

### BRIEF



J&K Waqf Board Chairperson Darakhshan Andrabi lays the foundation stone of Shah-e-Hamdan Mamber at Eidgah in Srinagar, Wednesday.

### Chargesheet

**Jammu:** The National Investigation Agency on Wednesday filed a charge sheet against four people, including a Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist and Jamaat-e-Islami (JEI) chief, in a terror funding case here, an official said.

### Booked

**Mhow:** A case has been filed against the principal of a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya for allegedly molesting a former female counsellor, who belongs to a Scheduled Caste, of the school in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district, police said on Wednesday.

### Suicide

**Surat:** A 23-year-old inmate of Central Jail in Surat city of Gujarat facing trial on charges of kidnapping and raping a minor girl was found hanging inside a barrack in the wee hours on Wednesday, police said.

### MISUSE OF CENTRAL PROBE AGENCIES

## SC junks plea of 14 parties

**New Delhi, Apr 05 (PTI):** The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea by 14 parties, led by the Congress, alleging arbitrary use of central probe agencies against opposition leaders and seeking guidelines for the future.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala said that "laying down general guidelines without having relation to facts of a case will be dangerous".

Sensing the disinclination on the part of the top court in entertaining the plea, senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for the

### 'Political parties not higher than citizens'

"Political leaders do not enjoy an immunity higher than the common citizens... Once we accept that political leaders are absolutely on same footing as common citizens with no higher immunity, then how can we say there can be no arrests unless there is a three-pronged test which is satisfied," the bench said.

political parties, sought permission to withdraw the petition. "Learned counsel seeks permission to withdraw the plea at this stage. The petition is

accordingly dismissed as withdrawn," the bench ordered. "You please come back to us when you have an individual criminal case or group of cases," the bench said.

The plea alleged an alarming rise in the use of coercive criminal processes against opposition political leaders and other citizens exercising their fundamental right to dissent.

Besides the Congress, the parties that are part of the joint move are the DMK, RJD, BRS, Trinamool Congress, AAP, NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT), JMM, JD(U), CPI(M), CPI, Samajwadi Party and the J-K National Conference.

## T'gana BJP chief arrested in SSC question paper leak

### Named prime accused

**Hyderabad, April 05 (PTI):** Telangana BJP president and MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar was arrested by police on Wednesday and was named the prime accused by Warangal police in a case of malpractice after a question paper of Standard 10 (SSC) board exam surfaced on various groups of an instant messaging app, police said. Sanjay Kumar, a Lok Sabha MP from Karimnagar constituency, was picked up by a team of police past midnight on Tuesday from his resi-

dence in Karimnagar city, triggering protests by his party workers. The paper of Standard 10 (SSC) board exam in Telangana found its way into an instant messaging platform for the second day on Tuesday after a 16-year old boy took a photo of the paper from a student who appeared for the exam and shared it with that student's brother while the exam was going on, police said.

The paper was then posted in a group of the instant messaging app and subsequently shared in other groups by one of the accused, who had also sent a copy to Sanjay Kumar, police added.

## Gangster Deepak 'Boxer' brought to India from Mexico

**New Delhi, Apr 05 (PTI):** Deepak "Boxer", one of the most wanted fugitives in India who was nabbed by the police authorities in Mexico, was brought to New Delhi on Wednesday, officials said.

A two-member team of Delhi Police's Special Cell landed with Deepak at Terminal 3 of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport from Mexico via Istanbul at around 6 AM this morning.

He will be interrogated in connection with his criminal activities and alleged involvement in killing a builder in north Delhi's Civil Lines area, police said.

## Padma awards conferred on Mulayam, Mahalanabis, Sudha Murty, Keeravaani



President Droupadi Murmu confers Padma Shri on music composer M. M. Keeravani during Padma Awards 2023 ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan, in New Delhi, Wednesday

Yadav, who was also India's defence minister and long-time parliamentarian, and Mahalanabis, who returned from the US to serve in the 1971 Bangladesh war refugee camps, were given the honour posthumously. Yadav's son, former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav, received the award on his behalf, while Mahalanabis' award was received by his nephew. Music director M M Keeravaani, who bagged India's first Oscar for an original song for the 'RRR' song 'Naatu Naatu' and Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon were among those who received the Padma Shri.

the Padma Bhushan at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhawan here.

### GOVT IN LS

## 'No plan to use Aadhaar data for census'

**New Delhi, Apr 05 (PTI):** The government has no plan to use Aadhaar data for census, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar told Lok Sabha on Wednesday. "The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India has informed that there is no plan to use Aadhaar data for census," he said in a written reply. According to the Unique Identification Authority of India, more than 136 crore Aadhaar numbers have been issued by it till the end of February. "... after adjusting for the estimated number of deaths,

the estimated number of living Aadhaar number holders is 130.2 crore, which is over 94 per cent of the total projected population for 2022," Chandrasekhar said in reply to questions by Congress member Adoor Prakash.

Further, the minister said there is no mechanism to receive the Aadhaar numbers of deceased persons from the Registrars appointed by state governments under the provisions of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 for the registration of births and deaths, to de-activate those Aadhaar numbers.

## SC quashes MediaOne ban

Says independent press is necessary for democracy

**New Delhi, Apr 05 (PTI):**

The Supreme Court on Wednesday quashed the Centre's telecast ban on Malayalam news channel MediaOne, and pulled up the Ministry of Home Affairs for raising national security claims from "thin air" without facts.

Observing that the State can't impose unreasonable restrictions on press as it would have a chilling effect on press freedom, a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud set aside the Kerala High Court order which had upheld the Centre's decision to ban the channel's telecast on security grounds.

The top court said critical views of the channel against government policies cannot be termed as anti-establishment as an independent press is necessary for a robust democracy.

"Press has a duty to speak truth to power and present citizens with hard facts enabling them to make choices that propel democracy in the right direction. The restriction on freedom of press compels citizens to think along the same tangent.

"Homogenised views on issues that range from socio economic polity to political ideologies would pose great dangers to

democracy," the bench said, adding that non-renewal of license for a channel is a restriction on the right to freedom of speech.

The top court said the alleged link of the channel's shareholders to the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind is not a legitimate ground to restrict the rights of the channel.

It said the State is using national security as a tool to deny citizens remedies that are provided under the law.

"National security claims cannot be made out of thin air; there must be material facts backing it," the bench said.



## Empowering 'Naari Shakti' Prosperous women, Prosperous India

### Proper maternal care for women

Better care to more than **7 lakh** mothers in Chhattisgarh under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

### Freedom from hardship for women, restoring their dignity

More than **34 lakh** toilets built under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) in Chhattisgarh, making life easier for women.

### Better health conditions for women with smoke-free kitchen

About **35 lakh** free Ujjwala LPG connections improved the lifestyle of women in Chhattisgarh.

### Made life easy and better for women

More than **17 lakh** households in Chhattisgarh now have tap water connections under Pradhan Mantri Jal Jeevan Mission.

“Whether it is a scheme to construct toilets, or a scheme for free gas connections, or a scheme for tap water to every household, all of this is being done with keeping the health of mothers and sisters in mind.”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi





## Woman confesses to killing infant son

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 05:** Durg Police arrested a woman after she confessed to killing her infant son. She had tried to spin a false story of abduction and murder of her son. On the basis of CCTV footage, Police questioned her after which she confessed to the crime.

SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that on March 31, one Malti Yadav of village Nagpura had lodged a complaint regarding missing / abduction of her 06-month-old child Dipanshu Yadav. She complained that the child was sleeping with her and around 03:00 hrs she noticed that the child was missing. Initially an FIR was lodged under section 363 of IPC and investigation was launched.

A special team was constituted to trace the missing child. The team inspected the crime scene and collected technical inputs. Every possible effort was being made to locate the kidnapped child with the help of CDR and CCTV footage. Meanwhile, on April 01, 2023, the dead body of the kidnapped child was recovered from Dabri pond of the village. Police team minutely examined the footage of the CCTV cameras installed in the village.

In the footage, a woman wearing a dark brown colour saree was seen carrying the child around 02:40 hrs in the night. Footage of the suspicious woman was shared with the villagers and was shown to the members of the victim family. The suspect was identified as



Malti Yadav, the mother of the child. Her sister-in-law Maya confirmed that Malti was wearing the same saree on the day of Jawara immersion.

Malti Yadav was taken into custody and interrogated. Soon she confessed to her crime. She informed that her husband had left her at her paternal home and was not even giving

money for expenses. She was worried for her child and was mentally upset. In a fit of rage, she picked up the child and threw him in the pond with the intention of killing him.

After returning back home, she woke up her mother and said that her child is not on the bed and someone has taken him away. Police have seized

the saree worn by the accused while committing the crime. Police arrested Malti Yadav (30) wife of Dilip Yadav a resident of village Pulgaon on charges of murder. Further action against the accused is being taken by Nagpura Chowki. ASI Purna Bahadur, Constables Jagjit Singh, Farooq Khan, Shobhit Sinha, Tishwar Rathore, Khurram Baksh, Jugnu Singh, Keshav Sahu, Narendra Sahare, Chitrasen, Sanat Bharti, Komal, Pradeep Singh, Dharendra Yadav from ACCU and ASI Channu Netam, Head Constable Yashwant Singh, Constable Amit Verma, Prashant Sahu, Kuldeep Singh and Tameshwar Sahu from Nagpura Chowki played a vital role solving the case.

## New Executive Committee constituted for Bhilai Mahila Samaj

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 05:** Bhilai Mahila Samaj (BMS) organised a General Meeting at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir, Civic Center.

The new Executive Committee of BMS for the tenure 2023 to 2025 was constituted under the guidance of Triparna Dasgupta, President (BMS). Neerja Kumari Singh, Vice-President and Praniti Mukhopadhyay and Molly Chakravarti, Additional Vice-Presidents were present at the General Meeting. In the beginning, after

welcoming the members of BMS, Neerja Kumari Singh, appreciated the praiseworthy works done by the Executive Committee during the tenure 2021-23. Thereafter, names of members of the new Executive Committee for 2023-25 was declared by Singh under the guidance of Triparna Dasgupta, President (BMS).

The members of the new Executive Committee comprise of Sadhna Goyal as General Secretary, Sonali Rath as Co-Secretary, Shikha Jain as Treasurer and Deepanwita Pal as Co-

Treasurer.

Apart from this, two members namely, Leela Dewangan and Ashtami Sahu have also been sworn in as Associate Members of Bhilai Mahila Samaj Executive Committee for 2023-25.

Members of the former committee including Ratnarani Dokania, Secretary, Gayatri Sahu, Treasurer and Mau Ray, Co-Treasurer were also present on this occasion. The General Meeting held for the declaration of the newly-constituted Executive Committee was addressed by Ratna Rani Dokania, Secretary, Bhilai Mahila Samaj.

## Dhwaj Yatra taken out from 151 temples on Hanuman Janmotsava eve

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 05:** On the eve of Lord Hanuman Janmotsava, thousands of devotees participated in the Dhwaj Yatra taken out from 151 temples of the city. The processions joined together to form a bigger procession which reached Lord Hanuman Temple in Sector 9. Here, the devotees recited Hanuman Chalisa and paid obeisance to the deity.

This event was organised by Jai Hanuman Seva Vahini to celebrate the birth anniversary of Lord Hanuman. For the 7th consecutive year, a grand celebration of Lord Hanuman Janmotsava is being organised in the city.

Thousands of devotees of Lord Hanuman from



across the state had come to Bhilai to participate in this event. Attractive tableaux and DJs were part of this procession. The Dhwaj Yatra was taken out from 151 temples across the city including

Sector 1 Maa Sharda Temple.

Maa Bharwa Kali Group from Andhra Pradesh, Balangir Band from Odisha, Jagdamba Dhol Tasha from Maharashtra, Aghori Group of Rajnandgaon, Madiya Nacha Group from Bastar gave their performances in the procession. At Sector 9 temple, Maha Aarti of Lord Shri Hanuman was performed.

Hanuman Chalisa was recited by the devotees and the programme concluded with distribution of Mahaprasad. Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav also participated in the event. He recited Hanuman Chalisa with thousands of devotees and prayed for happiness, peace and prosperity of all.

- Union Minister approves 13 Task Forces for defining the Roadmap for Green Steel
- Urges committees to explore the possibility of PLI 2.0 with a vision to make India a global leader in steel manufacturing
- Avenues for branding made-in-India steel discussed

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 05:** The Union Minister of Steel & Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M Scindia chaired meetings with the two Advisory Committees formed under the Ministry of Steel for Integrated Steel Plants (ISP) and the Secondary Steel Industry (SSI). Along with the Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development, Faggan Singh Kulaste, representatives from Indian Steel Association, steel industry captains, and members from academia were present during the meetings, informed a press communique from Bhilai Steel Plant.

Formed in August 2022, the Advisory Committees serve as a platform for all

## Scindia chairs meeting of Advisory Committees for ISP & SSI



stakeholders to come together and deliberate and discuss on key issues pertaining the steel sector.

Addressing the seventh meeting with the Integrated Steel Plants (ISP) Advisory Committee, Minister Scindia emphasized on adopting a participatory approach to define the roadmap for green steel. He also shared that the Ministry of Steel has approved the formation of 13 task forces identifying action points for each aspect of green steel production. The move is expected to drive the development and adoption of sustainable steel making practices and technologies in India. This will not only help to reduce the carbon footprint of the steel industry but also contribute to India's efforts to combat climate change.

Minister Scindia reiterated that as the World's second-largest steel producer India needs to become most

responsible through green steel adoption and asked the Committee to work together to define the way forward for the industry.

The task forces will focus on various aspects of green steel production, including raw materials, technology, and policy frameworks. "We are committed to promoting sustainable steel-making practices in India. The establishment of these task forces is a significant step towards achieving this goal," said Jyotiraditya Scindia. "We believe that the adoption of green steel production practices will not only benefit the environment but also lead to the creation of new jobs and economic growth" added the Minister.

Emphasizing on the increasing demand for coking coal in the country, the Minister highlighted that steel producers need to increase the capacity of their washeries to increase coal production and motivated



the group to build India's Atmanirbharta in the field so that we can reduce our dependence on imports. He also suggested exploring varied and new sources for coal import.

The Committee also discussed the avenues for branding made-in-India steel and came to a consensus that to make a global identity for Indian steel, the common branding parameters and guidelines need to be made for each steel product.

The Minister reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of promoting the brand India in export markets of steel. Components of the QR code include name of the product, six-digit HSN code (used for international benchmarking), grade of the steel (mention of physical properties), dimensions, weight in tonnes, SKUs and batch IDs, mill criteria (rule of determining origin), address of the

place where it is manufactured, among others will be included in the branding.

In the fourth meeting of the Secondary Steel Industry (SSI) Committee, advocated and presented avenues of exporting speciality steel in Western markets and exploring more sources of scrap availability in the nation. Apart from this the Committee also discussed exploring the possibility of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for Steel. Under the PLI 1.0 scheme, the Government has approved Rs 6322 crores to give a new impetus to the Steel sector. The Ministry of Steel has signed 57 MoUs with 27 companies for speciality steel under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme. The Minister urged the group to work in collaboration to formulate PLI 2.0 with a vision to make India a global leader in steel manufacturing.

## SAIL Khel Mela concludes; 1483 students participate

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Apr 05:** SAIL Khel Mela 2023 organised jointly by Bhilai Steel Plant and Ramkrishna Mission Ashram, Narainpur with the objective of encouraging schoolchildren from the tribal region to take active part in sports concluded at Narainpur on April 04, 2023. As many as 1483 students from 36 schools in Orcha and Narainpur blocks of Narainpur district participated in SAIL Khel Mela.

Among the games in which the schoolchildren participated were Football, Volleyball, Kho-kho, Badminton and various athletic events including long jump, races etc.

It is worth mentioning that the SAIL Khel Mela is being organised since 2006-07. SAIL-BSP that has been organising various CSR activities in the region surrounding its Rowghat Iron Ore Project has also been actively promoting sports activities in the region.



Prashikshan Kendra, Belur Math presided over the programme. Swami Vyaptanand ji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramkrishna Mission, Narainpur, Samir Swaroop, CGM I/c Mines & Rowghat, BSP, Devnath Usendi, President, District Congress, Narainpur, G Suresh, President, Chhattisgarh Handball Association were present as special guests. Also present were Sairam Jakhad, DGM heading the Plant's Sports, Culture Dept, Mohanlal, Gen Secy, Chhattisgarh Football Association, Jawahar Das, International Football Coach, Swami Krishnamritanandji Maharaj, Principal,

Viveknand Vidyapeeth and other Sanyasis were present along with teachers and staff of schools run by Ramkrishna Mission Ashram, Narainpur and schoolchildren participating in the games.

