raxa Security Solution said it has collaborated with Bengaluru based Redinent Innovations to offer cyber security solutions for CCTV cameras. The collaboration has been done in the back of several incidents of CCTV cameras getting hacked across the world, the company said.

## FM assures investors of addressing pain points

Washington, Apr 27 (PTI):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman assured investors that the government will address any possible pain points to encourage investments in the country.

Addressing a roundtable on 'Investing in India's Digital Revolution' in San Francisco, the minister encouraged constant engagement with investors to understand and address their concerns.

The Finance Minister said she was open to receive suggestions, understand pain points and offer necessary redressal wherever possible.

"FM Smt. @nsitharaman said that in order to promote a robust #Startup ecosystem in India, @DPIITGol has set up a very proactive #Startup cell and encour-



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a function in San Francisco.

aged those interested in Indian #StartUps to engage with @DPIITGol." a tweet from the Finance Ministry said.

During the meeting, investors from Silicon Valley also expressed that India's potential in producing Unicorn companies is immense.

"FM said that India, in pursuit of #digitization, has announced introduction of #DigitalCurrency

by 2023. She also elucidated that #FinancialInclusion #FI will not be the sole purpose of this as India is already marching ahead to greater #FI, achieved through #JAM trinity," another tweet said.

Earlier in the day, the Finance Minister held lively interaction with a group of students studying at Stanford University covering a variety of top-

ics. She was accompanied by India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit S Sandhu and Chief Economic Advisor V Ananth Nageswaran.

Sitharaman also participated in a roundtable discussion with Women CXOs representing various fields including fintech, health, education, IT, among others.

The meeting focussed on the ways through which they could continue to contribute to India's growth story. "FM highlighted various Govt initiatives that are focussed on women-led development, such as schemes for #SHGs and #DirectBenefitTransfer that have especially benefited rural women, and others such as #MudraYojana that have empowered women entrepreneurs," a separate tweet said.

## India exports 13.5 MT finished steel worth Rs 1 lakh cr in FY-22

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

India exported 13.5 million tonne (MT) of finished steel valuing Rs 1 lakh crore in the last financial year, Minister of Steel Steel Faggan Singh Kulaste has said.

According to official data, India's finished steel exports were at 10.78 million tonne in 2020-21.

"India exported 13.5 MT finished steel amounting to Rs 1 lakh crore and imported steel of around Rs 46,000 crore during FY22," Kulaste said at Steel and Engineering Exports organised by Metalogic PMS. The value of merchandise exports from India was at USD 420 billion, he said. In FY22, India's steel consumption



was at an all-time high of around 106 MT, while the country produced a record 120 MT crude steel, Kulaste said.

The sector is growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 5 to 6 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

"Notwithstanding the challenges arising out of COVID-19, the steel sector in terms of external trade, production and consumption registered a record performance. We have the potential to do better in the steel sector across all areas. The en-

gineering sector -- is closely linked to the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors -- is of strategic importance to India's economy, and the steel sector is closely linked to this sector," the minister said.

Meanwhile, the surge in steel prices in the domestic market is badly affecting the country's MSME engineering exporters and the government should immediately announce urgent measures to help them sustain in the global markets, Hand Tools Association said on Wednesday. Hand Tools Association President S C Ralhan said that the prices of hot rolled sheets have jumped to over Rs 80,000 per tonne from Rs 30,000 per tonne two years back.

## Timeline to roll out 1st indigenous commercial chipsets by 2023-24

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

The government has set a timeline to commercially roll out the first indigenous chipsets by 2023-24 under the Digital India RISC-V programme launched on Wednesday, Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Wednesday.

The Minister of State for Electronics and IT said that the Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) programme aims to create future generations of microprocessors that will serve the need of India's strategic focus on mobility, computing and digitisation.

"One big milestone that I am very focused on is to have the first set of commercial silicon of Shakti and Vega processors available by December 2023 or early 2024. "We want at least a few companies to



adopt their product designs to DIR-V products Shakti and Vega before 2023-24 and when the silicon is ready, they start manufacturing and incorporating chips in the products," Chandrasekhar told reporters. IIT Madras and the Centre for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) have developed two microprocessors named Shakti (32 bit) and Vega (64 bit) respectively using Open Source Architecture under the aegis of the Microprocessor Development Programme of the Ministry of Electronics and IT.

## Sebi amends rules to simplify procedure for transmission of securities

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

With an aim to simplify the procedure for transmission of securities, Sebi has revised the existing threshold limit for simplified documents to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh currently for securities held in physical mode per listed issuer.

Also, the threshold in this regard for securities held in the dematerialised mode for each beneficiary account has been increased to Rs 15 lakh from the present level of Rs 5 lakh.

Legal Heirship Certificate or its equivalent certificate issued by competent government authority will be an acceptable document for transmission of securities, the regulator said in a notification issued. The objective is to ensure that uniform processes

**Issue opens May 4**

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

Country's largest life insurer LIC on Wednesday set the price band at Rs 902-949 per share for its Rs 21,000 crore initial public offering (IPO), which will open for subscription on May 4.

At the upper end of the price band the government will garner around Rs 21,000 crore.

With this IPO, which is through an offer-for-sale (OFS) route, the government is looking to divest its 3.5 per cent stake in the insurer by selling 22.13 crore shares.

Speaking on the occasion, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management

## Rupee settles almost flat against USD, bullion rises

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

The rupee recouped early losses and settled almost flat at 76.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday on expectations of higher dollar inflows.

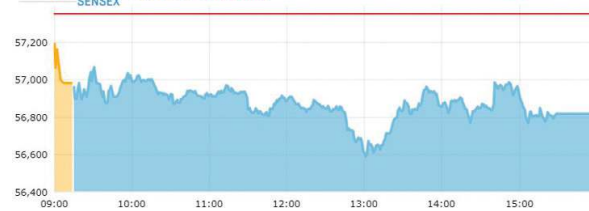
However, a lacklustre trend in domestic equities and the strength of the greenback in the overseas market weighed on the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 76.69 against the US dollar and touched an intra-day high of 76.50. It finally closed at 76.55, registering a rise of just 1 paise over its previous close of 76.56.

According to HDFC Securities Research Analyst Dilip Parmar, the rupee managed to recoup early morning losses and settled with a slight gain on the expectation of dollar inflows from initial public offerings (IPOs) and corporate dollar selling.

## Sensex tumbles over 537 pts on profit booking

S&P BSE SENSEX 56,819.39 -537.22 -0.94% 27 Apr 21 16:00 | Close



Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled nearly 1 per cent on Wednesday on profit booking in financial and IT stocks after a recent rally.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 537.22 points or 0.94 per cent to end at 56,819.39. During the day, it tanked 772.57 points or 1.34 per cent to 56,544.04. The NSE Nifty declined by 162.40 points or 0.94 per cent to 17,038.40.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, Titan, Dr Reddy's, Wipro, State Bank of India, Infosys, Maruti

and UltraTech Cement emerged as the major laggards. In contrast, Tata Steel, Asian Paints, HCL Technologies, TCS, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank were the gainers.

Asian markets were mixed, with Tokyo and Seoul settling over 1 per cent lower, while Hong Kong and Shanghai ended higher. Markets in Europe were trading in the green in the afternoon session. Stocks in the US had ended significantly lower on Tuesday. The Sensex jumped 776.72 points or 1.37 per cent to end at 57,356.61 on Tuesday. The Nifty rallied 246.85 points or 1.46 per cent to 17,200.80.

## LIC sets price band at Rs 902-949 per share for Rs 21,000 cr IPO

**Issue opens May 4**

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):



(L-R) ADDLL Secretary DFS Amit Agrawal, LIC Chairperson MR Kumar and DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey during a press conference, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

(DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said listing of LIC is part of the long-term strategic vision of the government and will highly enhance the value of the corporation in the long-run.

"This (LIC IPO) is right sized, considering the capital market environment and will not crowd out capital supply given the cur-

count the combination of multiple factors, including market demand, stabilizing market conditions, reducing volatility, domestic flows and the corporation's financial performance," he said. Pandey said the market is undoubtedly benefiting from strong structural tailwind given concerns in other markets. The market has recovered from temporary shock due to global geopolitical events seen earlier.

In the IPO, the retail investors and eligible employees will get a discount of Rs 45 per equity share and policyholders will get a discount of Rs 60 per equity share. The issue will open for subscription on May 4 and to close on May 9. The bid lot for the issue would be 15.

## Major ports asked to build infra for ensuring zero waiting time

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

The Shipping Ministry has asked all major ports to ensure adequate infrastructure by 2025 for achieving zero waiting time for inward as well as outbound cargoes.

In an office memorandum, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) noted that port capacity required in 2047 will be around six-times of the present port capacity.

"Major Ports should carry out detailed planning. If these are constraints on waterfronts and/or land availability, the major ports shall explore possibility of setting up satellite ports," it said.

The memorandum also said the major port authorities shall prepare a comprehensive master plan 2047 for the entire port area including cargo projections, warehousing etc with ultimate aim to



achieve efficient logistics for enhancing economic development. "Also, all major ports must ensure that there is adequate infrastructure in place by 2025 to achieve zero waiting time for inward as well as outbound cargo ie ship, rail, truck carrying cargo to and from port should not be required to wait," it said. According to the memorandum, further in order to ensure the broad structure is in line with Maritime Vision 2030 and 2047 along with other initiatives of MoPSW, Indian Ports Association (IPA) is directed to coordinate with all the port authorities putting in place a suitable mechanism.

## India's retail industry to reach USD 2 trn by 2032

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

As the country recovers from the pandemic, the retail industry has resumed its growth trajectory and is likely to witness 10 per cent annual growth to reach approximately USD 2 trillion by 2032, according to a report.

According to a BCG-RAI report titled "Racing towards the next wave of Retail in India", while certain industry segments like food and grocery, restaurants and Quick service restaurant (QSR), and consumer durables have recovered to pre-COVID levels,



others like jewellery and accessory, apparel, and footwear remain on track to a full recovery.

"The Indian economy continues to be driven by consumption and we are observing that consumption growth is back in the positive territory after the two-year COVID pause,"

BCG Managing Director and Senior Partner Abheek Singhi said.

Noting that India's retail industry will grow to approximately USD 2 trillion in the next 10 years, Singhi said "the next decade will see organised retailers focus on footprint expansion, across all formats - offline and online - to fuel future growth".

As per the report India's consumption, which was growing at approximately 12 per cent pre-pandemic, went into negative territory during the pandemic but has now recovered to surpass pre-pandemic growth levels at 17 per cent.

## Chemicals exports touch USD 29.3 bn in 2021-22

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Chemicals exports have touched USD 29.3 billion in 2021-22 on account of healthy performance in areas like agrochemicals, dyes and speciality chemicals, the commerce ministry said on Wednesday. India is the sixth-largest producer of chemicals in the world, third in Asia and 14th in exports.

"Today, India leads in dyes production and contributes 16-18 per cent to the world's dyestuff exports. Indian dye is exported to over 90 countries," the ministry said in a statement. The major export destinations are the US, China, Turkey, Russia and North-East Asian Countries (China, Hongkong, Japan, Korea RP, Taiwan, Macao, Mongolia), it added.

## Gross leasing of industrial, warehousing space in 5 cities up 11%

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Gross leasing of industrial and warehousing space rose 11 per cent across five major cities to 6.2 million square feet during January-March period, according to real estate consultant Colliers India.

"Activity in Grade A industrial and warehousing facilities continues to be robust during Q1 2022 with gross absorption in the top 5 cities at 6.2 million square feet, an 11 per cent increase from Q1 2021. The demand was led by heightened leasing in Delhi-NCR and Mumbai," the company said in a statement on Wednesday. Overall, the de-

mand was steered by robust warehousing demand from third-party logistics players, amidst strong consumer demand across sectors.

About 50 per cent of the gross absorption was led by third-party logistics players, followed by the engineering and automobile sectors with a share of 17 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively.

As per the data, the gross leasing of industrial and warehousing space fell in Bengaluru to 0.9 million square feet in January-March 2022 from 1.5 million square feet in the year-ago period. Chennai also saw fall in leasing to 0.7

million square feet from 0.8 million square feet. Pune too witnessed a fall in leasing activities to 1.6 million square feet from 1.8 million square feet.

In Delhi-NCR, the leasing grew to 1.7 million square feet from 1.2 million square feet, while in Mumbai the leasing rose to 1.3 million square feet during January-March 2022 from 0.3 million square feet in the corresponding period of the previous year. "Demand for Grade A spaces remained robust with healthy take-up witnessed this quarter across key cities with NCR market leading the space take-up."



## Margot Robbie starrer 'Barbie' to release in 2023

Actress Margot Robbie's upcoming film 'Barbie' has been locked for July 21, 2023 release in the US.

The release date for the much-anticipated live-action adventure from the iconic doll, played by Margot Robbie with a star-studded supporting cast, was announced during the Warner Bros. presentation at Las Vegas' CinemaCon, reports 'Variety'.

A first-look image was shared on stage of Robbie in the aforementioned pink convertible, flashing a megawatt smile and donning a polka dot headband behind the wheel.

Notably, this movie will open against Christopher Nolan's sprawling ensemble film 'Oppenheimer' but Barbie came to play, and has a dream cast of her own.

Ryan Gosling, Kate McKinnon, Alexandra Shipp, America Ferrera, Simu Liu, 'And Just Like That' actor Hari Nef and Will Ferrell all co-star in the reimagining of Barbie's world.

Directed by Greta Gerwig, who co-wrote the script with her partner Noah Baumbach, production is currently underway on the Mattel Films and WB project.

Producers on 'Barbie' also include Robbie via LuckyChap with Tom Ackerley; Mattel's Robbie Brenner; and David Heyman for Heyday Films. LuckyChap's Josey McNamara and Mattel's Ynon Kreiz are executive producers.

In a 2021, Robbie said taking on the beloved toy "comes with a lot of baggage... and a lot of nostalgic connections. But with that comes a lot of exciting ways to attack it. People generally hear 'Barbie' and think, 'I know what that movie is going to be', and then they hear that Greta Gerwig is writing and directing it, and they're like, 'Oh, well, maybe I don't.'"

Production began earlier this year in London.

'Barbie' is one of many Mattel properties on the burner for feature adaptation. Projects based on the magic 8 ball, Hot Wheels, 'Masters of the Universe', Polly Pocket, Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots, and the throwback dolls Chatty Cathy and Betsy Wetsy are all in the works.

## Shubhaavi throws light on mother and daughter

With its intriguing storyline, Sony Entertainment Television's *Bade Achhe Lagte Hain - 2* continues to garner rave reviews. When everyone learns how Ram (Nakuul Mehta) was assaulted by Priya's (Disha Parmar) father, Ram's mother becomes agitated and questions why he is unwilling to take any action against Priya's father. Following that, we see Ram as a caring and understanding husband who wants to protect Priya's reputation at any cost. Also, we see how caring and protective Ram's mother is here; she considers not just his son's image, but also Priya's well-being and the trauma she has experienced in the past. Priya, on the other hand, tells Ram's mother that she will be his shadow and always protect him. Talking to Shubhaavi Choksey aka Ram's mother she said, "It's firstly an honor to play a

role like this in a show that has gained so much love. And about my character, she is a very supportive and caring mother to Ram and mother-in-law to Priya. The way Ram's mother supports Priya and thinks about her well-being is something all mothers-in-law should do. They should always be supportive of their daughters-in-law, treat them like their own daughters, and help them aspire to dream. And lastly, I love working with Priya she is a very hardworking and lovely person to work and be around with."

Tune in to *Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2*, every Monday to Friday at 8:00 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.

## Keerthy Suresh on 'Saani Kaayidham' role: Complete departure from my past work



With the D-Day for its release on May 6 fast approaching, Prime Video on Tuesday unveiled the trailer of Arun Matheswaran's upcoming Tamil revenge action drama 'Saani Kaayidham'. Produced under the banner of Screen Scene Media, the film stars Keerthy Suresh and Selvaraghavan in the lead roles. 'Saani Kaayidham' will premiere exclusively on Prime Video starting May 6, and will also be available as 'Chinni' in Telugu and as 'Saani Kaayidham' in Malayalam across 240 countries and territories.

The story follows a heart-wrenching journey of Ponni (Keerthy Suresh) who works as a constable and lives with her five-year-old daughter Dhanna and her husband Maari, who works as a coolie in a rice mill. In one unfortunate night, she loses everything. To avenge the injustice done to her, she takes support of Sangalah (Selvaraghavan), with whom she shares a bitter past.

## Niharika Konidela turns producer with 'Hello World'

Actress Niharika Konidela has announced her next project. The 'Oka Manasu' actress has now turned producer for an interesting project under Pink Elephant Pictures, her own production company. Niharika is producing this project titled 'Hello World', for the leading

OTT platform ZEE5. The web series was officially launched with a pooja ceremony on Tuesday in Hyderabad.

'Sontham' fame Aryan Rajesh plays the lead role in the series, while it is directed by Sivasai Vardhan Jaladhanki.

Sadaa, Ram Nithin, Nikhil, Sudharshan, Anil

Geela, Nitya Shetty, and other actors are also a part of this upcoming project. 'Hello World' features music by PK Dandi.

Niharika Konidela was recently in the news for being one of the well-known personalities in a rave party raid that took place in Hyderabad.

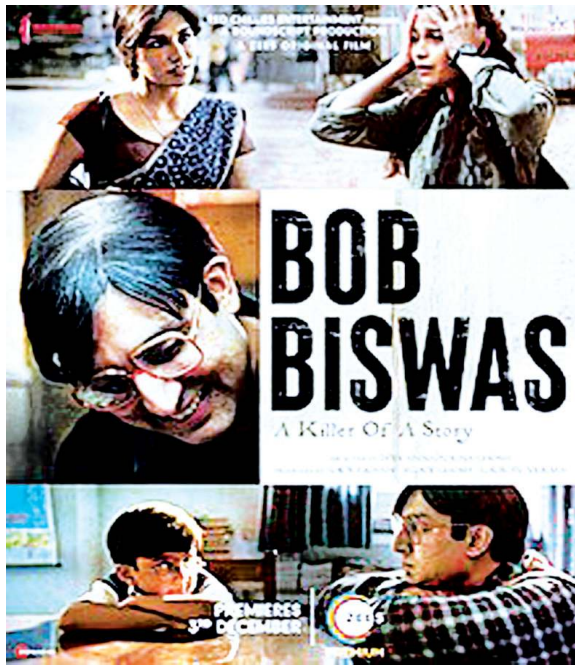


## World TV premiere of 'Bob Biswas' on Zee Cinema

If you woke up from a long coma and realized you are your own biggest enemy, what would you do? This haunting question surrounds the world of Bob Biswas. A simple family man with a wife and two kids who works as an insurance agent by day and a contract hitman by night - director Diya Ghosh's version of the mundane but mysterious Bob Biswas highly pleased the critics as well as audiences across the country. Set in the heart of Kolkata, the film carves a niche for itself by harnessing the elements of subtle dark comedy in a serious crime thriller. Donning this palatable thriller on screen,

we have Abhishek Bachchan in and as Bob Biswas along with the ravishing Chitrangada Singh. Sink into a world of thrill and drama as Bob Biswas navigates his memory and overcomes the dilemma of double life that put him on a bridge of good versus evil with the World Television Premiere Bob Biswas on 30th April at 9:30pm only on Zee Cinema.

When you remember characters and their peculiarities long after you've watched a film, you know you have watched something special. And in this case, one can't help but notice how Abhishek Bachchan has perfected even the smallest details of the peculiar



character Bob Biswas. Whether it's his expressions of un-surety, juggling his identities or even his bodily transformation, he's got all the nuances of the part perfect to the T.

Talking about the film, Abhishek Bachchan said, "Bob Biswas's character in 'Kahaani' left the audience spellbound with his eerie yet interesting characteristics. When Sujoy approached me with Bob Biswas's script, I had not even seen the film 'Kahaani', thus my perception of the character Bob was limited. However, during the lockdown I watched it and I was truly blown away. Our director, Diya's perspective of the character

was definitive yet fluid for me to have my creative advances. Bob's character isn't very expressive and being the protagonist there are quite a few subtleties that needed to showcase what a cold-blooded assassin living a normal, middle-class life with his family would look like. I had to absorb the essence of the character to do justice to the audience. It's a character that will keep surprising you through the movie."

Find out who Bob actually is with the World Television Premiere of Bob Biswas on Zee Cinema on 30th April at 9:30 pm!

### HOROSCOPE THURSDAY APRIL 28

#### Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

A festival, rally, or other mass event could occur today in your community, Aquarius. It could center on a social, ecological, or political issue. You could well decide to attend in the company of a romantic partner, and perhaps a group of friends, too. This event could prove exciting for you, although some of what you learn there might be unsettling.

#### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Career matters should be going very well for you today, Pisces. A sudden change regarding your work could catapult you into a position you've been hoping to reach for a long time. A rise in income could result. You've worked hard and done very well, so what may seem a lucky break to others is actually the result of intense, determined effort on your part.

#### Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Ideas for a new enterprise, which could be anything from a party to a vacation to a new business, could have you spending a lot of time on the phone today, Gemini. You'll need to consult with people who know about what you want to do and at least lay the groundwork for making solid arrangements.

#### Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Have you been thinking about getting fit by investing in some exercise equipment? If so, Cancer, this might be the day to actually go out and get it. Don't be surprised if friends, relatives, and neighbors all want to come over and try it out.

#### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Today your relationships with just about everyone - friends, relatives, colleagues, and romantic partners - should be going very well, Libra. Your communication is good, and your ability to see the other person's point of view is clearer than usual.

#### Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Relations with colleagues on the job could be very cooperative today, Scorpio, probably because you're about to complete a project of some kind that could result in higher income for everyone. Communication should be open and honest, and for once you'll probably be able to reach everyone you phone without having to leave any messages.

#### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

A sudden desire to expand your horizons could have you and possibly a romantic partner considering returning to school, Aries, perhaps for an advanced degree. The school you're considering, however, might be located in another state or even a foreign country.

#### Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Your curiosity and creative energy may be stimulated today by information you receive from books, documentaries, or conversations with people familiar with the field you're exploring. As a result, Leo, you could come up with an innovative new project that keeps you and some colleagues busy for a long time.

#### Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

Friendships and romantic bonds should provide a rich source of support and good companionship today, Sagittarius. Conversation is likely to be light, covering general matters like current events and the weather, but this might be just what you need right now.

#### Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Some new ideas for expanding your horizons on some level could come to you today through an unexpected source, Taurus, possibly even dreams or visions. If an idea does come through a dream or flash of insight, don't write it off as crazy. It probably warrants some careful consideration, if nothing else.

#### Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

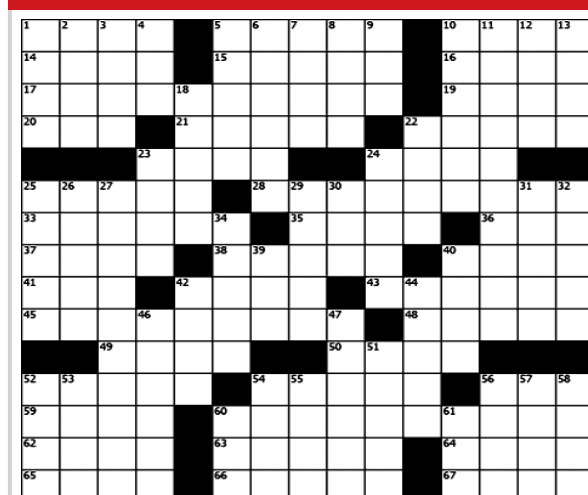
A female visitor could come to your door today with some interesting, useful information, Virgo. It might involve anything from stock market trends to a forthcoming wedding to occult and metaphysical matters. Whatever it is, you'll find it captivating, and might just sit and listen to your guest for quite a while.

#### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Today you might find yourself hosting an impromptu social event, Capricorn, and more people could show up than you initially counted on. Don't worry about it, however. The party should be enjoyable for everyone even if the place is a bit crowded. Your visitors can look out for themselves.

### CROSSWORD

283



#### ACROSS

- Repeat
- Shopping binge
- Oodles (2 wds.)
- "Moonstruck" actress
- Depart
- Ocean movement
- Circus leader
- Juvenile
- \_\_\_\_\_ and downs
- Go in

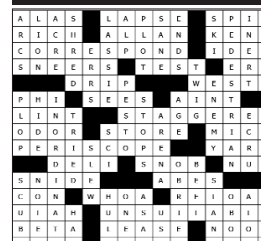
#### DOWN

- Unbleached color
- Poker counter
- Egg layers
- Assoc.
- Bias
- Annoy
- Judge
- For all time
- Poet's always
- Verify
- Military rank
- Poems of praise
- Perfect scores
- Vegetarians' taboos
- Free of doubt
- Music for two
- Cowboys' contest

- Journey
- Stated a viewpoint
- Make coffee
- Fittingly
- Retirement accounts (abbr.)
- Ready, willing, and \_\_\_\_\_
- Hurried
- Name
- Small drink
- Pretends
- Shabby
- Brood
- Comes closer
- Opera solo
- Koppel and Kennedy
- Nervous
- Venture

- \_\_\_\_\_ metal
- Yonder
- Limited
- Explode
- Plant holder
- Make merry
- Shabby
- British nobleman
- Espionage org.
- Tobacco holder
- Warty amphibian
- Lost color
- Tops of waves
- Diner patrons
- Nonchalant
- Huckleberry Finn's craft
- Farm measure
- Biblical pronoun
- Iraq's neighbor
- Calcutta dress
- Purple flower
- Mountaintop
- High explosive (abbr.)
- Salad \_\_\_\_\_

#### SOLUTION 282





## DC, KKR seek momentum to revive IPL campaigns

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

Delhi Capitals will look to put the 'no-ball' controversy behind and gain much needed momentum against another side seeking course correction, the Kolkata Knight Riders, in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Delhi suffered a 15-run loss against Rajasthan Royals, a game marred by a no ball controversy over a high full toss that resulted in a one match ban for assistant coach Pravin Amre. Head coach Ricky Ponting watched the tight finish in quarantine and felt helpless. Now he is back with the team and is confident of finding momentum which will allow his players to play to their potential.

