



### BRIEF



A purple sunbird visits a flower, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

### Reject

**New Delhi:** India on Tuesday firmly rejected China's objection to Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Arunachal Pradesh and asserted that the state "was, is and will" always remain an integral and inalienable part of India. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said objecting to such visits does not stand to reason and will not change the reality.

### Shot dead

**Tinsukia:** A personnel of the Assam Industrial Security Force (AISF) was shot dead by his colleague at a camp in Tinsukia district of Assam, officials said. According to a senior police officer, the two AISF personnel got into an argument, which took an ugly turn. "The incident took place at Muliabari camp in Digboi industrial town. Udhesh Majhi shot at Bimal Orang with his service rifle. Orang died on the spot," he said.

### Detained

**Mumbai:** Mumbai Police have detained a 16-year-old boy from the neighbouring Thane district after he allegedly called up the control room and threatened to kill Bollywood superstar, Salman Khan, an official said on Tuesday. The main control room of Mumbai Police received the call on Monday night. The caller told police that he would kill Khan on April 30 and asked them to convey this to the actor before disconnecting the call, the official said.

### Special trains

**New Delhi:** The Railways will be running 217 special trains to make 4,010 trips during this summer season for the convenience of passengers and to clear extra rush, the Ministry of Railways said on Tuesday. The special trains have been planned to connect major destinations across the country on railway routes, the ministry said in a statement.

### Arson

**Gumla:** Seven vehicles engaged in road construction were set ablaze by suspected members of the banned People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI) at a village in Gumla district, a police officer said on Tuesday. A group of PLFI members in ten motorcycles arrived on the spot at Temarkacha village on Monday and set the vehicles on fire, intimidated workers of a construction company and snatched their mobile phones, the police officer said.

#### Weather

High 38 Low 23

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#### MARKET

NIFTY 17,722.30 ▲  
SENSEX 60,157.72 ▲

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#### BULLION

GOLD	60,460
SILVER	74,880

## TENSE SITUATION IN BIRANPUR

# Two persons found dead near violence hit-Biranpur village

■ **In Chhattisgarh; police launch probe**

Bemetara, Apr 11:

A 55-year-old man and his son were found dead with head injuries near the violence-hit Biranpur village in Bemetara district on Tuesday, police said.

The bodies were found in Korway village, about five kilometres away from Biranpur, in the morning, Bemetara Superintendent of Police Indira Kalyan Elesela told reporters.

The deceased were identified as Rahim Mohammad and his son Iduk Mohammad (34), both residents of Biranpur, officials said.

■ **Police launches probe**

The deceased were identified as Rahim Mohammad and his son Iduk Mohammad (34), both residents of Biranpur, officials said. As per preliminary investigation, the bodies had head injuries but the cause of the death will be known after the post-mortem, SP Elesela said. "As of now it is not clear whether they were murdered or died in a mutual fight," he said, adding further probe into the case was underway.

■ **Kin of deceased offered govt job**

The State government will provide a job to a family member of the 22-year-old man killed in last week's communal violence in Bemetara district while a high-level inquiry has been ordered by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel into the incident, officials said on Tuesday. The family of the deceased, Bhuneshwar Sahu, will also be given financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh, officials said. The government job and financial aid were announced by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel after office-bearers of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Sahu Sangh met him at his official residence in Raipur earlier in the day. The chief minister also directed a high-level administrative inquiry, to be headed by a divisional commissioner, into the incident. The commissioner will have to submit the probe report within a week, an official said.

As per preliminary investigation, the bodies had head injuries but the cause of the death will be known

## RELIEF FOR RESIDENTS

# 'India to see 'normal' monsoon rainfall despite El Nino conditions'

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

In a relief for the agriculture sector, India is expected to get normal rainfall during the southwest monsoon season despite the evolving El Nino conditions, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

The IMD prediction comes just a day after a private forecasting agency, Skymet Weather, predicted "below-normal" monsoon rains in the country.

India has already seen four consecutive years of 'normal' and 'above-normal' rains during the monsoon season.

Normal rain is critical for India's agricultural landscape, with 52 per cent of the net cultivated area relying on it. It is also crucial for the replenishing of reservoirs critical for

drinking water apart from power generation across the country. Rainfed agriculture accounts for about 40 per cent of the country's total food production, making it a crucial contributor to India's food security and economic stability.

El Nino, which is the warming of the waters in the Pacific Ocean near South America, is generally associated with the weakening of monsoon winds and dry weather in India. The El Nino conditions this year follow three consecutive La Nina years. La Nina, which is the opposite of El Nino, typically brings good rainfall during the monsoon season.

"India to see normal rainfall during the southwest monsoon season (from June to September). It is likely to be 96 per cent (with an error margin of 5 per cent) of the long-period

average of roughly 87 cm," M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said at a press conference. There is a 67 per cent probability of 'normal' to 'above normal' rainfall, said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology, IMD.

While Skymet had predicted a 20 per cent chance of 'deficient' monsoon rainfall, the IMD put it at 16 per cent.

Mohapatra said 'normal' to 'below-normal' rainfall is predicted over parts of northwest India, west-central and northeast regions during the southwest monsoon season.

"Normal rainfall is likely over many parts of the peninsular region, adjoining the east-central, east, northeast areas and some parts of northwest India," he said.

## SC finds RSS victim, not perpetrator

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld Madras High Court orders allowing Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to hold 'route marches' in various parts of the states with certain conditions and dismissed three appeals of the Tamil Nadu government in the matter. The top court noted that the RSS members were not the perpetrators but victims in many of the cases cited in the data submitted by the state government while seeking that the marches be held only in certain enclosed areas due to the law and order situation following the imposition of a ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI). The nearly eight-month-old issue of holding marches by the members of the RSS in the southern state saw several orders being passed by a single judge bench of the high court since September last year followed by a division bench order in February.

## SIGNIFICANT SC VERDICT

# 'Govt staff entitled to annual increment even if they retire next day after earning it'

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Tuesday held government employees are entitled to annual increment even if they retire a day after earning the financial benefit.

The significant verdict came on an appeal of the state government-owned Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL) challenging the judgement of a division bench of the Karnataka High Court that employees were entitled to annual increment even if they are to superannuate the very next day of earning the benefit.

A bench comprising Justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar dismissed the appeal of KPTCL and said, "Now so far as the submission on behalf of the appel-

lants (KPTCL) that the annual increment is in the form of incentive and to encourage an employee to perform well and therefore, once he is not in service, there is no question of grant of annual increment is concerned, the aforesaid has no substance." The court took note of the divergent views of various high courts and laid down the law on the legal question whether an employee who has earned the annual increment is entitled to the same despite the fact that he has retired on the very next day of earning the increment. The bench dealt in detail with the Regulation 40(1) of the Karnataka Electricity Board Employees Service Regulations, 1997 and analysed the object and purpose of grant of annual increment.

## FISSURES IN K'TAKA BJP

# Ex-K'taka CM Shettar defies party advice

Hubbali (K'taka), Apr 11 (PTI):

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar on Tuesday said he has been asked by the BJP central leadership not to contest the May 10 Assembly elections, to which he has informed the party top brass of his displeasure with the decision.

Shettar, a sitting MLA from Hubli-Dharwad Central, said he has told the leadership that he would contest the election again, and requested them to give him an opportunity. He told them that their decision was not acceptable to him and urged the party top brass for its reconsideration. "I received a message from the seniors in the Assembly said, 'I have told them that I will contest the election. Whatever you have said is not acceptable to me. So, please reconsider your decision and give me an opportunity to contest the election again,' he further said. The former CM noted that he got elected to the



Assembly Speaker, said he has worked hard for 30 years to build the party in the north Karnataka region. "If they had told me two to three months ago, then it would have been respectable for me. When the nomination is just two days away (to begin), I am definitely hurt," Shettar, a former Leader of Opposition in the Assembly said.

"I have told them that I will contest the election. Whatever you have said is not acceptable to me. So, please reconsider your decision and give me an opportunity to contest the election again," he further said. The former CM noted that he got elected to the

■ **'Will Contest Polls'**

Shettar, a sitting MLA from Hubli-Dharwad Central, said he has told the leadership that he would contest the election again, and requested them to give him an opportunity. He told them that their decision was not acceptable to him and urged the party top brass for its reconsideration. "I received a message from the seniors in the party that I am senior and a former chief minister. So, make way for others," the 67-year-old BJP leader told reporters. Shettar, a former BJP state unit president and Assembly Speaker, said he has worked hard for 30 years to build the party in the north Karnataka region.

## BJP leader Eshwarappa 'retires' from politics



Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister K S Eshwarappa on Tuesday told the party's central leadership that he wished to retire from electoral politics and requested it to not consider fielding him from any constituency in the May 10 Karnataka Assembly polls. The decision of the former state unit president, who played a key role along with B S Yediyurappa in building the party in Karnataka over the last four decades, came in the midst of the BJP finalising its list of candidates for the elections. "I wish to voluntarily retire from electoral politics. Hence, it is my request not to consider my name for any constituency for the Assembly elections this time," the former Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council said in a letter to BJP president J P Nadda.

## Barmer admin on alert mode

■ **After 70 people fall ill**

Jaipur, Apr 11 (PTI):

The Barmer district administration in Rajasthan has been put on alert after more than 70 people fell ill likely due to a viral disease, a health department official said on Tuesday.

About 40 of them have been admitted to Barmer district hospital and nearly a dozen have been referred to Jodhpur for treatment, the official said.

According to the health department, people reported dengue-like fever and stomach ache in Tirsingri village of Barmer district. "About 70-80 people have

fallen ill," Barmer CMHO Chandra Shekhar Gajraj said. The official said some of them have dengue while others seem to have another viral disease.

"Blood samples have been sent for medical examination after which something concrete can be said," Gajraj said. "Our teams are monitoring the situation continuously for the last 5-6 days. No patient is serious and we will control the situation in a couple of days."

Barmer MLA Mevaram Jain visited the district hospital on Tuesday to meet the family of those admitted there and take stock of the situation.

## MOCK DRILL



Healthcare workers take part in a mock drill to check COVID-19 preparedness amid rising cases of coronavirus, at a government hospital in Mirzapur, Tuesday.

## GOOD NEWS FOR FOREIGN VARISTY ASPIRANTS

# TOEFL to be shortened by an hour from July

■ **Candidates to get real-time notification of score status**

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) will now take less than two hours to complete instead of three hours and the candidates will be able to see their official score release date upon completion of the test, according to the Educational Testing Services (ETS).

ETS, which conducts TOEFL and Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), announced on Tuesday a series of

changes in the English language proficiency test to create an optimal experience for those taking it. The changes will be effective from July 26.

TOEFL is a standardized test to measure the English language ability of non-native speakers wishing to enrol in English-speaking universities. The test is accepted by more than 11,500 universities and other institutions in over 160 countries, including the US, the UK, Canada and Australia.

According to ETS, while the reading section in TOEFL will be shortened, the "independent writing task" will be replaced by the "writing for an aca-

ademic discussion". All unscored questions will also be removed from the exam. Test takers will see their official score release date upon completion of the test, in addition to receiving real-time notification of changes to their score status.

The reduced duration of the test will be 1 hour 56 minutes. The time duration for the reading section with 20 questions will be 35 minutes, followed by 36 minutes for the listening section (28 questions).

The speaking section will have four tasks and 16 minutes to complete, followed by two tasks in the writing section (29 minutes), officials said.

## HC quashes 2019 case against Salman Khan

Mumbai, Apr 11 (PTI):

Judicial process need not be a means of needless harassment merely because an accused is a celebrity, the Bombay High Court has said in its order quashing criminal proceedings against Bollywood actor Salman Khan in a complaint of intimidation filed by a journalist in 2019. Justice Bharati Dange on March 30 allowed applications filed by Salman Khan and his bodyguard Nawaz Shaikh and quashed the proceedings and process (summons) issued to them by a lower court. In the detailed order that became available on Tuesday, the HC noted that the magistrate's court had failed to follow the procedural mandate before issuing summons.

## RAIDS ON CO-OP BANKS

# I-T dept detects Rs 1k cr bogus expenditure

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

The Income-tax department has detected "bogus" expenditure and alleged financial irregularities worth Rs 1,000 crore after it raided some cooperative banks in poll-bound Karnataka sometime ago, the CBDT said Tuesday.

The searches at 16 premises of these banks were launched on March 31 as the department suspected them to be "engaged in routing of funds of various business entities of their customers, in a manner, so as to abet them to evade their tax liabilities".

The CBDT said in a statement that cash of more than Rs 3.3 crore and

jewellery worth Rs 2 crore was seized during the searches.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the administrative body for the I-T department.

"The seized evidences revealed that these cooperative banks were involved in rampantly discounting bearer cheques issued by various business entities, in the name of various fictitious non-existing entities" the CBDT said.

These business entities included contractors, real estate companies, etc. and no KYC norms were followed while discounting such bearer cheques, it alleged.

The tax department

found that the amounts after discounting were credited in the bank accounts of certain cooperative societies maintained with these banks.

"It was also detected that some cooperative societies subsequently withdrew funds in cash from their accounts and returned the cash to business entities."

"The purpose of such discounting of large number of cheques was to mask the real source of the cash withdrawal, and to enable the business entities to book bogus expenses," it said.

In this modus operandi, the department said, cooperative societies have been used as a "conduit".

# BJYM stages protest over Bemetara incident



Bhilai, Apr 11:

Protesting against the ruthless killing of Bhuneshwar Sahu and the arrest of BJP leaders in Bemetara, the activists of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha staged demonstration at Berozgar Chowk on Tuesday. They burnt effi-

gies of the CM, HM and Food Minister. BJYM state executive committee member and Raipur city in-charge Manish Pandey led the BJYM workers during this demonstration. They expressed ire over the law and order situation in the state. They condemned the food minister for terming

this shocking incident as a small case.

Manish Pandey said that the people are feeling insecure due to the increase in communal incidents during the Congress regime. He condemned the brutal killing of an innocent youth by a mob in Biranpur. He added that

they will continue the fight till justice is delivered to the deceased Bhuvaneshwar Sahu.

Bhojraj Sinha, Councilor Piyush Mishra, Dharmendra Bhagat, Rahul Parihar, Rohan Singh, Suraj Sahu, Mayank Gupta, Prasham Dutta, Akash Thakur, Uday Bhaskar, Vishnu Pathak, Anil Soni, Chhote Lal Chowdhary, Tilakraj Yadav, Jaishankar Chowdhary, Sudhanshu Singh, Rinku Sahu, Kamil Robert, Jeet Sharma, Rituraj Sharma, Sunny Yadav, Suraj Bhan, Sunny Pandey, Jonathan Jona, Gulab Singh Parmar, Ashok Yadav, Kamlesh Singh, Goldie Soni, Arvind Singh, Aditya Karush, Srinivasa Rao, B Shivram, Gajendra Yadav, Rahul Bhosle, Dimpay Singh, Kanhaiya, Shankar Kedia and others were present.

# Two arrested for thefts at three shops

Bhilai, Apr 11: With the arrest of two ruffians, police claimed to have solved three cases of thefts which occurred at shops in Old Bhilai, Nandini and Kumhari. The third accused is at large. They trespassed into the shops by spreading the sidebars of the shutters and burgled valuables. About 1.5 kg of silver jewellery, 08 grams gold jewellery and cash totaling about Rs 2.50 lakh was recovered from the possession of the accused.

SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that thefts occurred at the shop of Gurudayal Masand located on GE Road near Gramin Bank in Kumhari; Arvind Kumar Umra and at the shop of Rohit Kumar Dewangan situated near Sirsa Gate in Old Bhilai.

