



### BRIEF



College students use umbrella to protect themselves from scorching heat during a hot summer day, in Kolkata, Sunday.

### Shot dead

**Jammu:** A Pakistani intruder was killed as Army troops foiled a major infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district early Sunday, a defence spokesman said. Officials said the infiltration attempt by three suspected terrorists was foiled in Shahpur sector around 2.15 am when troops guarding the LoC picked up their movement and engaged them in a gunfight.

### Inspect

**Hyderabad:** Railway Board Chairman and CEO Anil Kumar Lahoti on Sunday inspected the working of "KAVACH"—an indigenous Automatic Train Protection system—between Lingampalli and Chitigidaa stations in Telangana. Lahoti travelled in one of the locomotives as part of the first-hand demonstration. The locomotives are equipped with KAVACH systems and he observed how the system automatically regulates the speed of the train while passing through the loop lines.

### Depart

**Amritsar:** Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee on Sunday sent a 'jatha' (group) of Sikh pilgrims to participate in a religious congregation to be organised on Khalsa Sajna Diwas (Baisakhi) at Gurdwara Sri Panja Sahib in Pakistan. Besides the SGPC, Sikh devotees sponsored by Haryana Gurdwara Management and Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee also crossed over to Pakistan on Sunday through the Joint Check post of Attari border (JCP), officials said.

### Suicide

**Thane:** The police in Maharashtra's Thane district on Sunday registered a case against a man for allegedly raping his 17-year-old relative and abetting her suicide, an official said. According to the police, the victim, who hailed from Bihar, had been living with a relative's family in Shiphata area to pursue her education.

### Booked

**Budaun:** A head constable here has been booked on the charges of rape, molestation, extortion, blackmail and forced abortion of a woman, officials said on Sunday. The victim, in her complaint on Monday, alleged that about a year ago head constable Pannalal came to her house with another person and raped her while the other person filmed the act, they said.

**Weather**  
High 36 Low 24

### COVID PREPAREDNESS

## Nationwide drill in hospitals on Apr 10, 11

New Delhi, Apr 09 (PTI):

Amid rising COVID-19 cases, a nationwide mock drill to take stock of hospital preparedness will be held on April 10 and 11 in which both public and private facilities are expected to participate.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will visit AIIMS, Jhajjar on April 10 to oversee the mock drill, officials said on Sunday. In a review meeting held on April 7, Mandaviya had urged state health ministers to visit hospitals and oversee the mock drills. He had also advised them to review the preparedness with district administrations and health officials

on April 8 and 9. In the meeting with state health ministers, and principal and additional chief secretaries held virtually, Mandaviya had stressed the need to identify emergency hotspots by monitoring trends of influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases, ramping up testing and vaccination, and ensuring readiness of hospital infrastructure. Besides enhancing genome sequencing and ramping up whole genome sequencing of positive samples, he had emphasised creating awareness about following Covid-appropriate behaviour. During the meeting, states and union territories were

informed that currently the World Health Organisation (WHO) is closely tracking a variant of interest (VOI), XBB.1.5, and six other variants are under monitoring (BQ.1, BA.2.75, CH.1.1, XBB, XBF and XBB.1.16), a health ministry statement had said. It was highlighted that while Omicron and its sub-lineages continue to be the predominant variants, most of the assigned variants have little or no significant transmissibility, disease severity or immune escape. The prevalence of XBB.1.16 increased from 21.6 per cent in February to 35.8 per cent in March. However, no evidence of an increase in hospitalisation or mortality has been

reported, the statement said. During the meeting, it was observed that 23 states and union territories had average tests per million below the national average.

Mandaviya had said that irrespective of the new variants, the five-fold strategy of 'Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and adherence to Covid-Appropriate Behaviour' continues to remain the tested strategy for Covid management.

States and union territories were also requested to expeditiously increase the rate of testing from 100 tests per million as on the week ending April 7. They were further advised to increase the share of RT-PCR in tests.

### SHOCKING TRUTH

## Man found burning on road dies

**Ujjain, Apr 09 (PTI):** A 42-year-old man whose name had cropped up in connection with a bribery incident was found ablaze under mysterious circumstances on a road in Ujjain city of Madhya Pradesh and later died during treatment, police said on Sunday.

Police are investigating the incident from various angles, an officer said.

The incident occurred on Saturday night when a burning man came out rushing from a public toilet under the Kotwali police station area.

"The man, identified only as Asif, was found burning on road. He was later shifted to Indore for treatment but succumbed to his injuries on Sunday," said Kotwali po-

### Cops launch investigation

lice station in-charge Narendra Singh Parihar. A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abhishek Anand said a video of the incident indicated that Asif had set himself on fire but a probe is underway from all angles.

Anand said Asif's name had come up in a case wherein Lokayukta Police had nabbed a police constable for accepting a bribe.

Parihar also confirmed that Asif was the same man whom the constable had handed over money after running out of the police station during the Lokayukta Police action on April 7.

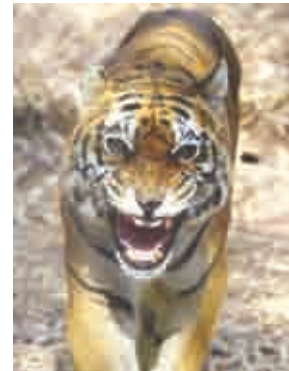
### LATEST TIGER CENSUS

## 'India has 3,167 tigers'

**Mysuru (Karnataka), Apr 09 (PTI):** India's tiger population rose by 200 in the past four years to reach 3,167 in 2022, the latest tiger census data released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Sunday revealed.

According to the data, the tiger population was 1,411 in 2006, 1,706 in 2010, 2,226 in 2014, 2,967 in 2018 and 3,167 in 2022.

At the inaugural session of the commemoration of 50 years of 'Project Tiger', the Prime Minister also launched the 'International Big Cat Alliance' (IBCA) and released a booklet 'Amrit Kaal Ka Tiger Vision', presenting the vision for tiger conservation in the next 25 years. The Prime Minister



A tiger in its enclosure at Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal, Sunday.

said that protection of wildlife was a universal issue, adding that IBCA was India's endeavour for the protection and conservation of big cats. "Cheetahs had become ex-

## 'India believe in coexistence between ecology and economy'

**Mysuru (K'taka), Apr 09 (PTI):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India did not believe in conflict between ecology and economy but gave importance to coexistence between the two.

Protection of wildlife was a universal issue, Modi said, launching the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), which endeavours to protect and conserve big cats.

The Prime Minister was speaking after inaugurating the programme Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger organised at Karnataka State Open University.

Citing data about the tiger population in India, which stood at 3,167 in 2022, Modi said, "The tiger numbers that we have reached shows that this family of ours is



PM speaks at the inaugural session of commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger, in Mysuru, Sunday.

growing. This is a moment of pride." Calling for a standing ovation to celebrate the rise in tiger population, he added, "I'm confident and I assure the world that in the days to come we will achieve more."

According to the data, the tiger population was 1,411 in 2006, 1,706 in 2010, 2,226 in 2014, 2,967 in 2018

and 3,167 in 2022. Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav and Minister of State Ashwini Kumar Choubey were present, among others, at the event.

The Prime Minister said the success of 'Project Tiger' was a matter of pride not only for India but the whole world.

Stating that India had not only saved tigers, but created an ecosystem for them to flourish, he said, "India is a country where protecting nature is part of the culture."

"For wildlife to thrive, it is important for ecosystems to thrive. This has been happening in India," he said, adding that protecting wildlife was not the issue of just one country, but a global one.

### MAOIST UNLEASH VIOLENCE

## Vendor killed, 2 others injured by Naxalites

**Sukma, Apr 09:** A grocery vendor was killed and two others were injured in Sukma allegedly by a group of Naxalites who accused them of being police informers, an official said on Sunday. Sometime later, an encounter took place between these Naxalites and security personnel in which four to five ultras are believed to have sustained bullet injuries, he said. Vendors Pradip Baghel, Sunil Pradhan and Gopal Baghel from Dornapal had gone to sell groceries in the interiors of Polampalli on Saturday and were apprehended on their way back at Palamagdu by Naxalites of the 'Konta Area Committee', Sukma

Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma told PTI. "The three were thrashed with sticks and left in injured condition, while their motorcycles were taken away by the ultras.

On being alerted about the incident on Saturday night, a District Reserve Guard team was sent to the spot. Pradip succumbed to injuries while being shifted to the hospital," the SP said. When security personnel were cordoning off the forest near Palamagdu and Arlampalli villages in the early hours of Sunday, this group of Naxalites, numbering around 35, opened fire, which triggered an encounter, the official said.

### EASTER CELEBRATION



Young women and children light candles on the occasion of Easter, in Moradabad, Sunday.

## 'Noor Jahan' mango loses glow as only 8 trees remain

**In Alirajpur**

**Indore, Apr 09 (PTI):** Madhya Pradesh's popular 'Noor Jahan' mango, which weighs around 3.5 kg, is losing its lustre, as only eight fruit-bearing trees are left in Alirajpur district, an official said on Sunday. There are only eight 'Noor Jahan' mango trees left in private orchards in Katthiwada area and this is a matter of concern, Alirajpur's Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) head Dr RK Yadav told PTI. A few decades ago, a fruit from this mango variety used to weigh up to 4.5 kg, but it has now come down to around 3.5 kg, he said. "We want to save the 'Noor Jahan' mango for the future generations. We



Noorjahan, a rare mango variety famous for giant fruits, losing shine in its homeland Madhya Pradesh, Krishi Vigyan Kendra starts its conservation process.

have planted two trees through the propagation method and they are expected to bear fruit in the next three to four years.

## Kurmis lift rail blockade at Kustaur station

**Starts new blockade at Kotshila**

**Kolkata, Apr 09 (PTI):**

A five-day long rail blockade by Kurmi community over several demands including scheduled tribe status that led to cancellation of at least 500 trains was withdrawn from Kustaur station in Purulia district on Sunday, only to be started at Kotshila within an hour.

Kurmi leader Ajit Mahato said that they were withdrawing the agitation at present from Kustaur station, while maintaining that they will intensify their programme after discussions among the leadership for achieving their demands. A new blockade of rail-

### DEMAND FOR ST STATUS

#### Passengers face hardship

The blockade at the two railway stations led to cancellation of around 500 express and passenger trains since April 5, causing immense hardship to thousands of passengers, the SER official said. Scores of super fast and express trains connecting various destinations in the country with West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand have been cancelled daily over the last five days, including New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express, Howrah-Pune-Howrah Duronto Express, Howrah-Ahmedabad Express, Howrah-Mumbai-Howrah Mail and Alappuzha-Dhanbad Express.

way tracks was started at Kotshila station also in Purulia district at 12.20 pm, within an hour of the lifting of agitation at Kustaur, situated 48 km

### GODHRA TRAIN BURNING CASE

## SC to hear pleas of Gujarat govt, convicts today

**New Delhi, Apr 09 (PTI):** The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday bail pleas of several convicts serving life imprisonment in the 2002 Godhra train burning case. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala is scheduled to hear along with the bail applications a batch of pleas of the convicts challenging their convictions.

On March 24, the top court had said it will dispose of the bail applications of the convicts on the next date of hearing of the matter. It had taken note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Gujarat government, that

he has to verify certain factual details with regard to some convicts.

The top court had, however, extended the bail granted to one of the convicts on the ground that his wife was suffering from cancer. Mehta had supported the extension of bail on medical grounds.

Earlier on March 17, the top court had said it will hear on March 24 the appeal of the Gujarat government and the bail pleas of several accused in the case.

On February 20, the state government had told the top court that it will be seeking death penalty to 11 convicts whose sentences in the 2002 Godhra train burning case were commuted to life imprison-

ment by the Gujarat High Court. "We will be seriously pressing for award of death penalty to the convicts whose death penalties were commuted into life imprisonment (by the Gujarat High Court). This is the rarest of rare cases where 59 people, including women and children, were burnt alive," the solicitor general had said.

"It is consistent everywhere that the bogie (coach) was locked from outside. Fifty-nine died, including ladies and children," he had added.

Giving details on the court case, the law officer had said 11 convicts were sentenced to death by a trial court and 20 others granted life term in the case.

## PM Modi interacts with 'The Elephant Whisperers' couple

**Mudumalai (TN), April 09 (PTI):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday visited the Theppakkadu elephant camp at Mudumalai in the hilly Nilgiris district and interacted with Bellie and Bomman, the elephant caretakers who featured in an Oscar-winning documentary.

The PM expressed delight over meeting the elephant caretaker couple.

Modi, who reached Mysuru in Karnataka on Saturday evening from Chennai following official engagements there, visited the tiger sanctuary briefly today.

Upon his arrival, the PM was accorded a welcome by the pachyderms and he fed sugarcane to some of



the elephants in the Theppakkadu camp at the tiger reserve here.

He later interacted with Bellie and Bomman, who have won accolades after they featured in the Academy award-winning documentary, "The Elephant Whisperers."



## Announcement of half electricity bill scheme is the victory of Bhilai residents: Pandey

## BSP signs MOU with CREDA for Solar Power Plants in Township

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 09:** Former Speaker of Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha, Prem Prakash Pandey termed the Chief Minister's announcement to bring a proposal in the cabinet to extend the benefits of half electricity bill scheme to the domestic consumers of Bhilai Steel Plant township residents, as a victory for the residents of Bhilai.

Pandey said that some leaders and officials of the township kept misleading the people for more than three and a half years. Officials said that until the supply line of BSP is not handed over



to CSPDCL, the benefit of half electricity bill cannot be given to the domestic consumers of BSP township. Pandey said that earlier also he had tried to bring this matter in front of the public and now the people are going to get its benefit.

Pandey further said that the state government has given exemption in elec-

tricity bill up to 400 units to all the domestic consumers of the state. The benefit of which must also be given to the domestic consumers of BSP township.

This is the constitutional right of township residents. The state government cannot discriminate between any two companies. Pandey said that they had filed a Public Interest Litigation in the court which created a pressure on the state government after which this decision was taken.

"We demand that this exemption should be given to the residents of the township from the year 2019. If the township residents get the benefits from March 1, 2023, then this proposal is not appropriate", Pandey said. He further said that this announcement has been made in view of the upcoming elections. If the state government does not give the benefit of half electricity bill with effect from 2019, Pandey said that he will continue the movement further.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 09:** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and Chhattisgarh State Renewable Energy Development Agency (CREDA) for installation of Solar Power Plants at various locations in the township identified by BSP.

The MoU was signed at ED (P&A) Conference Hall in the presence of Mukhopadhyay ED (Projects) & ED (P&A) and other Senior officials. The signatories for the MoU were JY Sapkale, CGM (TSD & CSR), from BSP,

and Rajeev Gyani SE from CREDA.

Other senior officers present were Sanjeev Jain, Chief Engineer (CREDA), SV Nandanwar, CGM (Special Projects), Rajeev Pandey, CGM (PPI), T Krishna Kumar, CGM (Electrical), HS Bains, GM (Law), Dinesh Kumar, GM (TEED), AK Chouhan, DGM (TEED), and Vishnu Pathak, GM (Civil).

The Government of India has commitments towards Green Energy at national level. As a part of intended nationally determined contribution (INDCs), under the MNRE Phase-II scheme India has committed to enhance the

country-wide solar power generation capacity to 38,000 Megawatt by the end of 2024. Abiding by the MNRE Guidelines towards development of renewable energy the Town Electrical Department (TEED) of Bhilai Steel plant, has taken the initiative of adopting solar energy for sustainable development.

BSP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CREDA, a State Government's Nodal Agency for development and promotion of non-conventional & renewable sources of energy, for "Selection of the Firm

(System Integrator) with price discovery for placing of order for "Supply, Installation testing & commissioning of grid connected Solar Power Plants" at various locations in the township.

Under the MoU, BSP will conduct a joint survey based on a feasibility report submitted by CREDA. So far 11 Residential locations have been identified for installation of Solar Power units, which include, Ispat Bhavan JLN Hospital & Research Center, MTT Hostel, Vizag Hostel, Bokaro Hostel, Senior Secondary School, Sector-10, etc.

## 'Swachhata Saptah' organised to mark World Health Day

## DMC: No surcharge on tax till April 30

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 09:** The Public Health Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has been celebrating "World Health Day", as the department's Foundation Day, since its very inception.

On this day, besides release of the report on departmental works, discussions are also held on the annual theme announced by the World Health Organization. The departmental staff are also felicitated for their outstanding performance during the year.

In view of an uninterrupted work execution, it was proposed to celebrate the Foundation Day by following the work in a different and innovative man-

ner: Under which, towards achieving the motto of "Swachh Bhilai, Swasth Bhilai", a 'Swachhata Saptah' or cleanliness week is being observed by holding special cleanliness and public awareness programs along with various other events from April 07, 2023 to April 15, 2023.

On the first day of 'Swachhata Saptah', special cleaning activities were carried out in the old Civic Center area of Bhilai, on April 07. On the subsequent day, on April 08, an awareness campaign against the use of polythene was organized in the A-Market area of Sector-6.

In the coming days of 'Swachhata Saptah', Safai Abhiyan is scheduled, whereby special Cleanliness & Awareness



activities shall be carried out with public participation at several locations of Bhilai including, the adjoining areas of Civic Centre on April 09, awareness campaigns against the use of polythene in Boria Market and Chhattisgarh Sabzi Mandi, Ruabandha on April 10 and 11, and in A-Market, Sector-4, and Zonal Market, Sector-10 on April 12 and 13 respectively.

On the last day, on April 15, an awareness campaign against the use of polythene is going to be organized in the C-Market area of Sector 6. The closing ceremony of 9-day long 'Swachhata Saptah' is proposed on April 17, 2023 at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir, Bhilai.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 09:** The Durg Municipal Corporation has given extra time to the residents of the city who have not been able to deposit tax and no surcharge will be taken till April 30. The Durg Municipal Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar has taken this decision so as to give another chance to the people and informed that the counter will be open for this.

The Corporation Commissioner explained that citizens, traders and other taxpayers were given time till March 31 to deposit the tax for the year

2022-23. The tax payers have not yet deposited the tax. It was told by the Revenue Department that after the end of the financial year, a penalty fee of Rs 1000 and a surcharge of 15 percent is taken from the tax payers.

But decision has been taken that no additional fee will be charged till the end of this month, i.e., April, from those who have not deposited the tax within the prescribed period. This scheme is applicable only for the year 2022-23. Old defaulters will not be given any exemption in depositing tax. They have to deposit the amount with surcharge.

## Chemistry Dept of St Thomas College organises essay competition

## Pragya Puran Katha concludes at Sector 10



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 09:** The Department of Chemistry, St Thomas College Ruabandha and IQAC organized an essay competition to mark "World Water Day". The theme of Essay competition was Accelerating the Change to Solve the water and sanitation crisis.

The PG students participated in the competition and they wrote different

types of essay on the basis of the theme. They also learnt how we change our environment and solve the water problems.

HOD Dr James Matew and Dr Chanda Verma appreciated the essays. The 1st prize went to Harshita Yadav of MSc 4th Sem Chemistry and 2nd prize was won by Aanchal Kannoje M Sc 4th Sem Chemistry and third went to of M Sc 4th Sem Chemistry.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 09:** Under the auspices of Gayatri Sadhana Kendra Risali, a five-day Pragya Puran Katha was organized from April 4 to 9 at Street 28, Sector-10. On the concluding day, a five-kundiya Gayatri Mahayagya was organized. Devotees offered aahutis to yajna devta and prayed for happiness, peace and prosperity for all. A large number of devotees participated in the religious rituals.