Delhi Capitals are currently seventh on the points table with three wins in seven outings. KKR are placed eighth having lost their last four games.

With the Delhi batting line-up comprising David Warner, Prithvi Shaw, Rishabh Pant and Powell, KKR's varied attack has to be on guard to stop the rampage. Warner, after striking three back to back fifties, faltered against the Royals and would need itching to



play another impactful knock. Ditto for Shaw, who needs to convert his starts into big scores. Delhi's latest option at number three, Sarfaraz Khan, also failed and it remains to be seen whether he is benched or not. Pant will need to take greater responsibility along with the likes of all-

rounders Lalit Yadav, Shardul Thakur and Axar Patel.

Pant can single-handedly turn any game, but he hasn't played to his potential and come Thursday at the Wankhede, where the tracks have helped batters, the skipper would look to come good.

Add to it, Powell's six-hitting prowess, Delhi have all the necessary firepower.

Delhi's bowling has fared well, but will need to forget the hammering at the hands of Jos Buttler. Khaleel Ahmed has been taking wickets upfront and has been complemented by Mustafizur Rahman, who

can also be effective at the death.

While Kuldeep Yadav has redeemed himself, the other spinners Axar and Lalit have also played their parts to perfection. The trio has combined 20 wickets and their 12 overs would be vital.

Meanwhile, KKR need to get their combination right and the batters, including skipper Iyer, will have to put up an improved show.

Shreyas failed in the last game and so did the opening pair of Sam Billings and Sunil Narine. If they continue with the same openers, the two would need to give an aggressive start.

For the likes of Shreyas, Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh and Venkatesh Iyer, it won't be an easy task, especially against inform Delhi spinners. Pushing Venkatesh down in the middle order has also not worked yet.

Shreyas has said it was just a matter of time and once KKR get going, they will be unstoppable as a team. KKR pacers Umesh Yadav and Tim Southee have been right on the money. The only weak link seems to be Varun Chakravarthy who is having an underwhelming season.

### Kohli will emerge from this run of low scores: Bangar



Pune, Apr 27 (PTI):

RCB head coach Sanjay Bangar reiterated that star batter Virat Kohli will soon "emerge" out of the lean phase he is experiencing at the moment and help his team win games going forward in the IPL.

Kohli's scores in his last five innings read 9, 0, 0, 12 and 1. The manner of his dismissals also show that he is not in the best of form.

"Regarding Kohli's form, he's a great cricketer. He's experienced these highs and lows many times before. I've observed him from close quarters.

"He has the spirit and he'll emerge from these run of low scores. In the coming crucial games, he'll help us win," Bangar said at the post match press conference after RCB's 29-run loss to Rajasthan Royals.

"We aren't talking about anything different (in practice), to be honest. The way he prepares, he always puts himself out of comfort zone and prepares and that's his specialty.

## Samson wasting good form and opportunity to press for international recall: Bishop

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

Former West Indies speedster Ian Bishop reckons Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson is wasting good form and opportunity to press for a recall in the Indian T20 set up by not playing impactful innings in the IPL.

The wicketkeeper-batter is still on the fringes of the Indian T20 team and a stellar show in the IPL could help him stake a claim in the T20 World Cup squad. "That Sanju is wasting good form and good opportunity to score runs to press for an international recall, to lead his team when Jos Buttler doesn't score," Bishop said on ESPNcricinfo's 'T20 Time Out'. Although, Samson is a delight to watch when he gets going, the free flowing right hander is yet to consistently play the kind of impactful innings one expects from him.

He last featured for India in the T20 home series against Sri Lanka in February.

With the flamboyant Jos Buttler failing against RCB on Tuesday, it was the perfect opportunity for the RR skipper to rise to the occasion. Samson even looked in good touch, smashing three sixes and a four but could only manage 27 off 21. He was dis-



missed by Sri Lanka spinner Wanindu Hasaranga after missing an attempted reverse-sweep.

"It's not that Sanju's out of form. But that's a match-up with Wanindu Hasaranga and him, and he should have known better. He got out of the blocks quite nicely," Bishop said.

"I'm a Sanju Samson fan, been that way for years now, (but) he's wasting good form by shot selection," Bishop added. Former New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori feels the game comes too "easy" to Samson and he thus tries to do too many things. "It feels like the game is too easy for him, so I'm going to try something different, I'm going to try and make sure I can play every shot in the book." He is at his best when he's striking down the ground," Vettori said.

### Badminton Asia Championships

## Saina wins opening match, Sen makes first round exit

Manila, Apr 27 (PTI):

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal won her opening match but Lakshya Sen and B Sai Praneeth made first round exits from the Badminton Asia Championships here on Wednesday.

Saina, who has been on a comeback trial after recovering from some nagging injuries, eked out a 21-15 17-21 21-13 win over Sim Yujin of South Korea. But world championships bronze medal winner Sen was stunned by the unseeded Li Shi Feng of China.

The fifth seed Indian lost 21-12 10-21 19-21 in his opening round men's singles tie that lasted 56 minutes.

World no 19 Praneeth suffered a straight game 17-21 13-21 defeat against Jonathan Christie of Indonesia.

It was also the end of the



road for Aakarshi Kashyap, who lost 15-21 9-21 against Japanese top seed Akane Yamaguchi in the women's singles.

Both the women's doubles pair of Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam and Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker also made opening round exits after losing in straight games.

While Bhat and Gautam went down 19-21 12-21 to

Anna Ching Yik Cheong and Teoh Mei Xing of Malaysia, Singhi and Thaker lost 15-21 11-21 against seventh seeded Malaysian pair of Pearly Tan and Muralitharan Thinaah.

Later in the day, PV Sindhu, Malvika Bansod and Kidambi Srikanth will be in action in their respective singles matches.

## Pull out of IPL, for all you care: Shastri tells Kohli

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

For the second time in a week, former India coach Ravi Shastri has advised the out-of-form Virat Kohli to take a break, even if it meant "pulling out of the IPL, for all you care" to prolong his international career.

Batting maestro Kohli has been battling one of his worst phases in a hugely successful career, having failed to score a hundred in any format for more than three years now.

"I think a break is ideal for him because he has played non-stop cricket and he has captained the side across all formats. It will be wise of him to take a break. "You know, sometimes you have to draw the balance. This year he is already into the tournament (IPL 2022), tomorrow if push comes to shove and you want to prolong your international career and make a mark there for 6-7 years, pull out of the IPL,



for all you care," Shastri told Star Sports presenter Jatin Sapru on his YouTube channel.

Kohli was promoted to the top of the order against Rajasthan Royals on Tuesday after back-to-back ducks but the move also did not yield the desired result as the former India captain was out for nine. RCB lost the match by 29 runs.

Shastri emphasised on the importance of a break in a player's career at a time when the calendar is crammed with one assign-

ment after another.

"Not only Virat, I'll tell that to any other player. If you want to play and do well for India, you have to draw the line where you want to take that break and the ideal break would be off-season where India is not playing and the only time India does not play is the IPL," Shastri said.

Kohli, the former India skipper in all three formats, stepped down from captaincy roles last year. He has not scored a century in any format since November 2019.

## We're too good a team for our results to not change: Ponting

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

All Delhi Capitals need is a little bit of momentum to get their IPL campaign back on track as they are "too good a team for the results not to change", feels head coach Ricky Ponting.

With three wins and four losses in the first seven matches of the season, Delhi Capitals are currently seventh in the points table.

Reflecting on the first half of the season, Ponting said, "I've said it a few times this year where there's 36 or 37 overs of really good stuff, and we just let it slip for two or three overs.

"And, that's the difference in these games. We sort of gear ourselves to not overtrain in the first part of the season, try and build up along the way. But our performances have been win one, lose one, win one. So, we need to start getting that little bit of momentum."

Ponting warned his



players against trying "too hard" in the second half of IPL. "I know we're so close to turning it all around. We've all got to trust, we've got to believe, we've got to stay upbeat and positive. And if we are, things will definitely change for us.

"The harder we try from here, the harder it's going to get. We're just going to stay nice and relax and keep repeating things we've been doing. And then results will definitely come our way. We are too good a team for the results not to change," he said ahead of Thursday's game against Kolkata Knight Riders.

## RR to celebrate Warne's life in IPL match against MI on Saturday

Navi Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

Rajasthan Royals will celebrate the extraordinary life of legendary Australian spinner Shane Warne, who died recently, during their Indian Premier League match against Mumbai Indians here on Saturday.

Warne had lifted the inaugural IPL trophy after the Royals beat Chennai Super Kings by three wickets in the final in 2008, and his former franchise said it will pay tribute to its first captain to coincide with the team's triumph exactly 14 years back.

The franchise said Warne's brother, Jason will also be part of the celebration as he has accepted an invitation from the Jaipur-based side.

Considered one of the greatest cricketers of all time, Warne died of suspected heart attack at the Thai resort of Koh Samui last month. He was 52. He took 708 wickets from 145



Tests, besides 293 ODI wickets from 194 matches between 1992 and 2007.

"It is befitting that the same stadium where Warne lifted the IPL trophy will see the cricketing world come together to pay their respects and celebrate his life," the franchise said in a release.

"The franchise would like to iterate that it will not be

an occasion to mourn, but to commemorate the great man, and salute him for his never-ending contribution to the game of cricket as well as impacting thousands of lives around the world through his words, energy, and actions both on and off the field."

It said the celebrations will be led by the franchise and supported by the BCCI.

The Rajasthan Royals playing squad will sport special initials 'SW23' on leading collars of their official playing kits to pay tribute to the legendary Australian. A special area at the DY Patil Stadium has also been turned into a Shane Warne Tribute Gallery, which all the ticket-holding fans will be able to visit and experience.

Manchester, Apr 27 (AP):

It was the coolest of penalties at the end of one of the wildest matches in Champions League history.

With his cheekily dispatched Panenka, Karim Benzema might just have kept Real Madrid's chances alive against Manchester City in the semifinals.

City won a breathless first-leg match 4-3 at Etihad Stadium on Tuesday but squandered so many chances in an end-to-end, basketball-style epic that it hardly felt like a victory for the English club.

We could have killed them off, said Phil Foden, one of City's four scorers in a game that had pretty much everything.

City built a two-goal lead three times but just couldn't shake off Madrid, the kings of the competition



Real Madrid's French striker Karim Benzema celebrates after scoring a penalty kick and his team third goal during the UEFA Champions League semi-final first leg football match between Manchester City and Real Madrid, at the Etihad Stadium, in Manchester.

as City manager Pep Guardiola calls them. So it felt inevitable that when Aymeric Laporte

## Benzema keeps Madrid alive in CL despite 4-3 loss to City

Santiago Bernabeu for next week's second leg with, somehow, only a one-goal deficit.

Just when many inside the stadium were losing their heads, Benzema kept his, chipping the ball high and straight down the middle before wheeling away in front of Madrid's jubilant fans with his arms outstretched.

The most important thing is we never lay down our arms, Benzema said. We are all in this until the end.

With the France striker in his team, Madrid will never lose hope.

His double here after back-to-back hat tricks earlier in the knockout stage took his total in the Champions League this season to a competition-high 14 goals. Benzema now has 41 goals in all competitions in the most prolific season of his career.

gave away a penalty with 10 minutes remaining, Madrid wouldn't waste the opportunity to return to



## LAST MINUTE REVISION



Students revise for the exam before appearing for the CBSE Exam for Term 2, outside an examination centre, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

## 'Nearly 20 million women digitally literate in India under PMGDISHA'

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Nearly 20 million women have been certified to be digitally literate in India under the PMGDISHA programme dedicated to digital literacy, Union minister Smriti Irani said on Wednesday. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) aims to empower the people in rural areas by training them to operate computer or digital access devices (like tablets, smart phones, etc.), send and receive e-mails, browse internet, access government services, and undertake digital payment, among

others.

Responding to a question at an interactive session at the Raisina Dialogue, India's premier foreign policy and geo-economics conference, Irani said there is much that is being done in India digitally and otherwise. She said PM's DISHA programme has close to 20 million certified digitally literate women in India.

"When India went into lockdown, we did not have a single PPE suit in the country and the workforce that made those PPE suit, about 75 per cent of it were Indian women and in just three months we became the second largest



Smriti Irani

exporters in the world and that is an indicator of female potential in Indian manufacturing," she said.

"We have 6.6 million women who are first responders in the COVID-19 pandemic, be it doctors, nurses, ASHA workers,

and Anganwadi workers," the women and child development minister added.

She said under Ayushman Bharat, the footfall of women in hospitals and healthcare establishments in last two years has been 450 million and women who are getting themselves checked for cancer or cervix, the number is 70 million.

"When you have a government which ensures that their needs are financially supported, they do not withdraw from these services," he said.

Responding to a question on what role can a

male and a female leader play in ensuring gender justice, Irani said "a male leader takes you where you want to be and a female leader possibly takes you where you ought to be but a male leader who gives the promise of gender justice ensures that you reach commutatively as a society at a position where women do not have to struggle to be an equal partner in developing your country culturally, financially and becoming a global voice as one".

On the pandemic's impact on India, she said the prime minister ensured that gender needs are at the centre of policy.

## Lakhimpur Kheri violence

### HC judge withdraws from hearing Mishra's bail plea

Lucknow, Apr 27 (PTI):

An Allahabad High court judge withdrew himself on Wednesday from a bench hearing the bail plea of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra Monu in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case. Justice Rajeev Singh of the Lucknow bench of the high court, who had granted bail to Ashish Mishra earlier, recused himself from hearing it again after the Supreme Court cancelled his bail order last week on April 18.

While cancelling Mishra's bail, the Supreme Court had also asked the high court to decide his bail plea afresh and the plea came up for hearing before Justice Singh's

bench. But he recused himself from hearing it afresh. Justice Singh, however, gave no reason for withdrawing himself from the single-judge bench hearing the bail plea. The next hearing of the bail plea too was not scheduled and it would be fixed for the next hearing after the constitution of a new bench to hear it, a court official said.

Ashish Mishra had been arrested in the October 3 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case in which eight people, including four farmers and a journalist, were killed and several others were injured when a convoy of SUVs, including a Thar allegedly owned by Ajay Mishra, had run over a group of protesting farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri. In the violence that

followed, two BJP workers and the driver of the Thar vehicle too were killed. The farmers were protesting against the then Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area on October 3 last year.

According to the FIR lodged in the case, Ashish Mishra was sitting in one of the cars. The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court had granted regular bail to Ashish Mishra, observing that the present case was one of "accident by hitting with the vehicle". But the Supreme Court cancelled the bail, saying that the victims were denied "a fair and effective hearing" by the Allahabad High Court, which adopted a "myopic view of the evidence".

## NEC sanctions Rs 2.03 cr for modernisation of Tripura tea estate

Agartala, Apr 27 (PTI): The North Eastern Council (NEC) has sanctioned Rs. 2.03 crore for the modernisation of Brahmakunda tea estate in West Tripura district, Tripura Tea Development Corporation (TTDC) chairman Santosh Saha said. The state government had sent three proposals to the NEC for the modernisation of Durgabari tea estate and Brahmakunda tea estate and setting up of a tea museum at Durgabari tea estate - all in West Tripura district. Recently, the NEC has sanctioned Rs. 2.03 crore for modernisation of Brahmakunda tea garden while the two other projects are under active consideration of the NEC, he told journalists on Wednesday. The modernisation works at Brahmakunda tea estate will begin at the earliest and plans are afoot to complete it by one year, Saha said.

## 'Youth, women want me to join politics'

Ahmedabad, Apr 27 (PTI):

Influential Patidar leader Naresh Patel, who heads Shree Khodaldham Temple Trust, on Wednesday claimed that though the older generation is against him joining politics, youth and women want him to take the route.

Patel's comments have come days after Ramesh Tilala, a senior trustee, had opined that he should not join politics and continue with social work through Shree Khodaldham Temple Trust in Kagvad village of Gujarat's Rajkot district.

"It is a fact that elderly people don't want me to join politics. Rameshbhai must be talking about their views. However, the

younger generation and women strongly feel that I should take up politics," Patel told reporters in Rajkot.

Notably, a committee of Shree Khodaldham Trust (SKT) has already started a survey to find out what the community had to say about Patel's entry into politics. Tilalal had said that Patel will take a final decision based on the outcome of that survey.

"I will make an announcement soon about joining politics," said Patel when asked about his plans.

For some time now, there have been speculations that Patel will join the Congress ahead of the Gujarat Assembly elections. He even met poll strategist Prashant

Kishor in New Delhi last Saturday.

Now, when Kishor himself has declined to join the Congress, there is still uncertainty about Patel's entry in the party.

"Prashant Kishor is my friend. I am confident that he will remain by my side whenever I take a decision to join politics," Patel said.

The SKT headed by Patel manages the affairs of Shree Khodaldham temple dedicated to goddess Khodiyar, the patron deity of the Leuva Patel community, in Rajkot district.

The Patidars form about 11-12 per cent of the population in Gujarat and are an influential caste group whose votes can sway results in many constituencies.

## Raj govt to develop tourist circuit with Wagah-Attari border-like retreat show

Jaipur, Apr 27 (PTI): Tourists visiting Rajasthan will soon have a Wagah-Attari border-like experience at the state's Tanot-Bawlianwala border with Pakistan. With the support of the Border Security Force, the state's Tourist Department has launched an ambitious plan to develop a tourist circuit in the next 18 months for Rs 19 crore in the state. The circuit would comprise the Tanot Mata temple, Kishangarh Fort, Longewala War Memorial and scenic villages amid the vast desert terrain of the state, an official said. "The border and associated history lay an irresistible charm for tourists. The development of the Tanot Mata Tourist Complex shall assure a safe and comfortable visit while showcasing the difficult life of the BSF personnel, Principal Secretary (Tourism) Gayatri Rathore said.

## Kashmir residents see no relief from power outages

Srinagar, Apr 27 (PTI):

There seems to be no relief in sight for the residents of Kashmir facing electricity outages for the past several days, with the authorities citing the early onset of summer and sub-optimal hydro power generation as reasons for unscheduled power cuts.

Kashmir is going through one of its worst power crisis as unscheduled and prolonged cuts in supply in the holy month of Ramzan have left the people distraught.

Officials in the electricity department said the supply in April was around 900 to 1100 MW while the demand was 1600 MW, thereby, creating a deficit which has

forced them to go for unscheduled power cuts.

People in the valley complain that power supply often get disrupted at the time of sehri (when pre-dawn meals to begin the day's fast are taken) and iftar (when the fast is broken).

"There has been hardly a day when we have had electricity at the time of sehri or iftar. During the day, the situation gets worse. We have never faced such a situation before," Javid Ahmad, a resident of Ganderbal, said. Meanwhile, leaders of opposition parties have been blaming the administration for failing to provide relief to the residents.

Former J-K chief minister and National Conference (NC) vice

president Omar Abdullah said seeking electricity was the right of the people and that the situation in the Union Territory was contrary to the tall claims of the administration about development.

"It is our right to get electricity. They (the administration) made tall claims about development in J-K. Let them show where it is," Omar said here. The NC leader said the power situation was no better in Jammu.

"I was in Jammu a few days ago and right before 'sehri' and 'iftar', the electricity was snapped. The situation is similar here (in the Kashmir valley)," he added. Abdullah alleged that the power department looks for excuses to snap the electricity.

## EID RUSH



A huge crowd of people shopping at a market ahead of the upcoming festival of Eid, in Kolkata, Wednesday, April 27.

## 'Prashant Kishor responsible for TMC's defeat in Goa'

He tried to blackmail Cong which benefited BJP

Panaji, Apr 27 (PTI):

Goa Trinamool Congress chief Kiran Kandolkar resigned on Wednesday and alleged that political strategist Prashant Kishor was responsible for the "humiliating" defeat of the Mamata Banerjee-led party in the recent state Assembly polls who also tried to "blackmail" the Congress. Addressing a press conference, Kandolkar claimed that Kishor ended up helping BJP to form the government after the polls. The resignation of Kandolkar and two other

leaders, who had contested on the TMC symbol, came as another setback for the Mamata Banerjee-led party which is struggling to retain its flock in Goa since the poll debacle. The TMC drew a blank in its maiden electoral outing in Goa. "Prashant Kishor was responsible for the TMC's humiliating defeat in Goa polls. He was in Goa to blackmail the Congress and eventually ended up



Kiran Kandolkar

helping the BJP to form the government again," Kandolkar alleged. He, however, didn't elaborate on the "blackmail" charge against Kishor, who recently declined to join Congress. Kandolkar, along with Tarak Arolkar, and Sandeep Vazarkar have resigned from the primary membership of the Mamata Banerjee-led party. Days earlier, Kandolkar's wife Kavita Kandolkar had

also quit the TMC, owing to "pressure" from her supporters.

Soon after Kavita Kandolkar's resignation move, the Goa TMC tweeted that the party was restructuring the entire AITC Goa State Committee with immediate effect. Kiran Kandolkar had quit as the working president of the Goa Forward Party to join the TMC in the run-up to the polls held in February this year. Kandolkar and his wife had contested on TMC tickets from Aldona and Thivim constituencies, respectively, but lost.

## Oppn accuses Modi of playing politics on fuel prices

● BJP slams its 'hypocrisy'

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

The Opposition on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of playing politics during his meeting with chief ministers on the Covid situation by raising the issue of fuel prices and "passing the buck" on to states to reduce VAT on petrol and diesel.

Hitting out at the Opposition, the BJP said its stance reeks of hypocrisy and alleged that for every litre of petrol, opposition-ruled states were

earning twice as much as the BJP-ruled states.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said the Centre owed Rs 26,500 crore to the state, after Prime Minister Modi said some states did not reduce VAT on petrol and diesel despite the excise duty cut by the Union government in November last year.

Thackeray also accused the Centre of a step-motherly treatment to Maharashtra and that the state government was not responsible for the rise in prices of petrol and diesel.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala attacked Modi,

demanding that he give an account of the Rs 27 lakh crore "collected" by the BJP government from tax on petrol and diesel.

"Modi ji, No criticism, No distractions, No Jumlas! Please give an account of ₹27,00,00,00,00,00 (₹27 Lakh Crore) collected by BJP Govt from Tax on Petrol & Diesel," Surjewala said.

He said that on May 26, 2014, when PM Modi assumed charge, crude oil was USD 108 per barrel, but petrol and diesel were priced at Rs 71.41 and Rs 55.49 per litre, while today, crude oil is USD 100.20 per barrel, but the petrol and

diesel prices have been increased to Rs 105.41/litre and Rs 96.67/litre respectively in Delhi.

"We will urge all states to decrease VAT on Petrol/Diesel to pre-May 2014 level. Please admit BJP Govt earned Rs 27 Lakh Crore from Petrol/Diesel while all states collectively received about 16.5 Lakh Crore. Central Govt revenue from Petrol/Diesel has doubled in 8 years," he said in a series of tweets.

Shiv Sena leader Priyanka Chaturvedi also slammed the prime minister, alleging that he made the "COVID meeting about politics".





### BRIEF



Patients being evacuated after a fire broke out due to a short circuit at Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital, in Chennai, Wednesday.

### Mishap

**New Delhi:** An 18-year-old ragpicker died on Wednesday after he entered a sewer in Outer Delhi's Bawana to collect plastic waste, while another man who went inside to save him was also killed, officials said. According to police, Abdul Salam, a ragpicker, removed the cover of the sewer on Ganga Toli Road near Balaji Chowk in Bawana and entered inside. When Salam did not come out, his younger brother Sahil, who was near the spot, raised an alarm, they said.

### Shot dead

**Amritsar:** A 17-year-old boy was allegedly shot dead near his native village Nangli here, police said on Wednesday. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Balbir Singh Sandhu, said the victim has been identified as Vijay Singh. He had gone out with a couple of friends. The police found his body in a field with a bullet mark on his face on Tuesday. "On the complaint of his parents, a murder case has been registered against his two friends," the DSP said, adding teams have been sent to nab the accused.

### Fire

**Chennai:** A fire broke out at one of the buildings of Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital here on Wednesday, but no casualties or injuries were reported. Three oxygen cylinders kept in the old building exploded, triggering panic among the people. Patients undergoing treatment in wards on the floor, where the mishap occurred were quickly moved to safety, hospital sources said.

### Reopen

**Jammu:** The historic Mughal road, connecting the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, was reopened for one-way vehicular traffic on Wednesday after remaining closed for over four months due to heavy snowfall during the winter, officials said. A traffic department official said the traffic on the road was allowed from Poonch towards Shopian around 9 am, marking the reopening of the alternate link between Kashmir and the rest of the country.