SAIL Khel Mela was inaugurated on April 01, 2023 by S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), Bhilai Steel Plant in presence of AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Swami Vyaptanand ji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramkrishna Mission, Narainpur, senior officers from SAIL-BSP's Mines Dept and members of Plant's Sports, Culture Dept.

Addressing the gathering at the concluding ceremony, Dasgupta,

Director In-charge, BSP hailed Ramkrishna Mission Ashram as an institution that is internationally reputed for rendering yeoman services in the area of education and its role in various welfare and spiritual upliftment activities. SAIL Khel Mela is being organised jointly by BSP and RKM, Narainpur since 2006-07 to promote sports among schoolchildren, he said, adding that there is a lot of sporting talent in the tribal children of Rowghat region which need to be nurtured. It has been Bhilai Steel Plant's endeavour for the past many years to spot and nurture talent in sports. Here in this region, Ramkrishna



Mission, Narainpur has been the partner in this endeavour to promote sports and nurture sporting talent, he said. Today, many young sports persons from this region are excelling in different platforms, he added.

Bhilai Steel Plant has had glorious journey in the arena of steelmaking and at the same time spreading the good cheer among people with the help of various CSR activities, Shri Dasgupta said, adding that now Rowghat Mines too is part of our journey ahead. It is a matter of pride that world's longest rails would be rolled out from steel made iron ore mines in Rowghat and that the ore mined here

will be given shape to steel for use in Indian navy's warships like INS Vikrant, in satellite launch vehicles in construction of large bridges over rivers, in skyscrapers and in construction of temples, churches, masjids etc. Dasgupta congratulated all those involved in organising the mega sports event.

In his brief address, Samir Swaroop, CGM I/c Mines & Rowghat thanked Ramkrishna Mission, Narainpur and all sports officers and coaches from BSP for their role in organising the Khel Mela successfully. Congratulating all those involved in the Khel Mela, Swami Poornanandji Maharaj

briefly outlined the objectives and activities of Ramkrishna Mission. Earlier, Swami Krishnamritanandji Maharaj, Principal, Viveknand Vidyapeeth welcomed all guests and dignitaries. Devnath Usendi, President, District Congress, Narainpur thanked Ramkrishna Mission Ashram, Narainpur and BSP for having organised the Khel Mela.

Prizes to winners and runners up of different games were handed over to winners by Shri Dasgupta, DIC, BSP and Swami Vyaptanand ji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramkrishna Mission, Narainpur. The team from Ramkrishna

Mission Ashram, Narainpur won the football event in boys category while Sports Complex, Narainpur team ended runners up. The team from Eklavya Vidyalay Cheribeda won in Volleyball Boys category while Ramkrishna Mission, Narainpur ended as runners up. Ramkrishna Mission, Narainpur won the kho-kho event while from Eklavya Vidyalay Cheribeda was runners up. The girls team from Ramkrishna Mission, Narainpur won the volleyball event while the girls team from Eklavya Vidyalay Cheribeda ended as runners up. In the kho-kho girls event, Ramkrishna Mission, Narainpur won while team from Ma Sharda Vidyalaya, Orcha ended runners up.

The programme concluded with Swami Vyaptanand ji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramkrishna Mission, Narainpur thanking Bhilai Steel Plant for carrying out various activities in the area of education, health and sports etc in Narainpur and Ajuhmard region. He thanked all those involved in organising Khel Mela 2023.



## BJP MLAs meet Union Ministers with demands for their region

**Interaction with Nitin Gadkari and Ashwini Vaishnav**

**Raipur, Apr 05:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) camping in New Delhi on Wednesday called on Union Ministers to get the development work sanctioned for their respective Legislative constituencies.

According to the information received, the Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative

Assembly Narayan Chandel called on Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav during which he requested the central leader to consider the demand for the region including stoppage facilities of the various trains. He also requested the Railway Minister to look into the delay in the construction of Railway Over bridge in his constituency Champa.

Similarly, the senior BJP Legislator Ajay Chandrakar called on Railway Minister Vaishnav to get Railway

Under bridge in his constituency. During his interaction with the Union Minister for Surface Transport and Roads Nitin Gadkari, the Kurud Legislator sought inclusion of his region under the Vishakapatnam corridor which would be a big boost to road connectivity for Chhattisgarh to the southern states.

Apart from them, the senior BJP Legislators Brijmohan Agrawal and Shivratna Sharma from Bhatapara constituency are also in national Capital to meet the cen-

tral leaders. While Brijmohan Agrawal called on the central leader in-charge of party affairs in Chhattisgarh Om Prakash Mathur, the senior BJP Legislator Sharma met few Union Ministers over a series of demands for his constituency. Above attempts of the MLAs are considered to be a last exercise to get few development works sanctioned for them ahead of the next Legislative Assembly polls scheduled to be held later this year in Chhattisgarh.

### CM greets on Dharti Puja (Khaddi festival)

**Raipur, Apr 05:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has extended best wishes to the people of the state and especially the tribal community on the occasion of Dharti Puja (Khaddi festival). He has wished for the happiness and prosperity of the general public. In his greeting message, he said that people of tribal society traditionally celebrate Khaddi festival on the day of Chait Purnima. On 'Khaddi Parab' they take a pledge to save nature and worship Mother Earth and Sal tree as per traditional customs.

The Chief Minister further said that the ancient tribal communities in Chhattisgarh are deeply connected with nature and are its real custodians and the state government is committed to providing all possible cooperation to progress toward social and economic development.

### COVID CHECKING



With increasing number of Corona virus cases, the checking in capital city has gained momentum and people are taking all necessary precautions.

## CKAF demands to submit Pingua Committee report soon

**In context of their 14-point demands**

**Delegation meets Principal Secretary Manoj Pingua in Secretariat**

**Raipur, Apr 05:** Members of Chhattisgarh Karamchari Adhikari Federation (CKAF) under leadership of Regional convener Kamal Verma and state spokesmen Chandrashekhar Tiwari informed that a delegation from CKAF met Chairman of Pingua Samiti-Manoj Pingua at the Secretariat and urged him to submit the report by the Samiti at the earli-



est on 14-point demands including that of wage discrepancies, housing allowance and other demands.

It is notable here that the members of CKAF in context of their 14-point demand, the CM Bhupesh Baghel has formed a Pingua Samiti under chairmanship of

Principal Secretary Manoj Pingua to look in their demand for wage discrepancies, HA and others. This Committee comprised of Secretary GAD and Financial Secretary and it was formed last on 17 Sept 2021. In this demand to check wage discrepancies in the salary and time-bound payment of clerks,

assistant teacher and other employees are two important demands.

During discussions the Principal Secretary Manoj Pingua was informed that in support of demands of the Federation during the last VS session, they staged state-wide movement from March 3-18. Convener of Federation Kamal Verma urged the Principal Secretary to submit the report at the earliest and on which Pingua gave his assurances. The delegation comprised of Kamal Verma, Chandrashekhar Tiwari, Pankaj Pandey, Santosh Verma, Reena Rajput.

## Review of priority schemes of the state government

**Chief Secretary did an in-depth review of the Health Department**

**Raipur, Apr 05:** Chief Secretary Mr. Amitabh Jain conducted an in-depth review of the works of the Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education Department in Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan here on Wednesday in order to review the priority schemes and programs of the state government. Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Subrat Sahoo was also present in the meeting. The Chief Secretary has asked the officials of the Health Department to provide health services to the remote areas of the state, es-



pecially in the tribal areas, through health camps in the Haat Bazaars organised under the Mukhyamantri Haat Bazar Clinic Scheme and health checkup of more and more needy people. Provide free medicines and necessary health facilities to the patients. People of remote areas should be compulsorily informed about the camps to be organized in haat markets. Under the Malaria-free Chhattisgarh campaign, the Chief Secretary went door-to-door to RD by the survey team. After conducting tests and blood test

of all the persons in the target villages, the health workers instructed to feed the first dose of medicine to the malaria positive patients in front of them. He has asked the medical authorities to promote the use of generic medicines. The Chief Secretary directed the Health Department officials to check the health check-up of the people in Supebada (Devbhog) of Gariaband district and make special efforts for the treatment of the diseases occurring there. Instructions were also given to take necessary ac-

tion to provide more facilities and to provide maximum medical facilities to the people. In the meeting, officials of the health department informed that so far 83 lakh 64 thousand 88 patients have been treated through one lakh 46 thousand Mukhyamantri Haat Bazar clinics in various remote areas of the state and pathology tests of 34 lakh 71 thousand 328 patients have been done. And free medicines were made available to 77 lakh 7 thousand 519 patients. The Chief Secretary has instructed the officers to make the buildings of new medical colleges of good quality. The meeting was attended by Secretary Health Prasanna R., Director Health Bhim Singh and other senior officials of the Health Department.

## Baghel should extend gratitude towards PM over NAN investigation: Dr Raman

**Rift within Congress behind move to change President**

**Raipur, Apr 05:** Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel, over his recent statement on the Nagrik Apurti Nigam (NAN) scam investigation. Speaking to section of journalists at his residence, Dr Singh criticized Baghel's lack of awareness regarding the investigation and called for him to thank the Prime Minister for the ED's involvement in the case.

Dr. Singh accused Baghel of not presenting the complete facts of the case in his statement and suggested that the Chief Minister's attention is only on the ED's raids on certain individuals, rather



than the agency's broader investigation. He also pointed out that it was he who had written a letter to the Prime Minister requesting ED's involvement in the NAN case, and that Baghel should be grateful for the progress made in the investigation.

Dr. Singh also had a dig on the ongoing turmoil within the Congress party in the state and claimed that Baghel wants the State President to be changed for his own comfort as the difference of opinion has created division within the Chhattisgarh Congress. Regarding the # cam-

paign launched by the Congress, the former CM also expressed his disapproval of Rahul Gandhi's recent comments on the judiciary and suggested that he should apologize to the people of the country.

On the issue of reservation, Dr. Singh stated that his party's thinking is positive and that the subject will be progressed based on the opinion of the Governor and the judicial process. He also urged caution in light of the increasing cases of COVID-19 in the country and called for the health department and general public to take necessary precautions.

The former Chief Minister's comments are likely to fuel the fire on the ongoing political tussle in Chhattisgarh, as the state gears up for the upcoming assembly elections later this year. It remains to be seen how Baghel and other Congress leaders will respond to Dr. Singh's criticism.

## Instructions issued to take out peaceful 'Shobha Yatra'



**On occasion of Hanuman Jayanti today**

**Raipur, Apr 05:** As per instructions by SSP Prashant Agrawal, City (SP) Azad Chowk Mayank Gurjar convened meeting of Azad Chowk sub-division and Presidents of the organizing committee in context of Shobha Yatra to be taken out on occasion of Hanuman Jayanti on April 6.

In this meeting instructions were given to follow the SC's guidelines in the

'Shobha Yatra' to be taken out on April 6 and play the loudspeakers and DJs in lower decibel noise and ensure that the rally does not affect common men and it just does not causes hindrance in smooth flow of traffic. They also urged all the organising committee to ensure law & order during the passing of procession and not to take it out from narrow lanes or by-lanes in city and do not carry any weapons during the procession, or else action will be taken by the police.

## Mayor appeals all to deposit property tax before April 15

**Expresses gratitude towards CM and Urban Administration Minister for extension of last date**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Apr 05:** Mayor Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) Ejaz Dhebar as per instruction by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Minister for Urban Administration and Development Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia has issued instructions for special rebate in payment of property tax till April 15 and expressed gratitude to-

wards two of them for the same.

Commissioner RMC has directed the Revenue Department of RMC to speed up recovery of big outstanding amount from big defaulters soon. It was on request by the first citizen of city and RMC Mayor Ejaz Dhebar that the CM and Minister for Urban Administration granted approval for extending the last date for submission of property tax till April 15.

The Urban Administration and Development Department has urged the residents of city to pay their property tax well on time before April 15 and has also directed Revenue depart-

ment of RMC and its employees to maintain physical distancing in recovery of amount in RMC offices and wards and send the employees to residence of persons having high outstanding amount pending till date. Citizens should also be motivated to make online payment of property tax using RMC App.

M u n i c i p a l Commissioner Mayank Chaturvedi has directed all Zone Commissioners, all Assistant Revenue officers, RIs, Asst. RIs, Mohirirs and others to ensure cent per cent recovery of property tax before the last date from all 10 zones and 70 wards of RMC on top priority basis.

## Skoda Slavia scores full 5 stars in crash safety

**Raipur, Apr 05:** Skoda Auto India's safety and crash-worthy prowess continues to grow in stature as the SLAVIA sedan scored a full 5-Stars out of 5 at the Global New Car Assessment Programme (Global NCAP) crash tests conducted recently. This also makes the SLAVIA the safest car ever tested by the Global NCAP, furthers the cause of Safer Cars for India, and makes SKODA AUTO India's only manufacturer to have a fleet full of crash-tested cars that have 5-stars for both adult and child occupants.

Commenting on the safety standards set by the SLAVIA, Mr. Petr Solc, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India said, "As part of our strategy at Skoda, there is no compromise on safety for our customers. I am delighted to share that our second INDIA 2.0 car -



SLAVIA has received a 5-star rating in the Global NCAP safety test. This perfectly matches our brand values of Safety, Family, Human Touch. We sincerely appreciate our customers, who decided to buy Skoda products, and are extremely happy that we can offer them the safest cars in the market.

With a comprehensive approach to safety, we have a fully-tested range of 5-star safe cars."

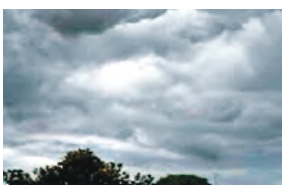
The SLAVIA was designed with a high focus on localisation, lower costs of ownership and maintenance, while maintaining Skoda's dynamic driving traits and zero compromise on safety. It was test-

ed internally for a variety of impacts. The SLAVIA was designed from the ground up keeping safety in mind. Its skeletal structure is laser welded. The SLAVIA is equipped with upto 6 airbags, electronic stability control, multi-collision braking, traction control, anti-lock brakes, ISOFIX mounts for child seats, Top Tether anchor points, rain-sensing wipers, automatic headlights, and tyre-pressure monitoring, among others. Out of a maximum of 34 points, the SLAVIA scored 29.71 for adult occupation earning it a separate 5-Star for adult occupation. In the case of child occupants, the sedan scored a 42 out of 49 points to get 5-stars in child safety. This makes the Slavia the safest car ever tested by the Global NCAP as per the newer, stricter test protocols.

## Weather pattern to change in Ch'garh after April 10

**Light showers expected in some areas today**

**Raipur, Apr 05:** The maximum temperature is continuously rising in many parts of Chhattisgarh and people feel uncomfortable as a consequence of this. However, due to the effect of 'Dronika', there is a possibility of light showers and thundershowers in some areas of the state on



Thursday

The Meteorological Department estimates that after April 10, the weather patterns in Chhattisgarh may change slightly. On Wednesday, the maximum and minimum tempera-

ture increased in various areas of the state including Raipur: Due to the continuous arrival of cold winds, there was some respite from the humid heat even after the rise in temperature. In some areas of the state including Raipur, along with strong sunshine, it was partly cloudy and light drizzle also occurred. Meteorologist HP Chandra said that due to the effect of 'Dronika', there are chances of light

rain and thundershowers in different areas of the state on Thursday. On Wednesday, the maximum temperature of Raipur was recorded at 37.4 degree Celsius, which is one degree above normal and the minimum temperature was recorded at 24.5 degree Celsius. The minimum temperature was three degrees above normal. The maximum temperature in Bilaspur reached 36.2 degree celsius.

## Dantewada score 226 runs against Kawadha in Sr Cricket tournament

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Apr 05:** Electing to bat first after winning the toss, the Dantewada team scored 226 runs in first innings against Kawadha in the Inter district Senior Plate Group tournament being organ-

ised under the aegis of Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) at Naya Raipur-based Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium here on Wednesday. Boka Dinesh Shrinivas scored maximum 83 runs

whereas Taufiq Ahmed also scored 52 runs for the Dantewada District team. Vikas Yadav was the most successful bowler for Kawadha as he claimed 4 wickets for just 36 runs whereas Chandresh Verma also claimed 4 wickets for 45 runs to re-

strict the opposition team. At close of play on day one, the Kawadha team had scored 59 runs for the loss of 1 wicket. Rahul Kumar Singh was unbeaten on 32 runs whereas Sachin Pandey was with him at crease after scoring 20 runs for the team.



## District Coop bank employees in Surguja division go on mass leave

● After Congress MLA assaults' two bank staffers

Ambikapur, Apr 05:

Employees of district cooperative central banks in Chhattisgarh's Surguja division on Wednesday went on a mass leave for two days in protest after an MLA of the ruling Congress assaulted two of their colleagues.