Taking the cases into serious cognizance, a joint team of ACCU and concerned police stations was constituted to investigate the matter. The team spotted two suspects in the



footage of 150 CCTV cameras in the vicinity of the jewelry shops. The CCTV footage was made viral in various police groups

through social media. One suspect was identified as Sanjay Kumar Chauhan a resident of Chandandih, Raipur. He was caught

near Kumhari toll plaza. During interrogation, he confessed to committing thefts with his accomplice Deepak Rajput. They divided the stolen gold and silver ornaments among themselves. They kept some ornaments with them and obtained money by mortgaging some ornaments through their friend Suryottam Sindur, a resident of Ramnagar, Kumhari.

Police have booked Sanjay Kumar Chauhan (29) son of Santosh Chauhan a resident of Chandandih, Raipur and Suryottam Sindoor (31) son of Late Babulal Sindoor a resident of Ramnagar, Kumhari. Search operations are on to trap the absconding accused identified as Deepak Chauhan (27) son of Lalji Chauhan a resident of Ramnagar, Kumhari.

ASI Shमित Mishra, Head Constable Rajesh Sahu, ASI Beni Singh Rajput, ASI Mansingh Sonwani and others played a vital role in arresting the accused.

## Shutdown for maintenance, affected water supply in BMC area

Bhilai, Apr 11: Due to the shut down to be taken for maintenance of the Shoenath river intake well for prevention of any water shortage during the summer by Bhilai Municipal Corporation water supply would remain affected on evening of April 12, 2023 and morning of April 13, 2023. It is important to take up the maintenance work for smooth supply of clean and pure drinking water during summer. While giving information, Executive Engineer of Water Works Department Sanjay Sharma and In-charge Assistant Engineer Brijesh Srivastava said that maintenance work would require about 10 hours of shutdown. The shutdown date will be on April 12 from 10:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs. Due to which the water supply will be partially affected in the evening of April 12 and morning of April 13, 2023. The supply will be partially affected in the entire area of Bhilai Corporation. The water works department will make all efforts to complete the work during the scheduled shutdown period. Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas has instructed all the zone officers to make efforts to supply water in the partially affected areas by making alternative arrangements. During the maintenance work, all the parameters of the transformer will be checked, oil, moisture, bearing of the motor pump, equipment connected to the panel and capital repair etc will be rectified.

# Free Homoeopathy treatment provided to special children

Bhilai, Apr 11:

On the occasion of World Homeopathy Day, a free homoeopathy medical camp was organised by Sanjivani Arogya Vahini Welfare Society at Sneh Sampada Vidyalaya Sector 8, which is a school for specially-abled children. The chief guest of the event was Dr PP Singh, senior homeopathic physician while social worker Ratna Naramdeo was the guest of honour. Dr Laxprad presided over the programme. At the outset, the programme began with lighting lamps and garlanding the portrait of Dr Hahnemann. Describing the importance of this day, the Guests said that they celebrated the 268th birth anniversary of Dr Samuel



Hahnemann, the father of homeopathic medicine. Dr Hahnemann was born on April 10, 1755 AD in a poor family of Germany. He was very scholarly and studious since childhood. He had taken the title of MD in Allopathy, but being saddened by the shortcomings of allopathy, he started studying and researching. During this, he came

to know that if you keep on diluting the medicine, then the potency of the medicine increases and the root cause of the disease can be treated. This is how homeopathy medicine originated and its first medicine was 'China'. Today there are more than 3000 medicines. Today, homeopathic medicines are popular in about 90

countries all over the world. Homeopathy is the second largest system of medicine after Allopathy. World Homeopathy Day is celebrated all over the world paying tribute to the homeopathic doctor who disseminated the knowledge of such a great method of human service. Dr Ranu said that the Union Ministry of AYUSH

has announced the theme of this year 2023 "One health - One family". With the aim of making the benefits reach to the people, all the doctors of Predictive Homeopathy together treated differently-abled children at the free camp. They gave medicines to the children suffering from Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Mental

Retardation, Down Syndrome, Sickle Cell etc. Amit Dwivedi, Mukesh Jain, Shashi Singh, and M Kumar distributed fruits, sweets, chocolate and biscuits among the children. The homeopathic doctors who participated in the program are Dr PP Singh, Dr Laxprad, Dr Ranu Nandurkar, Dr Subhash Rajpal, Dr Manasa

Dwivedi, Dr Sarvashree Nandurkar, Dr Leena Vohra, Dr Himanshi Bhatia, Dr Ajay Dewangan, Dr Dilip Dewangan, Dr Deepa Rajpal and Dr Savita Jain. Social activists Manoj Thackeray, Shishir Sirke, Ratna Narang and Mrs Sirke extended cooperation in organising the programme.

## Satta bookies nabbed



Bhilai, Apr 11:

Acting on a tip off, Police nabbed two ruffians red-handed while accepting bets on satta-patti and IPL matches. The accused were accepting bets beneath a tree near BSNL Square in Sector 2. The accused are identified as

Anish Kumar Singh (25) son of Krishna Murari Singh a resident of Street 10, Sector 2 and Noman Hussein (22) son of Shaukat a resident of Street 6, Sector 4. They have been booked under the provisions mentioned in Section 04 of Gambling Act.

## Entrance exam for 'Lead-36' conducted at 32 centers

Bhilai, Apr 11: Netritva Sadhana Kendra Foundation conducted the selection test for the Lead-36 program through which free coaching for Civil Services Examination is provided to the students of the deprived classes in the state. The exam was conducted in 32 centers (31 district headquarters) of the state on Sunday. In this examination of Lead-36, 1396 students appeared in the entire state.

The organization selects graduate and talented youths from economically weak families of rural areas, remote areas of the state and provides free coaching and library as well as residential arrangements for one year to provide them equal opportunities of attempting the Civil Services Examination and becoming an officer.

After selection in the written test and interview, classes will be started from May 15 for the 70 selected candidates from all over the state. With the help of various individuals associated with social work, many organizations (NGOs), various organizations and active

in-charges of National Service Scheme (NSS), volunteers, the Lead-36 exam was organized at 32 places across the state. The main challenge for students from any disadvantaged background is the lack of social capital, due to which many bright and talented students, despite financial support, lack the right guidance and inspiration around them and face personal challenges.

As they are not able to identify the problems and work on them, they are unable to perform well in challenging exams like PSC. The basic objective of the Lead-36 program is to enable the students with personalized guidance and mentoring based preparation as per the current demands of the examination along with coaching. Netritva Sadhana Kendra is a non-profit social organization started by the youth in Raipur from the year 2020. Inspired by the long experiences of working in the field of education since 2012, this center has been started with the aim of positive change in the society.

## Certificate Program begins in BBA Department of St Thomas College

Bhilai, Apr 11:

Department of Management Studies, St Thomas College, Ruabandha started the 3rd session of its Certificate Program on Professional Business Skills from April 10, 2023 onwards

In collaboration with St Vincent Pallotti College, Raipur. It is worth mentioning that Department of Management Studies has been conducting the certificate program successfully for the last three years and every year students are getting more inputs regarding work culture in real corporate world.

Principal of the college Dr MG Roymon congratulated Dr Susan R Abraham, Head, Department of Management Studies for the successful organization of certificate pro-



gram and said that St Thomas College conducts innovative and outcome based learning programs in regular intervals.

In the inaugural day Session Dr Pratik Kumar Sharma Assistant Professor PG Department of Commerce, St Thomas College took session on Self Skill Realization and development of Skill through continuous practice.

He discussed the process of skill development and said that to become successful in professional life, youth should first understand the scope and space in every field and also

try to understand the role of economics in daily life. The program was successfully conducted by the student council of BBA, St Thomas College,

and vote of thanks was proposed by Mahendra Ikar, Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies. Prachi Singh, Head, BBA Department, St Vincent Pallotti College, Raipur, Priyanka Ganjir, Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, St Thomas College and a total of 96 students from both the colleges were present.

## Chhattisgarh Innovation Commission Chairman inspects RIPA

Bhilai, Apr 11: Chhattisgarh Innovation Commission Chairman and former Chief Secretary Vivek Dhand visited Sankra Rural Industrial Park in Patan on Monday. He oversaw different products like herbal gual, ashtagandha, havan samagri, worship material, ghee etc produced by the women. He gave instructions to increase the number of women and provide new employment. Through various activities, the women have earned about Rs 45 lakh so far. On this occasion, District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Dewangan, SDM Vipul Gupta, District Panchayat (Patan) CEO Mukesh Kothari and young professionals of



NRLM were present. He also toured the Gothan of Gram Panchayat Tarra. He appreciated the women for vermicompost production. The work of sewing and pulse grinding is being done in the Livelihood Center built in Tarra. Dhand instructed to increase the supply of raw material so that more income can be earned. Presently biofloc has been established for fish farming in which 7500 Talbia fish are being reared. The women SHG will earn a good income by selling fish in the months of June-July. He also inspected the hatchery unit in Gram Panchayat Gadadih. The women here have earned Rs 3 lakh in one year.

## Bhilai United Front chalks out strategy against anti-social activities

Bhilai, Apr 11: Under the banner of the United Front of Bhilai, a joint meeting of almost all the organizations active in Bhilai Steel Plant was held on Monday at Ispat Club Sector-1.

In the meeting, discussions were held on the problem of encroachment which is increasing day by day in Bhilai and the violation of norms and attempts to create a stressful environment in the township area.

The representatives present in the meeting shared their views on many burning issues like illegal encroachments in sectors, illegal constructions and illegal renting of quarters in Bhilai by some people. The representa-



tives of the front appreciated the work of the Enforcement Department and assured to extend their full moral support to the campaign being run by the Enforcement Department. They also thanked the state government for providing police and administrative support from time to time during the drives against illegal encroachments.

It was decided in the meeting that a symbolic

protest will be staged by the United Front against illegal occupations. The venue of the demonstration will be Sector-9 Hospital Square.

The demonstration will be staged on April 13 from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm. The United Front of Bhilai Officers Association and Trade Unions has called upon the aware public of Bhilai to participate in maximum numbers in this protest, so that the an-

archy created in the city can be ended. The meeting was attended by Narendra Kumar Banchor, OA - President; Parvinder Singh, General Secretary; Puran Verma, INTUC Working President; Vansh Bahadur Singh, General Secretary; Vijay Kumar, CITU; Vinod Kumar Soni, AITUC; General Secretary, Vinay Kumar Mishra, Treasurer; Jeevanlal Kurre, HMS and DK Singh, General Secretary.

## COVID situation, arrangements for its prevention reviewed

At high-level meeting

Raipur, Apr 11: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain today reviewed COVID-19 situation and arrangements for its prevention by holding a high level meeting of officials at Mantralaya (Mahanadi Bhavan). The high level meeting was organised on the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to be alert and make necessary preparations for COVID-19 prevention keeping in mind the rising cases of COVID-19. The meeting was attended by DGP Ashok Juneja, CM's Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo, Health Department Secretary Prasanna R and Inspector General of Police Ajay Yadav.

Jain asked all the districts to compulsorily follow the guidelines issued by the state and central government for control and prevention of corona



infection. He gave necessary instructions to the collectors to follow the COVID protocol seriously and regarding corona testing and vaccination. He asked the Chief Medical and Health Officers of all the districts to keep proper arrangements of oxygen cylinders and other life-saving equipment and medicines for the treatment of COVID in the hospitals.

In view of the increasing cases of COVID-19, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo instructed to ensure complete preparation in all hospitals. Along with necessary kits and consum-

ables, adequate medicines, equipment and trained manpower should also be kept ready. Commissioners of all divisions, collectors of all districts, superintendents of police and chief medical and health officers attended the meeting through video conference.

Secretary, Health Department, Prasanna R informed in the meeting that necessary guidelines have been issued to all the collectors for prevention and prevention of corona infection.

All the districts have been instructed to test samples of maximum number of possible cor-

ona patients. Instructions have been given for RTPCR tests of samples so that positive samples can be sent for Whole Genome Sequencing, he said. According to him adequate number of kits and consumables required for testing are available. As per the guidelines of the Central Government, mock drills have been completed in most of the hospitals to test the emergency preparedness. All the collectors have been directed for wide publicity of COVID friendly practices and necessary precautions among the general public.

## Combined Defense Services exam by UPSC on 16th

Raipur, Apr 11: The Combined Defense Service Examination (II) 2023, organized by the Union Public Service Commission New Delhi, will be held on April 16 in three shifts- first from 9 am to 11 am, second from 12 noon to 2 pm and third from 3 pm to evening (till 5 o'clock). Similarly, the examination of National Defense Academy and Naval Academy Examination (II) 2023 will be conducted on April 16 only from 10 am to 12.30 pm and from 2 pm to 4.30 pm in the prescribed examination centers.

## BIG SPLASH



Kids enjoyed a splash in a local pond to beat the heat with start of summer season here on Tuesday.

## Claim payments to hospitals under health schemes to be reviewed



### In every quarter Action plan for the year 2023-24 of Health Department and National Health Mission also discussed

Raipur, Apr 11: The three-day review meeting of the Health and Family Welfare Department began today in the capital Raipur. Various ongoing schemes and programmes of the department were reviewed today. Action plan

for the current financial year 2023-24 was also discussed. Secretary, Health Department, Prasanna R reviewed the departmental work with Director of Health Services Bhim Singh, Director of Epidemic Control Dr Subhash Mishra and other senior officers.

Director, Health Services Bhim Singh inquired about the difficulties being faced in providing health services at the

field level and their possible solutions in the meeting. He instructed to complete the payment of the pending claim amount of all the hospitals under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana Dr Khoobchand Baghel Swasthya Sahayata Yojana as per rules by end of current month. He asked for a review every three months to clear the pending cases of payment. He asked to increase digital record linking under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

With this, patients can avoid long queues at the hospital by registering through scan and share.

Bhim Singh instructed to speed up the works of infrastructure construction of hospitals. He stressed the need to increase AIDS awareness as well as increase the follow-up of the treatment of its patients to reduce the cases of death from HIV-AIDS. Health and Wellness Centre, Chief Minister's Health Assistance Scheme, Maternal Health, Child Health, Chirayu Yojana, AIDS Control Programme and Family Welfare Programmes were also reviewed on the first day of three-day meeting, attended by Chief Medical and Health Officers of all districts, civil surgeons, divisional joint directors, departmental deputy directors posted in districts, district programme managers, district programme officers and officials of the health department and National Health Mission.

## BJP to listen Modi's 'Maan Ki Baat' with 100 people

Committees formed to strengthen the Organization

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 11: To strengthen the Organization at booth level ahead of the upcoming Legislative Polls, the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) on decided to organize a programme with 100 people at every booth to mark the 100 Episodes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Above decision was taken at the meeting held at party office under the chairmanship of State



BJP President Arun Sao in presence of central leader in-charge and Regional General Secretary Ajay Jamwal here. Decision has also been taken to ensure that every District in-charge and Co in-charge visit their respective booths to strengthen the Organization. An 11-member committee would be prepared for every polling booth whereas another 25 members and page in-charge too would



be nominated in every booth to strengthen the Organization. Wall Righting in favour of the party would also be ensured in every booth. Similarly, the senior leaders would be on visit to Districts under the Social

Justice Fortnight during which they would be interacting with the people. Social Harmony Lunch too would be organized. State Convener of the programme and senior MLA Shivratna Sharma provided the above information.

## Nurse murdered by live-in partner

Raipur, Apr 11: A girl was murdered in Lalpur of Tikrapara police station area by her lover. Gopi Nishad, who was in a live-in relationship, slept with his girlfriend Basanti Yadav for two days after her murder. Both were working in a private hospital. Police started interrogating deceased's lover after arresting him. What promoted him to kill the girl is not known yet.

According to information, the mutilated body of Basanti Yadav (30), living in a rented house in Kali Nagar of Lalpur area, has been recovered. The girl was a resident of Jhalap Mahasamund. It is being told that Basanti was liv-



ing in the live-in with Gopi Nishad in Dr Prabhuram's house. Both were living in Raipur since March. Both worked in a private hospital in Lalpur area. Gopi used to work as a ward boy and Basanti as a nurse. Basanti was last seen on Saturday.