Weather	
High	43
Low	28
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,038.40
SENSEX	56,819.39
BULLION	
GOLD	51,258
SILVER	64,808

### STAY ALERT ON COVID

## 'Priority is to vaccinate all eligible children'

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the challenge of the Covid pandemic is not fully over yet, with the increase in coronavirus cases in the last two weeks manifesting the need to stay alert, and underlined that vaccination remains the biggest protective shield against the virus.

Speaking at an interaction with chief ministers on the emerging COVID-19 situation in the country, the prime minister also said the government's priority is to vaccinate all eligible children at the earliest with special campaigns needed in schools.

At the interaction, Union Health Secretary



Rajesh Bhushan gave a presentation where he discussed the rise of cases across several countries in the world and in some Indian states, a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) statement said. Asserting that India has fought a long battle against Covid in the spirit of cooperative federalism enshrined in the Constitution, Prime Minister Modi lauded the chief ministers, officers

and all corona warriors for their efforts. Modi asserted it was clear that the coronavirus challenge is not fully over yet. Omicron and its sub-variants can create problems as is evident in case of many countries of Europe, he noted, adding that these sublineages are causing a surge in many countries.

He said India has been able to deal with the situa-

tion better than many countries. Still, in last two weeks, increasing cases in some of the states show that we need to stay alert, Modi said. The Omicron wave was handled with determination and without panic, and in the last two years, all aspects of the coronavirus fight whether related to health infrastructure, oxygen supply or vaccination, have been strengthened, he asserted.

### PM interacts with CMs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with chief ministers on the emerging COVID-19 situation in the country on Wednesday through video conferencing. Several chief ministers, including West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee, Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel and Punjab's Bhagwant Mann, participated in the interaction. With several festivals coming up, Modi had on Sunday urged people to stay alert to the threat from coronavirus and continue to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour such as wearing masks and frequently washing hands. "In the midst of coming festivals, you also have to be alert of corona (virus).

## Additional funding of Rs 820 crore for India Post Payments Bank

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an additional funding of Rs 820 crore for India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) that will be utilised for expansion of its services to all post offices in the country. Briefing the media, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said that out of the little over 1.56 lakh post offices, IPPB, currently operates from 1.3 lakh post offices.

He also said the Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for future fund infusion worth Rs 500 crore into IPPB for meeting regulatory requirements and technological upgradation.

"IPPB is going to expand its banking service to 1,56,434 post offices and for decision has been taken to invest Rs 820 crore in it so that poorest of the poor,

mothers and sisters living in rural areas can get access to banking facility," Thakur said. According to an official statement, the Cabinet has approved the revision of project outlay for setting up of IPPB from Rs 1,435 crore to Rs 2,255 crore as equity infusion to meet regulatory requirement. "The objective of the project is to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man; spearhead the financial inclusion agenda by removing the barriers for the unbanked and reduce the opportunity cost for the under-banked population through assisted doorstep banking.

"The project supplements the Government of India's vision of a 'less cash' economy and at the same time promote both economic growth and financial inclusion," the statement said.

### FINANCIAL PROBLEM Mother-son duo commit suicide

**Bilaspur, Apr 27:**

A 45-year-old woman and her son allegedly committed suicide due to financial crisis at their home in Bilaspur district, police said on Wednesday. Krishna Bai Manikpuri and her Ashok Das (21) were found hanging from the ceiling of a room in their house in Kalartarai village under Kota police station limits on Tuesday morning, station house officer Dinesh Chandra of Kota police station said. The deaths came to light when the duo did not come out of the room and the woman's husband Prem Das, who is differently-abled, peeped in through a window with the help of his neighbours, he said.

According to villagers, the woman worked as a maid in the village, while her son was a labourer. His husband stayed home due to his handicap," the official said.

## India likely to reduce Covid booster gap to 6 months

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

The government is likely to soon reduce the gap between the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine and the precaution dose from the current nine months to six months, official sources said on Wednesday.

A recommendation on lessening the gap is expected to be made by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) which is set to hold a meeting on April 29, they told PTI. Studies at ICMR and other international research institutions have suggested that antibody level wanes after about six months from the primary vaccination with both doses and giving a booster increases the immune response. All those above the age of 18 who have completed nine months after the administration of the second

dose are eligible for the precaution dose.

"Taking into account the scientific evidence and findings of the studies done here and internationally, the gap between the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine and the precaution dose will most likely be reduced from the current nine months to six months soon. A final decision will be taken based on the recommendations by the NTAGI which is set to meet on Friday," a source in the know of the developments told PTI. India began administering precaution doses of vaccines to health-care and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10.

The government removed the comorbidity clause making all people aged above 60 eligible for the precaution dose in March.

### CITIZENS TO CENTRE

## Don't conduct aerial attacks in Chh'garh

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

About 30 eminent citizens of the country have urged the Centre not to conduct aerial attacks in Chhattisgarh or any other tribal area and to engage in talks with villagers protesting against security camps, fake encounters and mass arrests.

According to media reports, tribals in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district have alleged that on the intervening night of April 14 and April 15, police carried out air raids and bombarded parts of the forest around their villages in an attempt to neutralise Maoists.

Referring to the reports, the aforementioned people, in a statement, have said the government should not conduct aerial attacks in

Chhattisgarh or any other tribal area. They have also urged the government to engage in talks with the villagers protesting against security camps, fake encounters and mass arrests.

"Address human rights violations by security forces. Despite clear-cut findings by more than one judicial enquiry, CBI, NHRC and the Supreme Court that there have been grave violations of human rights in Chhattisgarh by the security forces, no action has been taken against them," they said.

They further said the government must provide justice to the innocent victims of mass killings by security forces in Sarkeguda and Edesmetta and to the victims of mass arson, rape and killings in Tadmetla, Timapuram and Morpalli.

## 11 killed after temple chariot grazes power line

**Thanjavur, Apr 27 (PTI):**

It was all over in a matter of minutes and before people could realise what was happening, 11 persons were electrocuted to death and others ran helter-skelter in disbelief while the temple chariot was ablaze.

The Appar temple car procession in Thanjavur on Wednesday ended in a tragedy that led to an outpouring of grief and anguish from various quarters. "People were thrown away, they just fell down. I could see a man lying here and another one there and the unfolding scene was frightening as we could not understand what was happening," a woman eyewitness said.



Mangled remains of the chariot after several people were electrocuted during a chariot procession, in Kalimedu area of Thanjavur district, Wednesday.

Villagers say that the wooden temple chariot, with parts being iron based fitment, was decorated

with colourful lights especially on the top, and it came into contact with the overhead electricity line.

### PM SVANidhi for street vendors till Dec 2024

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

The Centre on Wednesday approved the continuation of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme till December 2024, according to an official statement.

The approval was given by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the statement said, adding that through the scheme, affordable collateral-free loans are given to street vendors. "The scheme had envisaged to facilitate loans for an amount of Rs 5,000 crore. Today's approval has increased the loan amount to Rs 8,100 crore, thereby providing the street vendors working capital to further expand their business and making them AtmaNirbhar," according to the statement.

## 'Why can't Rajiv Gandhi case convict be released after serving 36 years in prison'

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):**

The Supreme Court Wednesday asked the Centre why it cannot release A G Perarivalan who has served 36 years of his life term in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, noting that the government took a bizarre stand that the Tamil Nadu Governor had forwarded the decision of the state cabinet of releasing the convict to the President, who is the competent authority to take a call on the mercy plea.

The apex court said when people who have served lesser periods are being re-



leased, then why can't the Centre agree on releasing him. The Tamil Nadu government said the Centre is only trying to unsettle the settled position in law. The top court said that prima

facie it finds the governor's decision to be wrong and against the constitution as he is bound by the aid and advice of the state cabinet and it strikes a blow on the federal structure of the constitution. A bench of Justices LN Rao and B R Gavai told Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, to seek proper instruction in a week or it will accept the submission of Perarivalan and release him following the earlier decision of this court. Nataraj said that in certain situations, the President is the competent authority and

not the governor especially when a sentence of death has to be commuted to life.

The bench told the law officer that the convict has served 36 years in prison and when people who have served lesser periods are being released, then why can't the Centre agree on releasing him. We are offering you an escape route. This is a bizarre argument. Your argument that the governor does not have the jurisdiction to take a decision on the mercy plea under Article 161 of the Constitution actually strikes a blow on the federal structure of the constitution.

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Sampoorna Swadeshi



# Cleanliness worker electrocuted; CMM demands Rs 25 lakh compensation

# Karm Shiromani awards given away in BSP's RMP

Central Chronicle News

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** A cleanliness worker was electrocuted to death at a gauthan in Patan on April 26. Devendra Markande (40), a resident of Patan, District Durg was employed on honorarium basis in Nagar Panchayat Patan. He conducted cleanliness works in Nagar Panchayat Patan's Manikanchan Compost Center and the Gauthan since last 2019.

He suffered an electric shock while working at Gauthan on April 26 around 13:00 hrs. The departmental officers tried to rescue but he had succumbed. The state government immediately provided a financial assistance of Rs 25000 and assured to give Rs 4 lakh as compensation and compassionate employment to a dependent as



placement worker. CMM Mazdoor Karyakarta Samiti President Kaladas Daharia informed that the deceased was the only earning person of the family. Parents, wife, a divyang son and two daughters (aged 12-13 years) were dependent on him. The compensation amount declared by the government is insufficient for the family, he

said. He asserted that the incident occurred due to the lack of qualified electricians at the newly established gauthan. The state government and concerned departments must deploy trained and qualified electricians for maintenance of the electrical systems at the Gauthans, he said.

A delegation of Nagriya Nikay Janwadi Safai

Kamgar Union Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha Mazdoor Karyakarta Samiti submitted a memorandum at District Collectorate on Wednesday demanding proper compensation from the state government. They complained that the workers are not getting the benefits of PF and ESIC. They demanded Rs 25 lakh com-

and regular government job to one of the members of the bereaved family.

ESI and PF cover for all swachhata didis and other workers who work on honorarium basis; proper arrangement of electronic equipment and appointment of electricians at the newly constructed Gauthans; and registering FIR against the people who are responsible for this mishap.

Manoj Kosre, Gayatri, Erich Kurre, Ramkali Mandale, Lata, Geeta, Nirmala, Madhukar, Rekha, Girija, Pritam, Chandrakala, Meena, Pramila, Sulochana, Ambika, Bhavna, Pushpa, Kalendri, Sunita, Koshi, Neera, Hema, Dulaurin, Devaki, Poornima, Manju, Asabti, Kaladas Daharia and others were present.

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** Karm Shiromani awards were given away in SAIL-BSP's Refractory Material Plant (RMP 1, 2 and 3) recently. RK Srivastava, CGM (RMP) was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

RK Srivastava, CGM (RMP) in his address said that employees of RMP1, 2 and 3 have reached new heights and set new records with their sincerity, hard work and dedication. We must tighten our slacks to achieve targets in the new financial year. Our awardees who have experience of both knowledge and skill must share their treasure with their juniors.

K Turkey, GMI/c (RMP 1) was the Special Guest on the occasion. He spoke about Safety and cleanliness, Ratan Mukherjee, GM (RMP 3) talked about



Safety and housekeeping, Sushanta Pal, GM (RMP 3) talked about health aspects while VK Ogale, GM (RMP 2) shared his views on 5 S.

Umashankar, Suraj Bhan Kerketta, D Srinivas, Nagesh, Srikant Gyameshwar Balbir and Rambabu were felicitated with the Karm Shiromani awards for their outstanding performance.

Employees are shortlisted for this award for innovations, better resource utilisation, following

Safety standards etc at the workplace. A certificate, letter of appreciation and a sweet packet was given to Karm Shiromani awardees.

The programme was compered by Vijay Kumar, Assistant Manager (P-Steel zone 2) while the Vote of Thanks was proposed by Harshal Aggarwal, Manager (Pers.-Steel zone 2). KD Baghel, ALWO, Puran Lal Sahu helped in making the programme successful.

# BN Meena takes charge as IGP, Durg Range

# Water woes: Denizens stage gherao at BMC Zone office

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** 2009 Batch IPS Officer Badri Narayan Meena has taken charge as Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) on Tuesday. Earlier he was posted as SSP of Durg. After his promotion to the rank of IGP on April 25, he was posted as IGP of Durg Range. He replaced IGP Om Prakash Pal who has been transferred and posted as IGP of Raipur.

Meena has worked as SP of Balrampur, Kawardha, Rajnandgaon, Bastar, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Janjgir Champa. He worked for three years in central deputation. Meena is known as an expert of effective policing and maintaining law and order. He took charge of



IGP (Durg Range) Office on Tuesday evening. Lal Umed Singh (SP, Kabirdham), ASP Neha Pandey, ASP (Rural) Anant Sahu, ASP (Traffic) Kavilash Tondon, ASP (Naxal Ops) Jitendra Kumar Yadav, CSP Rakesh Joshi, DSP (Crime) Nasar Siddhiqui, DSP (HQ) Abhishek Jha, DSP (Traffic) Gurjeet Singh, SDOP (Patan) Devansh Rathore and other officials were present.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** On Wednesday, the denizens of Ward 38 staged aggressive gherao at the Shivaji Nagar Khursipar Zone Office of Bhilai Municipal Corporation. They were protesting against the BMC's failure in ensuring sufficient water supply to the localities. The women broke earthen pots at the Zone Office as a mark of their protest.

The women stated that they were facing acute water shortage for the last several weeks. They are not getting water even for drinking and cooking. They are forced to fetch water from other places and sources. They alleged that even after making repeated complaints, the BMC has failed in resolving the problem. Spearheading the

demonstrators, BJP Corporator Piyush Mishra said that the Bhilai Municipal Corporation got over Rs 400 crore during the BJP rule for Extensive Drinking Water Project, Bhagirathi Nal Jal Yojna and Amrut Mission.

The union government has also provided funds under 14th Finance Commission for the Amrut Mission. Through these sanctions, the water of River Sheonath was brought to Bhilai to ensure tap water supply in Khursipar, Chhawani, Housing Board, Kurud, Kohka, Farid Nagar, Nehru Nagar, Vaishali nagar and other important areas.

Many high capacity water tanks, pipeline networks, tap connections and other infrastructure were established for water



supply. He alleged that due to the apathetic attitude of the former Mayor and negligent working of the BMC officials, many areas

are suffering acute water crisis. The officials do not even have the actual layout / drawing of the Amrut Mission project.

Pipelines have been laid multiple times on the same road. Water is being supplied in the reverse direction from Housing

Board to Chhawani and Chhawani to Housing Board. Same is the situation in case of Mother Teresa Nagar to Housing Board and Housing Board to Mother Teresa Nagar.

He alleged that the elected representatives in nexus with the officials have executed such confusing plans just for making money through unfair means. Even after spending such a huge amount on water projects, the denizens are suffering water shortage and are dependent on water supply through tankers.

Piyush added that he is going to make a complaint to the Governor and Prime Minister's Office regarding irregularities in implementation of the Amrut Mission project and will demand strict action against the concerned officials.

# DMC using C&D waste for making pots, paver blocks etc

# Intensive fogging campaign in township area

Women self-help groups getting employment and means of income

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** Durg Municipal Corporation under its target of zero waste generation, is utilising the waste generated in Construction and Demolition (C&D) to produce various useful items at its C&D waste management centre in Pulgaon.

Also, women self-help groups and sanitation workers and sanitation didis are using the end products to improve their income. The C & D waste generated in every ward during construction or improvement work is collected by the Municipal Corporation team with the help of special vehicles and brought to Pulgaon C & D



Plant where it is sorted into different types like concrete, brick / mortar, ballast, wood, iron, clay etc. and kept in different sections and different types of products are manufactured from them. The end products include

large pots, small pots, drain covers, skylights, home-use products etc. The women self-help groups then sell this and are getting financially strong. There is a lot of demand for these products in the city and the market and the C&D waste



which had so far been lying useless as garbage in empty plots or on the roads is being used in a very good way and the items made from it are being sold.

This waste management plant has been constructed on the initiative of Mayor

Dheeraj Bakliwal and Commissioner Hareesh Mandavi, which is doing commendable work, in which the employees of the Workshop Department and Health Department of the Municipal Corporation are working together.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** Oiling and spraying of medicines is being done by the Public Health Department of Bhilai Steel Plant to prevent mosquito and water borne diseases in the township. This intensive fogging campaign by the Public Health Department is going on since April 04, 2022.

The department had earlier issued the schedule of the site/sector to be fogged on various dates. Through the press communique, an appeal was also made to the people to guide the fogging work to be done in their area as per the schedule and en-



sure that no place is left behind. Presently fogging is in final stage and remaining in Ruabandha and



Maroda sector. Apart from this, fogging will also be done in the area not covered under the schedule.

# Fire Safety Drill held at DAV Hudco

# BMC takes initiative for water conservation



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** A Fire Safety Awareness Programme was conducted at DAV Public School Hudco on April 23 in collaboration with the Fire Brigade Department of Bhilai Steel Plant with an objective to create awareness about fire safety and usage of fire extinguishing equipment.

The programme aimed at making the students and employees of the school mindful about fire hazards and the safety measures which can be taken during

fire emergency. Dinesh Bhatt (FSO), Chandra Kumar Sahu (LFM) Arun Kumar (FM) Kishan Lal Dhruw (FM) and Nishant Kullu (FM/FED) conducted a mock drill and gave a demonstration of how fire extinguishers can be used to cease a fire.

Their talk revolved around how fire-safety is vital and what are avarious kinds of safeguards which should be taken at different fire-prone areas. Prashant Kumar (ARO, DAV institutions Zone A) addressed the gathering and designated his gratitude towards the

fire department for providing such valuable information. He further emphasised on the need to provide a heightened awareness on what to do in the event of an emergency evacuation and also appreciated the efforts of fire brigade department (BSP) as well as the students.

Dinesh bhatt (FSO) also discussed about the safety measures to be taken at home and public places. The talk was followed by a question and answer session. The enthusiastic participation of the students made it a successful event.

Mayor and Commissioner urge people to install water harvesting system

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** With the objectives of increasing the groundwater level, the Bhilai Municipal Corporation is working vigorously in the direction of recharging the underground water through water harvesting along with rainwater harvesting systems. During summer the groundwater level falls down considerably. In order to conserve ground water even during summer, the building permission department of the Municipal Corporation has made it mandatory to install rain water harvesting system to save rain water in the buildings.

This will be mandatory for all residential buildings of above 150 sq meter area. Mayor Neeraj Pal has directed the Zone Officers to work for the rain water harvesting, motivate the general public and traders to install rain water harvesting system to recharge the falling ground water level. Describing the importance of rain



water harvesting, the Mayor said that it is an easy way to recharge the ground water. The water from the roof of the buildings flows through the drain in the rainy season and gets wasted. This water can be saved by installing water harvesting system in the premises of the houses itself. This system will maintain the level of ground water in bore wells and nearby wells throughout the year.

Acting on the Mayor's instructions, Commissioner Prakash Sarve has directed the officials to conduct publicity and awareness campaign for promoting water conservation and to maintain the level of groundwater. For water conservation, he emphasized on compulsorily installing this system in private houses as well as public places and

commercial establishments, so that natural rain water can be used to recharge the ground water.

Commissioner Sarve has appealed to the common people as well as traders to install water harvesting systems. Rain Water Harvesting System is mandatory for new buildings. This system is beneficial for all of us. In the absence of this system, Commissioner has instructed for not issuing the building completion certificate. He has also directed the officials to collect fine from the building owners who are not installing rainwater harvesting in the under-construction buildings.

According to the data received from the Building Permission Branch of the Municipal Corporation, after 2011, rain water

harvesting systems have been installed at a total of 2496 buildings (of 150 square meter area and above) in all Zones which includes 2350 private buildings and 146 government buildings. Rain water harvesting has not been done so far in 1707 private houses out of a total of 4203 houses. Thus, water harvesting system has been installed in 59.38 percent of the houses.

The FDR amount is Rs 469.79 lakh is deposited with BMC of people who have not installed this system at their buildings. The building permission officer said that according to the rules of the government, it is mandatory to install rain water harvesting while construction of the new building. The earnest money is being taken as deposit from the builders at the rate of Rs 110 per 100 square meter area.

In the event of non-installation of water harvesting, their earnest money is confiscated and a fine of Rs 1000 per year is also being recovered from them. It has also been made mandatory for the people to submit photographs of rain water harvesting for receiving the building completion certificate. Mayor and the Commissioner



have also appealed to construct water absorption pits near hand pumps, taps, wells and other water sources to maintain the ground water level even during summer. These pits prevent wastage of water and underground water level is also maintained. It needs to be mentioned here that due to the steep fall of ground water level, water crisis arises in summer. The situation can get worse in the coming years. Hence, there is a need to work seriously in the direction of rain water harvesting.



## Unity, brotherhood important for country's progress: Uikey

Month of Ramzan motivates one to sacrifice evil and adopt good things

**Guv, CM attend 'Roja-Iftar' at Subhash Stadium**

Raipur, Apr 27:

Governor Anusuiya Uikey and CM Bhupesh Baghel attended the 'Roja-Iftar' organised at Netaji Subhash Stadium and sought blessings for peace and prosperity of all in the state.

Governor Anusuiya Uikey expressed happiness over invitation of all the religious 'gurus' from all the religious communities in this 'davate' 'roja-iftar'. She said that the month of 'Ramzan' motivated one to sacrifice all evils and takes the people towards good behaviour and humbleness as per religious recognition. She termed the presence of all the religious gurus in the Roja-Iftar as novel example of 'Ganga-Jamuni' tradition and added that unity and brotherhood are two important values for development and progress of any country.

CM Bhupesh Baghel addressing the programme said that the month of



'Ramzan' is that 'ibadat' and in this month the Muslim brethren keeping fast remember the 'Allah' and offer 'namaz'. This is a month which takes and motivates a person from evil to good works and practices. It is offering 'namaz' to 'Khuda' daily is the procedure which makes a 'rozadar' survive in the present day world and with that of the Supreme. It is during this sacred month that the sentiments of all matches and

so is the objectives as well. All meditates and passes through same experiences and it is the unification of sentiments and experiences which takes one to higher level of spiritualism, he added.

CM Baghel said that the most important message of 'Ramzan' is that it is without getting submerged into each other sentiments and emotions that one cannot get closer to 'Ishwar-Allah'. The place where there is sim-

blance will lead to mutual harmony and this leads to unity and where there is unity, there is brotherhood. The traditions of Islam motivated one towards mutual harmony and brotherhood and it teaches one to live unitedly and achieve the blessings of the Supreme. It also teaches taking the poor, labourers and weaker sections together. CM said that all the Muslim brethren have observed 'Roza' and offered 'Namaz' to 'Khuda' and hoped that all their wishes come true and extended greetings in advance to all on occasion of Eid.

On this occasion Minister for Food & Civil Supplies Amarjeet Bhagat, Mayor RMC Ejaz Dhebar, Parliamentary Secy Vikas Upadhyay, CHB Chairman Kuldeep Juneja, MLAs Satyanarayan Sharma, Chairman Ch'garh Raja Khadi & Gramodyog Board Rajendra Tiwari, Chairman RDA Subhash Dhupad, Speaker RMC Pramod Dube and people and 'dharum-gurus' from different religions were present in large number.

## WAITING IN OPEN SUN



After the exams school children are waiting for their parents in hot weather and this happens generally near schools in city by the road-side, having no shade of trees.

## Case filed against suspended clerk

**Raipur, Apr 27:** There are reports of creating nuisance and use of foul language by a suspended clerk with a female IAS officer in the state secretariat here on Wednesday. As per reports, a suspended clerk reportedly misbehaved with the female IAS officer and complaint in this regard has been lodged with the police and FIR has been lodged

**For scolding and creating nuisance with an IAS officer**

against the clerk. The incident is reported to be from Rakhi Thana area, near capital city.

As per information in this regard the female IAS Officer is the wife of ACB/EOW Chief Arif Shekh. Shammi Abidi, W/o Arif Shekh is working as Commissioner SC, ST

Welfare Department. It was on Wednesday afternoon that a suspended clerk all of sudden entered her office cabin and started creating nuisance and using foul words loudly, reportedly misbehaved with her. This created sensation in the State Secretariat. This clerk who had misbehaved

with IAS officer, had earlier also misbehaved with Dy. Commissioner of the same department.

Meanwhile the Police has filed an FIR against the clerk and as per complaint from the Dy. Commissioner, police has filed case of threatening, scolding and misbehaving against the clerk and taken the matter under investigation.

## BJP to hold demo against draconian law



Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would hold demonstration to register protest against the recent order of Chhattisgarh government which has made it mandatory to seek approval from Home Ministry before launching agitation against state government.

BJP Core Group meeting held in presence of Party President Vishnu Deo Sai, Leader of Opposition Dharmilal Kaushik and former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh, termed the law to a draconian law. Sai said

that the BJP would continue agitation till the Home Ministry withdraws the alleged black law which the opposition members termed it to be prohibition on freedom of expression of people. Apart from holding demonstration at District Headquarters, the saffron brigade would also launch Jail Bharo agitation.

Leader of Opposition Kaushik said that state government has come up with the black law to stop the agitation of employees who have launched agitation against the state government on key issues.