People, particularly farmers, had to face inconvenience as most bank branches remained closed in five districts under the division.

Congress legislator Brihaspat Singh was caught on camera purportedly thrashing two employees of the Zila Sahkari Kendriya Bank at

Ramanujanj town in Balrampur-Ramanujanj district on Monday.

Next day, employees of cooperative banks under the Surguja division submitted a memorandum, addressed to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, to the Inspector General of Police (Surguja range) at Ambikapur, seeking action against the MLA.

They also announced that they would go on mass leave on April 5 and 6. In the video of CCTV footage that went viral on social media, Singh can be seen thrashing two persons in front of the bank branch. Surguja division comprises five districts including Balrampur-Ramanujanj. Cooperative banks play an important role in paddy procurement and disbursement of

short-term agricultural loans to farmers and money to beneficiaries of government schemes including the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna for farmers.

President of the Zilla Sahkari Kendriya Bank Karamchhari Sangh Ambikapur R K Khare said that more than 150 employees of 30 branches of district cooperative central banks in five districts of the division went on leave as part of the protest.

Employees also staged a demonstration in front of the bank's headquarters in Ambikapur, the headquarters of Surguja district, he said.

The All India bank employees association and district cooperative banks of Chhattisgarh have extended support to the

protest, he said.

"Transactions worth Rs 100 crore got affected on the first day of the protest. We regret the inconvenience caused to customers, particularly farmers, and appeal them to support us," he said.

"We have demanded action against the MLA and protection to our employees," Khare said and warned of indefinite strike if the demands were not met.

People were seen outside district cooperative bank branches at various places in the division, expressing dismay over the closure. Talking to reporters outside the Baikunthpur branch of the bank in Koriya district, Sheshmal, a resident of Chinguda village, said he was in urgent need of

money as his pregnant daughter was admitted in hospital.

He was unaware of the strike, he said.

Brihaspat Singh, who represents Ramanujanj assembly seat, slapped and abused clerk Rajesh Pal and peon Arvind Singh outside the bank in front of hundreds of farmers on Monday. The MLA later admitted to assaulting them, but claimed that there had been many complaints of irregularities against employees of the bank which compelled him to act. He also accused bank employees of misbehaving with farmers.

The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demanded that Singh should be removed as an MLA for the violent act.

## Residents expressed gratitude to CM and PWD Minister

● Asphaltization of roads under Veer Savarkar Nagar Ward No. 1, C.C. Road and drain construction works have been approved



Colony Hirapur, Bengali Hotel Chowk, Sheetla Mandir Hirapur Basti, Ganesh Garden Hirapur, Opposite Durga Mandir Hirapur, Sheetla Mandir Para Jarwai, Satnami Para Jarwai, Sheetla Mandir Jarwai, Jarwai Basti, Bihari Para Jarwai, Sheetla Para Chowk Attari Pahadi Chowk Attari Bhatapara Chowk Attari Rungta College Marg Attari, etc. Apart from these places, Bhoomi Poojan has been performed today for development works in many

Raipur, Apr 05: Asphaltization of routes for road and drain construction works under Ward No.01 of Veer Savarkar Nagar in Raipur has been approved for which residents have expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Public Works Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu. Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Vikas Upadhyay along with women's of the area today performed Bhoomi puja for the approved routes in various places under Veer Savarkar Nagar Ward No.01.

He said that RDA

other places of Ward No.01.

Meanwhile, Vikas Upadhyay also inspected the roads of Yaduvanshi Chowk and the roads and drains under construction near Muktidham in Tatibandh after Bhoomi Pujan. Here the concerned contractor and PWD officials were discussed and directed to maintain quality in the work. A large number of local women and common people also participated along with Vikas Upadhyay.

## Guidelines issued for admission in various technical courses

● Admission Rules 2023 for Ch'garh Technical Institutions will be available on the portal

Raipur, Apr 05:

Chhattisgarh Directorate of Technical Education has issued necessary guidelines for admission in various technical courses of the state. Director, Directorate of Technical Education Avnish Kumar Sharan said that for the technical courses conducted in various engineering colleges, polytechnic institutes, architecture institutes and pharmacy institutes of the state, including Bachelor of Engineering, Diploma Engineering, Diploma in Costume Design and Dress Making, Diploma in Interior Design and Decoration, Diploma in

Modern Office Management, Diploma in Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Diploma in Architecture, B. Pharmacy, D. Pharmacy, M.E./M.Tech., M.Pharmacy, M.B.A., M.C.A., admission in the session 2023-24 will be done soon through direct and lateral entry in other courses.

He said that the details for admission to these courses and Admission Rules 2023 for Chhattisgarh Technical Institutions for admission in session 2023-24 would be made available on the online counseling portal [www.cgdtaraipur.cgstate.gov.in](http://www.cgdtaraipur.cgstate.gov.in).

Sharan said that the candidates interested in taking admission in these courses in the session 2023-24 should keep the necessary documents

such as domicile certificate, permanent caste certificate, income certificate, soldier certificate, freedom fighter certificate, domicile certificates related to the personnel of the Government of India or its public undertakings / semi-government bodies posted in Chhattisgarh, certificate of rehabilitation in Chhattisgarh, certificate for the child of the displaced person of Jammu and Kashmir, the certificate for the child of Chhattisgarh personnel who have been posted in the state of Jammu and Kashmir for the control of terrorist activities, disability certificate (as applicable) etc. prepared in advance, as the unavailability of these certificates may create difficulties in document verification.

## CM Baghel virtually releases an amount of Rs 5.32 cr

● To cattle rearers, WSHGs and Gauthan committees under GNY

Raipur, Apr 05:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel virtually released an amount of Rs 5.32 cr to cattle rearers, women groups, and Gauthan committees under the Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNY), from his residence office here today. This includes payment of Rs 2.91 crore in lieu of 1.45 lakh quintal cow dung purchased from March 16 to March 31 and dividend amount of Rs 1.43 cr to Gauthan committees and Rs 98 lakh to women groups.

On this occasion, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choube, Industries Minister Kawasi Lakhma, Chief Minister's Advisor Vinod Verma, Chhattisgarh State Mineral Development Corporation



Chairman Girish Dewangan, Chhattisgarh Gau Sewa Commission Chairman Mahant Ramsunder Das, Special Secretary (Agriculture) Dr. Ayyaz F. Tamboli are present at the Chief Minister's residence office. Besides, Chief Minister's Advisor Pradeep Sharma and RIPA State Nodal Officer Gaurav Singh joined the programme through video conferencing.

CM Baghel said that we have made continuous

achievements in the GNY, but the rapid increase in the number of self-supporting Gauthans is our most significant achievement because the major goal of this plan is to make our villages financially self-sufficient.

The self-supporting Gauthans have paid themselves Rs 1.67 cr of the money supplied to cow dung vendors, while the department is paying Rs 1.24 cr lakh. We have agreed to offer Rs.750 per month to the presidents of self-sup-



porting Gauthan committees and Rs.500 per month to the members in order to encourage Gauthan committees to become self-sufficient.

The farmer must have already heard the good news that beginning in November, paddy would be purchased at a cost of 20 quintals per acre. For a long time, the farmer had desired this. It will undoubtedly help the rural economy. Likewise, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhoomihin Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana, has been expanded. This scheme will now help landless agricultural laborers in

Scheduled Area Nagar Panchayats and Municipalities. Landless agricultural laborers must apply by April 15 to take benefit of this scheme.

While the census has not been conducted since 2011, a socio-economic survey has also begun in the villages on April 1. This survey will also help identify new beneficiaries. They will also be able to take use of schemes such as housing, gas cylinders, and toilets. Applications for unemployment benefits from educated unemployed have begun as of April 1. They have been given the option of applying online for this. More than 6000 unemployed youth applied on the first day, and their applications were granted the same day.

Congratulations to all of the farmers, cow dung vendors, animal herders, Gauthan committees, and self-help groups that received funds through this initiative today.

## Bride's boyfriend arrested in Home theatre blast

● Due to marrying other person had filled it with explosive inside

Kawardha, Apr 05:

A joyous wedding celebration in Kawardha turned into a tragic event when a home theater filled with explosives killed a newly married groom and his brother. The incident, which also left four members of their family injured, occurred during a home theater testing. The police have apprehended a suspect in connection to the case. According to sources, the groom's brother had purchased a home theater system for the newlyweds as a wedding gift. However, the tragedy occurred when a young man



in love, who was connected to the bride, filled the system with explosives as a gift to his girlfriend. The explosion was so powerful that it shattered the windows of the house, leaving the entire family in shock. The police investigating the incident have arrested the lover of the bride and are interrogating him to find out the motive behind the heinous act. The incident has shocked the entire town, and the police are urging people to be cautious and responsible while celebrating weddings and other events.

## Ch'garh among the top ten states in justice delivery

Raipur, Apr 05:

The 2022 India Justice Report (IJR), India's only ranking of states on delivery of Justice in the country, announced here today, ranks Karnataka at the top of the 18 Large and Mid-sized states (with population of over one crore each), followed by Tamil Nadu (2020: 2nd), Telangana (2020: 3rd) Gujarat (2020: 6th) and Andhra Pradesh (2020: 12th). The list of seven Small States (population less than one crore each) was topped by Sikkim (2020: 2nd), followed by Arunachal Pradesh (2020: 5th) and Tripura (2020: 1st).

The India Justice Report (IJR) was initiated by Tata Trusts in 2019, and this is the third edition. Partners include Centre for Social

Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS-Prayas, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and How India Lives, IJR's data partner.

Chhattisgarh ranks among the top ten states this year, although dropping two positions since IR 2020. Improving on its performance in the legal aid pillar, from 15th rank in IJR 2020 to 11th this year; it has however, displayed a decline in its ranks in the other three pillars. Among 61 comparable indicators between 2020 and 2022, Chhattisgarh improved in 30. In IJR 2019, it was ranked 10th, rising to the 7th position in the next report which was published in January 2021. However, in the third edition of the

India Justice Report, Chhattisgarh's performance declined, and it has ranked 9th. Commenting on the India Justice Report, Justice (retd.) Madan B. Lokur said, "The third IJR shows that states are making a substantive improvement over the last two ones in terms of adding new dimensions on diversity, training, and infrastructure. Some states have dramatically improved their performance but there is a lot that needs to be done on the whole. So far as the police is concerned there does appear to be a shortage of women officers in police. Legal aid is doing better but still a lot of people need to be provided quality free legal aid, we need to increase the confi-

dence that people have in our services."

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## CAIT CG Chapter to organise Cyber crime public awareness workshop

Raipur, Apr 05:

National Senior Vice President of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Amar Parwani, Chairman Mangal Malu, Amar Gidwani, State President Jitendra Doshi, Working President Vikram Singhdeo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, General Secretary Surinder Singh, Working General Secretary Bharat Jain, and Treasurer Ajay Agarwal informed that CAIT C.G. Cyber crime public awareness workshop will be organised by the chapter on April 07 in the state office of CAIT. Office bearers of the CAIT CG Chapter, met Mr. Abhishek Maheshwari, Superintendent of Police, City/Crime Raipur for the above workshop and requested him to give his presence in the workshop and give information about cyber crime. National Senior Vice President of CAIT, Mr. Amar Parwani and State President, Mr. Jitendra Doshi informed that how to prevent the

increasing cases of cybercrime, CAIT CG Chapter has made traders aware of this crime. Cyber crime public awareness workshop will be organized by the Chapter on Friday, April 07 from 3:30 pm in the state office of CAIT. Mr. Maheshwari gave his consent for his presence in the workshop and informed that his team Mr. Rohit Malekar, Inspector, Anti-Crime/Cyber Unit Raipur and Mr. Chintamani Sahu, Head Constable, Anti-Crime/Cyber, Unit Raipur will inform the traders that how criminals commit cyber crime and will be given information about how to be aware of this crime. Team CAIT officials present in the meeting with Mr. Maheshwari includes Parmanand Jain, Surinder Singh, Bharat Jain, Rakesh Ochwani, Mahendra Kumar Bagrodia, Pritpal Singh Bagga, Mahesh Khilosa, Avneet Singh, Amar Dhigani and Deepak Vidhani.

## JCC-J Yuwa Morcha tried to gherao CM's house

Raipur, Apr 05: In support of various public demands, the members of Jogi Congress Chhattisgarh (JCC-J) left to gherao CM's residence under leadership of JCC (J) Yuwa Morcha Pradeep Sahu and were

arrested mid-way itself. During this they entered into minor scuffle with the police and staging sit-in on the spot itself, they raised slogans in protest. In this women in large number were also present. Pradeep Sahu informed that the Chhattisgarh Industries Jute Mill in Bhanpuri has been closed all of sudden and due to which around 1400 labourers have not been paid their wages and allowances till date and have been left unemployed. Their families are now craving for two-piece meal. So with demand for regularize irregular / contractual employees; social security pension of Rs 1500 to poor elderly; and other demands they took out a march and tried to



gherao CM's house.

Pradeep Sahu said that they will never allow Chhattisgarh to become a grazing land for corruption and exploitation and would take up protest right from streets to the Vidhan Sabha. He recalled that the Congress government as per its manifesto has promised to regularize all the daily wagers within 10 days of its forming gov-

ernment, but till date none have been regularized. In the same way the Congress government has promised to pay social security pension of Rs 1500 per month of elderly poor and they too have been taken for ride. It is on all these issues that JCC(J) Yuwa Morcha gheraoed CM's residence and the police stopped them mid-way.

## Grandmother killed 15-yr old newly born

● Throwing her inside the well

Surajpur, Apr 05:

Angered over birth of baby-girl, merciless grandmother threw her 15-day old grand-daughter into the well and killed her. The Police has arrested the grand-mother and sent her to jail. Disclosing about death of 15-year old grand-daughter being thrown inside the well, the Police informed that it was grandmother who turned out to be killer. With no birth of baby-boy in the family, she took the revenge throwing the 15-yr grand-daughter into the well and killed her. This entire case is that of Karanj village. The accused first lifted the 15-



yr grand-daughter sleeping besides her mother. On this complaint, when the police reached the site and conducted investigation and started the search for the 15-yr old baby-girl.

During investigation, when the police checked the well in the backyard,

they found the body of newly born baby-girl inside and took it out by throwing a safety net. When the body was taken out, they found that the girl has died and on this a case under section 302, 201 of IPC was filed.

On inquiry the mother of newly born informed that when she was sleeping, her mother-in-law took the newly born and when she woke up, she cross-checked it with her and in turn she denied about taking her daughter.

Here when the police strongly questioned Mitali, then she informed that on birth of the newly born baby-girl she was not happy and therefore threw her inside the well. Police arrested Mitali and sent her to jail.

### Classifieds

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Chronicle



## Mahavir Jayanti celebrated with enthusiasm



Central Chronicle News

**Dongargarh, Apr 05:** The birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir Swami was celebrated with enthusiasm by Sakal Jain Samaj. Shri Digambar Jain Samaj organized a Prabhat Pheri from 5.30 am every day from 3 days

before and in the evening Maha Aarti and Bhajan Sandhya were organized in the temple, in which famous musician Nikhil Jain of Dongargarh mesmerized all the devotees with his hymns. On the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti a procession of the deity was



taken out from the Digambar Jain temple, in which Lord Mahavir Swami was seated on a high throne made of silver. Various works done with the blessings of Saint Shiromani Acharya Shri Vidyasagar Maharaj was depicted by a moving

tableau and the atmosphere of divinity through music, bhajan, dance, rangoli, aarti etc. was very joyful and devotional. Abhishek, Shanti Dhara, Aarti, Puja were performed and food was served by Sakal Jain Samaj in Buti Bada. On the occasion of

Mahavir Jayanti, sherbat, chaj, food etc. were distributed to the people at various places in the city. Shri Digambar Jain Samaj President Anil Kumar Jain, Treasurer J.K. Jain, Secretary Yatish Kumar Jain and young brothers Nikhil, Dipesh, Saransh had a special role.

## School being set up in dilapidated Mangal Bhavan

**Mungeli, Apr 05:** To bring quality and tightness in education, the school development committee formed by the government has become a mere stamp for running the schools of the region. Irregularities are being done in the implementation of government schemes and construction works due to the whims of the officers of the department and in the absence of supervision by the department, inconsistency is being done on large.



dilapidated schools. In many villages of the district, schools are running in borrowed buildings.

The old dilapidated buildings have been demolished but due to non-construction of new buildings, schools are being run in dilapidated community buildings and panchayat buildings. Government primary schools of Lalpur and Maradbari under Mungeli block will be set up in a small Mangal Bhavan and the schools built in 2012-13 in Thakurkapa under Gram Panchayat Tarwarpur are lying half-incomplete because funds have not yet been released for dilapidated schools.

A complaint has also been lodged by the office bearers of the School Development Committee and in this regard, Education Committee Chairman and District Panchayat Vice President Sanjit Banerjee said that the meeting of the Education Standing Committee is being constantly ignored by the Education Officer and the meeting is not being held even after sending a letter to the Education Officer for calling the Standing Committee meeting, due to which the information about the departmental schemes of the government is not reaching the officials.

## SECRWWO celebrates SECR Foundation Day

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, April 05:** South East Central Railway Women's Welfare Organization (Headquarters) Bilaspur, on April 03, 2023, on the occasion of Women's Day and South East Central Railway's 21st Foundation Day, under the guidance and chairmanship of Chairperson/Secretary, Dr. Mrs. Vanita Jain organized many programs in the new Rail Club.



President SECRWWO presented mementos to the female employees of all the departments who did excellent work at Bilaspur, Raipur, Nagpur and headquarters. Attractive Kathak and modern dances were presented by the children of Railway English Medium No. 1 and 2, they were also rewarded.

## Rs 49.30 cr approved for work of Devgarh diversion scheme

**Raipur, Apr 05:** Administrative approval of Rs 49 crore 30 lakh 26 thousand has been granted to Chief Engineer Hasdeo Ganga kachar, Water Resources Department Ambikapur for the work of Devgarh diversion scheme of Udaipur development block of Surguja district by the Ministry of Chhattisgarh Government Water Resources Department. With the completion of the scheme, an irrigation facility will be available in 1200 hectare area.

**TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**  
 Regd. Add.: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013.  
 Branch Address: 1st Floor Pujari Chambers NH No.43 Pachpedi Naka Raipur Chhattisgarh 492001

**NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
 (Under Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)  
**E-Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below Borrower and/ Co-Borrower, or their legal heirs/representatives (Borrowers) in particular that the below described immovable property mortgaged to Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd. (TCHFL), the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of TCHFL, will be sold on 25-04-2023 on "As is where is" & "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrower and Co-Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below. Notice is hereby given that, in the absence of any postponement/ discontinuance of the sale, the said secured asset / property shall be sold by E- Auction at 2.00 P.M. on the said 25-04-2023. The sealed envelope containing Demand Draft of EMD for participating in E- Auction shall be submitted to the Authorised Officer of the TCHFL on or before 24-04-2023 till 5.00 PM at Branch address TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED, 1st Floor Pujari Chambers NH No.43 Pachpedi Naka Raipur Chhattisgarh 492001.

The sale of the Secured Asset/ Immovable Property will be on "as is where condition is" as per brief particulars described herein below:

Loan A/c No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Amount as per Demand Notice & Date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price	Earnest Money
9856428	Mr. Kamal Kishore Arora (Borrower) M/s. Ginjan Associates Mrs. Kailash Rani Arora Mrs. Chand Arora (Co-Borrowers)	Rs. 2,02,87,756/- (Rupees Two Crores Two Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Six Only) 27-02-2019	Property 1- Rs.68,00,000/- And Property 2- Rs. 30,50,000/- And Property 3- Rs. 36,50,000/-	Property 1- Rs.6,80,000/- And Property 2- Rs. 3,05,000/- And Property 3- Rs. 3,65,000/-

**Description of the Immovable Property: Schedule A - Property No. 1: House No- B/19, Khasra No- 262/6 P.H.No- 15, Plot Area-1743.76 Sq.Ft, Mouza, Junwani, Chouhan Town, Ward No-01, P.H.No-15, Tahseel & Dist. Durg, Chattisgarh. 490020. Property Bounded By: East Site- Other's Plot, West Site- Road, North Site- Plot No- B/18 & South Site- Plot No- B/20.**  
**Property No. 2: Flat No- 05, First Floor, Block No- E-2, Built-up Area- 1194.89 Sq.ft. in CHPL Chouhan Town, Khasra No- 316, P.H.No- 15/21, Mouza, Junwani, Ward No- 01, Tahseel & Dist. Durg Chattisgarh - 490020. Property Bounded By: East Site- Flat No- E2-6, North Site- Road & C Type Bungalows, West Site- Road & E-3 Block, South Site- Flat No- E2-8.**  
**Property No. 3: Plot No. - 312, Sada, New Khursipar Zone-I, Ward No. - 36, Plot Area- 1064. Sq. Ft at New Khursipar, Special Area Development Authority, Municipal Area Bhilai, Tahseel & Dist. Durg Chattisgarh. 491001. Property Bounded By: East Site- Plot of Somnath Sharma, West Site- Plot of Balbeer Singh, North Site- Road, South Site- Open Plot.**

At the Auction, the public generally is invited to submit their bid(s) personally. The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower (s) are hereby given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the Immovable Property will be sold as per schedule. The E auction will be stopped if, amount due as aforesaid, with interest and costs (including the cost of the sale) are tendered to the Authorised Officer or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such secured debt, interest and costs has been paid before the date of the auction.

No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the Immovable Property sold. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and to the following further conditions:

**The E-auction will take place through portal https://www.bankeauctions.com on 25-04-2023 between 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM with limited extension of 10 minutes each.**

**Terms and Condition:** 1. The particulars specified in the Schedule herein below have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount bid, or as to the bidder, the Immovable Property shall at once again be put up to auction subject to the discretion of the Authorised Officer. 2. The Immovable Property shall not be sold below the Reserve Price. 3. Bid Increment Amount will be: Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only). 4. All the Bids submitted for the purchase of the property shall be accompanied by Earnest Money as mentioned above by way of a Demand Draft favoring the "TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD." Payable at Branch address. The Demand Drafts will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after auction. For payment of EMD through NET/RTGS/IMPS, kindly contact Authorised Officer. 5. The highest bidder shall be declared as successful bidder provided always that he/she is legally qualified to bid and provided further that the bid amount is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the Authorised Officer to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so. 6. For reasons recorded, it shall be in the discretion of the Authorised Officer to adjourn/discontinue the sale. 7. Inspection of the Immovable Property can be done on 17-04-2023 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM with prior appointment. 8. The person declared as a successful bidder shall, immediately after such declaration, deposit twenty-five per cent of the amount of purchase money/bid which would include EMD amount to the Authorised Officer within 24hrs and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. 9. In case the initial deposit is made as above, the balance amount of the purchase money payable shall be paid by the purchaser to the Authorised Officer on or before the 15th day from the date of confirmation of the sale of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day. 10. In the event of default of any payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. The deposit including EMD shall stand forfeited by TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD and the defaulting purchaser shall lose all claims to the property. 11. Details of any encumbrances, known to the TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD, to which the property is liable: as per table above. Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value: as per table above. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities arrears of property tax, electricity etc. 12. For any other details or for procedure online training on e-auction the prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider, C1 INDIA PVT.LTD., Address: C1 INDIA PVT.LTD. 3rd Floor, Plot No.68 sector-44, Gurgaon, Haryana-122003 Mob.: 8866682937 & Phone : 7291981124 /1125 /1126 Email ID: gujarat@c1india.com / support@bankeauctions.com or Manish Bansal, Email id Manish.Bansal@tatacapital.com Authorised Officer Mobile No 8588983696. Please send your query on WhatsApp Number 9999078669. 13. TDS of 1% will be applicable and payable by the highest bidder over the highest declared bid amount. The payment needs to be deposited by highest bidder in the PAN of the owner/ borrower(s) and the copy of the challan shall be submitted to our company. 14. Please refer to the below link provided in secured creditor's website https://bit.ly/3M1QX0h for the above details. 15. Kindly also visit the link: https://www.tatacapital.com/property-disposal.html

Please Note - TCHFL has not engaged any broker/agent apart from the mentioned auctioning partner for sale/auction of this property. Interested parties should only contact the undersigned or the Authorised officer for all queries and enquiry in this matter.  
 Sd/-  
**Place : Raipur**  
**Date : 06-04-2023**  
 Authorized Officer  
 Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd.

## Annual convention of KRDS concludes



Central Chronicle News

**Arang, Apr 05:** The annual convention of Korasi Raj Dewangan Samaj (KRDS) was held here at Nagar Panchayat Samoda and the program started with worship of the presiding deity Maa Parmeshwari.

To make the program grand, a cultural program by Lok Bayar Ganga Sahu was also organized. Meritorious students of the society and their parents were honored with certificates and medals, apart from government employees, anganwadi workers, and Mitanins.

## Fake attendance in MNREGA work of village Bortlav

Central Chronicle News

**Dongargarh, Apr 05:** A case of fake attendance has come to light in the MNREGA work conducted in Jan Gram Panchayat Bortlav, and former market President Ashok Thakur was found to have used fake attendance, by misleading the government. The investigating officers also accepted that fake attendance has been filled, but after the enquiry report was presented by the inquiry officer to the Chief Executive Officer, Janpad Panchayat, no action was taken. Therefore the complainant has re-registered his complaint and has demanded action against the guilty persons. **No action against the culprits even after 6 months: Arvind Nandeshwar**

tendence by the work agency. In relation to which he had made a written complaint on 23 August 2022 to District Collector Rajnandgaon in Jan Chaupal, after which the program officer was investigated by the district panchayat. In the investigation, the complaint of fake attendance of former market president Ashok Thakur was found to be correct.

And in relation to fake attendance of his family members and other workers, reference has been made in the investigation report that it is not possible to clarify the fake attendance by the program officer. It has been demanded by the applicant that in whose name the complaint has been made in relation to fake attendance, an inquiry should be conducted with the writing expert. But the investigation is pending till today.

### Fake attendance found in MNREGA work: Investigating Officer

In the investigation report submitted by the investigating officer appointed by the District Collector, it has been said that the documents were perused. In which it is clear from the evidence presented by the complainant in relation to Ashok Thakur and the statement given by the deputy sarpanch that Ashok Thakur's fake attendance was filled without working in MNREGA.

**Action should be taken against the complainant: Sarpanch**  
 Sarpanch Sarita Mandavi of Gram Panchayat Bortlav has

## Plantation and blood donation camp organized

Central Chronicle News

**Pandariya, Apr 05:** On the occasion of Swami Mahavir Jayanti, the Jain society of Pandariya Nagar, along with the environment protection committee, planted saplings at Gandhi Chowk and gave a message of environmental protection.



**On Mahavir Jayanti**  
 During this, a sapling of Satvan and Konacarpur was planted and apart from this, Suraj Dubey of the city also planted a sapling of vine with the committee in Bandha

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my client Jagdishwar Prasad Tiwari s/o Kanak Tiwari, R/o Ward no 51, Ravindra Nath Taigor Ward, Tikrapara Krishna Nagar, Raipur, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur (C.G.) has purchased all that piece and parcel of land bearing khasra no. 531/29 area 0.014 hectare = 1000 sq. ft. situated at Mauja-Tikrapara, P.H.N. 114/70, R.N.M. Raipur-11-Tikrapara, Tehsil & Dist Raipur (C.G.), from Sushila Yadav vide registered sale deed dated 15.09.2008 bearing Sl. NO 2863 (Kha). The said Sushila Yadav had purchased the said property from Shri Manrakhen & ors Self and through power of attorney holder Chaitalvide registered sale deed dated 21.12.2000 bearing Sl. No. 3798 (Ga). The said registered sale deed dated 21.12.2000 was in the custody of my client and the same has been lost / misplaced by my client. A police report was lodged on dated 30.03.2023.

Any person having any right, title or interest or any claim, demand or objection of any nature whatsoever against or in respect of the said property or any part thereof is hereby requested to notify the same in writing to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence within 07 days from the date hereof, failing which no such claims, demands, objections etc. shall be entertained thereafter and the said property shall be considered as free from all encumbrances.

**Subhro Chakravorty**  
 Advocate  
 For Ashwini Singh & Associates 207, Orange Hive, Mowa, Raipur (C.G.)



**BRIEF**



**CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat during the Mazdoor-Kisan Sangharsh Rally called by CITU, AIKS and AIAWU, at Ramliia Maidan in New Delhi, Wednesday.**

**Overtun**

**New Delhi:** Two passengers were injured on Wednesday morning after a private bus overturned near Rajokri flyover in southwest Delhi, officials said. The chartered bus coming from Rajasthan's Ajmer was carrying around 50 passengers.

**Busted**

**Balalore:** The Odisha Police busted a racket that was allegedly involved in making money by offering fake jobs in the government and private sectors to people, a senior officer said here. Five people, including two from Balasore, have been arrested in this connection, he said on Tuesday. The mastermind of the gang used to contact government job aspirants and those who are seeking opportunities in the private sector; and collect money by offering fake appointments to them in various organisations, the officer said.

**Lifer**

**Thane:** The Thane district court on Wednesday convicted a 34-year-old man for the brutal murder of his brother in 2018 and chopping his body into pieces, and sentenced him to imprisonment for life. District and sessions court judge Rachna Tehra also imposed a fine of Rs 7,000 on the convict, Simon Patrav. The judge noted that the prosecution has proved all the charges against the accused and he needs to be convicted and sentenced.

**Condole**

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra cabinet on Wednesday condoned the death of former state minister and Lok Sabha member from Pune, Girish Bapat. The condolence motion was read out by chief secretary Manu Kumar Shrivastav after which ministers and bureaucrats present at the meeting stood in silence for two minutes.

**Mishap**

**New Delhi:** A 13-year-old boy was killed and his uncle injured after their scooter was hit by a cluster bus in northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar area on Wednesday, police said. The accident took place near the Azadpur flyover when Arjun (34) was going to drop his nephew to school in Shalimar Bagh, they said.

**Seized**

**Bengaluru:** Enforcement agencies made seizures totalling nearly Rs 70 crore in poll-bound Karnataka since the model code of conduct (MCC) came into force on March 29, the Election Commission said on Wednesday.

## 'India moving towards Ram Rajya'

New Delhi, Apr 05 (PTI)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said India is moving towards 'Ram Rajya' with the government making every effort to work for the welfare of farmers, labourers, women and youths.

Speaking at a function here for the release of Hindi poetic translation of 'Ramcharitmanas' by former bureaucrat Dhiraj Bhatnagar on Tuesday, Singh said the government is walking on the path shown by Lord Ram.

"I am happy to state that we have been able to walk the path of the ideals set out by Lord Ram. We are making every effort to work for the welfare of farmers, labourers, traders, students, youths and women," he said.



**Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur light a lamp during the launch of the book 'Shri Ramcharitmanas-Hindi Kavyanuwaad' written by Shrimad Jagadguru Shankaracharya, in New Delhi.**

"I do not wish to mislead you. I will not say that we have ushered in Ram Rajya in the country but we have definitely moved in that direction," he added.

The Union minister

said India's stature has risen in the comity of nations under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.

"Earlier, whenever India spoke at the international fora, it was not

taken seriously. But today, India's stature has risen and the respect for India has risen. Today, whenever India says anything at the international platforms, the world listens with rapt attention," he said.

Singh said Lord Ram's life story serves as a guiding light for the government.

Speaking at the function, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the grand temple of Lord Ram will be opened in Ayodhya this year.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and the temple will be opened for devotees this year," he said.

## Ex-teachers, students write to principal, seek apology

IP FEST ROW

New Delhi, Apr 05 (PTI)

More than 1,100 people, including former teachers and students of DU's IPCW, have expressed deep concern over the recent incident of alleged harassment at a fest and demanded an apology from Principal Poonam Kumria.

They have also raised a host of questions regarding the incident questioning the management's action and reaction in a letter signed by all of them.

The letter comes a week after some "unknown" men allegedly trespassed, shouted slogans and harassed women students

during the annual 'Shruti' festival at the Indraprastha College for Women (IPCW).

The authors of the letters are former teachers of the college, parents and concerned citizens.

"The undersigned consist of students since the early 1960s. IPCW has never seen times worse than what we are witnessing now. We, members of the academia and civil society, are deeply concerned with what is happening and strongly feel that the College needs to proactively protect its girls rather than further harass them," the letter signed by 1,108 individuals read.

They questioned why the college management chose not to support the

student who is hospitalised as a result of the violence and why it did not offer to provide full financial support for her medical procedures.

"Why is the College threatening students with dire consequences if they continue their protests, calling parents of the already traumatised students and creating an atmosphere of fear through punitive measures?" they asked.

"An apology would go a long way in restoring confidence and the camaraderie that IPCW has had over the past 99 years. We demand that students will be able to send their chosen nominees to be members of the investigation committee," it read.

## Local activists threaten to block traffic on route to Badrinath

Gopeshwar, Apr 05 (PTI)

The Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, a group of local activists who first raised the land subsidence issue in the hill town, on Wednesday threatened to block traffic on the route to Badrinath if their demands are not met by April 27.

The Himalayan temple is scheduled to reopen for devotees after the winter break on April 27.

The Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti's (JBSS) demands include scrapping of the NTPC's Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project and the Helang-Marwadi bypass project.

In a letter to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh

**JOSHIMATH CRISIS**

Dhami, JBSS convener Atul Sati also demanded that the affected people should get adequate compensation and be rehabilitated properly.

If all this is not done by April 27, people will be forced to hit the streets in protest, Sati said in the letter.

He also said his organisation had urged the state government to constitute a high level committee consisting of local and JBSS representatives to deal with the crisis but the demand went unheeded compounding people's problems.

Another demand made by the JBSS for the constitution of a coordination committee at the local level to address the subsidence problem was also ignored, he claimed.

"Due to the state government's dilly-dallying over the crisis in Joshimath, people are getting impatient and angry. If positive steps are not taken by the state government on our genuine demands by April 27, JBSS will have no option but to resort to a chakka jam agitation which may inconvenience the pilgrims coming for Char Dham yatra," Sati said.

The letter also bears the signatures of JBSS secretary and spokesman

Kamal Raturi, besides a few others.

Earlier talking to PTI, Sati expressed his unhappiness with the way the issue is being treated by the state government.

"People are unhappy with the state government. They are still homeless and forced to live in temporary relief camps," he said.

The eight scientific institutions which carried out their study of the subsidence crisis in the town from different angles are yet to make their report public. "No programme has been worked out yet to save Joshimath. The JBSS has been agitating over the issue for four months.

Into Yamuna

New Delhi, Apr 05 (PTI)

The efforts to clean the Yamuna will be boosted through wide ranging awareness campaigns, including involving priests to discourage people from throwing waste generated during religious ceremonies into the river, officials at the Delhi LG office said on Wednesday.

The plan is to approach the priests of major temples as well as those located along the banks of the Yamuna and get their help in urging people not to throw waste items like clothes, old idols, calendar, posters, flowers among others in the river, an official

## PROTEST RALLY



**West Bengal government retired employees participate in a protest rally demanding their pensions, in Kolkata, Wednesday.**

## 'Priests to deter people from throwing waste from religious ceremonies'

said. In view of the extreme importance of public participation in the Yamuna rejuvenation efforts, it has been decided to undertake wide ranging awareness generation and motivational IEC (information, education and communication) campaigns on various media platforms. "In this direction, priests will be involved and sensitized to deter people from throwing religious waste into the river," said a statement from the LG office.

The recent efforts by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena towards cleaning and rejuvenation of the Yamuna have begun to show visible and concrete results, it said. "Even as critical steps to clean the Najafgarh Drain and re-

store the Yamuna floodplains have been going on in the right earnest, efforts at preventing disposal of physical waste into the river have started bearing results," it said. Personnel of the Territorial Army deployed on the banks of Yamuna at the initiative of the LG prevented waste generated during religious ceremonies from being thrown into the river and collecting the same for disposal in an eco-friendly manner after Ram Navami. Territorial Army personnel also recently stopped washing of packaging polybags and sacks in the Najafgarh drain near the Inderlok metro station. The Irrigation and Flood Control department has issued challan to the owner

of packaging material, said the statement.

Various macro and micro-level steps have been taken by a high level committee chaired by the LG, formed at the direction of National Green Tribunal, that have begun showing results in the shape of relatively improved pollution levels in the Yamuna where the Najafgarh drain empties into the river, it said.

Trapping of sub-drains flowing into the Najafgarh drain, restoration of floodplains at Kudasia Ghat, Asita East, Baansera and the stretch between Bela Farm and Garhi Mandu, are other initiatives for rejuvenation of the river and its floodplain, the statement added.

## MP govt to set up 730 PM SHRI schools

For quality education to children

Bhopal, Apr 05 (PTI)

The Madhya Pradesh government will set up 730 PM SHRI Schools in the state to impart quality education to students from Classes 1 to 12 under the central government's scheme, an official said on Wednesday.

The state cabinet on Tuesday gave nod for setting up these schools in the state, including two each in 313 blocks and 104 in 52 district urban bodies.

The cost of the PM SHRI schools will be borne by the central and state governments in 60:40 ratio.

The annual expenditure on these schools will be Rs 277.40 crore out of which the state government will share Rs 110.96 crore, he said.

The scheme is for a period of five years during which the state government will spend Rs 554.80 crore on it. After five years, these schools will be entirely managed by the state government, the official said.

The PM SHRI School is a centrally sponsored scheme intended to develop schools where every student feels welcomed and cared for, where a safe and stimulating learning environment exists, where a wide range of learning experiences are offered,

and where good physical infrastructure and appropriate resources conducive to learning are available to all students, as per its official website.

It will nurture students in a way that they become engaged, productive and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive and plural society as envisaged by the National Education Policy 2020, it said.

More than 20 lakh students are expected to be the direct beneficiaries of the scheme in the entire country.

The scheme is proposed to be implemented over a period of five years, with effect from 2022-23 to 2026-27, as per the website.

## RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



**Devotees with their mouths pierced with iron rods participate in a religious procession to celebrate 'Panguni Uthiram', in Chikmagalur, Wednesday.**

## SER cancels 46 trains, short terminates 8

Due to blockade of tracks at 2 stations

Kolkata, Apr 05 (PTI)

At least 46 express and passenger trains were cancelled and eight others short terminated on Wednesday by the South Eastern Railway (SER) owing to an agitation and blockade at two railway stations in West Bengal by an organisation of the Kurmi community, an official said.

In view of the agitation by members of the Kurmi community at Khemasuli station in West Medinipur district in Kharagpur-Tatanagar section of Kharagpur Division and Kustaur station in Purulia district in Adra-Chandil section of Adra Division from 5 am the 12814 Tatanagar-Howrah Steel Express, 12021 Howrah Barbil Jan Shatabdi Express, 12871 Howrah-Titlagarh Express were cancelled, a SER release said. The Kurmi community is demanding Scheduled Tribe status, an official said.

## 'Vande Bharat' train model showcased at rail museum

Pune, Apr 05 (PTI)

A special miniature scale model of 'Vande Bharat', the indigenously designed semi-high speed express train, has been put on display at the Pune-based Joshi's Museum of Miniature Railways to provide information about the train to rail enthusiasts.

The 'Vande Bharat' model, designed on '1:100' scale, was unveiled by Pune Guardian Minister Chandrakant Patil during a special visit to the museum on Tuesday as the facility is celebrating 25 years of its existence.

Ravi Joshi, who currently runs the museum, said they made the model based on actual drawings from the Indian Railways. "All minute details were taken into consideration while designing this static model. Work is in progress on a working miniature model of 'Vande Bharat', and it will soon be showcased in the museum," he said. It took them three months

to design the static model of 'Vande Bharat', Joshi's son Devavrat said.

The Vande Bharat trains are currently operational on multiple routes in the country.

Patil, while unveiling the model, said the museum began its operations 25 years ago, but a lot of preparations would have been made before it actually started.

"Rail-related features from across the world are displayed at the museum, which offers a plethora of knowledge to visitors. The unveiling of the 'Vande Bharat' model is special as the future now belongs to it," Patil said.

Started on April 1, 1998 by Bhuu Joshi, the museum showcases working models of various railway-related features, including a fully-functional station yard with six platforms, an announcement system, steam trains, diesel engines, high speed inter-city express, railway ropeway, and the funicular railway system with 26 points and 65 signals.



# Imran Khan willing to wait till Oct for elections roadmap

Lahore/Islamabad, Apr 05 (PTI):

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said that he was ready to wait till October if the ruling Pakistan Democratic Movement-led coalition government shares a roadmap with him for holding fair general elections.



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Khan has been demanding early national elections since his ouster in April last year after he lost a confidence vote in Parliament. Pakistan's election commission is preparing to hold general elections by October. Khan, former

political parties in the ruling coalition, including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Khan, 70, said that if the coalition government shares a roadmap with him ensuring that everything will be in order then he can wait till October for the elections.

Addressing his party workers and supporters via video link, the PTI chief lauded the Supreme Court's verdict of setting aside the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) ruling and ordering the Punjab Assembly polls on May 14.

Khan claimed that the PML-N led federal government has made a plan to defy the apex court's order

to hold elections in Punjab province on May 14, urging his party supporters to get ready to take to streets to protect the Constitution.

On the other hand, the ruling coalition announced that it is ready to face contempt of court or disqualifications but will not implement the SC's decision.

A three-member bench of the Sup reme Court led by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Tuesday fixed May 14 as the new date for elections to the Punjab Assembly, as the apex court quashed the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision to extend the polls date from April 10 to Oct 8.

## Zelenskyy visits Poland to thank ally and meet Ukrainians



Poland's President Andrzej Duda, 2nd right, with his wife Agata Kornhauser-Duda welcomes Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with his wife Olena, left, as they meet at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Poland, Wednesday, April 5.

Warsaw, Apr 05 (AP):

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his wife were welcomed with military honours, tributes and praise in Poland on Wednesday at the start of a state visit meant as a gesture of thanks by Kyiv to its neighbour for its crucial support in Ukraine's defence against Russia's invasion.

The visit is a rare foray for Zelenskyy out of Ukraine since Russia invaded in February 2022. While it follows visits to the United States, Britain, France and Belgium, it stands out from the others because it was announced in advance without the secrecy of past trips.

It is also unusual that the president is joined by the first lady, Olena Zelenska, making it

the first visit of its kind since the war began, according to Marcin Przydacz, the head of Polish President Andrzej Duda's foreign policy office.

Duda awarded Zelenskyy Poland's oldest and highest civilian distinction, The Order of the White Eagle, saying it is given to outstanding people in Poland and in Poland's international relations.

"We have no doubt that your attitude, together with the bravery of the nation, has saved Ukraine," he told Zelenskyy.

At a welcome ceremony in the courtyard of the royal palace, while Duda and the two countries' first ladies were dressed in formal attire, Zelenskyy wore his signature dark sweatshirt and khaki trousers as a show of support for Ukraine's fight.

## Trump decries charges against him



Former President Donald Trump sits at the defense table with his defense team in a Manhattan court in New York.

● Accuses radical left lunatics of election interference

Washington, Apr 05 (PTI):

A defiant former president Donald Trump denounced the criminal charges against him in connection to hush money payments made to a porn star before the 2016 presidential election and said the US has now become a "failing nation" where the "radical left lunatics" want to interfere with the elections by using law enforcement.

Trump said: "The only crime that I committed is to fearlessly defend our nation from those who seek to destroy it." "Incredibly, we are now a failing nation. We are a nation in decline. And now these radical left lunatics want to interfere with our elections by using law enforcement.

falsifying business records at his arraignment in a Manhattan court on charges relating to hush money payments made to Stormy Daniels. The 76-year-old former Republican president ruled the country for four years till January 2021. Addressing his supporters hours after he was arraigned, Trump said: "The only crime that I committed is to fearlessly defend our nation from those who seek to destroy it." "Incredibly, we are now a failing nation. We are a nation in decline. And now these radical left lunatics want to interfere with our elections by using law enforcement.

# Pakistan rejects UK Home Secretary's discriminatory remarks

● Against British-Pak men

Islamabad, Apr 05 (PTI):

Pakistan on Wednesday rejected UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman's "discriminatory" and "xenophobic" remarks targeting British-Pakistani men.

Braverman told Sky News in an interview last week that British-Pakistani men "hold cultural values at odds with British values". Responding to Braverman's remarks,

Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that they painted a "highly misleading picture signalling the intent to target and treat British Pakistanis differently".

She said the British home secretary had "erroneously branded criminal behaviour of some individuals as a representation of the entire community". "She (Braverman) fails to take note of the systemic racism and ghettoisation of communities and omits to recognise the tremendous cultural, economic and political contributions that British-Pakistanis continue to make in British society," Baloch said at a press conference here. In an interview about the UK government's plans to tackle child sexual abuse, Braverman spoke about "the predominance of British-Pakistani males who hold cultural values totally at odds with British values". "[British-Pakistani men] see women in a demeaned, illegitimate way, and pursue an outdated and frankly heinous approach to the way we behave," Braverman commented

after she was informed that a Home Office report in 2020 concluded that most child sexual abuse gangs are made up of white men under the age of 30 and that there was not enough evidence to suggest members of grooming gangs were disproportionately more likely to be Asian or Black.

Braverman pointed to reports from Rotherham town, which was rocked by a child sexual exploitation scandal in which five British-Pakistani men were convicted of grooming, raping and exploiting young girls.

after she was informed that a Home Office report in 2020 concluded that most child sexual abuse gangs are made up of white men under the age of 30 and that there was not enough evidence to suggest members of grooming gangs were disproportionately more likely to be Asian or Black.

# To counter China, US trade rep seeks closer ties to allies

Washington, Apr 05 (AP):

The Biden administration is pressing its case for a new approach to global trade, arguing that America's traditional reliance on promoting free trade pacts failed to anticipate China's brass-knuckled brand of capitalism and the possibility of a major power like Russia would go to war against one of its trading partners.

up supply chains among allied countries and reducing dependence on geopolitical rivals such as China.

Rising tension with Beijing and supply-chain bottlenecks arising from the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the risks of relying too heavily on Chinese suppliers. "Trade should work for the common good and help set responsible standards on labor, the environment, and other priorities that reflect American values," Tai says in excerpts of her speech provided in advance to reporters. "It should also pro-

mote fair and healthy cooperation that lifts up workers and communities." The rethinking of trade goes beyond the simple issue of lowering tariffs and signing broad pacts.

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tender Notice No. COM-G-R-OBS-23-2  
Name of Work: E-tender notification for tender for provision of ON board shopping for various non catering items in trains during journey between DURG to Bilaspur Section of Raipur division for a period of 03 years.  
Reserve Price: ₹ 11,55,000/- PER YEAR. Tender closing date & time: 14.04.2023, 12:00. Other details on website: www.ireps.gov.in.  
Assistant Comm. Manager PR/RS/DCM/AN/249 S.E.C.R., Raipur  
South East Central Railway @secrail

**All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur**  
(An Autonomous Institute Under the Ministry of MoHFW, Govt. of India)  
AIMS/CON/RPR/2023/194 Date: 05.04.2023  
**B.Sc. (Nursing) & M.Sc. (Psych. Nursing) Admission**  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi invites on-line applications for Entrance Examination for admission in **B.Sc.(Hons.) Nursing (75 Seats) & M.Sc. Nursing (Psychiatric Nursing Specialty) (04 Seats)**. Last date for on-line basic registration is **20.04.2023 (5:00 PM)** & last date for generation of code for final registration (payment of fees & City Choice) is **28.04.2023 (5:00 PM)**.  
For registration and regular updates please visit website www.aiimsexam.ac.in. For more information contact: Dean Office-0771-2970617/ College of Nursing Office-0771-2577290/E-mail: con@aiimsraipur.edu.in  
-Dean (Academics)

**छत्तीसगढ़ स्टेट पावर डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन कंपनी लिमिटेड**  
**CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED**  
(A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) (A Successor Company of CSEB)  
(CIN: U40108CT2003SGCO15822)

**PUBLIC-NOTICE**  
Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited had submitted petition for final true-up FY 2021-22 and re-determination of ARR and retail supply tariff for FY 2023-24 before the Hon'ble Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission, which was registered as Petition No. 95/2022. The Hon'ble Commission in exercise of powers conferred to it under relevant provisions of Electricity Act, 2003 notified tariff order dtd. 28-03-2023. In this tariff order Commission has approved recovery of net ARR of Rs. 21,957.00 Crore in respect of FY 2023-24 to CSPDCL at an Average cost of supply Rs. 6.58 per kWh. Aforesaid net ARR includes gap of true up years of Rs. 4,321.46 Crore, Rs. 538.04 Crore and Rs. 51.24 Crore in respect of CSPDCL, CSPGCL and CSPTCL respectively and a revenue surplus of Rs. 2.55 Crore in respect of CSLDC for true up year. In this tariff order commission has also determined retail supply tariff for LV & HV consumers. The tariff will be applicable with effect from April, 1st '2023 and remain in force till March, 31st 2024 till the issue of next Tariff order, whichever occur later, the details of which is shown below:

**Tariff Schedule for FY 2022-23**

Tariff No.	Category of Consumers	Units Slab	Fixed charges (Rs./kWh)	Energy charges (Rs./kWh)	Monthly minimum charges
LV-1	Domestic	0-100 units	Rs. 20/- per kWh/month for sanctioned Load up to 5 kW;	3.70	Fixed charges is a monthly minimum charge whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
		101-200 units	Rs. 30/- per kWh/month for sanctioned Load above 5 kW and up to 10 kW;	3.90	
		201-400 units	Rs. 40/- per kWh/month for sanctioned Load above 10 kW;	5.30	
		401-600 units		6.30	
		601 and above units		7.90	
LV-2	Non Domestic	0-100 units		5.85	Fixed charges is a monthly minimum charge whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
LV-2.1	Single Phase Non-Domestic (upto 5 kW)	101 - 400 units	Rs. 50 per kW per month	6.85	
		401 and above units		8.25	
LV-2.2	Three Phase Non-Domestic	0 - 400 units		6.85	Demand charges on contract demand is a monthly minimum charge whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
(A)	Upto 15 kW	401 and above units	Demand Charges Rs. 120/k W/month on billing demand	8.25	
(B)	Upto 15 kW	All units	Demand Charges Rs. 200k W/month on billing demand	7.55	
LV-3	L.V. Agriculture	-	Rs.100/ HP/ month	5.05	Fixed charges is a monthly minimum charge whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
LV-4	LV Agriculture Allied Activities	-	-	-	-
LV-4.1 (A)	Up to 25 HP	-	Rs. 100 per HP per month or Rs. 134 per kW per month	5.05	Fixed charges is a monthly minimum charge, whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
LV-4.1 (B)	Above 25 HP up to 150 HP	-	Rs.110 per HP per month or Rs.147 per kW per month	5.45	
LV-4.2	Demand based tariff for Contract Demand of 15 to 112.5 kW	-	Rs.200 per kW per month on billing demand	5.65	Demand charge on contract demand is monthly minimum charge, whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
LV-5	LV Industry	-	-	-	-
LV-5.1	Flour Mill, Hullers, Power Looms, Grinders for grinding Masalas, Terracotta, handloom, handicraft, agro-processing units, minor forest produce up to 25 HP or 18.7 kW	-	Rs.80/kW/ month on billing demand	4.15	Demand charge on contract demand is monthly minimum charge, whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
(a)	Baster avem Dakshin Kshetra Advivasi Vikas Pradhikaran, and Sarguja avem Uttar Kshetra Advivasi Vikas Pradhikaran	-	Rs.80/kW/ month on billing demand	3.75	
LV-5.2	Other Industries	-	-	-	-
LV-5.2.1	Up to 25 HP or 18.7 kW	-	Rs.120/kW/ month on billing demand	-	
(a)	Baster avem Dakshin Kshetra Advivasi Vikas Pradhikaran, and Sarguja avem Uttar Kshetra Advivasi Vikas Pradhikaran	-	Rs.100/kW/ month on billing demand	4.15	Demand charge on contract demand is monthly minimum charge, whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
LV-5.2.2	Above 25 HP up to 150 HP (18.7 kW to 112.5 kW)	-	Rs.150/kW/ month on billing demand	5.90	
(a)	Baster avem Dakshin Kshetra Advivasi Vikas Pradhikaran and Sarguja avem Uttar Kshetra Advivasi Vikas Pradhikaran	-	Rs.130/kW/ month on billing demand	5.40	
* Notified vide order dtd. August 22, 2005. Notes: A discount of 5% on Energy Charges shall be applicable for Poha and Murruma Mills.					
LV-6	Public Utilities	-	Rs.142/ HP/month or Rs.190/ kW/month	6.25	Fixed charge is a monthly minimum charge, whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
LV-7	Information Technology & Export Oriented Textile Industries	-	Rs.150/kW/ month on billing demand	5.15	Demand charge is payable as monthly minimum charge, whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.

**2. HV TARIFF :**

Tariff No.	Category	Supply Voltage	Demand charges (Rs./kVA / month)	Energy charges (Rs./kVAh)	Monthly minimum charges
HV-1	Railway Traction	132 kV / 220 kV	375	4.55	Demand charge on contract demand (CD) is a monthly minimum charge, whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
		220 kV supply	500	6.75	
		132 kV supply	500	6.90	
		33 kV supply	500	7.15	
HV-2	Mines	11 kV supply	500	7.45	Demand charge on contract demand (CD) is a monthly minimum charge, whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
		220 kV supply	375	6.45	
		132 kV supply	375	6.60	
		33 kV supply (Load factor >15%)	375	6.85	
HV-3	Other Industrial and General purpose Non-Industrial	33 kV supply (Load factor <=15%)	190	7.05	Demand charge on contract demand (CD) is a monthly minimum charge, whether any energy is consumed during the month or not.
		11 kV supply (Load factor >15%)	375	7.25	
		11 kV supply (Load factor <=15%)	190	7.45	
		11 kV supply (Load factor <=15%)	190	7.45	
Notes: (i) For charging stations of Electric Vehicles, a flat rate single part tariff of Rs. 5 per unit shall be applicable. (ii) A discount of 5% on Energy Charges shall be applicable for private clinics, hospitals and nursing homes including X-ray plant, diagnostic centres and pathological labs, situated in rural areas as defined by Government of Chhattisgarh and all areas in Baster avem Dakshin Kshetra Advivasi Vikas Pradhikaran, and Sarguja avem Uttar Kshetra Advivasi Vikas Pradhikaran (notified vide Order dated August 22, 2005). (iii) A discount of 5% on Energy Charges shall be applicable for defence establishments under Government of India. (iv) A discount of 5% on Energy Charges shall be applicable for rice mills / Poha and murruma mills.					

**3. Time of Day (TOD) Tariff:**  
This tariff is applicable to HV-2, HV-3 and HV-4 tariff category:

Sl. No.	Period of use	Normal rate of Demand Charge Plus
(i)	Normal period (5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)	Normal rate of Energy Charges
(ii)	Evening peak load period (6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.)	120% of normal rate of Energy Charge
(iii)	Off-peak load period (11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. of next day)	80% of normal rate of Energy Charge

**4. Parallel Operation Charges (POC) :**  
Parallel Operation Charges shall be payable by CPP to CSPDCL for its captive and non-captive load at the rate of 13 paise/kWh.

**5. Open Access Charges**

Sr. No.	Particulars	Open Access Charges for Conventional Energy		Intra-State Open Access Charges for Renewable Energy transaction	
		In Kind	Cash	In Kind	Cash
1.	Transmission charges				
	(i) Long term open access & Medium term open access customers.	-	Rs. 100.57 Crore per month (Shared by LTOA & MTOA consumers including CSPDCL)	-	NIL
	(ii) Short term open access customers.	-	Rs. 0.3634 per kWh.	-	NIL
2.	Energy Losses for transmission	3% of energy scheduled for transmission at point or point of injection	-	Energy losses for long-term/ medium term/ short-term open access using only the transmission system of CSPDCL shall be 3%	-
3.	Wheeling charges	-	Rs.0.2827 per kWh for Long Term, Medium Term & Short Term Open Access customer.	-	NIL
4.	Energy losses for distribution	6% of energy scheduled for distribution at point or point of injection at 33kV side of 33/11 kV sub-station	-	Energy losses for long-term/ medium term/ short-term open access using only the distribution system of CSPDCL shall be 6%	-
5.	Operating charges	-	-	Energy losses for long-term/ medium term/ short-term open access for transmission and distribution or combination thereof shall be 6%	-
	STOA customer	-	Rs. 2000 per day	-	NIL
6.	Reactive charges	-	27 paise/kVARh	-	NIL
7.	Cross subsidy charges				
	(i) For 220kV/ 132kV consumers	-	Rs. 1.28 per kWh (which is 90% of the computed value of Rs. 1.43 per kWh)	-	Rs. 0.64 per kWh
	(ii) For 33 kV consumers	-	Rs. 2.35 per kWh (which is 90% of the computed value of Rs. 2.61 per kWh)	-	Rs. 1.17 per kWh
8.	Cross subsidy charges				
	(a) Draw up to contracted capacity of Open Access	-	Rs. 10.26 per kWh	-	-
	(b) Draw in excess of contracted capacity of open access	-	Rs. 13.68 per kWh	-	-

The above rates are subjected to terms & conditions prescribed by Hon'ble Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission in its Tariff Order dated 28-03-2023.

**Executive Director (R.A. & P.M.) CSPDCL : RAIPUR**





## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Preempting Challenges Strategically

India's Growth Forecast Lowered by World Bank and ADB

The report from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) downgraded India's growth forecast for 2023-24 (FY24) to 6.3 per cent and 6.4 per cent, respectively. The cause is attributed to the ongoing pandemic, slowdown in consumption, and challenging external conditions. The World Bank's India Development Update also suggests high borrowing costs and slower income growth are likely to dampen consumption and lower growth. The ADB report projects inflation to be 5 per cent, while the World Bank expects it to ease to 5.2 per cent in the current fiscal year. The decline in economic growth is not exclusive to India, with other South Asian countries also downgrading their forecasts, except for Bhutan. However, India's economy remains resilient and the country continues to show strong resilience to external shocks. India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world despite significant challenges in the global environment. The Indian government has taken steps to improve transport infrastructure, logistics, and the business ecosystem. Private consumption and private investment are expected to drive growth in FY2024-25 ending March 2025, according to the ADB. The government is also likely to meet its fiscal deficit target of 5.9 per cent of GDP in 2023-24. The external front also looks promising, with the current account deficit projected to narrow to 2.1 per cent of GDP from an estimated 3 per cent in the current financial year due to robust service exports and a narrowing merchandise trade deficit. However, spillovers from recent developments in financial markets in the US and Europe could pose a risk to short-term investment flows to emerging markets, including India. Despite resilience amid slowing global growth, there are headwinds to India's growth in 2023-24. The recent financial sector turmoil in the US and Europe could reduce appetite for emerging market assets, trigger another bout of capital flight, and put pressure on the rupee. Tighter global financial conditions could also weigh on the risk appetite for private investment in India. Faster than expected inflation due to higher food or fuel prices may weigh on domestic demand. In Pakistan, growth is projected to drop to 0.4 per cent this year, assuming agreement on an IMF programme is reached. Sri Lanka's GDP is expected to contract by 4.3 per cent this year reflecting the lasting impact of the macro-debt crisis. The bank notes that the resumption of tourism and migration has supported growth in Maldives and Nepal, but high external debt and tightened global financial conditions pose risks to Maldives' fiscal and external accounts, and in Nepal, external shocks, domestic import restrictions, and a COVID-19 outbreak could also impact growth. India's growth forecast decline may be disappointing, but the country's economic performance amidst such challenging times shows great potential. The government's focus on improving transport infrastructure, logistics, and the business ecosystem is crucial for achieving sustainable growth. Private investment and consumption are expected to drive growth in the future, but there are risks to growth from external shocks and tighter global financial conditions. While there are risks to growth, India's performance during such challenging times highlights its potential to emerge as a strong economy in the future.

### The Art of Newspaper Reading in the Digital Age

In today's fast-paced world, the traditional habit of reading a newspaper has become a dying art. The younger generation is more interested in scrolling through social media or browsing online news sites, while the older generation still clings to the sensory experience of reading a newspaper in the morning. However, with the advent of digital media, the newspaper industry is struggling to stay afloat. Despite this, the importance of newspapers cannot be ignored, as they have played a crucial role in our lives, connecting communities and serving as a window to the world. Before the internet, newspapers were the primary source of information for people worldwide. People relied on their local papers for information gathering, and newspapers played an essential role in shaping public opinion. From the time of our struggle for freedom, newspapers have been a part of our lives, connecting us to the wider world. They reflected people's opinions and thoughts, serving as a communication tool between readers and newspapers. The editorial and Op-Ed sections were perfect examples of this, providing a platform for bubbling and emerging writers, along with unknown writers, to showcase their works to the world. However, in the digital age, the popularity of newspapers is waning. People are more interested in accessing news through their mobile phones or computers, as online news is easily accessible, instantaneous, and costs almost nothing. While the older generation still enjoys the sensory experience of reading a newspaper, the younger generation's attention span is more focused on their mobile phones. This trend has resulted in a decline in newspaper readership, with many newspapers struggling to stay afloat. Despite this decline, there is still hope for the newspaper industry. Newspapers provide the perfect platform for emerging writers, including unknown writers, to showcase their works to the world. The editorial and Op-Ed sections continue to serve as a communication tool between readers and newspapers. By making newspaper reading a habit, we can increase our concentration and reduce our dependence on mobile phones. The benefits of reading a newspaper extend beyond providing news and information. Reading a newspaper requires a certain level of focus and attention, which can increase our concentration and improve our cognitive abilities. It also provides a break from the constant bombardment of notifications and alerts on our mobile phones. The sensory experience of holding a newspaper in our hands, with the smell of fresh pages and the sound of crinkling paper, is a unique experience that online media cannot replicate. The traditional habit of reading a newspaper in the morning is an aesthetic feeling that cannot be replicated by digital media. Newspapers have played a crucial role in our lives, connecting communities and serving as a window to the world. While the popularity of newspapers may be declining, there is still hope for the industry. By making newspaper reading a habit, we can increase our concentration and reduce our dependence on mobile phones. The sensory experience of holding a newspaper in our hands and reading the daily news is a unique experience that online media cannot provide us. It's time to revive the art of newspaper reading in the digital age.

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

### MAZDOOR-KISAN SANGHARSH RALLY



People sit under temporary structures as they try to protect themselves from scorching sun during the Mazdoor-Kisan Sangharsh Rally called by CITU, AIKS and AIAWU, at Ramliia Maidan in New Delhi, Wednesday, April 5.

### Hanuman ji: A symbol of courage, valour, and dedication



PRIYANKA SAURABH



Hanuman Ji is an embodiment of courage, valour, and dedication. His unwavering devotion to Lord Rama is a source of inspiration for many. The incident where he opened his heart to show Sita Devi that Lord Rama resides in his heart, and he does not require any gift, is a testament to his amazing dedication and sacrifice, which is hard to imagine in today's world. Hanuman Ji is revered and worshipped by people from all walks of life, especially those engaged in sports and rigorous yogic practices. His teachings are relevant even in today's modern world. Like Hanuman, we should try to serve our lord (our true self, Atman), by bringing our mind and intellect under the control of our soul. His teachings encourage us to be humble, compassionate, and selfless, and his unwavering devotion to Lord Rama reminds us to be faithful to our beliefs and principles.

Hanuman is one of the most popular Hindu deities. He is the embodiment of Seva (service), Bhakti (devotion), and Samarpan (dedication, egolessness). He is an incarnation of Shiva. He is also believed to be the son of the wind god (Maruta), the son of Anjani Devi. He has a high chin (hence the name Hanuman) and a long tail like a monkey. In physical features, he looks inhuman, but his qualities are divine/superhuman, which we all aspire to. He is endowed with tremendous physical and spiritual strength, courage and valor (hence the name Mahavira), fearlessness, devotion to Rama and Sita, (hence the names Rama-dasa, Rama-duta, etc.) high intelligence, truthful speech, ocean of knowledge, wisdom and other good qualities. He is in complete control of all his senses. One character who is a symbol of complete devotion and loyalty is Hanuman Ji. There is a poetic beauty to Lord Rama established through Lord

Hanuman in all his works. Hanuman Ji is most famous for his courage, valor, and dedication throughout Hindu mythology.

There are many different versions of the story of how Hanuman came into existence. Hanuman was the son of Lord Vayu and Anjana. Hanuman was an inquisitive child by nature, one day his hunger overcame him and he started chasing the Sun mistaking it for a fruit. Lord Surya mounted his chariot and sped away but Hanuman was not stopped, so Lord Indra had to use his Vajra to stop Hanuman. Hearing this Lord Vayu got angry and raised the issue with all the deities and they accepted Hanumanji to bless him with immortality. But Hanuman's mischief was as good as his long tail. It went on and on and there was no end, so the gods decided to put an end to it. They cursed him such that he would forget that he had such great powers. This can be seen in the epic Ramayana

when Jambavan reminds him that he has the power to become huge and shrink in size.

Hanuman ji is often associated with courage and in moments of utter despair, people pray to Lord Hanuman to give them the strength to bear any problem bravely. Hanuman's strength is one of his greatest powers. He alone can take on an entire army; He can cross oceans and uproot entire mountains. The magnitude of Hanuman's strength is unparalleled by any other god or human in Hindu mythology. According to Kambhar's Ramayana in Tamil not just physical strength - Hanuman ji is described as Solin Selvan which means lord of the wealth of words. After being sent in search of Goddess Sita, Hanuman comes back to Lord Rama with the news and says to Rama "Kanden Sitaiye". The choice of words is brilliant. He did not want Rama's heart to be sad even for a moment when he stops by saying "Sitai" - Sita. It also stands as an example of Hanuman's undying devotion to his lord.

When Lord Rama's brother Lakshmana is seriously injured in battle, Hanuman ji is sent to fetch a rare herb from Sanjivani Parvat. Lord Hanuman is unable to take the herb from the huge mountain, uproots the entire mountain, and travels back to Lanka in time to save Lakshmana. Many other stories testify to the greatness of Hanuman, perhaps that is why many people observe Hanuman Ji's fast on Tuesdays and in some cases on Saturdays as well. When in unexpected trouble or distress it is common for most Hindus to recite the Hanuman Chalisa which is a hymn in praise of Lord Hanuman. The verses were written by Tulsidas who was also an ardent devotee of Hanuman. It is said that one can recite these verses easily and it has immense benefits for the human psyche. Hanuman is our go-to god for most situations in life. Like Lord Ganesha, Hanuman is also believed to be the remover of obstacles and the

destroyer of evil spirits.

Now it is a common belief to keep Hanuman Chalisa under your bed to avoid nightmares. The kind of faith that the Hindu society places in him is remarkable. Man is bound to commit mistakes in day-to-day life, and reciting Hanuman Chalisa at night helps man to get rid of his sins. It purifies the mind and soul like a cleanser. It brings out a kind of calm even in difficult situations. In most Hindu communities, Hanuman is worshipped as a village boundary deity. There are also many temples for the god. In almost all Vishnu temples, the idol of Hanuman ji is the first thing one sees upon entering the premises. The specific use of butter on the face of the idol easily tells that it is Hanuman. The literal meaning of Hanuman is the one with the deformed jaw. Like Lord Vishnu, the use of Tulsi garland on Hanuman Ji is also another important feature. Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated every year in the month of Chaitra. It marks the birth of one of the most exemplary deities in Hindu mythology. He is the epitome of discipline, loyalty, and dedication, qualities that can hardly be found in this highly competitive world. Many people circumambulate Lord Hanuman for valor, faith, bravery, wisdom, and success. Hanuman, who opened his heart to show Sita Devi that Lord Rama resides in his heart and does not require a pearl necklace as a gift from him, such amazing dedication and sacrifice not even imagined today can go but the Lord retreats only for the devotion of his followers. Hanuman is worshipped by all people especially those who are engaged in sports and rigorous yogic practices. Like Hanuman, we should try to serve our lord (our true self, Atman), by bringing our mind and intellect under the control of our soul.

(Writer is Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, Independent journalist and columnist, views are personal.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Dismiss China's move

In an effort to bolster its claim to India's Arunachal Pradesh, China has devised a third set of names for ten locations in the state, referring to them as zangnan, the southern part of Tibet. Following the State Council's regulations on geographical names, China's Ministry of Civil Affairs issued standardised names in Chinese, Tibetan, and Pinyin characters. The coordinates for two land areas, two residential areas, five mountain peaks, and two rivers, as well as their subordinate administrative districts, are included in the list. According to Chinese experts, the announcement of names is a legal move that respects China's sovereign right to standardise geographical names. At this point, India's external affairs should emphasize that assigning invented names to places in Arunachal Pradesh does not alter the fact that the state is an integral part of India. India has to dismiss China's move to rename places in Arunachal Pradesh.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

#### Global Trade Vision

The government's vision to achieve exports worth \$2 trillion by 2030 requires a multiple-pronged approach. Along with making it easy for the exporters, we need to learn from China's book and strengthen our diplomatic corps at the WTO to make use of its rules in our favor. Investment in research and technology is also crucial to achieve this vision. While promoting trade in rupees may feel patriotic, it may not be pragmatic in the short term. India must emerge as a global investment hub with state-of-the-art infrastructure and global supply chains, which requires a congenial politico-legal ecosystem. We must concentrate on technology in addition to the existing merchandise and services sectors. To achieve this, investment in research and technology will require a big boost. Let us work towards making India a global trade leader.

Manoj Nair, Raipur

#### Opposition Unity

The recent conviction of Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case has become a significant issue in Indian politics. As a leader of national stature, he needs to be cautious while speaking on any issue to avoid unsavoury situations in the future. However, the silver lining in this case is the unity it has brought among opposition parties. This is an important political development that could benefit the opposition in the upcoming parliamentary elections. It is heartening to see opposition parties come together to support each other, putting their political differences aside. It is important for political leaders to rise above personal agendas and work for the greater good of the country. We hope that this unity among opposition parties will continue and bring about positive changes for the country.

Krishna Kumar, Korba

### Congress needs to get its house in order

To lead opposition against Modi in 2024



Yash pal Raihan, Jalandhar

As India gears up for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress party, the main opposition entity with an all-India footprint, is being advised to first set its house in

order before leading the joint Opposition front against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda issued a fresh advisory to the Congress party, urging it to address its internal flaws before joining hands with other parties to form a united front against the BJP. While this may sound like sound advice, it is unlikely that the Congress leadership, which is still dominated by the Gandhi family, will pay any heed to it.

The issue with the Congress party is not new. As A.K. Antony, a senior Congress leader, pointed out a few months ago, the party needs to pay attention to the sentiments of the Hindu community, as it

is often perceived to be pro-Muslim. However, the Congress party has been reluctant to accept any mistakes and take corrective measures. The recent defamation case against Rahul Gandhi, where the Congress president failed to follow up on the matter despite having a battery of top lawyers, is a case in point. Moreover, the leadership crisis in the Congress party is evident from the fact that senior leaders, including President Mallikarjun Kharge, have little ability to influence decision-making at the highest level. While the Congress party has a plethora of experienced politicians, the Gandhi family continues to be the final authority, disregarding any well-intentioned advice from within or

outside the party. The party's internal structure is in shambles, and it cannot be expected to rise above itself and correct its organizational flaws without a drastic change in approach.

If the Congress party fails to set its own house in order, the opposition camp is bound to be a divided house, jeopardizing its chances of presenting a united front against the BJP. The opposition may manage to stitch together a facade of unity, but it may not be able to form a firm stand on who should be the prime ministerial face of the opposition front, with multiple claimants to the position from different parties. As the legal case against Rahul Gandhi continues to unfold, it will be interesting to see how

the Congress party responds and whether it will take any corrective measures to rectify its organizational flaws. However, until such changes are made, it is unlikely that the Congress party can lead the joint opposition front against the BJP in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress party needs to prioritize its internal issues and rectify its organizational flaws if it wants to lead the opposition front against the BJP in 2024. The Gandhi family must heed well-intentioned advice and give senior leaders more autonomy to influence decision-making. Otherwise, the opposition camp is bound to be a divided house, leading to a victory for the BJP in the forthcoming elections.



**BRIEF**

**Aadhaar data**



**New Delhi:** The government has no plan to use Aadhaar data for census, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar told Lok Sabha on Wednesday. "The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India has informed that there is no plan to use Aadhaar data for census," he said in a written reply. According to the Unique Identification Authority of India, more than 136 crore Aadhaar numbers have been issued by it till the end of February.

## Govt not considering to regulate AI growth: Vaishnaw

**New Delhi, Apr 05:**



The government is neither considering to bring any law nor has any plans to regulate the growth of artificial intelligence in the country, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. IT and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in a written submission to the Lok Sabha said there are ethical concerns and risks around artificial intelligence, and the government agencies have started making efforts to standardise responsible AI and promote the adoption of the best practices.

"NITI Aayog has published a series of papers on the subject of Responsible AI for All. However, the government is not considering bringing a law or regulating the growth of artificial intelligence in the country," Vaishnaw said. In a reply

to a separate question on ChatGPT technology, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said it is a Large Language Model (LLM) launched by OpenAI. "While it has made significant strides, there are still many challenges with these types of models," Chandrasekhar said. In response to a question on the step that the government is taking to regulate the growth of AI in the country, Vaishnaw said that the government is harnessing the poten-

tial of AI to provide personalised and interactive citizen-centric services through digital public platforms. "However, AI has ethical concerns and risks due to issues such as bias and discrimination in decision-making, privacy violations, lack of transparency in AI systems, and questions about responsibility for harm caused by it. These concerns have been highlighted in the National Strategy for AI (NSAI) released in June 2018," Vaishnaw said.

The minister shared that the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), along with CDAC, has also initiated a proof-of-concept project on AIRAWAT (AI Research, Analytics and Knowledge Dissemination Platform) for providing a common computing platform for AI research and knowledge assimilation.

## Foreign trade policy to boost business sentiment: Industry bodies

**Kolkata, Apr 05:**

The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) for 2023 announced recently will further boost business sentiments to reach the aspirational target of India becoming a leader in exports, leading industry bodies said. Chairman of CII national committee on exports and imports Sanjay Budhia said that reduction in export performance threshold in the new FTP will enable exporters to achieve reduction in transaction costs for outbound cargo.

He said the policy has a strong emphasis on reduction in transaction costs, which will give a fillip to the MSMEs and also internationalisation of the Indian rupee. He said re-

duction in user charges for MSMEs under the Advance Authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme will encourage the segment. The increased focus on partnering states and districts will also help in building competitiveness of small and medium units. Budhia added that the introduction of one-time amnesty scheme for default in export obligation (EO) is a welcome step at reducing litigations. India's exports of goods and services have already reached USD 760 billion amid global headwinds at the end of 2022-23 fiscal. According to him, IMF had projected global economy to slow down in 2023, India stands in a sweet spot from the exports point of view.

## To identify aspects of green steel production

**New Delhi, Apr 05:** Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has approved the formation of 13 task forces to identify action points for each aspect of green steel production and adoption of sustainable manufacturing processes.

The task forces will focus on various aspects of green steel production, including raw materials, technology, and policy frameworks, the minister said. "We are committed to promoting sustainable steel-making practices in India. Setting up task forces is a significant step towards achieving this goal. We believe that the

## COLLABORATION AGREEMENT



Union I&B minister Anurag Thakur and actor Varun Dhawan during signing of a collaboration agreement between Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Amazon, in New Delhi, Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

## Steel Minister approves forming 13 task forces



Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia addresses the media, in New Delhi, Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

adoption of green steel production will not only benefit the environment but also lead to the creation of new jobs and economic growth" a steel ministry statement quoted Scindia as saying. Various stakeholders of the steel industry, academia and government officials will

be part of the task forces. The minister further said that steel producers need to increase the capacity of their washeries so dependence on imports for coal can be reduced. He also suggested the players explore new sources for coal import. Scindia recently said his ministry will push primary steel producers to use 50 per cent of their input from scrapped/recycled steel by 2047 to help achieve the government target of moving into a circular economy. The Minister has also said that the domestic steel industry must adopt low-carbon emitting steel-making processes as key raw material coking coal and iron ore may not be a viable option in the future based on an ESG parameter.

## Flipkart Wholesale launches latest edition of 'Vyapari Diwas'

**Mumbai, Apr 05:**

Flipkart Wholesale, the digital B2B platform of India's home-grown Flipkart Group, today announced the launch of 'Vyapari Diwas' - the company's annual flagship event, aimed at enhancing savings and accelerating profit for its members. Set to go live on April 03 to April 09, 2023, the campaign will be made available at all Flipkart Wholesale stores and Flipkart Wholesale online platform / mobile application offering exciting deals across several categories including staples, personal and home care, food and beverages among others. With the tagline "Tutega Fayde ka Record", the campaign has been curated with various attractive offers like Discovery

Zone, Vyapari Diwas Specials, Buy One Get One offer, Flash Deals, and more. Additionally, for the first time, members will be given an assured cashback of up to INR 9,999 on both Flipkart Wholesale app and in-store purchase. Koteswar LN, Business Head of Flipkart Wholesale, said, "As part of our core commitment to building a sustainable business that would boost the growth and prosperity of kiranas and MSMEs, Flipkart Wholesale has been leveraging deep merchandising expertise and logistics infrastructure, coupled with technology. This has enabled the company to offer its members a wide product selection at significant value, thereby helping them make informed business decisions.

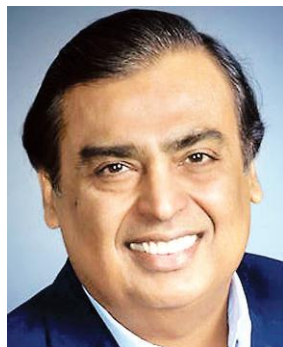
**Maritime infra**



**New Delhi:** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Wednesday said efforts should be made to make India a world leader in maritime infrastructure. He also flagged off Maritime Awareness Walkathon on the occasion of 'National Maritime Day' on Wednesday. The Ports, Shipping and Waterways minister also appreciated the tremendous contribution made by women seafarers, among others. According to an official statement, he highlighted the importance of the maritime sector for India's economic growth. "We have to work hard to make shipping a fast-growing sector so that India can become a world leader in maritime infrastructure as well as a lead player in the maritime economy," Sonowal said.

## Ambani regains Asia's richest person spot: Forbes

**New Delhi, Apr 05:** Mukesh Ambani has regained his spot as Asia's richest person after rival Gautam Adani tumbled to No. 24, Forbes said in its Billionaire 2023 list released on Tuesday. "Adani was the world's third-richest person on January 24, when he was worth nearly USD 126 billion. A report issued by US short-seller Hindenburg Research later that day, however, sent his companies' shares plummeting," Forbes said. His net worth is now USD 47.2 billion and is the second richest Indian behind Ambani. With a net worth of USD 83.4 billion, Ambani, 65, was ranked at No. 9 on the world billionaire list. "Last year, Ambani's oil-to-telecom



behemoth Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to surpass USD 100 billion in revenue," Forbes said. Ambani, it said, side-stepped speculation about succession by giving his children key roles last year: Older son Akash is chairman of telecom arm Jio Infocomm; daugh-

ter Isha is the head of the retail business; and younger son Anant works in Reliance's new energy ventures. The 25 richest people in the world are worth a collective USD 2.1 trillion, according to Forbes' World's Billionaires list, down a combined USD 200 billion from USD 2.3 trillion in 2022. "Two-thirds of the top 25 are poorer than they were last year, compared to around half of the list overall," it said. No one lost more than Jeff Bezos as Amazon shares crashed by 38 per cent. The drop lopped USD 57 billion from Bezos' fortune and knocked him from No. 2 in the world in 2022 to No. 3 this year.

## India's services sector growth moderates in March on softer rise in new biz orders: PMI

**New Delhi, Apr 05:** India's services sector growth moderated in March after hitting a 12-year high in February, as new business orders increased at a softer rate, a monthly survey said on Wednesday. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index eased from 59.4 in February to 57.8 in March, indicating a slower rate of expansion. For the 20th straight month, the headline figure was above the neutral 50 threshold. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "India's service sector built on to the momentum gained in February with further increases in new business intakes and output at the end of the 2022/23 fiscal quarter.

## Govt unveils plans to add 250GW renewable energy capacity in next five years

**New Delhi, Apr 05:**

The government on Wednesday announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030. The government has decided to invite bids for 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for the next five years i.e., from Financial Year 2023-24 till Financial Year 2027-28, a Ministry of New and Renewable Energy statement said. These annual bids of ISTS (Inter-State Transmission) connected renewable energy capacity will also include setting up of wind power capacity of at least 10 GW per annum, it stated. The plan finalised by the Ministry of



New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) at a meeting chaired by Union Minister for Power & New and Renewable Energy R K Singh last week, is in accordance with the Prime Minister's announcement at COP26, of achieving 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel (Renewable Energy + Nuclear) sources by 2030.

India currently has a total renewable energy capacity of 168.96 GW (as of 28th February 2023) with about 82 GW at various stages of implementation and about 41 GW under tendering stage. This includes 64.38 GW of Solar Power, 51.79 GW of Hydro Power, 42.02 GW of Wind Power and 10.77 GW of BioPower. Considering the fact that Renewable Energy (RE) projects take around 18-24 months for commissioning, the bid plan will add 250 GW of renewable energy and ensure 500 GW of installed capacity by 2030. The Ministry of Power is already working on upgrading and adding the transmission system capacity for evacuating 500 GW of electricity from non-fossil fuel, it stated.

**Appointment**



**New Delhi:** Welspun Enterprises Ltd (WEL) has appointed Kapil Maheshwari as CEO and executive director of its wholly-owned subsidiary Welspun New Energy Limited. Before joining Welspun, Maheshwari was part of Reliance Industries, where he was leading Renewable Energy and Green Hydrogen Ecosystem Development, a statement said. He comes with over 20 years of experience in solar PV, storage technologies, power electronics and green hydrogen space in India, the US, Germany and various regions. Part of Welspun Group, Welspun Enterprises Ltd (WEL) is an infrastructure development company focusing on road, water and wastewater segments.

## 5 Indian-origin women executives on Barron's 100 Most Influential Women in US Finance list

**New York, Apr 04:**

Five Indian-origin women executives have made it to Barron's prestigious annual '100 Most Influential Women in US Finance' list for achieving positions of prominence in the financial services industry and helping shape its future. Barron's is a sister publication of the Wall Street Journal, published by Dow Jones and Company. "The list honours established and emerging leaders in financial services, the corporate world, non-profit organisations, and government," the magazine said in a press release. Indian-origin Anu Aiyengar from J.P. Morgan, Ariel

Investment's Rupal J. Bhansali, Sonal Desai of Franklin Templeton, Goldman Sach's Meena Flynn and Savita Subramanian from Bank of America are among the 100 women who were named in the fourth annual version of the prestigious list, released last month. Aiyengar, in her 50s, assumed the role of global head of Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) at J.P. Morgan in January after serving as a co-head of the division since 2020. According to the press release, she has long credited her love of number crunching, legal contracts, and building client relationships for bringing her to the mergers-and-acquisitions sphere.

## Samsung launches season two of 'Solve for Tomorrow'

**Mumbai, Apr 05:**

Samsung India has announced it has partnered with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's (MeitY's) Startup Hub and Foundation for Innovation & Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi for the second season of its national education and innovation competition SamsungSolve for Tomorrow that was launched today. With Solve for Tomorrow, Samsung aims to usher in a culture of innovative thinking and problem-solving amongst the country's youth. The second season of Samsung Solve for Tomorrow was inaugurated by Mr Alkesh Kumar



Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and Mr. Jongbum Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia in the presence of other dignitaries. The flagship CSR program of India's largest electronics brand recognizes the power of innovative solutions and their ability to transform lives, making a strong so-

cial impact and strengthens Samsung's vision of #Powering Digital India. The first season of Samsung Solve for Tomorrow in 2022 received over 18,000 registrations from youth across the country. Two of the top three winning teams of season one have incorporated their companies while one is currently in the process of doing it.

## Need to make business correspondent ind more investor friendly to promote financial inclusion: Report

**New Delhi, Apr 05:**

There is a need to make the business correspondent (BC) industry more investor friendly to take the financial inclusion drive to the last mile in India, according to a report. Business Correspondent is an extended arm of a bank branch, which provides financial and banking services to customers in unbanked and under-banked areas. The joint report 'Reimagining the Next-generation BC (business correspondent) Model' - prepared by Grameen Foundation India (GFI) and Business Correspondent Federation of India (BCFI) - was released on

Wednesday. It is based on a two-day CXO roundtable conference hosted by GFI and BCFI in November 2022, where leaders in the finance industry came together to chart a more inclusive and viable future for business correspondents (BCs) in India. "The BC industry has played a significant role in driving financial inclusion to the last mile - be it Jan Dhan Yojana, Benefit Schemes / Payments or Covid-19 cash relief. There is, however, a dire need to significantly expand the scope of digital financial services and address key challenges to make the industry self-reliant, more efficient, effective, and impactful," said Sunil Kulkarni, CEO of BCFI, in a statement.



**A**ctress Kajal Chauhan, who is currently playing the role of Gaura in the show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai', shared that acting was not something she thought of at the beginning of her career but aspired to be a lawyer or a judge. She spoke about her journey of becoming an actor. Kajal hails from Uttar Pradesh where nobody ever thought of pursuing a career in acting. She said: "I initially aspired to become a lawyer or a judge. Despite my initial career goals, my mother always dreamed of seeing someone from the family become an actor and as I grew up I became increasingly interested in the entertainment industry." "My mother would often watch 'saas, bahu aur saazish' segments on TV and imagine me giving interviews on screen. My mother has been my biggest support in my acting journey." The 'Molkkii' actress further spoke on how she got interested in acting. "Eventually, I decided to pursue my passion for acting and started working hard to hone my skills and landed my first acting job as a supporting actor. From there, I went on to act in several TV shows and eventually landed my breakthrough role in 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai'." The story revolves around Gaura and Rekha, portrayed by Kajal Chauhan and Sushmita Mukherjee respectively. 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' airs on Star Bharat.

## Kajal Chauhan aspired to be a jurist before following her passion for acting



## Rekha makes heads turn, jokes with paps on 'Citadel' blue carpet

**T**he legendary Rekha, who is often called the eternal beauty, lived up to the title as she walked the 'blue carpet' of the upcoming streaming series 'Citadel', which sees Priyanka Chopra and 'Games of Thrones' alum Richard Madden in the lead. Rekha chose a hybrid silk outfit in the shades of rose gold and purple. She sported heavy earpieces and her tresses were tied in a traditional bun rounded up with gajra. On the blue carpet, the celebrated actress also joked with the paparazzi stationed at the venue and she playfully made a gesture of slapping one of the paps after a brief verbal exchange in jest. The actress is a Padma Shri recipient and also served as nominated member of the Rajya Sabha member from 2012 to the end of her tenure in 2018.



## I want to experiment and challenge myself: Juhi Babbar

**A**ctor Juhi Babbar, recently seen in Hansal Mehta's film 'Faraaz' being streamed on Netflix, where she plays the role of Faraaz's mother, says she has no apprehensions about playing a certain age. The actor, who made her debut with 'Kash Aap Hamare Hote' (2003) adds, "I would like to experiment and challenge myself."

For Babbar, working with Mehta has been an unforgettable experience considering the commitment and passion the director puts into all his projects.

"It was wonderful to be in an atmosphere where you are part of something that is so sincere and has much truth in it."

Though she was facing the camera after several years, Babbar remembers the director giving her much confidence and allowing her to explore the character the way she wanted to.

"There was so much freedom, and at the same time, he knew exactly what he wanted. He didn't ask me to read a line or audition, and was sure that I fitted the role."

Admitting that she went through a low phase when her first film did not do well, she remembers feeling dejected and unnoticed. "There was this emotion - can I not act?" But it was theatre that gave her the opportunity to grow and recognise herself as a performer.

"It was the love and support from the live audience that gives me the strength to face the camera again."

Adding that theatre has been instrumental in putting herself in the space where she is forced to emote varied sentiments, she says, "After so many years on the stage, I feel there is nothing I



cannot handle in front of the camera. All I need is a good director and good actors around me."

While she may not have done much screen work, she feels the appreciation for 'Faraaz' will translate into more good roles where she is challenged as an actor.

Daughter of theatre director Nadira Babbar and actor Raj Babbar, she remembers her father saying that she deserved a movie after witnessing her perform in her first play.

"He launched me. My mother too has always been extremely supportive, and I still work with her. When you have talented parents, people do expect you to live up to that name. And there is a lot that I have to live up to."

For Babbar, the OTT revolution in India has changed the landscape of entertainment. She feels, right now, it is the best phase for Indian actors, especially those who never got the right opportunities.

"Not just actors, look at the kind of work that is being scripted. We see writers and directors willing to tell different stories differently. There is a collective desire to achieve excellence - a perfect phase for the entire industry," she concludes.

## Jr NTR to lock horns with Hrithik Roshan in 'War 2'



This move by Aditya Chopra enables 'War 2' to have the widest audience appeal for a Hindi film and it also widens the box office potential of the film. South India should come alive and connect at a more emotional level with the film because of the presence of their beloved superstar".

The source further mentioned Jr NTR is one of the most respected and followed icons from South India and is said to be extremely choosy about his films. "If he has given the film a nod, it means War 2 is eclipsing the first film in terms of plot as well as scale. Hrithik Roshan vs Jr NTR will be a fight to remember. Jr NTR's inclusion has made this proposition extremely delicious for audiences".

'War 2' will be produced under the banner of Aditya Chopra's Yash Raj Films.

**A**ctor Jr NTR, who has been swaying the audience - both Indian and international - with 'RRR', has been signed for the spy action-thriller, 'War 2' - a sequel to the 2019 blockbuster.

Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan, who played the role of Kabir in 'War', will be seen taking on Jr NTR in a bloody battle that will be an adrenaline-pumping action extravaganza. Recently, it was also revealed that the event film is being directed by Ayan

Mukerji, who has a history of delivering some of the biggest blockbusters in Bollywood including his last release 'Brahmastra'.

A veteran trade source confirmed on condition of anonymity that Jr NTR will be locking horns with Hrithik in 'War 2', "Their battle of wits and their fierce showdown will definitely be an action spectacle to remember on the big screen. 'War' is now a true-blue pan Indian film.



## Dilpreet plays cupid in Veer and Amrita's love story

**S**ony SAB's Dil Diyaan Gallaan portrays a multigenerational family that has been separated due to misinterpreted situations, emotional pain, and physical distance amongst family members. While the first two generations hold onto their grudges, the third generation intervenes, compelling them to confront their past and embark on a healing journey. In the upcoming episodes, the viewers will witness Dilpreet (Pankaj Berry) and Sanjot (Jasjeet Babbar) take an important decision which will change the lives of the Brar family forever.

With Mandeep (Sandeep Baswana) returning to the house, the entire household is in a chaotic situation. From matching Mandeep and Dilpreet's food choices to trying to solve the tiffs between them, the Brar household is doing everything possible under the sky. However, the younger daughter-in-law of the family, Nimrit (Kanica Maheshwari) is constantly chalking out plans which will compel Mandeep and his family to leave the house. Amidst this chaos, Dilpreet learns that Veer (Paras Arora) and Amrita (Kaveri Priyam) are in love as he stumbles upon a video shot on Holi where they confess their love for each other. Deciding to take the situation into his hands Dilpreet makes a plan to help Veer and Amrita come closer to each other.

What is Dilpreet planning? Will he execute this plan alone, or will he take Sanjot's help?

Keep watching Dil Diyaan Gallaan every Monday to Saturday at 7:30 PM only on Sony SAB.

## Micckie makes a dramatic entry in Doosri Maa!

**A**fter acting numerous roles in popular television shows and leaving a mark on the audience with his incredible performances, actor Micckie Dudaaney will be seen as Varun Sharma in &TV's family drama Doosri Maa. Varun will portray the role of antagonist to stir up new hurdles and challenges in Yashoda (Neha Joshi) and Krishna's (Aayudh Bhanushali) lives. About his entry as Varun Sharma in the show, Micckie Dudaaney shares, "My character Varun Sharma's entry will create havoc in Yashoda and Krishna's lives while the audience will witness a high-voltage drama. He will be involved in an evil plan and claim to be Krishna's real father. Varun is a charmer and wants to impress the Guptas with his charisma. He has a lot of air about himself and is a layered character. The role is quite fascinating for me as I have not explored much as an antihero." Micckie adds about being part of Doosri Maa. "I am overjoyed to be part of Doosri Maa. My family enjoys the show and is excited that I will



be appearing on it soon. I am grateful to Imtiaz Punjabi, the show's director, and co-producer, for this opportunity. I have previously worked with him and believe in his vision. Before shooting for the show, I watched a few episodes, and it took me on an emotional roller coaster. High-voltage drama and interesting characters piqued my interest." The actor who is currently shooting for the show in Jaipur adds, "The cast is friendly and welcoming, and shooting in Jaipur is fun. I started shooting a few days ago, and Jaipur already feels like home."

Watch Micckie Dudaaney as Varun Sharma in Doosri Maa every Monday to Friday at 8:00 pm only!

## 'Operation Mayfair' enthralles audiences

**A**fter cementing 300-plus brands' reputation as an ad-film director, the exemplarily talented Sudipto Sarkar is all set to stun the audiences with his first Bollywood feature film, 'Operation Mayfair'. Currently based in London, Sudipto has previously proved himself as a noteworthy director with two short films 'ANOKHA' & 'Krishnas Playground' that have been recognised at celebrated film festivals worldwide.

On writing and directing 'Operation Mayfair', Sudipto added, "Operation Mayfair is inspired by real events and showcases the intriguing techniques used by the police force in London. I have tried to showcase a multicultural Britain through this film."

On his Bollywood debut as a director he further added, "Being my debut Hindi film, 'Operation Mayfair' is a very special film and I am grateful to my producers, T series and to the entire cast and crew



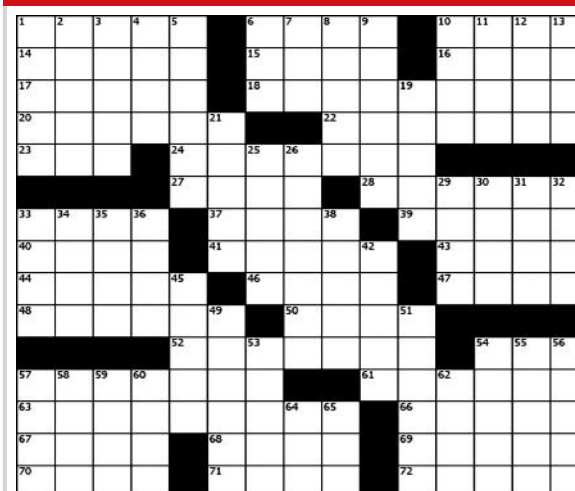
for their relentless support on this journey." On working with Jimmy Sheirgill, "I always wished to cast Jimmy Sheirgill for the role of Amar Singh (protagonist). In fact, he was the only actor I had sent the script to. Jimmy is an aware actor; collaborating with him was a delight."

Sudipto adds "Vedieka Dutt is very talented and hardworking and did month long workshops to fit in the character so well. Ankur Bhatia had brought life to the character of Kevin and is the surprise package in the film. Sneha Singh, Vedant Sarkar, Anjali Sharma were all great support cast"

The film stars Jimmy Sheirgill, Vedieka Dutt, Ankur Bhatia and Hritiqa Chheber in pivotal roles and is receiving positive reviews from the audiences and is garnering adulation for its unique storyline and cutting-edge performances by the cast.

## CROSSWORD

609



### ACROSS

- Desert plants
- Spot
- Mouse catcher
- Comic \_\_\_\_ DeGeneres
- Stage drama
- Own
- Detroit team
- Inseparable friends (2 wds.)
- Telescope parts
- Sulphur, e.g.
- Dollar bill

### DOWN

- More transparent
- Semester
- Plaid
- Flower
- Mild oath
- Doctor's coworker
- Poker opener
- Framed (2 wds.)
- Takes to court
- Sirloin, e.g.
- Sub store
- Miami team

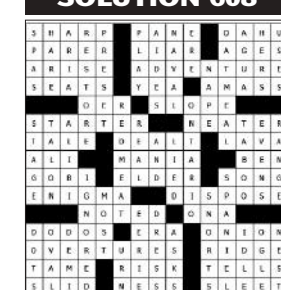
- "Who cares?" (2 wds.)
- Puts into service
- Take back
- Live
- Ohio's neighbor
- Delete
- Offered in response
- Etching fluids
- Divisible by two
- Musical sound
- Delhi's country
- Squealers
- Flower stalk
- Indigent

### DOWN

- Violin's kin
- Foreign
- Exact copy
- Perfect scores
- Butterfly, e.g.
- Health farm
- Not well
- Starchy veggie (sl.)
- Shoelace hole
- Those folks
- Craze
- Bard of \_\_\_\_
- Annoying person
- Broadcasted again
- Winter toys
- Make mistakes
- Nonprofessional
- Make haste
- Accurate
- On a cruise

- Cozy abode
- Football throw
- Informed about
- Fret
- Informal affirmative
- Oklahoma metropolis
- Fragment
- Gold measure
- Principles
- Stress
- Gypsy's card
- In reserve
- Remodelled
- School assignment
- Bakery worker
- Bossa \_\_\_\_
- Music for two
- Lodges
- Complexion woe
- Vane letters
- JFK's party

### SOLUTION 608





## KKR seek home comfort against star-studded RCB

Kolkata, Apr 05 (PTI):

Hit by injuries and unavailability of key players, two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders will seek home comfort and look to return to winning ways when they face a star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, here on Thursday.

Having started their campaign with a seven-run defeat via Duckworth-Lewis method against Punjab Kings at Mohali, KKR suffered twin blows.

First Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan pulled out of the tournament because of family reasons and international commitments and, the next day, regular skipper Shreyas Iyer, who is also their batting mainstay, was ruled out of the entire IPL as he will undergo a surgery to treat his back injury.

KKR had made Nitish Rana their stand-in skipper, assuming that their



Kolkata Knight Riders players during a training session.

regular skipper would be back in the second half of the season but with Iyer ruled out completely, the Chandrakant Pandit-coached side may face a leadership crisis.

'Accidental' skipper Rana, who has experience of leading Delhi in white-ball cricket, has a big task ahead of him as the team desperately seeks some solace in its den.

The buzz is that KKR's owner Shah Rukh Khan will be in the house when they return here after 1,438 days. They last played at Eden Gardens on April 28, 2019 — a 34-run win over Mumbai Indians before COVID-19 hit the world.

The excitement will be at an all-time high for both teams, with crowd-puller Virat Kohli in the visitors' dug out. KKR

looked a shadow of their past in their season-opener, which was interrupted by a floodlight glitch before the skies opened up.

On the bowling front, the likes of Tim Southee and Sunil Narine leaked runs, something they will have to address.

Narine looked to have lost his mystery ball as the Punjab batters took him to the cleaners.

KKR's attack will be put to test against the likes of Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli, who looked in imperious touch in an unbeaten 82 in their eight-wicket win over Mumbai Indians. RCB's pace trio of Mohammed Siraj, Harshal Patel and Akash Deep will also look to make it count on a seaming-friendly Eden.

But they are likely to miss English pacer Reece Topley, who suffered a shoulder dislocation. David Willey is expected to replace him.

Match starts at 7.30PM.

## Inter, