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## CHHATTISGARH HC

### Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal elevated as Add'l judge

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Eleven judicial officers and two advocates were on Thursday elevated as additional judges and judges in four high courts, including Delhi.

In a separate development, Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma was transferred from the Patna High Court to the Punjab and Haryana HC, and Justice Atul Sreedharan of the Madhya Pradesh HC stood transferred to the Jammu and Kashmir High Court. The 13 fresh appointments were made in the high courts of Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju

tweeted about the appointments and transfers.

Later, Rijju tweeted about the elevation of six additional judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court as permanent judges. "In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint S/Shri (i) Girish Kathpalia and (ii) Manoj Jain, to be Additional Judges of Delhi High Court, for a period of two years, with effect from the date they assume charge of their respective offices," one of the orders read.

Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal was elevated as an additional judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court.

## NAXAL ATTACK

# Wreaths laid amid loud cries and chants

Dantewada, Apr 27:

Amid cries and loud chanting of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', wreaths were laid on Thursday at the mortal remains of 10 police personnel and a civilian driver who died in a blast carried out by Naxalites in Dantewada district.

Women, children and other family members of the deceased were seen crying while women security personnel were trying to console them.

After paying homage to the martyred personnel who died in the Naxal attack on Wednesday, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said the sacrifices of the jawans will not go in vain and the fight against Naxalites will be intensified. The CM lent his shoulder to the mortal remains of one of the jawans on way to a vehicle in which the mortals remains were being shifted to native places of the deceased. Ten personnel, belonging to the District Reserve Guard (DRG), and a civilian driver were killed after Naxalites blew up their Multi-Utility



CM Bhupesh Baghel carries mortal remains of a police personnel, who lost his life in an IED attack by Naxalites on Wednesday, during a wreath-laying ceremony, in Dantewada, Thursday.

### 'Fight against Naxalites to be intensified'

Talking to reporters, Baghel said the martyrdom of the jawans will not go in vain and the fight against Naxalites will be intensified. "Our jawans have been giving a tough fight to Naxalites in their core areas. In the last four years, 75 camps (of security forces) have been set up in the core areas of Naxalites, while earlier the camps were established only in buffer areas," the CM said. Baghel said roads were being constructed in the interiors pockets of Bastar division and police camps were being set up. "People's confidence in the government has grown. Naxalites were pushed to the back foot, and such an attack has happened after a gap of two years which was carried out by them out of disappointment," he added.



### Bastar division put on high alert

An alert has been sounded in all seven districts of the Naxal-hit Bastar division in Chhattisgarh following the deadly attack by Naxalites in Dantewada which claimed the lives of 10 police personnel and one civilian, police said on Thursday. Security forces have been asked to stay cautious while moving in a vehicle and conducting de-mining exercises to detect the Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) planted by Naxalites after the attack on Wednesday, they said. "A high alert has been issued to all district superintendents of police in Bastar region in the wake of the attack in Dantewada," Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P told PTI.

Vehicle (MUV) which was part of a convoy carrying security personnel in Arampur police station area of Dantewada on Wednesday afternoon. The wreath laying ceremony for the deceased was held at the Police Lines in Karli area here on Thursday.

## Har Dal Ka Bal



### Excise Scam

## Court extends Sisodia's judicial custody

Till May 12

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

A court here on Thursday extended till May 12 the judicial custody of former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in a corruption case related to the alleged excise scam. Special Judge M K Nagpal also directed the CBI to supply an e-copy of supplementary charge sheet, filed by the agency on April 25, to Sisodia. During the hearing, Sisodia's

counsel urged the court to grant statutory/default bail to the AAP leader, claiming that the probe agency had filed an incomplete investigation in the case. The argument was made by advocate Rishikesh after the agency submitted that the investigation in the case was still going on. "Prima facie it seems the agency is saying that further investigation regarding me is required/pending. Therefore, we reserve the right to file an application for statutory bail," the counsel said.

Therefore, we reserve the right to file an application for statutory bail," the counsel said.

## BRIEF



NDRF personnel conduct a mock rescue drill on a ropeway over Brahmaputra river, in Guwahati, Thursday.

## Review

**New Delhi:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday reviewed passenger facilities at airports across the country and directed the authorities concerned to ensure ease of travel for passengers during the coming summer season, officials said. The home minister also sought additional measures at airports for passenger convenience.

## Health advisory

**Dehradun:** The Uttarakhand government on Thursday issued a health advisory for Chardham pilgrims in 11 languages asking them to follow guidelines like acclimatising themselves and having themselves medically examined before embarking on the journey to the Himalayan temples. "We had been issuing advisories in Hindi and English earlier. But we are now issuing them in nine more languages so that pilgrims coming from different states can understand them easily and take the precautions for their safety," Health Secretary R Rajesh Kumar said.

## Rajnath holds talks with Chinese counterpart

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday held talks with his Chinese counterpart Li Shangfu and is learnt to have discussed the lingering border row in eastern Ladakh.

The talks took place hours after Li arrived in New Delhi to attend a meeting of defence ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) being hosted by India. Li's visit to India is the first by a Chinese defence minister after the eastern Ladakh border standoff began three years ago. There is no official word yet on the meeting between Singh and Li.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Chinese counterpart Li Shangfu during a bilateral meeting, in New Delhi, Thursday.

The meeting between the two defence ministers took place days after the Indian and Chinese armies held 18th round of military talks on ending the border row. In the Corps Commander talks on April 23, the two sides

agreed to stay in close touch and work out a mutually acceptable solution to the remaining issues in eastern Ladakh at the earliest. However, there was no indication of any clear forward movement in ending the row.

## IAF plane evacuating 246 from Sudan lands in Mumbai

Mumbai, Apr 27 (PTI):

An Indian Air Force aircraft with 246 Indians evacuated from war-torn Sudan landed in Mumbai on Thursday.

The plane, which took off from Jeddah around 11 am IST, landed here at 3.15 pm, an official said.

The passengers included at least two on wheelchairs.

"Another #OperationKaveri flight comes to Mumbai. 246 more Indians come back to the motherland," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar tweeted.

The first batch of 360 Indians arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday



Indian nationals evacuated from violence-hit Sudan under Operation Kaveri, upon their arrival at an airport in Mumbai, Thursday.

"Our efforts to swiftly send Indians back home from Jeddah is paying. 246 Indians will be in Mumbai

soon, travelling by IAF C17 Globemaster. Happy to see them off at Jeddah airport," tweeted Union min-

### 'All we've is a pair of dress, passport'

Scores of relieved Indians reached their homes on Thursday after seeing death and destruction from so close in conflict-hit Sudan with many having no plans to return to the African country in the immediate future. While an Indian Air Force aircraft with 246 Indians landed in Mumbai this afternoon, many among the first batch of 360 people who reached Delhi last night under India's Operation Kaveri evacuation mission, went back to their home towns during the day.

ister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan minutes before the plane left for Mumbai.

## NIA probe ordered into Ram Navami violence

In Howrah

Kolkata, Apr 27 (PTI):

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday ordered a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the violence at Shibpur in Howrah and Rishra in Hooghly district during and after the Ram Navami celebration.

The judgement came on a PIL by the Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari of the BJP and three other petitions seeking an NIA probe into the

violence at these two places, during which bombs were allegedly hurled. A division bench presided over by Acting Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam directed the state police to ensure that all the FIRs, documents, materials seized and CCTV footage be immediately handed over to the NIA within two weeks from the date of receipt of the copy of this order.

It also directed that the NIA "on receipt of all the materials shall commence investigation and proceed in accordance with the law."

## COOLING OFF



People try water sports at an amusement park during a hot summer day, in Bengaluru, Thursday.

## Projection mapping at heritage sites, comic books

To mark 100th episode of 'Mann ki Baat'

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

From projection mapping at centrally protected monuments to release of comic books telling stories on the themes of Prime Minister's 'Mann ki Baat', the Culture Ministry has lined up a host of events to mark the monthly radio programme's 100th episode.

Union Culture Secretary Govind Mohan on Thursday said that an exhibition of artworks produced by 12 prominent artists will also be

put up at the National Gallery of Modern Art here as part of the series of events.

The 'Mann Ki Baat' programme was started on October 3, 2014 and is broadcast on last Sunday of every month at 11 am on entire All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) network. The 100th episode of the 30-minute programme is slated to be aired on April 30.

The 'Mann ki Baat' marks the prime minister's "conviction and desire to have an inclusionary and people-centric approach to governance," Mohan told reporters

here. Inspirational stories of ordinary people are taken up, and woven around the themes, which are "critical to nation-building", and the PM shares his various thoughts on nation-building which are "totally non-political and people-centric", the culture secretary said.

Two big curtain-raiser events have taken place here to mark the landmark episode that will air on Sunday, one chaired by the Vice President of the country where book on 'Mann ki Baat' was released, and

other by the Union Home Minister where panel discussions were held, Mohan said.

In order to join this "revolutionary idea of direct dialogue" with the people -- the 'Mann ki Baat' -- the Culture Ministry has taken three initiatives, he added.

"As part of the first initiative, we have selected certain themes from 'Mann ki Baat' on the basis of which projection mapping and sound and light shows will be done at 13 different locations across the country on April 30 evening," Mohan said.

## Govt brings up incest in same sex marriage hearing

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court, which is hearing arguments on a clutch of pleas seeking legal sanction for same sex marriages, that arguments about freedom of sexual orientation and autonomy may be raised in future to challenge incest prohibition. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that incest is not uncommon in the world but prohibited all over. "It will be far-fetched," the five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief

Justice D Y Chandrachud observed, adding sexual orientation or autonomy as an individual can never be exercised in all aspects of marriage including entry into wedlock and prohibited relationships, the grounds on which a marriage can be dissolved. All these, the CJ said, are subject to regulations by law. "The arguments... and I am saying this with a sense of responsibility, can be made, whether accepted or not is one thing, for challenging incest prohibition as well," Mehta told the bench, which also comprised justices S K Kaul, S R Bhat,

Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha. He referred to section 2(b) of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 which talks about degrees of prohibited relationship. "The proposition which I must mention here at this stage itself (is) would your lordships, I am posing a question to myself, read a particular enactment in such a fashion that it applies in a particular manner to one class, that is heterosexuals, and in a different manner to different class namely same-sex... that exercise may not be a permissive interpretative exercise," he said.

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# Swami Atmanand English Medium Model College will have state-of-the-art facilities

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** Collector Pushendra Kumar Meena inspected the first Swami Atmanand English Medium Model College of the district which is being constructed at Dhanora. He collected the necessary information regarding the college from the concerned officers. Various points were discussed whether the college is being constructed according to the layout or not. The concerned officials said that they are taking inputs from the infrastructure and technology of top



engineering and technical colleges like IIITs and IIT. The model college will be equipped with all facilities. The Collector emphasized on equipping the college with state-of-the-art facilities like lab, library and internet facility.

He also asked the concerned officers to make facilities for sports like badminton, table tennis, chess, carrom and other indoor games. Apart from studies, there should be an all-round development of the children. He asked to

build labs related to Physics, Chemistry and Biology on the basis of fixed standards so that the students can connect themselves with the practical approach of studies. Along with this, he spoke about completing the construction works soon so that the students can take admission and move towards their bright future. Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas, Trainee IAS Laxman Tiwari, Abhay Jaiswal, District Education Officer and other officers were present.

# Students excel in Lathi Sports

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** Uday Mahavidyalaya organises traditional martial arts "lathi" training in collaboration with Chhattisgarh Lathi Sports Association. Creative Lathi Academy instructor Anjana Rajveer Singh imparted training to the students. The students of this academy participated in the All India Lathi Sports Championship 2023 held during April 21 to 23 in Bhopal.

A student of Uday Public School, Lovely Singh won a bronze medal in Lathi Fight and another bronze medal in Lathi Demonstration. Arnab



Jaiswar of the academy won the gold medal while

Aditi Jaiswar won the silver medal. Uday Group of

Institutions Chairperson Dr TR Sahu, Administrative Director Dr Alipa Sahu, Principal Anjana Rajveer Singh and all the teachers extended best wishes to all the participants. Chhattisgarh Lathi Sports Association President Arvinder Singh Khurana and Vice President Prateek Agrawal also appreciated the participants and encouraged them to participate in national level tournaments in future.

# Youth sentenced to jail for sexual assault of minor girl

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** A Fast Track Special Court in Durg sentenced a youth to three years of rigorous imprisonment for sexual assault of minor girl. Additional Sessions Judge (Fourth), FTSC - POCSSO, Sangeeta Naveen Tiwari convicted 23-year-old Manish Sen alias Bobby of New Krishna Nagar, Supela. The girl's family had lodged a complaint at Supela Police Station on September 02, 2022.

Special Public Prosecutor Santosh Kasar informed that the accused stalked and sexually assaulted the 15-year-old vic-

tim when she was on her way to the school. When the family came to know about the incident, they lodged an FIR at Mohan Nagar Police Station after which the accused was arrested. After trial, the Special Court found the accused guilty and awarded different jail terms for Section 08 and Section 10 of POCSO Act under which the accused was tried. He was sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment and Rs 400 fine under section 08 of IPC and one year of rigorous imprisonment and Rs 100 fine under section 12 of POCSO Act, informed Special Public Prosecutor Santosh Kasar.

# National Lok Adalat on May 13

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** Under the guidance of Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal, District and Sessions Judge/Chairman District Legal Services Authority Durg (Chhattisgarh), the second National Lok Adalat of the year 2023 will be held on May 13 in the District Court, Family Court, Labour Court, Permanent Lok Adalat Public Utility Service, Juvenile Justice Board, Tehsil Court Bhilai-3 and Patan.

Compoundable criminal cases, Civil cases,

Family disputes in Family Court, Labor Court cases, Permanent Public Utility Lok Adalat cases, Motor Accident Claims Act cases, Electricity Department related cases, 138 Negotiable Instruments Cases and cases related to revenue will be identified and resolved through mutual agreement and compromise between the parties.

It needs to be mentioned here that appeal cannot be filed in the cases resolved in the National Lok Adalat. When the case is resolved in the Lok Adalat, a mutually cordial

atmosphere is created between the two parties. The dispute is settled by mutual consent.

"Pre-litigation" cases are tabled in the Lok Adalat before the department presents the case in the Court in relation to the electricity bill / telephone / bank dues. In such cases, agreement is made by the department by reducing the amount in relation to the outstanding amount. The case of the party gets resolved in the Lok Adalat even before going to the Court.

Family matters are also listed for settlement in

Lok Adalat. Family disputes related to husband-wife, father-son are settled. Due to settlement of family matters on the basis of mutual consent and agreement in Lok Adalat, the differences between husband-wife / father-son ends in the family.

National Lok Adalat is being organized on May 13, 2023, in which the parties would be present in maximum numbers to settle their cases on the basis of compromise, and by ending the case in the Lok Adalat on the basis of mutual compromise.

# Solar high mast light inaugurated



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** In order to promote non-conventional energy sources efforts are being made in the field of using solar energy as an alternative sources of energy by the Chhattisgarh State Renewable Energy Development Agency (CREDA).

In this sequel, on the recommendation of CREDA member Vijay Sahu, installation of 10 solar high mast lights have been done for night lighting in various wards of Vaishali Nagar Assembly Constituency by Honorable Mr. Vijay Sahu (Member CREDA Raipur). Out of these 10

wards, in 03 wards, the high mast light was inaugurated by Vijay Sahu (Member CREDA Raipur). The installation of solar high mast in ward no 02 (Smriti Nagar), Ward no 12 (MG College, Opposite Atal Awaz), Ward no 18 (Contractor Colony) has been completed. Present as chief guest was Vijay Sahu (Member CREDA), Dharmaraj Sharma (Chairman Gandhi Vihar Yatra Chhattisgarh), Girwar (Bunty) Sahu, Speaker BMC and Councilor Lalchand Verma, Kamlesh Dewangan, Sarsit Ghosh, Ashok Agarwal, Dhansai Sahu, Vimal Sahu as well as denizens from Ward No 02, 12 and 18.

# BK Summer Camp for children Utkarsh-23 from May 04

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** Summer Camp Utkarsh-23 for the personality development of students organised every year by the Education Wing of Prajapati Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya and Rajyoga Education and Research Foundation (RE&RF) will be held from May 04 to May 11. The venue of the programme is Peace Auditorium, Rajyog Bhawan, Sector 7. The camp will be held every day from 08:30 hrs to 10:00 hrs and students of classes VI, VII, VIII can participate. In this Utkarsh Summer Camp, along with meditation, value based exercises, fun



games, various competitions and inspiring lectures from eminent personalities who have been successful in their respective fields will benefit the children. Here it needs a mention that in the last

two years during the covid time this annual event was organised online. A large number of children from the city, nation and abroad participated. Being organized for more than 25 years, thousands of children have participated in this Utkarsh summer camp, who are now taking education in higher educational institutions and many students are also doing jobs in the best institutions.

To participate in this summer camp, children can contact the class teacher of their school. For more information, one can also contact Rajyog Bhawan, Sector 7. The last date for free registration for this free summer camp is April 30.

# Employees of BF feted with Pali Shiromani & Karma Shiromani Awards

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** Employees belonging to the Blast Furnace Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani' Awards for their exemplary work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' of Bhilai Steel Plant.

The Award Ceremony was organised in the auditorium of Welfare Building-8, on April 25, 2023. Addressing the gathering, Soumya Tokdar, CGM (Blast Furnace) congratulated the prize winners and encouraged them to work in future with same spirit. Lakshmi Narayan Dewangan, Charge-man cum Master Operative was



awarded the 'Pali Shiromani Award' for his performance during the quarter of January 2023 to March 2023.

The 'Karm Shiromani Award' winners included Mukesh Kumar Soni, Master Technician and Raj Kumar Bhaskar, Master Technician for the month of March 2023.

Other senior officers of the department, Arvind Gupta, S Balraj, Rajesh Gaikwad, R Anand, Vinod

Das and NK Salvatkar were also present on this occasion. They congratulated the award winners by appreciating their work performance.

The program was conducted by Biju George, Senior Manager (Personnel) Blast Furnace. MM Srivastava, Additional Labour Welfare Officer, Mamta, Divya, Haseena Begum and Urmika also contributed to organising the program successfully.

# PI Workshop organised to enhance percentage of 130-meter Rails

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** A Performance Improvement Workshop, aimed at increasing the percentage of 130-meter-long rails produced by Universal Rail Mill, was organized by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, on April 25, 2023. Anish Sengupta, CGM(URM) was the Chief Guest of the event. The workshop was organized at the HRD Center, under the guidance of Nisha Soni, CGM(HRD & BE).

Inaugurating the Performance Improvement Workshop (PI workshop), Chief Guest Sengupta said that "the personnel working in the shop floor are well-acquainted with the operation and maintenance of equipment. I have firm faith that, by utilizing their experience, a detailed and result-oriented action plan will be prepared to increase the percentage of 130-meter-long rail, and this workshop shall be helpful in achieving this target. Sengupta also highlighted how noting down even the smallest creative ideas and later engaging in brainstorming can help in achieving the goal. Highlighting the importance of producing 130-



meter-long rail, Special Guest AB Srinivas, GM (SMS-3) said that, besides helping in cost-cutting, it will also add to the comfort and safety of rail passengers. AV Manoj, GM (RCL) said that I am hopeful that with planning and discussion among ourselves, we will move towards achieving the target.

The Coordinator of the workshop Umesh Awadhya GM (SP-2) informed that after the previous 'Performance Improvement Workshop' on "increasing the percentage of 130-meter-long rail by optimizing the length of the billet", held on August 26, 2022, the percentage of 130-meter component had increased from 53.1% to 64.9%. A target has been set for today's workshop, to in-

crease the 130-meter component from the annual average of 60.7% to 65%, Awadhya said.

Rahul Srivastav, GM (URM), SK Oswal, GM (URM), Vishal Gupta, GM (URM), and S Mukhopadhyay, GM(RCL), provided a brief technical information on the subject. Under the guidance of Awadhya GM(SP-2), the participants prepared a detailed action plan after contemplating various measures to increase the 130-meter component and removing the obstacles coming in its implementation. At the end of the workshop, the action plans were presented before the senior officials of URM.

Workshop Convener, Mukul Kumar Saharia, DGM (HRD) informed that

PI Workshop is one of the most effective and result-oriented tools for Human Resource Development. The workshop provides a platform to the participants in which personnel and officers of different sections of the department can identify the obstacles in achieving the goal and prepare a systematic time-bound action plan and implement it to remove the same.

During the year 2022-23, as many as 14 such workshops were organized by the HRD Department for various other departments, added Saharia. The program was conducted by SB Patel, Senior Manager (HRD) Officers and employees of the plant's various departments, including URM, SMS-3, RCL and INCOS participated in the workshop.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 27:** On the second day of Shri Ekanteshwar Shiv Mahapuran Katha, organized under the joint aegis of Jeevan Anand Foundation and Shri Ram Jannotsav Committee at Jayanti Stadium Bhilai, lakhs of people gathered to listen to the story from renowned storyteller Pandit Pradeep Mishra.

Pt Mishra said that he had dedicated his entire life to spreading Sanatan Sanskriti. He said that earlier many temples remained lonely as people did not visit there to worship the deities. But the situation has changed now as the devotees have started visiting the temples regularly and offer jal and bel patra to Lord Shiva. Pt Mishra said that a devotee has informed through a letter that earlier his mother used to go through a garden while dropping his children to school but now they visit a temple before going to school. He said that today people have become aware about Sanatan Dharma and have developed faith in religion. Pt Mishra emphasised on worshipping Mahadev,



who decides your future. Worship Lord Shankar, he is the one who writes the fate of the world. The story of the second day ended after the aarti of Ardhanarishwar Swarup of Lord Shiva. Prem Prakash Pandey, the patron of the organizing committee Shri Ram Jannotsav Committee and Vinod Singh, head of Jeevan Anand Foundation, offered the aarti. Durg Lok Sabha MP Vijay Baghel with his wife attended the programme. Durg MLA Arun Vora, former minister Ramshila Sahu, Dr Dayaram Sahu and other dignitaries were also present.

Pt Mishra read out a letter of a devotee Seema Nirmalkar, a resident of Shivpuri, Jamul. She

asked by the nurse, she started doing Jalabhishek on Shivling and started eating Belpatra and now the lumps have vanished.

Narrating the story, Pandit Pradeep Mishra said that according to Puranas, there are 5 great sins which include child murder, being in relation with another woman, stealing gold, setting a house on fire and betraying someone. He said that even drinking water at the place of a person who has committed these five sins is a great sin. However, by seeing the Shivling with a pure heart and devotion, one gets freedom from great sins.

Pandit Mishra further said in his discourse that parents and teachers are the real wealth of life. No matter how odd the situation may be, one should never leave the feet of parents and guru.

## OBITUARY



### Shanti Gupta

**Bhilai:** Shanti Gupta, wife of Indrapal Gupta, left for heavenly abode on Wednesday. Funeral procession was taken out from her residence situated at Camp-2, Shardapara and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. She was the mother of Shiv Dutt Gupta, Om Dutt Gupta and Jai Dutt Gupta.

## CS reviews water allocation for group tap-water schemes

Of Jal-Jeevan Mission



Raipur, Apr 27:

Chief Secretary Mr. Amitabh Jain conducted an in-depth review of water allocation for group tap-water schemes approved under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the state at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan here on Thursday. The Chief Secretary took district-wise information from the officers of the Public Health Engineering

Department about the updated status of tap water supply in the villages involved in various group tap-water schemes approved under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

He has instructed the officers of the Water Resources Department to take immediate action regarding water allocation for group tap-water schemes, water sources, rivers, anicuts and dams in which water is avail-

able. In the meeting, Mr. Anbalagan P., Secretary, Water Resources Department, Dr. S. B h a r a t h i d a s a n, Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department, Mr. Alok Katiyar, Director of Jal Jeevan Mission, Chief Engineer of Water Resources and Public Health Engineering Department and other prominent officers of all the districts participated.

## Producers get attracted to Ch'garh's film policy

Raipur, Apr 27:

Producers of successful Bollywood films are turning to Chhattisgarh for film making on being attracted by Chhattisgarh government's film policy. Ratna Sinha, who has made successful films like Shaadi Mein Zaroor Aana, will shoot her upcoming film in Chhattisgarh.

For this, she has seen locations in Raipur, Durg, Bilai, Dhantari. Local actors will also be included in the film. Ratna Sinha's team has seen dams, big temples, shopping malls, housing projects etc. It is being told that stars like Akshay Oberoi, Adil Khan, Akanksha Singh can act in the film.

Film director Ratna Sinha and team discussed location of the film with Chief Minister's advisor Gaurav Dwivedi. Dwivedi suggested locations which the team liked. Jatin Rawasia will direct this film to be shot in Raipur. He has done supporting work in Khosla Ka

Ghosla. According to Jatin Chhattisgarh is a very beautiful state and its locations are lovely. Viewers will be able to feel the real fragrance of Chhattisgarh through the film. Not only the location, there will also be a touch of locality in the surname etc. and the audience will be able to feel the fragrance of Chhattisgarhi culture in the film. Jatin told that the film will be shot in the month of June. Jatin has already directed many TV shows.

Dwivedi said that the way Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel made a policy to promote cinema, a large number of filmmakers will reach Chhattisgarh in times to come because the diversity of a location like Chhattisgarh is very rare.

According to him the cinema industry is also getting great relief from the incentives being given by the government in this regard, due to which people are turning towards Chhattisgarh.

## BJP co in-charge Nabin holds meeting with Shakti Kendra conveners

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 27: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Co in-charge Nitin Nabin on Thursday held discussion with the Conveners of Shakti Kendras during his visit to Saraipalli and Basna to strengthen the Organization ahead of the next Legislative Assembly polls.

Holding discussion with them, the Co in-charge Nabin asked to hold agitation with people on local issues against the state government. He held discussion with them on measures to strengthen the Organization and also collected information from the local rank and file about the serious issues which would be included as key issues.

BJP General Secretary OP



Chaudhary also addressed the party workers during the meeting.

It is understood that Nitin Nabin would continue to hold Legislative Assembly level meetings to chalk out strategy against the state government. Several party ticket aspirants were also present during the meeting and also held talks with the senior leaders.

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## Collector instructs for early release of compensation from NHA

Discusses implementation of Raipur-Durg bypass Bharat Mata project



Raipur, Apr 27:

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure today held a meeting of National Highway Authority (NHA) officials, work agency, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Arang, Abhanpur, Additional District Magistrate, Mineral Officer for the implementation of Raipur-Durg Bypass Bharat Mata Project in Chhattisgarh. He instructed to pay compensation to the affected farmers immediately and to take immediate action for land acquisition to the measles-affected villages of Abhanpur. He also instructed to release the compensation not received from the National Highway Authority immediately. The Bhure asked to ensure payment of compensation as per the award of the assets. Similarly, the sub-divisional officers of Arang and Abhanpur were directed to start the work immediately on the spot to solve the problems.

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## Dhruv-Amritjaya into Godwana Cup Tennis final



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 27: Dhruv Vikrambhai Hirpara from Gujarat defeated Anup Mahadev Bangargi from Maharashtra with the score of 6-3 6-1 to enter into the final of Mens single in the Gondwana Cup AITA CSTA All India Mens Ranking 1L Tennis Tournament being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh State Tennis Association here on Thursday. Similarly, Amrutjay Mohanty from Odisha defeated Parth Chhaganbhai Chavda from Gujarat with the score of 6-1 1-6 6-2 to qualify for the

final. In the Mens Doubles Semifinal match, the pair of Dhruv Vikrambhai Hirpara (GJ) / Shourya Manik (CG) defeated the pair of Ayush Gurnani (DL) / Ayush Rajendra and Hindlekar (MH) with the score of 6-2 6-3 to enter into the final. Pair of Tushar Mandlekar / Trinath Rao (CG) defeated Atharva Raj Balani (CG) / Vedansh Prashanth Reddiyar (KA) with the score of 6-1 6-1 to face them in the final.

Final matches would be played on Friday morning during which the Working President Avtar Juneja would be presenting awards to the winners.