## BJP creating rumour and doubts among public: Markam

**All the rules and laws are of BJP's term and were followed by BJP govt as well**

Raipur, Apr 27:

PCC Chief Mohan Markam addressing a press conference said that he wants to clear doubts which the BJP leaders are trying to create and added that there is no ban on peaceful dharna, protest, movement or religious programmes of any type to be organised in Chhattisgarh in a peaceful manner. He charged that the false rumours and doubts which the BJP is trying to create is sheer imagination and provocative.

Addressing a press conference here at Rajiv Bhavan, PCC Chief Mohan Markam said that the instructions issued for dharna, demonstration, movement, public organi-



sation by Congress are not new at all and they are already implemented in the state for a last few decade, including the earlier term of Raman government. It is just the mention of maintaining peace and system during any such protest or demonstration which has already been mentioned in the rules formed earlier. He questioned as to the rules which were applicable during 15 years of BJP rule and to which the BJP government in the state ensured its adherence, how can it become undemocratic now?

PCC Chief Mohan

Markam said that the very law to which the BJP government used to follow in UP, can become democratic in Raipur and undemocratic in Chhattisgarh. Speaking further Markam charged that it is the character of the BJP which has become undemocratic now. It is sidelining of the constitutional values and institutions, now the BJP has started defining the laws and rules as per their convenience. Markam recalled that the Raman government had even framed laws to seek permission before taking out 'barat', playing 'DJ', and for 'Akhand Ramayana'. It is

the Police who have given the right of putting certain terms & conditions for holding dharna and demonstrations. Under the section 34 of Chhattisgarh Police Act 2007, for sabhas, julus, it is the Police who had given the right to take permission with terms & condition for holding dharna, protest and demonstration and this was formed by BJP only and followed it for 15 years and now they are the one who are protesting it and this shows their double standards.

On this occasion PCC communication deptt head Sushil Anand Shukla, PCC General Secy. Amarjeet Chawla, senior spokesman RP Singh, Ghanshyam Raju Tiwari, Dhananjay Singh Thakur, Nitin Bhansali, Amit Shrivastava, Ajay Gangwani, Subodh Haritwal and others were present.

## IAS Officers appointed Guardian Secretaries of Districts

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** After administrative reshuffle on Monday, the state government on Wednesday appointed 28 Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officers as Guardian Secretary of various Districts under which they would be monitoring the implementation of government schemes and development work in their respective Districts.

Secretary rank officer Alermel Mangai D has been entrusted with the responsibility of Guardian Secretary of Raipur District whereas Siddharth Komal Pardeshi and Gaurav Dwevedi have been assigned the responsibilities of Durg and Bilaspur Districts respectively.

Similarly, the Additional Chief Secretary Renu Pillai has been given the charge of Dhamtari, Manoj Kumar Pingua with Sarguja, Maninder Gaur Dwevedi-Mahasamund, Reeta Sandilya-Bemetara, Niranjana Das-Raigarh, Prasanna R-

**Bureaucrats asked to give synopsis to CS after visits**

Kabirdham, Ambalgan P - Korba, Dhananjaya Dewangan-Janjgir-Champa, S Prakash-Koriya, Ankit Anand-Balod, P Dayanand-Surajpur, CR Prasanna-Jashpur, S Bharatidashan-Rajnandgaon, Shammi Abidi-Kanker, Himshikhar Gupta-Gariabandh, Kaisar Abdul Haq-Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi District, Yashwant Kumar-Bijapur, Neeraj Kumar Bansod-Sukma, Kiran Kaushal-Dantewada, DR Tamboli Aijaj Fakirbhai-Bastar, Avinash Kumar Sharan-Balrampur and Kartikeya Goel-Narayanpur District.

State Government has directed the IAS Officers to make monthly visit to review the government schemes and submit a brief synopsis every month to Chief Secretary after visiting their respective Guardian District.

## Fire fighting and evacuation drill held



**By Indian Bank**

Bhilai, Apr 27:

A fire fighting & evacuation drill was conducted on Apr 25 in Indian Bank Bhilai Sector-6 branch in coordination with District Fire Department Durg.

Training session was conducted on identification of fire hazards in bank branches, its prevention, use of first aid fire fighting appliances and emergency evacuation procedure. The training was conducted to enhance fire safety awareness among

Indian Bank staffs of all branches situated in Durg Bhilai City. Shri Narendra Kumar Singh, District Fire officer, Shri Praveen Kumar Dewangan, Zonal Security Officer, Indian Bank Branch Managers, Staffs and customer were present during the event.

## Face masks mandatory for officers-employees of Mantralaya

**Raipur, Apr 27:** As per the instructions issued by the Department of Public Health and Family Welfare, Government of Chhattisgarh to control the spread of coronavirus, it has been made mandatory for all the officers-employees working in all departments in the Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan to apply face masks or face covers. An order in this regard has been issued by the General Administration Department. All the department heads have been asked to instruct all the officers and employees subordinate to them to compulsorily wear face masks or face covers.

## Half-a-dozen couples suffered injuries

As the 'pandal' for marriage collapses due to strong wind

Jashpur, Apr 27:

Many couples tying nuptial knot under Mukhyamantri Samoohik Vivah Karyakram (MSVK) suffered minor injuries when the tent under which the programme was conducted collapsed due to high-speed wind and dust-storm in the afternoon hours here on Wednesday. For a moment there was a chaos among all the couples and their parents present and people were found moving to a safer place in order to avoid



head injuries due to falling of iron rods holding the 'pandal'. As per reports in this regard major

part of the 'pandal' for the mass marriage programme fell down and there are reports that about a half-a-dozen brides and bride-grooms including Pt. Krishna Panda R/o Bageecha got injured. Those seriously injured were rushed to nearby PHC and after first-aid were discharged and the programme was re-started after re-erection of 'pandal'. It is learnt that in this mass marriage programme, 3 Christian couple and 50 Hindu couples were to join nuptial knot.

## Fire breaks out in top floor of a hotel

**Fire-brigade team comes to rescue**

**Raipur, Apr 27:** Fire broke out on top floor of Hotel Kamal Inn on Station Road here on Wednesday. There are many small shops and other hotels nearby and this cause panic among all the shopkeepers. The shopkeepers immediately started clearing their goods, so that the fire does not spread to other parts. The fire-brigade team was immediately informed about the incident and the team

reached on time and started rescue works. On top of this building there is a hotel and down below is the shop of Patanjali Store. The reason behind the fire could not be known. The fire-fighters first climbed the building nearby and then threw water guns from the balcony of this hotel's building. After gaining some control on fire, the other team went inside from the staircase. From precautionary point of view all the electrical lines nearby have been cut-off.

## NTPC USSC Nava Raipur organizes Vendor Meet



**Raipur, Apr 27:** The first Vendor Meet under the aegis of USSC (Unified Shared Service Centre) NTPC was held today at their office situated at Nava Raipur. Ramesh Babu V, Director (Operations) NTPC Ltd

virtually inaugurated the program. A.K Pandey, RED (WR II & USSC) in his address shared the roadmap of NTPC for procurement of material and services on PAN India basis. He also requested the vendors to develop

their potential to meet the standards and requirements of NTPC. The vendors were welcomed by Subhash Garg, GM(PPG-1) who briefed the functioning of Rate Contract, Enlistment and Bulk procurement under the um-

rella of USSC. The meet which saw the participation of around 70 Vendors saw major companies like BHEL, Siemens Ltd, L&T-MHI Power Boiler, GE Power India Ltd etc.

There was an interactive session where valuable suggestions were provided by the participants and queries pertaining to various issues were deliberated upon in the open forum.

A.K Tripathy, ED(OS), Ashish Kundu, CGM(CPG-1), KL Mahobe, GM (CPC) and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

## Two senior Officers from Mineral Resources removed

**Govt had received series complaints against them**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** In a significant development, two senior officers of Mineral Resources Department have been removed following serious complaints against them.

Under Secretary Mining Kundan Banjare has been shifted to Department of Planning and Statistics as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) fol-

lowing complaint against him whereas D Mahesh Babu too has been shifted to Department of Sports & Youth Welfare as OSD. Babu was working as Additional Director at Directorate Mineral Resources for several years. Sources stated they have been reportedly had delayed the clearance of files related with Mines owned by few Industrial Units. It is understood that both of them have been removed following nexus between them in the working of Mineral Resources Department.



## Railway Ministry orders restoration of six important passenger trains

After CM's intervention

Raipur, Apr 27:

Union Ministry of Railways has issued an order to restore the operation of 6 important passenger trains passing through Chhattisgarh after the intervention of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. This includes Chhattisgarh Express, Samta Express, and Secunderabad-Raipur-Secunderabad Express.

It is worth mentioning here that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel spoke to the Union Railway Minister on Tuesday asking him to continue the operation of the aforementioned train services in view of convenience of the passengers.

Meanwhile, the operation of a total of 23 express and local trains passing through Chhattisgarh has been stopped from the next one month from April 24, 2022, through an order issued by Principal Chief

### CM Baghel spoke to the Union Railway Minister regarding the restoration of trains

Operations Manager, South-East Central Railway, Bilaspur on April 23, 2022.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had strongly opposed this decision of the Railways and as per his instructions, the Additional Chief Secretary wrote a letter to the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board urging to continue the operation of trains passing through Chhattisgarh.

CM Bhupesh Baghel while having a discussion with the Union Railway Minister on Tuesday aware of the problems being faced by the rail passengers due to the sudden suspension of trains for one month without any alternative arrangement. The Chief Minister said

that a major chunk of the passengers in the state belongs to the middle and lower class, who reach their destination daily by traveling in these trains. Besides, due to the closure of local trains, a large number of common people including students are facing difficulties in their daily travel.

The Union Railway Minister agreed with the points raised by Chief Minister Baghel and announced the restoration of a total of six important passenger trains passing through the Chhattisgarh. This includes 18237/18238 Korba-Amritsar-Korba (Chhattisgarh Express), 12807/12808 Visakhapatnam-Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam (Samta Express), and 12771/12772 Secunderabad-Raipur-Secunderabad Express. Order to this effect has been issued late on Tuesday.

## UNAWARE OF RISK



The department in order to decorate the lower part of the flyover have constructed a structure with bamboos and it has covered entire road area meant for smooth flow of traffic and even a slight error by one can put others in trouble.

## Chairman CSCPCR emphasises on all round devp

Mahasamund, Apr 27:

A review meeting cum orientation workshop on child rights was organized here under the chairmanship of Tejunwar Netam, Chairperson, Chhattisgarh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CSCPCR). On this occasion members of Child Development Protection Commission Pushpa Patle and Augustine Bernard, Secretary Prateek Khare, Brijendra Thakur, Additional Superintendent of Police Megha Tembulkar, District Program Officer Sameer Pandey, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. S.R. Banjare, District Education Officer Chandrasen and officials of other departments were present.

Addressing the meeting, Tejunwar Netam said that protection of rights is necessary for children and the foundation of life lies in a secure and prosperous childhood. A childhood full of enthusiasm is the right of every child, she said. In the meeting, the chairman and members discussed the better implementation of the

Right of Children in the District for Compulsory and Free Education Act 2009, work plan for repairable and dilapidated buildings of the school, resources of education available for children with special needs, mental and physical development of children.

Similarly, information about health facilities for infants in district hospitals, nutrition rehabilitation centers, vaccination, and schemes being run by the state government for the health of children, general vaccination and prevention of children from COVID infection review was done.

The Chairman also talked about redressal of cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 and timely compensation and training of child officers from time to time. Similarly, in the residential institutions related to children such as children's homes, ashrams, hostels, the Chairman took a detailed review about their proper care, food, security arrangements and asked the officials to take initiatives for the all-round development of the children.

## '1000 Yoga practitioners performed Surya Namaskar together'

On 2nd day of Yogasan competition and conference

### People were mesmerized by the Malkhamb yoga asanas performed by yogi's

Raipur, Apr 27:

On the second day of the State Level Yogasan Competition cum Yoga Conference, on 26th April, more than 1000 yoga practitioners performed Surya Namaskar and special yoga asanas from 6 am to 8 am in the garden premises of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University campus, Raipur. While practicing yoga together, they spread awareness on individual well being and how it can be attained by practicing yoga regularly.

On this occasion, the yoga practitioners of Kosranji Ashram district, Mahasamund, mesmerized the people by performing amazing yoga asanas through



Malkhamb Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Raipur West assembly constituency, Shri Vikas Upadhyay was present as the chief guest of the program. The program was presided over by Gyanesh Sharma, Chairman, Yoga Commission. It is noteworthy that a three-day yoga conference is being organized in the capital to commemorate the fifth foundation day of Chhattisgarh Yoga

Commission. The aim of this conference is to promote the traditional practice of yoga to achieve a healthy body and mind and to create well being awareness through practicing Yoga.

Praising the yoga competition and conference, Shri Upadhyay said that the Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission is doing a commendable job of taking yoga to the masses, due to which the inclination of people towards

yoga is increasing in the state. Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission Chairman Gyanesh Sharma also performed Surya Namaskar and did yoga practice with the guests and yoga practitioners. He told the general public about the benefits of yoga to attain a balanced and healthy mind and body. The Vice Chancellor of Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur, Kesari Lal Verma was present as a special guest on this occasion. Members of the commission in the program Ravinder Singh, Ganesh Nath Yogi, Rajesh Nara, Secretary, M.L. Pandey, Dr. Bhagwant Singh, Head of Department of Yoga of Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Mulchand Sharma, President of Hasya Yoga Sansthan, and Chhabiram Sahu CL Sonwani joined as the program coordinator.

## Two-day international conference on 'Women Leadership in Contemporary Scenario'

By Kalinga University

Raipur, Apr 27:

A two-day International Conference on "Women Leadership in Contemporary Scenario" was organized by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Kalinga University in association with Sanjeevani Cancer Care Foundation on 25 and 26 April, 2022, on this occasion Registered International Journal was launched in which selected research papers presented in the conference were published. Guest Scholars, Professors and Researchers from the country and abroad were present in the said conference. The International Conference was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr. Yousuf Memon-Director of Sanjeevani Cancer Care Foundation, Dr. R. Shridhar- Vice Chancellor of Kalinga University, Dr. Byju John-

Director General, Dr. Sandeep Gandhi-Registrar, Dr. Asha Ambhaikar-Dean Student Welfare and Mr. Rahul Mishra - Dean Academic Affairs by lighting of lamp before the statue of Maa Saraswati. In the technical sessions on the first day of the International Conference, Prof. Dr. Bhupendra Kumar of Debre Tabor University, Ethiopia, Mrs. Sheetal Shashwat Verma (IRS)-Special Secretary, Finance Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, Professor Dr. Ravindra Raina- North West University, Mahikong (South Africa), Professor Dr. Ravi Shankar Pannikar of B.I.T. Raipur, Dr. Shradha Pandey, Professor of ITM University, Dr. Sudhir Sharma, Professor of Kalyan Postgraduate College, Bhillai, Dr. Revanashekhar M. Kuntimath, Professor of Government First Class College, Bangalore and Dr.

Asha Ambhaikar-Dean Student Welfare of Kalinga University were present and shared valuable information on the topic of women leadership in the contemporary scenario. In the two-day conference, Professors and Researchers associated with various Universities, Colleges and Social Sector presented research papers, which include researchers from the English and Foreign Language University Hyderabad, Osmania University Hyderabad, Aligarh University, Jamia Millia University and from Delhi, Canada (USA), Hyderabad, Bangalore, Kerala, Agartala, Guwahati.

The facility of presenting Research Papers in both offline and online mode was available in the research seminar for which the latest facilities were made available in full screen in the auditorium of the University. Dr. Samir

Bajpayee, Professor of NIT was the Chief Guest of concluding ceremony. Dr. Shilpi Bhattacharya-Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities in the concluding session of the International Conference and Dr. Ajay Shukla-Professor of the Department of Hindi in the inaugural session, thanked the guest and research scholars present in the conference with a show of gratitude to all the attendees.

Dr. Vineeta Diwan, Dr. Anita Samal, Dr. Namrata Mrvastava, Dr. DM Sahu, Mrs. Anurima Das, Mrs. Swarupa Pandit, Ms. Madhumita Ghosh. Dr. Vijay Anand, Dr. A. Rajasekhar, Vijay Bhushan, Dr. Shradha Hiraakane, A.K. Kaul., Mukesh Rawat, Shekhar Chaudhary, Rajkumar Das, Sheikh Abdul Qadir, Chandan Rajput and other faculty members of the University were present on the occasion.

## An Initiative implemented by SRU under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)



Raipur, Apr 27:

Today in two villages Bhatgaon and Dhaneli of Raipur adopted by the Shri Rawatpura Sarkar University (SRU), an initiative implemented under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan with a motive to send a message of cleanliness in which member of UBA and NSS from the University spray out the bleaching powder and swipe up to clean the complete area of both villages.

According to the Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission (CGPURCS), it has been instructed to all the private universities that social activities



should be carried out by adopting villages under the university's jurisdiction and various social responsibilities such as cleanliness and literacy programs in adopted villages, 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao'.

To follow these instructions SRU carried out the initiative through NSS

unit for promotion of higher education, removal of superstition as well as prevention of corona infection and awareness of fundamental duties and other social activities in adopted villages by the University.

Pro Chancellor of Shri Rawatpura Sarkar University Dr. J.K. Upadhyay appreciate to Vice Chancellor Prof. S.K. Singh and Registrar of the University Dr. Pratap Singh, along with all the members for implementing an initiative based on social work. The initiative was guided by Head of UBA, Dr. Anubhuti Koshle and Head of NSS, Kamal

## More than 19 lakh people benefitted

Under Chief Minister's USHS

Raipur, Apr 27: The Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) operating in the state under the Chief Minister's Urban Slum Health Scheme is providing medical services and medicine to the urban population living in slum areas. This health scheme is not only meeting the expectations of the people but is also winning the trust of people by ensuring timely treatment. Now, people can be seen by the doctor without having to wait for long hours, which hampers daily work. The organization of health camps in the locality itself has made it easier for people to get timely treatment. Now, underprivileged and needy people no longer have to wander for getting medical care when they fall ill. The scheme is winning the hearts of people belonging to the weaker section of the society. They are heaping praise on this initiative taken by the Chhattisgarh government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for providing immediate medical assis-

tance to people. The scheme was started in 14 Municipal Corporations of the state on November 1, 2020, under the guidance and supervision of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahariya. The state government has recently expanded the scope of the scheme and now people all the urban bodies of Chhattisgarh are getting its benefits. Since the inception of this scheme, nearly 19 lakh patients have been treated under this scheme so far. Besides, if we look at the number of camps and people receiving health benefits, then every month more than one lakh patients are getting treatment through Mobile Medical Unit. Lab tests of about three lakh 71 thousand 458 people have been done and free-of-cost medicines have been distributed to 15 lakh 61 thousand 281 patients through mobile medical units. Similarly, about 91 thousand women have been treated in 'Dai-Didi clinics'.

## 'Rally Kosa to be procured at support price in Bastar under Silk Mission'

Raipur, Apr 27:

As per the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, important decisions have been taken in the interest of tribal farmers and forest dwellers engaged in sericulture and Kosa production in Bastar division. In the same sequence, Rally Kosa will now be procured by Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association on support price.

It is worth mentioning that Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel had announced the commencement of Silk Mission in Bastar in his budget speech. In accordance with this announcement, State Government has decided to procure cocoons at minimum support price from current year, through the Minor Forest Produce Association. Orders in this regard have been issued by the Minor Forest Produce Association today, Chhattisgarh State Minor

Forest Produce Association (CSMFPA) has fixed the minimum support price for procurement of Rally Kosa in Bastar division, which are as followed- Rally Kosa is Rs 4.20 per unit shell weight 2.5 grams in Whole Grade-1, Rs 3.60 for 2-2.49 grams per unit shell weight in Grade-2 and Rs 1.4-1.99 grams per unit shell weight in Grade-3, Rs 2.80 for Rally Kosa-Poli Grade-1 and Rs.1.50 for 2.5 grams per unit shell weight, Rs.1.25 for 2-2.49 grams per unit shell weight in Grade-2 and Rs 0.70 per unit shell weight 1.4-1.99 grams in Grade-3.

Forest and Climate Change Minister Mr. Mohammad Akbar informed that this important decision of the government would help the local residents to receive double benefits from production and processing of Rally Kosa.

Providing further information in the context, Managing Director, State Minor Forest

Produce Association Sanjay Shukla said that Chief Minister Baghel has given instructions to create more employment opportunities at local level by increasing the local processing of rally Kosa in the state. And in the same sequence, MOU was signed between State Minor Forest Produce Federation and the Directorate of Sericulture, under which the cocoons procured by Minor Forest Produce Association will be supplied to the Silk Department.

Moreover, Silk Department has selected 740 beneficiaries in Bastar division and they are being provided the training in silk rearing. He informed that 8 to 10 crore rally cocoons are produced in the state of Chhattisgarh annually. Rally cocoon collection work is mainly done in 07 district unions including Jagdalpur, Dantewada, Sukma, Kondagaon, Keshkal, Naranpur and Kanker.

## 'Call mother and keep 'bad' uncle away from her'

She is employed in govt service and is the mother of three children. Has kept one and a half year old son with her

### Two minor girls' appeal to woman's commission

Raipur, Apr 27:

Two minor girls have submitted applications to call their mother and keep bad uncle away from her. In view of the seriousness of the application, the Chairperson of the

Women's Commission, Dr. Kiranmayi Nayak, immediately called the Municipal Commissioner and asked to call non applicant with zone commissioner because non applicant is mother is posted as ARI in the zone office.

Non applicant is a government servant is mother of three children and she is keeping her one and a half years old son with her. She



is living away from her two innocent daughters-one aged 7 years and another 11 years for the last four months. Issue of children

is not the subject of cognizance of the Commission. But due to humanitarian point of view, case has been transferred to the District Child Protection Officer and the documents of the application were also handed over to the District Child Protection Officer. Proceedings have been started as per the rules on this case. For the first time

application of 11 and 7 year old daughters has been submitted to the commission. The commission took action on this case within 24 hours considering its seriousness. Though the non applicant (mother) was advised to keep her both daughters together with her, she did not agree with it. Now the district child protection officer will take full action in this case.



## Dr Chauleshwar Chandrakar visits Sukma as part of Bastar tour

Central Chronicle News

**Konta/Sukma, Apr 27:** Dr. Chauleshwar Chandrakar, who arrived in Sukma during a one-day backward class program on Bastar tour, was welcomed by the District Congress Committee Sukma at Rajiv Bhawan. After the welcome, Chandrakar while addressing said that most of the population in the state belongs to the Backward Classes community and the Congress government's head Bhupesh Baghel is also from the Backward Classes.

In such a situation, all the communities and sections of the backward classes need to be organized and all the workers should get involved in providing the benefits of public welfare schemes of the state government to all



sections of the people with full service and dedication. He said that wherever he goes, he takes information about the population of the district. In the plains of the district, about 50 percent of the population belongs to the backward classes. Bastar also has a large population of backward classes. He said that the Bhupesh government of the state for the develop-

ment of the poor and backward sections, loan waiver, electricity bill in half, bought paddy for Rs 2500, 7000 rupees to the landless farmers along with various public welfare works like Narva, Ghurva, Bari especially women. Schemes are being implemented in all the departments to make self-help groups self-reliant. He said that the need is to bring the welfare schemes

of the government which can benefit more and more people in the path of development. During this, if he is Bhupesh on the stage, he has faith and also got the slogans of Lakhma Dadi Zindabad. Sukma District Panchayat President Kawasi Harish said that Bhupesh Baghel's government has started many schemes to provide social rights to the backwards, thereby improving their standard of living. On the request of Chhattisgarh Minister Kawasi Lakhma, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has raised the value of backward class people by making Sonuram Nag, a resident of Sukma district, who has been a resident of Bastar since ancient times and belongs to backward class, as a member of Matikala Board.

During this, State General Secretary of OBC Department Vaibhav Baghel, State Vice President Purshottam Chandrakar, President of District Congress Committee Smt. Maheshwari Baghel, Sukma Municipal President Jagannath Raju Sahu, State General Secretary of Youth Congress Durgesh Rai, City Congress President Sheikh Sajjar, Councilor Smt. Lalma Pujari, Ramsukh Yadav, Pratap Samarth, Sheikh Ghulam, Youthpati Yadav, IT Cell District President Rinku Das, Alderman Haribandhu Sethia, Sports Cell District President Rohit Pandey, Sunil Yadav, Vishal Sah, Samuel Tudu, Nitesh Sahu, Neemu Sahu, Lokesh Nag in large numbers including Congressmen were present.