Story narrator Mahendra Bhai Verma, Girdhari Lal Sahu, Prithvipal Sahu, Bhukhan Verma, Digambar Banchoore and Hiraram were welcomed by the organizers Kapil Ram Verma and Yashoda Verma with garlands and tilak.

Describing the essence of the Pragya Puran Katha, story teller



Mahendra Bhai Verma said that "simple living - high thinking" is the essence of human life. Extravagance and show-off create a burden in life and can prove to be very painful.

One should leave the external show off and adopt simplicity in life. This is the main basis of spiritual and material progress.

There is no limit to craving, no limit to enjoyment and consumption, no end to material ambition.

Everyone should stay away from alcohol and non-vegetarian diets. It is a sin to fill your stomach by killing innocent and dumb animals. Non-vegetarian food is injurious to health and is also considered prohibited from a

spiritual point of view.

We conduct Satyanarayan Katha at homes and after listening to the story, we only remember Lilavati, Kalavati, the merchant and his son-in-law. Very soon we forget its actual meaning. If we adopt the teachings from Satyanarayan Katha and the life of Raja Harishchandra, the doors

to happiness, peace, prosperity and splendour would open immediately.

Always respect parents, elders and maintain the tradition of touching their feet. In order to make the children well cultured, it is necessary that such religious events and satsangs should be attended along with the family.

Ramswaroop Sahu,

Mohan Umre, Dharendra Sahu, Shiv Prasad Vastrakar, Bhupendra Meshram, Krishna Sahu, Rooplata Sahu, Lata Sahu, Ramesh Uike along with women and men workers and devotees of Sector-10 played a vital role in organising the event. Spiritual Literature and prasad were distributed after shantipath.

## Free homoeopathy camp for special children today

## GBM of BSP EX-OA today

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 09:** On the occasion of World Homeopathy Day and birthday of Dr Samuel Hahnemann, the father of Homeopathic medical science, a free homoeopathy medical camp has been organised on April 10 for the treatment of special children suffering from mental and physical disabilities. The camp will be held during 10:30 hrs to 12:30 hrs at Sneha Sampada Vidyalaya, Sector 8, Bhilai (Near 32 Bungalows).

This event has been organised by Predictive Homoeopathy Chhattisgarh in association with Sanjeevani Arogya Vahini for special treatment of children suffering from Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Autism, Blindness, Sickle Cell Disease and other diseases. Parents can register in advance with medical records of their

children on contact numbers 8964956854, 9131261013, 9691329071.

Renowned Homeopathic Practitioner Dr Laxprad informed that every year on 10 April, people around the world celebrate World Homeopathy Day to appreciate the life and legacy of German physician Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy. He was the doctor who pioneered the new alternative medicine at the end of the eighteenth century, which gave the knowledge of homeopathic medicine.

This year, as announced by the Union Ministry of AYUSH, the theme of World Homeopathy Day 2023 is "Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family" to promote health and wellness across the globe as a family with homeopathic treatment.

People believe in the restorative properties of homeopathic medicine

across the globe including our country India. Many people prefer homeopathy over allopathic medicine. The treatment of serious diseases was the focus of Samuel Hahnemann's research work. He also had the additional task of interpreting medical texts to earn a living. He was a good translator and had good knowledge of 11 languages.

World Homeopathy Day has been celebrated every year since 2005. German-born Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, known as the "Father of Homeopathy", was born on April 10, 1755. He was born in the house of a poor potter and was one of his 11 siblings.

He took the title of MD in Allopathy and was a civil surgeon of a city in Germany. But he did not like the suppressing effect of Allopathy and frequent recurrence of the disease. Then one day he came to know that diluting the

medicine increases its effects. Homeopathy was invented from here.

World Homeopathy Day commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr Hahnemann is also a time to reflect on the current status of homeopathy and possible future directions.

According to the Central Council of Homeopathic Studies, when a healthy person mimics a natural disease and produces similar symptoms, it is a technique of treating patients with medicines.

Homeopathy is a type of complementary medicine, using the concept of "symmetry" as a foundation of treatment. In this technique, patients are treated holistically, but they are also treated individually keeping in mind their unique characteristics.

Homeopathy can cure an anxious and depressed patient also. In the treatment of acute and chronic

diseases, homeopathy looks for the underlying problem in each patient and provides long-term medicines to combat it.

Acute disorders are short-lived, although they may be long-term in origin. Most chronic diseases can be traced back to some sort of emotional or mental stress.

When it comes to homeopathy, the focus is on the present symptoms in relation to the patient's past experiences. In treating chronic disease, homeopathy has a high success rate.

Homeopathy improves a person's immunity by identifying those components which in turn develop disease-fighting antibodies, a homeopathic doctor prescribes medicines.

This increases the tolerance of the body towards disease. At a fraction of the cost of conventional medicine, homeopathy is a true miracle.

**Bhilai, Apr 09:** The 52nd General Body Meeting of the BSP Ex-Officers' Association will be held on April 10, 2023 at 10:30 hrs in Pragati Bhavan (OA Building), Civic Centre, to discuss on important issues such as EPS 95 Pension, Medical/Mediclaim issues, Gratuity, 11 months' perks arrears, revised PF etc with foremost importance on the ongoing process of applying for higher pension. PC Nahata ex-President OA BSP will throw more light on EPS 95 Pension which will help to clear doubts on EPS 95. In-charge officer of the Bhilai unit of MD India, Hussain, has been requested to take part in the meeting to speak on the important aspects of SAIL Mediclaim Scheme and clear up members' issues/doubts. OA President & SEFI Chairman Narendra Banchoor, General Secretary Parvinder Singh and Treasurer Ankur Mishra have been requested to grace with their presence in the meeting and speak on the hot topic of EPS 95 and other important issues. All the retired officers of BSP are requested to attend the meeting at OA building.

## CM expresses grief over sudden demise of senior journalist Mohan Sahu

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 09:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has expressed deep sadness over the sudden demise of

Mohan Sahu, a senior journalist from Bhilai Nagar. The Chief Minister has extended his condolences to the bereaved family members. He has also prayed to the Almighty for giving strength to the bereaved family members to bear the grief and for the peace of the departed soul.

New Press Club of Bhilai Nagar expressed grief at the demise of Senior Journalist Mohan Sahu. 57-year-old Mohan Sahu breathed last at a private hospital on Sunday morning after suffering cardiac arrest. He worked in

several newspapers during his career in journalism for the last three decades.

A day before his death, he actively attended the CM's programmes in Bhilai Nagar and filed the news reports till late evening. Family members informed that after having dinner, he went to bed on Saturday night.

He suddenly fell ill on Sunday morning after which his son Krishnakant Sahu rushed him to Pulse Hospital where he breathed last. Funeral procession will be taken out from his residence situated at Supela around 10:00 hrs on April 10 and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at his native place in village Tavra near Gunderdehi.



Mohan Sahu



## ROZA-IFTAR



CM Bhupesh Baghel attended 'Roza-Iftar' by Mayor Ejaz Dhebar at Subhash Stadium on occasion of 'Ramzan' here on Sunday. Other public representatives were also present.

## Job seekers baton-charged in Bhupesh rule: BJYM

**Raipur, Apr 09:** Criticising police lathi-charge on candidates during their peaceful demonstration near Budhatalab here in support of their demands, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) State President Ravi Bhagat said that Bhupesh government utterly failed to fulfill its promise of giving employment to the youth. It has

been more than 4.5 years of Bhupesh Government but promise of providing jobs to the youth remained unfulfilled, he said. Instead of considering their demand for jobs the Bhupesh government resorted to lathi-charge on them, he said. 'It is a government of liars', he alleged and said that Bhupesh government was

playing with the future of the youth. He alleged that ever since Bhupesh government was formed, only mafias, ATMs of Gandhi family, criminals, corruption were nurtured. 'If you want to use lathi, then use it on the criminals and not on the unemployed youths who elected you to power, he said to Bhupesh government.

## 'It is not possible to sustain at 2500'

**Raipur:** Youth do not need unemployment allowance; rather they need jobs, office bearers of the Chhattisgarh Trained DED and BED Association said. Today every family has more than one youth who wish to work according to their skills. But instead of giving employment to them, the government is offering them lollipop of Rs 2500, they said. In today's era of inflation, it is not possible to maintain the family at Rs 2500, they said. They said that youth felt compelled to come to streets for recruitment. The youth warned that if their demands were not considered, the government would have to face serious consequences in the assembly elections.

the Chhattisgarh High Court.

# 'We want appointment not allowance'

**Jobless youth say Bhupesh Govt is offering lollipop of Rs 2500 instead of giving jobs**



adding that many posts are lying vacant in education, health, police, revenue, water resources, agriculture, electricity, veterinary departments. The agitating unemployed youths have demanded the state government to start recruitment on these posts soon.

The youth said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had announced the recruitment of more than

10,000 teachers and other posts in August 2022 but neither notification had been issued nor the process of recruitment had started yet. Delay in the process of recruitment caused widespread resentment among the unemployed youth, the agitating youth said.

The unemployed youth have demanded recruitment of special teachers for Divyang, laboratory

teachers, junior engineers, professors, RIs, Patwaris, Amin Patwaris, hostel superintendents, VYAPAM Joint Recruitment, GPSC, Cooperative, Forest Guards, Home Guards, librarians, arts and science teachers, veterinary doctors, and several posts.

They demanded to start the recruitment process before the elections according to the 50% reservation roster directed by

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 09:** Thousands of unemployed youths across the state reached the capital Raipur to participate in the demonstration staged by Chhattisgarh Trained DED, BED Association near Budhatalab under the banner of DED-BED Kalyan Sangh-Faculty of Arts. They shouted slogans against the state government and raised their demand.

Despite availability of lakhs of vacant posts in various government departments, no recruitment has been done, said the protestors. Chhattisgarh government has stopped the recruitment for the last 1 year, stating that the reservation is pending in the High Court, they said

## BJYM should gherao PMO for no employment to 19 cr: Thakur

**Raipur:** PCC spokesman Dhananjay Singh Thakur questioning BJYM as to with what claim they are demanding unemployment allowance and those from BJYM demanding should first gherao PMO in Delhi and provide employment to 19 crore youth. There are about 30 lakh posts lying vacant in different government departments of the central government and why no recruitment has been done into it, he questioned. He also questioned as to why the yearly recruitment of Class III and IV grade employees was done earlier and why it has been stopped? Instead of regular recruitment in the defence, why the appointment has been made only for four years for Agniveers? He said that the government institution recruiting youth from reserved category are being deprived of the same by convert-

ing it into private institutions and questioned as to why BJYM is silent on this.

PCC spokesman Dhananjay Singh claimed that the Modi-led central government has recovered Rs 5000 cr from unemployed youth in last 9 years and has not provided employment to any. The relaxations given to unemployed youth for appearing in the competitive exams and other educational activities too has been stopped by the Modi government. So in what context BJYM claims itself to be 'masiah' of unemployed youth and added that if the Modi government would have provided 2 cr jobs per year, then around 43 lakh youth from the state would have got the employment and for this when BJYM will gherao PMO and PM Narendra Modi, he questioned.

## Calling for Ch'garh bandh highly condemnable: Shukla

**Raipur:** PCC media chief Susheel Anand Shukla has held the Biranpur incident of Bemetara district as highly unfortunate and said that the local police and administration showing promptness brought the situation under control well on time and restored peace in the region. The accused were nabbed and strict action was taken against them. Calling for Chhattisgarh bandh on this is highly objectionable and condemnable, he said, adding that those trying to spread unrest in the name of this incident will not be tolerated and irrespective of the person's position or institution, strict action will be taken against those trying to take law & order in their hands, he added.

PCC media head SA Shukla charged that the Sangh-supported political eagles are trying to hamper the peaceful and healthy atmosphere in the



state. BJP with no objectives and issues in the state is looking for opportunity to disturb the communal harmony in the state. Being in important post that of BJP State president, the LS MP Arun Sao through his statement is trying to further worsen the situation. Not a single leader from BJP has come forward to fulfill mere formality of making an appeal to members of the concerned society to main peace and law & order, rather tried to increase hatred among the communities through negative comments, he added.

# VHP calls for Ch'garh Bandh today

**In protest against Bemetara violence Demands judicial inquiry into the incident**

**Raipur, Apr 09:** The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has called for Chhattisgarh bandh on April 10 to protest against the killing of a youth in Biranpur village of Chhattisgarh's Bemetara district during the violence that broke out between two communities following a brawl between two school children. Hindu society is deeply hurt and agitated by the Biranpur incident under Saja in Bemetara district, said Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Sakal Hindu Samaj State Executive President Chandrashekhar Verma while talking to the reporters at the Vishwa Hindu Parishad office in Raipur. He alleged that 50

families of a community were behind this incident. Legal action should be taken against all of them, he said. But the police have taken action against only 7-8 people just for show off, he said.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad demands a judicial inquiry into this entire incident and at the same time it demands strict action against the culprits, he said. VHP leader Chandrashekhar Verma targeted Bhupesh Government on the issue of Love Jihad. In the last 4-5 years, 7-8 girls of this area have been lured away from their homes and married by 'jihadis', he said, alleging that since the formation of the Congress government in Chhattisgarh, the terror of Muslim Jihadis is at its peak. Such incidents are being done in every district of Chhattisgarh in a planned manner to harass and scare Hindus, he added.

Vishwa Hindu

## BJP will not allow state to become Taliban: Sao

**Raipur:** Condemning the violent incident in Bemetara, BJP state president Arun Sao said, "The brutal killing of Bemetara youth Bhuneshwar Sahu is not an ordinary incident. The murder of a 22-year-old youth is a heart-wrenching incident. He further said that the limits of brutality are being crossed in the Congress rule. A video showing cow

meat and use of abusive language and threat, was recently going viral and now now an innocent youth has been brutally murdered, he said and alleged that Congress wanted to make Chhattisgarh 'Taliban'. The public will answer to the Congress, he said, adding that BJP will not allow Chhattisgarh to become Taliban.

Parishad is now preparing to stage road blockade in almost every important city of the state like Raipur, Bilaspur, Raigarh, Durg and Jagdalpur. People of Vishwa Hindu Parishad will come to the streets from 5 am on Monday. Shops will be closed and highways will be blocked.

Verma said that a request had also been made to the Chamber of Commerce for this. It has been requested to keep the public market shops closed everywhere in the

state. Bharatiya Janata Party is also supporting this bandh, local leaders are also engaged in making the Chhattisgarh bandh successful at their level on Monday.

VHP leaders termed the incident as a well-planned conspiracy. Swami Rajeev Lochan claimed that the Sahu family was being threatened by a community living in the village. Alleging that Hindus are being targeted, he demanded President's rule in this state.

## Two nabbed with 4 kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 40000

**From two different places in Khamtarai area**



**Raipur, Apr 09:** Khamtarai police with help of Cyber-crime unit and Anti-crime nabbed a history-sheeter Uday Jain and an inter-state accused with total 4 kg 'ganja' worth Rs 40000 in their possession here on Sunday.

Anti-crime and cyber-crime unit got tip from an informer that a person is keeping 'Ganja' in a bag near Bhanpuri triangle under Khamtarai thana area and is looking for customers to sell it. On this the senior police officer directed Khamtarai police to nab him red-handed.

A combined team of

and fighting against him in different thanas.

In the same way another accused Kona Das alias Kalyan Das R/o Odisha was trying to look for customers near Khamtarai under-bridge near the liquor shop. On getting information he was also nabbed with 2 kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 20000 and a case under section 20 B of Narcotics Act was filed against the two and 'Ganja' was also seized.

## Kranti Sena to set up a 71 feet tall statue of Budhadev

**Made of bronze and brass**

**Raipur, Apr 09:** Chhattisgarhiya Kranti Sena organized a programme to celebrate the great festival of 'Budhadev Sthapana' at Budha Talab here. People from many districts of the state reached in large numbers to join celebration. The second phase of the 'Kansa Aparn Daan (Maha Uddim)' program concluded here on 8 April. Bronze, brass and copper are being collected for the statue of Budhadev.

The Chhattisgarhiya Kranti Sena has resolved to establish the state's 'Kuldevta' (ancestral deity) 'Budhadev' in Budhatalab. To this end the Chhattisgarhiya Kranti Sena will set up a 71-feet statue of



Budhadev. About 800 years ago Raja Rai Singh Jagat had established Budhadev in the temple. It is said that the city of Raipur is also named after Raja Rai Singh. Budha Talab has been a witness to the glorious history of Chhattisgarh. Raja Rai Singh had settled his subjects and according to their faith had established the ancestral deity Budhadev. With time Budhadev was

forgotten. Chhattisgarhiya Kranti Sena has started a great initiative for the establishment of Budhadev to start it again. State President of Chhattisgarhiya Kranti Sena Amit Baghel said that any attempt to destroy our beliefs and ancestors will not be allowed to succeed. To protect it, the volunteers of Kranti Sena are working across the state.

## 11 arrested for betting on IPL matches

**Goods worth over 2 lakhs seized**

**Raipur, Apr 09:** The police have recently arrested more than 11 persons in connection with cricket betting. They were secretly betting on IPL matches at a house located at Street 7, Telibandha. Acting on a tip off from an informer, the joint team of Anti-Crime and

banks, cash of Rs 5500, 1 WiFi and betting strips worth crores of rupees from their possession. Police registered crime under Section 06 and 07 of Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Act 2022 against them.

Police have also arrested two persons for betting in Maudhapara police station area. A total cash amount of about Rs 5 thousand and satta-patti have been seized from their possession.

## HOT WEATHER RETURNS



After staying pleasant for the last couple of days, Raipur witnessed hot weather with partly overcast sky.

## Bengali Association meets CM

**Raipur, Apr 09:** A delegation from Bengali Association Bilaspur paid courtesy call on CM Bhupesh Baghel at his official residence here on Sunday. The Association invited CM as chief guest on completion of 100 yrs of Bengali Association Bilaspur. CM extended thanks for the invitation. On this occasion the office bearers of Bengali Association felicitated CM with shawl and srfial. General Secretary Bengali

Association Devashish Ghosh informed that the Association will be completing 15 yrs of its establishment on April 15. In this programme the well-known film producer and director Anurag Basu, well-known Pandwani Singher Teejan Bai and Professor from Shanti Niketan PK Chattopadhyay will be present. During meeting with CM, Partho Saha and Rajat Sarkar were present.



## Robotic Lab classes for class 4th to 9th to start in June

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 09:** Children should get good education in school. Apart from this, special attention needs to be paid to ensure that they get knowledge of new technology. With this initiative we are going to start a robotics lab to raise the level of education and expand the understanding of new technology among children, said Raipur Government School, Principal, Anuj Kumar Dwivedi. He informed that we started Robotics Lab with the

aim of developing students' interest in Mathematics and Science. It will provide them various opportunities in future. On the other hand, Mentor Saurabh Verma said that classes from fourth to ninth in the robotics lab will start in June. We have 3D printers in the lab. Students will be taught to make prototypes. In the lab, children from class 4th to 9th will be taught to make electronic devices i.e. robots, technical models. Students of class fourth and fifth will be taught to

make items with electronic devices. Students from VI to X will be given training to make electronic models. Students will be taught programming in computers, as well as they will be given the opportunity to make models, programs and robots according to their creative thinking. In the robotics lab, students will make models on problems related to common people, which will make life easier for people. This will also increase the interest of students to work in the field of science and technology.