## Audi India opens new 3S facility in Raipur



India is on a growth path and we will continue to expand as per market demand."

Spread across an area of 30,000 sq.ft. and four floors, the new 3S facility has a ten-car display and a five-bay workshop. Mr. Prashant Kesharwani, Dealer Principal, Audi Raipur said, "The city of Raipur is brimming with aspirations of luxury, and is home to several admirers of the Audi brand. We are very happy to take forward our association with Audi India with this new 3S facility. We will of the very best of luxury and we look forward to welcoming our customers." Audi India recently announced its retail numbers for Q1 2023. The brand with the four rings sold 1950 units in the January to March period witnessing a growth of 126% from the previous quarter.

Raipur, Apr 27: Audi, the German luxury car manufacturer, on Thursday inaugurated a new 3S facility in Raipur. Located at Ring Road No 1, Sarona - the new state-of-the-art facility houses new car sales, a workshop facility and Audi Approved: plus all under one roof. Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Balbir Singh Dhillon, Head of Audi India said, "Chhattisgarh has immense potential and an appetite for luxury as well as pre-owned cars. We are happy to inaugurate a new 3S facility in Raipur that will cater to the region and nearby areas. Audi

**Reach of AIR FM RADIO expanding in remote areas**

**91 New AIR FM Transmitters**

- AIR FM Radio with its increased reach to provide accurate information and wholesome entertainment to many Aspirational, Remote, Border and Left Wing Extremism affected districts of the country for the first time
- With these new stations, 2 crore people will be connected to AIR FM Radio
- Coverage of AIR FM Radio ensured in new 35,000 sq km area of 84 districts in 18 states and 2 UTs
- Along with good governance and development, local languages, folk culture and folk art to get a boost

**Inauguration**  
By **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**  
28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, at 11:00 am (Through Video Conferencing)  
In the august presence of:  
**Anurag Singh Thakur** (Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports)  
**L. Murugan** (Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

“Be it at home, during journeys and otherwise, the radio remains an integral part of people's lives. It is an amazing medium to connect people.”  
-Narendra Modi

Live Telecast of the programme on AIR and DD News

# Applications of 24000 students received in RTE accepted

Lottery will be drawn on May 15 for admission in the first phase

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** The applications received for admission in private schools of the state are being verified under the Right to Education Act (RTE). More than one lakh applications have come from across the state under RTE. The documents of the applications received are being scrutinized by the nodal officers. After sorting, a list of eligible and ineligible will be made. So far applications of 24,052 students have been accepted.

It is noteworthy that applications were invited from March 6 to April 10 under RTE. More than one lakh applications have been received



across the state for about 54 thousand seats. The sorting of applications received from April 11 is going on, which will continue till May 11. According to the sorting done so far, 24,052 students have been considered eligible for admission. The lottery will be drawn on May 15 for the

first phase of admission. The school will be allotted to the student after the name appears in the lottery. From June 16, the admission process will start in schools under RTE. Under RTE, 25 percent seats are reserved in private schools. In this context, there has been a decrease in RTE seats in

the state this year.

In this academic session, 53,950 seats are reserved in private schools across the state. In the last education session, there were about 80,000 RTE seats across the state. Due to the change in the rules by the education department, there has been a decrease in the seats.

Till now, in many schools, admission was given under RTE in both first and nursery classes, but in this session only one class can be given by the School Education Department. Because of this there has been a decrease in RTE seats. Applications for the second phase for admission under RTE will start from July 1, students who

have missed applying in the first phase can apply in the second phase till July 15. The process of lottery and school allotment will begin on July 27.

The admission process will start in the allotted schools from August 3. The new academic session of most of the private schools in the state starts from April 1. Admission of children who get admission in first phase under RTE starts from 16th June. The admission process for the second phase continues till August 14. In this context, students taking admission on August 14 are left behind three months as compared to students studying from April.

# CM Baghel released the coffee table book



Published by the CSHD&MCF

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released a coffee table book published by the Chhattisgarh State Handloom Development and Marketing Co-operative Federation (CSHD&MCF) at his official residence here on Wednesday. The Secretary of the Gramodyog Department Dr. Alok

Shukla and the Managing Director of the Handloom Federation Rekha Shukla were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister congratulated the Secretary of the Gramodyog Department Dr. Shukla and the Managing Director of the Handloom Federation Rekha Shukla and said that the coffee table book would prove to be quite useful for promoting Chhattisgarh's handloom clothes.

The Managing Director Rekha Shukla said that

this book was named 'Mangtha', after the Chhattisgarhi word for handloom. The book contains complete information about the manufacturing process of Kosa, Khadi, and Cotton sarees woven in Chhattisgarh. Various types of sarees have been beautifully illustrated in the book. The coffee-table book is dedicated to the handloom weavers of Chhattisgarh and it will significantly contribute to the promotion of Chhattisgarh handloom all over the country.

# Over 1.58 lakh women got free medical care

Under Mukhymantri Dai-Didi Clinic

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** Mukhyamantri Dai-Didi Clinic initiative provided free medical care to over 1.58 lakh women living in slum areas of Raipur, Bilaspur, and Bhalai municipalities.

Additionally, the initiative held about 2102 camps to provide treatment to these women and girls through mobile clinics.

It is worth mentioning that this Scheme is being run by the Urban Administration and Development Department of Chhattisgarh

Government. Under it, Free-of-cost treatment facilities for various diseases are provided to needy women and adolescent girls through well-equipped mobile medical units with an all-women staff.

Lab tests of about 30,888 women have been conducted and free-of-cost medicines have been distributed to over 1,49,869 women through these dedicated mobile medical units.

The scheme has been proven beneficial for the women indulged in labour work who can't visit hospitals due to time and money constraints.

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** HNLU organized a Panel Discussion on April 26 on the topic "Gendering Intellectual Property?" on the World Intellectual Property Day in WIPO's theme of "Accelerating Innovation and Creativity: Women and IP". The event was under the Center for Innovation and IP Laws under the aegis of School for Law and Technology and Ex Arca Digital Platform.

Prof. (Dr.) V. C. Vivekanandan, Vice-Chancellor, HNLU in his opening remarks pointed out that the institutionalization of the science-industry complex marginalized the role of women compared to the traditional

knowledge era where they had a larger role. He also highlighted that even in the limited participation, women do not make it to decision making level and languish as secondary team to men.

The Law Schools need to research and come out with regulatory mechanisms to mitigate these road blocks for women and also to account for the special needs of women to bring back the equity.

Prof. (Dr) Sunanda Bharti highlighted that the role of women is overshadowed owing to various reasons which leads to absence of a level playing field. She gave the example of Bertha Benz who has also made contributions in the automobile industry,



but her status of being a co-inventor with Karl Benz is not well known to the public.

She highlighted the four dominant reasons leading to minimal role of women in IP as (a) Funding (mentorship and training) - women entrepreneurs face additional hurdles in getting funding and guidance; (b) Upbringing - may stand

as a hurdle if women are continued to be treated subpar than men; (c) Social Factors - play an important role as the social norms and perspectives determine the number of glass-ceilings a woman will have to break in order to choose her own career path; (d) Education - limited education and encouragement leads to lesser motivation

for achievement of STEM goals. She concluded by emphasizing on developing an inclusive IP ecosystem.

Latha R. Nair emphasized on the role of men in creating a favorable atmosphere towards encouraging women in innovation and IP. She highlighted how an egalitarian setting may resolve the issues of women in IP. Litigators and advisory prosecution professionals both are relevant fields for women in IP laws. By referring to various global statistics, she pointed out the extreme low participation of women in the IP field. She focused on how mentorship and social macros may impact women participation in any field; treating a woman not-differently than a person is

the key of empowerment.

It is not about advancing concepts personally but about helping other women as well. Also, initiating discourses on the said topics is equally important in relation to enhancing women participation. The panelists took various questions relating to the role of women in the field of intellectual property and how the said role can be ameliorated. Discussions also happened on hurdles that are faced by women in the field of Intellectual property. The Centre for Innovation & IP Laws of the School of Law & Technology faculty team of Ms. Debmita Mondal, Dr. Ankit Singh, Garima Panwar, and Amitesh Deshmukh coordinated the program.

# Amity Law School, DLSA Raipur signs MoU

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** Amity Law School, Amity University Chhattisgarh and District Legal Services Authority, (DLSA) Raipur, Chhattisgarh sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on April 18, 2023 at the university moot court. The MoU is signed between Dr. Bodhisatva Acharya, Director, Amity Law School, Raipur and Praveen Mishra, Senior Civil Judge, (Class I) Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Raipur.

On this occasion Prof. (Dr.) Piyush Kant Pandey,



Vice-Chancellor, Amity University Chhattisgarh congratulate both Law School and District Legal Service Authority. In his Address Prof. Pandey told "Utility of Mooting for Law Students" and started with the case of Hussainara Khatoun v

State of Bihar and highlighted the importance of Public Interest Litigation and its evolving jurisprudence. A guest lecture on "Working and Initiatives of DLSA" was also organized on this occasion where Praveen Mishra, Senior Civil Judge, (Class I)



Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Raipur was the resource person. Justice Mishra explains the Victim Compensation Act and the role of DLSA in administering the scheme for the people in need. Deputy Pro-Vice

Chancellor Prof. (Dr) Sumita Dave, faculty members and students of Amity Law School were present on this occasion in the university moot court. Shruiti Tejwani, Convenor, Amity Bar Association, Amity Law School propose the vote of thanks.

# Over 567 Individuals donated blood

At Blood Donation Drive organized by Indian Red Cross Society and Nuvoka Cement Plant Balodabazar

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** The Indian Red Cross Society Blood Centre in Raipur, in collaboration with Nuvoka Cement Plant Balodabazar, organized a blood donation campaign, which was marked as a huge success as 567 out of the 800 registered individuals donated blood.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Mr. Deepak



Jha, and the Plant Manager of the Nuvoka Cement Plant Sonadih also participated in the blood donation campaign, inspiring and motivating staff to do the same.

In the event, Officer-in-charge of the Indian Red Cross Society Blood Centre, Dr. Satyanarayan Pandey, arrived at the

camp and urged plant employees to donate blood.

Additionally, State Consultant Mr. Sudeep Srivastava highlighted the importance and significance of blood donation, making people aware and encouraging them to participate in the campaign with his words of encouragement.

# Nearly 3500 students from 30 schools benefitted

Through forest department's 'Catch them Early' initiative  
Innovative campaign to raise awareness about environment and forests

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 27:** The Department of Forests and Climate Change has launched a campaign called 'Catch Them Early' to raise awareness about forests and the environment among school children. This initiative was introduced in 2022 to educate young students from classes VI to X about forests, wildlife, and forest functioning mechanisms.



So far, this campaign has benefited 3500 children from 30 schools. Every week, forest employees provide one hour of training to school children in the Durg Forest Division. They offer broad information about forests, wildlife, and the environment, among other things. In addition, new activi-

ties have been implemented, including painting, essays, theater, quizzes, and debate competitions, to raise awareness among children about the forest and environment.

As part of the campaign, documentary films related to animals are also screened for youngsters to spark their interest in the

subject. Following the programme, the children who secure first, second, and third place in the competition are awarded prizes and certificates.

The top three winners are also given the opportunity to visit a forest area or nursery on any one day each month within the forest division's boundaries.

# Madhuri Sonkar wins gold medal in Indian Defendo

Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Apr 27:** Madhuri Sonkar, daughter of Parameshwar Sonkar, and Shailendri Sonkar, defeated Ponducherry in the Indian Defendo competition and captured gold medal.

She was working hard for the last 6 months under the guidance of Coach Jitendra Yadav, the results of which were clearly seen in the national level competition. This competition was held in Manali, Himachal Pradesh.

Madhuri's feat is being discussed in every house. While discussing, she said that since class 10th, she had hoped to go to defense, but started practicing at home and is currently studying in second year of B.Sc.



She further said that karate, Judo and kick boxing are combined to form a defense and fighting for your own safety is mainly explained in it in the form

of punching, blocking and pathkhani (knockdown). I am getting a lot of support from all the people in the family but they are also encouraging me and this is the biggest plus point for me, she said.

Celebrations in village with fireworks

**Rajim:** There is a happy atmosphere in the village after Madhuri Sonkar won the gold medal, and Chetan Sonkar, general secretary of Chhattisgarh Sonkar Samaj, who arrived on this occasion, said that this is not only a matter of pride for our society, but the name of entire Chhattisgarh has been enlightened. Yashwant Sonkar, president of Chhattisgarh Sonkar Samaj Chaubandha Raj, said that daughters are raising the name of their parents in every field today. Former Sarpanch Sushila Sonkar, Panch Bhageshwar Sahu, Jeevanlal Sonkar, Chhotelal Sonkar, Prem Sahu, Bhoj Pal, Umesh Sonkar, Karan Sonkar, Hukumchand Sonkar were present on this occasion.



## BRIEF



# 'RSS chief is source of inspiration and energy for us'

Nagpur, Apr 27 (PTI):

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday praised Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat, calling him a source of inspiration and energy for him and many others.

He also said that Bhagwat keeps supporting people who carry out good work in the society.

Shinde, who heads the ruling Shiv Sena, was addressing a gathering at the inauguration of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Nagpur run by 'Dr Aabaji Thatte Seva Aur Anusandhan Sanstha'. RSS chief Bhagwat, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, state Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, industrialist Gautam Adani and others were present on the occasion.

"Mohan Bhagwat ji is a source of inspiration and energy for us and everyone else. He always supports people who carry out good work. Hence, Devendra ji (Fadnavis) also said that Sangh stood as an inspiration in building the NCI. When the entire RSS and its chief provide support, building grand projects becomes possible," he said.

## 250 evacuated as fire breaks out at new OPD building

● Of IGMCH in Shimla

Shimla, Apr 27 (PTI):

A fire broke out at the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital (IGMCH) here on Thursday after two cooking gas cylinders exploded in the cafeteria, leading to the evacuation of about 250 people from the new OPD building, officials said.

No casualty has been reported in the incident that took place in the new Outdoor Patient Department (OPD) building of the hospital, they said.