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

### GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/05/2022 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

BILASPUR, BUS STAND, BILASPUR, 117040700020169, 0185, 0202, 0207, 0232, 0740, 0744, 0801, 0828, 1233, 11704073003088, 6613, 6813, 6814, 7666, LINK ROAD, BILASPUR, 131560700012099, 2495, 2550, 2558, 2579, 2632, 131560730014627, 4628, MAHARANA PRATAP CHOWK, 124630700014882, 5298, 5415, 5425, 5452, 5462, MANGALA CHOWK, BILASPUR, 122000700018144, 8291, 8332, 8345, 8886, 8972, 9004, 9021, 9090, 9091, 122000730021961, 3189, 3316, SADAR BAZAR, BILASPUR, 129660730009941, 9943, SARKANDA, BILASPUR, 121440700016723, 7354, 7410, 7886, 8356, 8408, 8434, 8435, 8466, 121440730022468, 2498, 2503, 2541, 2544, 2545, VYAPAR ROAD, 115450700014357, 4375, 4451, 4457, 4886, 4887, 4896, 4904, 4921, 115450730016112, 6458, 9387, 9396, JANJIR-CHAMPA, BARPALI CHOWK, JANJIR-CHAMPA, 134380730015429, KORBA, KOSABADI, 125440700022002, 2094, 2099, 2159, 125440730034500, 125440730040859, 1372, 2563, 2564, 2680, 2681, 2683, 2684, 2916, 2917, NIHARIKA TALKIES, 116970700016890, 7027, 7865, 116970730033842, 116970780000086, POWER HOUSE ROAD, 114460700014099, 114460730021338, TRANSPORT NAGAR, KORBA, 114450700017210, 8513, 8592, 8593, 8889, 8982, 9007, 9356, 9357, 9367, 9374, 9388, 9392, 9399, 9404, 9429, 9433, 9450, 9457, 9467, 9470, 9474, 9485, 9499, 114450730027217, 9927, 114450730032485, 2556, 2590, 2608, 2610, 2628, 2689, 2690, RAIGARH, JAGATHPUR, CHATTISGARH, 123720700023067, 3932, 3941, 4803, 5480, 5500, 5529, 5552, 5562, 5566, 5574, 5593, 5611, 5662, 123720730024067, 8584, 123720730030503, 0517, 123720780000021, KOTRA ROAD, 126070700018087, 8268, 8332, 8344, 8465, 9059, 9067, 9131, 126070730023939, 5927, RAMNIVAS TALKIES ROAD, 117520700027985, 8082, 8663, 8673, 8759, 8848, 117520730026160, 6161, SURGUJA, AMBEDKAR CHOWK AMBIKAPUR, 131880700013628, 4452, 4463, 4959, 5027, 5082, 5303, 5587, 5598, 5600, 5604, 5619, 5630, 5636, 5644, 5645, 5648, 5657, 5664, 5709, 5710, 5714, 5715, 5725, 5743, 5756, 5772, 5775, 5780, 5804, 5808, 5816, 131880730019915, 131880730020124, 0575, 0631, 2063, 2116, 2134, 2138, 2153, 2172, 2178, 2243, BRAHMA ROAD, AMBIKAPUR, 131900700008822, 9307, 9316, 9331, 9332, 9339, 9352, 9373, 9382, 9383, 9386, 9395, 9406, 131900730010409, 1465, 2340, 2425, 2426, KHARSIA ROAD, AMBIKAPUR, 131960700010656, 0809, 1171, 1289, 1303, 1340, 1342, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1353, 1355, 1361, 1365, 1366, 1372, 1390, 1391, 1410, 1424, 1439, 1461, 131960730011955, 3857, 3907, 3917, 3930, 3931, 3932, 3936, 3975, 3987, 4018, 4038.

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of Cash on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072604049

Authorised Officer

For Manappuram Finance Ltd

## Solve the problems of villagers with priority, says Collector



Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Apr 27:** District Collector Dr. Saransh Chandra gave a detailed review of all the important priority schemes of the state government and gave instructions to the officers in the time-limit meeting for smooth implementation of the schemes. The Collector categorically said that strict action would be taken against the erring officials if lack of basic facilities is found in the villages.

The Collector also took information from the nodal officers about the camp organized in the gram panchayats from April 07 to April 18 and he directed all the SDMs to visit their respective areas and monitor the schemes. The Collector emphasized on the presence of Patwari and Panchayat Secretaries at the headquarters and instructions were given to take action against the officers who were absent in the headquarters. The Collector also directed all the Chief Executive

Officers of Janpad Panchayat and Municipal Commissioner to resolve the pension cases within a week by running a campaign. After getting complaints about hand pumps getting damaged in the gram panchayats, the Collector directed the officers of Public Health Engineering Department to get the hand pump repaired and submit the report within a week. While reviewing the Godhan Nyay Yojana he expressed deep displeasure over the slow progress of lifting of vermi compost manure in Nagar Panchayat Bodri and Kota.

While reviewing the Chief Minister's Haat Bazar scheme, instructions were given to the CMHO to form a team of dedicated people to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme. Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Shri Haris S, Municipal Commissioner Shri Ajay Tripathi, all SDM and departmental officers were present.

## Crowd witnessed to submit answer sheets in RL College

Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Apr 27:** A huge crowd is being witnessed in Rajiv Lochan Post-Graduate College for submission of answer sheets. Annual examinations of the college started online from April 16 and will continue till May 15. The college administration has become helpless in controlling the crowd, and the situation has become such that police forces are deployed to control the crowd.

Till April 24, BA BSc and BCom examinations were being held, and only the answer sheets of these classes were getting deposited, but from April 25, the exams and classes for BA, B.Com, B.Sc., M.A., M. Com, has started simultaneously and the time of submission of answer sheets is also from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. The number of examinees of all these classes is about 5000, and the rush of both vehicles and students is creating

chaos simultaneously also breaking the recently applied Covid appropriate behavior. It should be noted that due to the wave of corona infection in the month of August-September, classes could not be held in the college, which started from December. Keeping all these things in mind, Ravi Shankar University has decided to conduct the annual examination through online mode this year also. This has also increased the number of new entrants into education, as many who had left college education, also have enrolled into many programs to get an easy passing percentile. Meanwhile in view of the long queue and crowd of candidates, tents have been erected and water system has also been kept. Barricading has been done in front of the counters and students in groups are sitting in the campus itself and solving the question paper and submitting it then and there.

यूको बैंक UCO BANK Branch: Masturi, Main Road, Vill & Post- Masturi, Dist- Bilaspur (C.G.) Mail Id : mastur@ucobank.co.in, PH No : 07752- 273123

[Rule-8(6)]  
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization & Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act 2002) read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.05.2022, for recovery of Rs. 5,84,527.56 (With Interest upto 30.06.2017) PLUS FUTURE INTEREST AT THE APPLICABLE RATE ON THE AFORESAID AMOUNTS TOGETHER WITH INCIDENTAL EXPENSES, COST, CHARGES ETC, less repayments, if any, after issue of demand notice dated 28.10.2021 is due to UCO Bank, the Secured Creditor from Mr. Krishna Kumar Yadav S/O Mr. Sukhnanand Yadav (Borrower). The reserve price will be Rs. 8,80,000.00 and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 88,000.00.

Names of the Borrowers & Guarantors with the address	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Recoverable Amount
Borrowers: Mr. Krishna Kumar Yadav S/O Mr. Sukhnanand Yadav, Ward No. 9, Atal Chowk, Vill & PO - Mulmula, Teh Pamgarh, Dist - Janjgir-Champa (C.G.) Guarantors: Mr. Chotelal Kashyap S/O Late. Arjun Kashyap, H. No. 375, Vill & PO Mulmula, Teh Pamgarh, Dist Janjgir-Champa (C.G.)	28.10.2021	07.03.2022	Rs. 5,84,527.56 as on 28.10.2021 inclusive of interest up to 30.06.2017 plus further interest and other incidental charges thereafter.

Description of Properties	Reserve Price in Rs.	Earnest Money in Rs.
All that part and parcel of the property of Residential House situated at Khasra No. 239/09, P.H. No. 05, Mouja: Vill & PO Mulmula, Teh Pamgarh, Dist - Janjgir-Champa (C.G.) Document : Sale Deed no. 677, dated-16/09/2015, Book No - 1/2/3/4, Volume No. 1255, Page no.65-76 - in the Name of Mr. Krishna Kumar Yadav s/o Mr. Sukhnanand Yadav, Bounded: On the North by: Land of Vishnu, On the South by: Land of Vishnu, On the East by: Land of Chandrika Sahu, On the West by: Land of Krishna Kumar Singh.	8,80,000.00	88,000.00

**Terms and condition:** 1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Detailed terms and conditions of the sale is available/published in the following websites/web portal: I) https://ibapi.in/, II) https://mstcecommerce.com/ 2. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". 3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 4. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.mstcecommerce.com on 30.05.2022 from 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. 5. It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and to make self-bid and participate in the auction.

#### OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions. 1. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com. 2. The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are requested to register on portal (https://www.mstcauction.com) using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/ Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet by 30.05.2022 before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction. 3. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be paid online through 3 mode i.e. NEFT or RTGS/ Cash/ Transfer (After generation of Challan from (https://www.mstcecommerce.com) in bidders Global EMD Wallet. NEFT or RTGS transfer can be done from any Scheduled Commercial Bank, however for Cash / Transfer the bidder has to visit UCO Bank Branch. Payment of EMD by any other mode such as Cheques will not be accepted. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online, will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money Deposited shall not bear any interest. 4. Platform (https://www.mstcecommerce.com) for e-Auction will be provided by eAuction service provider M/S MSTC Limited having its Registered office at 225-C, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata- 700020 (contact Phone & Toll free Numbers 079-41072412/ 411/ 413 or 1800-103-5342). The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-auction service provider's website https://www.mstcecommerce.com. This Service Provider will also provide online demonstration/ training on e-Auction on the portal. 5. The Sale Notice containing the General Terms and Conditions of sale is available / published in the following websites/web page portal: (1)https://www.ibapi.in, (2) https://www.mstcecommerce.com 6. The intending participants of e-auction may download free of cost, copies of the Sale Notice, Terms & Conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction related to this e-Auction from e-B क्रय -IBAPI portal (https://www.ibapi.in). 7. Bidder's Global Wallet should have sufficient balance (>=EMD amount) at the time of bidding. 8. During the e-auction bidders will be allowed to offer higher bid in inter-se bidding over and above the last bid quoted and the minimum increase in the bid amount must be as mention above to the last higher bid of the bidders. Ten(10) minutes time will be allowed to bidders to quote successive higher bid and if no higher bid is offered by any bidder after the expiry of ten minutes to the last highest bid, the e-auction shall be closed. 9. It is the responsibility of intending Bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly. In case of any difficulty or need of assistance before or during e-Auction process may contact authorized representative of our e-Auction Service Provider (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/). Details of which are available on the e-Auction portal. 10. After finalization of e-Auction by the Authorised Officer, only successful bidder will be informed by our above referred service provider through SMS/ email. (On mobile no/ email address given by them/ registered with the service provider). 11. The secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price. 12. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% (twenty five percent) of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited, on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of auction in the form of Banker's Cheque/ Demand Draft issued by a Scheduled Commercial Bank drawn in favor of "The Authorized Officer, UCO Bank, Payable at Bilaspur. In case of failure to deposit the amounts as above within the stipulated time, the amount deposited by successful bidder will be forfeited to the Bank and Authorized Officer shall have the liberty to conduct a fresh auction/ sale of the property & the defaulting bidder shall not have any claim over the forfeited amount and the property. 13. Payment of sale consideration by the successful bidder to the bank will be subject to TDS under Section 194-IA of Income Tax Act 1961 and TDS is to be made by the successful bidder only at the time of deposit of remaining 75 % of the bid amount/full deposit of BID amount. 14. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final. 15. The sale certificate shall be issued in favour of successful bidder on deposit of full bid amount as per the provisions of the act. 16. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The intending purchaser can inspect the property on 18.05.2022 between 11.00 AM and 1.00 PM. Please contact Mr. Rohit Kumar Senior Manager, Mob-9770413913. 17. All statutory dues/attendant charges/other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. 18. The Authorized Officer of the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned) not known to the bank. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. 19. The bidder should ensure proper internet connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons/contingencies affecting the e-auctions.

Date : 26.04.2022 Place : Masturi (C.G.) Chief Manager, Authorised Officer / UCO BANK

यूको बैंक UCO BANK Branch: Masturi, Main Road, Vill & Post- Masturi, Dist- Bilaspur (C.G.) Mail Id : mastur@ucobank.co.in, PH No : 07752- 273123

[Rule-8(6)]  
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization & Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act 2002) read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.05.2022, for recovery of Rs. 18,66,100.85 (With Interest upto 28.02.2018) PLUS FUTURE INTEREST AT THE APPLICABLE RATE ON THE AFORESAID AMOUNTS TOGETHER WITH INCIDENTAL EXPENSES, COST, CHARGES ETC, less repayments, if any, after issue of demand notice dated 28.10.2021 is due to UCO Bank, the Secured Creditor from Mr. Laxmi Prasad Bhargav S/O Shri. Jawahar Lal Bhargav & Smt. Usha Devi Bhargav W/O Shri Laxmi Prasad Bhargav (Borrower). The reserve price will be Rs. 27,00,000.00 and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 2,70,000.00.

Names of the Borrowers & Guarantors with the address	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Recoverable Amount
Borrowers: Mr. Laxmi Prasad Bhargav S/O Shri Jawahar Lal Bhargav & Smt Usha Devi Bhargav W/O Shri Laxmi Prasad Bhargav, Vill Vidyadhi, PO Kosir, Teh Masturi, Dist - Bilaspur (C.G.)	28.10.2021	07.03.2022	Rs. 18,66,100.85 as on 28.10.2021 inclusive of interest up to 28.02.2018 plus further interest and other incidental charges thereafter.

Description of Properties	Reserve Price in Rs.	Earnest Money in Rs.
All that part and parcel of the property of Residential House situated at Khasra No. 1240/1/GH/10, Plot No. 62/05, Area 1575 Sq. Ft. Mouja: Mopka, Teh & Dist - Bilaspur (C.G.) Document : Sale Deed no. 3803, dated-11/02/2013, Book No-01, Volume No. 22232, Page no.41-50, in the Name of Mr Laxmi Prasad Bhargav S/O Shri Jawahar Lal Bhargav, Bounded: On the North by: Land of Vyay Narayan Gupta, On the South by: Plot of Lakhan Darve), On the East by: Road, On the West by: Plot of Gurdasji Gulhara.	27,00,000/-	2,70,000/-

**Terms and condition:** 1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Detailed terms and conditions of the sale is available/published in the following websites/web portal: I) https://ibapi.in/, II) https://mstcecommerce.com/ 2. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". 3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 4. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.mstcecommerce.com on 30.05.2022 from 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. 5. It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and to make self-bid and participate in the auction.

#### OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions. 1. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com. 2. The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are requested to register on portal (https://www.mstcauction.com) using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/ Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet by 30.05.2022 before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction. 3. 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Date : 26.04.2022 Place : Masturi (C.G.) Chief Manager, Authorised Officer / UCO BANK



## BRIEF

### Guns

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kerala Police raided a house at Venjaramoodu near here, where they recovered country-made guns along with equipment to produce such guns and arrested two persons. The search was conducted based on a tip-off received by the Vithura Circle Inspector, police said. They raided the house of Asim (44) and arrested him along with Surendran (62). Police found parts of many old guns including trigger guards, gun barrels, trigger assembly units.

### Campaign

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan Police will launch a campaign against those who waste time and resources of law enforcers and courts by registering false cases. Additional Director General of Police (Crime) Ravi Prakash Mehra said that instructions have been given to all the officers from time to time by the police headquarters, but this will be taken up as campaign now.

### Reduce

**Bhubaneswar:** All India Institute of Medical Sciences here will undertake research with an aim at reducing snakebite cases in Odisha, where upward trend of deaths due to it has been witnessed. It will help analyse the level of awareness about appropriate first-aid methods, prevailing taboo, and healthcare-seeking behaviour in cases of snakebite, the institute said.

### Gestures

**Pune:** An auto-rickshaw driver has been arrested in neighbouring Pimpri-Chinchwad area for allegedly making gestures at a 12-year-old girl, police said. Sachin Shendge (33) allegedly made gestures while asking the girl for directions when she was heading for her home in Bavdhan area on April 22. During the investigation, CCTV footage was checked.

### Thrashed

**Berhampur:** An woman official of the education department in Odisha's Ganjam district was allegedly assaulted by the husband of a school teacher who has not received her salary for the past four years, police said. The couple was arrested after the official lodged a complaint with the police. Shantilata Sahu, who is the headmistress in charge of a girls' high school in Bellaguntha, has been staging a sit-in at the office premises of the district education officer.

### Suicide

**Sangli:** A 36-year-old sanitation worker allegedly committed suicide at the city police station here where he worked, police said. As per the preliminary probe, he was facing harassment from a private money lender to whom he owed some money, said a police official. Atul Garje-Patil was found in unconscious state on the terrace of the police station with a bottle of a poisonous substance lying nearby.

## 'India not part of greenhouse gas problem'



Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav participates in Raisina Dialogue 2022 in New Delhi on Wednesday.

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

India is not a part of the greenhouse gas emissions problem but it will be a big part of the solution to climate change, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said on Wednesday. He claimed that the developed nations were not fulfilling their promises of climate finance and tech-

nology transfer. Participating in the Raisina Dialogue 2022, which entered its third day, Yadav asserted that India was determined to achieve economic prosperity and enhance its renewable energy capacity. "We are determined to achieve economic prosperity as well as fulfil the aspiration of our people. The countries which have

### Will be big part of solution to climate change

already got a major share of their carbon emissions can't ask developing nations to stop the aspirations of their people. "We are very clear that there is no phase-out of coal but phase-down. Simultaneously, India is committed to enhancing its renewable energy capacity," the environment minister said.

He stressed the need for technology transfer as climate change has gripped the world and developing nations are in dire need of climate finance and technology.

"There is so much technology which must be transferred. India is also working on green technology like the hydrogen mission. But, whatever green technology advancement takes place in the world, must be given to developing nations also," Yadav said.

## 'Need alternative agenda, not political fronts or regrouping'

Hyderabad, Apr 27 (PTI):

The ruling TRS supremo and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Wednesday said the country needs an alternative agenda, not political fronts or regrouping and called for the emergence of a "new political force" in which his party could play a key role for the country's development.

Addressing his party's 21st Foundation Day celebrations, KCR, as Rao is addressed, asserted he had turned down the Left parties' idea of dislodging the ruling BJP at the Centre and insisted that uplifting people's lives was more important. In his welcome address that stretched for an



Telangana CM and TRS President K Chandrashekar Rao being welcomed on the occasion of its 21st foundation day, in Hyderabad, Wednesday.

hour and a half, Rao expressed concern over divisive politics and stressed that a "new political force" should emerge in which

TRS is ready to play a key role for the nation's development. Highlighting the growth story of Telangana to 3,000-odd delegates pres-

## 'Political asylum only for homeless, I have home in Congress'

Kochi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Veteran Congress leader KV Thomas on Wednesday brushed aside CPI(M) Kerala secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan's invitation to join the Left party, even though the Congress Disciplinary Committee has recommended his removal from party positions, saying political asylum was only required by someone who was homeless. Thomas, speaking to reporters, said he still has a home in Congress, which is a strong house, and removal from party positions is like taking away a chair and giving a stool instead.

"Party positions are like tables and chairs. If that is taken away and I am given a stool, I have no problem



KV Thomas

with that. I will continue to remain a Congressman," he said and added that till now the party has not officially communicated to him the decision it has taken based on the recommendation.

He also said that any future course of action from his side would be decided after he receives the offi-

cial communication from the party. Congress president Sonia Gandhi had on Tuesday approved the disciplinary panel's recommendations which was of the view that Thomas should be removed from the state political affairs committee and the executive committee of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee.

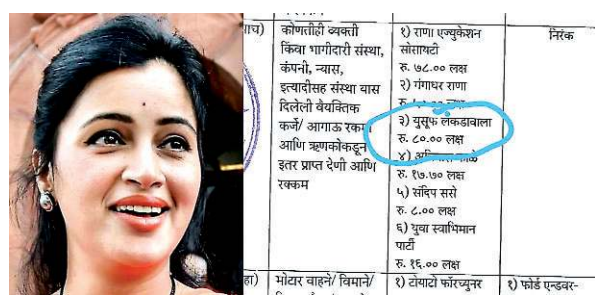
Subsequently, on Tuesday evening Balakrishnan had offered political asylum to Thomas if he were to be expelled from the Congress.

Asked what was his response to CPI(M) leader's statement, Thomas said, "Political asylum is for someone who is homeless. I have a home in Congress. It is a strong house. I can stay there."

## Navneet got loan from 'D gang' linked Lakdawala: Raut

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut has claimed that independent Lok Sabha member Navneet Rana received a loan of Rs 80 lakh from film financier and builder Yusuf Lakdawala, who was arrested in a money laundering case by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Lakdawala, who died at the Arthur Road jail here in September 2021, had connection with the "D gang" (fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim's gang), Raut claimed, asking when would the ED probe this aspect. Local BJP leader Mohit Kamboj tried



An alleged document shows loan to MP Navneet Rana from Yusuf Lakdawala.

to counter Raut by posting on Twitter pictures of Lakdawala with NCP chief Sharad Pawar and late Rajiv Gandhi.

Talking to reporters on Wednesday, Raut also wondered whether there was an "underworld connection" to the political row over recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa, just

like the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts.

He claimed the BJP was trying to save Navneet Rana, who was arrested by the Mumbai police on Saturday along with her MLA husband Ravi Rana after the couple had announced that they would recite the Hanuman Chalisa outside

## DEMANDING REPAIR



Residents make a rangoli as protest, demanding the repair of damaged roads at Keshwapur, in Hubballi, Karnataka on Wednesday.

## 'Quami Chaupals' to be held across UP on merits of UCC

Lucknow, Apr 27 (PTI):

To acquaint people, especially the Muslims, with the "merits" of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), the Uttar Pradesh government will organise "Quami Chaupals" all over the state, Minister of State for Minority Welfare and Waqf, Danish Azad Ansari, said on Wednesday.

With discussions on the UCC taking centre stage, he said the BJP government in the state will move towards implementing one law for all, "only after talking to all the parties". "As the society is progressing, some new requirements arise and they should be addressed. Every decision of ours



Danish Azad Ansari

will be for the benefit of the public only and their opinion is most important to us," Ansari, the lone Muslim minister in the Yogi Adityanath government, told PTI in an interview.

"We will go to the grassroots and tell the people, especially the Muslim so-

ciety, about the merits of the Uniform Civil Code. We will keep the government's intention before them by organising 'Quami Chaupals' all over the state," he added.

The issue gains prominence as the newly-formed BJP government in Uttarakhand recently constituted a committee to prepare a draft of the UCC. Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya had recently said the state government is seriously considering the implementation of the UCC.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), the leading body of Muslims in the country, has already rejected the idea.

## Pilot project launched to ecologically restore Delhi's central ridge

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday launched a pilot project to ecologically restore the central ridge and it involves replacing invasive Mexican trees 'vilayati kikar' with indigenous species.

The central ridge is spread over 864 hectares and according to a plan announced last year, 423 hectares of it will be restored in five years.

"The invasive 'vilayati kikar' is spread over 7,500 hectares in Delhi which is not conducive to the capital's environment. We have launched a pilot project to remove this tree species from 10 hectares in the central



Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai launches planting at central ridge in New Delhi on Wednesday.

ridge," Rai told reporters.

The government had in March last year set up a six-member advisory committee to monitor the progress of the project and ensure timely and effective on-ground compliance.

The forest department plans to remove 'vilayati kikar', which doesn't allow other species to thrive and leads to water table depletion, through canopy lifting and planting native trees, shrubs and grasses suitable for the ridge's soil.

Considered the lungs of the national capital, the ridge is an extension of the Aravalli hill range in Delhi and is a rocky, hilly and forested area.

## Alka Lamba appears before police in Rupnagar

Rupnagar, Apr 27 (PTI):

Congress leader Alka Lamba, summoned over a case of "inflammatory statements" against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, appeared before the police here on Wednesday as party workers held a protest outside the SSP office over the matter.

The case was lodged against former AAP leader Kumar Vishwas in Rupnagar town's Sadar police station on April 12. Ahead of the Assembly polls, Vishwas had accused Kejriwal of supporting separatists. Lamba has been accused of backing the remarks



Congress party members crowd along with Alka Lamba in Rupnagar on Wednesday.

made by Vishwas. Led by the Congress' state unit chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, the party workers staged the protest out-

side the office of Rupnagar senior superintendent of police (SSP) and raised slogans against the Bhagwant Mann government.



## BRIEF

### Passes

**Washington:** Efforts to create a national Asian Pacific American museum in Washington, DC, pushed ahead with House passage of legislation that would create a commission to study the issue. The bill approved unanimously by the House would establish a new commission to consider the feasibility of a new National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture.

### Crash

**Mexico City:** A Mexican military helicopter on a mission fighting forest fires crashed, causing non-life threatening injuries to the five marines on board, Mexico's navy said. The accident occurred shortly after the Russian-built Mi-17 helicopter took off from a landing strip in the Pacific coast city of Mazatlan. The navy said the injured marines were being treated at a navy hospital.

### Applauds

**Washington:** An Indian-American non-profit body working for the cause of persons with disabilities applauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for mentioning its activities in his latest "Man Ki Baat" address. In his monthly address to the nation on April 24, Modi recognised the Voice of SAP's technology initiatives and its impact for Divyangs.

### Pledges

**Boston:** Harvard University in US is vowing to spend 100 million to research and atone for its extensive ties with slavery, the school's president announced, with plans to identify and support direct descendants of dozens of enslaved people who labored at the Ivy League campus. President Lawrence Bacow announced the funding as Harvard released a new report detailing many ways the college benefited from slavery and perpetrated racial inequality, fueled ideas of white supremacy.