## Prog on Sickle cell awareness organised

By MATS University School of Pharmacy

**Raipur, Apr 09:** MATS University School of Pharmacy organised a one-day sickle cell awareness program for sickle cell anemia at village Chikhali on Saturday.

In this programme Vice Chancellor of MATS University Dr. K.P. Yadav and Dean Incharge Dr. A.J. Khan was present as well as village sarpanch Mr. Jayant Verma, village

Mitanin and women of Swashayta group were present. Dr. K.P. Yadav, Vice Chancellor shared information with villagers for the prevention of sickle cell anemia and Vaibhav Tripathi, Assistant professor School of pharmacy also shared information regarding Sickle cell disease.

Students of MATS School of Pharmacy also participate in this programme and make posters for awareness in Sickle Cell anemia.

## Jamat-e-Islami Hind holds 'Roza-Iftar'

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 09:** Jamat-e-Islami Hind Raipur unit organised 'Roza-Iftar' party at 'Al-Fatah' Tower in Byron Bazar here on Saturday.

In this the well-known personalities of capital city participated, including Sunny Agrawal with cabinet status; DCC (urban) V.P. Bakar Abbas, State president Jamat-e-Islami Shabbir Khan Saheb, Sarv Astha Manch general secretary Fr. Sebastian, Manmohan Singh Saini, Prem Shankar Gotia, All Muslim Welfare Patron Janab Faisal Rizvi, RCC Club Chairman Shekhar Chandrakar, Babla Chandrakar, Harpal Singh, Pratap Seth, Abu Obaida, Mubarak Khan,



Gauri Janab Hashim Bhai, Manish Naidu, Chote Maharaj of Kali Mandir Pandeyji and other persons.

The objective of holding this 'Roza-Iftar' was to bring persons from all the society under one-

roof and celebrate this festival and pass on the message of peace, love and brotherhood through this programme. On this occasion Secretary Jamat-e-Islami Hind Mobin Saheb gave information about the objectives behind keeping 'roza' during this sacred month of Ramzan' and it teaches about the fear of the God, not to speak lies and how to control the five senses in human body. Secretary Jamat-e-Islami Shafiq Saheb informed that the objective of this was to increase mutual get-together and social meeting and increase love and harmony among all. He also informed about the public welfare works done by their institution.

## Saint Joseph Bachel Parish Celebrates Holy Good Friday



**Bachel, Apr 09:** Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Christians observe the day by fasting and attending church services or re-enactments of the last hours of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Fr. Thomas—the Parish Priest and Sisters along with the Parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish Bachel attended the Holy Mass with great devotion commemo-

rating the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

To celebrate the last hour of Christ the devotees of Saint Joseph Parish Bachel took out a procession carrying a wooden cross in their hands and with great devotion recreated the same picture of the Way of the Cross. At last, after worshipping the cross, all went to their respective residence.

## CAIT CG Chapter organised workshop on cybercrime

In association with police department  
Traders must be aware to avoid cybercrime, do not transact with unknown persons

**Raipur, Apr 09:** National Senior Vice President of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Amar Parwani, Chairman Mangel Malu, Amar Gidwani, State President Jitendra Doshi, Working President Vikram Singhdeo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, General Secretary Surinder Singh, Working General Secretary Bharat Jain and Treasurer Ajay Agarwal said that CAIT CG Chapter under the joint aegis of the police department, a workshop on cybercrime was held at CAIT state office Raipur.



Addressing the function Mr. Rohit Malekar, Anti-Crime/Cyber, Unit Raipur informed that the cases of cyber crime and online fraud are increasing day by day in India. And due to lack of information, people fall prey to it. They are unable to do anything. You must have heard about cybercrime, but do you know what cybercrime is. And how to avoid it. When internet would have been de-

veloped then no one would have thought that it would be misused in future and it is needless to say that now whatever crimes are committed in cyber space are through internet. They are called cyber crime. It got its start because of its anonymous nature. Cybercrime is a crime in which computers are used to commit online crimes (hacking, spamming, phishing). Since hackers use computers to commit

cyber crimes. You must have also seen that fake version of any product comes in the market before its original. Many types of crimes are also committed in the computer which includes Spamming, Phishing, Hacking, Information Theft, Virus Spreading, Software Piracy, Fake Bank Call, Rumor Spreading, Cyber Bullying, Information Erasure, Tampering, etc. National Senior Vice President of CAIT Mr. Amar Parwani and State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi said that it is necessary for traders to be aware to avoid cybercrime. Traders should avoid any kind of reward, loan offers, fake calls etc. Transactions should not be done with unknown persons. To avoid cybercrime, we should be aware and make all the traders aware.

## Woman found wandering in village Kailaspur rescued

Sent back to her home town in Uttar Pradesh  
Sakhi One Stop Center provided safety and counseling to rescued woman

Central Chronicle News

**Surajpur, Apr 09:** Under the guidance of District Program Officer Chandrabesh Singh Sisodiya, a distressed woman found wandering in the village of Kailaspur was rescued.

On the recommendation of the relevant Ramnujanagar police

station, the victim was placed in the Sakhi One Stop Center for safety, given counseling, and identified as a resident of the village Sinhi Jahanaganj police station area under district Azamgarh (U.P.).

She informed that she had left her in-laws' home in Delhi alone and was trying to reach her parental home in Azamgarh but ended up in Surajpur district. The relevant police station and the victim's family were contacted to provide information, and on March 28, 2023, the victim was sent back to Azamgarh.

The woman has safely reached her home and expressed gratitude towards the Sakhi Center and thanked them for their help.

## Annual Function Colors-2023 held at Columbia

Gold medals awarded to B.Pharm & M.Pharm toppers

**Raipur, Apr 09:** The much awaited Annual function 'Colours-2023' was celebrated with great zeal by Columbia Group of Institution. The annual day began with recital of Saraswati Vandana. The function was chaired by Prof.(Dr.) Colonel Umesh Kumar Mishra, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Private Universities Regulatory Commission, Raipur as Chief Guest. In his address he was of the opinion that the future of an institution always depend on the students as they not only exhibit the hidden talent as well as perform excellently in academics. 'I am happy to know that during last nineteen years Columbia Group has not only achieved their goal but also forging ahead to achieve many more in future.'

It is a matter of pride that pharmacy branch has been re-accredited up to 2025 by National Board of Accreditation, New Delhi. He congratulated the manage-



ment as well as the teachers for working hard for the same. Further he appreciated that the faculty members of Columbia Group has been acclaimed not only on national as well as International level. The annual function of an institution not only gives an opportunity to students of an institution to give their best but also come across of various aspects of life, he added. During the preceding the toppers of B Pharm. 2018-22 and M Pharm. 2020-22 were awarded with the Gold Medal by the members of Shri Kailash Chandra Sharma the senior most pharmacist. Earlier the Chairman of



Columbia Group Kishore Jadwani in his welcome address attributed the success to the dedication of staff members and the students. He also added that the group is always behind the all-round success of students for which various events such as workshops, conferences and many more are organised from time to time.

Harjeet Singh Hura in his speech narrated the importance of Faculty Selection and Team Building. Further he said that that a good team of faculty can take any institution to new heights. He also congratulated the students on their

achievements. As usual the Annual Reports were presented by the Principals of Pharmacy, Engineering, B.Ed., Nursing & Science and Commerce streams run by the group. Later the academic achievers as well the winners of various events were given the prizes by the dignitaries on the Dias.

Preceding further in the series of cultural programmes the students of all the departments presented various programmes which enthralled the audience present. This include group dance by the students on the tracks of Marathi Remix by Shalini & Group, Govinda

Remix by Trilok and group, Chhattisgarh remix by Deepika and group, hai kath samgram kee by Tameshwari, Krishna kavita manmohini by Suyash, nazari jo teri lagi mai diwani ho gai by Priti and group, panghat pen ache by Divya and group, Women empowerment based dance by Muskan and group, sami sami poonam kee chand by Tanisha and group performed to the enthralment of the audience which was applauded.

Apart from this the students also shown their talent by presenting various solo dances duets, skits etc. The annual day was largely attended by the faculty members of all the institutions of Columbia along with the parents who encouraged the students on their performance.

The students of various courses were awarded by the group for their academic and co-curricular activities. Apart from this Student of the year award was also given. The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Ravinder Singh Hura, Treasurer, Janpragati Education Society.

## Sankra Gram Panchayat tops in Healthy Panchayat category

**Dhamtari, Apr 09:** Sankra Gram Panchayat falling under the Nagri development block of Dhamtari district has bagged Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP) 2023. The award has been given to the Gram Panchayat Sankra in the category of healthy Panchayat. District collector Shri Rituraj Raghuvanshi, and the Zila Panchayat CEO Smt. Roktima Yadav, have congratulated and extended best wishes to the Sankra Panchayat for this outstanding achievement.

Gram Panchayat Sankra, which has the highest population among all the Gram Panchayats in the Nagri Janpad Panchayat, has se-

cured the top position in Chhattisgarh in the Healthy Panchayat category for its excellent work related to health. Meanwhile, for the awards of the year 2022-23, invitations were sent for 29 themes at the national level, and this time the Gram Panchayat Sankra topped in the healthy Panchayat theme throughout the Chhattisgarh state.

The schemes were implemented and construction works were done by the local sarpanch and panchayat secretary, taking into account the interests of the villagers. As part of this effort, Gram Panchayat Sankra has established a spacious vaccination center in Sankra Hospital and expanded

greenery on the premises. The said panchayat has carried out exemplary work in the public interest even during the Corona pandemic, including launching a massive Covid-19 vaccination campaign that resulted in one hundred per cent vaccination in a single day.

It is worth mentioning that Gram Panchayat Sankra had previously received the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Rashtriya Panchayat Shashaktikaran Puraskar. The local sarpanch Shri Shashi Dhruv expressed gratitude to the district administration for receiving the national award and for providing the necessary administrative cooperation.

## CM condoles Mohan Sahu

**Raipur, Apr 09:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has expressed deep sadness over the sudden demise of the senior journalist from Bhalai Nagar Mohan Sahu. The Chief Minister has extended his condolences to the bereaved family members of Sahu. He has also prayed to the Almighty for giving strength to the bereaved family members to bear the grief and for the peace of the departed soul.

## Mass feast and 'Mahaarti' on Hanuman Jayanti



**Raipur, Apr 09:** On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, Mahaveer Nagar Vikas Samiti along with the local residents organised a mass feast and maha aarti at Lord Shiv temple premises. People in large number participated in this event. On this occasion along with Mahaveer Nagar Vikas Samiti, Parth Ghosh, Nitin Bhansali, Sattu Singh and others were present.

Samajwadi Party's state secretary, including 75 workers from 9 villages, join Congress

**Bijapur, Apr 09:** Vikram Mandavi said, "People are continuously joining the Congress after being influenced by the customs and policies of the Congress party and the development works of the Baghel government."

"The people of the Congress party are friendly and the Congress party is an inclusive party. Under the leadership of the Congress party, good development works are being done, due to which 'we 75 people have joined the Congress party by adopting the customs and



policies of the Congress". The above statement was said by Suresh Kumar Sodi, who was the state secretary of the Samajwadi Party (SP), while joining the Congress party along with his workers.

In the presence of MLA Vikram Mandavi, District

Congress Committee President Lalu Rathore, District Panchayat President Shankar Kudiya and other Congress leaders in Bijapur on Saturday, 75 Samajwadi Party workers from nine villages met Bijapur MLA Vikram Mandavi, and joined the

Congress-fold.

All the workers who joined the Congress from the Samajwadi Party (SP) have been formally inducted into Congress party by welcoming them with flower garlands and the Congress party's stole.

Bijapur MLA Vikram Mandavi said that 75

workers of the SP have joined the Congress party after being impressed by the customs and policies of the Congress party and the development works of the Chief Minister of the state Bhupesh Baghel, who has been formally included in the Congress party. DCC Bijapur President Lalu Rathore said that 75 Samajwadi Party workers have joined Congress; this will further strengthen the party. During this, District Panchayat member Nina Rawatia Udde, Municipal Council President Benhur Rawatia, PCC member and District Congress Committee Bijapur spokesperson Jyoti Kumar and other Congress party workers and member were present.

## 11 arrested in Biranpur case Bemetara

**Bemetara, Apr 09:** On Friday there was a fight between two children in village Biranpur Thana Saja District Bemetara, in which a youth of the village, Bhuneshwar Sahu S/o Ishwar Sahu, (22), was murdered due to the increase in mutual dispute between the two communities. 11 accused were arrested after registering.

The 11 accused arrested are Nizamuddin S/o Ramanuddin; Rashid Khan S/o Bahal Khan; Mukhtar S/o Rashid Khan; Akbar Khan S/o Ramzan Khan; Abdul Khan S/o Akbar Khan; Nawab Khan S/o Sehtar Khan; Ayub Khan S/o Sardar Khan; Shafiq S/o Pila Mohd.; Bashir Khan S/o Bahal Khan; Jalil Khan S/o Mokum; M Khan S/o Nizamuddin.



# Students gift 'Smart Green Board' to School

In their farewell organised by younger students



Central Chronicle News

**Pandaria, Apr 09:** The students of Class 8th were bid touching farewell by the junior students of Govt Middle School, Somnapur Naya here on Thursday. The programme began with prayers to Goddess Saraswati by Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Bhupendra Patel, Sankul

Principal SK Sahu and educational Co-ordinator SP Dadsena. Thereafter the children presented 'Saraswati Vandana'. After this the junior students of the School welcomed the Class 8th students by applying 'tilak' on their forehead and all the guests present wished all the best to the students in their future endeavours.

Sarpanch Bhupendra Patel in his address said that the way all the students of Class 8th have studied in the School remaining in discipline and brought honours to the School. So they will remain disciplined in the other Schools where they will go to study later. Educational Co-ordinator SP Dadsena said that being the elder students

of Govt Middle School, the type of their behaviour is followed by their younger batchmates of Primary School and therefore it is their responsibility to ensure good behavioural conduct and maintain the good image of the School in their future studies as well. In this farewell programme, the students of

Class 8th handed over Smart Green Board to their institute under leadership of Bal Sansad PM-Vimal Patel along with photos of 10 well-known personalities, 1 piece wall-clock as gift to the School, saying that they have got the learning of good conduct and living disciplined life from this School.

In the programme, the School management/Parent's Committee and parents hailed the works of 'Navachari' teacher Mahesh Jaiswal and the educational activities carried out by him for overall development of School children.

On this occasion Head Master- Bhagat Bandhkar, Pawan Chandse, teacher-Mahesh Jaiswal, Kartik Ram Khunte, Armis Chelse, Baldev Patel, Girdhari Patel, Tameshwar Sen, Raju Patel and others were present.

# BJP celebrates its Foundation day



Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, Apr 09:** MLA Punnulal Mohle and District BJP President Shailesh Pathak hoisted the flag at the Atal Complex District BJP office in the presence of party workers on the occasion of the foundation day of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Along with this, the live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address was seen and heard in the district BJP office.

Apart from this, wreaths were placed on the pictures

of Bharat Mata, Deendayal Upadhyay, Dr. Shyamaprasad Mukherjee and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. MLA Punnulal Mohle while congratulating all the workers on the foundation day and Hanuman Janmotsav reiterated the Prime Minister's words that BJP workers work wholeheartedly with the spirit of nation first.

District BJP President Shailesh Pathak said that due to being influenced by BJP's nationalist work, the feeling of patriotism has increased among the youth

of the country and in such a situation, the anti-national forces are also continuing to interfere and we all workers have to be continuously active to protect our society and country from them and take the nation and the party to heights.

State BJP working committee members Girish Shukla, Sunil Pathak, Ashish Mishra, Ranapratap, Sheelu Sahu, Kishori Kesharwani, Prem Arya, Mukesh Rohra, Ramsharan Yadav, Praveen Soni, Mo Yusuf, Usman Ali, Lekhu Sahu were present.

# Conference of DNBSS held

Central Chronicle News

**Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Apr 09:** Under the auspices of District Narmada Block Sahu Samaj (DNBSS), the conference of Sahu Samaj was held in Shishu Mandir Pendra, in which MP Arun Sao was present as the chief guest.

President of the conference Thaneshwar Sahu, District President Chhattisgarh State Backward Classes Commission, Marwahi MLA, KK Dhruv, Brijesh Sahu, Executive President State Sahu Sangh, Prabhat Sahu, National IT Cell Tailik Mahasabha, Tilak Sahu, President, District Sahu Sangh Bilaspur, Lata Sahu,



Kanhaiya Rathore, District President Bharatiya Janata Party, Archana Porte, Member Scheduled Tribes Commission were also present.

Senior members and talents of the Samaj were felicitated which included two promising daughters of Madan Lal Gupta of

Gorella, who are civil judges, Aman Kumar Sahu, son of Rajkumar Sahu from Kotmi, engineer and loco pilot, Mr. and Mrs. Saurabh Sahu, civil engineer.

Marwahi MLA KK Dhruv addressed the gathering and provided Rs 10 lakh to the District Narmada Block Sahu

Samaj for the construction of Sahu Samaj Bhavan. Member of Parliament Arun Sao also addressed the gathering and announced to give Rs.5 lakh. The speech of gratitude was done by Ramesh Kumar Sahu, District President of District Narmada Khand Sahu Samaj.

# Unemployment allowance more than honorarium, says Sahu

Central Chronicle News

**Balod, Apr 09:** Senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party Durganand Sahu has denounced the State government over the recently started unemployment allowance of Rs 2500 per month to the unemployed people.

Sahu has alleged that the Chief Minister is on the one hand, giving 2500 per month allowance to the unemployed, and on the other hand, the honorarium of the school sweepers is less than that, because of this there is a feeling of dissatisfaction

among the employees of the state, while there are also reports that the employees are collectively offering to resign.

Durganand Sahu also said that whenever it comes to regularization, the government asks for the data of the employees, whether the data management has not been done in 4 years or the government and it is obvious that the



head of a family knows that how many members are there in his family, or the head of Chhattisgarh is not concerned about his family, after all, the district administration or other departments are giving irregular employe-

ment in Chhattisgarh has done for the general public, today the people of the state are looking forward to the Bharatiya Janata Party with hopeful eyes, including Chhattisgarh's infrastructure, health education, higher education, rural development.

The government led by Dr. Raman Singh has worked on the entire subject, but the current Congress-ruled government of Bhupesh Baghel has spoiled the entire infrastructure of development, Sahu further alleged.

# Hanuman Janmotsav organized by Friends with Family Group

Central Chronicle News

**Pandariya, Apr 09:** Hanuman Janmotsav was celebrated here in the region with fervor and on the eve of Hanuman Janmotsav, a program on Ramayana and Hanuman's pastimes was organized by the Friends with Family group of Pandariya Nagar in the Jamaat temple, in which the children of the group presented many programmes.

The children staged a brief performance of Ramayana, in which Shri.