The matter came to light when the landlord knocked on the door of the closed room when the house smelled but the door

was not opened for a long time. The landlord then threatened to break open. When Gopi opened the door, there was a strong stench. Basanti's dead body was lying on the floor inside the room. According to police dead body was two to three days old. After recovery of the dead body was sent for PM and investigation is underway. A blue scarf like a noose has been found around the girl's neck. Police is also probing the murder-suicide aspect. The police have found a blue diary from the room, in which many pages have been written. The police did not what is written in those pages.

## All India Quiz on Financial Literacy for school children

To be organised from third week of April

Quiz is being organized by the Reserve Bank of India

Students of class 8th, 9th and 10th will participate in the quiz

Raipur, Apr 11: All India Quiz Competition on the subject of Financial Literacy is being organized by the Reserve Bank of India for the school children of Chhattisgarh from the third

week of April. Students of class 8th, 9th and 10th of government and municipal schools will participate in this quiz. Quiz competition will be organised at school, cluster, development block, district and state level and national level. In the first phase, competition will be organised at the school, cluster and development block level and in the second phase at the district, state and national level. The topic of the quiz competition is Financial Literacy. The course material for the competition is available on the website of RBI and National Center for Financial Education (NCFE). Director, Public Education Mr: Sunil

Kumar Jain directed all the Divisional Joint Directors, all District Education Officers and all DMCs (Comprehensive Education) of the Education Department to ensure that this quiz competition is organized according to the schedule set by the Reserve Bank of India.

Director, Public Education has given instructions to organize the school level competition in the third week of April. Two students each selected in the school level competition will participate in the development block level competition. Director, Public Education has instructed to organize block level compe-

tion in the last week of April. He has informed that the information about the district level and state level competition will be given to the district education officers by the nodal officer of the Reserve Bank, the officer of the lead bank of the district. The entire process of conducting this quiz competition will be headed by the Regional Office of the Reserve Bank of India. The organization of the competition, the food and travel expenses of the participants will be borne by the Reserve Bank of India, whose information will be given separately to the district education officers directly by the concerned nodal officer.

DM Awasthi given additional charge as DGP (EOW-ACB)

Raipur, Apr 11: DM Awasthi working as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) at Police headquarters, C.G. has now being given additional charge as Director General of Police (DPG) EOW and Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). The order in this regard has been issued by Under Secretary GAD Pulak Bhattacharya and it has come into effect.

## Medal winner Para Athletics felicitated on winning medal



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 11: Para Sports Association of Chhattisgarh (PSAC) felicitated 14 Players who recently brought 26 Medals in various categories, at the Annual General Body meeting here.

Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the PSAC Vice President Prashant Singh Raghuvanshi said that Lucky Yadav had won silver

medal in the 1500 Mts event apart from winning gold medals in the 100 Mtrs and 400 Mts race of Sub Junior category. Similarly, Sukhdev had won gold medal in 1500 Mtrs event apart from a bronze medal in the 100 Mtrs event in junior category. In the senior category of 21st National Para Athletics held at Pune in Maharashtra, Ishwari Nishad won gold medal in the 200 Mtrs event whereas Chooti Mehra won

gold medal in Shot Put event as well as gold medal in Discus Throw and Sukhmandan Nishad had won gold medal in the 100 Mtrs race apart from a bronze medal in the Long Jump event.

Apart from them, Chhattisgarh also won 16 medals in the National Senior Para Swimming event held at Guwahati in Assam recently. Rohit Kumar Gaud won gold

medals in the 50 Mts Best, 50 Mts Back and 50 Mts Freestyle event whereas Anjana Bai had won gold medal in the 50 Mtrs Breaststroke event apart from a bronze medal in the 100 Mts Freestyle and Malti Rathore won silver medal in 50 Mtrs Breaststroke and a bronze medal in the Freestyle event. Kisram Patel, Bharat Singh, Jantram Panicker, Mohan Mandavi and Ramesh also won medals for Chhattisgarh.

Coach Wasim Raja and Niranjan Shau as well as Durga Yadav and Mahesh Yadav were also felicitated. Prominent among those present on the occasion were Manish Pilliwar, RC Mishra, Suraj Yadav, Dikesh Tandon, Akhilesh Singh, Ashok Malu, Environmentalist Aditya Singh who present plays to the players, Bhisim Kukreja, Narendra Mishra, BJ Jha, Pramod Singh, MR Yadav, Dinesh Dauji, Ashwini Pandey and Rishi Mishra were also present.

## Investment promotion policy for sick and closed industries implemented

Raipur, Apr 11: According to the standards of the economy, the role of industries in the development of a state is considered important. Apart from creating employment, the industry also increases the growth rate of the state. Investment in the state has increased due to the new industrial policy implemented in the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel. Taking important steps for the development of industries, the state government has implemented a new policy for closed and sick industries in Chhattisgarh. This will encourage closed and sick industries and they will be able to operate in a better way. Along with this, with the help of the logistics policy implemented by the Government of Chhattisgarh, along with

the increase in exports, processing and storage of agricultural and other products will be encouraged.

Promotion of industrial development as well as commercial development in the state, increasing the contribution of the state in the total exports of the country, proper exploitation of mineral wealth available in the state, encouraging agriculture in remote areas and processing and storage of grains and other products. Chhattisgarh State Logistics Policy-2022 (01 November 2019 to 31 October 2024) has been implemented with the aim of encouraging. Under this policy, establishment of logistics, warehouse, cold storage, sole proprietorship, partnership, company, limited liability partnership, cooperative socie-

ty, Hindu undivided family, self-help group and farmer producer organization are eligible for industrial investment incentives. Under this policy, 35-55 percent of fixed capital investment made in enterprises, fixed capital investment grant up to Rs. 35-350 lakh, interest subsidy of 50-60 percent, maximum amount of Rs. 10-55 lakh for starting commercial production. There is a provision for full exemption from electricity duty, exemption from stamp duty and grant of transport vehicle for 5-8 years from the date. At present, industries have been established in the state in industrial areas and outside industrial areas as well. Due to various types of problems associated with the speedy pace with which industries are being established in the state, some of these estab-

lished industries have become sick and even closed down. Chhattisgarh Special Investment Promotion Policy 2019 has been implemented for closed and sick industries with the aim of re-operating these sick and closed industries and creating employment opportunities again. Under this, exemption from stamp duty, complete exemption from registration fee, interest subsidy, permanent capital investment grant, project report grant, quality certification grant, technical patent grant, technology purchase grant, disabled grant, under rehabilitation and re-operation package of sick and closed industries. There is a provision to provide exemption from electricity duty, exemption from payment of entry tax and exemption from market fee.

## Proper efforts should be made to avoid road accidents: Jain

● After COVID hiatus

**Raipur, Apr 11:** In the State level committee meeting on road safety, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain said that coordinated efforts by the Transport Department and all the concerned departments are necessary to prevent road accidents. He has given instructions to the officers to ensure necessary action under the action plan for comprehensive management of road safety. The Chief Secretary was addressing the officials in the meeting of the State Level Committee constituted for road safety at Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhawan here on Monday.

The Chief Secretary has said that the incidents should be analyzed to know the causes of road accidents. Jain instructed to organize road safety committee meetings regularly at the district level and to contin-

uously review the progress of the action being taken in relation to road safety. In the meeting, measures to control road accidents, road safety awareness and ambulance delivery to accident-prone areas, mock drill and pre-exercise to ensure proper treatment to the accident-injured and to make necessary measures in advance to ensure road safety were discussed. Detailed guidelines were given to the officers. Director General of Police Ashok Juneja also gave necessary guidelines to the officers regarding road safety.

In relation to the road safety scenario, Sanjay Sharma, officer of the Inter-Departmental Lead Agency (Road Safety), said that road accidents are decreasing due to road safety public awareness and various road safety efforts. Regarding the overall road safety scenario in the meeting, it was

informed through a presentation that, one-fourth of the state's accidents took place in Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur in the year 2022. Apart from this, road accidents have also happened in Rajnandgaon, Raigarh, Korba and Balodabazar. Similarly, in the year 2023, the maximum number of accidents occurred in Balodabazar, Dhamtari, Mungeli, Balod, Kabirdham and Jashpur districts in the months of January to March 2023. Traffic education and public awareness programs are also being organized to avoid road accidents. Corrective works are being done in black spots, junctions, signals etc. identified by all road agencies. Continuous training is being imparted to the officers and employees of various departments related to road safety. In the meeting, instructions have been given to the collectors to conduct regu-

lar meetings of all the district road safety committees. The health department has ensured that ambulances reach accident-prone areas and provide proper treatment to the injured during immediately after the accident. Similarly, necessary guidelines were given to the Urban Administration Department to ensure proper lighting arrangements in accident-prone areas, removal of encroachments in signboards and hoardings and parking places, prevention of accidents caused by stray animals. The Excise Department has been instructed to put up flags related to public awareness around all country and foreign liquor shops in the state.

In the meeting, the officers and employees of the agency were trained by the Transport, Health, Public Works Department and other construction departments for the implementation of the

Integrated Road Accident Database for the analysis of the causes of road accidents. Training is also being given to the drivers. This training program will be carried out continuously. Free facilities are being made available in all medical colleges and district hospitals for the treatment of the injured in road accidents. In this meeting organized through video conferencing, the collectors of the districts presented information regarding the road safety scenario of their districts. The Secretary, Transport Department S. Prakash, Secretary, Health Department, Prasanna R., Secretary, Tribal Welfare Department, D.D. Singh, along with the collector and superintendent of police of the concerned districts, police and transport department and health officials participated in the meeting.

## Divisional Yoga Training prog in Raipur's Yog Bhawan



**From 24 April Organization of special Yoga prog on the Foundation Day of CYA**

**Chairman CYA Gyanesh Sharma prepared an action plan with Yoga experts**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 11:** A seven-day divisional level residential yoga training

camp will be organized by the Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog on 24th April in the Yog Bhawan located in Fundhar in Raipur. In this regard, the Chairman of the commission Gyanesh Sharma held a meeting of Yoga experts of various institutions and Yoga trainers who run free regular Yoga centers in the Assembly Hall of the Nagar Nigam. In the meeting, discussions were held about required preparations for the celebration of Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog's 6th Foundation Day on April 25 and an action plan was prepared. A decision

to organize a special program on Yoga in Subhash Stadium was taken.

In the meeting, the Secretary of Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog M.L. Pandey, Former Head of the Department of Yoga in Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University Bhagwant Singh, Shri Ravatpura Sarkar University's Dr. Kaptaan Singh, Dr. Mrityunjay Rathor from AIIMS Raipur, Ranjana Mishra of Vipra College, Arpit Tiwari from Nehru Youth Center, and the representatives and Yoga trainers of Art of Living were present.

## CM Baghel pays tribute to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule

● After COVID hiatus

**Raipur, Apr 11:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday paid tribute to the social reformer, thinker, writer, and philosopher Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on his birth anniversary by offering flowers on his portrait, at his residence office here. Agriculture Minister Shri Ravindra Choubey was also present on this occasion.

In his message, the Chief Minister said that Jyotiba Phuleji had undertaken many works for the upliftment of women and Dalits. To end discrimination against Dalits and to give them a place in society, Mahatma Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj. He not only promoted women's education but also provided educa-



tion to his wife, Savitribai Phule, who became India's first female teacher.

He added that Mahatma Phule wanted to free society from superstition and malpractices.

He was a strong opponent of the prevalent caste system in Indian society and the discrimination based on it.

He emphasized on education for all sections of society to free them from the evils prevailing in the society. The Chief Minister said that the life and thoughts of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule will continue to inspire us towards serving humanity.

## Training given on the 'Role of Homeopathy in Wellness'

● On World Homeopathy Day, Department of AYUSH hosted a one-day state-level training and introduced a souvenir called 'Homeo-Darshan'

**Raipur, Apr 11:** On the occasion of World Homeopathy Day, the State Government's AYUSH Department hosted a one-day state-level training on the 'Role of Homeopathy in Wellness' for Government Homeopathic Medical Officers at Naveen Vishram Bhawan, Civil Line, Raipur. Director of the AYUSH Department, P. Dayanand, officially inaugurated the training program while, the chief instructor from Kolkata, Dr. Ashish Kumar Ghosh, detailed the many usages of homeopathy in health and wellness centers to the participating medical



officers. The Director of AYUSH Department, P. Dayanand, stated at the start of the state-level training program that homeopathy is currently the second most used methodology in the world. He also discussed his personal experiences with homeopathy. He stated that the government homeopathic doctors in Chhattisgarh are doing excellent work in this area. These days, homeopathic practitioners are suc-

cessfully treating a wide range of diseases with this method. Dayanand stated that there is a need to advance homeopathy in the present by making it more result-oriented and research-based. This is something that the AYUSH department is always prepared for. Meanwhile, Chief Instructor, Dr. Ashish Kumar Ghosh, provided participants with detailed information on how homeopathy may be used in

health and wellness centers and how it can benefit common people's health. During the session, some successful treatments provided by state government homeopathic medical officers were exhibited via posters, which were well appreciated by all guests. On this occasion, a souvenir 'Homeo-Darshan' was also unveiled with the goal of consolidating and showcasing numerous works of homeopathic medical officers in brief.

At the end of the training, certificates were awarded to all the participants. Joint Director of the AYUSH Department Sunil Kumar Das, Registrar of State Homeopathic Council Dr. Sanjay Shukla, Assistant Director (Homeopathy) Dr. Surendra Chandrakar, Assistant Director (Unani) Dr. Parmanand Sonkar and Dr. Mukund Agarwal of National AYUSH Mission, many officers and employees of the directorate were also present in the programme.

## Collector organizes meeting to maintain peace in Biranpur

**Bemetara, Apr 11:** Considering the invocation of Chhattisgarh Band by the Vishva Hindu Parishad, Collector P.S. Alma and Police Superintendent I. Kalyan Elesela chaired a meeting of society representatives and heads of organizations on yesterday 9 pm for maintenance of peacekeeping in Biranpur village. Collector Alma said that the Section 144 of the code of criminal procedure has been implemented in Biranpur for maintaining peace, law and order, and security in the state. During the meeting, the Collector appealed to the representatives of the society and the heads of organizations to maintain peace in the district.

The Collector said that police forces have been deployed in Biranpur for maintaining law, peace,

and security in Biranpur. 7 places in Biranpur have been barricaded. Places including Biranpur to Kawardha, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Ahiwara, and Saja Road have been barricaded and Police forces have been deployed. He said that public representatives were permitted to reach the village with security. Barricading was also done in Biranpur village while considering the matter of safety, so that other people from outside cannot enter the village. Police forces in large number are also being deployed. He said that F.I.R.s have been filed against riotous people. In the meeting, Sub Divisional Officer (R) Vishwas Rao Maske, Sub Divisional Officer of Police Tejram Patel, Tehsildar, councilors, and representatives of society were present.

## Young Indians to organise Y 20 event in Raipur

**Raipur, Apr 11:** Young Indians in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India will be hosting Brainstorming Sessions across the country to facilitate an outcome based discussion. Young Indians, Raipur would be hosting Brainstorming Sessions in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Govt of India and Amity University Raipur on April 11 at 10.30 am at Amity University, Raipur. The sessions will be structured to initiate a dialogue between Young Indians and Business Networking Organizations on How to Build An Ecosystem for Business and Work Towards Industry 4.0 and gather the required outcomes. A report of the outcomes along with video recording of the session will also be sent to the Ministry. The session will be focused on a dialogue

between Entrepreneurs and Young Indians towards how to build the ecosystem for business and work towards industry 4.0. The purpose of this session is to gather esteemed professionals from various backgrounds to discuss and exchange ideas on topics as mentioned below - theme: The Shift from Job Seekers to Self-Employed, Entrepreneurs and Job Creators and Employability for Youth. The panelists will be: Mr. Siddharth Agrawal (CII Chhattisgarh Chairman and Executive Director Hira Group), Mr. Tarang Khurana (Yi National Vice-Chair Designate and Director - Icon Solar Technologies), Mr. Gaurav Agrawal (Angel Investor and Director - Real Ispat and Power) and Prof. Dr. Piyush Pandey (Vice-Chancellor - Amity University Raipur). Young

achievers and students of various disciplines from Amity University, Raipur will be participating in the event.