Chief Parliamentary Secretary (Public Works Department) Sanjay Awasthi visited the medical facility after the incident and directed the medical superintendent of IGMCH to conduct an in-



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat, Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani and others during the inauguration of National Cancer Institute (NCI), in Nagpur, Thursday.

quiry and submit the report at the earliest. He said that leakage in the gas cylinders led to the fire and also directed the hospital administration to take strict action against the manager of the cafeteria for negligence.

He said that leakage in the gas cylinders led to the fire and also directed the hospital administration to take strict action against the manager of the cafeteria for negligence.

## Inquiry ordered

Chief Parliamentary Secretary (Public Works Department) Sanjay Awasthi visited the medical facility after the incident and directed the medical superintendent of IGMCH to conduct an inquiry and submit the report at the earliest.

He said that leakage in the gas cylinders led to the fire and also directed the hospital administration to take strict action against the manager of the cafeteria for negligence.

The blasts occurred when OPD services had just started. Within 15-20 minutes, about 250 people, including patients, were evacuated with the help of hospital staff and others, IGMCH Medical Superintendent Rahul Rao said. No casualty was re-

ported, he said, adding OPD services have been shifted to the old building for now. The column of smoke from the building was visible from far away. The two blasts took place in quick succession, triggering panic, eyewitnesses said.

"We received a call at 8:50 am and six fire tenders from the Mall Road, Chotta Shimla and Boileauganj were rushed to the spot and the fire was stopped from spreading," a fire official said. The medical superintendent also said that four chambers of

doctors, the cafeteria and three lifts have been damaged in the blaze and according to a preliminary estimate, the loss is over Rs 60 lakh.

Fire extinguishers and other equipment were available in the newly constructed building which were used to stop the fire from spreading, till the fire tenders arrived, health officials said.

Earlier, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur who visited the spot along with state BJP chief Rajiv Bindal, said that the government should take serious note of the incident and constitute an inquiry committee to fix the responsibility.

The new multi-storey OPD block, constructed at a cost of Rs 30.90 crore, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on March 9.

## Harvesting begins along IB in Kathua sector

Kathua/Jammu, Apr 27 (PTI):

Amid peace, farmers backed by BSF troops and administration on Thursday began harvesting wheat on the 251 acres of land along zero line on International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district.

The harvesting began with the inauguration of the process by deputy commissioner Rahul Pandey along with officers of BSF and civilian administration alongside IB in the Hiranagar sector.

"These are the results of J&K administration and agriculture department on the ground as harvesting has begun on target areas of land after 22 years. The process will continue to cover the left-out area under cultivation," Pandey told reporters here. Sixty-six

farmers started harvesting wheat crops along the International Border in the Hiranagar sector after the district administration and BSF extended full support to them.

After the restoration of peace on the International border, border farmers are glad to see the high yield of the wheat crop, cultivated on 251 acres of land across the fence on Zero line, officials said.

Sanjeev Rai Gupta, Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua, said that a total of 251 acres of land was brought under wheat cultivation during the year 2022-23 alongside IB, with the participation of 66 local farmers from various villages of the border belt.

Thirty-six farmers cultivated 141 acres of area in 2021-22, he said.

## Mishap

■ **Mumbai:** A 22-year-old medical student has died after falling from a tree at a college in Mumbai, police said on Thursday. The incident took place on Wednesday night when Dayanand Kale, student of the Poddar Ayurved Medical College located in Worli area, climbed a tree in the premises to pick mangoes, an official said. He suffered from serious head injuries and was rushed to the institution's hospital where he died in early hours of Thursday, he said.

## Pile-up

■ **Mumbai:** Six persons were injured on Thursday in a pile-up caused by a truck hitting more than 10 vehicles after its brakes failed on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, a police official said. The incident took place at 12:55pm near Khopoli in Raigad district, some 75 kilometres from here, and the injured include a man, his wife and mother, the official said. "A truck proceeding from Pune to Mumbai went out of control, possibly due to brake failure, and rammed into 11 vehicles."

## Inaugurate

■ **Chennai:** Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurated a state-of-the-art research facility at IIT-Madras here on Thursday. The 'Veena and Pratap Subrahmanyam Centre for Digital Intelligence, Security Hardware and Architecture' (V&PS-CDISHA) will undertake various cutting-edge research using SHAKTI, the IIT Madras-developed indigenous microprocessor, including building a new class of computers to handle emerging AI applications, the institute said.

## Heritage Fest

■ **Panaji:** The Goa government's tourism department will hold 'Heritage Festival 2023' at Saligao village in North Goa from April 28 to 30, an official said on Thursday. The festival aims to promote cultural tourism in Goa by presenting the traditions, culture and arts in the state, spokesperson of the tourism department said. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant will inaugurate the festival in the presence of Union Minister Shripad Naik, State Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte and Chairman of Goa Tourism Development Corporation Ganesh Gaonkar.

## ABVP RALLY



Members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) take out a voters' awareness rally ahead of Karnataka Assembly elections, in Hubballi, Thursday.

## HC declares BJP MLA's election void

Itanagar, Apr 27 (PTI):

The election of Arunachal Pradesh BJP MLA Dasanglu Pul was declared void by the Gauhati High Court for concealing information about her properties in the election affidavit.

The Itanagar bench of the high court declared her election from the Hayuliang assembly seat in Anjaw district as void under the Representation of People Act in an order on April 25.

Dasanglu Pul (45), the third wife of former chief minister Kalikho Pul, was re-elected from the seat in 2019 after winning it for the first time in a by-election in 2016 following her husband's death.

Arunachal Pradesh

## For concealing info on properties

Congress candidate Lupalam Kri, who lost to Pul in 2019, had filed a petition in the court, challenging her election.

Hearing the petition, the bench of Justice Nani Tagia observed that "the respondent/returned candidate had not presented her nomination paper in accordance with Section 33 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and, as such, the nomination paper of the respondent/returned candidate is liable to be rejected under Section 36 (2) (a) of the said Act."

"Hence, the improper acceptance of the nomination/returned candidate by the returning officer,

therefore, has materially affected the result of the election of the respondent/returned candidate," the court said.

Kri in his petition had claimed that Pul's candidature was substantially defective as she did not declare her husband's four properties in Mumbai and two in Arunachal Pradesh in the affidavit filed by her.

He claimed the returning officer had improperly accepted Pul's candidature despite a written complaint against her.

The BJP MLA submitted to the court that in view of the legal heir certificate, Kalikho Pul's first wife Dangwimsai Pul is the owner of his properties.

## Kerala govt approach Centre to amend MV Act

Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 27 (PTI):

The Kerala government on Thursday said it will examine whether to request the Centre for amending the Motor Vehicles Act to a limited extent for permitting one child to travel with parents on a two-wheeler as being demanded by many in the southern state.

State Transport Minister Antony Raju said that since the launch of the Safe Kerala project and the coming into operation of 726 Artificial Intelligence (AI) cameras under it, there have been concerns over a child travelling with parents on a two-wheeler being illegal under the law.

"There have been demands that permitting such travel would be desirable in the special circumstances prevailing in the state where there are a large number of two-wheeler users," the minister said while speaking to reporters here.

# Proper occupational safety and health measures boost productivity



Prof. Sunil Goyal

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work, also known as Occupational Health and Safety Day, is observed annually on April 28 to encourage the prevention of workplace accidents and diseases around the world. The day aims to raise public awareness about work-related accidents and illnesses, highlighting the importance of promoting a safety and health cul-

ture to reduce workplace fatalities and injuries.

Occupational health is defined as the highest degree of physical, mental and social well-being of workers in all occupations. It is the branch of healthcare which deals with all aspects of health and safety at the workplace. It lays strong emphasis on the prevention of hazards at a primary level. Occupational health is essentially preventive medicine.

## Consider the following facts from India

- Total population is 1.418 billion (2023)
- Gross national per capita income (PPP) is \$7242
- Life expectancy at birth (Male/Female) is 69.16.3/71.8 years
- Probability of dying under the age of five (per 1000 live births) is

30.62

- Total expenditure on health per capita is \$54.54 ; and total expenditure on health as a percentage of GDP is 2.1. Health, safety and well-being of the employees

Less than 10% of India's 500 million workers are covered by health and safety legislation. Epidemiologists have estimated an annual 36,700 fatalities, 1,83,00,000 injuries and 18,50,000 diseases related to occupational hazard. Extensive literature review suggests access to occupational health services (OHS) is non-existent for a majority (85%) of Indian workers in unorganised sector. Of the global 1.9?million cases (17%) are contributed by India. The adverse occupational factors cost 2%-14% of the

gross national product (GNP). Heavy burden and poor concern for OH disease is reflected in high attack rates foreg: Silicosis, 4.1%-54.6% among miners and Byssinosis, 28%-47% in textile workers.

There are presently 16 laws related to working hours, conditions at work and employment. There are two acts containing the main provisions for legal measures for the protection of health and safety of workers; they are the Factories Act (1948) and the Mines Act (1952). The Factories Act was amended in 1987 and stipulates pre-employment examination as a pre-placement procedure, statutory periodic medical examination for job in hazardous areas. In India, occupational health is under two ministries: 1) Labour and 2) Health and Family

Welfare. The Ministry of Labour and the labour departments of the states and union territories are mainly responsible for health and safety of workers. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is responsible for providing health and medical care to workers through its facilities. The DGMS (Directorate General of Mines Safety) and the DGFASLI (Directorate General - Factory Advisory Services and Labour Institutes) assist the Ministry in technical aspects of occupational health and safety in mines, ports and factories respectively.

There are three articles for ensuring workers' safety and health. Article 24 prohibits employment of children under the age of 14 years. Article 39 (e and f) states that the

health of men, women and children should be protected, and children should be given opportunity and facility for healthy development and should be protected against exploitation. Article 42 states that humane conditions at work and maternity relief should be provided.

India has a huge abundance and variability among different occupations. Therefore, a standard policy framework regulating OHS is redundant. Additionally, there is no formal regulating body and lack of competence-based training and specialist registration. Except few public and private industries occupational safety is usually ignored. Occupational research remains neglected despite the ever-growing need for e.g: child labour,

vast informal sector; industrial hygiene and OH surveillance.

It is highly pertinent to increase awareness of OSH through appropriate partnerships. The need for best OHS practices, coordinated research and optimal resource allocation to be highlighted through activism and advocacy. Setting up of national task force and a central regulating body is the need of hour.

(Author is an Eminent Social Scientist, Columnist, and presently posted as Dean and Chairman - Board of Studies at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (MHOW), Madhya Pradesh. Views are personal. Email: gasspub@gmail.com)





## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Drug Safety Concerns

#### Pharmaceutical Industry Needs a Stronger Regulatory Framework

The another drug alert issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) about a contaminated cough syrup manufactured by a Punjab firm is yet another setback for India's pharmaceutical industry. This news is alarming and highlights the urgent need for reforms in India's drug regulatory system. India is considered to be the pharmacy of the world, with a pharmaceutical industry valued at \$50 billion, offering 60,000 generic brands across 60 therapeutic categories. However, quality concerns have plagued the industry, leading to distrust in the quality of drugs manufactured in the country. The lax and fragmented drug regulatory system in India has been a cause of concern for years, with reports of substandard and spurious drugs being sold in the market. The WHO alert is not the first of its kind. Last year, over 66 Gambian children died after consuming a syrup made by a Sonapat-based firm, which was linked to the lax regulatory system in India. The incident brought the regulatory system into the spotlight and highlighted the need for effective enforcement through capacity-building of state and national regulators. The Indian government has taken note of the issue and is working towards an overhaul of the drug regulatory mechanisms. The aim is to build trust in the quality of India-made drugs and salvage the image of being the pharmacy of the world, delivering affordable healthcare. The government has proposed a centralised database of drugs that will give regulators digital access to the credentials of pharmaceutical firms and drugs, ensuring time-bound and effective action against any firm flouting quality norms or not adhering to good manufacturing practices. The government also plans to create a unified digital portal that will bring together all stakeholders, be it the regulators, manufacturers, distributors, state-run departments or procurement agencies. Strengthening inspection teams under state drugs controllers and increasing monitoring of repeat offenders are other measures being considered. Suggestions have also been put forth to consolidate drug regulation at the national level and cancel licenses of those found to be violating quality norms. However, these measures alone may not be sufficient to restore the confidence of consumers and the international community. The government needs to ensure that the reforms are implemented effectively and that the regulatory authorities have adequate resources and capabilities to enforce them. Moreover, the Indian pharmaceutical industry must also take responsibility for ensuring the quality of drugs manufactured in the country. The industry must adopt good manufacturing practices and comply with the regulatory requirements to ensure that their products meet the highest quality standards. India's pharmaceutical industry has made significant strides in the past few decades, providing affordable healthcare to millions of people around the world. However, the industry needs to balance its growth with a focus on quality to restore trust in India-made drugs. This requires a collaborative effort between the government and the industry, with a shared commitment to ensuring the safety and efficacy of drugs. WHO alert on the contaminated cough syrup manufactured in India is a wake-up call for the government and the pharmaceutical industry. The reforms being proposed by the government are a step in the right direction, but more needs to be done to ensure that India-made drugs are of the highest quality. The government must ensure effective implementation of the reforms, while the industry must take responsibility for complying with regulatory requirements and adopting good manufacturing practices. Only then can India's pharmaceutical industry regain the trust of consumers and the international community, and continue to provide affordable healthcare to millions of people around the world.

### And once upon a time church opposed it!

Er.Rajesh Pathak

European countries fulfill more than half of their electricity needs from natural gas. In face of energy crisis led by war-locked Ukraine and Russia, European countries have now come to depend upon, along with other countries, India too to meet their demand of gas. For though we import crude oil, but export refined petroleum products that the refineries of the companies like 'Nyara' and 'Reliance' produce. Of such petroleum products most prominent is Vacuum gas oil (VGO), which is used as refinery feedstock and happens to be the main source of gasoline essential for the electricity production. And it is this gasoline that the European countries use for themselves. But among them France is exception to this. For within time it had fast started working in the direction of nuclear sector as an alternative to petrol. And therefore it is unaffected with the present crisis, as its 70% of electricity need gets fulfilled through nuclear power. Along with hydro-solar-wind power sector India also has long back taken forward the steps toward the acquiring nuclear power capabilities like France. One such plant is under construction in Kudankulam, Tamilnadu. It is notably regarding the same nuclear power plant that once church came into limelight for its protest against it. Demonstration, agitation and all the tactics that were possible it adopted to have the project shut down. The then minister of Manmohan Singh led UPA government, Narayan Samy, even had alleged that the two NGOs affiliated with bishop were given 54 crores rupees in the matter. Fortunately all the tactics failed, and construction of nuclear plant went ahead. Being built with the cooperation of Russia, the first phase construction of the plant had been completed in 2013. Second and third phases would have been completed by 2023. While rest of the phases are expected to have been completed by 2026-27. Today the biggest nuclear power plant of the Europe lies in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, which now has come under the occupation of Russia in the war. But now with completion Kudankulam will get to be bigger than that, the cost of which is expected to be 90,000 crores. Now two reactors have got to be operative, their electrical production capacity being 1000 megawatt. While with 4 more reactors to have come into operation the total capacity will get to be 6000 megawatt.

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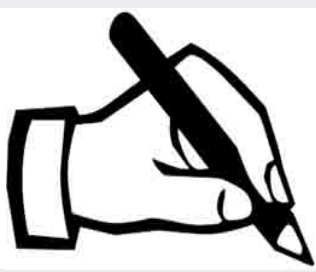
## RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



Students perform during a religious procession of 15th-century Indian saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, in Kolkata, Thursday, April 27.

## Janaki Navami and its Significance

ER. PRABHAT KISHORE



"Bhai Pragat Kumari Bhumi-Vidari Jan Hitkari Bhayahari. Atulit Chhabhi Bhari Muni-Manhari Janak Dulari Sukumari. Sundar Sinhasan Tehi Par Aasan Koti Hutasan Dyutikari. Sir Chhatra Birajai Sakhi Sang Bhajai Nij-Nij Karaj Kardhari. Sur Siddh Sujana Hanai Nishana Chadhe Binama Samudai, Barsahin Bahuphula Mangal Moola Anukoola Siya Gun Gai. Dampati Anurageu Prem Supageu Yah Sukh Layun Manlai, Astuti Siya Keri Premlateri Barani Sucheri Sir Nai."

-Goswami Tulsidas

Janaki Navami or Sita Navami has great significance in Sanatan Dharma and Indian culture. JanakNandini and spouse of Bhagwan Ram was born or revealed on the Navami Tithi of Shukla Paksha of Vaishakh month. This day falls exactly one month after Sri Ram Navami and is celebrated with great pomp and gaiety all over the Indian Sub-continent.

MaaSita was the adopted daughter of Raja Janak, the king of Mithila (also called Videh), hence she is also termed as Janaki or JanakNandini. According to Sanatan Dharma mythology, Raja Janak was ploughing the land during a Yagya ritual at

present day Sitamarhi in Bihar, the border district of Nepal. He found a baby within a golden casket in the furrow of the field, whom the childless king accepted as the divine gift as his beloved daughter. Sri Ram was the Avtar of Bhagwan Vishnu and MaaSita is regarded as the embodiment of his wife Devi Lakshmi. She is also called Bhumija as she appeared from the Bhumii i.e. the earth.

Prabhu Sri Ram and MaaSitaare considered as an ideal couple. Although several hurdles had come in their way, they were firm about their relationship. The character of MaaSita is the epitome of an ideal woman in the human world and almost all

families have the ambition for a daughter, a spouse, a daughter-in-law, a sister-in-law, or a mother like Sita. She is known for her dedication, sincerity, courage, purity and self-sacrifice. She was a princess, but she accompanied her husband as a PativrataStree (devoted wife) during his exile. She loved Lakshman and Hanuman as her brother and son. She followed the traditions of helping the poor & Sant by providing Bhiksha to Ravan, who was disguised as Sadhu. She was intelligent and had the presence of mind to throw her jewels to the monkeys, which later helped Sri Ram-Sena to trace the abducted route. After her kidnapping, she warned Ravan for the debacle of his generation due to his misdeeds.

Sita was unhappy with her separation or informal divorce during her pregnancy, but she was courageous. She decided to give birth to children and equip them with all virtues. She lived as a single mother in the later part of her life. She didn't consider herself a victim and did not go back to Ayodhya to demand equal rights. She understood Sri Ram's internal struggle to choose the role between a king or a husband.

She performed her duty as the beloved daughter of Raja Janak's family, the daughter-in-law of Raja Dashrath's family, the spouse of Prabhu Ram, and lastly the mother of Maharaj Luv and Kush. When Luv and Kush were ac-

cepted by the Praja of Ayodhya and father Ram, her last role as mother was also completed and she returned to the womb of Dharati Mata (the earth) to seek solace from the cruel world, where purity needs proof from women.

On the auspicious day of Janaki Navami, the married women observe Upwas (a day-long fast) for the longevity and success of their husbands and worship Sri Ram and MaaSita to seek their blessings. Along with deities of Ram, Sita and Lakshman, the plow representing Dharti Mata (Earth) is also worshipped with proper Puja-vidhi. Devotees chant the shloka of Rigveda (4.57.6) - "ArvachiSubhage Bhava Site VandamaheTva. Yatha Nah SubhagasasiYathah Nah Sufalasaki." (O Maa Site, come in front of us. We bow before you. O Goddess, enriched with supreme treasure and vibes, please show your kindness and generosity and be the harbinger of auspicious outcomes for us).

MaaSita, her character and struggle life is part and parcel of the enriched culture of the Indian Sub-continent. It is believed that by performing the Puja rituals and Vrat on Janaki Navami bestows virtues like modesty, motherhood, sacrifice and dedication and blesses a joyful and prosperous married life.

(The Author is a technocrat and educationist. Views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Development vs Hindutva

Karnataka election results may highlight a key issue for the BJP - development versus Hindutva. The party has been successful in states where general development is slow and the Hindutva card resonates with voters. However, in states where development expectations are high, such as in the South, the BJP will have to deliver on development rather than relying solely on Hindutva. The past five years have been mired in corruption issues, and now the BJP is trying to use caste identity politics to gain ground. It's time for the party to focus on delivering tangible development for all citizens, regardless of religion or caste.

Rakesh Kumar, by mail

### Cooperative Federalism

The concept of cooperative federalism, as advocated by the PM, is vital for India's democratic traditions. The state of Kerala is an excellent example of Centre-state relations. To further improve public transport, the introduction of Metros (landways or waterways) and Vande Bharat trains will be in line with the welfare state propounded in our Constitution. Such initiatives will promote comfort, convenience, safety, punctuality, reliability, and environmental friendliness. It is essential for the Centre and states to work together towards the common goal of a better and more prosperous India.

K Surendran, Kannur, Kerala

### Wrestling Controversy

The recent controversy in the Wrestling Federation of India has raised serious questions about the management of sports bodies in the country. The sport of wrestling has been a source of pride for India, and the allegations against the WFI chief are a blot on its reputation. It is heartening to see prominent wrestlers taking a stand against the malpractices in the administration. However, the ongoing dharana and protests are not the solution to the problem. The WFI chief should step down and allow for an independent investigation into the matter. It is only through transparency and accountability that sports bodies can function effectively and maintain the trust of the athletes and the public. I urge the government to take strong action to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future and that our sporting achievements are not tarnished by internal politics and corruption.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

## Legality of Same-Sex Marriages in India

Shivanshu K. Srivastava

The ongoing debate on the legality of same-sex marriage in India is a contentious topic and has been a subject of intense debate and discussion for decades, sparking polarized views among the population. The question of whether same-sex couples should be granted legal recognition of their union has been a focal point of this debate, with arguments on both sides ranging from legal and administrative concerns to cultural and societal issues.

It is noteworthy that India has made significant progress in advancing LGBTQ+ rights in recent years, with the landmark 2018 Supreme Court verdict in the Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India case decriminalising consensual homosexual acts. This overruled the 2013 ruling in the Suresh Kumar Koushal v. Naz Foundation case, which had upheld the law under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) as constitutionality valid. This landmark

decision was seen as a positive step in the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights in India, but the fight for same-sex marriage remains a legal and societal challenge. The ongoing legal battle in the Supreme Court of India underscores the need for more comprehensive legal reform to protect the rights of all members of the LGBTQ+ community.

From a legal perspective, the legalization of same-sex marriage would require significant legal and administrative reforms to ensure that it is implemented effectively. This would include changes to existing laws related to marriage, adoption, inheritance, and property rights. Furthermore, the implementation of same-sex marriage would require comprehensive public education campaigns to raise awareness and promote acceptance of LGBTQ+ individuals and their families. These campaigns would be necessary to help overcome cultural and societal biases that have historically

discriminated against the LGBTQ+ community in India.

Critics of same-sex marriage in India raise concerns that legalising same-sex marriage would clash with deeply ingrained traditional values and religious beliefs, which are seen as the bedrock of Indian society. They argue that marriage is a sacred institution that has always been exclusively reserved for the union of a man and a woman. Any deviation from this norm could undermine the very foundation of society, according to these critics. Some critics also suggest that if same-sex marriage were legalised, it could set a precedent for other non-traditional relationships to be recognized, which could have far-reaching consequences for the socio-cultural fabric of India. Additionally, some critics contend that legalising same-sex marriage could lead to the breakdown of the family unit, which is viewed as a fundamental building block of Indian society.

Proponents of same-sex mar-

riage, on the other hand, argue that it is a fundamental human right and that denying it violates the principles of equality and non-discrimination enshrined in the Indian Constitution. They assert that traditional values and religious beliefs should not be used to deprive a particular group of individuals of their fundamental human rights and dignity. Furthermore, they contend that legalising same-sex marriage would not undermine the institution of marriage or the traditional family unit and would rather expand it to include more individuals and relationships. They argue that recognizing same-sex marriage is a matter of civil rights and social justice. India is a diverse country with a complex cultural and religious landscape, and it is important to acknowledge that there are differing viewpoints and beliefs on the issue of same-sex marriage. However, it is essential to ensure that the human rights of all individuals, regardless of

their sexual orientation, are protected under the law.

While the issue of same-sex marriage in India remains controversial, it is crucial that the rights and dignity of all individuals are respected and protected. The issue of same-sex marriage in India is undoubtedly a complex and divisive issue that reflects the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing society. While there are valid concerns and arguments on both sides, it is essential to prioritize the human rights and dignity of all individuals, including those in the LGBTQ+ community. India has made progress in advancing LGBTQ+ rights, but legal and societal reforms are needed to ensure that all individuals can live their lives openly and without fear of discrimination or persecution.

(Advocate and writer, currently pursuing LL.M. from Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Views are personal).



**BRIEF****Reappointment**

**Chennai:** The Reserve Bank of India has given its consent for the re-appointment of N Kamakodi as Managing Director and CEO of private sector bank City Union Bank, the Tamil-Nadu-based lender said on Wednesday. The tenure of his re-appointment would be for a period of three years with effect from May 1, 2023. "We hereby inform that based on the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Bank, the Reserve Bank of India...has given its approval for the re-appointment of Dr N Kamakodi as the Managing Director and CEO of the bank for a further period of three years with effect from May 1, 2023," the bank said in a BSE filing on Wednesday.

**5G services**

**Dehradun:** Reliance Jio on Thursday announced the beginning of its True 5G services at the Char Dham temples in Uttarakhand as the doors of Badrinath were opened for devotees. It will enable all Jio True 5G users from across the country visiting Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri dhams to latch on to Jio's True 5G network and experience its limitless possibilities, Reliance Jio press release said. Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) Chairman Ajendra Ajay inaugurated the service in Badrinath whose doors were opened for devotees on Thursday.

**Savings Certificate**

**New Delhi:** Union Minister Smriti Irani opened Mahila Samman Savings Certificate account at Sansad Marg Head Post Office in the national capital, and urged more women to take benefit of the scheme. Irani, Minister of Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, stood in the queue as a post office customer, and thereafter completed the account opening formalities at the counter.

**Progressive steps**

**Kolkata:** Acting British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata Peter Cook said that he is happy to learn that India has taken progressive and advanced steps to help women entrepreneurs and scientists to be more active. He said that the country has also taken steps to look at intellectual property as an important step in building the success of those women.

## Poor biz models may have triggered crisis in US banks: Das

**RBI looking at Indian banks' biz models 'more closely'**

Mumbai, Apr 27:

Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said the Reserve Bank is having a closer look at domestic lenders' business models as it feels that poor strategies can trigger a crisis. The Governor of the Indian central bank also said that the recent developments in the US, which has seen the implosion of lenders like Silicon Valley Bank and a rush to limit the contagion of stress across the system, may be because of poor business models.

He added that Indian banks have been able to stay resilient and have not been impacted adversely



by the "recent sparks of financial instability seen in some advanced economies" courtesy the work done in this aspect by RBI and the banks themselves. "The recent developments in the US raise a question whether the business model of individual banks that have faced challenges whether the business models were right," Das said. "The RBI

has started looking at the business models of banks more closely deficiencies (in it) can spark a crisis," Das said, speaking at the inaugural global conference on financial resilience organised by the College of Supervisors which the central bank started last year.

Business models can sometimes create risks in certain parts of the balance sheet of a bank which going forward can blow up into a bigger crisis, Das said. Recent events in the banking landscape of the US and Europe suggest that risks could crop up from segments of its balance sheet which might have been considered relatively safer; Das said, amid several analysts suggesting the implosion of Silicon Valley Bank was triggered by lapses on

something as basic as asset liability mismatches. He urged the management and bank boards to continually assess the financial risks and focus on building up adequate capital and liquidity buffers even beyond the regulatory minimum for continued resilience and sustainable growth.

Das said financial resilience is closely linked to a bank's business model and strategy, and added that among other aspects, RBI has prescribed capital and liquidity buffers, and also nudged the lenders to strengthen capital buffers in times of plenty availability like the Covid-19 crisis. The Governor apprised the audience that Indian banks have shown improvements in the quantum of stress and also capital buffers in the recent past.

## India to press for automatic exchange of info on non-financial assets, properties at G20: Malhotra

New Delhi, Apr 27:

India is pressing for expanding the scope of common reporting standard (CRS) at the G20 to include non-financial assets, like real estate properties, under the automatic exchange of information (AEOI) among OECD countries, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said on Thursday.

Presently, the OECD's Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) framework provides for sharing of financial account details among signatory countries with an aim to check tax evasion. In August 2022, the OECD also approved the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF) which provides for the reporting of tax information on transactions in crypto assets in a standardised man-



ner, with a view to automatically exchanging such information.

Addressing the meeting of the 'Asia Initiative of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes', Malhotra said there is also a need to broaden the scope of AEOI so that the information could be used not only to check tax evasion, but also for other non-tax law enforcing pur-

poses. Under the AEOI framework, signatory countries follow a CRS and obtain information from their financial institutions and automatically exchange that information with other jurisdictions on an annual basis. "We would also like expansion of the CRS from financial to new other non-financial accounts and assets, because the risks are not only in financial assets... there is a risk of tax evasion in non-financial and real assets, properties etc," Malhotra said. Observing that the crypto asset framework of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is a significant development to counter emerging risks, he said the non-financial assets reporting framework should also be developed.

## Lufthansa to operate new flights to India

New Delhi, Apr 27:

European airline major Lufthansa is set to expand its operations in India with the launch of flights from Munich to Bangalore and from Frankfurt to Hyderabad this year. Indian market is "very very important" for the Lufthansa Group, Harry Hohmeister, Member of the Executive Board Global Markets & Network said on Thursday. The flights on the Munich-Bangalore route will be operational three times a week and the first flight will be on November 3. On the Frankfurt-Hyderabad



route, the flights will commence in the coming winter. At a briefing here, Harry Hohmeister said there is a lot of competition in India. "The expansion underlines Lufthansa's long-term vision to

strengthen its footprint in the Indian market by catering to the growing population of young working professionals," it said in a release. Lufthansa Group operates more than 50 weekly services to India.

## Aadhaar authentication transactions rise to 2.31 billion in March

New Delhi, Apr 27:

Aadhaar holders have carried out nearly 2.31 billion authentication transactions in March 2023, underlining the growing usage of Aadhaar and growth of digital economy in the country, according to an official release. The numbers in March were higher than in February when 2.26 billion authentication transactions were carried out. "While a majority of the authentications transaction numbers were carried out by using biometric fingerprint, it is followed by demographic and OTP authentications," the release said.

## Rupee falls 10 paise to close at 81.84 against US dollar

Mumbai, Apr 27:

The rupee pared all its initial gains to settle lower by 10 paise at 81.84 (provisional) against the US currency on Thursday amid a strong greenback overseas. However, the strong sentiment in the domestic equities market restricted the rupee's fall, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 81.69 against the dollar and finally closed at 81.84 (provisional), down 10 paise from its previous close.

During the day, the rupee witnessed a high of 81.61 and a low of 81.85 against the greenback. On Wednesday, the rupee closed at 81.74 against the US currency. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.03 per cent to 101.50. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.21 per cent to USD 77.85 per barrel. On



## India proposes to talk about gender equality, women in trade pact with EFTA group: Goyal

New Delhi, Apr 27:

India has proposed to discuss issues related to gender equality and women in a free trade agreement with the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday. He said that a certain section thinks that India is hesitant to negotiate these new issues in a free trade agreement with its trading partners.

"Today I was discussing a free trade agreement with the four EFTA countries, and you will be happy to know while most people think India is hesitant to engage on modern subjects or subjects like gender equality and women, the EFTA countries did not mind if we did not have a chapter on women in the FTA (but it is India which proposed that we will talk about gender equality and women in our FTA)," Goyal said while



addressing at the world intellectual property day 2023 celebrations. These remarks assume significance as earlier India had asserted that it would not like to include these subjects in a trade pact as there are other platforms to discuss these issues.

The present membership of EFTA is limited to four countries Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. These countries are not part of the European Union (EU). EFTA is an inter-governmental organisation for the promotion and intensification of free trade.

## Stock markets settle with gains; logs 4th day of rally

Mumbai, Apr 27:

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended in the green on Thursday, climbing for the fourth straight day, amid fresh foreign fund inflows and intense buying in IT and telecom stocks. Buying in index majors Infosys and Reliance Industries added to the optimism in the equity market. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 348.80 points or 0.58 per cent to settle at 60,649.38. During the day, it jumped 397.73 points or 0.65 per cent to 60,698.31. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 101.45 points or 0.57 per cent to end at 17,915.05. From the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Titan, Reliance Industries and Nestle were the major winners. Hindustan Unilever, Power Grid, Axis Bank,



Tata Consultancy Services, State Bank of India, Asian Paints and Wipro were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Japan, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green. Equity markets in Europe were trading in the positive territory. The US markets had ended mostly lower on Wednesday. "The domestic market is gradually shifting towards a positive terrain, supported by FIIs inflows and positive Q4 earnings from banks. On the global front, the US Q1 GDP number which will be unveiled today is anticipated to moderate on a QoQ basis amid concerns over banking contagion and a slowing economy."

## Amazon Fashion launches 'Next Gen Store'

Mumbai, Apr 27:

The first generation of 'digital natives' with over 470M population in India, Gen-Z's are the harbingers of latest trends that define today's culture.

The ideologies of Generation Z, lifestyle choices, sartorial preferences are the consumption patterns of the future. Given that, this consumer segment seeks visually appealing, tap-worthy lifestyle choices available at a click, Amazon Fashion announced the launch of 'Next Gen Store', designed to cater to and empower the unique fashion needs of Gen Z shoppers. The roll-out of this first-of-its-kind storefront on A.in is aimed to fill the current market gap and address specific needs of Gen Z, which seeks to experiment with fashion, and has varied requirements in styles, size, brands and fitting. Amazon Fashion has over 200+ domestic and global fashion brands that provide distinctive, modern, and fashionable styles for Gen-Z customers.

## Airtel partners with Secure Meters to launch NB-IoT enabled smart meters

New Delhi, Apr 27:

Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications services providers, today, announced its partnership with Secure Meters for deploying Narrow Band (NB-IoT) services that will power 1.3 million homes in Bihar through a smart meter solution. This deployment will be India's first NB-IoT solution on a narrow band with a fall-back option that will work on 2G and 4G and ensure real-time connectivity and uninterrupted transfer of critical data. NB-IoT is a low-power, wide area, radio network technology developed by 3GPP which enables a wide variety of IoT devices and serv-

ices including smart meters. Ajay Chitkara, Director and CEO, Airtel Business, commenting on this venture, said, "IoT is one of the fastest-growing business segments for Airtel Business. This venture into NB-IoT strengthens our credentials as the largest cellular IoT player in the country and places us firmly as a partner of choice for Discoms looking to invest in smart meters. We look forward to being an active player in India's energy transition." Ananya Singhal, Joint MD - Secure Meters, said, "We are thrilled to have partnered with Airtel for the implementation of NB-IoT services in our smart meter rollout in North Bihar.

## Haier offers immersive experience to customers

New Delhi, Apr 27:

Haier Appliances India (Haier India), the global leader in Home Appliances and the World's Number 1 brand in Major Appliances for 14 Consecutive Years has announced the launch of its new range of QLED series with Google TV.

Haier enters the QLED TV segment with cutting-edge technological features and industry best picture quality making it the perfect blend of innovation, design, and smart technological proficiencies. Speaking on the launch, Mr. Satish NS, President, Haier Appliances India said, "We

are extremely excited with the launch of new QLED TV series which will give consumers a new and immersive experience of watching television. This launch is yet another example of our commitment to Haier's brand philosophy of 'Inspired Living'."

The new Haier QLED TV is designed to elevate user experience through its latest features and a stylish bezel-less design. Indian consumers are smart and look for new smart products to add in their lives. Keeping the same in mind we have launched the new range of QLED TV S9QT series for consumers to experience entertainment in

an immersive way. "Haier QLED series with Google TV Haier's Google TV comes with a package of Google Assistance, Hands-free voice control, built in Chromecast, Google play store and Google UI.

The Google TV provides premium features like AutoLow Latency Mode (ALLM) which enables a game console to send a signal to the display which will cause it to automatically switch to a low-latency, low-lag mode for gaming and HDMI 2.1. The focus is to ensure users can access their most viewed and recommended content directly from the home-screen.

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Place: Raipur PRAF111.AGRWAL/RAIPUR/AGRAWAL/Date: 27/04/2023

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## Pepsi taps Samantha Ruth Prabhu as brand ambassador

**P**epsi unveils its new brand positioning campaign titled 'Rise Up, Baby!', featuring the popular actress and youth icon, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, as its newest brand ambassador. The campaign aims to inspire and encourage women to break societal norms and follow their passions and beliefs. It highlights the struggles women face daily, such as being questioned for not getting married, shamed for staying out late for work, or taking on a lead action-oriented role. The campaign pays homage to the free-spirited women who do not let others define their worth and encourages them to rise up and march to their own rhythm.

Commenting on the campaign, Samantha Ruth Prabhu expressed her excitement to be associated with Pepsi and its message. She stated that women should always follow their hearts and shatter stereotypes that society has set for them. Saumya Rathor, Category Lead, Pepsi Cola, PepsiCo India, stated that the campaign was meant to offer an empowering campaign for Indian women and pay tribute to their unwavering self-belief and self-confidence. Rathor also welcomed Samantha to the Pepsi family and expressed excitement about working with her for many more disruptive campaigns in the future.

## 'It does not matter whether it is a leading or supporting role'

**V**ishwanath Chatterjee, a well-known name in television, OTT, and films, has become extremely popular for his hilarious and unique character of Happu's lawyer friend Beni in &TV's show Happu Ki Ultan Paltan. The actor has been tickling the audience's funny bone with his impeccable comic timing by becoming time to time saviour for his friend Happu (Yogesh Tripathi).



As an actor, I prefer to experiment than stick to one genre. I have had a lot of fun playing comedic roles in my career. Making the audience laugh is one of the most difficult tasks for any performer, and I am glad I can do it. In my show Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, I do situational and light-hearted humour, which instantly links me with the audience. And I enjoy doing it as well. But I would still like to play some serious characters, preferably negative ones. I want to play a well-drawn character who must leave an impression. It does not matter whether it is a leading or supporting role if it

their hilarious get-ups keep the audience glued to our show.

**2. We have seen you doing comedy in films and TV for the longest time. Is this your comfort space?**

As an actor, I prefer to experiment than stick to one genre. I have had a lot of fun playing comedic roles in my career. Making the audience laugh is one of the most difficult tasks for any performer, and I am glad I can do it. In my show Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, I do situational and light-hearted humour, which instantly links me with the audience. And I enjoy doing it as well. But I would still like to play some serious characters, preferably negative ones. I want to play a well-drawn character who must leave an impression. It does not matter whether it is a leading or supporting role if it

is interesting, offers variety and is entertaining.

**3. Do you also share a similar bond with Yogesh (Happu off-screen)?**

It has been four years since we have played friends onscreen. We are like a family now. My maximum scenes are with him in the show, and we spent considerable time shooting them. Even if we are not in the scene, we sit together, crack jokes, and laugh heartily. We keep pulling each other's legs during rehearsals, which is fun. I can easily say there is never a dull moment on Happu Ki Ultan Paltan sets when we are together, as we make everyone laugh with our stunts.

Watch Vishwanath Chatterjee as Beni in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

## Kitu Gidwani talks about paying Damayanti Barot in 'Hm Rahe Na Rahe Hum'

**A**ctress Kitu Gidwani is playing the role of Damayanti Barot, a strong-headed matriarch in the show "Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum". She is a traditional royal family member who firmly believes in upholding the family's traditions and regulations. She even makes her son Shivendra (Jay Bhanushali) follow them.



enough for showering this much love on me. Beni's wittiness whenever Happu, his friend and brother-in-law, comes to him with his problems is admirable. He stands beside him in all his problems, but at times he becomes the cause of the problem (laughs). The tragedies our characters Happu and Beni face, and

While talking about her character, Kitu said that Damayanti stands for power and authority. Her personality radiates strength and determination to uphold the values of her royal lineage. Despite her sons being grown-ups, she feels that they are still her children, and she has every right to make life decisions on their behalf. She wants to

## MP's Shivanshu Soni inspires Special Guest Remo D'Souza

**W**eek-after-week on Sony Entertainment Television, the contestants of India's Best Dancer Season 3 have been enthralled audiences with their superlative dancing talent. Having made their way into the 'Best 13' under the tutelage of their choreographers, the contestants are honing their skills and the result is for all to see this weekend in the 'Grand Premier' episode. Making the best ka biggest celebration a grand affair will be the special guest, ace director and choreographer - Remo Dsouza. Giving a mesmerising performance would be Shivanshu Soni of Madhya Pradesh paired with choreographer Swetha Chandran Warrior on 'Aaj Ibaadat' from the film 'Bajirao Mastani'.



Doing the 'sajda' as gesture of respect for Shivanshu, Judge Geeta Kapur will put a 'kaala teeka' on his feet.

## Kunal Kemmu shares the importance of versatility in breaking monotony at work

**B**ollywood actor Kunal Kemmu recently shared his thoughts on maintaining versatility to break out of monotony and make work enjoyable. The actor, known for his roles in films like 'Kalyug', 'Dhol', and the 'Golmaal' series, has dabbled in different genres throughout his career, from thrillers and dramas to murder mysteries and comedies.

In the comedy genre, he has experimented with sub-genres like situational comedy, dark comedy, family, and slapstick comedy. Kunal shared how he broke stereotypes as he said, "When I started, I was offered only serious parts, then I was offered 'Dhol'. After doing 'Dhol', I did '99', 'Golmaal', and even 'Go Goa Gone', and then 90 per cent of the roles that came were all come-

dy. Interestingly, in the same year, I was offered 'Kalank', 'Malang', and 'Abhay'."

According to the actor, dabbling in different genres is essential to becoming a better artist. Speaking about his recent films, Kunal said, "These were all a welcome change from the comedies I was doing. One should be willing to dabble in different genres as it helps you to be a better artist."

Kunal Kemmu was last seen in the comedy-drama streaming series 'Pop Kaun?' and the streaming film 'Kanjoos Makkichoos'. He will be next seen in 'Gulkanda Tales' helmed by Raj-DK of 'The Family Man' fame. The actor is also currently working on the post-production of his directorial debut 'Madgaon Express'.

## Actress Preetika Chauhan shares experience playing blind

**P**reetika Chauhan, known for her roles in various TV shows, including 'Vighnaharta Ganesha', 'Santoshi Maa', and 'CID', is all set to play the role of a mother in the upcoming show 'Shravani'. The actress spoke about the challenges of portraying a visually impaired woman on-screen and the preparations she underwent to make the character convincing for the audience.



To prepare for the role, Preetika watched films such as 'Butterflies are Free', 'Sparrsh', and 'Faana' as suggested by the writers and producers. She wanted to make the character real and convincing for the audience, and hence worked hard on it. Talking about her role, Preetika said that her character is a simple girl who has been blind since childhood and got married to a per-

son she wanted. She is a positive and lovable character who doesn't complain about things and has a never-give-up attitude. The audience will be able to empathize with her, and the character is very different from what Preetika has played till now. The concept of the show is inspired by the character of Shrivani from 'Ramayana', known for his love and devotion towards his blind parents. The lead character of the show, Shrivani, played by Gaurika Sharma, takes care of her parents who are visually impaired. Preetika further added that playing different and challenging roles is the biggest opportunity for any actor who works on their craft. Initially, she was not sure about playing a blind girl as she didn't know about the character graph and how it would shape up.

## Zee Studios releases the first look poster of 'Godday Godday Chaa!'

**Z**ee Studios has been elevating the standard of Indian storytelling globally; consistently backing content-driven films be it regional or commercial movies. Continuing their smashing spree of regional hits, Zee Studios has now released the first look poster featuring the ensemble cast of 'Godday Godday Chaa' in association with VH Entertainment which is slated for a 26th May release this year.

The film stars Sonam Bajwa, Tania, Gitaz Bindrakhia and Gurjazz in pivotal roles. 'Godday Godday Chaa' is a family friendly film written by 'Qismat 2' fame Jagdeep

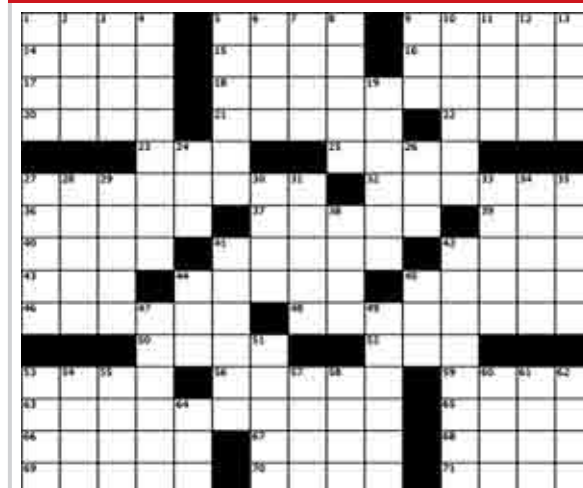


Sidhu and is directed by the National award-winning director (Harjeeta) Vijay Kumar Arora who has also directed the much-loved Punjabi blockbusters, 'Guddiyan Patole' and 'Kali Jotta'.

Shariq Patel, CBO, Zee Studios, further added, "Godday Godday Chaa' is a feel-good film that shall leave the audiences with a big smile. It's women power at its best with wonderful performances by Sonam, Tania, Nirmal Rishi, Rupinder Rupinder, under the able direction of Vijay Kumar Arora. It's a film we are extremely proud of and can't wait to present it in cinemas soon."

## CROSSWORD

629



### ACROSS

- "Moonstruck" actress
- Cola, e.g.
- Papas' partner
- Decorate anew
- Experts
- Texas landmark
- Precinct
- Famed consumer advocate (2 wds.)
- Curve
- Bowling lane
- Shipped

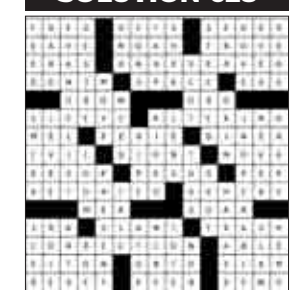
### DOWN

- Seafood choice
- At this location
- Eve's home
- Type of car
- Ankle problem
- Verbal
- Ken, e.g.
- Colorado ski resort
- Gent
- None's state
- Created
- Prayer finale
- Arrange
- Doglike scavengers
- Barbie's beau
- Third letter
- Self-respect
- Speed contests
- Occasion

- Omens
- Real
- Tidiness
- Leases
- Practical joke
- Winged stinger
- From this place
- Rim
- Ambition
- Aft
- Journalist Sawyer
- Platoon
- Knowledgeable about
- Comforted
- Writing utensils
- Looks over

- Beach grains
- Rock star John
- Cheek makeup
- Works for
- Gown
- Richard of "Chicago"
- Singer Franklin
- Undies
- Had breakfast
- Train stop (abbr.)
- Like Swiss mountains
- Snyjs
- Framed (2 wds.)
- Walk through water
- Largest continent
- Health clubs
- Innings number
- Dime or penny
- Disclaimer
- Fence door
- Greek god of love
- Beet's color

### SOLUTION 628



## Richa, Jemimah get promotion; Shikha dropped

## LSG face PBKS in crucial mid-table clash

Mohali, Apr 27 (PTI):



Lucknow Super Giants players Quinton de Kock and Romario Shepherd during a practice session.

Lucknow Super Giants would be looking to move on from an inexplicable batting performance when they take on Punjab Kings in a crucial mid-table clash in the Indian Premier League here on Friday.

Halfway into the competition, both teams have four wins from seven games and would be aiming to find consistency in the tight race to the IPL play-offs.

Though Lucknow pitch has not been ideal for batting, skipper K L Rahul's strike rate became the talking point again as his team failed on Saturday last to chase down 136 against Gujarat Titans from a commanding position.

Rahul has a strike rate of 113.91 so far in the competition and can surely do better on that front.

Though 200 has not yet been scored at the PCA Stadium in the season so far, the pitch here should be friendlier for the batter compared to the 22 yards in Lucknow. The absence of pacer Mark Wood, who has not played since April 15 due to illness, has weakened the LSG attack considerably and the team would be wishing for his early return. Wood still re-

**Match starts 7.30 pm IST.**

mains the leading wicket taker for them despite missing three games.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, would look to return to winning ways at home after a couple of losses. Full time captain Shikhar Dhawan has missed the last three games due to a shoulder injury but could return for the LSG fixture.

"He is recovering well and could be in action tomorrow," said a team

source. Punjab Kings, who have been guilty of throwing it away in the past, are making a conscious effort to raise their game as the tournament progresses.

The top-order comprising Prabhsimran Singh and Matthew Short need to stay longer in the middle while the dangerous Liam Livingstone is yet to come into his own after two games. Stand in captain Sam Curran showed against Mumbai Indians why Punjab paid Rs 18.5 crore for his services and

his contribution with both bat and ball holds key for the team.

Arsheep Singh has been brilliant both with new and old ball while the team will need to take a tough call in choosing between Nathan Ellis and Kagiso Rabada, who has played only a couple of games so far.

A lot more is expected from leggie Rahul Chahar in the middle overs as he has managed to take only two wickets in seven games.

## Washington Sundar ruled out due to hamstring injury



New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Sunrisers Hyderabad all-rounder Washington Sundar was on Thursday ruled out of the remainder of this IPL due to a hamstring injury, dealing a big blow to the struggling team. The franchise announced Sundar's injury and his unavailability for the rest of the IPL. "Washington

Sundar has been ruled out of the IPL 2023 due to a hamstring injury. Speedy recovery, Washi," the franchise tweeted. The 23-year-old bowling all-rounder has played seven matches so far and picked up three wickets at an average of 48.66 and an economy of 8.26. With the bat, he managed 60 runs with a highest score of 24 not out at an average of 15 and a strike rate of 100. The Tamil Nadu player had also faced injury during the last IPL, suffering split webbing in his bowling hand. SRH are currently languishing at ninth spot in the 10-team standings with two wins and five losses out of the seven matches they have played so far.

### BCCI central contracts

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Young wicket-keeper batter Richa Ghosh and Jemimah Rodrigues have been elevated to B category in the BCCI central contracts for the 2022-23 season while the likes of Shikha Pandey and Taniya Bhatia have been dropped.

The contract period runs from October to September but the BCCI made the announcement on Thursday.

A player in A category gets paid Rs 50 lakh over and above match fees and Rs 30 lakh and Rs 10 lakh are allotted for B and C category respectively.

The board has kept only three players in the highest category and they include skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, star batter Smriti Mandhana and all-rounder Deepti Sharma.

All three have been retained in the same category while spinner



Rajeshwari Gayakwad has been demoted to B category. Leg spinner Poonam Yadav, who was in the A category last year, doesn't have a contract at all after falling down in the pecking order. She last played for India in March 2022.

Veteran pacer Shikha Pandey, who had made a surprise comeback for the

T20 World Cup in South Africa, finds herself without a contract and so does wicket-keeper Taniya Bhatia.

Pacer Renuka Thakur, who did not have a contract last year, has been bracketed straight into the B category after a stellar season. Richa Ghosh and Jemimah Rodrigues have

### The full list

**Category A:** Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma.

**Category B:** Renuka Thakur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Richa Ghosh, Rajeshwari Gayakwad.

**Category C:** Meghna Singh, Devika Vaidya, S Meghana, Anjali Sarvani, Pooja Vastrakar, Sneha Rana, Radha Yadav, Harleen Deol and Yastika Bhatia.

moved up from C to B category. New entrants in Category C include pacer Meghna Singh, batter Devika Vaidya, opener S Meghana, Radha Yadav, left-arm pacer Anjali Sarvani and batter Yastika Bhatia.

Harleen Deol and Sneha Rana remain in the lowest category while injury prone all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar has been demoted to C from B.

The BCCI, which announced equal pay for women cricketers last year, has kept the number of contracted to 17.

## IOA President PT Usha criticises wrestlers' protests

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Coming down heavily on the aggrieved wrestlers, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha on Thursday said the grapplers protesting on the streets amounts to indiscipline and is tarnishing the country's image.

Decorated wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik are the three central characters in the renewed protests against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment and criminal intimidation by the grapplers. "Wrestlers staging



protest on streets amounts to indiscipline. It is tarnishing the image of India," Usha told reporters after IOA's Executive Committee meeting. The IOA also instituted a three-member

ad hoc panel, including former shooter Suma Shirur, Wushu Association of India chief Bhupendra Singh Bajwa and a yet-to-be-named retired high court judge, to run the affairs of

We did not expect such a harsh response from IOA President PT Usha, we expected support from her: **Bajrang Punia.** IOA includes former shooter Suma Shirur, Wushu Association of India President Bhupendra Singh Bajwa and a yet-to-be-named retired High Court judge to be the third member of the ad hoc panel to run WFI.

the WFI until a new body is elected.

The IOA and the government had managed to placate the wrestlers with assurances to probe their allegations against Sharan and the WFI after the protest first broke out in January.

## Broad fires first salvo ahead of Ashes

London, Apr 27:

England fast bowler Stuart Broad wants the team to replicate the success of the 2005 Ashes series when they host Australia in the summer and inspire fans across the country.

England regained the famous urn for the first time in 18 years in 2005 with a 2-1 series victory, which is widely rated among the team's greatest achievements in the longest format. "I just want the whole series to grip the nation and inspire kids the way 2005 did," Broad told the Daily Mail on Wednesday.

"I want our players to take positive options at all times and if there's a day we get bowled out for a 100, it is what it is. As long as the next



day we come back with the same intent and become even more aggressive and entertain even more." England have won 10 of their last 12 Tests under captain Ben Stokes and head coach Brendon "Baz" McCullum, with their high-risk, high-reward 'Bazball' style proving both entertaining and successful.

## Barcelona loses to Rayo, fails to increase league lead



Barcelona's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski (C) scores a goal that was later annulled during the Spanish league football match between Rayo Vallecano de Madrid and FC Barcelona at the Vallecas stadium in Madrid.

Madrid, Apr 27 (AP):

Barcelona couldn't take advantage of Real Madrid's setback, losing to Rayo Vallecano and missing a chance to increase its Spanish league lead.

Barcelona lost 2-1 at Vallecas Stadium, keeping its gap to second-place Madrid at 11 points with seven matches remaining. It could have taken a huge step toward securing its first league title since 2019 if it had won a day after Madrid's 4-2 loss at Girona.

Barcelona's lead remains comfortable,

though, especially with Madrid focused on the Champions League semi-finals against Manchester City and the Copa del Rey final against Osasuna.

"They played a great match and deserved the win," Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo said. "We still have an 11-point lead, it's a good advantage, and now we have two consecutive games at home and we have to win them."

Barcelona's next league games are against Real Betis and Osasuna at Camp Nou Stadium. It was coming off a home win against Atletico

Madrid that ended a three-game winless streak.

"It wasn't a good game for us," Barcelona coach Xavi said. "We are upset because it was a good opportunity for us. It's not over yet."

It was the second win in three games for Rayo, which stayed in ninth place. It scored with Ivaro Garcia in the 19th minute and Fran Garcia in the 53rd. Barcelona got on the board late with Robert Lewandowski, who had scored only two goals in his last 10 matches entering the meeting with Rayo.

## Focussing more on accuracy than variations: Chakravarthy



Bengaluru, Apr 27 (PTI):

Kolkata Knight Riders leg-spinner Varun Chakravarthy feels he is reaping the benefits of focussing more on accuracy than using "different variations" in the IPL.

The 31-year-old Chakravarthy was the pick of the KKR bowlers in his side's 21-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Wednesday with figures of 3/27 from his four overs. "I have worked more on my accuracy rather than working on different variations. Another aspect I was working on was revolutions on the ball. I was working with AC Prathiban. He's my spin coach back in Chennai, so it definitely worked," Chakravarthy said at the post-match press conference.

"More than that, tactics, whatever Abhishek Nayar (KKR assistant coach) tells, it always works for me. They both have played a very good role in my comeback," Chakravarthy, who was part of India's disappointing campaign in the T20 World Cup in the UAE, had a forgettable IPL last year when he took only six wickets in 11 games.

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EYE WITNESS NARRATE HORROR

## 'I won't forget the scene for the rest of my life'

Naxal Blast

**Dantewada, Apr 27 (PTI):** The driver of a Scorpio that was right behind the vehicle targeted by Naxalites with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Wednesday said he won't be able to forget the day long as he lives.

He said a Multi-Utility Vehicle had just overtaken his Scorpio after he slowed down to chew pan masala. All 10 police personnel on-board the MUV and its driver died after Naxals detonated the IED and blew the vehicle into pieces. Soon after the blast, the security personnel travelling in his vehicle jumped out and took position along the road and opened fire towards the forest, said the driver requesting anonymity. "My vehicle was in the second position in the convoy. Seven security personnel were travelling in my vehi-



The site of Wednesday's IED explosion in which a police vehicle was blown up by Naxals killing 10 policemen, in Dantewada, Thursday.

cle. I slowed down the vehicle 150-200 metres before the spot where the blast took place to chew pan masala.

The vehicle which was behind us overtook us and suddenly an explosion occurred. I think my vehicle was the target but God

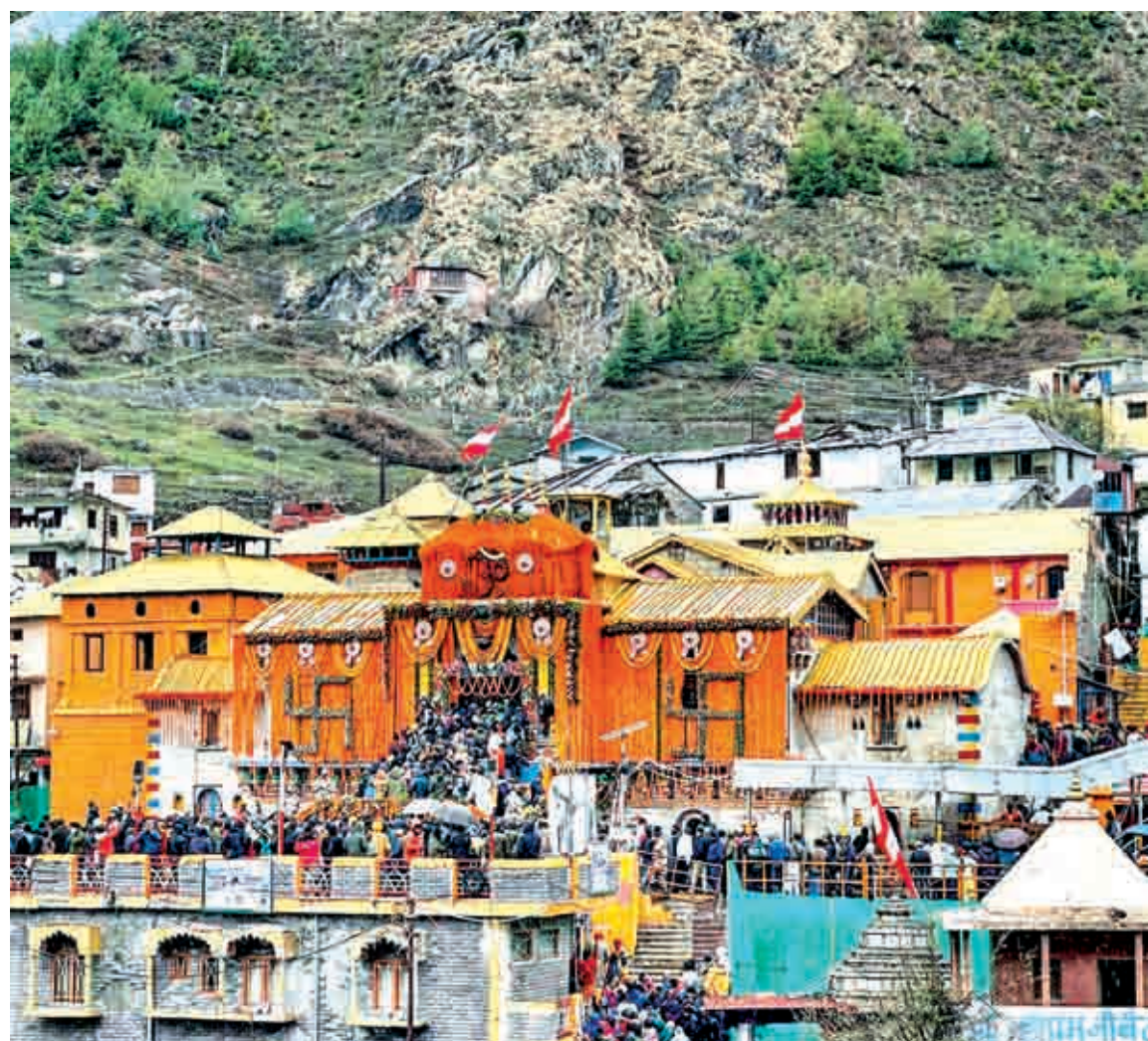
saved us," said the driver, in his mid-20s. Before the cloud of dust and smoke settled, all the security personnel and he jumped out of the vehicle. "They took position along the road and started shouting to take cover and surround them (Naxalites)

and firing randomly, he said. "The vehicle was blown in front of me. I saw pieces of bodies and the vehicle scattered on the road. I was completely shocked and crawled beneath my vehicle to hide," he said. The driver claimed that the firing continued for about 15 minutes but he did see any movement in the jungle.

"The security personnel told me to return to Aranpur following which I drove the vehicle back to the police station, around one km away from the attack site.

On the way back, I informed the two vehicles, carrying police personnel, which were coming from behind about the incident. However, by then they had realised that something had happened as the sound of the blast was so high that it could have been heard from far," he said.

## BADRINATH DOOR OPENS



Devotees arrive to offer prayers at the Badrinath Temple after its doors opened, in Chamoli district, Thursday.

## 'NCRB data on human trafficking in Kashmir just the tip of iceberg'

**Srinagar, Apr 27 (PTI):** The National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma on Thursday said human trafficking increased by 15.56 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir last year as compared to the 2021-22 financial year but it is "just the tip of an iceberg". "In the last few years, we have seen in Kashmir also that women are getting targeted. The NCRB data shows that it has increased 15.56 per cent last year compared to 2021-22. And this is just the tip of the iceberg because the data does not give the true picture," Sharma told PTI, ahead of the anti-human trafficking workshop organised by



Rekha Sharma

the NCW here. Sharma said the purpose of holding the workshop in Kashmir was to make people aware of the menace of human trafficking. "We must now work to save our daughters and our children. This is the main purpose of making it (work-

shop) happen in Kashmir," she said. "Human trafficking is a serious crime and it does not have boundaries whether it is Kashmir or Kanyakumari. This is prevalent everywhere. And sometimes, the victims of the trafficking do not even know that they are the victims," Sharma said. "The main problem is due to lack of awareness. This is our first of its kind programme in Jammu and Kashmir where all the forces — state commissions, NGOs — are together to make people aware, especially the students, that nobody is out of reach of this problem," the NCW chief said.

## Court sends TMC leader Anubrata Mondal's daughter to 3-day ED custody

**New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):** A Delhi court on Thursday sent TMC leader Anubrata Mondal's daughter Sukanya to three-day custody of the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a money laundering case related to alleged cattle smuggling at the India-Bangladesh border. A primary school teacher in West Bengal's Birbhum district, Sukanya Mondal was arrested on Wednesday by the ED following her questioning. She was produced before Special Judge Raghubeer Singh on Thursday. The judge sent her to ED custody till April 30. Her father is already in judicial custody in the case. During the hearing, Special Public Prosecutor Nitesh Rana sought

her custody saying she was required to be confronted with evidence and the co-accused, including her father. Rana said Sukanya's custody was also required to trace the proceeds of crime, establish the money trail and the modus operandi. Anubrata Mondal, the former Birbhum district president of the Trinamool Congress, was arrested by the CBI for his alleged involvement in cattle smuggling and was named in the charge sheet. He was subsequently arrested by the ED. In December last year, the ED attached 32 properties worth more than Rs 1.58 crore belonging to Anubrata Mondal's former bodyguard Sehgal Hossain.

## Anand Mohan walks out of jail amidst protests

**Patna/Saharsa, Apr 27 (PTI):** Gangster-turned-politician Anand Mohan, who was serving a life sentence for killing an IAS officer in Bihar three decades ago, walked out on Thursday amid protests by family members and well-wishers of the slain bureaucrat. Mohan, who had been an MP prior to his conviction in 2007, was released from Saharsa jail on Thursday morning after being behind the bars for 15 years. The gangster-turned-politician's supporters who believe that their leader was "framed" in the murder of G Krishnaiah, the then district magistrate of Gopalganj, had planned a celebratory pro-

cession but the release was done in a manner which precluded any such gathering. Krishnaiah, who hailed from Telangana and was from a scheduled caste, was beaten to death by a mob in 1994 when his vehicle tried to overtake a funeral procession in Muzaffarpur district. Mohan, who was the sitting MLA from Mahishi, was leading the procession taken out upon the death of his close associate Chhotan Shukla, another dreaded gangster who fell to bullets of his rivals before realizing his political ambitions. Mohan's name figured in a list of more than 20 prisoners who were ordered to be set free by a notification issued by the

state law department earlier this week as they had spent more than 14 years behind bars. His remission of sentence followed an April 10 amendment of Bihar Prison Manual by the Nitish Kumar government whereby the restriction on early release of those involved in killing of a public servant on duty was done away with. This, critics claim was done to help release Mohan. The relaxation has predictably been opposed by the wife and daughter of Krishnaiah. They have appealed to the Bihar government to reconsider the move, which has also drawn condemnation from the IAS Officers' Association.

## WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT



Devotees prepare 3,700 kg 'khichdi' in a huge pan as an offering to Shirdi Saibaba in an attempt to set a Guinness World Record, at Saibaba temple in Awadhपुरi locality of Bhopal, Thursday.

## Tribal village mourns its first two policemen

Tikeshwar Patel

**Raipur, Apr 27 (PTI):** When Jagdish Kumar Kovasi and Raju Ram Kartam joined the Chhattisgarh police's District Reserve Guard on March 10 last year, it was the first time someone from their Naxal-hit village had joined the police force. "They wanted to fulfil their dreams of getting a government job and serving the motherland. But the journey was cut short," said Rakesh Kovasi, cousin of Jagdish. Jagdish (24) and Raju (25) were among the 10 policemen who were killed when Naxals on Wednesday targeted a convoy of security personnel in the Aranpur area of Dantewada district. The driver of the vehicle carrying the cops also died in the attack. Both from Bade Gudra village

under Kuakonda police station limits in the district, the two had joined on the same day as Gopniya Sainiks' (secret troopers), Rakesh told PTI. Gopniya Sainiks are appointed on a contractual basis by district superintendents of police (SP) or senior officials. A large number of tribal youth and surrendered Naxalites have joined the police force as Gopniya Sainiks in the Bastar division to assist security personnel during anti-Naxal operations and generate intelligence. A pall of gloom has descended on the village as for the first time its two youths had joined the police force but they lost their lives just over a year after working for the department, he said. "On Monday, Jagdish visited the village and met me. We were planning for his marriage next

year and looking for a bride for him. He said his job will be regularised next year following which he will get married," the grieving brother said. Jagdish had studied till Class 12 in the village school and was keen on a government job, his cousin said. His and Raju's families live in separate lanes in the village, Rakesh said. "I don't know how the two decided to join the police as anyone who wishes to join the force faces the wrath of Naxalites in the area," he said. Nonetheless, the entire village is grieving the loss of its two sons, he said. "Jagdish was the second among three brothers, while Raju was married and has a child," he said. The relative of another deceased jawan told reporters that the government should seriously think about

how to eliminate Naxalism from Bastar. He said the government keeps on claiming that the menace is in its last phase but they continue to carry out such attacks from time to time. Ten personnel, belonging to the District Reserve Guard (DRG) of police, and a civilian driver were killed after Naxalites blew up a vehicle that was part of a convoy carrying security personnel in the Aranpur police station area on Wednesday afternoon. Their wreath-laying ceremony was held earlier on Thursday following which the mortal remains were sent to their native places for final rites. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was among those who paid homage to the martyred policemen.

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## Parkash Badal cremated at ancestral village with full state honours

Badal (Pb), Apr 27 (PTI):

Akali stalwart Parkash Singh Badal was cremated with full state honours at his ancestral village in Punjab's Muktsar district on Thursday with thousands of mourners and leaders across the political spectrum paying their last respects to the five-time chief minister.

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal lit the funeral pyre at a special platform erected for the last rites as a Punjab Police contingent accorded a gun salute.

Wrapped in the Tricolour, Badal's mortal remains were taken to the



Parneet Kaur, daughter of former Punjab chief minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patron Parkash Singh Badal, mourns near his mortal remains during his funeral, at Badal village in Sri Muktsar Sahib district, Thursday.

family's farmland, around a kilometer from his residence where it was kept for people to have the last

'darshan', on a flower-bedecked tractor-trolley with his son Sukhbir Singh Badal and other

family members standing with folded hands on it. Overcome with emotions, Sukhbir Badal and his sister Parneet Kaur Kairon broke down before the body was consigned to flames. Sukhbir Badal's cousin Manpreet Singh Badal was seen comforting him. Sukhbir's wife and former union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, their two daughters and a son, were present alongside Manpreet Badal's son and daughter. Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann also paid homage to the leader at the cremation ground.

## NEW STUDY 'Eating handful of walnuts daily may boost attention, intelligence in teens'

New Delhi, Apr 27 (PTI):

Consuming walnuts regularly may have a positive impact on sustained attention and intelligence scores of adolescents, a study claims. Walnuts have a significant amount of alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), an omega-3 fatty acid essential for the body and which plays a key role in brain development, especially in early stage, the researchers said. The study, published in the journal eClinicalMedicine, demonstrates that a healthy, balanced diet that provides essential nutrients, such as those

found in walnuts, can have a beneficial effect on the cognitive and psychological development of adolescents.

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