Rama's birth, Sita's Swayambar, Dhanush Yagya, conversation between Manthara and Kaikai, Bharat character, exile, Sita's abduction, burning of Lanka by Hanuman, Ravana's slaughter, Sita's fire test, establishment of Ram's kingdom, was staged by the children.

Hanuman's love for Ram and the statue of Ram in his chest was displayed and apart from this, the children told the pastimes of all the Hindu Gods and Goddesses and their ideals. Group presi-



dent Anurag Singh Thakur told that there are 35 family members in the group, with whose cooperation the program was organized.

He told that the main objective of organizing the program on Hanuman Janmotsav by the children is to make the children aware of the

culture and be able to get acquainted with their ideals and their favorite deities.

A religious quiz competition was also organized for the children, family members and residents were present in the program, in which questions were asked from many religious texts including Ramayana, Mahabharata, Gita, Purana.

The said event was highly appreciated by the residents of the city and this is the second event organized by Friends with Family Group.

# Health check-up camp organized in court premises

● Of court staff and litigants

Central Chronicle News

**Bemetara, Apr 09:** According to the "State Plan of Action Calendar 2023" conducted by SALS under the guidance of District and Sessions Judge and ex-officio President District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jaideep Vijay Nimonkar, free health check-up camp was organised in District Court Bemetara premises for the month of April 2023.

On this occasion, the medical team of District Hospital Bemetara along with ambulance and necessary medical material, judges of Bemetara court premises,

court staff, advocates and parties coming to the court premises, blood pressure, sugar was checked and proper treatment was given for health problems related to women. Women were examined by gynecologist Anita Baghmar present for treatment and health check-up. Para-legal volunteers Sonia Singh, Prachi Tiwari motivated all the parties and advocates coming to the Bemetara District Court premises to get their health check-up done by telling them the benefits of regular health check-up. Court employees, advocates, parties and other eminent citizens of Bemetara district took advantage of the health check-up test with great enthusiasm in the said health check-up camp. Under the

guidance of Dr. Naresh Jangde and Mr. Gaukaran Sahu, a team of health workers from District Hospital Bemetara thoroughly examined everyone's health.

Vijay Kumar Hota, Judge of Family Court, Pankaj Sinha, First Additional District and Sessions Judge, Madhu Tiwari, Additional District Sessions Judge (POCSO), Monika Jaiswal, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Tanushree Gavel behavior on the occasion of health checkup camp Judge Class-I, Jaswinder Kaur Ajmani Malik, Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Bemetara, Kamini Verma, Judicial Magistrate First Class, Bemetara and District Court Employees and Advocates of District Advocates Association were present.

# Cancellation of Rahul's membership is BJP's dictatorship: Gilhare



Central Chronicle News

**Arang, Apr 09:** Raipur District Rural Congress Committee's Joint General Secretary Anand Gilhare has condemned the Cancellation of membership of Rahul Gandhi and termed it as dictatorship of BJP government.

He further said that Rahul Gandhi was sentenced to two years in a defamation case by a lower court in Surat, Gujarat, but at the same time the court granted him bail on the same day and also gave him time to appeal in a higher court, but the BJP government at the center immediately canceled the membership of the Parliament of Rahul Gandhi and not only this, he was also given a notice to vacate the bungalow he got as an MP and such action is tantamount to destroying the democratic

system of the country. He further said that in fact the BJP government at the Center is afraid of Rahul Gandhi and history has been a witness that the British had also adopted the policy of suppression against the Congressmen, but the Congressmen were neither afraid then nor will they be afraid now. In fact, the BJP government at the center is hatching such conspiracies only to suppress the voice of the opposition and to save Adani, but the Congress will fight and win to protect democracy, he further said. Block Congress Committee President Komal Singh Sahu, J.P. Arang President Khilash Dewangan, Distt. Congress workers including members Durga Roy, Anita Sahu, Keshari Sahu, and Zone President Bhagwati Dhurandhar were present.

# After 14 years CBSE holds exams in highly sensitive Naxal affected Jagargunda

With the opening of 2 new examination centres, the additional problems of the examinees were removed

Central Chronicle News

**Konta, Apr 09:** As soon as the situation becomes normal in Jagargunda, a highly sensitive naxal-affected area of Sukma district, the Jagargunda examination center operated in Dornapal was re-established in Jagargunda to provide relief to the examinees by the efforts of the district administration. With the operation of the center in the village, the additional problems of the examinees of Jagargunda, Chintalnar were also reduced and they got ample time to prepare for the examination.

In the district, 16 examination centers were set up for the successful conduct of the CBSE examination. In the past years, Board exams were conducted in 14 centres. This year 2 new



exam centers were added. There is excitement among the students of Chintalnar, Jagargunda due to the re-organization of CBSE's board examination in Jagargunda. Expressing happiness for this, they expressed gratitude to CBSE administration.

After 14 years, the highly sensitive Naxal affected village Jagargunda got permission to hold the examination center again in Jagargunda. After the Salwa Judum campaign,

the educational institutions of Jagargunda were operated in Dornapal. Candidates had to travel a distance of 56 km to Dornapal a month in advance to appear in the examination.

Till the completion of the examination, alternate arrangements were made by the department for the stay of the examinees in the Ashram-hostel, whereas some children appeared in the examination by staying in rented house.

Along with this, some children were deprived of Board exams due to the distance of the examination center. In the academic session 2018-19, the ashram-schools were again operated from Dornapal to Jagargunda, but the examination center was operated at Dornapal only. Due to which the Class 10th, 12th students of Jagargunda, Chintalnar had to come to Dornapal to appear in the examination for 2 years. Now the students

will no longer have to travel long distances due to the holding of the exams in examination center in Jagargunda itself.

District got 2 new examination centers District Education Officer Nitin Datsena said that this year the approval of 2 new examination centers was received from the government, including Murtonda of Sukma development block, Maraiguda (forest) of Konta development block. Along with

this, the Jagargunda examination center operated in Dornapal has also been re-established in Jagargunda. In the past years, board exams were conducted from 14 examination centers. This year the examination was successfully conducted in 16 centres.

Forms sent by helicopter to Jagargunda examination center For the students of Jagargunda to avoid any kind of disorder in the examination, the paper was delivered by the helicopter 4 days in advance by the government administration. Along with this, adequate arrangement was also ensured in the examination center. After the successful conduct of the examination under tight security, all the papers were brought to the district headquarters by helicopter.



## BRIEF



**PM Narendra Modi during a visit to Bandipur and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves, Sunday.**

## Close shave

**Chandigarh:** Senior Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday escaped unhurt after a 'milga' hit his SUV when the former chief minister's vehicle was passing near Barwala in Haryana's Hisar district, police said. The 75-year-old leader was headed for some function when the incident occurred.

## Explosives

**Gadchiroli:** Police have recovered a rifle and some explosives hidden by Naxalites in a forest area in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district with an intention to harm security personnel, an official said on Sunday. Based on a tip-off, a team of Gyarapatti police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel on Friday conducted a joint anti-Naxal operation in Tipagarh forest under Dhanora taluka, said a release from the office of Gadchiroli's Superintendent of Police (SP).

## Mishap

**Bijnor:** A tanker carrying ethanol collided with a bus in Dampur in the district, leaving one person dead and 12 others injured, police said on Sunday. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Dharam Singh Marchal, said the accident took place on Saturday evening when the bus was on its way to Dehradun from Moradabad.

## Injured

**New Delhi:** A woman suffered bullet injuries when a man fired his gun allegedly to threaten his girlfriend following an argument over serving food to their pet dog, police said on Sunday. Police said the woman, who is the mother of the man's girlfriend, is stable and undergoing treatment at a hospital.

## SIDDARAMAIAH ASKS MODI

# 'Are you now trying to steal Nandini from us?'

Bengaluru, Apr 09 (PTI)

Continuing his offensive against the ruling BJP, after Amul announced its plans to sell milk and curd in the Bengaluru market, Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Sunday tweeted asking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was visiting Karnataka on Sunday, whether the purpose of his visit was "to loot the state".

Alleging that the State's milk production had been affected since the day Union Cooperative Minister Amit Shah spoke about the possibility of merging the

Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) with Amul, the former Chief Minister in a series of tweets asked the Prime Minister what his role had been in this.

Amul's move is being seen by many, especially opposition parties, as a threat to KMF's famed dairy brand 'Nandini'. They also see it as an attempt to trample upon KMF, amid a narrative around its merger with Amul. "Is your purpose of coming to Karnataka to give to Karnataka or to loot from Karnataka? You have already stolen banks, ports and airports from Kannadigas. Are you now

trying to steal Nandini (KMF) from us?" Siddaramaiah asked.

"It was Gujarat's Baroda Bank that subsumed our Vijaya Bank. Ports and Airports were handed over to Gujarat's Adani. Now, Amul from Gujarat is planning to eat our KMF (Nandini). Mr Narendra Modi, Are we the enemies for Gujaratis?"

Instead of giving 2 crore jobs a year to youths, Narendra Modi took away the jobs of Kannadigas from our banks, ports and airports, he further said, adding that "Now Karnataka BJP wants to

hurt the prospects of our farmers by giving KMF to Amul."

Modi was in Mysuru and Chamarajanagara districts to attend an event commemorating 50 years of 'Project Tiger'. The attacks from Siddaramaiah came despite Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday clarifying in this regard. Calling 'Nandini' the pride of Karnataka, and stating that his government had taken all kinds of measures to make it number one at the national level, Bommai said, "Nandini's market reach is wide, there is no need to fear Amul."

## RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



**Devotees take part in a procession taken out as part of Hanuman Jayanti celebrations, in Noida, Sunday.**

## Application window for CUET-UG reopens

New Delhi, Apr 09 (PTI)

The application window for CUET-UG reopened Sunday for three days following representation from students and there will be no change in the syllabus after rationalisation of NCERT textbooks, officials said.

"Following requests from several students, we have decided to re-open the application portal for CUET-UG on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday and it will close at 11.59 pm on Tuesday (11 April 2023). Students are requested to visit [cuet.samarth.ac.in](http://cuet.samarth.ac.in) for more details," UGC Chairman Jagadesh Kumar said.

Nearly 14 lakh students have applied for CUET-UG, up by 41 per cent since last year. Following rationalisation of NCERT books, aspirants of undergraduate entrance exams were confused about whether it

will impact the entrances. "The notified syllabus will remain the same as the exam is not just for students from a particular board. Not all boards have rationalised the content," a senior National Testing Agency (NTA) official said.

CUET-UG remains the second-largest entrance exam in the country in terms of applicants. In the debut edition of CUET-UG, 12.50 lakh students registered themselves and 9.9 lakh of them submitted their applications.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test Undergraduate (NEET-UG) for medical admissions is the largest entrance test in India with an average of 18 lakh registrations.

The last date for applications for CUET-UG was March 30 and the exam is scheduled to be conducted from May 21-31.

## Kerala celebrates Easter with mass and feasts

Thiruvananthapuram Apr 09 (PTI)

Christians of all denominations in Kerala on Sunday celebrated Easter commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The faithful, including women and children, went on processions and thronged churches to attend midnight or early morning mass.

Bishops and senior priests led Easter mass across the state and shared the message of spiritual revival with devotees.

To celebrate the occasion of Christ's resurrection, most Christian homes prepared traditional feasts marking the completion of the

40-day season of Lent. Wishing the people on Easter, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the sacrifice of Christ inspired us to dream of a better tomorrow. "The spirit of #Easter encompasses optimism for overcoming impediments to progress.

The sacrifice of Christ inspires us to dream of a better tomorrow in which people lead a more jovial social life. Joining the celebrations of millions around the world, Easter wishes to all," Vijayan tweeted. Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly V D Satheesan in a video message said Easter represented our hope

that we can overcome all our troubles, worries and suffering.

"Easter is the celebration of resurrection, a resurrection after suffering and death on the cross. The son of God was crucified to atone for all the sins of mankind.

So the resurrection after that is one of hope too. It also represents our hope that we can overcome all our troubles, worries and suffering," Satheesan said.

Easter also marked the culmination of the Holy Week of prayers and penitence recalling the final phase of Christ's life from his arrest to his crucifixion, followed by his resurrection.

## 15 tourists trapped on rocks rescued from Narmada river

Khandwa, Apr 09 (PTI)

At least 15 tourists were rescued from a rock they were on after water was released from a dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district on Sunday, an official said.

The incident occurred at Nagar Ghat of Omkareshwar when water was released from the dam, sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Chandar Singh Solanki said.

Water is routinely released from the dam by the Narmada Hydroelectric Corporation Limited during power generation.

The water was released after sounding the siren, as usual but some people did not come out of the

water and got trapped on rocks, he said.

Boatmen and home guards posted in the area rescued people, the official said, adding that more rescuers from home guard will be stationed in the area in future.

As the water level was low, some people ventured into the river up to 50-60 metres, but the water level went up once the dam water was released and they got trapped, Ranjeet Bhawaria, an eyewitness, said.

Later, they were rescued by boatmen with the help of ropes, he said.

Some videos of the incident have also surfaced on social media, in which boatmen are seen using their boats to rescue people trapped in the river and on rocks.

## BEATING THE HEAT



**Tourists bathe at Sahasradhara waterfall in Dehradun, Sunday.**

## Prisoners make high quality furniture for Nagpur court

● Under rehabilitation programme

Nagpur, Apr 09 (PTI)

Inmates from four prisons in Maharashtra have been engaged in making high quality teakwood furniture for a new court building in Nagpur as part of their rehabilitation and to provide an employment opportunity to them, an official said.

The prisoners working on the project get wages under the skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled categories, the official told PTI.

"Interestingly, the chairs on which the judges and other staff of the Nagpur sessions court's extension building would be sitting are being made by those

convicted by such courts," Nagpur Central Jail's superintendent Anup Kumre said.

Such work contracts are really benefitting the jail inmates. They are getting a good employment opportunity in the jail itself, he said.

Nagpur Central Jail's deputy superintendent Deepa Agye said prisoners lodged at Nagpur, Kolhapur and Nashik and Yerwada (Pune) jails are working in the carpentry section of the respective prisons to make 22 types of furniture required for the new extension building of the Nagpur sessions court.

"These are very high quality teakwood furniture pieces which are otherwise not available outside with private suppliers. We make the

chairs of judges. The Pune Central Jail makes special judges' chairs with monogram which cannot be made outside," said Kumre.

The Nagpur Central Jail had received a contract of Rs 5.50 crore for the furniture. The work had started in March 2021 and the delivery of these furniture items is now in the final stages, Agye said.

The intention of the prison administration behind this exercise is correction and rehabilitation of prisoners and provide them some employment in jail, she said. "We continuously get guidance from Additional Director General (Prisons) Amitabh Gupta and DIG (Prisons) Swati Sathe in pursuing and completing such projects," Agye added.

## 'K'taka tired of 40% commission, wants 100% commitment'

Bengaluru, Apr 09 (PTI)

Former union minister Shashi Tharoor on Sunday said people in Karnataka were tired of "40 per cent commission" and wanted "100 per cent commitment" that the Congress party would give if it were voted to power in the upcoming Assembly election.

He also said that the Congress was prepared to tackle the "serious deficiencies" in state-level and urban-level governance in Bengaluru and the entire state of Karnataka.

"I think the people in this state are tired of the 40 per cent commission. What they want is 100 per cent commitment and that's what we will give 100 per cent commitment to

the well-being of the people of Karnataka," the Thiruvananthapuram MP said at a press conference here.

In poll-bound Karnataka where the Assembly election is just a month away, the Congress has been accusing the BJP-led state government of collecting 40 per cent commission from contractors, unaided private schools and even some religious institutions that they receive from the government.

Tharoor said the state was being badly governed and that the infrastructure in Bengaluru was becoming an embarrassment.

"Our message is very simple. We have seen, unfortunately, over four



**Shashi Tharoor**

years now, bad governance. When there is bad governance and there is nothing to see, people inevitably wonder what they need a government for," Tharoor said.

There were essential needs of the people that had not been met and the Congress party had al-

ready come out with a number of "very specific policies" to fulfill those needs, the Congress leader said. He added that the Congress was coming up with policies such as ensuring that unemployed graduates and unemployed diploma-holders could get some support from the State so that they can live with self-respect while they search for jobs.

He also said the Congress was planning to honour the Gruha Lakshmi — the homemakers — so that they could get some compensation for their unpaid labour. Tharoor said the Congress "is pledging to improve the infrastructure of Bengaluru which used to be the pride of Karnataka and India but which is now becoming an

embarrassment."

"So whether it is state-level governance or urban level governance, we feel that there are serious deficiencies that the Congress government is ready and prepared to tackle," the Congress MP said.

To a question on some Congress leaders joining the BJP, he pointed out that several MLAs and MLCs too had joined the Congress from other parties in the past few months.

"Well if you look at the Karnataka situation, five MLAs, two MLCs, 11 former MLAs, four former MLCs and one former MP have all joined the Congress, literally in the last few months. It does suggest that the people from other parties are see-

ing the Congress as an inevitable victorious party in Karnataka," Tharoor said.

He, however, said he was disappointed with the Congress members who had joined the BJP, and said they could have joined a party that shared the values and principles of the Congress instead.

He wondered how they could go to a party that has the opposite set of values and principles.

"That I find difficult to understand. That's where my disappointment (lies) with some of the people who have gone to the dark side, as one might say. I think they will sadly have to repent their choices as they see how they are treated in their new home," Tharoor said.

## MP CM bats for pre-litigation mediation model

● To settle disputes

Jabalpur, Apr 09 (PTI)

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday urged the chief justice of the MP High Court to prepare a model of pre-litigation mediation to settle disputes. He was addressing a function to lay the foundation stone of the new building of Advocate General Office. The model of pre-litigation mediation should be sent to his government so that it can be implemented in the state, Chouhan said.

The provision of 'Shanti Nivaran Samiti' in Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act has helped settle petty disputes among tribals within

the village without the need to approach police, the CM pointed out.

"After the success of Shanti Nivaran Samiti, the government wants similar nature of committee for villages outside tribal areas for which a legal framework needs to be worked out," he said. Chouhan said the construction of the annexe building of the High Court's principal seat in Jabalpur was required to meet the need for expansion of offices and this is under consideration. Supreme Court Justice JK Maheshwari, MP High Court Chief Justice Ravi Malimath, Advocate General Prashant Singh, Armed Forces Tribunal chairman retired chief justice Rajendra Menon and other dignitaries were present at the function.



## Women gather at a free flour point in Lahore

**Pakistanis reeling under skyrocketing inflation**



run Urdu school because he can no longer afford their fees amid the spiralling inflation that has made life miserable for most Pakistanis who are now worried about two meals a day for their families.

The Pakistani rupee in recent months has seen a dramatic erosion in its value to the

US dollar, currently trading at around PKR 288 in the open market. In the month of Ramzan, buying fruits to break the fast has become a luxury for millions across the country.

The economic situation has never been so grim in a country which since independence has thrice seen military coups and

the ouster of elected governments.

Cash-strapped Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation, making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make ends meet.

## Indian-origin candidates line up for Leicester Mayor role in UK

**London, Apr 09 (PTI):** Two Indian-origin candidates are lined up to go head-to-head for the post of Leicester Mayor in the local elections coming up in the UK early next month.

Conservative Party councillor Sanjay Modhwadia will compete with Rita Patel, a former

Labour councillor who announced her bid recently in order to scrap the role.