"The session will be a great opportunity to create awareness and promote innovation. The event will include discussions on the latest technological advancements, sustainable practices, and best business strategies. Expert speakers will share their insights and experiences, and interactive sessions will be conducted to encourage networking and exchange of ideas. Participants will be encouraged to display their innovative ideas and solutions. The event will be a platform to connect young entrepreneurs with potential investors and mentors, enabling them to take their business to the next level. By organizing this event, we aim to encourage and empower young minds to

create a sustainable and technology-driven business ecosystem" Young Indians (Yi), a part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), is all set to host the G20 YEA India Summit in Delhi from July 13-15, 2023. As India has taken over the G20 Presidency, this is a moment of great pride for Young Indians (Yi). The G20 Young Entrepreneur Alliance (YEA) is a global network of approximately 500,000 young entrepreneurs and the organizations that support them.

The G20 YEA seeks to promote youth entrepreneurship as a powerful driver of economic renewal, job creation, innovation, and social change. Each year, the G20 YEA brings together hundreds of the world's top young entrepreneurs to share their ideas with leading business and political leaders to catalyze global change.

## PMAY fulfilling dreams of needy families in Ch'garh



**Najeevan Bibi's dream of owning a pucca house comes true with PMAY**

**CM Baghel's instructions fast-track pucca house construction in Ch'garh**

**Koriya, Apr 11:** Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has brought joy to many needy families who had only dreamed of owning a pucca house. Najeevan Bibi is one such person who used to live in a kutcha house in Karahiya Khand, a Gram Panchayat in the Baikunthpur development block of the district. Today, her pucca house is ready, thanks to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. At the age of 65, with

only one daughter in her family, Najeevan Bibi relies on labor work to fulfill her needs. Due to their weak financial condition, they had given up hope of owning a pucca house. When they learned about the scheme, they applied for it and their house was approved. After approval in the year 2019-20, their beautiful house is now ready.

It is worth mentioning that the Chhattisgarh government is helping people fulfill their dream of owning their own house through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. As per the instructions of Chief Minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel, the construction of pucca houses under the scheme is proceeding rapidly in the district. Many economically weaker families in the district have already benefited from the government's assistance.

## Walkers Street, a big attraction for the daily walkers and residents

● Walkers Street, a big attraction for the daily walkers and residents

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 11:** The daily walkers and residents of Raipur who love fitness activities in the morning, this Sunday, the Painting Competition was organized, where more than 50 residents participated. Walkers Street is an initiative of Rungreen foundation in association with Raipur Smart city and Municipal Corporation Raipur. As Municipal Commissioner, Mayank Chaturdevi says "Walkers Street is a good initiative for the public of Raipur to enjoy the Sunday Morning with healthy Vibes" As Ashish

Mishra GM Smart City Stated that "Walkers Street motivates the public of Raipur to Stay healthy with Healthy start in the morning".

Arpit Srivastava and Rizwan Siddiqi founder of Rungreen Foundation added that "Walkers Street is a platform which gives opportunity to the people to showcase their skill to the public free of cost and one can learn the skill from the expert through this platform".

One can join Walkers Street follow Walkersstreetraipur on Facebook and Instagram pages to get more information about the specific activities, such as the time, location, and any requirements for participation. It happens every Sunday morning from 6:00 am to 8:00 am at Oxyzone Park, Collectorate, Raipur.



## OBITUARY

**Ramesh Mishra**

**Raipur:** Ramesh Mishra, R/o Shailendra Nagar, breathed his last here on Tuesday. He was S/o Late CP Mishra and father of Anupam Diwan father-in-law of Dr. Abhinav Diwan of US. He was elder brother of Satish and Vidhan Mishra (Murrwale). The final rites will be held on April 13 at Mahadev Ghat crematorium.

## Kanker district leads in Ch'garh in issuing Ayushman cards

**Kanker, Apr 11:** With the issuance of Ayushman cards to 6 lakh 26 thousand 21 beneficiaries, the Kanker district has surpassed other districts of Chhattisgarh and achieved 85 per cent of the set target.

According to information received from the health department, 98,913 cards have been issued in Charama development block, 96,731 in Narharpur development block, 1,02,716 in Kanker, 79,710 in Bhanupratappur, 1,40,634 in Koyalibeda, 51,132 in Durgukondal,

and 56,185 in Antagarh development block.

It is worth mentioning that through the Ayushman card, BPL families are receiving free treatment of Rs 5 lakh, and APL families receive free-of-cost treatment worth Rs 50,000 in registered hospitals every year. Under the scheme, the facility of free treatment according to eligibility is being provided through Ayushman cards in 45 registered hospitals, including 36 government hospitals and 9 private hospitals.

In the Kanker district, a total of 7,068 patients have received the facility of free-of-cost treatment worth Rs 55.22 crore from registered hospitals in three years. Under the scheme, in the year 2020-21, 18,177 beneficiary patients were provided with Rs 1214.79 lakh of free treatment, in the year 2021-22, 26,052 beneficiary patients were provided with Rs 1828.56 lakh of free treatment, and in the year 2022-23, 33,839 beneficiary patients were provided with Rs 2478.81 lakh of free treatment.



**BRIEF**



**Delhi CM and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal at an event celebrating the national status of the party granted by ECI, in New Delhi, Tuesday.**

**Duped**

**Gurugram:** A 61-year-old woman here was allegedly duped of Rs 2 crore on the pretext of custom clearance by a man she befriended on social media, police said. Sunita Kapagunta, in her complaint, alleged that in December 2022 she received a follow request from a person who introduced himself as a British Airways' pilot, police said.

**Fake**

**New Delhi:** The RSS on Tuesday termed "completely fake" a purported letter written in its name exhorting Hindus to entrap Muslim girls and bring them back to the Sanatan religion. The purported letter has been circulating on social media. The two-page letter written on a purported letterhead of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological fountainhead of the ruling BJP, is marked to the Bajrang Dal and Hindu Sena among others.

**Acquit**

**New Delhi:** A court here has acquitted a man charged under the Delhi Excise Act for possessing liquor bottles beyond the permissible limit during a farmhouse party, saying the evidence before it rendered the prosecution's version "false and concocted". The court was hearing a case against Ritv Kapoor, who was charged under Section 33 of the Delhi Excise Act, 2009 for allegedly possessing 24 liquor bottles, including 14 empty bottles, 9 full bottles and one partly consumed bottle of liquor during a party at a farmhouse in Gadaipur in Mehrauli around 2 am on January 9.

**Double fine**

**Jaipur:** Now policemen not following traffic rules in Rajasthan will have to pay double fine and departmental action will be taken against them in a strict move to curb such violations, an official statement said on Tuesday. The directions in this regard were issued by Additional Director General of Police (Traffic) V K Singh on the instruction of Director General of Police Umesh Mishra.

**Arrested**

**Ambala:** Ambala police have arrested David Lahoria, who was wanted by law-enforcement agencies of several states, and seized a country-made gun from his possession, an official said on Tuesday. Lahoria, who had escaped from police custody in Ganganagar in Rajasthan a few months ago, was wanted by police in Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan, the official said.

# Mock drill conducted at Delhi hospitals

● **To check Covid preparedness**

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

Mock drills were conducted at hospitals in Delhi to ascertain their preparedness to tackle COVID-19 amid a surge in cases in the national capital. The city had reported almost 700 Covid cases and four deaths on Sunday, an increase of more than 200 infections from the previous day when three deaths were also recorded. As many as 484 cases were reported with a positivity rate of 26.58 per cent on Monday. The mock drill conducted on Tuesday was part of a nationwide exercise to take stock of the hospitals' preparedness to tackle the surge in Covid cases. Officials had already announced that both public and private fa-

cilities are expected to participate in the exercise conducted on April 10 and 11. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya visited the Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital here on Monday to review the measures taken to combat the disease.

At Delhi government-run hospitals, the exercise was undertaken on Tuesday. Suresh Kumar, the medical director of the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan (LNJP) Hospital, said more cases are being reported in the city but there is no need to panic.

"Only 10 patients have been admitted to our hospital, while 440 Covid beds are vacant. The objective of the exercise is to ascertain our preparedness in terms of availability of essential medicine, equipment and staff," he said.

Talking about the recent Covid-related deaths,

Kumar said only those who had severe comorbidities like tuberculosis, cancer, chronic lung diseases etc succumbed to the infection. A senior doctor at the Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital told PTI, "The exercise was conducted to test our Covid preparedness, including the availability of beds, oxygen and other healthcare logistic requirements to deal with any eventuality in view of a rising number of COVID-19 and influenza-type cases."

The hospital has 325 beds and according to instructions issued by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal recently, an isolation room with a set of beds has been set up at the facility, he said. The Delhi government-run hospitals had taken part in a mock drill on March 26 as well. This was on the instructions of the city health depart-

ment. Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Monday said a report on the March 26 mock drill was submitted to the chief minister and other authorities. Delhi has seen an increase in the number of fresh Covid cases over the last few days, amid a sharp rise in H3N2 influenza cases in the country.

Of the four deaths reported on Sunday, three people died due to various diseases and Covid was only "incidental" in these cases, while in one case, the primary cause was Covid, Bharadwaj told reporters on Monday.

Delhi recorded 535 Covid cases on Saturday with a positivity rate of 23.05 per cent.

The city logged 733 Covid cases — the highest in more than seven months — with a positivity rate of 19.93 per cent on Friday.

**DEMOLITION DRIVE**



**An anti-encroachment drive being carried out in front of Masjid Bengali Market, in New Delhi, Tuesday.**

## DUSU organises discussion on India's G20 presidency

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

The Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) organised a discussion on India's interaction with the world, G20 presidency, and other global issues such as environment and sustainability.

Around 250 student leaders from 30 colleges took part in the "chaupal" at the Arts Faculty on North Campus on Monday, according to a DUSU statement.

BJP leader and former MP Bajjayant "Jay" Panda was the chief guest at the meet, organised in collaboration with Y20.

"It was an interactive session wherein the topics of India's interaction with the world, the G20 presidency, and other global issues like environment and sustainability were discussed from national and global perspectives. It ended with a Q&A session wherein doubts and questions regarding India's role in the G20 presidency

were discussed by the esteemed guests," according to the statement.

Panda expressed his views on how India's human resources are a matter of envy for the world. He talked about the contribution of the youth to developing an entrepreneurial environment in the country.

Abhinav Prakash, advisor of the Y20 India Secretariat, explained the themes of the G20 and the opportunities that students can grab in order to participate efficiently in the Y20 India.

DUSU president Akshit Dahiya said, "It is thrilling for the student community coming from various parts of India and the world to take part in such holistic events, and I'm sure we will be coming up with more such constructive events where students can contribute in the discussions that hold national importance to take it forward in a positive direction."

## Rahul Gandhi accorded rousing welcome



**Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi during a roadshow in Wayanad, Tuesday.**

● **In Wayanad**

Wayanad (Kerala), Apr 11 (PTI):

Thousands of people, including UDF leaders and workers, turned up on Tuesday at Kalpetta in this border district of Kerala to welcome Rahul Gandhi, who arrived here along with his sister Priyanka Gandhi after his disqualifi-

cation as an MP. While hundreds of UDF workers lined up at Kalpetta here for the roadshow called 'Satyameva Jayate' holding the Indian flag, several people across all age groups gathered on the roadside to welcome Gandhi as he travelled to the public meeting venue on a truck accompanied by his sister and senior party leaders from Kerala.

## Cops recover 10 country-made hand grenades, one held

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

A 33-year-old man was arrested with 10 country-made hand grenades from outer Delhi's Holambi Kalan area, police said on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Dilip alias Billi who hails from Chhatrapur district of Madhya Pradesh, lived with his family in Holambi Kalan area, they said. The recovery was made based on a tip-off received on Sunday regarding the hand grenades lying in the forest area of Metro Vihar, Phase-II, in Holambi Kalan and Dilip was apprehended, police said. Efforts are on to trace a co-accused, identified as Kashiram, in the case, officials said, adding Dilip worked at a printer shop in his locality in Delhi.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Ravi Kumar Singh said that during interrogation, Dilip disclosed that he was given around 10 country-made hand grenades by his friend Kashiram

around 50 days ago to keep them in safe custody.

The hand grenades were put inside a plastic bucket and covered with grass and kept in the mud near a drain, the DCP said.

Dilip was promised money in return for keeping these grenades safe and does not know the intention or purpose behind storage of these explosive shells, police said.

On instruction from Kashiram, accused Dilip was supposed to deliver the consignment to someone after which he would have received payment for the same, DCP Singh added.

According to police, these explosives can have an impact in the radius of 20 feet. Dilip used to keep changing the location for hiding these grenades to avoid being caught, police said, adding that extensive combing operations with the help of bomb disposal squad were carried out to ensure no more such substances were hidden in other areas.

**IFTAR PARTY**



**Telangana Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali with All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen MP Asaduddin Owaisi and others during an Iftar party organised by Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand, in Hyderabad, Tuesday.**

# 'Cong to join hands with all like-minded political parties to defend Constitution'

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said with the Narendra Modi government bent on "misusing every power" and elections approaching in several key states, her party will take its message directly to people and join hands with all like-minded parties to defend the Constitution.

In an Op-Ed in "The Hindu", Gandhi also accused Prime Minister Modi and his government of "systematically dismantling" the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, saying their actions demonstrate a "deep-rooted disdain" for democracy. She also alleged that the

prime minister "ignores" the rising tide of hatred and violence, egged on by BJP and RSS leaders, and has not once called for peace or harmony or acted to reign in the offenders, let alone bring them to justice.

"Religious festivals seem to have become occasions to intimidate and bully others — a far cry from when they were occasions for joy and celebration. Instead, there is intimidation and discrimination only on account of their religion, food, caste, gender or language," Gandhi said.

Launching a scathing attack on Modi, she said his statements either ignore the most pressing issues of the day or are "platitudes

and verbal gymnastics" to distract from these matters.

The Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson said despite the prime minister's best efforts, the people of the country cannot and will not be silenced.

Underlining that the next few months will be a crucial test of India's democracy, she said the country is at the crossroads, with the Modi government bent on "misusing every power" and elections approaching in several key states.

"The Congress party will make every effort to take its message directly to the people, as it did in the Bharat Jodo Yatra, and will join hands with all

**MONEY LAUNDERING CASE**

## Court refuses pre-arrest bail to NCP leader Mushrif

Mumbai, Apr 11 (PTI):

A court here on Tuesday rejected an anticipatory bail application filed by NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Hasan Mushrif in an alleged money laundering case.

He was apprehending arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the garb of investigation and recording of statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), he had said in the application. Mushrif,



MLA from Kagal Assembly constituency in Kolhapur district, was the rural development minister in the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. The ED has

claimed that there was a suspicious flow of several crores of rupees from two companies "without having substantial business" to Sar Senapati Santaji Ghorpade Sugar Factory in which Mushrif's sons Navid, Aabid and Sajid are directors or stakeholders.

Mushrif, in his pre-arrest bail plea filed through advocates Prashant Patil, Swapnil Ambre and Atit Soni, alleged that the case was the result of a political campaign launched by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya. The central probe

agency, in its reply, denied that the case was being pursued for political reasons.

"The applicant has wrongly asserted that the entire case of prosecution is the result of political vendetta of Somaiya. The applicant is trying to shift the culpability on others. But shifting the culpability does not absolve the crime," the ED said.

Judge M G Deshpande after hearing both the sides rejected the senior Nationalist Congress Party leader's plea.



**Sonia Gandhi**

like-minded parties to defend the Constitution of India and its ideals," Gandhi asserted.

She said the Congress's battle is for safeguarding the voice of people and it understands its solemn duty as the principal oppo-

sition party. The former Congress chief added that her party is ready to work with all like-minded political parties to achieve this objective.

In the Op-Ed piece, she said the people of India have learnt that when it comes to understanding the current situation, the prime minister's actions speak far louder than his words.

"His statements — when he is not venting anger on the Opposition or blaming past leaders for today's ills — either ignore the most pressing, vital issues of the day, or are platitudes and verbal gymnastics to gloss over or distract from these issues," Gandhi alleged.

Modi's actions, on the other hand, leave little to the imagination on the BJP-led government's true intentions, she said.

"Over the past months, we have witnessed the prime minister and his government systematically dismantling all three pillars of India's democracy — the legislature, the executive and the judiciary — with their actions demonstrating a deep-rooted disdain for democracy and democratic accountability," Gandhi alleged.

Pointing to the recent goings-on in Parliament, she alleged that the last session saw a government-led strategy to disrupt parliamentary proceedings and prevent the

Opposition from raising issues of grave concern before the country and its people, such as unemployment, inflation and social divisions, and discussing the budget and the "Adani scam", among other vital issues.

Faced with a determined Opposition, the government resorted to unprecedented measures — expunging speeches, preventing discussions, attacking members of Parliament and finally, disqualifying a Congress MP at a "lightning speed", she said, referring to Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha following his conviction by a court in Gujarat's Surat in a criminal defamation case.

# EAM Jaishankar meets Ugandan counterpart Jeje



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with the Parliamentary Forum on Indian Affairs, in Kampala, Uganda, Tuesday, April 11.

## Takes stock of 'close and historical' ties and possibilities of tie-ups

Kampala, Apr 11 (PTI): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday met his Ugandan counterpart General Odongo Jeje and took stock of the "close and his-

torical ties" between the two nations, and acknowledged the possibilities of partnerships in trade, investments, energy, defence and air connectivity were being explored. Jaishankar, is on a two-nation visit to Uganda and Mozambique from April 10-15, to bolster India's strong bilateral relations with the two African countries. Jaishankar said he had

"comprehensive discussions" with his Ugandan counterpart General Odongo Jeje and thanked him for the warmth of the welcome. "Took stock of our close and historical ties that have been given greater intensity by our leadership. Possibilities in trade & investments, energy, defence and air connectivity being explored," Jaishankar said in a tweet.

During the meeting, Jaishankar also affirmed Prime Minister Modi's Kampala principles will be further implemented with a focus on digital, green and health projects. In 2018, Prime Minister Modi unveiled a set of 10 guiding principles that would dictate India's engagement with Africa. In his speech at the Ugandan parliament, Modi outlined a vision for not just a bilateral relationship with Africa but also a partnership at the global level. Jaishankar also met Uganda's Minister of Water and Environment Sam Cheptoris, Minister of Trade, Mwebesa Francis and Industry & Cooperatives and MoS for Foreign Affairs. "Noted successful delivery of Indian development partnership projects, which will aim towards empowerment, capacity building and enhancing human resource capacity," Jaishankar said in another tweet.

# India faces serious cross-border drone weapons challenge: Amb Kamboj

United Nations, Apr 11 (PTI):

India is facing a "serious challenge" of cross-border supply of illicit weapons using drones, which cannot be possible without active support from State authorities, New Delhi's envoy here said in an apparent reference to Pakistan.



UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj

"The export of weapons and military equipment in violation of international law, exacerbating geo-political tensions, cannot be ignored," she said. She said that the quantum of these threats multiplies when "certain states with dubious proliferation creden-

eration credentials, in view of their masked proliferation networks and deceptive procurement practices of sensitive goods and technologies, collude with terrorists and other non-state actors. "For example, the rise in volume and the quality of the small arms acquired by terrorist organisations remind us time and again that they cannot exist without the sponsorship or support of States," Kamboj said. Speaking further, she said that in India's context, "we are facing a serious challenge of cross-border supply of illicit weapons using drones, which cannot be possible without active support from the authorities in control of those territories," an apparent reference to Pakistan.

# Macron visits Netherlands after Taiwan comments make waves

Amsterdam, Apr 11 (AP):

French President Emmanuel Macron is set to deliver a speech outlining his vision for the future of Europe during a two-day state visit to the Netherlands that began Tuesday. The afternoon speech at a theatre in The Hague comes after Macron raised eyebrows with comments on Taiwan after his recent visit to China. "The question we need to answer, as Europeans, is the following: Is it in our interest to accelerate (a crisis) on Taiwan? No," Macron was quoted as saying in an interview published Sunday in French newspaper Les Echos and by Politico Europe. "The worst thing would be to think that we Europeans must become followers on this topic and take our cue from the US agenda and a Chinese overreaction."



French President Emmanuel Macron, center, and Dutch King Willem-Alexander review the guards outside the royal palace on Dam square in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Tuesday, April 11.

The remarks raised questions about whether Macron's views are in line with the European Union's position and whether the bloc of 27 is

able to become the "third superpower" that Macron says he hopes to build within "a few years." The interview was Friday, before China

launched large-scale combat exercises around Taiwan that simulated sealing off the island in response to the Taiwanese president's trip to the US

last week. Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen visited Beijing last week for talks and urged Chinese leader Xi Jinping to "bring Russia to its senses" over its war in Ukraine. He emphasised the concept of "strategic autonomy" for Europe which he has promoted for years. He warned of what he called the "trap" that would lead the bloc "getting caught up in crises that are not ours." China and Taiwan split in 1949 after a civil war, and the government in Beijing says the island is obliged to rejoin the mainland, by force if necessary. Macron's trip to Amsterdam and The Hague is the first state visit by a French leader since Jacques Chirac 23 years ago and underscores the close links between the Netherlands and France and the two leaders.

# UN calls for massive international support to Somalia

Mogadishu (Somalia), Apr 11 (AP):

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appealed for "massive international support" for Somalia during his visit to the East African country that is facing the worst drought in decades. He said Somalia is facing humanitarian difficulties at the same time that it is combating a serious terrorism threat. Guterres in a joint press briefing with President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

told reporters he was "here to ring the alarm on the need of massive international support because of the humanitarian difficulties the country is facing." The UN secretary-general was given a red carpet welcome complete with a guard of honour as he was received at the main international airport by Somalia and UN officials. He thanked Mohamud for the warm welcome and said he was looking forward to Ifar the breaking

of the Ramadan fast later on Tuesday. Most of Mogadishu was locked down for Guterres' visit, with restricted movement of public transport. Mohamud thanked Guterres for his historic visit in the midst of tackling humanitarian challenges and accelerating war against terrorism. "This visit assures us that the UN is fully committed to supporting our plans for state-building and stabilising the country. We are confident that

the Somali people will be able to overcome the problems and challenges they are still facing through the completion of the liberation of the country and reconciliation," Mohamud said. Food security experts say life remains "extremely critical" for more than 6 million hungry people in Somalia's historic drought. The country also faces insecurity as it battles thousands of fighters from al-Qaida's East Africa affiliate, al-Shabab.

# Australia suspends WTO case against China on barley tariffs

Canberra, Apr 11 (AP):

Australia suspended a complaint to the World Trade Organization in a bid to reopen the Chinese market to Australian barley for the first time in three years in the new government's latest step toward repairing relations with Beijing. China effectively closed it doors to Australian barley in May 2020 by imposing an 80 per cent tariff after the previous Australian government angered Beijing by calling for an independent inquiry into the origins of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The previous conservative government responded by challenging the tariff in the Geneva-based trade body. On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Penny Wong said her center-left Labor Party government, which was elected in May, had reached an

agreement with China that "creates a pathway for the resolution of the dispute over Australian barley." China had agreed to review its duties on the grain over three or four months, she said, and Australia will temporarily suspend the WTO dispute during that review period. "Obviously, if the duty is not lifted at the end of the review period, we'll resume our dispute in the WTO," Wong said. The Chinese Embassy in Australia did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday. Wong said the Chinese review offered a "significantly shorter time frame" to resolve the dispute than the WTO offered. Official and unofficial trade barriers are costing Australian ex-

porters an estimated USD 14 billion a year in products including beef, seafood and wood. Trade Minister Don Farrell said Australia hoped the review would become a template for resolving other trade disputes with China, particularly over wine. While barley growers have found other markets, Australian wine producers have struggled to find alternative buyers after China imposed trade barriers in late 2020. Australia has denied

China's claims that it was subsidizing wine to export it at artificially low prices. Grain Producers Australia, which represents barley exporters, welcomed the new agreement. "This process to reach a resolution would be significantly shorter than if the WTO process continued," Grain Producers Australian chair Barry Large said in a statement.

# PoK 'PM' Sardar Tanveer Ilyas disqualified by court for contempt

Islamabad, Apr 11 (PTI):

Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's "Prime Minister" Sardar Tanveer Ilyas was on Tuesday disqualified by a full court bench of the region's High Court from being a member of the legislative assembly for contempt of court, in a major setback to former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. The decision by a full bench, led by Justice Sadaqat Hussain Raja, comes after the superior courts of the region separately served notices to Ilyas to explain his "derogatory remarks about the superior judiciary in



his speeches at public meetings", Geo News reported. Speaking at a function in Islamabad last week, Ilyas indirectly blamed the judiciary for affecting the functioning of his government and interfering in the domain of the executive through the grant of stay orders, the Dawn newspaper reported. Chaudhry Khalid

Rasheed on Tuesday read out the judgment of the full bench, sentencing Ilyas till the rising of the court, the shortest sentence given to someone. "Ilyas has directly threatened the superior judiciary and the language of his speech at a public meeting is highly derogatory, improper and indecently worded," according to the court order. Commenting on the verdict, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry said that it is important to respect the decisions of the court as the country cannot run by destroying the judicial system. Chaudhry urged Ilyas to apologise and expressed the hope that he

would be given relief by the apex court. He also said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif should learn a lesson from the court's decision.

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
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**निविदा सशोधन सूचना क्र. 1**

इस कार्यालय का निविदा कामकाज सूचना क्रमांक 854 (ई-प्रोबोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 127647) जी. नं. 88362 में किसी भी निविदाकार के भाग में लेने के कारण से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

Bid Due Date	17 Apr, 2023 17:30:00 PM IST
Physical Doc Submission End Date	18 Apr, 2023 17:30:00 AM IST
Bid Open Date for Envelope "A" & "B" (Scheduled)	18 Apr, 2023 17:31:00 AM IST

निविदा की शेष नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड**  
**महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)**

Dy. Chief Engineer  
PRR/GSU/PI/2 Gati Shakti Unit, Raipur  
G-00051/5

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**

Tender Notice No- DyCE-GSU-R-T-05-23-24, Date: 07.04.2023

Name of Work: Redevelopment of Tilda, Nipania and Belha stations of Raipur Division (under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme).

Tender Value: Rs.17,89,28,925/-  
EMD: Rs.10,44,700/- Submission of Tender: Up-to 11.00 Hrs. on 02.05.2023. Opening of Tender: 11.00 Hrs. on 02.05.2023.

For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Dy CE/Gati Shakti Unit/Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)/ CPR/10/12 S.E.C.Rly., Bilaspur.

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE FOR FINAL LOCATION SURVEY**

Sr. No. (1) Tender Notice No.: CEC/ BSP/23-24/04, Date: 05.04.2023. (Open Tender). Name of Work: "Conducting Final Location Survey, including collection of field details for geotechnical investigation, preparation of GADs and other drawings and preparation of Survey report and estimate etc for the work of Multi tracking between Sarona - Bhalai (17.3 Kms.), DLBS - Durg (2 Km.) and Durg - Rajnandgaon (31 Km)".

Tender Value: ₹ 50,54,269.64. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 1,01,100/- Cost of Tender Document: Nil. Completion period of work: 05 (Five) Months, from the date of acceptance letter.

Date & Time of Tender Closing: Upto 15.00 hours on 28.04.2023. Date & Time of Tender Opening: 15.30 hours on 28.04.2023.

For further details related to tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/South East Central Railway/Bilaspur. Pin: 495004 or Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)/ South East Central Railway/Raipur, Pin-492009 or Chief Engineer (Con)/ South East Central Railway/ Nagpur, Pin-440001 or refer on our website: www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)/ CPR/10/12 S.E.C.Rly., Bilaspur.

Dy. CEE (GSU)/ Raipur.

### SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ELECTRICAL WORKS**

(1) E-Tender No.: Dy. CEE-GSU-R-OTP-23-24-01, Date: 06.04.2023.

Work: Electrical (G) portion of work for: (1) Electrical work at BPTP (Bhanupratappur) station under Amrit Bharat Scheme, (2) Electrical work at BXA (Balod) station under Amrit Bharat Scheme, (3) Electrical work at DRZ (Dallirazhara) station under Amrit Bharat Scheme, (4) Electrical work at MXA (Marauda) station under Amrit Bharat Scheme, (5) Electrical work at BQR (Bhalai Nagar) station under Amrit Bharat Scheme, (6) Electrical work at BIA (Bhalai) station under Amrit Bharat Scheme, (7) Electrical work at BPHB (Bhalai Power House) station under Amrit Bharat Scheme, (8) Electrical work at S2B (Sarona) station under Amrit Bharat Scheme.

Tender Value: ₹ 5,03,70,104.00. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 4,01,900.00. Submission of Tender: Upto 11.45 hours on 08.05.2023.

For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Dy. CEE/ GSU/Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers are not allowed against those tender and any such manual offers received shall be rejected.

PRR/GSU/PI/10 Raipur. Dy. CEE (GSU)/ Raipur.



# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## National Parties Redefined

**Political Landscape Undergoes Changes**

In a new development, the Election Commission of India has withdrawn the national party status of three prominent political parties, including the All India Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, and the Communist Party of India. On the other hand, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has been granted national party status. The decision has brought changes to the political landscape of the country, with the number of national parties now reduced to five from seven. The Election Commission stated that the decision to withdraw the national party status was taken after following the due process and providing sufficient opportunity of two parliamentary elections and 21 state assembly elections. According to the commission, a political party must meet certain criteria to be called a "national party." These criteria include the candidates of the party in a minimum of four states receiving at least 6% of the total votes polled in each of those states in the last national election. In addition to this, it should have won four seats in the Lok Sabha. Furthermore, a party should win a minimum of 2% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha. The party's candidates should have been elected from not less than three states. Lastly, a party is recognised as a "state party" in at least four states. The Trinamool, Bahujan Samaj Party, BJP, CPI, CPI (Marxist), Congress, and NCP were the seven national parties earlier. However, with NCP, Trinamool, and CPI removed and the addition of AAP to the list, the country now has five national parties. The decision was taken after the Trinamool's poor show in Goa and some north-east states, while the CPI's tag was withdrawn after its poor performance in the West Bengal and Odisha elections. It is important to note that national party status is of technical importance, and it is recognition in the hearts of the masses that truly matters. As the CPI National Secretary Binoy Biswas stated, the party's recognition is built with the blood, sweat, and tears of the fighting people, and it will continue to intensify its battle for democracy, secularism, and socialism. The decision has also drawn reactions from political leaders. AAP National Convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took to Twitter to congratulate everyone on the "miracle" and stated that the recognition is a huge responsibility that people have given to them. On the other hand, Trinamool Congress leader Saugata Roy stated that the poll panel's decision would not impact the 2024 elections and that the party would continue its fight. The decision has brought changes to India's political landscape, and it is essential to note that parties can regain their national status based on their performance in further electoral cycles. The withdrawal of national party status does not signal an end to these parties' influence or relevance. These parties will continue to function as registered unrecognised political parties and work towards their ideologies and principles. The Election Commission's decision to withdraw national party status of three prominent political parties and grant it to AAP has brought changes to India's political landscape. However, it is important to note that national party status is of technical importance, and a party's recognition in the hearts of the masses truly matters. The parties will continue to function and work towards their ideologies and principles, and the withdrawal of national party status does not signal an end to their influence or relevance.

## India's unemployment challenge and possible solutions

Dr Krishna Kumar, Vepakomma

India is currently facing a persistent unemployment challenge, with the latest figures indicating a rise in the rate to 8.30% in December 2022, as per the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). The urban unemployment rate increased to 10.09% in December, while the rural rate slightly decreased to 7.44%. The CMIE report also revealed that the rate was 7.45% in February, with urban and rural rates at 7.93% and 7.23%, respectively. To tackle the issue of unemployment, the Indian government has launched various initiatives such as Skill India Mission, Make in India, and Start-up India, among others. These programs aim to create employment opportunities, promote entrepreneurship, and provide vocational training to enhance employability. Encouraging job-oriented courses at the undergraduate level can also help address skill gaps and unemployment by promoting collaboration between universities and industries to design courses that meet employer needs, providing incentives to universities, incorporating vocational training and entrepreneurship education, and offering internships and apprenticeships to improve graduates' employability. Along with these initiatives, the Indian government needs to focus on increasing public investment in sectors such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure, which can create jobs and stimulate economic growth. Implementing labor market reforms, such as reducing rigid labor laws, can promote job creation and enhance the ease of doing business. Promoting entrepreneurship and innovation can also create new job opportunities in the country. The government can provide support to startups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by offering tax incentives, subsidies, and access to finance. This can foster an environment of innovation and job creation in India. In conclusion, India's unemployment challenge requires sustained efforts by the government, businesses, and civil society organizations. Initiatives such as Skill India Mission, Make in India, and Start-up India, along with promoting job-oriented courses at the undergraduate level, increasing public investment, implementing labor market reforms, and supporting entrepreneurship and innovation, can collectively help address the unemployment challenge and promote economic growth in the country.

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).

## REHEARSAL GUINNESS WORLD RECORD



Bihu dancers during rehearsal for the Guinness World Record event, in Guwahati, Tuesday, April 11. Over 11,000 Bihu dancers will perform in an attempt to set a Guinness World Record, during upcoming Rongali Bihu festival celebrations on April 14.

## True warrior of religion 'Hind di chadar' Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji



RAJENDER KUMAR SHARMA



The "Guru" tradition has been followed in Sikhism. The spiritual teachings of the ten Gurus have been given a special place in the form of speech in the holy book Guru Granth Sahib. The Ninth Guru of the Sikh Panth, who was also addressed as "Hind di Chadar", was Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji who did not accept Islam by sacrificing his head for the sake of protecting the religion.

Guru Tegh Bahadur was born on the fifth day of Vaisakh of Vikram Samvat 1678 (April 1, 1621 according to the Gregorian calendar) in Amritsar, Punjab. He was the youngest son of the sixth Sikh Guru, Guru Hargobind ji, whose childhood name was Tyag Mal, he was given the name Tegh Bahadur (mighty of the sword) by Guru Hargobind after showing his bravery in the battle against the

Mughals. Tegh Bahadur was married to Mata Gujri on 3 February 1632. Apart from being a fearless, principled warrior, Guru Tegh Bahadur was also a spiritual scholar and poet.

In the 1640s, Guru Hargobind Ji, along with his wife Nanaki, son Tegh Bahadur and daughter-in-law Mata Gujri, moved to their native village Bakala (Amritsar). After the death of Guru Hargobind, Tegh Bahadur took up permanent residence in Bakala with his wife and mother. In March 1664, on the deathbed of Guru Harkrishna Sahib, when asked by his followers who would lead them after him, He replied Baba Bakala, which meant that his successor would come from Bakala. Taking advantage of the ambiguity in the dying Guru's words, many people claiming themselves as the new Guru came and

settled in Bakala. Seeing so many claimants, the Sikhs got confused.

There is also an interesting story behind Tegh Bahadur ji being Guru Tegh Bahadur in a Sikh tradition. Baba Makhan Shah Labana, a wealthy merchant, once prayed for his life and made a tacit promise to himself that if he lived, he would gift 500 gold coins to the Sikh Guru. He arrived in search of the ninth guru. He went from claimant to claimant and presented two gold coins to each guru, confident that the true guru would know what his tacit promise was. Every "Guru" he met accepted two gold coins and sent him away. Then he came to know that Tegh Bahadur also lives in Bakala. Labana also presented two gold coins to Tegh Bahadur like other gurus. Tegh Bahadur gave him his blessings and said, "Labana, these coins are very less than the 500 coins you had promised." Makhan Shah Labana understood that Tegh Bahadur ji is the real Guru. On hearing Tegh Bahadur ji's words, Labana ran upstairs and started shouting from the terrace, "Guru lab liya re, guru lab liya re" which means "I have found the Guru, I have found the Guru." In August 1664, a Sikh congregation reached

Bakala and appointed Tegh Bahadur as the ninth Guru of the Sikhs.

His compositions are believed to include 116 Shabads and 15 Ragas which form part of the Bani in Sikhism. His works were included in the Guru Granth Sahib. During his journey, the Guru met Rani Champa of Bilaspur, who offered the Guru a piece of land in her kingdom. Guru bought the piece of land for Rs.500. There, Guru Tegh Bahadur established the city of Anandpur Sahib in the foothills of the Himalayas.

The Mughal ruler Aurangzeb offered him to leave his religion in exchange for his life and accept Islam, but he chose to die laughingly for the sake of religion. Aurangzeb did not approve of anyone disobeying his orders. He got Guru Tegh Bahadur ji beheaded on 24 November 1675 at Chandni Chowk in front of the Red Fort in Delhi. Hence this day is observed as Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom Day and his martyrdom is remembered.

Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib, the holiest shrines of the Sikhs in Delhi, are the sites of the martyrdom and cremation of Guru Tegh Bahadur, revered by every Indian.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Pawar's lesson for Congress

I am writing to express my opinion on the recent statement made by Sharad Pawar regarding the demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Adani episode. While some members of the Congress party may feel deflated by Pawar's statement, I believe that there is a lot to be learned from it. Pawar, a seasoned politician with a nationalistic approach, has rightly pointed out that a JPC probe may serve little purpose since the ruling party will have the majority of members in the committee. Instead, a Supreme Court-ordered inquiry by experts would have a better chance of uncovering any wrongdoing. Furthermore, Pawar's decision to break ranks with the rest of the opposition and express his opinion on the matter is commendable. It shows that he is not afraid to voice his dissent, even if it goes against the rest of his party. Instead of focusing on the demand for a JPC probe, the Congress party should take a cue from Pawar and work towards making the joint opposition parties stronger. By contesting the next parliament elections jointly, they will have a better chance of defeating the ruling party and enacting meaningful change.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

### Centre has to supply booster doses

Covid cases are on the rise once more, but public health centres in Karnataka have no vaccine stocks to offer booster shots to the vulnerable because the Centre has turned down the state's request for new doses. Private hospitals are not faring any better, as they have stopped procuring doses, citing potential losses due to low uptake. While there was only two Covid death in the state in January, the number increased to fifteen in March and is now one per day in April as per reports. Karnataka will have to obtain vaccines directly from manufacturers since the health ministry stated that it would no longer supply the doses. A booster shot is very much essential for people who have chronic lung or heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity or are on medication, therefore centre has to supply the doses otherwise days are not far away where the death toll will rise like anything in the state.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

# DEMOCRACY MEANS EQUALITY OF ALL

Kajal Chatterjee

Democracy does not mean "dominance of the majority", rather it means "equality of all". So only that country can afford to claim itself as providing the "best advertisement for democracy" which has ensured absolute equality of all citizens in each and every sphere of the society.

Surely multi-lingual multi-religious multi-cultural India is far from reaching that ideal position of equality as the language of few North Indian states get falsely projected as "national language", gets disgracefully imposed in many parts of the country and thereby allowing the native Hindi-speakers much unfair advantage in all sectors of this diverse country at the expense of non-Hindi

speakers whose right over India is second to not a single Bihari or Marwari. Similarly religious sentiments of all non-Hindus get seriously violated thanks to the crude muscle-flexing of Hindutva elements and resultant assault on the dietary rights, attire and rituals of minority communities who are not an iota lesser Indian than the most zealous Ram Bhakt.

In the same vein there are various parameters to judge whether the the ideals of democracy has got realised in a particular society or not. Do all children of this nation get equal right and opportunity in accessing education! If the answer is "Yes", why millions of children have to toil as labourers in tea shops or hazardous industries when they should have been

studying and playing in school! Do all citizens of the country get equally protected by law. Why do privileged get bail despite serious allegations against them and in contrast poorest of poor remain behind the bars on mere accusation of petty crimes.

As far as judging democracies through the prism of "economic growth" is concerned, it is laughable to the utmost unless such growth gets registered equally encompassing all ie each and every citizen of the country enjoy the same quantum of economic boost. At least a dignified house (if not a luxurious one) for each family unit can definitely be counted as one of the parameters of "good advertisement of democracy"; but sky-kissing towers and luxury villas for the

creamiest layer with innumerable fellow citizens languishing upon footpaths under open sky 365 days a year bear testimony to nothing but a "bourgeoisie society" to put it most mildly. And we all know very well what is the practical reality of the nation. Yes, while a section of rich and upper middle class are leading lavish lifestyle, billions of Indians are bereft of basic necessities of food shelter attire education medicine and livelihood and the chief "villain" behind such barbaric philistine inequality remains the skewed distribution of wealth where a small percentage of population are enjoying the lion's share of national resources with the overwhelming majority clutching at few straws only to survive the day somehow. So when the

rich turn richer, foolish economic statistics will naturally reflect a "growth"; but since such "growth" has bypassed the overwhelming majority of the nation, it cannot be counted as hallmark or "best advertisement for democracy". Just like dominance of Hindi-Hindutva pose a severe assault upon all norms of democracy as it undermines the rest of the languages and religions of the Union; in the same vein, this lopsided "economic growth" benefiting only a small section of population also goes against the spirit of democracy ie equality. It is high time all Indians be practically served the manna of equality in all possible sphere and only then can we afford to boast of providing the "best advertisement for democracy".



**BRIEF**

**Appointment**



**New Delhi:** Beauty and skincare brand VLCC, now controlled by Global investment firm Carlyle, on Tuesday announced the appointment of Vikas Gupta as CEO with immediate effect. The leadership change comes after Carlyle, in December 2022 announced the acquisition of a majority stake in the homegrown firm, a company statement said. Vikas Gupta succeeds Jayant Khosla. Prior to this, Gupta was CEO of SuperStore, Nykaa's eB2B business. He has also worked with Walmart-owned e-commerce platform Flipkart as its Chief Customer and Marketing Officer between 2019-21.

**No competition**



**New Delhi:** Caught in the political row over market place battle with popular Karnataka brand Nandini, head of the Gujarat-based cooperative selling Amul brand on Tuesday said it will sell milk and curd only through online channels in Bengaluru and there is no competition with Nandini milk which is much cheaper due to the state government subsidy. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) MD Jayen Mehta asserted that there cannot be "Amul versus Nandini" scenario as both are cooperatives owned by farmers.

**Digital version**



**New Delhi:** Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday unveiled the digital version of the employability skills curriculum for students enrolled at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). The digital lessons include modules on financial and digital literacy, diversity and inclusion, career development, goal setting and entrepreneurship.

**GJS Show**



**Mumbai:** The India Gem and Jewellery Show (GJS) reported a business of over 80 tonnes of gold during the three-day-long event, All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) said. The third edition of GJS, which began on April 7, concluded on Monday. "The show of this magnitude even with high priced gold is very encouraging."

## India will use G20 narrative to push its digital transformation story to world: Amitabh Kant

New Delhi, Apr 11:



India's G20 sherpa Amitabh Kant on Tuesday said India will use the G20 narrative to push its digital transformation story to the rest of the world with an objective of transforming the lives of people in the Global South. Addressing the 8th National Leadership Conclave held by All India Management Association (AIMA) here, he highlighted that globally there are 4 billion people who are without a digital identity and two and a half billion people do not even have a bank account. There are 133 countries in the world which do not have digital fast payments, he said. He said India has been able to transform the lives of citizens and become a more productively

efficient economy because of digitisation. "... How do we take this model of India to the rest of the world is the challenge and we will use the G20 narrative to push this digital transformation story of India to the rest of the world and see how we can use this opportunity to transform the lives of citizens in the Global South and that is what is important," the former CEO of Niti Aayog said. The phrase "Global South" refers broadly to the regions of Latin America,

Asia, Africa, and Oceania. Kant detailed the advancements India has made in the field of digitisation and digital payments. During his address, he listed India's critical priorities - the political narrative about India being a democracy with a strong and popular leader; the content and priorities for G20 that India drives; and how India executes its G20 Presidency. He said the G20 is important because the world is in the midst of major upheavals as there is a geopolitical crisis in Europe, the world is facing a very severe recessionary trend with one-third of the world (according to IMF) witnessing a recession and 75 countries are facing a severe debt crisis.

He further said in the post COVID-era, 200 mil-

lion people have gone below the poverty line and almost 100 million people have lost their jobs. And, then there is a crisis of climate action. "And then, on top of all this, there is a financial crisis with the collapse of the Silicon Valley Bank in the United States and whether it will have cascading impact on other parts of the economy because of inflation in USA and strengthening of interest rates, it has severe implications on emerging markets," Kant said. Kant also stressed there must be "huge transformation" in the multilateral financial institutions for greater credit flows to emerging markets. He further said the success of India's G20 Presidency will be defined by its push for global priorities and not by war.

## Audi to hike price of Q3 range by 1.6 pc from May 1



New Delhi, Apr 11:

German automaker Audi on Tuesday said it will increase the price of Q3 and Q3 Sportback by up to 1.6 per cent with effect from May 1, in order to offset the impact of increase in customs duty and input costs. The company has already increased the price of Q8 Celebration, RS5 and S5 by up to 2.4 per cent with effect from April 1. "At Audi India, we strive to give our customers the best, but the rise in customs duty and input costs

have compelled us to amend our prices upwards," Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon said in a statement. While the company has tried to absorb the impact at various levels, the current situation necessitates an increase in price, he added. Mercedes-Benz India has already increased prices of its vehicles ranging between Rs 2 lakh to Rs 12 lakh across different models from April 1, to offset rising input costs, especially the adverse impact of foreign exchange movements.

## Apple to open its first retail store in India next week

New Delhi, Apr 11:

Apple will next week open its first retail store in India, in signs of importance the iPhone manufacturer attaches to the world's fastest growing smartphones market. The company will open its first official store in Mumbai on April 18 and the second in Delhi on April 20. The company at present sells its products in India through exclusive Apple Premium Reseller (APR) stores, large format retail chains like Reliance Digital, Croma etc, multi-brand retail stores and through e-commerce platforms. "Today Apple announced it will open its doors to customers at two new retail locations in India: Apple BKC in Mumbai on April 18, and Apple Saket in Delhi on April 20," the company

said. The barricade for Apple Saket was revealed this morning and features a unique design that takes inspiration from Delhi's many gates, each signifying a new chapter to the city's storied past, Apple said. In celebration of the first Apple store opening in India, Apple BKC announced a special Today at Apple series "Mumbai Rising" running from opening day through the summer. "Bringing visitors, local artists, and creatives together, these sessions will offer hands-on activities with Apple's products and services that celebrate the local community and culture in Mumbai," it said. According to CyberMedia Research (CMR), Apple captured 4 per cent market share in India with 17 per cent year-on-year increase in its shipments in 2022.

## FM invites American businesses to invest in India



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ambassador of India to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu (3L) PIIE President Adam Posen (L) at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, in Washington, Tuesday, April 11.

Washington, Apr 11:

Asserting that India meets the requirements of a fair and transparent economy, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged American businesses to invest in the country. Addressing a business roundtable organized by US India Business Council, with representa-

tives of top US companies, the finance minister said India, under the current government, is creating opportunities for global industry to participate in the nation's growth story. In her remarks, Sitharaman emphasized that policy consistency and pursuit of reforms despite the pandemic have been a hallmark of the government's approach. Highlighting

**Says the country meets requirements of fair, transparent economy**

the impact of digitalization and economic formalization at length, Sitharaman said that due to its achievements in transitioning to digital payments and integrating the informal sector, India meets the requirements of a fair and transparent economy. She invited the investor community to make the most of the opportunities that India has to offer, now and going forward.

In his remarks, Indian Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu said as the President of G20, India is committed to multi-stakeholder engagement. "We are trying to be a voice not only for the people who are in the room, but those who are outside of it. G20 is touching all stakeholders," he said.

## I-T dept notifies Cost Inflation Index for current fiscal

New Delhi, Apr 11:

The Income Tax Department has notified the Cost Inflation Index for the current fiscal beginning April 2023, for calculating long-term capital gains arising from sale of immovable property, securities and jewellery. The Cost Inflation Index (CII) is used by taxpayers to compute gains arising out of sale of capital assets after adjusting inflation. The Cost Inflation Index for FY 2023-24 relevant to AY 2024-25 stood at 348, as per a notification of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). Usually, the income tax department notifies CII in the month of June. The CII number for last fiscal was 331 and for 2021-22 financial year it was 317. AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the CII would help taxpayers to compute long-term capital gains tax enabling them to remit advance tax on time.

## India G20 presidency aims to develop common framework to deal with crypto risks: FM

Washington, Apr 11:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said India's G20 presidency aims to develop a common framework for all countries to deal with risks associated with cryptocurrencies in the wake of the recent shocks witnessed in the crypto market. The last year's episode of FTX's bankruptcy, and its spat with Binance triggered a huge sell-off in the market and reduced liquidity. This event made the world realise the vulnerability of this asset class as they do not have any underlying value. "Cryptocurrencies are a very important part of the discussion under the #G20India presidency, given so many collapses

and shocks in cryptocurrencies. We seek to develop a common framework for all countries to deal with this matter," she said at a discussion in Peterson Institute for International Economics here.

She also said G20 is trying to bring together all countries to address debt distress in middle-income and low-income nations like Sri Lanka and Ghana. During the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in February, it was agreed to strengthen multilateral coordination by official bilateral and private creditors to address the deteriorating debt situation and facilitate coordinated debt treatment for debt-distressed countries.

## Markets maintain winning run for 7th day; Sensex reclaims 60k mark

Mumbai, Apr 11:

Equity benchmark Sensex climbed over 310 points to reclaim the 60,000 mark on Tuesday, propelled by robust buying in metal, bank and financial stocks amid a firm trend in global equities and continuous foreign capital inflows. Rising for the seventh straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 311.21 points or 0.52 per cent to finish at 60,157.72. During the day, it jumped 421.17 points or 0.70 per cent to 60,267.68. As many as 21 stocks in the index ended in the green and nine in the red. In the seven-day gaining streak, the BSE benchmark has



jumped 2,544 points or 4.41 per cent. The broader NSE Nifty gained 98.25 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 17,722.30. A total of 38 Nifty shares gained, while 12 declined. "Nifty rose for the seventh consecutive session on April 11 helped by positive global cues. Asian and European mar-

kets mostly rose on Tuesday after an Easter break with the focus now turning to the release of US inflation data later in the week," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities. Among the Sensex firms, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Steel, ITC, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra and State Bank of India were the biggest winners. Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Asian Paints, Wipro and Tata Motors were the biggest laggards. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge rose

0.62 per cent and the mid-cap index advanced 0.40 per cent. Among sectoral indices, metal rallied 1.87 per cent, utilities jumped 1.73 per cent, bankex (1.64 per cent), financial services (1.03 per cent), power (1.03 per cent) and commodities (1 per cent). Teck, IT, realty, consumer durables, and capital goods were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Japan and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Shanghai settled lower. European equity markets were trading in positive territory during the afternoon trade. The US markets ended mostly with gains in the overnight session on Monday.

Mumbai, Apr 11:

The rupee depreciated 13 paise to close at 82.12 (provisional) against the US currency on Tuesday as dollar demand from importers weighed on investor sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 81.96 against the dollar, and finally ended the day at 82.12 (provisional), 13 paise lower from its previous close.

During the day, the rupee witnessed a high of 81.96 and a low of 82.15 against the greenback. The rupee on Monday rose 3 paise and settled at 81.99 against the US dollar: Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst



at HDFC Securities, said the Indian rupee erased Monday's gain following corporate dollar outflows and dollar demand from the importers. "Local traders will eye tomorrow's inflation and IIP data for a directional move. The

market consensus is expecting lower inflation numbers along with slower output growth," Parmar said. Spot INR-USD may consolidate between 81.70 to 82.50 in the near-term, he added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.46 per cent to 102.10. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.30 per cent to USD 84.43 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 311.21 points or 0.52 per cent higher at 60,157.72 points. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 98.25 points or 0.56 per cent to 17,722.30 points.

## Volvo Car India celebrates another milestone

**By delivering 200th Pure Electric XC40 Recharge**

New Delhi, Apr 11:

Volvo Car India announced delivery of its two hundredth all electric XC40 Recharge. The Volvo XC40 Recharge is India's first locally assembled luxury electric SUV, assembled in Volvo's Bangalore, Karnataka Facility. The first XC40 Recharge was delivered in November 2022 and has garnered multiple honours in a variety of categories for its great design, innovative technology, and environmental efficiency. "Delivery of the two



hundredth XC40 Recharge is indeed a milestone. Even after Global supply chain disruptions had impacted deliveries our customers patiently waited for their cars which reflects their confidence in the Volvo brand. This milestone further strengthens our resolute towards becoming an all-electric company by 2030" said Mr. Jyoti Malhotra, Managing

Director Volvo Car India. By 2030, the company wants to offer only pure electric vehicles and phase out all internal combustion engine vehicles, including hybrids. This is consistent with the Company's worldwide climate plan, which aims to minimise the life cycle carbon footprint per car by continuous practical action.

## Mercedes-Benz India posts record sales at 4,697 units in March quarter

New Delhi, Apr 11:

German luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz on Tuesday reported record sales in India at 4,697 units during the first quarter of 2023, a 17 per cent growth over the year-ago period, with its top end vehicles priced above Rs 1 crore seeing accelerated growth. Mercedes-Benz India, which had sold 4,022 units in the same quarter last year, launched its hybrid AMG GT 63 S E Performance model with price starting at Rs 3.3 crore (ex-showroom Delhi) as part of its strategy to accelerate sales of top end



vehicles (TEVs). For the fiscal ended March 31, 2022, the company posted its highest-ever sales at 16,497 units as against 12,071 units in 2021-22, a growth of 37 per cent. "Overall, our growth story continues with a record quarter and a record fiscal year...Double digit growth continues for us in 2023," Mercedes-Benz India

Managing Director & CEO Santosh Iyer told PTI. He said, "When I look at the composition, the top end vehicles (TEVs) actually showed more than 100 per cent growth in quarter one at 107 per cent...So the juggernaut with the top end vehicles continues also in quarter one." Mercedes-Benz India's TEVs include S-Class Maybach, GLS Maybach, top-end AMGs, S-Class and GLS SUV, which are priced over Rs 1 crore (ex-showroom). The company, which posted record sales in 2022 at 15,822 units, had sold over 3,500 units of TEVs, growing at 69 per cent. "We as a

brand are highly focused in India and worldwide to grow the TEV segment. The India strategy only further resonates," Iyer said, adding that the growth of the company's TEV sales is also a "clear reflection of the changing luxury car market in India". Earlier, he said the composition of the luxury market used to be dominated by entry level luxury cars, but has "changed, at least for us". Also for electric vehicles, he said, "It reflects the changing profile of customers. They now prefer to combine sustainability and luxury at the top end level."

## Sony launches two shows 'Hum Rahein Na Rahein Hum' and 'Sapnon Ki Chhalaang'

Sony Entertainment Television has always been at the forefront of bringing viewers relevant stories, backed by true to life characters. Its fiction offerings have not only entertained the viewers but also given Indian television some of its most iconic shows. The channel is now ramping up primetime viewing with the launch of two shows - Hum Rahein Na Rahein Hum Co Powered by Smith & Jones Pasta Masala and Sapnon Ki Chhalaang Co Powered by Ching's Secret Schezwan Chutney. These exuberant stories air every Monday to Friday at 9.00pm and 9.30 pm respectively.

'Hum Rahein Na Rahein Hum' delves into the lives of two strong-willed women from two diametrically opposing societal settings, each inspirational in their respective worlds. This captivating story follows the journeys of Damayanti, the principled traditionalist matriarch of the royal Barot family based in Ranagadh while Surilii is a vibrant and modern



thinking young girl from Mumbai. The show focusses on the natural human nature of resistance to change - change tends to create fear and the usual reactions are to either fight, or flight. This close-to-life yet inspirational saga sees Kitu Gidwani playing Damayanti Barot, Tina Datta essaying the role of Surilii Ahluwalia and Jay Bhanushali portraying the character of Shivendra Barot. Despite their diametrically opposing ways, the essence of these two women striving to safeguard their familial traditions is the same. Set in her ways, Damayanti is

trying to save the honor and customs of her family while Surilii, who goes with the flow is giving her all in trying to protect the memories and legacy of her parents. Produced by Swastik Productions, Hum Rahein Na Rahein Hum is a remake of the popular Turkish drama Istanbul Gelin (Bride of Istanbul) that will air on Sony Entertainment Television every Monday to Friday at 9:00 pm.

'Sapnon Ki Chhalaang' offers viewers a distinctive perspective into the life of Radhika Yadav, a girl filled with grit and determination from Jhansi who wants to make it big

in the metropolis of Mumbai. Starring the promising actress Megha Ray as the protagonist Radhika, the show follows her leap of faith to an alien city to fulfill her dreams while wanting to prove to her parents, Radheshyam Yadav, played by Sanjiv Jotangia and Suman Yadav, played by Kashish Duggal that she can stand on her own feet and take care of them. But to succeed, Radhika must overcome the challenges of moving to a new city, handling the pressures of her first job and tough boss along with living with her three roommates

Sreemoyi Banerjee (Sadhvi Majumder), Vaishali Tiwari (Anushubha Bhagat) and Preeti Dhingra, (Alma Hussein) - all of whom come from very diverse backgrounds. An Invictus T Mediaworks production, this coming-of-age drama will air on Sony Entertainment Television (SET) every Monday to Friday at 9:30 pm.

Tune into 'Hum Rahein Na Rahein Hum' at 9:00 pm and 'Sapnon Ki Chhalaang' at 9:30pm, every Monday-Friday only on Sony Entertainment Television!

## Arjun Kapoor to sponsor a promising girl cricketer's dream of playing for India

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor has turned into a real-life hero for an 11-year-old girl cricketer named Anisha Rout as he has come forward to sponsor her entire equipment cost till she turns 18.

Anisha Rout travels 80 kms a day for eight hours of cricket training seven times a week, as she pursues her ambition to emulate her hero, Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar, and become a professional player. Anisha's father, Prabhat, who works as a supervisor is doing whatever it takes to give wind beneath her wings so that she can fulfill her dreams. However, he needs support to provide Anisha with all the best facilities and equipment so that she can give her best shot to play for India.

Anisha's father Prabhat says, "As parents, we want the best for our child but training to become a world-class cricketer is expensive. Anisha wants to earn the India cap and bring glory to our country like Sachin Tendulkar. The father added: "As a father, I need to empower her so that she can try to do that and become an inspiration for oth-



ers like her for generations to come.

"This help from Arjun Kapoor is godsend."

"It takes a lot of load off my shoulders and I can't thank him enough. It is important for Anisha to get the best equipment as a cricketer and now she will have everything till she

turns 18!" Residing in Panvel, Maharashtra, Anisha trains eight hours a day to chase her dream. She was inspired to play cricket after watching the film 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story'. At the age of 10, she played Under-15 Women's Cricket for Raigad District, Maharashtra.

## For Shehnaaz Gill, self-love is more important than Salman Khan

Punjabi actress-singer Shehnaaz Gill, who is awaiting the release of "Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan", her big-ticket film, has declared with her characteristic candour that self-love matters most to her.

Gill, who became popular after "Bigg Boss 14", especially because of her reported off-screen romance with the late Sidharth Shukla, said she has known Salman Khan for many years and shares a good camaraderie with him, but nothing trumps self-love for the actress.

Gill also appeared on "Bigg Boss" as a guest star in seasons 15 and 16.

Speaking to the media at the film's trailer launch, Shehnaaz said: "I didn't feel nervous at all while working on the film. In fact, I love how I look in the final output of the film."

She said: "Khud ko dekh ke achcha lagta hai. Pehle apne aap se pyaar karna chaahiye na, baaki baad mein Salman sir aur baaki sab (How good it is to look at oneself. It's so good to love oneself. For me, I'm my most favourite person,



then comes Salman sir and everyone else)."

Scheduled to hit the big screen on April 21, coinciding with Eid, "Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan" is a Hindi action drama directed by Farhad Samji and produced by Salman Khan Films.

## Shubhangi's birthday has a special connection with Angoori!

Shubhangi Atre has won the hearts of audience and became a household name by making viewers laugh with her innocence as Angoori Bhabi in &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai. The talented actress, who celebrates her birthday on April 11, reveals why her birth date has a special connection with her character, Angoori. The actor shares, "My birthday is special to me for many reasons. One of the reasons was signing up for the character that changed my life. Seven years ago, on my birthday, I signed my show Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai to become one of television's most loved characters. Angoori is the greatest gift God ever gave me on my birthday, and I will cherish it forever."

Talking about how she plans to celebrate her birthday this year, Shubhangi adds, "Acting gives me utmost joy and I enjoy working on my birthdays. I will shoot for my show and celebrate the special day with my extended family on set. During the weekend, I will travel with my daughter and a few friends to a nearby hill station in Mumbai. We are yet to decide on the venue, but I



am already excited about my weekend getaway. What could be the best way to express your gratitude to the universe than to spend time in nature's lap! I will read, meditate, and listen to my favourite music. On her birthday, Shubhangi promises to continue entertaining her

massive fanbase. She says, "I am lucky to have achieved my dreams and want to keep nurturing my acting prowess. I will keep giving my best as an actor to make my audience and family proud. I hope that people continue loving my character and performance."

## Tiger Shroff reveals why he hates 'competing' with himself



Bollywood action hero Tiger Shroff has revealed why he hates competing with himself and treated his fans to some jaw-dropping pictures. Taking to twitter, Tiger shared a slew of pictures flaunting his perfectly chiseled body and washboard abs. In the pictures, the son of actor Jackie Shroff can be seen sporting just blue denims, as he chose to go shirtless. He posted the pictures with the caption: "Hate competing with myself...kicking my own a\*\* everyday."

## Anil Kapoor calls Jeremy Renner 'toughest Avenger'



"dearest friend" Jeremy Renner and said that he is "absolutely indestructible."

Renner, who got severely injured in a snow plough accident on New Year's, appeared on a chat show for the very first time after the tragic incident.

Anil, who will be seen sharing screen space with Renner in the upcoming series 'Rennervations', took to Twitter to praise the 'Hawkeye' star after his appearance on the chat show. Renner had tweeted about his Jimmy Kimmel Live appearance.

He wrote: "Oddly comfortable coming out a different door, with different stories, and brand new cane?"

Replying to his tweet, Anil wrote: "Absolutely indestructible my dearest friend @JeremyRenner the toughest avenger."

'Rennervations' is a four-part series, which revolves around Renner, who embarks on his passion of bringing communities together by reimagining unique vehicles that serve the purpose and aid people's requirements.

## Neeti Goel champions the cause of 'tiger widows' of Sundarbans!

After working tirelessly for mankind during Covid pandemic and lockdown, Neeti Goel - restaurateur and philanthropist, has touched the lives of many by co-founding initiatives like 'Khaana Chahiye' and 'Ghar Bhejo' (along with Sonu Sood) serving free meals to the needy and homeless people and helping 1.5 lakhs migrants reach home.

Continuing with her philanthropic work, the successful entrepreneur has taken upon a new challenge of working tirelessly and selflessly for the plight of tiger widows in

Sundarbans (West Bengal). With both his sons jobless, Biswajit Mistry ventured deep into the dense jungles of the Sundarbans in search of raw honey that would fetch a better price. His body was recovered two days later, mauled and bearing unmistakable signs of a tiger attack. There are in total 54 islands on the Indian side of Sunderbans which are inhabited by almost 3000 plus tiger widows.

"It is believed the deeper you go into the jungle, the purer is the honey you get", informs Neeti, adding, "The family has received no compensation



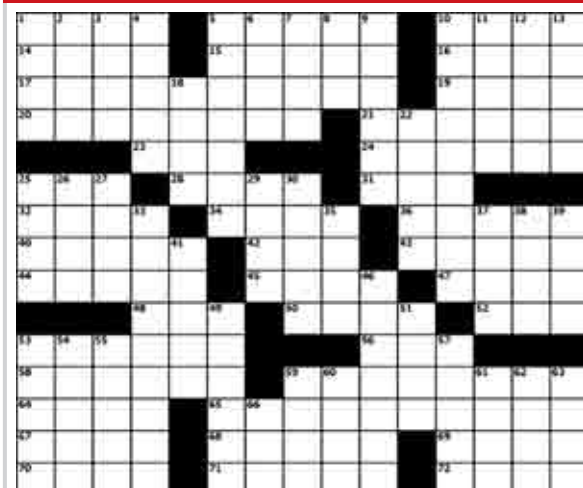
because Biswajit was killed in a restricted jungle and is struggling for survival. They can barely manage two meals a day,

one of the many who lost their husbands to tiger attacks in the last few years." Sundarban jungle is known for being a global hotspot for human-tiger conflict. Seeing the plight of these tiger widows, philanthropist Neeti Goel decided to take up their cause and make them self-sufficient by helping them with fish farming, goat rearing, hen culture and by donating cows to a few of them with larger families.

"This is one of its kind project and the execution is extremely difficult as most of these villages are in deep dense forest and accessible by canals which are infested with crocodiles but we will not give up and the execution work has already started. There is no limit to what we as women can accomplish. I am a woman, what's your super power!" Neeti concludes.

## CROSSWORD

613



### ACROSS

- Building extensions
- Outdated
- Damon or Dillon
- Send
- Mature
- Wind instrument
- Inconsequential
- Midwest state
- Smallest
- Magazine editions

- Valuable stone
- Decide
- Hush!
- Dog's name
- Golf prop
- Earring type
- In good shape
- Prepare to pray
- Love, Italian-style
- Time past
- Dish out
- Measuring device

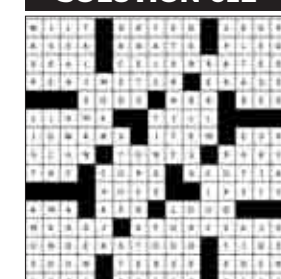
- Carson's successor
- Conks out
- Male turkey
- Enthralled
- Philadelphia time zone (abbr.)
- Ohio port
- A Gershwin
- Kitchen gadget
- Scenic view
- Races an engine
- Indifferent to government
- Dogwood or palm
- Rodeo rope
- Bullets, for short
- Hearing organs
- Singer John
- Bench

### DOWN

- Give off
- Feeble, as an excuse
- Shade of green
- Informal speech
- Displace (a TV show)
- Ventilates
- Roasting stick
- Caribbean
- Join the army
- Wetted
- Concerning
- Drying cloth
- Taunt
- Makes a knot
- Looks for
- Imitation

- Residence
- Owl's cry
- Uttered
- Golfer Woods
- False
- "Lisa"
- Buffalo's waterfront
- Nights before holidays
- "we forget"
- Eat away
- View
- Group spirit
- Jogging gait
- Pastry
- Puccini work
- Crowbar, for one
- Opera highlights
- Mail
- As well
- Top
- Doll's cry
- Plenty (2 wds.)
- Chum

### SOLUTION 612





## SC expresses displeasure over illegal detention of woman

Asks police officers to compensate her

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

The Supreme Court has expressed displeasure over the illegal detention of a woman in Maharashtra despite being granted interim protection and two weeks by the apex court to surrender and apply for regular bail in a case, and asked the police officers concerned to compensate her.

and the top court had granted her two weeks' time to surrender and apply for regular bail. "We had given interim protection to the petitioner and despite the same, the petitioner was taken into custody. It is the case of the petitioner that the order of this court was also shown. The petitioner was bailed out the next day, i.e. remained in custody for twenty four hours," the bench noted in its order passed on Monday.

The top court, which was dealing with a contempt plea filed by the woman against two police

officers, had in its January 5, 2023 order noted the submission of the petitioner's counsel that despite its November 17, 2021 order, within two days the police had arrested her from a hospital where she was working as a nurse.

"The respondents (two police officers) have filed their affidavit seeking to express an unconditional apology. To say the least, we don't expect the police officers to behave in this manner and that too in the teeth of the order of this court," the bench said in its Monday order.

During the hearing, the bench told the counsel ap-

pearing for the police officers, "You (respondents) have to pay compensation from your pocket."

The apex court noted that the counsel, on instructions, stated that respondents were willing to compensate the petitioner from their own pocket for her illegal one-day detention.

"The petitioner will be compensated with the amount of Rs 15,000 for the illegal detention for one day which will be shared by both the respondents and the payment to be made within a period of two weeks from today," the bench ordered.

## HOLY DIP



Sikhs takes a dip in the 'holy sarovar' during the birth anniversary celebrations of the ninth Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur, at Golden Temple in Amritsar, Tuesday.

## Administering mifepristone early in pregnancy found safe

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

Researchers have found that administering mifepristone, the abortion pill, as early as possible could be done safely and could also help the patient determine if their pregnancy was an ectopic pregnancy or not faster than if they waited for an ultrasonogram.

Ectopic pregnancy is a life threatening condition in which a fertilized egg has implanted outside the uterus and, therefore, will not be viable.

While the researchers from the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, US, found no evidence of an increase in the rates of serious adverse events, emergency

department visits, or non-adherence with follow-up, they saw a higher failure rate for the pills when given early, which meant that patients with an undesired pregnancy who are treated early may need to re-initiate a medical abortion.

The findings of this retrospective cohort study are published in the journal Obstetrics & Gynecology.

The medication combination of mifepristone and misoprostol, referred to as "abortion pills", is highly effective for early abortion and early pregnancy loss.

Typically, when patients have not yet had an intrauterine pregnancy confirmed by ultrasono-

gram, they are followed with serial blood tests (hCG hormone) and a repeat ultrasonogram to 'rule out' ectopic pregnancy.

Human chorionic gonadotropin, or hCG, is a hormone produced early in pregnancy by the placenta. Its detection in the urine and serum is the basis for one kind of pregnancy test.

In this study, researchers from the Brigham compared the safety and efficacy of immediately starting the medication combination after a person has a positive pregnancy test versus waiting to initiate treatment until a diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy has been ruled out.

PILOT AFTER ENDING FAST

## 'Movement against corruption will continue'



Congress leader Sachin Pilot sits on a hunger strike against the alleged corruption during previous BJP government in Rajasthan, at Shaheed Smarak in Jaipur, Tuesday.

Jaipur, Apr 11 (PTI): As he ended his daylong fast demanding action from his own government over cases of alleged corruption during the BJP term, senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Tuesday said his movement against graft will continue. He was speaking to reporters after ending the fast at the Shaheed Smarak here. Pilot sat on the fast

from 11 am to 4 pm. "We had assured people that effective action will be taken against corruption by the former BJP government in the state. I wanted the Congress government to take action against the corruption by the former BJP government," he said. "This movement against corruption will continue," Pilot added.

## Buddhist artists from Bhutan to pay homage to 21 avatar of goddess Tara

New Delhi, April 11 (PTI):

A new exhibition featuring around 80 Thangka paintings made by Buddhist artists from Bhutan will pay homage to the 21 avatar of female deity Tara and different facets of Buddhism.

Goddess Tara, a tantric meditation deity, believed to originate as a form of goddess Durga, is worshipped both in Buddhism and in Shaktism as one of the ten Mahavidyas.

Curated by Arjun Sawhney and Tania Lefebvre in collaboration with master Buddhist artist, Zeiko, "Whispered Wisdom" will be held at Bikaner House from April 14-17. Thangkas serve as im-

portant teaching tools, visually unfolding the life of the Buddha, and other deities and bodhisattvas. The art of Bhutanese Thangkas exemplifies legends, stories and deities from Mahayana Buddhism.

"The canvases exhibited are created under the strict guidelines of Buddhist scriptures as the work encompasses symbolism and allusion, and are explicitly religious.

Each Thangka is created with various elements meticulously and involves earthly pigments and minerals such as 24 karat gold and other natural colours," said the curators in a statement,

adding that paintings of these overlapping grids "take many weeks, even months to complete". Touted to be an "examination of the intersection of fine art and deep spiritual faith", the paintings, according to the organisers, serve as a "striking centerpiece" that can be appreciated by all admirers of Asian art.

"Whispered Wisdom" explores the teachings and rituals of a faith followed unwaveringly by a country almost in its entirety, a culture based on the guidance of spiritual learnings, passed down over aeons, exploring the wisdom that has breathed life into an art form," it added.

## FLORAL TRIBUTE



Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais offered floral tribute to the statue of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of the great social reformer at the New Maharashtra Sadan in New Delhi.

## HC acquits woman in case of forcing girls into prostitution

New Delhi, Apr 11 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court has acquitted a woman of the charges of keeping several girls in a house for prostitution and living off the earnings of the brothel, saying sexual exploitation or abuse of the victims could not be proved in the nearly two-decade-old case.

The high court said there was no evidence in form of any money trail to show that the woman and another convict, who passed away, had sexually exploited the victim girl for any commercial purpose.

The court said it was of the view that the woman was entitled to the benefit of doubt since the evidence brought on record was insufficient to return a finding of guilt against

her for offences punishable under Sections 3 (punishment for keeping a brothel or allowing premises to be used as a brothel), 4 (punishment for living on the earnings of prostitution) and 5 (procuring, inducing or taking person for the sake of prostitution) of Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act.

It allowed the convict's appeal and set aside a 2009 order by which the woman was convicted and sentenced to three-year imprisonment by a trial court. Since the other accused passed away, proceedings against him were abated.

"In the present case, there is no evidence on record, in the form of any money trail, to show that appellants had sexually exploited the victim for any

commercial purpose or that they had gained out of the alleged use of house as brothel so as to sustain the charge of living on the earnings of prostitution or of running a brothel.

"the sexual exploitation or abuse of the victim could also not be proved beyond reasonable doubt by the prosecution. Moreover, identity of the two other girls who were allegedly being kept in the house of the appellants for the purpose of prostitution as alleged by the victim in the present case could neither be established nor even finds mention in the entire investigation or charge sheet filed by the prosecution," Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said.

The high court also took note of several discrepancies, which made the story

of prosecution doubtful.

The high court said for the charge of prostitution to sustain, the prosecution has to prove the acts of sexual exploitation committed by the accused persons for commercial purposes. It was also to be proved that the house in question fell under the meaning of brothel and was being used for sexual exploitation or abuse for some gain.

The case of prosecution was that the two accused were living off the earnings from prostitution and were running a brothel at their residence with a number of girls indulging in flesh trade.

According to the prosecution, the 19-year-old victim used to work as a nurse in Calcutta and she was brought to Delhi in 2004 by her neighbour on

the pretext of securing for her a better job. It alleged that after bringing the girl to Delhi, the man raped her and later took her to a couple who forced her into prostitution.

In December 2004, the girl managed to run away from the house of the couple and requested an auto driver to drop her at a railway station but he dropped her at a gurudwara where police were informed and a case was registered, the prosecution claimed.

The high court said it was not clear as to when the victim appeared before the police and magistrate. It said as she did not know Hindi, how could she clearly communicate with the auto driver and gurudwara officials in the language and narrate her story.

## TMC's Faleiro resigns as RS member; says will quit party soon

Panaji, Apr 11 (PTI):

Trinamool Congress's (TMC) Rajya Sabha member and former Goa chief minister Luizinho Faleiro tendered his resignation from the Upper House of Parliament on Tuesday and said he wanted to free himself from this responsibility to work as a foot soldier again in the interest of Goa.

Talking to PTI, 71-year-old Faleiro said he would soon resign from the TMC also. Faleiro, who was in Congress before joining TMC in September 2021, said many political parties have approached him.

"But at this moment, I am not joining any political party. I have resigned as a Rajya Sabha MP and leave it at that," he said.



TMC leader Luizinho Faleiro submits his resignation as a member of Rajya Sabha to Chairman of Rajya Sabha Jagdeep Dhankar.

Faleiro submitted his resignation from the Rajya Sabha to its Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar.

A TMC leader said the party will announce a new candidate for the seat as

and when the election is notified. Long being sidelined from the party affairs in Goa, Faleiro was being nudged by the TMC leadership to resign from the Rajya Sabha. TMC

sources said he was asked to resign a few months back but he sought some time. "We wish him good health and happiness. The party had asked him to resign from his Rajya Sabha seat, and it is good that he abided by the party's decision," TMC MP Santanu Sen told PTI. He said the party will announce a new candidate for the seat as and when the election is notified. To a query why he was asked to resign, Sen refused to comment, saying it was an "internal matter of the party".

The Mamata Banerjee-led TMC has been upset with Faleiro after he refused to contest the 2022 Assembly election from Fatorda against Goa Forward Party's Vijai Sardesai, according to TMC sources.

## 'Babri masjid demolition was carried out by Hindus'

Mumbai, Apr 11 (PTI):

With his remarks that not a single Shiv Sena worker was present when the Babri Masjid was being brought down caused a flutter, Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Chandrakant Patil on Tuesday clarified those who razed the structure were Hindus and they cannot be segregated as Shiv Sainiks or BJP men.

Following Patil's remarks, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray has demanded that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde either step down or ask Patil to resign. Patil revealed that CM Shinde called him on Tuesday morning after his remarks caused a row and asked him to clarify. "Nobody participated in 'karseva' (movement to demolish the Babri structure) as members of their parties



Chandrakant Patil

present under the leadership of Vishwa Hindu Parishad as Hindus". "Does it mean Shiv Sena did not participate in the demolition?" Patil wondered. "From leaders like Satish Pradhan (of undivided Shiv Sena) all were part of the 'Ram Janmabhoomi Andolan' but it was always led by the VHP and its leader (late) Ashok Singhal. (Late) Anand Dighe (veteran Shiv Sainik and mentor of CM Shinde) had sent a gold brick from Thane to Ayodhya," Patil added. The former state BJP president also said he didn't mean to disrespect Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray in any way during his interview released on Monday evening by a Marathi news channel. "Balasaheb Thackeray had even taken the onus of the entire incident

(demolition of the masjid). However, I will not react to the comments made by Uddhav Thackeray today against me," he added.

Notably, Shiv Sena founder late Bal Thackeray has often been quoted as saying he was proud if any of his Sainiks had taken part in the demolition of the structure.

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कालड़ा बर्म एवं  
प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर  
राइनोप्लास्टी  
नाक को सही (रिशोपिंग) करना  
9827143060/8871003060  
Ajay Advt.