### Lifer

**Dhaka:** A Bangladeshi court sentenced an Islamist to life in prison for attempting to kill a prominent secular writer and professor by stabbing him multiple times during a university seminar in 2018. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, a renowned science fiction writer and professor at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in the northern city of Sylhet, was stabbed six times in his head, neck and left hand in March 2018.

### Arrest

**Birmingham:** An Alabama fast-food worker in US who allegedly threw hot grease on a customer during a dispute over service in the drive-thru line, causing severe burns, was charged with assault, police said. The 50-year-old woman was charged following a confrontation that occurred Saturday afternoon at an Arby's restaurant in suburban Birmingham.

## US urges allies to move at speed of war to help Ukraine



Local residents sit in front of a damaged apartment building from heavy fighting in an area controlled by Russian-backed separatist forces in Mariupol, Ukraine.

**Pokrovsk, Apr 27 (AP):**

The US defence chief urged Ukraine's allies to move at the speed of war to get more and heavier weapons to Kyiv as Russian forces rained fire on eastern and southern Ukraine amid new fears

the fighting could spill over the country's borders. Explosions rocked the separatist region of Trans-Dniester in neighboring Moldova, knocking out two powerful radio antennas. And a Russian missile hit a strategic railroad bridge linking Ukraine's

Odesa port region to neighbouring Romania, a NATO member; Ukrainian authorities said.

Just across the border in Russia, an ammunition depot in the Belgorod region was burning early Wednesday after several explosions were heard, the governor, Vyacheslav Gladkov, said on the messaging app Telegram. Early this month, Russia said two Ukrainian helicopter gunships hit an oil reservoir in the same region, causing a fire.

NATO members Poland and Bulgaria said the Kremlin is cutting off natural gas supplies starting Wednesday, the first such actions of the war. Poland has been a major gateway for the delivery of weapons to Ukraine and confirmed this week that it is sending the country tanks.

## Shanghai seeks societal zero COVID with rounds of testing

**Taipei, Apr 27 (AP):**

Shanghai city authorities said Wednesday they will start rounds of COVID-19 testing over the next few days to determine which neighbourhoods can safely be allowed a limited amount of freedom of movement, as residents in Beijing watch carefully on word for whether the capital city will lock down.

On Wednesday, China reported 14,222 new cases, the vast majority of which were asymptomatic. The country is battling its largest outbreak since the pandemic was first reported in Wuhan in late December 2019. Shanghai's vice head of its health



A transit officer controls access to a tunnel during lockdown in Shanghai.

committee, Zhao Dandan, announced Wednesday that the city would begin another round of testing for city residents over the next few days to determine which districts were lower risk during lockdown. Areas that have been de-

clared to have achieved societal zero COVID could see some measure of limited freedom.

The phrase, used by Chinese health authorities, refers to when new positive cases are only discovered in people who are

already under surveillance, such as in centralised quarantine or those considered to be close contacts. At this point, they are considered to have broken off chains of transmission at the community level. Shanghai's total lockdown has been in place for near a month, taking a toll on residents who have been confined to their homes. While a small, lucky portion of people have been allowed to leave their homes in the past week, the vast majority of people remain confined.

Officials reported 48 deaths on Wednesday, bringing the total to at least 238 in the city.

## COMMEMORATION



Demonstration within commemoration of 24th anniversary of Monsignor Juan Jose Gerard's assassination in Guatemala City in Guatemala.

## UAE vows 'responsible' artificial intelligence rollout

**Dubai, Apr 27 (AFP):**

The world's first minister for artificial intelligence says the United Arab Emirates isn't only looking for economic benefits as it seeks to become a leading nation in the sector.

The UAE's minister of state for AI, Omar bin Sultan al-Olama, said "quality of life" considerations were key, and also stressed the importance of a "responsible" rollout — with impacts potentially reverberating for decades. "We are looking at AI as a tool," he told AFP in an interview in Dubai. "It's a



A driverless metro train runs on a monorail over water off the Palm Jumeirah in Dubai.

tool that we need to use to unleash the quality of life aspect." The UAE also calls AI "machine intelligence", defining it as a branch of technology enabling systems to "think, learn, and

make decisions like humans", which can support everything from virology to transport. "Yes, economic gain is something that every country wants, and we want it too," Olama added.

## Major Japan railway now powered only by renewable energy



Trains run near Tokyu Railways' Tamagawa Station in Tokyo.

**Tokyo, Apr 27 (AP):**

Tokyo's Shibuya is famed for its Scramble Crossing, where crowds of people crisscross the intersection in a scene symbolizing urban Japan's congestion and anonymity. It

may have added another boasting right.

Tokyu Railways' trains running through Shibuya and other stations were switched to power generated only by solar and other renewable sources starting April 1.

That means the carbon dioxide emissions of Tokyo's sprawling network of seven train lines and one tram service now stand at zero, with green energy being used at all its stations, including for vending machines for drinks, security camera screens and lighting.

Tokyu, which employs 3,855 people and connects Tokyo with nearby Yokohama, is the first rail-road operator in Japan to have achieved that goal. It says the carbon dioxide reduction is equivalent to the annual average emissions of 56,000 Japanese households.

## Relief and alarm as El Salvador rounds up gangsters

**San Salvador, Apr 27 (AFP):**

An unprecedented round up of alleged gangsters in El Salvador has netted thousands of suspects and brought relief to citizens living in constant fear. But the clampdown has drawn complaints of rights abuses, and experts say mass arrests are but a stop-gap as long as so many Salvadorans have no feasible exit from a life of penury.

With a poverty rate of 30.7 percent and sky-high unemployment that pushes ever more people to emigrate, a career as a gangster is one of few options available to those who remain. The most prominent



People arrested for alleged gang links are escorted by the National Civil Police at the San Salvador prison.

gangs, Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and Barrio 18, count some 70,000 members in the country of 6.5 million people. Almost half are thought to be behind bars. They eke out a

living by extorting protection money from anyone who wishes to avoid harm and from drug dealing that brings them into regular conflict with one another. In a particularly bloody

weekend in March, 87 ordinary civilians died at the hands of gangs in 72 hours of violence around the country. That bloodbath prompted President Nayib Bukele to announce a state of emergency that has allowed the police and military to round up more than 18,000 alleged gang members in just a month. In the short term, removing criminals from the streets has allowed residents and entrepreneurs to breathe a sigh of relief. At least temporarily.

"On some of my routes, the criminals are no longer collecting protection money," bus company operator Juan Pablo Alvarez told AFP.

## Lebanon vote holds little hope for change despite disasters

**Sidon, Apr 27 (AP):**

Running for parliament for the first time, independent Hania Zaatari walks down the meandering alleyways of the old souk in the port city of Sidon, telling impoverished workers and traders that fixing Lebanon's devastating economic crisis is her top priority.

"The economic plan needs to consider marginalized people like you and give them a chance for revival," she said to 70-year-old Ahmed Abu Dhahr, one of two carpenters remaining on a street that just two years ago boasted roughly 50. The engineer-turned-candidate exuded confidence and hope. Yet her enthusiasm was met by shrugs and resignation, reflecting widespread fears that the mid-May vote will only perpetuate the grim status quo.

With Lebanon in freefall for more than two years, it should be a make-or-break vote for the country's ruling class. Their decades-long grip on power has driven one of the Middle East's



Hania Zaatari, center, independent candidate meets a voter at the old souk, in Sidon, Lebanon.

most spirited countries to ruin.

The May 15 elections for parliament are the first since Lebanon's economic meltdown began in late 2019. The govern-

ment's factions have done virtually nothing to address the collapse, leaving Lebanese to fend for themselves as they plunge into poverty, without electricity, medicine,

garbage collection or any other semblance of normal life.

These are also the first elections since the August 4, 2020, catastrophic explosion at Beirut port that killed more than 215 people and wrecked large parts of the city. The destruction sparked widespread outrage at the traditional parties' endemic corruption and mismanagement.

## Court sentences Suu Kyi to five years for corruption

**Bangkok, Apr 27 (AP):** A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's former leader Aung San Suu Kyi of corruption and sentenced her to five years in prison Wednesday in the first of several corruption cases against her.

Suu Kyi, who was ousted by an army takeover last year, had denied the allegation that she had accepted gold and hundreds of thousands of dollars given her as a bribe by a top political colleague. Her supporters and independent legal

experts consider her prosecution an unjust move to discredit Suu Kyi and legitimise the military's seizure of power while keeping the 76-year-old elected leader from returning to an active role in politics.

She has already been sentenced to six years imprisonment in other cases and faces 10 more corruption charges. The maximum punishment under the Anti-Corruption Act is 15 years in prison and a fine. Convictions in the other cases could bring sentences of more

than 100 years in prison in total for a Nobel Peace Prize laureate who already spent years in detention for defying military rule.

News of Wednesday's verdict came from a legal official who asked not to be identified because he is not authorised to release such information. Suu Kyi's trial in the capital Naypyitaw was closed to the media, diplomats and spectators, and her lawyers were barred from speaking to the press.

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प्रथम ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना				
नि.क्र.08/जनकार्य/न.पा.नि./जोन क्र.08/22-23 बिलासपुर दिनांक 25/04/2022				
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जोन आयुक्त, जोन कार्यालय क्र.08 न.पा.नि. बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)				
Green City, Clean City, Dream City.				

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, मनीयारी जल संसाधन संभाग मुंगेली, जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.)		कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, खारंग जल संसाधन संभाग, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)	
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<p>प्रमुख अभियंता, जल संसाधन विभाग, शिवनाथ भवन, सेक्टर-19 नार्थ ब्लॉक, अटल नगर छ.ग. रायपुर का पृ.क्र. 4262264/निविदा प्रकोष्ठ/2022/5491(10) रायपुर दिनांक 13.04.2022 द्वारा दिये गये निर्देश के परिपालन में इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना क्र. 15/व.ले.लि./2021-22 दिनांक 22.03.2022, सिस्टम नं. 95700 (पंचम आमंत्रण) "मनीयारी जलाशय संचय क्षेत्र के विकसित 3100.00 हे. (जल उपभोगिता संधा झण्डाल एवं सुकली के अंतर्गत) प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना के लक्ष्य के अनुरूप कृषकों को एपीकल्वर, हार्टीकल्वर, सेरीकल्वर से प्राप्त योजनाओं एवं सुविधाओं से कृषकों को परिचित कराते हुए जागरूकता कार्यक्रमों का क्रियान्वयन किया जाना है।" (लागत रु. 1045.20 लाख) की निविदा को निविदाकारों की संख्या निरंक होने के कारण अपरिहार्य कारणों से "निरस्त" किया जाता है।</p> <p>जी.नं. - 68922/3, दिनांक 25.03.2022</p>		<p>निविदा सूचना क्र. 21/व.ले.लि./2021-22 दिनांक 07.03.2022 निविदा सिस्टम क्र. 94475 खारंग जलाशय योजना के बांधी तट नहर आर.डी. 780 मी. से आर.डी. 13350 मी. के मध्य सी.सी. लाईनिंग का मरम्मत कार्य एवं मिट्टी कार्य, गढ़वट माईनर नं. 01 आर.डी. 0 मी. से 480 मी., गढ़वट माईनर नं. 2 आर.डी. 360 मी. से आर.डी. 570 मी. अकलतरी माईनर आर.डी. 300 मी. 900 मी., बाम्बू माईनर आर.डी. 0 मी. से आर.डी. 510 मी., खेरा डगनिया माईनर आर.डी. 600 मी. से 1800 मी. एवं मोहरा माईनर आर.डी. 270 मी. से आर.डी. 1200 मी. का मरम्मत कार्य राशि रुपये 65.21 लाख को ठेकेदार द्वारा अनुबंध नही करने के कारण निविदा निरस्त किया जाता है।</p> <p>विज्ञापन क्र. 68522 दिनांक 10.03.2022</p>	
कार्यपालन अभियंता मनीयारी जल संसाधन संभाग, मुंगेली, जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.)		कार्यपालन अभियंता खारंग जल संसाधन संभाग, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)	
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# CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 28

## Heatwave threat

Northwest India has been recording higher than normal temperatures since March last week, with weather experts attributing it to the absence of active Western Disturbances over north India and any major system over south India. A yellow alert warning of a heatwave spell in the national capital starting April 28 has been issued. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there is a heatwave on some days when the average maximum temperature on those days is 4.5-6.4 degree Celsius above the long-term average (or above 40 degrees Celsius in the plains or 37 degrees Celsius in coastal areas). Several state governments have closed or shifted timings of educational institutions due to heatwave. Due to climate change, the heatwave will become more severe every year. India needs separate 'cooling' department at municipal, block and district levels to help people during heatwaves. Heatwave is threat to health of people, productivity of work, growth of crops and loss for economy. In years to come, India will be forced to follow a nocturnal lifestyle, with most economic activities happening at night, when the Sun is not shining. People will be forced to construct underground buildings to be able to protect from heatwaves. Summer temperatures have been rising across India in the past few decades. This is visible in the number of heatwave days the country experiences in the summer months between April and June. Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe, said the landmark Code Red report released in August 2021 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The report by the United Nations' body of climate experts found that averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius of heating. The global average includes places like Antarctica and does not actually hold true all over India, where average temperatures have risen faster and higher. India will suffer more frequent and intense heat waves.

Contrary to the focus of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on climate change mitigation, India's much-hyped Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY), the world's biggest housing programme underway, is not building thermally comfortable houses for poor and marginalised people. This was revealed in the latest State of India's Environment 2022 report by the Centre for Science and Environment. The heatwave exposing hundreds of millions to dangerous temperatures is damaging the country's wheat harvest, which experts say could hit countries seeking to make up imports of the food staple from conflict-riven Ukraine. The heat wave is hitting India's main wheat-growing regions particularly hard. The IMD uses four colour codes for weather warnings - green (no action needed), yellow (watch and stay updated), orange (be prepared) and red (take action). The India Cooling Action Plan aims at reducing cooling demand by 20-25 percent by the year 2037-38. The recently-held Conference of Parties (COP-26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2021 in Glasgow has raised the concern of warming in cities and the need for cooling strategies. According to research by the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment temperatures reached dangerous levels in eight cities around the world, including in India. Studies have also exposed the extra risk posed by inequality. Many of the worst-affected cities are the most densely populated and the poorest. Developing countries are especially vulnerable to sustained high temperatures as most are located partially or entirely within the tropics and typically include unplanned settlements. Some cities plan green spaces and urban forests, but the issue is with vast asphalt network of roads for vehicles and buildings made with concrete, glass and steel. The prices of residential air conditioners may go up by around 5 per cent as the industry faces soaring input costs even though the makers are looking for double-digit growth this year with early onset of summer spurring demand. Most of India's population is not able to afford air conditioning for residential homes and most businesses and institutions do not find air conditioning feasible for workplaces. Underground buildings with green cover above will be the way to live.

## Soft power

Union Minister Anurag Thakur said India has the potential to become the content subcontinent, backed by talent in the fields of technology and culture as it emerges as a hard power in the world. Participating in the Raisina Dialogue-2022 in New Delhi, Thakur said India, with its rich culture and history, has a lot to showcase and emerge as the next AVGC production hub with a mix of hard power and soft power. Soft power is not the only or even the most important source of power, because its effects tend to be slow and indirect. But to ignore or neglect it is a serious strategic and analytic mistake. A country's soft power comes primarily from three sources like its culture, its political values, such as democracy and human rights when it upholds them and its policies, when they are seen as legitimate because they are framed with an awareness of others' interests.

A government can influence others through the example of how it behaves at home, such as by protecting a free press and the right to protest, in international institutions, consulting others and fostering multilateralism, and through its foreign policy such as by promoting development and human rights. During the COVID-19 pandemic, China has tried to use so-called vaccine diplomacy to bolster its soft power. But international polls show that the results have been disappointing. In measures of attractiveness, China lags behind the US on all continents except Africa, where the two countries are tied. One reason for China's lower level of soft power is its heavy-handed use of hard power like Galwan clash. True, international polls showed that the US also suffered a decline in soft power during Donald Trump's presidency. But fortunately, America is more than its government. India's soft power follows a trend similar to US, with India's culture and people being more prominent than political parties in power.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: [editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com)  
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

## 'TELETUBBIES' ANNIVERSARY



(L-R) Tinky-Winky, Laa-Laa, Dipsy, and Po visit the Empire State Building as 'The Teletubbies' TV show characters celebrated their 25th Anniversary in New York City, US.

## Hiring friends and family might actually be good for business

**SHEHERYAR BANURI**

Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Meta/Facebook, recently remarked in a podcast interview that when it came to hiring new staff, his preference was people whose 'values aligned in the things that you care about'. This, he said, was akin to 'choosing a friend or a life partner'. He went on to state that many young people were too 'objective-focused' and 'not focused enough on connections and people'. This speaks to one of the eternal questions for managers in deciding who to hire: do you choose the candidate who has objectively higher ability or the one whose values are more in common with your own? While some would unambiguously select the higher ability candidate, others like Zuckerberg might weigh differences in candidates' abilities against the extent to which they share the values of the employer. Some would go further and hire family or friends.

Many firms actually promote this with employee-referral incentive schemes that encourage hiring individuals of similar characteristics or at the very least those who move in the same networks. The stated purpose of such schemes is to reduce the costs of hiring, increase employee retention rates and improve employee engagement. There are even guides dedicated to helping managers who hire their friends. On the other hand, such a buddying approach to recruitment seems to

contradict anti-discrimination laws. These have been enacted around the world to ensure that certain groups of individuals are not treated more poorly than others. For example, the UK's Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of age, gender, religion, race (among others). The US equivalent, the Equal Employment Opportunities laws, similarly aims to reduce workplace discrimination. Broadly speaking, anti-discrimination laws promote diversity, while prioritising hiring friends, family or those with shared values seems to do the opposite. The American psychologist Gordon Allport, in his 1954 work *The Nature of Prejudice*, noted a distinction between hiring based on negative prejudices (discrimination), and hiring based on positive prejudices (factors other than ability). He claimed that while hiring based on negative prejudices created social problems, hiring based on positive prejudices did not.

Gary Becker, the American economist, made a similar distinction in his 1957 book *The Economics of Discrimination* but reached a different conclusion. He termed hiring based on negative prejudice as discrimination, and hiring based on positive prejudice as nepotism, and he argued that both led to economic inefficiencies. This was because both involved hiring workers for reasons other than ability, which he reasoned was the greatest predictor of output. But why would many companies explicitly focus on recruiting friends and family if it were really bad for business? Could it be that hiring decisions that don't prioritise a candidate's abilities might lead to lower output, but having employees with shared values is still better for an organisation overall? In a recent paper myself and two research colleagues, Catherine Eckel and Rick K Wilson, sought to find out. We conducted a controlled laboratory exper-

iment with a sample of university students with strong social ties at Rice University, Texas. Upon admission, students at Rice are sorted into 'residential colleges', which are essentially housing where they typically stay throughout their studies. Students of the same college live together, eat together and compete against other colleges in a variety of activities, inculcating a strong college-based identity and shared values.

In our experiment, we got the students to play a famous two-player game that economists use to measure trust. This simulates a manager-employee relationship by first giving an individual in the role of a manager a small sum of money, usually USD 10. They are then asked how much they would like to transfer to an individual in the role of an employee. Whatever they transfer is then multiplied, usually by three, and given to the employee. The employee must decide how much to give back to the manager. Both are trying to end up with as much money as possible. Hence the manager is investing in the employee and trusting them to return some of the investment. The employee chooses how much to send back to the employer, which is a measure of reciprocity or effort. In our version, managers had to choose between investing in an employee from the same residential college (meaning they had shared values), and one that was not.

They were also made aware that different employees had different 'abilities', in the sense that the multiplier that determined how much money they received from the investment would be smaller - for example, 2.5 instead of three. In some cases, the employee with the shared values was 'lower ability'. This meant that the manager would need to trust them to give back a higher proportion of their money than the alternative choice would give back. When faced

with employees of equal ability, 80 percent of managers chose the one from their college. Even when their fellow college member was 'lower ability', 40 percent of managers still chose them. In other words, while at least some managers were choosing partners based on ability, a significant proportion incorporated college membership into their decision. Employees from the same college exerted more effort for their managers (meaning they returned a larger share of the money) when they were 'lower ability' than the other candidate.

This suggested that 'lower ability' group members compensated for their handicap by increasing their effort. On average, when managers with a choice of candidates of 'equal ability' went with their college mate, they made 10 percent more money. And among those offered a 'lower ability' college mate and a superior outsider, they made 7 percent more by going with the college mate. These results imply that focusing on ability alone ignores the contribution to output of behavioural factors such as engagement, trust, motivation and effort. As long as differences in ability are not too large, hiring from within employee networks would appear to be a profitable strategy. Becker had it wrong, in other words. So while it was previously thought that hiring based on network or familial ties was mainly altruistic, our research suggests otherwise. It may still bring up managerial challenges, such as having to tell these employees what to do, or calling them out when they don't meet expectations. But employers trust employees more when they share their values, and the employees may compensate for their lower ability by working harder, benefiting the organisation as a result.

(Sheheryar Banuri is Associate Professor, School of Economics, University of East Anglia in UK.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Loyalists

It is for sure that, as long as the Gandhis are at the helm of the Congress, there is no chance for its revival. The thumb rule is that if one fails to deliver, he or she must quit. It applies to the corporate world as well as to political parties. The Congress party has wasted enough time and energy in nurturing Gandhis for too long, but without any tangible result. We know that time is of the essence in our lives. Sooner it is understood by Congressmen, the better would be for the grand old party. The clear warnings of Indian voters can be ignored at its own peril only. If Gandhis were serious to resign from their respective posts, then nobody would have stopped them from doing so. Everything was a staged-managed drama, as seen in the past as well. From the above episode, it clear that the Gandhis have no remorse, along with accountability to the party, which got routed in the recent polls. This apart they have no commitment to the country as well. The Gandhis know it well that they have no other refuge elsewhere. As such, they are clinging like limpets. Loyalists are the real enemies of the party. The so-called loyalists have harmed the party more than Gandhis did. Some loyalists argue that "only the Gandhis can keep the party together". In reality it does not appear so. The real fact is that the Congress party is getting reduced to small-time regional party. All credit goes to Gandhis and Gandhis alone. Man is mortal. By the same logic of the loyalist, should we presume that after the Gandhis, the Congress party would also embrace its natural death? Laughable indeed! Of course, the loyalists or old guards have no takers. Thus, they want to spend last leg of their life's journey by kowtowing to the Gandhis.

Prafulla, via email

### Repudiate

Hardly a day goes by without reports of hate speeches and acts of communal violence in some part or other of our country. We cannot afford to become immune to 'interreligious violence', if the term can be used. We have to repudiate it and remedy the situation before it breaks social bonds. The country should not be torn apart by civil strife. When religious processions are taken out, it is sane to keep them free from religious frenzy. The purpose of religious processions should be to celebrate them and spread the message of love rather than to provoke other religious communities. It is observable that an atmosphere of communal tension is created and exacerbated by those who mix religion with politics.

David, via email



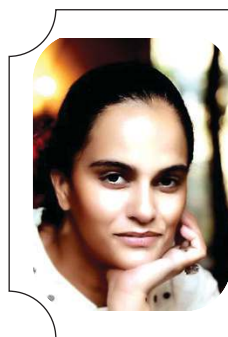
## WHAT THEY TWEET!

**Ashwin@mahesh**

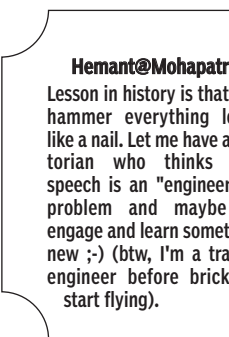
The interest of the Indian public and the interests of the political class are now at odds in urban areas across India. That's why, after 20 years of various urban mission, we don't have anything more than a few streets to show for how we have 'improved' our cities.

**KRK@kamaal**

Our Government was always threatening Twitter officials for legal action. Everyone knows that @elonmusk is not scared of anyone in this world. So what will govt do now? Because now govt can't threaten to block Twitter While nobody in the world can block ElonMuskTwitter!

**Bhavreen@MK**

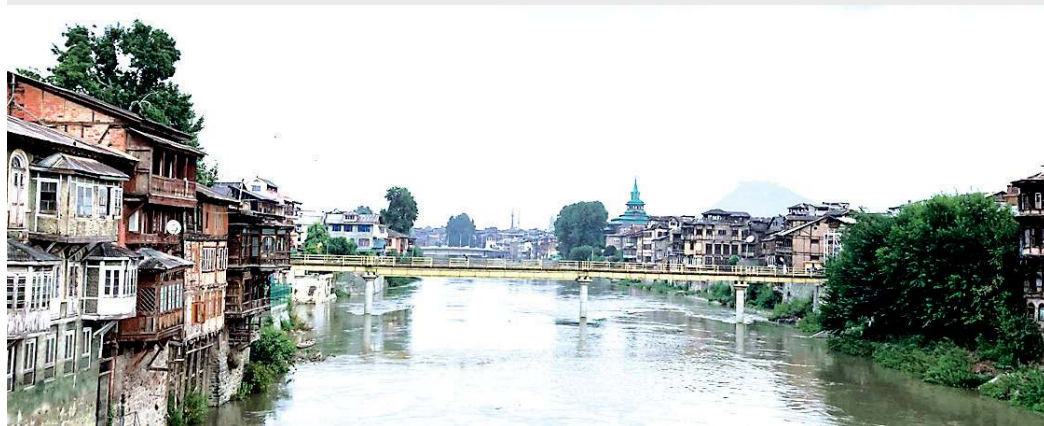
Trees are key to fighting urban heat but it's a pity how they r cut prioritising road widening to building highways, metros et al; Trees r the only saviours for all, especially the lesser privileged without ACs or even authorities who work on the roads in this scorching heat!

**Hemant@Mohapatra**

Lesson in history is that to a hammer everything looks like a nail. Let me have a historian who thinks free speech is an "engineering" problem and maybe I'll engage and learn something new :-;) (btw, I'm a trained engineer before brickbats start flying).

**Namrata@SrinagarGirl**

Srinagar - the beautiful city founded by Emperor Ashoka in 250 BCE.

**Karan@bhasin95**

I had expressed concerns about a devaluation given the general slowdown & poor state of the domestic economy. I guess one should empirically check to what extent this devaluation represents a market correction - and/or is it an opportunity to use it as a deliberate trade policy.

**Ruchit@ruchitgarg**

All we need to rebuild here in earth is distributed self sustaining communities with lesser dependency on each other for food - build tech enabled farming co-ops which brings \$ back to the farmer's pocket. Great for food, climate, health .. long tail of sustainable benefits



**BRIEF**

**Collaborate**



**New Delhi:** NTPC has collaborated with Swiss firm Energy Vault for deployment of gravity-based energy storage technology and software solutions. NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh said it will help NTPC in furthering its energy transition goals through a sustainable approach.

**Joins**

**New Delhi:** Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Wednesday said it has joined hands with Indian Bank to facilitate easy finance for customers. As part of the partnership, the company's customers can avail the loan benefits in over 5,700 plus branches of Indian Bank at metro, urban, semi-urban and rural locations. Maruti Suzuki customers, under this exclusive scheme, can avail loans up to 90 per cent of the on-road price of the car besides getting benefits of zero processing charges.

**Raises**



**New Delhi:** TeaMonk on Wednesday said it has raised Rs 3.5 crore from investors including Inflection Point Ventures to expand in domestic and global markets. MD Ashok Mittal said we are delighted to fulfill tea need through our range of 100 per cent pure teas.

**Acquires**

**New Delhi:** IT company Cactus Communications has acquired software as a service platform Mind the Graph for an undisclosed amount. The acquisition will enable Cactus to provide automated, DIY science figures and AI-powered scientific communication solutions to the researcher community, academic publishers, and the life sciences industry.

**Funding**



**New Delhi:** WoodenStreet on Wednesday announced that it raised around USD 30 million (Rs 230 crore) in the latest funding round led by WestBridge Capital. CEO Lokendra Ranawat said we focus on design and innovation, enabling items at affordable price.

**Partners**

**New Delhi:** GMR group firm Raxa Security Solution said it has collaborated with Bengaluru based Redinent Innovations to offer cyber security solutions for CCTV cameras. The collaboration has been done in the back of several incidents of CCTV cameras getting hacked across the world, the company said.

## FM assures investors of addressing pain points

Washington, Apr 27 (PTI):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman assured investors that the government will address any possible pain points to encourage investments in the country.

Addressing a roundtable on 'Investing in India's Digital Revolution' in San Francisco, the minister encouraged constant engagement with investors to understand and address their concerns.

The Finance Minister said she was open to receive suggestions, understand pain points and offer necessary redressal wherever possible.

"FM Smt. @nsitharaman said that in order to promote a robust #Startup ecosystem in India, @DPIITGoI has set up a very proactive #Startup cell and encour-



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a function in San Francisco.

aged those interested in Indian #StartUps to engage with @DPIITGoI." a tweet from the Finance Ministry said.

During the meeting, investors from Silicon Valley also expressed that India's potential in producing Unicorn companies is immense.

"FM said that India, in pursuit of #digitization, has announced introduction of #DigitalCurrency

by 2023. She also elucidated that #FinancialInclusion #FI will not be the sole purpose of this as India is already marching ahead to greater #FI, achieved through #JAM trinity," another tweet said.

Earlier in the day, the Finance Minister held lively interaction with a group of students studying at Stanford University covering a variety of top-

ics. She was accompanied by India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit S Sandhu and Chief Economic Advisor V Ananth Nageswaran.

Sitharaman also participated in a roundtable discussion with Women CXOs representing various fields including fintech, health, education, IT, among others.

The meeting focussed on the ways through which they could continue to contribute to India's growth story. "FM highlighted various Govt initiatives that are focussed on women-led development, such as schemes for #SHGs and #DirectBenefitTransfer that have especially benefited rural women, and others such as #MudraYojana that have empowered women entrepreneurs," a separate tweet said.

## India exports 13.5 MT finished steel worth Rs 1 lakh cr in FY-22

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

India exported 13.5 million tonne (MT) of finished steel valuing Rs 1 lakh crore in the last financial year, Minister of Steel Steel Faggan Singh Kulaste has said.

According to official data, India's finished steel exports were at 10.78 million tonne in 2020-21.

"India exported 13.5 MT finished steel amounting to Rs 1 lakh crore and imported steel of around Rs 46,000 crore during FY22," Kulaste said at Steel and Engineering Exports organised by Metalogic PMS. The value of merchandise exports from India was at USD 420 billion, he said. In FY22, India's steel consumption



was at an all-time high of around 106 MT, while the country produced a record 120 MT crude steel, Kulaste said.

The sector is growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 5 to 6 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

"Notwithstanding the challenges arising out of COVID-19, the steel sector in terms of external trade, production and consumption registered a record performance. We have the potential to do better in the steel sector across all areas. The en-

gineering sector -- is closely linked to the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors -- is of strategic importance to India's economy, and the steel sector is closely linked to this sector," the minister said.

Meanwhile, the surge in steel prices in the domestic market is badly affecting the country's MSME engineering exporters and the government should immediately announce urgent measures to help them sustain in the global markets, Hand Tools Association said on Wednesday. Hand Tools Association President S C Ralhan said that the prices of hot rolled sheets have jumped to over Rs 80,000 per tonne from Rs 30,000 per tonne two years back.

## Timeline to roll out 1st indigenous commercial chipsets by 2023-24

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

The government has set a timeline to commercially roll out the first indigenous chipsets by 2023-24 under the Digital India RISC-V programme launched on Wednesday, Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Wednesday.

The Minister of State for Electronics and IT said that the Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) programme aims to create future generations of microprocessors that will serve the need of India's strategic focus on mobility, computing and digitisation.

"One big milestone that I am very focused on is to have the first set of commercial silicon of Shakti and Vega processors available by December 2023 or early 2024. "We want at least a few companies to



adopt their product designs to DIR-V products Shakti and Vega before 2023-24 and when the silicon is ready, they start manufacturing and incorporating chips in the products," Chandrasekhar told reporters. IIT Madras and the Centre for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) have developed two microprocessors named Shakti (32 bit) and Vega (64 bit) respectively using Open Source Architecture under the aegis of the Microprocessor Development Programme of the Ministry of Electronics and IT.

## Sebi amends rules to simplify procedure for transmission of securities

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

With an aim to simplify the procedure for transmission of securities, Sebi has revised the existing threshold limit for simplified documents to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh currently for securities held in physical mode per listed issuer.

Also, the threshold in this regard for securities held in the dematerialised mode for each beneficiary account has been increased to Rs 15 lakh from the present level of Rs 5 lakh.

Legal Heirship Certificate or its equivalent certificate issued by competent government authority will be an acceptable document for transmission of securities, the regulator said in a notification issued. The objective is to ensure that uniform processes

**Issue opens May 4**

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

Country's largest life insurer LIC on Wednesday set the price band at Rs 902-949 per share for its Rs 21,000 crore initial public offering (IPO), which will open for subscription on May 4.

At the upper end of the price band the government will garner around Rs 21,000 crore.

With this IPO, which is through an offer-for-sale (OFS) route, the government is looking to divest its 3.5 per cent stake in the insurer by selling 22.13 crore shares.

Speaking on the occasion, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management

## Rupee settles almost flat against USD, bullion rises

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

The rupee recouped early losses and settled almost flat at 76.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday on expectations of higher dollar inflows.

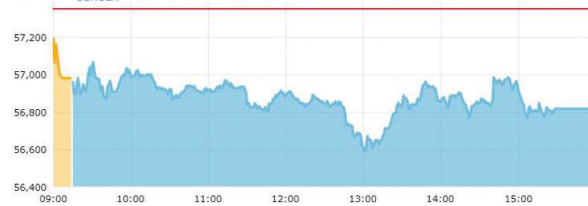
However, a lacklustre trend in domestic equities and the strength of the greenback in the overseas market weighed on the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 76.69 against the US dollar and touched an intra-day high of 76.50. It finally closed at 76.55, registering a rise of just 1 paise over its previous close of 76.56.

According to HDFC Securities Research Analyst Dilip Parmar, the rupee managed to recoup early morning losses and settled with a slight gain on the expectation of dollar inflows from initial public offerings (IPOs) and corporate dollar selling.

## Sensex tumbles over 537 pts on profit booking

S&P BSE SENSEX 56,819.39 -537.22 -0.94%



Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled nearly 1 per cent on Wednesday on profit booking in financial and IT stocks after a recent rally.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 537.22 points or 0.94 per cent to end at 56,819.39. During the day, it tanked 772.57 points or 1.34 per cent to 56,544.04. The NSE Nifty declined by 162.40 points or 0.94 per cent to 17,038.40.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, Titan, Dr Reddy's, Wipro, State Bank of India, Infosys, Maruti

and UltraTech Cement emerged as the major laggards. In contrast, Tata Steel, Asian Paints, HCL Technologies, TCS, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank were the gainers.

Asian markets were mixed, with Tokyo and Seoul settling over 1 per cent lower, while Hong Kong and Shanghai ended higher. Markets in Europe were trading in the green in the afternoon session. Stocks in the US had ended significantly lower on Tuesday. The Sensex jumped 776.72 points or 1.37 per cent to end at 57,356.61 on Tuesday. The Nifty rallied 246.85 points or 1.46 per cent to 17,200.80.

## LIC sets price band at Rs 902-949 per share for Rs 21,000 cr IPO

**Issue opens May 4**

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):



(L-R) ADDLL Secretary DFS Amit Agrawal, LIC Chairperson MR Kumar and DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey during a press conference, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

(DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said listing of LIC is part of the long-term strategic vision of the government and will highly enhance the value of the corporation in the long-run.

"This (LIC IPO) is right sized, considering the capital market environment and will not crowd out capital supply given the cur-

count the combination of multiple factors, including market demand, stabilizing market conditions, reducing volatility, domestic flows and the corporation's financial performance," he said. Pandey said the market is undoubtedly benefiting from strong structural tailwind given concerns in other markets. The market has recovered from temporary shock due to global geopolitical events seen earlier.

In the IPO, the retail investors and eligible employees will get a discount of Rs 45 per equity share and policyholders will get a discount of Rs 60 per equity share. The issue will open for subscription on May 4 and to close on May 9. The bid lot for the issue would be 15.

## Major ports asked to build infra for ensuring zero waiting time

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

The Shipping Ministry has asked all major ports to ensure adequate infrastructure by 2025 for achieving zero waiting time for inward as well as outbound cargoes.

In an office memorandum, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) noted that port capacity required in 2047 will be around six-times of the present port capacity.

"Major Ports should carry out detailed planning. If these are constraints on waterfronts and/or land availability, the major ports shall explore possibility of setting up satellite ports," it said.

The memorandum also said the major port authorities shall prepare a comprehensive master plan 2047 for the entire port area including cargo projections, warehousing etc with ultimate aim to



achieve efficient logistics for enhancing economic development. "Also, all major ports must ensure that there is adequate infrastructure in place by 2025 to achieve zero waiting time for inward as well as outbound cargo ie ship, rail, truck carrying cargo to and from port should not be required to wait," it said. According to the memorandum, further in order to ensure the broad structure is in line with Maritime Vision 2030 and 2047 along with other initiatives of MoPSW, Indian Ports Association (IPA) is directed to coordinate with all the port authorities putting in place a suitable mechanism.

## India's retail industry to reach USD 2 trn by 2032

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

As the country recovers from the pandemic, the retail industry has resumed its growth trajectory and is likely to witness 10 per cent annual growth to reach approximately USD 2 trillion by 2032, according to a report.

According to a BCG-RAI report titled "Racing towards the next wave of Retail in India", while certain industry segments like food and grocery, restaurants and Quick service restaurant (QSR), and consumer durables have recovered to pre-COVID levels,



others like jewellery and accessory, apparel, and footwear remain on track to a full recovery.

"The Indian economy continues to be driven by consumption and we are observing that consumption growth is back in the positive territory after the two-year COVID pause,"

BCG Managing Director and Senior Partner Abheek Singhi said.

Noting that India's retail industry will grow to approximately USD 2 trillion in the next 10 years, Singhi said "the next decade will see organised retailers focus on footprint expansion, across all formats - offline and online - to fuel future growth".

As per the report India's consumption, which was growing at approximately 12 per cent pre-pandemic, went into negative territory during the pandemic but has now recovered to surpass pre-pandemic growth levels at 17 per cent.

## Chemicals exports touch USD 29.3 bn in 2021-22

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Chemicals exports have touched USD 29.3 billion in 2021-22 on account of healthy performance in areas like agro-chemicals, dyes and speciality chemicals, the commerce ministry said on Wednesday. India is the sixth-largest producer of chemicals in the world, third in Asia and 14th in exports.

"Today, India leads in dyes production and contributes 16-18 per cent to the world's dyestuff exports. Indian dye is exported to over 90 countries," the ministry said in a statement. The major export destinations are the US, China, Turkey, Russia and North-East Asian Countries (China, Hongkong, Japan, Korea RP, Taiwan, Macao, Mongolia), it added.

## Gross leasing of industrial, warehousing space in 5 cities up 11%

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Gross leasing of industrial and warehousing space rose 11 per cent across five major cities to 6.2 million square feet during January-March period, according to real estate consultant Colliers India.

"Activity in Grade A industrial and warehousing facilities continues to be robust during Q1 2022 with gross absorption in the top 5 cities at 6.2 million square feet, an 11 per cent increase from Q1 2021. The demand was led by heightened leasing in Delhi-NCR and Mumbai," the company said in a statement on Wednesday. Overall, the de-

mand was steered by robust warehousing demand from third-party logistics players, amidst strong consumer demand across sectors.

About 50 per cent of the gross absorption was led by third-party logistics players, followed by the engineering and automobile sectors with a share of 17 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively.

As per the data, the gross leasing of industrial and warehousing space fell in Bengaluru to 0.9 million square feet in January-March 2022 from 1.5 million square feet in the year-ago period. Chennai also saw fall in leasing to 0.7

million square feet from 0.8 million square feet. Pune too witnessed a fall in leasing activities to 1.6 million square feet from 1.8 million square feet.

In Delhi-NCR, the leasing grew to 1.7 million square feet from 1.2 million square feet, while in Mumbai the leasing rose to 1.3 million square feet during January-March 2022 from 0.3 million square feet in the corresponding period of the previous year. "Demand for Grade A spaces remained robust with healthy take-up witnessed this quarter across key cities with NCR market leading the space take-up."



## Margot Robbie starrer 'Barbie' to release in 2023



Actress Margot Robbie's upcoming film 'Barbie' has been locked for July 21, 2023 release in the US.

The release date for the much-anticipated live-action adventure from the iconic doll, played by Margot Robbie with a star-studded supporting cast, was announced during the Warner Bros. presentation at Las Vegas' CinemaCon, reports 'Variety'.

A first-look image was shared on stage of Robbie in the aforementioned pink convertible, flashing a megawatt smile and donning a polka dot headband behind the wheel.

Notably, this movie will open against Christopher Nolan's sprawling ensemble film 'Oppenheimer' but Barbie came to play, and has a dream cast of her own.

Ryan Gosling, Kate McKinnon, Alexandra Shipp, America Ferrera, Simu Liu, 'And Just Like That' actor Hari Nef and Will Ferrell all co-star in the reimagining of Barbie's world.

Directed by Greta Gerwig, who co-wrote the script with her partner Noah Baumbach, production is currently underway on the Mattel Films and WB project.

Producers on 'Barbie' also include Robbie via LuckyChap with Tom Ackerley; Mattel's Robbie Brenner; and David Heyman for Heyday Films. LuckyChap's Josey McNamara and Mattel's Ynon Kreiz are executive producers.

In a 2021, Robbie said taking on the beloved toy "comes with a lot of baggage... and a lot of nostalgic connections. But with that comes a lot of exciting ways to attack it. People generally hear 'Barbie' and think, 'I know what that movie is going to be', and then they hear that Greta Gerwig is writing and directing it, and they're like, 'Oh, well, maybe I don't.'"

Production began earlier this year in London.

'Barbie' is one of many Mattel properties on the burner for feature adaptation. Projects based on the magic 8 ball, Hot Wheels, 'Masters of the Universe', Polly Pocket, Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots, and the throwback dolls Chatty Cathy and Betsy Wetsy are all in the works.

## Shubhaavi throws light on mother and daughter

With its intriguing storyline, Sony Entertainment Television's *Bade Achhe Lagte Hain - 2* continues to garner rave reviews. When everyone learns how Ram (Nakuul Mehta) was assaulted by Priya's (Disha Parmar) father, Ram's mother becomes agitated and questions why he is unwilling to take any action against Priya's father. Following that, we see Ram as a caring and understanding husband who wants to protect Priya's reputation at any cost. Also, we see how caring and protective Ram's mother is here; she considers not just his son's image, but also Priya's well-being and the trauma she has experienced in the past. Priya, on the other hand, tells Ram's mother that she will be his shadow and always protect him. Talking to Shubhaavi Choksey aka Ram's mother she said, "It's firstly an honor to play a

role like this in a show that has gained so much love. And about my character, she is a very supportive and caring mother to Ram and mother-in-law to Priya. The way Ram's mother supports Priya and thinks about her well-being is something all mothers-in-law should do. They should always be supportive of their daughters-in-law, treat them like their own daughters, and help them aspire to dream. And lastly, I love working with Priya she is a very hardworking and lovely person to work and be around with."

Tune in to *Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2*, every Monday to Friday at 8:00 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.



## Keerthy Suresh on 'Saani Kaayidham' role: Complete departure from my past work



With the D-Day for its release on May 6 fast approaching, Prime Video on Tuesday unveiled the trailer of Arun Matheswaran's upcoming Tamil revenge action drama 'Saani Kaayidham'. Produced under the banner of Screen Scene Media, the film stars Keerthy Suresh and Selvaraghavan in the lead roles. 'Saani Kaayidham' will premiere exclusively on Prime Video starting May 6, and will also be available as 'Chinni' in Telugu and as 'Saani Kaayidham' in Malayalam across 240 countries and territories.

The story follows a heart-wrenching journey of Ponni (Keerthy Suresh) who works as a constable and lives with her five-year-old daughter Dhanna and her husband Maari, who works as a coolie in a rice mill. In one unfortunate night, she loses everything. To avenge the injustice done to her, she takes support of Sangalah (Selvaraghavan), with whom she shares a bitter past.

## Niharika Konidela turns producer with 'Hello World'

Actress Niharika Konidela has announced her next project. The 'Oka Manasu' actress has now turned producer for an interesting project under Pink Elephant Pictures, her own production company. Niharika is producing this project titled 'Hello World', for the leading

OTT platform ZEE5. The web series was officially launched with a pooja ceremony on Tuesday in Hyderabad.

'Sontham' fame Aryan Rajesh plays the lead role in the series, while it is directed by Sivasai Vardhan Jaladhanki.

Sadaa, Ram Nithin, Nikhil, Sudharshan, Anil

Geela, Nitya Shetty, and other actors are also a part of this upcoming project. 'Hello World' features music by PK Dandi.

Niharika Konidela was recently in the news for being one of the well-known personalities in a rave party raid that took place in Hyderabad.

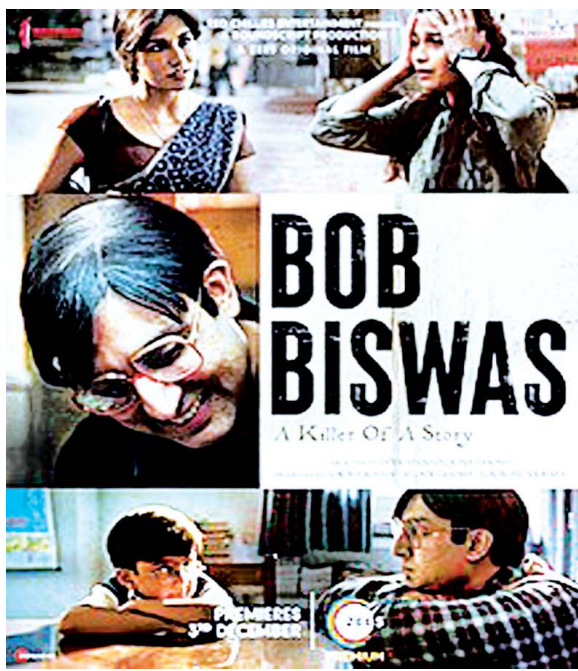


## World TV premiere of 'Bob Biswas' on Zee Cinema

If you woke up from a long coma and realized you are your own biggest enemy, what would you do? This haunting question surrounds the world of Bob Biswas. A simple family man with a wife and two kids who works as an insurance agent by day and a contract hitman by night - director Diya Ghosh's version of the mundane but mysterious Bob Biswas highly pleased the critics as well as audiences across the country. Set in the heart of Kolkata, the film carves a niche for itself by harnessing the elements of subtle dark comedy in a serious crime thriller. Donning this palatable thriller on screen,

we have Abhishek Bachchan in and as Bob Biswas along with the ravishing Chitrangada Singh. Sink into a world of thrill and drama as Bob Biswas navigates his memory and overcomes the dilemma of double life that put him on a bridge of good versus evil with the World Television Premiere Bob Biswas on 30th April at 9:30pm only on Zee Cinema.

When you remember characters and their peculiarities long after you've watched a film, you know you have watched something special. And in this case, one can't help but notice how Abhishek Bachchan has perfected even the smallest details of the peculiar



character Bob Biswas. Whether it's his expressions of un-surety, juggling his identities or even his bodily transformation, he's got all the nuances of the part perfect to the T.

Talking about the film, Abhishek Bachchan said, "Bob Biswas's character in 'Kahaani' left the audience spellbound with his eerie yet interesting characteristics. When Sujoy approached me with Bob Biswas's script, I had not even seen the film 'Kahaani', thus my perception of the character Bob was limited. However, during the lockdown I watched it and I was truly blown away. Our director, Diya's perspective of the character

was definitive yet fluid for me to have my creative advances. Bob's character isn't very expressive and being the protagonist there are quite a few subtleties that needed to showcase what a cold-blooded assassin living a normal, middle-class life with his family would look like. I had to absorb the essence of the character to do justice to the audience. It's a character that will keep surprising you through the movie."

Find out who Bob actually is with the World Television Premiere of Bob Biswas on Zee Cinema on 30th April at 9:30 pm!

### HOROSCOPE THURSDAY APRIL 28

#### Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

A festival, rally, or other mass event could occur today in your community, Aquarius. It could center on a social, ecological, or political issue. You could well decide to attend in the company of a romantic partner, and perhaps a group of friends, too. This event could prove exciting for you, although some of what you learn there might be unsettling.

#### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Career matters should be going very well for you today, Pisces. A sudden change regarding your work could catapult you into a position you've been hoping to reach for a long time. A rise in income could result. You've worked hard and done very well, so what may seem a lucky break to others is actually the result of intense, determined effort on your part.

#### Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Ideas for a new enterprise, which could be anything from a party to a vacation to a new business, could have you spending a lot of time on the phone today, Gemini. You'll need to consult with people who know about what you want to do and at least lay the groundwork for making solid arrangements.

#### Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Have you been thinking about getting fit by investing in some exercise equipment? If so, Cancer, this might be the day to actually go out and get it. Don't be surprised if friends, relatives, and neighbors all want to come over and try it out.

#### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Today your relationships with just about everyone - friends, relatives, colleagues, and romantic partners - should be going very well, Libra. Your communication is good, and your ability to see the other person's point of view is clearer than usual.

#### Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Relations with colleagues on the job could be very cooperative today, Scorpio, probably because you're about to complete a project of some kind that could result in higher income for everyone. Communication should be open and honest, and for once you'll probably be able to reach everyone you phone without having to leave any messages.

#### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

A sudden desire to expand your horizons could have you and possibly a romantic partner considering returning to school, Aries, perhaps for an advanced degree. The school you're considering, however, might be located in another state or even a foreign country.

#### Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Your curiosity and creative energy may be stimulated today by information you receive from books, documentaries, or conversations with people familiar with the field you're exploring. As a result, Leo, you could come up with an innovative new project that keeps you and some colleagues busy for a long time.

#### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

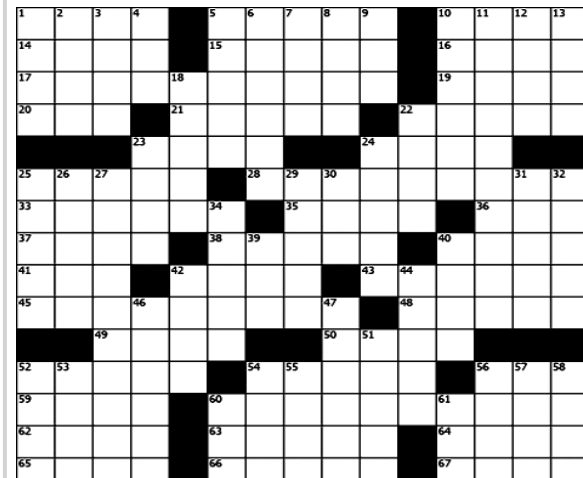
Today you might find yourself hosting an impromptu social event, Capricorn, and more people could show up than you initially counted on. Don't worry about it, however. The party should be enjoyable for everyone even if the place is a bit crowded. Your visitors can look out for themselves.

#### Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

Friendships and romantic bonds should provide a rich source of support and good companionship today, Sagittarius. Conversation is likely to be light, covering general matters like current events and the weather, but this might be just what you need right now.

### CROSSWORD

283



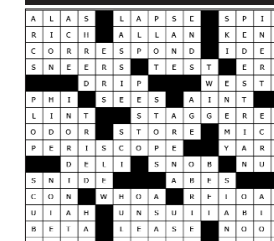
#### ACROSS

- Repeat
- Shopping binge
- Oodles (2 wds.)
- "Moonstruck" actress
- Depart
- Ocean movement
- Circus leader
- Juvenile
- \_\_\_\_\_ and downs
- Go in

#### DOWN

- Unbleached color
- Poker counter
- Egg layers
- Assoc.
- Bias
- Annoy
- Judge
- For all time
- Poet's always
- Verify
- Military rank
- Poems of praise
- Perfect scores
- Vegetarians' taboos
- Free of doubt
- Music for two
- Cowboys' contest

#### SOLUTION 282





## DC, KKR seek momentum to revive IPL campaigns

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

Delhi Capitals will look to put the 'no-ball' controversy behind and gain much needed momentum against another side seeking course correction, the Kolkata Knight Riders, in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Delhi suffered a 15-run loss against Rajasthan Royals, a game marred by a no ball controversy over a high full toss that resulted in a one match ban for assistant coach Pravin Amre.

Head coach Ricky Ponting watched the tight finish in quarantine and felt helpless. Now he is back with the team and is confident of finding momentum which will allow his players to play to their potential.

Delhi Capitals are currently seventh on the points table with three wins in seven outings. KKR are placed eighth having lost their last four games.

With the Delhi batting line-up comprising David Warner, Prithvi Shaw, Rishabh Pant and Powell, KKR's varied attack has to be on guard to stop the rampage. Warner, after striking three back to back fifties, faltered against the Royals and would need itching to



play another impactful knock. Ditto for Shaw, who needs to convert his starts into big scores. Delhi's latest option at number three, Sarfaraz Khan, also failed and it remains to be seen whether he is benched or not. Pant will need to take greater responsibility along with the likes of all-

rounders Lalit Yadav, Shardul Thakur and Axar Patel.

Pant can single-handedly turn any game, but he hasn't played to his potential and come Thursday at the Wankhede, where the tracks have helped batters, the skipper would look to come good.

Add to it, Powell's six-hitting prowess, Delhi have all the necessary firepower.

Delhi's bowling has fared well, but will need to forget the hammering at the hands of Jos Buttler. Khaleel Ahmed has been taking wickets upfront and has been complemented by Mustafizur Rahman, who

can also be effective at the death.

While Kuldeep Yadav has redeemed himself, the other spinners Axar and Lalit have also played their parts to perfection. The trio has combined 20 wickets and their 12 overs would be vital.

Meanwhile, KKR need to get their combination right and the batters, including skipper Iyer, will have to put up an improved show.

Shreyas failed in the last game and so did the opening pair of Sam Billings and Sunil Narine. If they continue with the same openers, the two would need to give an aggressive start.

For the likes of Shreyas, Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh and Venkatesh Iyer, it won't be an easy task, especially against inform Delhi spinners. Pushing Venkatesh down in the middle order has also not worked yet.

Shreyas has said it was just a matter of time and once KKR get going, they will be unstoppable as a team. KKR pacers Umesh Yadav and Tim Southee have been right on the money. The only weak link seems to be Varun Chakravarthy who is having an underwhelming season.

### Kohli will emerge from this run of low scores: Bangar



Pune, Apr 27 (PTI):

RCB head coach Sanjay Bangar reiterated that star batter Virat Kohli will soon "emerge" out of the lean phase he is experiencing at the moment and help his team win games going forward in the IPL.

Kohli's scores in his last five innings read 9, 0, 0, 12 and 1. The manner of his dismissals also show that he is not in the best of form.

"Regarding Kohli's form, he's a great cricketer. He's experienced these highs and lows many times before. I've observed him from close quarters.

"He has the spirit and he'll emerge from these run of low scores. In the coming crucial games, he'll help us win," Bangar said at the post match press conference after RCB's 29-run loss to Rajasthan Royals.

"We aren't talking about anything different (in practice), to be honest. The way he prepares, he always puts himself out of comfort zone and prepares and that's his specialty.

## Samson wasting good form and opportunity to press for international recall: Bishop

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

Former West Indies speedster Ian Bishop reckons Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson is wasting good form and opportunity to press for a recall in the Indian T20 set up by not playing impactful innings in the IPL.

The wicketkeeper-batter is still on the fringes of the Indian T20 team and a stellar show in the IPL could help him stake a claim in the T20 World Cup squad. "That Sanju is wasting good form and good opportunity to score runs to press for an international recall, to lead his team when Jos Buttler doesn't score," Bishop said on ESPNcricinfo's 'T20 Time Out'. Although, Samson is a delight to watch when he gets going, the free flowing right hander is yet to consistently play the kind of impactful innings one expects from him.

He last featured for India in the T20 home series against Sri Lanka in February.

With the flamboyant Jos Buttler failing against RCB on Tuesday, it was the perfect opportunity for the RR skipper to rise to the occasion. Samson even looked in good touch, smashing three sixes and a four but could only manage 27 off 21. He was dis-



missed by Sri Lanka spinner Wanindu Hasaranga after missing an attempted reverse-sweep.

"It's not that Sanju's out of form. But that's a match-up with Wanindu Hasaranga and him, and he should have known better. He got out of the blocks quite nicely," Bishop said.

"I'm a Sanju Samson fan, been that way for years now, (but) he's wasting good form by shot selection," Bishop added. Former New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori feels the game comes too "easy" to Samson and he thus tries to do too many things. "It feels like the game is too easy for him, so I'm going to try something different, I'm going to try and make sure I can play every shot in the book." He is at his best when he's striking down the ground," Vettori said.

## Pull out of IPL, for all you care: Shastri tells Kohli

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

For the second time in a week, former India coach Ravi Shastri has advised the out-of-form Virat Kohli to take a break, even if it meant "pulling out of the IPL, for all you care" to prolong his international career.

Batting maestro Kohli has been battling one of his worst phases in a hugely successful career, having failed to score a hundred in any format for more than three years now.

"I think a break is ideal for him because he has played non-stop cricket and he has captained the side across all formats. It will be wise of him to take a break. "You know, sometimes you have to draw the balance. This year he is already into the tournament (IPL 2022), tomorrow if push comes to shove and you want to prolong your international career and make a mark there for 6-7 years, pull out of the IPL,



for all you care," Shastri told Star Sports presenter Jatin Sapru on his YouTube channel.

Kohli was promoted to the top of the order against Rajasthan Royals on Tuesday after back-to-back ducks but the move also did not yield the desired result as the former India captain was out for nine. RCB lost the match by 29 runs.

Shastri emphasised on the importance of a break in a player's career at a time when the calendar is crammed with one assign-

ment after another.

"Not only Virat, I'll tell that to any other player. If you want to play and do well for India, you have to draw the line where you want to take that break and the ideal break would be off-season where India is not playing and the only time India does not play is the IPL," Shastri said.

Kohli, the former India skipper in all three formats, stepped down from captaincy roles last year. He has not scored a century in any format since November 2019.

## We're too good a team for our results to not change: Ponting

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

All Delhi Capitals need is a little bit of momentum to get their IPL campaign back on track as they are "too good a team for the results not to change", feels head coach Ricky Ponting.

With three wins and four losses in the first seven matches of the season, Delhi Capitals are currently seventh in the points table.

Reflecting on the first half of the season, Ponting said, "I've said it a few times this year where there's 36 or 37 overs of really good stuff, and we just let it slip for two or three overs.

"And, that's the difference in these games. We sort of gear ourselves to not overtrain in the first part of the season, try and build up along the way. But our performances have been win one, lose one, win one. So, we need to start getting that little bit of momentum."

Ponting warned his



players against trying "too hard" in the second half of IPL. "I know we're so close to turning it all around. We've all got to trust, we've got to believe, we've got to stay upbeat and positive. And if we are, things will definitely change for us.

"The harder we try from here, the harder it's going to get. We're just going to stay nice and relax and keep repeating things we've been doing. And then results will definitely come our way. We are too good a team for the results not to change," he said ahead of Thursday's game against Kolkata Knight Riders.

### Badminton Asia Championships

## Saina wins opening match, Sen makes first round exit

Manila, Apr 27 (PTI):

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal won her opening match but Lakshya Sen and B Sai Praneeth made first round exits from the Badminton Asia Championships here on Wednesday.

Saina, who has been on a comeback trial after recovering from some nagging injuries, eked out a 21-15 17-21 21-13 win over Sim Yujin of South Korea. But world championships bronze medal winner Sen was stunned by the unseeded Li Shi Feng of China.

The fifth seed Indian lost 21-12 10-21 19-21 in his opening round men's singles tie that lasted 56 minutes.

World no 19 Praneeth suffered a straight game 17-21 13-21 defeat against Jonathan Christie of Indonesia.

It was also the end of the



road for Aakarshi Kashyap, who lost 15-21 9-21 against Japanese top seed Akane Yamaguchi in the women's singles.

Both the women's doubles pair of Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam and Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker also made opening round exits after losing in straight games.

While Bhat and Gautam went down 19-21 12-21 to

Anna Ching Yik Cheong and Teoh Mei Xing of Malaysia, Singhi and Thaker lost 15-21 11-21 against seventh seeded Malaysian pair of Pearly Tan and Muralitharan Thinaah.

Later in the day, PV Sindhu, Malvika Bansod and Kidambi Srikanth will be in action in their respective singles matches.

## RR to celebrate Warne's life in IPL match against MI on Saturday

Navi Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

Rajasthan Royals will celebrate the extraordinary life of legendary Australian spinner Shane Warne, who died recently, during their Indian Premier League match against Mumbai Indians here on Saturday.

Warne had lifted the inaugural IPL trophy after the Royals beat Chennai Super Kings by three wickets in the final in 2008, and his former franchise said it will pay tribute to its first captain to coincide with the team's triumph exactly 14 years back.

The franchise said Warne's brother, Jason will also be part of the celebration as he has accepted an invitation from the Jaipur-based side.

Considered one of the greatest cricketers of all time, Warne died of suspected heart attack at the Thai resort of Koh Samui last month. He was 52. He took 708 wickets from 145



Tests, besides 293 ODI wickets from 194 matches between 1992 and 2007.

"It is befitting that the same stadium where Warne lifted the IPL trophy will see the cricketing world come together to pay their respects and celebrate his life," the franchise said in a release.

"The franchise would like to iterate that it will not be

an occasion to mourn, but to commemorate the great man, and salute him for his never-ending contribution to the game of cricket as well as impacting thousands of lives around the world through his words, energy, and actions both on and off the field."

It said the celebrations will be led by the franchise and supported by the BCCI.

The Rajasthan Royals playing squad will sport special initials 'SW23' on leading collars of their official playing kits to pay tribute to the legendary Australian. A special area at the DY Patil Stadium has also been turned into a Shane Warne Tribute Gallery, which all the ticket-holding fans will be able to visit and experience.

Manchester, Apr 27 (AP):

It was the coolest of penalties at the end of one of the wildest matches in Champions League history.

With his cheekily dispatched Panenka, Karim Benzema might just have kept Real Madrid's chances alive against Manchester City in the semifinals.

City won a breathless first-leg match 4-3 at Etihad Stadium on Tuesday but squandered so many chances in an end-to-end, basketball-style epic that it hardly felt like a victory for the English club.

We could have killed them off, said Phil Foden, one of City's four scorers in a game that had pretty much everything.

City built a two-goal lead three times but just couldn't shake off Madrid, the kings of the competition



Real Madrid's French striker Karim Benzema celebrates after scoring a penalty kick and his team third goal during the UEFA Champions League semi-final first leg football match between Manchester City and Real Madrid, at the Etihad Stadium, in Manchester.

as City manager Pep Guardiola calls them. So it felt inevitable that when Aymeric Laporte

## Benzema keeps Madrid alive in CL despite 4-3 loss to City

Santiago Bernabeu for next week's second leg with, somehow, only a one-goal deficit.

Just when many inside the stadium were losing their heads, Benzema kept his, chipping the ball high and straight down the middle before wheeling away in front of Madrid's jubilant fans with his arms outstretched.

The most important thing is we never lay down our arms, Benzema said. We are all in this until the end.

With the France striker in his team, Madrid will never lose hope.

His double here after back-to-back hat tricks earlier in the knockout stage took his total in the Champions League this season to a competition-high 14 goals. Benzema now has 41 goals in all competitions in the most prolific season of his career.

gave away a penalty with 10 minutes remaining, Madrid wouldn't waste the opportunity to return to



## LAST MINUTE REVISION



Students revise for the exam before appearing for the CBSE Exam for Term 2, outside an examination centre, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

## 'Nearly 20 million women digitally literate in India under PMGDISHA'

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Nearly 20 million women have been certified to be digitally literate in India under the PMGDISHA programme dedicated to digital literacy, Union minister Smriti Irani said on Wednesday. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) aims to empower the people in rural areas by training them to operate computer or digital access devices (like tablets, smart phones, etc.), send and receive e-mails, browse internet, access government services, and undertake digital payment, among

others.

Responding to a question at an interactive session at the Raisina Dialogue, India's premier foreign policy and geo-economics conference, Irani said there is much that is being done in India digitally and otherwise. She said PM's DISHA programme has close to 20 million certified digitally literate women in India.

"When India went into lockdown, we did not have a single PPE suit in the country and the workforce that made those PPE suit, about 75 per cent of it were Indian women and in just three months we became the second largest



Smriti Irani

exporters in the world and that is an indicator of female potential in Indian manufacturing," she said.

"We have 6.6 million women who are first responders in the COVID-19 pandemic, be it doctors, nurses, ASHA workers,

and Anganwadi workers," the women and child development minister added.

She said under Ayushman Bharat, the footfall of women in hospitals and healthcare establishments in last two years has been 450 million and women who are getting themselves checked for cancer or cervix, the number is 70 million.

"When you have a government which ensures that their needs are financially supported, they do not withdraw from these services," he said.

Responding to a question on what role can a

male and a female leader play in ensuring gender justice, Irani said "a male leader takes you where you want to be and a female leader possibly takes you where you ought to be but a male leader who gives the promise of gender justice ensures that you reach commutatively as a society at a position where women do not have to struggle to be an equal partner in developing your country culturally, financially and becoming a global voice as one".

On the pandemic's impact on India, she said the prime minister ensured that gender needs are at the centre of policy.

## Lakhimpur Kheri violence

### HC judge withdraws from hearing Mishra's bail plea

Lucknow, Apr 27 (PTI):

An Allahabad High court judge withdrew himself on Wednesday from a bench hearing the bail plea of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra Monu in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case. Justice Rajeev Singh of the Lucknow bench of the high court, who had granted bail to Ashish Mishra earlier, recused himself from hearing it again after the Supreme Court cancelled his bail order last week on April 18.

While cancelling Mishra's bail, the Supreme Court had also asked the high court to decide his bail plea afresh and the plea came up for hearing before Justice Singh's

bench. But he recused himself from hearing it afresh. Justice Singh, however, gave no reason for withdrawing himself from the single-judge bench hearing the bail plea. The next hearing of the bail plea too was not scheduled and it would be fixed for the next hearing after the constitution of a new bench to hear it, a court official said.

Ashish Mishra had been arrested in the October 3 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case in which eight people, including four farmers and a journalist, were killed and several others were injured when a convoy of SUVs, including a Thar allegedly owned by Ajay Mishra, had run over a group of protesting farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri. In the violence that

followed, two BJP workers and the driver of the Thar vehicle too were killed. The farmers were protesting against the then Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area on October 3 last year.

According to the FIR lodged in the case, Ashish Mishra was sitting in one of the cars. The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court had granted regular bail to Ashish Mishra, observing that the present case was one of "accident by hitting with the vehicle". But the Supreme Court cancelled the bail, saying that the victims were denied "a fair and effective hearing" by the Allahabad High Court, which adopted a "myopic view of the evidence".

## NEC sanctions Rs 2.03 cr for modernisation of Tripura tea estate

Agartala, Apr 27 (PTI): The North Eastern Council (NEC) has sanctioned Rs. 2.03 crore for the modernisation of Brahmakunda tea estate in West Tripura district, Tripura Tea Development Corporation (TTDC) chairman Santosh Saha said. The state government had sent three proposals to the NEC for the modernisation of Durgabari tea estate and Brahmakunda tea estate and setting up of a tea museum at Durgabari tea estate - all in West Tripura district. Recently, the NEC has sanctioned Rs. 2.03 crore for modernisation of Brahmakunda tea garden while the two other projects are under active consideration of the NEC, he told journalists on Wednesday. The modernisation works at Brahmakunda tea estate will begin at the earliest and plans are afoot to complete it by one year, Saha said.

## 'Youth, women want me to join politics'

Ahmedabad, Apr 27 (PTI):

Influential Patidar leader Naresh Patel, who heads Shree Khodaldham Temple Trust, on Wednesday claimed that though the older generation is against him joining politics, youth and women want him to take the route.

Patel's comments have come days after Ramesh Tilala, a senior trustee, had opined that he should not join politics and continue with social work through Shree Khodaldham Temple Trust in Kagvad village of Gujarat's Rajkot district.

"It is a fact that elderly people don't want me to join politics. Rameshbhai must be talking about their views. However, the

younger generation and women strongly feel that I should take up politics," Patel told reporters in Rajkot.

Notably, a committee of Shree Khodaldham Trust (SKT) has already started a survey to find out what the community had to say about Patel's entry into politics. Tilalal had said that Patel will take a final decision based on the outcome of that survey.

"I will make an announcement soon about joining politics," said Patel when asked about his plans.

For some time now, there have been speculations that Patel will join the Congress ahead of the Gujarat Assembly elections. He even met poll strategist Prashant

Kishor in New Delhi last Saturday.

Now, when Kishor himself has declined to join the Congress, there is still uncertainty about Patel's entry in the party.

"Prashant Kishor is my friend. I am confident that he will remain by my side whenever I take a decision to join politics," Patel said.

The SKT headed by Patel manages the affairs of Shree Khodaldham temple dedicated to goddess Khodiyar, the patron deity of the Leuva Patel community, in Rajkot district.

The Patidars form about 11-12 per cent of the population in Gujarat and are an influential caste group whose votes can sway results in many constituencies.

## Raj govt to develop tourist circuit with Wagah-Attari border-like retreat show

Jaipur, Apr 27 (PTI): Tourists visiting Rajasthan will soon have a Wagah-Attari border-like experience at the state's Tanot-Bawlianwala border with Pakistan. With the support of the Border Security Force, the state's Tourist Department has launched an ambitious plan to develop a tourist circuit in the next 18 months for Rs 19 crore in the state. The circuit would comprise the Tanot Mata temple, Kishangarh Fort, Longewala War Memorial and scenic villages amid the vast desert terrain of the state, an official said. "The border and associated history lay an irresistible charm for tourists. The development of the Tanot Mata Tourist Complex shall assure a safe and comfortable visit while showcasing the difficult life of the BSF personnel, Principal Secretary (Tourism) Gayatri Rathore said.

## Kashmir residents see no relief from power outages

Srinagar, Apr 27 (PTI):

There seems to be no relief in sight for the residents of Kashmir facing electricity outages for the past several days, with the authorities citing the early onset of summer and sub-optimal hydro power generation as reasons for unscheduled power cuts.

Kashmir is going through one of its worst power crisis as unscheduled and prolonged cuts in supply in the holy month of Ramzan have left the people distraught.

Officials in the electricity department said the supply in April was around 900 to 1100 MW while the demand was 1600 MW, thereby, creating a deficit which has

forced them to go for unscheduled power cuts.

People in the valley complain that power supply often get disrupted at the time of sehri (when pre-dawn meals to begin the day's fast are taken) and iftar (when the fast is broken).

"There has been hardly a day when we have had electricity at the time of sehri or iftar. During the day, the situation gets worse. We have never faced such a situation before," Javid Ahmad, a resident of Ganderbal, said. Meanwhile, leaders of opposition parties have been blaming the administration for failing to provide relief to the residents.

Former J-K chief minister and National Conference (NC) vice

president Omar Abdullah said seeking electricity was the right of the people and that the situation in the Union Territory was contrary to the tall claims of the administration about development.

"It is our right to get electricity. They (the administration) made tall claims about development in J-K. Let them show where it is," Omar said here. The NC leader said the power situation was no better in Jammu.

"I was in Jammu a few days ago and right before 'sehri' and 'iftar', the electricity was snapped. The situation is similar here (in the Kashmir valley)," he added. Abdullah alleged that the power department looks for excuses to snap the electricity.

## EID RUSH



A huge crowd of people shopping at a market ahead of the upcoming festival of Eid, in Kolkata, Wednesday, April 27.

## 'Prashant Kishor responsible for TMC's defeat in Goa'

He tried to blackmail Cong which benefited BJP

Panaji, Apr 27 (PTI):

Goa Trinamool Congress chief Kiran Kandolkar resigned on Wednesday and alleged that political strategist Prashant Kishor was responsible for the "humiliating" defeat of the Mamata Banerjee-led party in the recent state Assembly polls who also tried to "blackmail" the Congress. Addressing a press conference, Kandolkar claimed that Kishor ended up helping BJP to form the government after the polls. The resignation of Kandolkar and two other

leaders, who had contested on the TMC symbol, came as another setback for the Mamata Banerjee-led party which is struggling to retain its flock in Goa since the poll debacle. The TMC drew a blank in its maiden electoral outing in Goa. "Prashant Kishor was responsible for the TMC's humiliating defeat in Goa polls. He was in Goa to blackmail the Congress and eventually ended up



Kiran Kandolkar

helping the BJP to form the government again," Kandolkar alleged. He, however, didn't elaborate on the "blackmail" charge against Kishor, who recently declined to join Congress. Kandolkar, along with Tarak Arolkar, and Sandeep Vazarkar have resigned from the primary membership of the Mamata Banerjee-led party. Days earlier, Kandolkar's wife Kavita Kandolkar had

also quit the TMC, owing to "pressure" from her supporters.

Soon after Kavita Kandolkar's resignation move, the Goa TMC tweeted that the party was restructuring the entire AITC Goa State Committee with immediate effect. Kiran Kandolkar had quit as the working president of the Goa Forward Party to join the TMC in the run-up to the polls held in February this year. Kandolkar and his wife had contested on TMC tickets from Aldona and Thivim constituencies, respectively, but lost.

## Oppn accuses Modi of playing politics on fuel prices

● BJP slams its 'hypocrisy'

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

The Opposition on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of playing politics during his meeting with chief ministers on the Covid situation by raising the issue of fuel prices and "passing the buck" on to states to reduce VAT on petrol and diesel.

Hitting out at the Opposition, the BJP said its stance reeks of hypocrisy and alleged that for every litre of petrol, opposition-ruled states were

earning twice as much as the BJP-ruled states.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said the Centre owed Rs 26,500 crore to the state, after Prime Minister Modi said some states did not reduce VAT on petrol and diesel despite the excise duty cut by the Union government in November last year.

Thackeray also accused the Centre of a step-motherly treatment to Maharashtra and that the state government was not responsible for the rise in prices of petrol and diesel.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala attacked Modi,

demanding that he give an account of the Rs 27 lakh crore "collected" by the BJP government from tax on petrol and diesel.

"Modi ji, No criticism, No distractions, No Jumlas! Please give an account of ₹27,00,00,00,00,00 (₹27 Lakh Crore) collected by BJP Govt from Tax on Petrol & Diesel," Surjewala said.

He said that on May 26, 2014, when PM Modi assumed charge, crude oil was USD 108 per barrel, but petrol and diesel were priced at Rs 71.41 and Rs 55.49 per litre, while today, crude oil is USD 100.20 per barrel, but the petrol and

diesel prices have been increased to Rs 105.41/litre and Rs 96.67/litre respectively in Delhi.

"We will urge all states to decrease VAT on Petrol/Diesel to pre-May 2014 level. Please admit BJP Govt earned Rs 27 Lakh Crore from Petrol/Diesel while all states collectively received about 16.5 Lakh Crore. Central Govt revenue from Petrol/Diesel has doubled in 8 years," he said in a series of tweets.

Shiv Sena leader Priyanka Chaturvedi also slammed the prime minister, alleging that he made the "COVID meeting about politics".