Patel, a Rushey Mead councillor from Leicester who will run as an independent, launched her campaign saying the city needed "a fresh start" and promised one of her first jobs will be to remove the

mayoral role.

Sitting Labour Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby, expressed disappointment at Patel's exit from the party after she was one of four city councillors suspended for six months for their attempt to scrap the mayor's office through a vote at a council meeting last month.

रजिस्ट्री सं.डी.एल.-33004/99 REGD.NO. D.L.-33004/99

**भारत का राजपत्र**  
**The Gazette of India**

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**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**  
**NOTIFICATION**  
New Delhi, the 5th April, 2023

**S.O. 1641(E).**— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (46 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for Up-gradation, maintenance, management and operation on National Highway No.130A in the stretch of land from Km. 30.100 to Km.70.800 (Bilaspur-Takhatpur-Mungeli-Pandriya-Pondi Section) in the District of Mungeli in the state of Chhattisgarh, hereby declares its intention to such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act. Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Sub Divisional Officer (Revenue), Mungeli, District Mungeli (C.G.) state in writing and shall set out the grounds there of and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

**SCHEDULE**

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without attributes falling National Highway No.130A in the stretch of land from Km. 30.100 to Km.70.800 (Bilaspur-Takhatpur-Mungeli-Pandriya-Pondi Section) in the District of Mungeli in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
<b>State: CHHATTISGARH District: MUNGELI</b>					
<b>Taluk: Mungeli</b>					
<b>Village: Baghamunda</b>					
1	102	Private	Agriculture	0.0210000(Hectare)	0.0210000
2	105/4 अ, 105/6, 105/11	Private	Agriculture	0.0530000(Hectare)	0.0530000
3	77/1, 3, 4	Private	Agriculture	0.2520000(Hectare)	0.2520000
4	77/5	Government	Non Agriculture	0.0730000(Hectare)	0.0730000
5	79/11	Private	Agriculture	0.0530000(Hectare)	0.0530000
6	92, 99/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0080000(Hectare)	0.0080000
7	93	Private	Agriculture	0.0450000(Hectare)	0.0450000
8	94	Private	Agriculture	0.1010000(Hectare)	0.1010000
<b>Village: Baraidahra</b>					
1	47	Private	Agriculture	0.1990000(Hectare)	0.1990000
2	54	Private	Agriculture	0.0330000(Hectare)	0.0330000
3	59/2	Private	Non Agriculture	0.1050000(Hectare)	0.1050000
4	81/1	Private	Agriculture	0.1870000(Hectare)	0.1870000
5	81/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0400000(Hectare)	0.0400000
6	88	Government	Non Agriculture	0.0650000(Hectare)	0.0650000
7	89	Private	Agriculture	0.0130000(Hectare)	0.0130000
8	90/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0080000(Hectare)	0.0080000
<b>Village: Barela</b>					
1	1011/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0360000(Hectare)	0.0360000
2	1011/14	Private	Agriculture	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
3	1011/6	Private	Agriculture	0.0160000(Hectare)	0.0160000
4	1011/7	Private	Agriculture	0.1900000(Hectare)	0.1900000
5	1011/9	Private	Agriculture	0.0090000(Hectare)	0.0090000
6	1012	Government	Non Agriculture	0.0200000(Hectare)	0.0200000
7	1013/1	Private	Agriculture	0.1170000(Hectare)	0.1170000
8	1013/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0160000(Hectare)	0.0160000
9	1016	Private	Agriculture	0.0120000(Hectare)	0.0120000
10	1017	Private	Agriculture	0.0900000(Hectare)	0.0900000
11	1018/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0280000(Hectare)	0.0280000
12	1020	Private	Agriculture	0.1190000(Hectare)	0.1190000
13	1022/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0580000(Hectare)	0.0580000
14	1022/7	Private	Agriculture	0.1340000(Hectare)	0.1340000
15	1024	Private	Agriculture	0.0710000(Hectare)	0.0710000
16	1025/1	Private	Agriculture	0.1740000(Hectare)	0.1740000
17	1025/2	Private	Agriculture	0.1620000(Hectare)	0.1620000
18	1052/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0020000(Hectare)	0.0020000
19	1053	Private	Agriculture	0.0060000(Hectare)	0.0060000
20	1059/3	Private	Agriculture	0.1090000(Hectare)	0.1090000
21	1060/1	Private	Agriculture	0.2980000(Hectare)	0.2980000
22	1060/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0060000(Hectare)	0.0060000
23	1061/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0080000(Hectare)	0.0080000
24	1062/4	Private	Agriculture	0.1150000(Hectare)	0.1150000
25	1081	Private	Agriculture	0.0440000(Hectare)	0.0440000
26	1082/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0890000(Hectare)	0.0890000
27	1082/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0020000(Hectare)	0.0020000
28	1083/5	Private	Agriculture	0.1330000(Hectare)	0.1330000
29	323	Private	Agriculture	0.1650000(Hectare)	0.1650000
30	339	Private	Agriculture	0.1380000(Hectare)	0.1380000
31	340/2-3	Private	Agriculture	0.4090000(Hectare)	0.4090000
32	340/5	Private	Agriculture	0.0020000(Hectare)	0.0020000
33	340/7	Private	Agriculture	0.0080000(Hectare)	0.0080000
34	340/9	Private	Agriculture	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
35	892/3	Private	Agriculture	0.2140000(Hectare)	0.2140000
36	894	Private	Agriculture	0.1130000(Hectare)	0.1130000
37	897	Government	Non Agriculture	0.0080000(Hectare)	0.0080000
38	899	Private	Agriculture	0.0870000(Hectare)	0.0870000

<b>Village: Bhatari</b>					
1	1001, 1002	Private	Agriculture	0.0190000(Hectare)	0.0190000
2	1003/2	Government	Non Agriculture	0.0810000(Hectare)	0.0810000
3	1004/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0200000(Hectare)	0.0200000
4	1009/1-2-3-4	Private	Agriculture	0.0280000(Hectare)	0.0280000
5	109	Private	Agriculture	0.0240000(Hectare)	0.0240000
6	112	Private	Agriculture	0.0100000(Hectare)	0.0100000
7	395/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0060000(Hectare)	0.0060000
8	395/4	Private	Agriculture	0.0410000(Hectare)	0.0410000
9	396/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0970000(Hectare)	0.0970000
10	403/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0930000(Hectare)	0.0930000
11	406/1-2	Private	Agriculture	0.0170000(Hectare)	0.0170000
12	408	Private	Agriculture	0.0160000(Hectare)	0.0160000
13	409	Private	Agriculture	0.0160000(Hectare)	0.0160000
14	414/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
15	414/4	Private	Agriculture	0.0240000(Hectare)	0.0240000
16	415/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0810000(Hectare)	0.0810000
17	51	Private	Agriculture	0.0080000(Hectare)	0.0080000
18	52	Private	Agriculture	0.1130000(Hectare)	0.1130000
19	53/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0770000(Hectare)	0.0770000
20	53/4	Private	Agriculture	0.0240000(Hectare)	0.0240000
21	59/5	Private	Agriculture	0.1030000(Hectare)	0.1030000
22	59/7	Private	Agriculture	0.0400000(Hectare)	0.0400000
23	739/1/अ	Private	Agriculture	0.1170000(Hectare)	0.1170000
24	739/1/ब	Private	Agriculture	0.2840000(Hectare)	0.2840000
25	739/1/क/1	Private	Agriculture	0.4580000(Hectare)	0.4580000
26	739/1/क/3	Private	Agriculture	0.1620000(Hectare)	0.1620000
27	739/1/क/1	Private	Agriculture	0.2100000(Hectare)	0.2100000
28	739/4	Private	Agriculture	0.0890000(Hectare)	0.0890000
29	739/5	Private	Agriculture	0.0360000(Hectare)	0.0360000
30	739/7	Private	Agriculture	0.0120000(Hectare)	0.0120000
31	759/1-3-4	Private	Agriculture	0.0410000(Hectare)	0.0410000
32	759/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0450000(Hectare)	0.0450000
33	759/5	Private	Agriculture	0.0160000(Hectare)	0.0160000
34	762/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
35	762/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0280000(Hectare)	0.0280000
36	763/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0760000(Hectare)	0.0760000
37	763/2	Private	Agriculture	0.1580000(Hectare)	0.1580000
38	764/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0770000(Hectare)	0.0770000
39	764/2, 824/2	Private	Agriculture	0.1860000(Hectare)	0.1860000
40	765, 766/1-2	Private	Agriculture	0.0690000(Hectare)	0.0690000
41	82/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
42	82/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0420000(Hectare)	0.0420000
43	824	Government	Non Agriculture	0.2390000(Hectare)	0.2390000
44	825	Private	Agriculture	0.0570000(Hectare)	0.0570000
45	828/1-2	Private	Agriculture	0.5260000(Hectare)	0.5260000
46	831, 832	Private	Agriculture	0.1130000(Hectare)	0.1130000
47	833	Private	Agriculture	0.0200000(Hectare)	0.0200000
48	851	Private	Agriculture	0.0020000(Hectare)	0.0020000
49	852	Private	Agriculture	0.0380000(Hectare)	0.0380000
50	853	Government	Non Agriculture	0.0380000(Hectare)	0.0380000
51	854	Private	Agriculture	0.0240000(Hectare)	0.0240000
52	855/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0000000(Hectare)	0.0000000
53	855/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0360000(Hectare)	0.0360000
54	856	Private	Agriculture	0.0360000(Hectare)	0.0360000
55	857/2-3-4	Private	Agriculture	0.0440000(Hectare)	0.0440000
56	859	Private	Agriculture	0.1050000(Hectare)	0.1050000
57	860	Private	Agriculture	0.0180000(Hectare)	0.0180000
58	862	Private	Agriculture	0.0200000(Hectare)	0.0200000
59	864/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0280000(Hectare)	0.0280000
60	882	Private	Agriculture	0.0440000(Hectare)	0.0440000
61	883, 884	Private	Agriculture	0.2220000(Hectare)	0.2220000
62	93	Private	Agriculture	0.0280000(Hectare)	0.0280000
63	95	Private	Agriculture	0.0200000(Hectare)	0.0200000
64	977/1	Government	Non Agriculture	0.1580000(Hectare)	0.1580000
65	977/2	Government	Non Agriculture	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
66	989/1	Government	Non Agriculture	0.1090000(Hectare)	0.1090000
<b>Village: Birgaon</b>					
1	67/2, 68/2, 69/2	Government	Non Agriculture	0.0320000(Hectare)	0.0320000
2	68/4	Private	Agriculture	0.0610000(Hectare)	0.0610000
<b>Village: Chamari</b>					
1	74	Private	Agriculture	0.0090000(Hectare)	0.0090000
<b>Village: Chatarkhar</b>					
1	1	Government	Non Agriculture	0.0010000(Hectare)	0.0010000
2	10/1	Private	Agriculture	0.1210000(Hectare)	0.1210000
3	3/1	Government	Non Agriculture	0.0770000(Hectare)	0.0770000
4	3/2	Private	Agriculture	0.1260000(Hectare)	0.1260000
5	4/1 अ, 4/3 अ	Private	Agriculture	0.1310000(Hectare)	0.1310000
<b>Village: Doori</b>					
1	221/3	Private	Agriculture	0.1010000(Hectare)	0.1010000
2	237/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0280000(Hectare)	0.0280000
3	237/4	Private	Agriculture	0.0480000(Hectare)	0.0480000
4	250/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0300000(Hectare)	0.0300000
5	250/2	Private	Agriculture	0.2200000(Hectare)	0.2200000
6	263/5	Private	Agriculture	0.1090000(Hectare)	0.1090000
7	258/1	Private	Agriculture	0.1620000(Hectare)	0.1620000
<b>Village: Fundawani</b>					
1	436	Government	Non Agriculture	0.0960000(Hectare)	0.0960000
2	437/3	Private	Agriculture	0.2540000(Hectare)	0.2540000
3	437/4	Private	Agriculture	0.0600000(Hectare)	0.0600000
4	437/5	Private	Agriculture	0.0610000(Hectare)	0.0610000
5	447/10	Private	Agriculture	0.0280000(Hectare)	0.0280000
6	447/2	Private	Agriculture	0.1210000(Hectare)	0.1210000
7	447/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0930000(Hectare)	0.0930000
8	447/4	Private	Agriculture	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
9	472/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0690000(Hectare)	0.0690000
<b>Village: Gidha</b>					
1	54	Private	Agriculture		





## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Politicising Education

As students gear up for the academic year 2023-24, a storm is brewing over the new history and political science textbooks prescribed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for senior and senior secondary classes. The changes made to the curriculum have raised concerns about the selective rewriting and distortion of history to suit a political agenda. One of the most egregious omissions in the new textbooks is the deletion of chapters related to Mahatma Gandhi's efforts to promote Hindu-Muslim unity in the months before and after the Partition of India in 1947. Gandhi's attempts were reportedly linked to his assassination and the subsequent ban on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for a short period. Removing this portion of the study material deprives students of a holistic understanding of the period, denying them the opportunity to develop critical thinking and a broad outlook on our social and political past. Similarly concerning is the removal of key aspects of the Mughal period and the whitewashing of the Gujarat riots. By cherry-picking certain events and downplaying others, the NCERT is distorting history and presenting a skewed version of the past. Adding to the controversy is the surreptitious manner in which these changes were made. Unlike other proposed changes that were published last June, these alterations were not disclosed, leading to accusations of bias and political interference. The NCERT Director's dismissal of the issue as a mere "oversight" is unconvincing, given the apparent ideological slant of the revisions. Education is a powerful tool that shapes our understanding of the world and our place in it. It is essential that the curriculum is designed with great care and caution to ensure that it is objective, comprehensive, and reflective of the diverse perspectives that make up our society. The NCERT books are endorsed by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and many state school boards, meaning that the changes made to the curriculum will have a far-reaching impact on millions of impressionable young minds. Curriculum changes are necessary to keep up with the times and ensure that students are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. However, these changes must be made with the utmost care and diligence, and they must not be motivated by political considerations. When politics is allowed to enter the classroom, it becomes a tool for propaganda rather than education, and the consequences can be dire. The role of education is to empower individuals to think critically, to question the status quo, and to engage with the world in a meaningful way. It is not to indoctrinate them with a particular worldview or to promote a particular agenda. When education is politicized, it becomes a weapon, not a tool, and it can be used to divide rather than unite. The NCERT must take these concerns seriously and ensure that the curriculum is designed with the best interests of students in mind. This means providing a comprehensive and balanced view of history and politics, including the difficult and uncomfortable parts, and encouraging students to engage with these issues in a thoughtful and reflective way. Education is the cornerstone of a free and democratic society. It is essential that we protect it from the corrosive influence of politics and ensure that it remains a force for good in the world. The NCERT must act quickly to address the concerns raised by these changes and restore faith in the integrity of our education system. Only then can we ensure that our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to build a better future for us all.

### India's Resilience

#### Fight against COVID-19 continues

As India grapples with a surge in COVID-19 cases, it is crucial that citizens continue to take responsible measures to reduce transmission and protect themselves and others from the virus. Despite the progress made with vaccinations, the battle against COVID-19 is far from over, and we must remain vigilant. It is alarming to see daily cases crossing the 6,000-mark for the first time since September 16, 2022. This is a clear indication that we cannot afford to let our guard down. The threat of new waves of infections looms, and we must not become complacent. We need to strengthen our disease surveillance systems, increase vaccination coverage, and make our health systems more resilient to tackle any new challenges that may arise. While India has administered over 2.2 billion vaccine doses to date, it is concerning that the adoption of second and third doses of COVID-19 vaccines has been low compared to the first dose. It is important to remember that vaccines are a crucial tool in our fight against COVID-19, and they provide an additional layer of protection against the future trajectory of the disease. We must encourage more people to get vaccinated and to follow up with booster shots. It is also essential to prioritize the vaccination of at-risk populations, including the elderly, those with underlying medical conditions, and front-line workers. Children and adolescents with co-morbidities or obesity are at higher risk and must receive primary series vaccination and one booster dose. We need to consider vaccinating healthy children and adolescents based on disease burden and other health or programmatic priorities. It is not just about vaccinations; we must also continue to follow protective measures such as maintaining safe distance, practicing good hand and respiratory hygiene, wearing well-fitting masks, and avoiding crowded and poorly ventilated places. These measures can significantly reduce transmission and protect ourselves and others from the virus. It is crucial to remember that we are in a decisive phase of the battle against COVID-19. It is essential that we work together as a community to end the pandemic and put the virus behind us. Let us remain responsible and vigilant, and together we can overcome this challenge.

Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of the original message, and ask that they be kept to around 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via [email@editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:email@editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com).

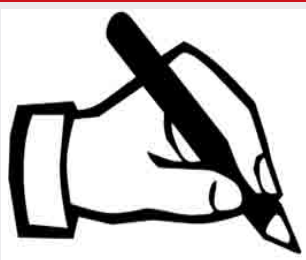
### HOT DAY IN AGRA



Tourists holding umbrellas visit Taj Mahal, in Agra, Sunday, April 9.

## Kerala women demand reforms in inheritance law

DR. DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



A kind of churning has begun in Kerala Muslim society with women coming out openly against the religion based personal laws imposed on them through the Mullah interpreted Sharia, which treats women as unequal in many ways, especially in inheritance of property from the parents. They ventured to form a Forum for Muslim Women's Gender Justice (FMWJ) and in the meeting held by the forum in the first week of March saw Muslim women pouring out their grievance against the injustice meted to them through archaic Islamic personal laws. Both educated and uneducated, under distress regarding their property rights, demanded that Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937 has to be reformed at once to protect them from losing their right to property.

The Kozhikode event and its resolution to reform or abolish the Muslim personal law is the outcome of simmering discontent in the hearts of Muslim women due to the suppression of their rights by the outdated religious laws. The Muslim women finally got the courage to unshackle their religious fetters and follow their Hindu sisters in challenging the suppressive beliefs and practices. Supreme Court verdict in the Sabarimala case where Hindu woman was given the right to have darshan of Lord Ayyappa, which was hitherto banned by tradition. The Muslim women felt encouraged by the commitment of the CPM lead Left Front government of Kerala, in implementing the SC verdict by siding with the right of Hindu women, and thought Pinarayi Vijayan government of LDF will stand by them. With

the hope of garnering the support of 'secular', 'progressive' CPM the Forum (FMWJ) invited their party leaders. But surprisingly the CPM has not stood by the FMWJ but preferred to side by the Mullahs who are totally against any progressive law that favour women.

Some of the victims of discriminatory Muslim law who narrated their troubles include a 26 year old Muslim lady whose father died, intestate, due to covid leaving 20 crore worth property and 2 crore debt. She planned to sell some of the property to clear the debt but she couldn't do that as her paternal uncles stalled the sale of property citing the Shariat. As per the law lone Muslim daughter, not having a brother, will receive only half of her father's property while the rest of the property is divided between the brothers of the deceased, even though those brothers have no role in building that property. Thus brothers who never helped the man when he was sick suddenly became inheritors of the property upon his death. A Muslim widow, whose husband worked in Gulf and built house in Tanur village of Malappuram district, has three daughters and no son. The three daughters got married when the husband was live. Widowed, uneducated and is dependent on the income from the property, but she can't sell that property to meet her needs as her husband's brother is not willing to sign the sale documents citing Islamic inheritance law and claiming his share.

Sensing the troubles their three daughters likely to face on their death a Muslim educated couple from Kasargod district of Kerala 'remarried' themselves under the special marriage Act 1954, to get the equal status for their daughters and to avoid the provision of Shariat laws. The second marriage, after 25 years of their original Nikha as per Muslim tradition, has sparked a row in the Muslim society. Their public statement that they did that 'remarriage' to free them from the clutches of clergy controlled Islamic law of inheritance has led to a fight between conservatives and liberals of Kerala.

These three cases are only repre-

sentative and many such effected Muslim families are many but are not venting out because of high community pressure. The orthodox Mullahs are against any changes in the personal laws of their religion as reform will weaken their hold on the community hence their vehement opposition to even simple discussion on any fora. In fact a reformist cleric who floated Khuran Sunnath Society and challenged the Muslim personal law was allegedly murdered in 1993 and his body remained untraceable so far. His reformist agenda was taken up by woman Suhara who pleaded herself in a special leave petition filed in the Supreme Court in 2015. As per the Khuran Sunnath Society the Muslim personal law is violated the Articles 14 (equality before law), 15 (prohibition of discrimination on the ground of sex), 19 (freedom of expression), 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) and 25 (freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion).

While the Supreme Court entertained a petition on the Sabarimala temple entry for women issue on similar grounds and ruled in favour of the woman, the Kerala High Court rejected the petition saying it was up to the legislature to enact a law to resolve the matter. Though the issue reached the Supreme Court their lordships are not showing any urgency to deliver its verdict. Meanwhile the another petition for the Common Civil Code is filed before the Supreme Court and it may not be decided in the near future despite the importance attached to that.

In the entire episode, the stance of the CPM lead left front government of Kerala is rather curious. The CM Pinarayi Vijayan who is close to the Sunni clergy of Kerala is reportedly vouched for the validity of the existing law of inheritance, though it hurts the interests of women in the society, and said he will not involve himself in any matter related to the Muslim personal law. His other statement questioning the criminalization of the instant divorce among the Muslim. The vote bank politics of CPM through its communal agenda can be gauged from the statement of

CPM state secretary M.V. Govindan giving the leverage for the Muslim community to self-reform and democratization. However the CPM is not known to such lenient attitude towards the issues concerning the Hindu society. That speaks volumes regarding the 'progressive' ruling of Left' commitment to the women's rights and its secular beliefs.

Following the support of the CPM lead LDF to the conservative Islamic laws, the Muslim clergy are issuing highly radical statements. They express their opposition to amend their religious laws. Their contention is that "Muslim personal law is based on the Quran and Prophet's verses. None other than Allah can change the sharia. So there is no question of changing it to suit the times". One of the clergy argued that law gave Muslim women the financial rights but not financial responsibilities but it is the man, either as brother or husband, who is bestowed with financial responsibilities by the Islam and this should not be questioned by women. By demanding reform of religion linked law, the women are siding with Kafirs to run down the Islamic sanctity and giving the image to Islam as the discriminatory religion biased against women.

Every religion feels that the Laws of their society is God given hence divine. However secular India rejected such divinity concept in case of other religions and hence the same rejection is needed for Muslim personal law argues Ramlath Pudusherry, the joint convener of FMWJ. The codification of Hindu succession Act in 1956 and its amendment in 2004 to ensure daughter and sons get equal property in inheritance and bringing of Christians under the Indian Succession Act of 1925 ensuring that the Sunni clergy of Kerala is reportedly vouched for the validity of the existing law of inheritance, though it hurts the interests of women in the society, and said he will not involve himself in any matter related to the Muslim personal law. His other statement questioning the criminalization of the instant divorce among the Muslim. The vote bank politics of CPM through its communal agenda can be gauged from the statement of

(Views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### CrPC and IPC and evidence act need changes

The judgment in the defamation case against Rahul Gandhi has brought attention to the need for reform in India's criminal laws. The punishment for defamation under Sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is a maximum of two years, but this is the first time someone has been sentenced to such a punishment since the inception of the sedition law. There is now a debate on whether defamation should be covered under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) or the Civil Procedure Code. Furthermore, Section 124-A of the IPC, which was frequently used by the British police to suppress the freedom movement, remains a controversial clause in India. It is an interesting fact that Pakistan abolished the same clause, yet it still exists in India, albeit in abeyance. The time has come for India to revisit its criminal laws, which are outdated and in dire need of reform.

Yash pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

#### Toxic Politics

The current political landscape is poisoned by a dangerous trend. Dissenters are being labelled anti-national and jailed for expressing their critical opinions. This toxic behaviour is supported by loud-mouthed TV anchors, government propaganda, and social media. Political opponents are not allowed to articulate their views, and any form of dissent is silenced. Rahul Gandhi's recent loss of his Lok Sabha membership is a prime example of this. If this trend continues, critical thinking and articulation of views will disappear. We must recognize the importance of political discourse and support the right to freedom of speech.

Ahivkumar Mishra Raipur

#### Importance of Hallmarking

I am writing in reference to the news article published on March 29, titled "Hallmark mandatory in gold and silver from April 1". While it is a good move by the central government to make Hallmark mandatory in jewellery, it is also important to educate consumers about its advantages. Hallmarking ensures that the gold or silver used in the jewellery is of the highest quality and purity. It guarantees that the ornaments meet the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications and are free from any impurities. This will protect customers from fraud and ensure that they get the right value for their money. Moreover, in case of any mishap or theft, Hallmarking helps in identifying the ornaments and proving their ownership. It also aids in tracing the jewellery back to its source, making it easier for the authorities to catch the culprits. I urge the central government to promote awareness about the importance of Hallmarking and encourage more jewellers to get their ornaments Hallmarked. This will benefit both customers and the jewellery industry.

Prakash Verma, Raipur

## Opposition Unites: A New Hope Emerges

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

The prospect of a joint opposition platform to take on the dominant Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2024 general elections was long considered a distant dream. In recent years, many opposition leaders talked about unity and the need to challenge the BJP with a formidable force, but repeated calls for unity were not visible on the ground. With one party or another distancing itself over self-protection and attacking Modi personally on a range of issues, the opposition seemed to have forgotten that Indians are definitely looking for an alternative to the BJP after its failure on many fronts.

However, a golden opportunity arose when Rahul Gandhi, the Congress party leader, was convicted and disqualified. Even those parties who openly dismiss

Congress, such as the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), rallied behind Congress and participated in the protests. For the first time in years, India's splintered opposition is sinking its differences to take on Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, which could extend to a substantial challenge in national elections due in 2024.

The situation in India is critical, and the opposition parties must remember that there is an urgent need for all parties to come together to fight the Modi government and BJP. The government has pushed the country into an all-encompassing crisis that impacts the economic, cultural and social spheres. The situation is further aggravated by the uneven political field created by electoral bonds that have enabled the BJP to amass unaccounted funds and in-

discriminate use of the Central agencies.

Since Modi came to power in 2014, he has dominated Indian politics and trounced the divided opposition in two successive general elections. But BJP does not get a majority of the vote and could be in trouble if it comes up against a united opposition. However, the opposition needs to remember that people have already tested what PM Modi is after hearing his unbridled promises and incongruent deliveries for almost nine years in power. Yet, he continues to enjoy popular public support. The opposition needs to articulate what different offers they have if voted to power. How would they improve GDP growth, employment, prices, ease of living, ensure greater trust and brotherhood in communities, regions, religions, and develop strong relationships with neighbors? Their stand on the

Old Pension Scheme is a definite plus. For the country's sake, the opposition must unite to give a befitting fight against the Modi government.

The opposition parties need to understand that the Indian electorate wants to see a change from the status quo. The BJP government has failed on many fronts, including creating jobs, controlling inflation, and improving the economy. The opposition must come up with a compelling vision that resonates with the people's aspirations and inspires confidence in their ability to deliver on their promises.

The unity shown by opposition parties in recent protests against the Modi government is an encouraging sign. However, they must translate this unity into a broader alliance that can take on the BJP in the 2024 general elections. The BJP has a massive election ma-

chine and access to vast financial resources. The opposition parties need to develop a cohesive strategy that can counter the BJP's formidable electoral machine.

They must also reach out to voters beyond their traditional support bases. They need to communicate their vision to voters across the country, including those who may be disillusioned with the current government but have not yet found a reason to support the opposition. The opposition must demonstrate that they are a viable alternative to the BJP and that they can deliver on their promises. It remains to be seen if the Opposition can capitalize on this opportunity and make significant gains in the upcoming elections, but one thing is clear: the people of India are eager for change, and the Opposition must step up and deliver if they want to win their trust and support.



## BRIEF

### Amul

**New Delhi:** GCMMF, which sells dairy products under the Amul brand, is expecting 20 per cent growth in its revenue this fiscal to around Rs 66,000 crore on rising demand, its MD Jayen Mehta said. Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) registered a turnover of Rs 55,055 crore in 2022-23, up 18.5 per cent from the previous year. The GCMMF MD (in charge) said it had clocked a strong growth in revenue last fiscal, as demand for branded dairy products rose significantly post-COVID.

### Gold imports dip 30 pc

**New Delhi:** India's gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, fell about 30 per cent to USD 31.8 billion during April-February 2023 due to high customs duty and global economic uncertainties, according to data from the commerce ministry. Imports of the yellow metal stood at USD 45.2 billion in the corresponding period of 2021-22. The imports are in the negative zone since August 2022. Silver imports, however, rose by 66 per cent to USD 5.3 billion during April-February 2023. The significant fall in gold imports though has not helped in narrowing the country's trade deficit — the difference between imports and exports.

### IOB

**Chennai:** Public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank would revise the interest rates on term deposits by upto 40 basis points from April 10, the bank said on Sunday. Depositors would receive interest rates upto 8 per cent by opening term deposit for a period of 444 days, the city-headquartered bank said in a statement.

### Apollo Micro Systems

**New Delhi:** Apollo Micro Systems Ltd (AMSL) has fixed May 4 as the record date to split its shares in ratio of 1:10. On March 28, the company's shareholders had approved a proposal for the share division through postal ballot, the company said in a statement. Subsequently, the board also passed the necessary resolution on April 6, 2023 and fixed May 4 as the record date for sub-division of shares, it said. One equity share of Rs 10 each will be sub-divided into 10 equity shares of Re one each fully paid up, AMSL said.

### Startup Hubs in TN

**Chennai:** The proposed startup hubs announced by the Tamil Nadu government would enable the state to create a 'robust startup ecosystem', a senior government official has said. The government had increased the funding to set up startup hubs in the state from the earlier Rs 30 crore to Rs 50 crore, Startup TN Mission Director and Chief Executive Officer Sivarajah Ramanathan, was quoted as saying in a statement issued on Sunday.

## Goyal to meet leaders and CEOs of Italy and France to boost trade ties

New Delhi, Apr 09 (PTI):

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will hold a series of meetings with leaders and top CEOs of France and Italy next week during his three-day visit to these two countries to further boost trade and investment ties.

The minister will be on an official visit to France (Paris) and Italy (Rome) on April 11-13. He will be accompanied by a delegation of top Indian CEOs. In France, Goyal along with Olivier Becht, Minister delegate of Foreign Trade, Attractiveness and French Nationals Abroad, Government of France, will co-chair the India-France Business Summit on April 11, the commerce ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

The summit will focus on various themes, including building a green future, emerging technologies, defence cooperation and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific regions, it added. Goyal is also sched-



uled to meet with French business leaders across various sectors and will attend a CEOs roundtable.

Both Indian and French ministers will participate in an event that will showcase India's cultural heritage and soft power and are expected to witness the participation of over 600 dignitaries from the French government, the Indian business diaspora in France and members of the French business community. Goyal will also be interacting with members of the Indian community in Paris. In Rome, the

statement said, Goyal would meet Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. "He is scheduled to meet top Italian CEOs for bilateral meetings followed by CEOs Interactive Business Session, where 35 CEOs are likely to participate," the ministry said, adding this would be followed by a meeting with Adolfo Urso, Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy, who would also interact with Indian CEOs. There are over 1,000 French businesses in India in different sectors, such as defence, ITES, consulting, engineering services, and heavy industry.

France is the 11th largest foreign investor in India, with a cumulative FDI of USD 10.5 billion between April 2000 and December 2022. It accounts for about 1.7 per cent of the total FDI (USD 625.3 billion) that India has received during the period.

## FASHION SHOW



Actor Chitrangada Singh presents a creation during the fashion show by All India Gem And Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC), in Mumbai.

## Skoda Slavia scores full 5 stars in crash safety

Mumbai, Apr 09:

SKODA AUTO India's safety and crash-worthy prowess continues to grow in stature as the SLAVIA sedan scored a full 5-Stars out of 5 at the Global New Car Assessment Programme (Global NCAP) crash tests conducted recently. This also makes the SLAVIA the safest car ever tested by the Global NCAP, furthering the cause of Safer Cars for India, and makes SKODA AUTO India's only manufacturer to have a fleet full of crash-tested cars that have 5-stars for both adult and child occupants.

Commenting on the safety standards set by the SLAVIA, Petr Solc, Brand Director, SKODA AUTO India said, "As part of our strategy at SKODA, there is no compromise on safety for our customers. I am delighted to share that our second INDIA 2.0 car - SLAVIA has received a 5-star rating in the Global NCAP safety test. This perfectly matches our brand values of Safety, Family, Human Touch. We sin-

cerely appreciate our customers, who decided to buy SKODA products, and are extremely happy that we can offer them the safest cars in the market. With a comprehensive approach to safety, we have a fully-tested range of 5-star safe cars. It is a stamp on how we have always focused on quality, durability and safety of our cars. Safety is at the core of our strategy and we will continue to build cars with this philosophy."

The SLAVIA was designed with a high focus on localisation, lower costs of ownership and maintenance, while maintaining SKODA's dynamic driving traits and zero compromise on safety. It was tested internally for a variety of impacts. The SLAVIA was designed from the ground up keeping safety in mind. Its skeletal structure is laser welded. The structure comprises of high strength steel, and has been built to mitigate and absorb the impact of the crash across the outer shell of the car than the inner cabin.

## Bajaj unveils innovative 'DuraMarine Pump'

Mumbai, Apr 09:

BAJAJ - India's leading consumer appliances brand, unveiled its latest air coolers equipped with the 'DuraMarine Pump' to meet the pent-up demand this summer.

The brand has focused on creating a deep differentiation in air coolers by innovating with a scientifically designed pump far superior to regular pumps.

This new range is a part of the refreshed portfolio of home appliances based on the promise of durability and is high endurance, aesthetically pleasing, and low maintenance. The brand's consumer research study highlighted that consumers attributed

air cooler breakdowns to pump failures. The air cooler's pump corrodes after prolonged exposure to moisture and due to poor insulation.

Staying true to its commitment towards consumer centricity, the brand has refreshed its Air Coolers range enabling consumers to have a pleasant summer.

Speaking about the launch, Ravindra Singh Negi, Chief Operating Officer, Consumer Product Business, Bajaj Electricals Limited, said, "This summer, we have refreshed our entire range of Air Coolers with advanced features like the 'DuraMarine Pump' and 2 years warranty, making us truly 'BUILT FOR LIFE'."

## SBI Foundation gives Rs 30 lakh grant to 8 select social ventures

New Delhi, Apr 09 (PTI):

SBI Foundation, the CSR arm of State Bank of India (SBI) on Sunday committed Rs 30 lakh as a grant to 8 ventures who work at the grassroots level to bring change in the lives of rural population.

The selection for the grant is done on the basis of projects submitted by fellows of SBI Youth for India programme, and depending on the assessment, grant is pledged during 'SBI YFI Sahyog - The Pitch Fest', SBI Foundation CEO and Managing Director Sanjay Prakash told PTI.

Four top winning ideas are given support of Rs 6 lakh each while four runners-up are given Rs 1.5 lakh each, he said after the selection process on Sunday. Last year, the

Foundation had given a grant of Rs 20 lakh to selected few social enterprises both under non-profit and for-profit ventures by the SBI Youth for India (YFI) Alumni. Under SBI YFI programme started in 2011, he said, around 100 professionals or fresh graduates are selected as fellows, who join hands and foster change with rural communities and NGOs at grassroots across 17 Indian states.

The programme, inspired by US 'PeaceCorps', works on 12 thematic areas such as health, rural livelihood, food security, environmental protection, education, water, technology, women's empowerment, self-governance, social entrepreneurship, traditional craft and alternate energy, he said. During the fellowship programme, these selected per-

sons work on one of these 12 areas as per their interest and are paid stipend of around Rs 17,000 per month, he said.

The 13-month long fellowship provides an active framework for the youth to come up with sustainable development solutions for rural development and capacity building in multiple ways, he said, adding, projects implemented by fellows have helped accelerate rural development, as also resulted in inclusive and sustained growth across the remotest corners of the country, he said.

"The future change drivers for our nation will be its young demographic that is educated and socially aware. We have seen our Youth for India fellows foster and implement ideas for social development to drive on-ground change in rural India.

## Axis Bank launches 'Digital Dukaan'

Mumbai, Apr 09:

Axis Bank, in partnership with Visatoday announced the launch of 'Digital Dukaan', a comprehensive digital offering that will not only empower merchants to accept payments through various digital modes, but will also enable them to manage their day-to-day business digitally. Digital Dukaan is an Android Smart POS application, specifically designed to address business requirements such as accepting digital payments, inventory management, billing and much more. This Android Smart POS ap-

plication has an in-built camera with LED flash-light that will enable scanning of product barcodes, allow tap and pay option for transactions upto Rs.5,000 and also support other value-added services such as EMI, BQR, acceptance of Sodexo card, Buy Now Pay Later, etc.

Additionally, Digital Dukaan will also enable merchants to set-up an online store and grow their business effortlessly by creating new channels. It will also allow merchants to easily send notifications to customers about ongoing offers, discounts and promotions via SMS.

## Post office savings schemes compete with bank FDs after 3 hikes in rates by govt

New Delhi, Apr 09 (PTI):

Post office term deposits, which were fetching lesser returns than bank FDs in the recent past, have again become competitive with the government effecting three back-to-back increases in interest rates on small savings schemes.

The return on post office term deposits of two years under the small savings schemes is 6.9 per cent, the same as offered by most banks on deposits of similar maturity.

After a series of repo rate hikes by the RBI since May 2022, the transmission to retail deposit rates gathered pace in the second half (H2) of the last fiscal after remaining



subdued in April-September (H1) period as banks intensified their efforts to garner retail deposits to fund robust credit growth, a central bank analysis. The Weighted Average Domestic Term Deposit Rate (WADTDR) on fresh deposits (including retail and bulk) of banks increased by 222 basis points (bps) from

May 2022 to February 2023. During H1, banks had focussed on mobilising bulk deposits. This was reversed in H2 with the increase in fresh retail deposit rates (122 bps) outpacing that in fresh bulk deposit rates (77 bps), the RBI said. The transmission to WADTDR on outstanding deposits is picking up, albeit gradually,

reflecting the longer maturity profile of term deposits contracted at fixed rates, the RBI said.

As regards the small savings instruments (SSIs), the government has increased the interest rates by 10-30 bps for October-December quarter of 2022-23, 20-110 bps for January-March quarter of 2022-23 and 10-70 bps for the first quarter of the current fiscal.

The interest rates on SSIs had remained unchanged for nine consecutive quarters — from the second quarter of 2020-21 to the second quarter of 2022-23. With these adjustments, rates on most of the SSIs are closely aligned with the formula-based rates, the RBI said.

New Delhi, Apr 09 (PTI):

After withdrawing record funds in 2021-22, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) continued their sell-off in the last fiscal too and pulled out Rs 37,631 crore from Indian equities amid aggressive rate hikes by central banks globally.

The outflow trend is likely to reverse in the current financial year since India has the best growth potential in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24), VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Market analysts believe that FPI flows in the current financial year would be decided by a host of factors, such as the US

## FPIs dump Indian equities worth Rs 37,631 cr in FY23

Federal Reserve's policy stance, oil prices movement and development in the geopolitical situation.

Since FPIs started investing in 1993, this is the first time they sold consecutively for two financial years. They sold equities worth Rs 1.4 lakh crore in FY22. However, the pace of selling slowed down to Rs 37,632 crore in FY23, data with the depositories showed.

Before these outflows, FPIs invested a record Rs 2.7 lakh crore in equities in 2020-21 and Rs 6,152 crore in 2019-20.

In the financial year 2022-23, most of the major central banks started hiking the interest rate, which resulted in the departure of hot money from

emerging markets, including India. This resulted in an unprecedented rise in prices (inflation) in most economies.

Apart from global monetary tightening, volatile crude and rising commodity prices, along with Russia and Ukraine conflict, led to an exodus of foreign money in 2022-23.

On the domestic front too, the scenario was not encouraging. Rising inflation continued to be a cause for concern and to tame that, the RBI also hiked rates, which cast a shadow on the growth prospects of the domestic economy, said Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India.

## Unfazed by competition from Reliance, expect broad-based growth in FY24: GCPL

New Delhi, Apr 09 (PTI):

Godrej Consumer Products Ltd is unfazed by the prospect of competition from Reliance's entry into the FMCG sector, having seen multiple disruptions, including the high-profile entry of Baba Ramdev's Patanjali, according to a top company official.

The company is betting on its brand equity, wide range of portfolios and innovations to ward off competition, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) CFO Sameer Shah told PTI.

"We have seen multiple disruptions in the FMCG sector. In 2005-06 every one said that modern retail would take the sector



Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) CFO Sameer Shah.

by storm with private labels and FMCG players would find it very difficult to compete. After 17-18 years nothing has changed with modern retail play," he said. Shah was responding to a query

on how the entry of Reliance in the FMCG segment would change the competitive landscape of the sector.

"It's too early to call on," he said adding, "We have seen Patanjali a few years back. Five to six years back the expectation was they would take on every FMCG player and hence going would be tough. But we have not seen that kind of headway or any high competitive intensity. Let's see how it shapes up over a period of time."

According to Shah, GCPL's 45 per cent of revenue comes from the Indian market, while the rest is contributed by the global markets such as Indonesia and Africa.

New Delhi, Apr 09 (PTI):

The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India aims to more than double its SUV sales this year and take the leadership position in the fast-growing segment with a market share of over 25 per cent, according to a senior company official.

The auto major sold 2.02 lakh sports utility vehicles (SUVs) last financial year with a market share of around 13 per cent. In the current fiscal year, the company aims to sell around 5 lakh units.

The SUV segment is currently the fastest-growing vertical in the domestic passenger vehicle industry. The SUV contribution



Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Sales & Marketing) Shashank Srivastava.

to the overall passenger vehicle market has grown from 24 per cent in 2018 to 43 per cent in 2022.

In an interaction with PTI, Maruti Suzuki India

Senior Executive Officer (Sales & Marketing) Shashank Srivastava said the doubling of the market share in the SUV segment would also help the compa-

ny in its bid to again surpass the 50 per cent market share mark in the domestic passenger vehicle industry.

"This fiscal year we expect our SUV market share to rise to 25 per cent. The SUV market is expected to be around 19 lakh units this year," Srivastava said.

For the company, Brezza is leading the entry SUV segment while a full impact of Grand Vitara in terms of sales is also expected to come into play this year, he noted.

Besides, the addition of two new models — Jimny and Fronx — would also help in bringing in additional volumes this fiscal, he added.





'Alibaba - Ek Andaz Andekha: Chapter 2', a popular family entertainer from Sony SAB, follows the adventures of Ali - The Rakhwala (Abhishek Nigam) as he battles evil to protect his land. The show has become a fan favourite due to its captivating characters and gripping storyline. After Arav Chowdhary's entry on the show as the evil Iblis, the makers have another surprise up their sleeves. The cast is going to be joined by Jaswir Kaur who will essay the role of Roshani, Ali's mother. While Ali has been under the impression that his parents are dead, with his mother returning in his life, a new chapter full of mystery and adventure is going to be witnessed. Roshani is a chosen one, a divine, motherly figure who is soft-spoken but also a fearless warrior who puts her faith in God and his creations. She met Mustafa, Ali's father, while battling evil in her early days. It was only through her magic and combat techniques; Kabul was freed from Iblis and the Chalis Chor. However, Roshani lost her

## Jaswir Kaur roped in as Ali's mother in 'Alibaba-Ek Andaz Andekha: Chapter 2'

husband during this intense battle and has ever since been waiting to wage war on Iblis once again. Unaware of her son being alive and following in her footsteps, Roshani will soon enter Ali's life and will pass on a magical legacy that comes with a lot of responsibilities. Watch **Alibaba Ek Andaz Andekha: Chapter 2** every Monday to Friday 7 PM only on Sony SAB.

## &TV viewers will experience some major twists



In &TV's **Doosri Maa**, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, the viewers will experience some major twists. About **Doosri Maa** track, Micckie Dudaaney, who is entering the show as Varun Sharma shares, "The drama unfolds in Gupta House after Varun Sharma (Micckie Dudaaney) enters and claims to be Krishna's (Aayudh Bhanushali) father, shocking everyone. Despite showing his proof, Yashoda (Neha Joshi) manages to not let Krishna go with him. Later, Varun declares in front of neighbours that Krishna is his son and Yashoda is not letting Krishna go with him." About Happu Ki Ultan Paltan track Rajesh shares, "Happu (Yogesh Tripathi) applies

for a Gas Pump from the government, showing Katori Amma (Himani Shivpuri) as a Thumri singer after the commissioner (Kishore Bhanushali) informs him of the government's scheme of allocating gas pumps to those who have contributed to any form of art. Rajesh (Kamna Pathak), on the other hand, wants the petrol pump in her name. A government official, Mr Dheemant, meets Katori Amma, and the family members help her disguise her look. Seeing her in her get-up, he demands she sings, leaving everyone stressed." Watch **Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!**

## Aditya Roy Kapur eats half kg ice cream in one sitting on his cheat day

Bollywood actor Aditya Roy Kapur, who believes in following a strict diet regime and healthy lifestyle, shared how he used to gorge on a half kg ice cream tub in one go without any hesitation on his cheat day.

He said: "Most of the time, I follow a diet so when it comes to enjoying food, one should make use of the cheat meal. There is no use enjoying one or two scoops of ice cream. And ice cream is literally like air." Aditya, who started his acting career in 2009 with the movie 'London Dreams', rose to fame with 'Aashiqui 2' in 2013 and also acted in the romantic comedy 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani' followed by 'Daawat-e-Ishq', 'Fitoor', 'Ok Jaanu', and 'Kalank', 'Ludo' and was also seen in the web series 'The Night Manager'.

He shared some fitness tips on Kapil's show as he spoke about his upcoming project 'Gumraah', which starts with a murder and the story revolves around finding the truth and the real culprit in the case. Mrunal Thakur plays investigating officer Shivani Mathur who is on a mission to solve the murder mystery. It is a remake of the 2019 Tamil film 'Thadam'. 'Gumraah' features Aditya in a double role along with Ronit Roy and Deepak Kalra. The entire cast of 'Gumraah' including Aditya Roy Kapur, Mrunal Thakur, and Deepak Kalra followed by



the musicians Mithoon and Vishal Mishra appeared on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' as celebrity guests to promote their film. The show airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

## Cameron Diaz's comeback movie had to film stunt on green screen after bomb scare

Actress Cameron Diaz's comeback movie has been struck by a bomb scare. The 50-year-old actress has been hard at work on her first new movie in a decade - 'Back In Action' for streaming service Netflix - but the shoot in London was disrupted last month when the crew discovered an unexploded World War Two bomb close to where they had been planning to film a stunt scene on the River Thames, reports [aceshowbiz.com](http://aceshowbiz.com).

Police were called and filming on the explosive scene at London's Royal Docks was cancelled.

"The stunt was booked to take place last month at the dock. A 24-metre barrier was being erected into the river, where the explosion would take place," a source told The Sun newspaper.

"But it was during the building of the set that they believed they found what they thought to be an unexploded bomb in the water. Safety was the main priority, so after



speaking with the police and relevant authorities the whole thing was cancelled."

The stunt was later filmed on green screen at a studio in Surrey along with another action which also had to be canned. The insider added: "The cancellation

was a massive blow to the film, which has already experienced a few issues ... It cost a huge amount of money and was a massive headache for everyone involved."

Cameron will appear in the film alongside Jamie Foxx - who she also worked with on her last big screen outing in 2014's 'Annie' remake.

She previously put her movie career on hold to focus on her marriage to Benji Madden and raising their daughter Raddix, three. However, reports suggest Cameron might need another long break after she wraps filming on her new project.

A source told DailyMail.com: "These back-to-back 10-hour workdays have been a lot on her and she hates being away from Raddix. Cameron loves being a mom more than anything in the world ... She has already proven herself in the industry and has nothing left to prove to anyone."



Actress Tina Datta shares her experience of facing hurdles as a newcomer in the industry

Popular television actress Tina Datta, who gained fame for her role in the hit show 'Uttaran', recently shared her experience of facing differences in the industry as a newcomer. Speaking about her upcoming show 'Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum', which is a remake of the Turkish drama 'Istanbulu Gelin', Tina opened up about the challenges she faced in her initial days as an actor. The theme of the show, which is set to air on Sony Entertainment Television from April 10, is 'aam aur khas' (common and special), and when asked if she had ever faced any differences in the industry, Tina said, "Yes, as an actor in the initial stages of my life 'aam aur khas'... A newcomer compared with a senior actor, who has already been a part of the industry. Those differences I have faced. I have seen those hurdles and have gone through all of that." Tina plays the role of Surili in the show, which also stars Jay Bhanushali and Kitu Gidwani. The show focuses on the human nature to resist change and how it tends to create fear, with the usual reactions being to either fight or flight. Tina believes that unusual pairings make magical stories and is excited about the chemistry between her character and Jay's character in the show. With her candid confession, Tina has once again proved that she is not just a talented actress but also a role model for newcomers in the industry who face similar challenges.

## Prithviraj Sukumaran stuns with his transformation in 'Aadujeevitham'



In the late hours of Friday, Bollywood star Prithviraj Sukumaran hastened to release the trailer for his next 'Aadujeevitham' after it was found to be leaked online. Directed by national award-winning, the film looks poised to impress, the teaser indicated. The pan India actor who took to social media to share the trailer with his fans, wrote, "AADUJEEVITHAM Yes, it was unintentional. No, it wasn't meant to be 'leaked' online. But I guess by now most of you know that the AADUJEEVITHAM trailer, cut exclusively for the festival circuits is online. So here it is, The AADUJEEVITHAM, The GOAT LIFE (unfinished, work in progress) trailer meant exclusively for various festivals around the world. Hope you like what you see." However, fans were

quick to identify Prithviraj's unrecognizable avatar in the 3-minute clip. The storyline revolves around a Keralite migrant worker, Najeeb, who leaves his family and village in search of work. Aadujeevitham translates to a 'goat life' and is based on a best-selling novel, with the same title, authored by Benjamin, and is based on real-life events.

The trailer's hard-hitting visuals along with the haunting background score create a perfect backdrop for this thrilling desert adventure survival story. The trailer indicates a promising survival story, possibly an unforgettable one in Indian cinema in a long time. The film already has ace crew members like A.R. Rahman, Resul Pookutty, Sreekar Prasad, and Sunil K.S. backing the film.

## Aakriti and Kurangi to headline 'Suhaagan'

Family is where life begins, and love never ends. However, not everyone is blessed with the boon of LOVE. Shedding light on this harsh reality, COLORS will be soon launching a new show 'Suhaagan' presenting a heart-touching story of Bindiya, who embodies the power of positivity and resilience in the face of adversity. Bindiya along with her sister Payal, who are as different as chalk and cheese, are left to fend for themselves against the greed of their scheming relatives. She takes on the role of a caregiver for Payal, ensuring that she is safe and well taken care of, despite the challenges they face. 'Suhaagan' is set against the backdrop of Uttar Pradesh and will feature



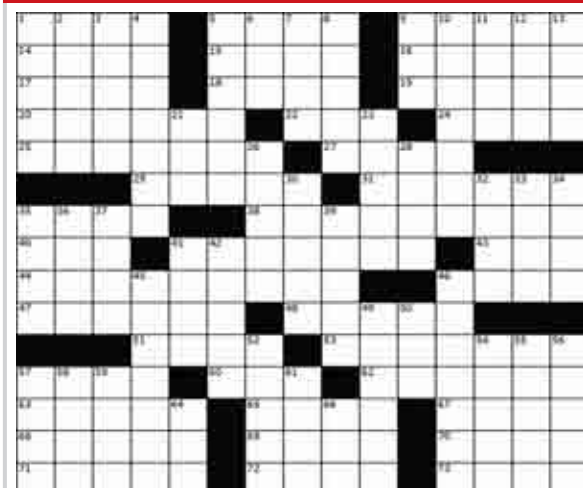
child actors Aakriti Sharma and Kurangi V Nagraj, who will play the roles of young Bindiya and Payal, respectively. Produced by Rashmi Sharma and conceptualized by Vivek Bahl, the show promises to be an interesting tale of family,

love, and deceit that will strike a chord with the audiences. Set to be seen essaying the role of Bindiya, Aakriti Sharma says, "I feel privileged to be a part of COLORS' 'Suhaagan' which showcases the significance of having a supportive family. I am

thrilled to be essaying the character of Bindiya who always maintains a positive outlook towards life. She is a strong and determined individual and I can't wait for the viewers to watch our hard work come to life." Ahead of playing Payal's character, Kurangi V Nagraj says, "Suhaagan offers a beautiful story of two sisters, who are unaware of their family members' greed. I'm excited to portray the character of Payal, a lively girl with dreams of a better life. The show aims to present an engaging story with relatable characters. I am hoping that the viewers embrace me in this role and shower love on the upcoming show." 'Suhaagan' will air soon, only on COLORS.

## CROSSWORD

611



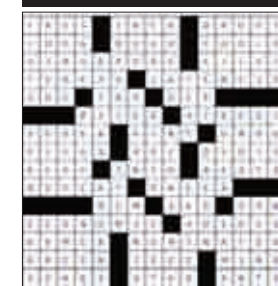
### ACROSS

- Glen
- Compensated
- Start of a Dickens title (2 wds.)
- Funnyman \_\_\_\_\_ Idle
- 43,560 square feet
- Cheapskate
- Not as much
- Nasty
- \_\_\_\_\_ acid (protein component)
- Tell secrets
- Transgression

### DOWN

- Butter units
- Assaults
- "\_\_\_\_\_ Lisa"
- Tent post
- Marilyn \_\_\_\_\_
- With competence
- Intolerant of delay
- MGM lion
- Come before
- Winter mo.
- Walked leisurely
- Golly!
- Trial
- Consumer
- Previously owned
- Football player
- Sleeveless jacket
- Peak
- Spanish title
- Cherish
- Large vases
- Molecule part
- Wave type
- Sweetheart
- Hemispherical roof
- Plant part
- Category
- Historic times
- Decorate again
- Till bills
- Engrave with acid
- And
- Grizzly, e.g.
- Ear-splitting
- Bicycle part
- Sch. groups
- Leased again
- Impartial
- Small bomb
- Disposable hankie
- Vane letters
- Uncertainty
- Engine
- Fragrance
- Designates
- Tubs
- Rework proofs
- Soft drink
- Quarry
- Moose's kin
- Forty winks

### SOLUTION 610





## Sensational Rinku seals famous win for KKR over GT

Ahmedabad, Apr 09 (PTI): Kolkata Knight Riders' Rinku Singh slammed five consecutive sixes to pull off a sensational three-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday. Needing 29 runs off the last over, Rinku slammed left-arm pacer Yash Dayal for five sixes on the trot to register a last-ball victory. Rashid Khan led from the front and returned with impressive figures of 3 for 37, while Alzarri Joseph (2/27) picked up two wickets, but all their efforts went in vain. Venkatesh Iyer made 83 off 40 balls for KKR while skipper Nitish Rana played a fine 29-ball 45-run knock. Rinku played the knock of his life and struck one four and as many as six hits over the fence to seal a famous win for KKR. Earlier, electing to bat, GT rode on Sai Sudharsan and Vijay Shankar's fifties to post a mammoth 204 for four. Hardik Pandya missed the game as he is unwell



Kolkata Knight Riders' players celebrate their win at the end of the Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match against Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on April 9.

and in his place Rashid led GT. Sudharsan made a 38-ball 53 while Shankar scored an unbeaten 63 off just 24 balls. Besides Sudharsan and Shankar, opener Shubman Gill made 39. For KKR, Sunil

Narine picked up three wickets by giving away 33 runs.

**Brief Scores:** Gujarat Titans: 204 for 4 in 20 overs (Vijay Shankar 63 not out, Sai Sudharsan 53; Sunil

Narine 3/33).

Kolkata Knight Riders: 207 for 4 in 20 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 83, Rinku Singh 48 not out, Nitish Rana 45; Rashid Khan 3/37, Alzarri Joseph 2/27).

## Messi scores and assists in PSG win

Paris, Apr 09 (AP):

One week after being jeered by his own fans, Lionel Messi scored one goal and set up the other as Paris Saint-Germain won a wasteful Nice 2-0 to maintain its six-point lead of the French league.

Messi was booed by some PSG fans in last weekend's home defeat to Lyon, leading to increased speculation he could leave this summer.

Argentina's World Cup-winning star clipped in a cross from left back Nuno Mendes in the 26th minute. Then Messi's corner from the left was headed home by veteran defender Sergio Ramos in the 76th.

Nice was unbeaten in 14 matches overall before this game and went close to equalizing in the first half, but PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma kept out efforts from Nicolas P p and striker Terem Moffi.

Veteran defender Dante's shot came off the underside of the crossbar and appeared to cross the line in the 51st. But referee J r mie Pignard was not alerted by goal-line



Nice's Umurundi defender Youssuf Ndayishimiye (L) fights for the ball with Paris Saint-Germain's Argentine forward Lionel Messi.

technology that it crossed, even though video replays showed a goal should likely have been awarded.

Donnarumma kept out more shots from P p and Youssouf Ndayishimiye as Nice kept up the pressure on PSG, which has lost eight matches in 2023. Nice hit the crossbar late on in a match of

wasted chances. Under-pressure PSG coach Christophe Galtier returned to the club he coached last season. But Nice's ultras greeted Galtier with an insulting chant and unfurled a derogatory banner about him.

After the final whistle, Galtier walked over and sarcastically gave a

thumbs up to the section of fans who insulted him, sparking an angry reaction. PSG sporting director Luis Campos intervened to encourage an upset-looking Galtier to leave the field quickly.

PSG stayed six points ahead of second-placed Lens ahead of their match in Paris next weekend.

## I will never give up, want to play a Test at Wankhede: Rahane

Mumbai, Apr 09 (PTI):

Ajinkya Rahane never gives up and after surprising the cricketing world with the fastest fifty of IPL 2023 at the Wankhede Stadium, the out of favour India batter yearns to play a Test match at his home ground.

On CSK debut, Rahane smashed seven fours and three sixes in his 61 from just 27 balls and the fastest fifty of the season came off just 19 balls. Chasing 158 against Mumbai Indians, CSK finished at 159/3 in 18.1 overs.

"I always enjoy playing at Wankhede. I have never played a Test here. I would want to play a Test here," said Rahane, who led India to a famous Test series win in Australia in 2021. Rahane was not supposed to start the game but an injury to Moeen Ali gave him an opportunity.

"There is still a long way to go. Today, I was not sure about my place in the



eleven. I got to know just before the toss, for me it is about playing one game at a time and staying in the moment," Rahane told the media on Saturday night. "Anything can happen. Today, I was not sure about my game. For me, I will never give up. It is about playing with enjoyment and passion.

## RCB focus on spin play and death overs bowling ahead of LSG clash

Bengaluru, Apr 09 (PTI):

Royal Challengers Bangalore will be expecting more runs from its batters and discipline in death overs bowling when they take on the high-flying Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL here on Monday.

RCB come into the match after a demoralising 81-run defeat against Kolkata Knight Riders and would be eager to return to winning ways at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium.

It's early days in the tournament but RCB's death bowling has been a major concern for the team.

RCB looked on course to register their second win of the season but the script went awry after the 12th over. They had the game in the palm of their hands, reducing the opposition to 89 for 5 before KKR went on to post 204/7. Against Mumbai also they went for over 13



runs in the last five overs. Death overs specialist Harshal Patel and Mohammed Siraj, who had done well with the new ball, have struggled at the back end.

The absence of Wanindu Hasaranga, who is on national duty, and Josh Hazlewood, who is recovering from an Achilles heel injury, has only amplified RCB's death bowling woes. Both bowlers are expected to link up with team this

week. But until then, South African medium pacer Wayne Parnell who has come in a replacement for Reece Topley can help with the ball at the back end of the innings.

RCB bat deep. Openers Virat Kohli and du Plessis did the job in the win against Mumbai but against KKR, the entire line up was done in by spin.

They would be wary against the Lucknow spinners, who come into

the game on the back of their stellar display in the five-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad on Friday.

Young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi has continued to impress, taking six wickets, while veteran leggie Amit Mishra and Krunal Pandya have also played impactful roles.

In the pace department, England quick and the tournament joint leading wicket taker Mark Wood was down with flu and missed the previous game alongside medium pacer Avesh Khan, who injured himself. It is to be seen if the two are available against RCB.

Lucknow, who have won two and lost one game, would hope their batters are more consistent. While Kyle Mayers has been outstanding, skipper KL Rahul and all-rounder Marcus Stoinis' form is a concern.

Match starts at 7:30 PM IST.

## Rajawat claims maiden BWF World tour super 300 title

### Orleans Masters

Orleans, Apr 09 (PTI):

India's Priyanshu Rajawat capped off an impressive week with a thrilling win in the final against Denmark's Magnus Johannesen to claim the men's singles title at the Orleans Masters here on Sunday.

The 21-year-old from Madhya Pradesh, who had played one match as part of the Indian team that registered an epic win at the 2022 Thomas Cup, saw off world number 49 Johannesen 21-15 19-21 21-16 in a 68-minute summit clash to grab the biggest title of his career.

The two shuttlers, making it to the final after coming through the qualifiers, dished out some superb badminton, but the Indian rode on his ability to produce winners to secure the world tour super 300 crown. It was the first meeting between the two



21-year-olds, both looking for a breakthrough win but Rajawat, who didn't drop a game in the USD 240,000 tournament, showed his maturity as he dished out a controlled aggressive game to come up trumps.

The image of an airborne Rajawat unleashing a forehand crosscourt jump smash to trouble his opponent will be etched in the mind of the spectators, as he accumulated multiple points with this trademark shot.

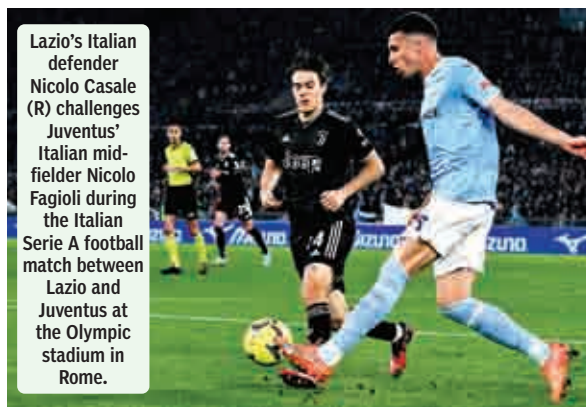
## Lazio beats Juventus to take control of Serie A top 4 race

Milan, Apr 09 (AP):

Second-placed Lazio took control of a tight Serie A battle for the Champions League qualifying places after beating Juventus 2-1.

Mattia Zaccagni scored what was to prove the winner early in the second half after Adrien Rabiot canceled out Sergej Milinkovic-Savic's controversial opener.

Lazio moved five points clear of third-placed Roma, which won at Torino 1-0. Lazio was six points ahead of AC Milan and seven ahead of fifth-placed Inter Milan after they dropped points on Friday. Juventus hit by a



15-point penalty in January was seventh, eight points below Milan.

Despite its point deduction, Juventus closed in on the top four with a run of seven wins in eight match-

es. Lazio broke their deadlock in the 38th minute when Milinkovic-Savic chested down a pass from Zaccagni and fired into the back of the net. There were lengthy Juventus

protests as Milinkovic-Savic had one hand on Alex Sandro's back as they went for the ball and the defender went sprawling. But the goal was given after a check by the VAR much to the Bianconeri's disgust.

That appeared to motivate them even more as they levelled just four minutes later. A corner was floated in and Ivan Provedel parried Bremer's header but Rabiot turned home the rebound at the third try after the Lazio goalkeeper kept out the first two attempts. Lazio restored its advantage eight minutes into the second half with a fine team goal.

## Haaland scissor-kick lights up Man City's big win in EPL

Manchester, Apr 09 (AP): Erling Haaland backed away from his marker, set himself with his back to goal, and leapt high to deliver an acrobatic scissor-kick into the bottom corner. Tap-ins, headers, majestic flying volleys. The Manchester City striker really can do anything.

Haaland took his tally of English Premier League goals in his first season with City to 30 with a double in a 4-1 victory at Southampton that kept

the pressure on Arsenal in the title race on Saturday. His first goal, a close-range header, couldn't have been easier. His second simply took the breath away.

After meeting Jack Grealish's cross with that stunning volley, Haaland sat on the ground and celebrated with a zen pose. Before long, he was laughing at the brilliance of his own goal his 44th in all competitions for City this season.



Manchester City's Norwegian striker Erling Haaland scores their third goal with this overhead kick.

### Chess: 12-year-old Ishaan holds IM Vikramaditya

Mumbai: In a major upset, 12-year-old Ishaan Tendolkar held top-seed and International Master Vikramaditya Kulkarni to a draw in round 3 of the All India FIDE Rating Chess Tournament here on Sunday. On the top board, Ishaan, playing black, opted for the Modern Benoni Defense to the queen pawn opening of Vikramaditya and soon gained equality. Vikramaditya used all his experience to outwit Ishaan but the youngster was equal to the task.

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## Atiq Ahmad, his wife booked in forgery case

**Linked to Umesh Pal's murder**

Prayagraj, Apr 09 (PTI):

Police have booked gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad, his wife Shaista Parveen and son Ali in a forgery case linked to the murder of Umesh Pal, the key witness in the murder case of BSP MLA Raju Pal. The FIR was registered on Saturday at Dhoomanganj police station here in which two more persons -- Mohammad Sabir and Rakesh alias Nakesh alias Lala -- have been named, the Prayagraj police said in a statement.

During the investigations in the Umesh Pal murder case, police had detained Rakesh for questioning, the statement said. During interrogation, Rakesh said he had hidden

a bag given by Parveen. Subsequently, the bag was recovered and two fake Aadhaar cards having the photo of Ali were found, police said, adding one of the Aadhaar cards carried the name of Sabir, son of Munne Siddiqui.

According to police, the case has been registered under sections 419 (punishment for cheating by personation), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 467 (forgery of valuable security, will, etc.), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating) and 471 (using as genuine a forged document or electronic record) of the Indian Penal Code. Umesh Pal and his two police security guards were shot dead on February 24 outside his

home in Prayagraj's Dhoomanganj. Based on a complaint lodged by Umesh Pal's wife Jaya Pal, a case was registered on February 25 against Atiq Ahmad, his brother Ashraf, wife Shaista Parveen, two sons, aides Guddu Muslim and Ghulam, and nine others.

On March 28, an MP/MLA court held Atiq Ahmad and two others guilty in the 2006 Umesh Pal kidnapping case and sentenced them to life imprisonment. That was Ahmad's first conviction even though more than 100 cases have been registered against him. The 60-year-old former Samajwadi Party MP was brought from Sabarmati Jail in Gujarat by road for hearing in the case in Prayagraj.

## Massive fire in Dimapur

Dimapur, Apr 09 (PTI): A massive fire broke out at the Burma Camp in Nagaland's Dimapur district on Sunday, killing a woman and leaving around 900 people homeless, an official said.

The fire broke out at Burma Camp's East Block around 12 pm, he said. Around 260 kutcha houses, made of thatch, were gutted in the blaze, he said.

A woman, who was in her 70s, was charred to death in the fire, and many others were injured. Several fire services personnel were also injured in the blaze as a large number of gas cylinders exploded, the official said.

Around 900 people, mostly labourers, were left homeless by the fire, he said, adding that the cause of the blaze is yet to be ascertained. Some people were also missing, locals said.

## SAHI YATRA CARNIVAL



Members of 'akhadas' (gymnasiums) dressed up as various deities perform traditional ancient martial arts based on the Ramayana during annual Sahi Yatra carnival, in Puri, Sunday.

## Tripura's first all-woman band 'Meghbalika' on cloud nine

**After traversing rough roads**

Agartala, Apr 09 (PTI):

Thirty-two-year-old Moon Saha, a guitarist, was being pressurised by her family members to get married. However, Saha, who was then 26, wanted to pursue her interest in music and scoured social media for other women who went to music schools. Finally, in 2017, she could gather five women and started rehearsals for music events, naming the band 'Meghbalika' (cloud girl). "Renowned vocalist Amar Ghosh helped us compose a title song and we began performing shows on the outskirts of Agartala. Gradually, we



Members of Tripura's first all-women musical band 'Meghbalika'.

started gaining popularity," she told PTI.

The group came into prominence after the band was invited by 'Chhandanir', a cultural organisation in the state capital, to perform in shows. Subsequently, they received an invitation to perform for Doordarshan, Akashvani

and other programmes. "We did not have any place for rehearsal. We used to practice in the houses of our members. After coming to know about our problems, Samiran Roy, the editor of a local newspaper, gave us a room in his office for the purpose. That helped us a lot," she said.

The band then had only a guitar and a harmonium. While performing at a programme organised by ONGC, the oil company donated a set of drums.

By 2023, the band has become well-known across the tiny northeastern state and performed in many shows, especially in college programmes and dur-

ing Durga Puja organised by local clubs. The band, which has now grown to 10 members between the age group of 16-32 years, has also performed in Santiniketan in West Bengal.

"Renowned Rabindra Sangeet artiste Mohan Singh Khondra, who was present there, appreciated us," lyricist Ankita Roy said. Some of the band members are students while Roy has a government job and Saha gives guitar tuitions.

"We now have a dream of establishing a music institution where elderly people, besides youngsters, get to learn music at a minimal expense. We have come across many elderly people who could not chase their dreams due to monetary constraints or other barriers," she said.

## Four months after French author Lapierre's death, his guide 'leaves' Pilkhana slum forever

Howrah, Apr 09 (PTI):

Barely four months after the demise of French author Dominique Lapierre, his Indian friend Reginald John who helped him understand the life of slum dwellers that was featured in his book 'City of Joy' also died, ending the era of love and compassion showered by the two among people of Pilkhana in West Bengal's Howrah district.

John, who earned nicknames like 'John Sir' and 'Bade Bhai' (elder brother) for his social services to the dwellers of Pilkhana, once considered the second largest slum in the country after Mumbai's Dharavi, breathed his last at a time when the industrial city of Howrah wit-

nessed communal violence during Ram Navami processions.

Lapierre, who passed away in December last year, and John are described by their admirers as men who could easily mingle with people and had big hearts. John who used to run an NGO was suffering from cancer. He died at the age of 70 on March 29.

"Instead of love, peace and kindness that Bade Bhai, Lapierre, and French priest Francoise Laborde showered here, now our city experienced clashes between two groups and hatred," said Mohammad Ejaj, a resident of Pilkhana, located around 3-4 kilometres from Howrah Railway Station.

Fr Laborde came to

Howrah before Lapierre and the author's arrival here was in connection with the priest. Surajit Basista, an advocate and the president of a local welfare organisation 'Seva Sangh Samiti', with which John was associated as its CEO, said Pilkhana did not feel the heat of such violence.

"Maybe, our social services helped strengthen the bonding among people in Pilkhana, which was once a Muslim-majority area. We serve one community, 'needy', without considering their caste, creed and religion," Basista told PTI. Terrence John, the youngest brother of 'John Sir', described the power of social workers and their humanitarian services to ward off such clashes.

## EASTER PRAYERS



People attend a mass at the St Francis Church on the occasion of Easter, in Dehradun, Sunday.

## 'Over 2,000 rules, laws scrapped by Centre for ease of governance'

Mumbai, Apr 09 (PTI):

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has said more than 2,000 rules and laws were scrapped by the Narendra Modi government in the past nine years for ease of governance and ease of doing business, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.

He said previous governments found "comfort in a status quoist approach", but Prime Minister Modi has demonstrated the courage and conviction to do away with such rules, many of which persisted since the time of British Raj and caused inconvenience to the citizens. The ultimate aim of good governance is to bring ease of living to the citizens, said the Minister of State for

Personnel. He was speaking as the chief guest after presenting the Yashraj Bharati Samman (YBS) awards at a 'gratitude ceremony' organised by the Yashraj Research Foundation (YRF) here on Saturday night.

He said the three categories in which the awards have been presented, namely innovation in healthcare, transforming people's lives and ethical governance, have always been the priority of the Modi government.

The minister recalled that soon after the government came to power in May 2014, within two to three months, the practice of getting certificates attested by gazetted officers was done away with. "Thereafter within a year,



Jitendra Singh

Prime Minister spoke from the ramparts of Red Fort about the abolition of interview in job recruitment so that a level playing field could be provided. In pension, face recognition technology was introduced so that the elder citizens did not have to go through the tedious process of getting a life certificate," Singh

said. Most of the functioning was converted online and in order to bring in transparency, accountability and citizen participation, the human interface was reduced to the bare minimum, he said.

Talking about public grievance redressal, Singh said that the grievance redressal mechanism was shifted to Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) -- an online platform -- as a result of which about 20 lakh grievances are received every year in comparison to just 2 lakhs every year before this government came in because this government followed a policy of time bound redressal and gained the confidence of the people.

## Sikkimese feel betrayed as Article 371F 'violated': Chamling

Gangtok, Apr 09 (PTI): SDF supremo Pawan Kumar Chamling claimed that the Sikkimese people feel betrayed as Article 371F, which guarantees special provisions for Sikkim, was "violated". The former chief minister, in a telephonic interview with PTI, also alleged Sikkim had become a hotbed for political violence and sought President's rule to ensure a free and fair election in 2024.

According to Article 371F, only the descendants of Sikkim subjects (those who lived in the state before its merger with India) whose names were mentioned in the 1961 register are Sikkimese with rights to own land and get state government jobs. They were also exempted from paying income tax.

"But now, the Financial Bill, 2023 redefines Sikkimese as any Indian citizen domiciled in Sikkim, extending to them the same benefits as that of the original inhabitants whose forefathers' names were in the 1961 register," Chamling said.

## 'Saffron flag will be unfurled all over Maha in 2024'

Ayodhya (UP), Apr 09 (PTI):

Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde on Sunday said the ideology of his party and that of the BJP is the same and they will unfurl the saffron flag all over the state next year.

"Our party's role is clear. The Shiv Sena has an alliance with the BJP. Our ideology, which is Hindutva, is the same. We will go to our state with new energy from Ayodhya and serve the people. In 2024, the Shiv Sena and the BJP's 'bhagva' (saffron flag) will be unfurled in the entire state," he said

while addressing a press conference here. The Lok Sabha election as well as the Maharashtra Assembly polls are due next year. Shinde is on his maiden visit to Ayodhya after becoming the chief minister in June last year. He has been accompanied to the temple town in Uttar Pradesh by thousands of Shiv Sainiks.

Without naming anyone, the Maharashtra chief minister said there are a few people who are "allergic" to Hindutva, because if it (Hindutva) reaches every household in the country, their "shop" will be closed.

"In the evening, there will be 'aarti' on the banks of the Sarayu river and there is a programme of taking the blessings of seers. Many people are a little allergic to this. I will say only one thing -- the Ram mandir and Ayodhya are not political issues for the Shiv Sena and the BJP. It is a matter of our faith and belief," he said.

Shinde said now that the construction work of the Ram temple has started, Ayodhya will witness rapid progress and lakhs of people will benefit from it. "Our Ayodhya visit is causing pleasure to lakhs of people. But there are some who are



Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde addresses a press conference at Hotel Panchsheel, in Ayodhya, Sunday.

troubled because they are intentionally allergic to Hindutva. They intentionally insulted Hindutva and

spread confusion about it.

"Hindutva is a way of life. There is tolerance in it, it takes everyone along and does not insult anyone. Many are scared that if Hindutva reaches every household, every mind, then their political shop will be closed. Due to this fear, after independence, many people made such attempts," the Shiv Sena leader said.

He said in 2014, when a government based on the idea of Hindutva was installed in the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the awakening towards

Hindutva, its honour and pride increased.

"Earlier, Balasaheb Thackeray had thought about Ayodhya. He used to say, 'garv se kaho hum Hindu hai' (say it with pride that we are Hindus). This slogan was coined by Balasaheb Thackeray and the world knows about it. The Shiv Sena's ideology is the same as that of the BJP. People are being misguided deliberately, but they are intelligent. I give replies to them through my work," Shinde said.

On the formation of his government in a coalition with the BJP, the

Maharashtra chief minister said, "In 2019, people used to say the Shiv Sena should form the government with the BJP in Maharashtra. But due to some selfishness and greed for the chair, a wrong step was taken...."

But we rectified it around eight-nine months ago, which was expected by people." Praising Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he said, "He is called 'bulldozer baba' here. The state's law and order is good, hooligans are scared and development is going on in full swing."

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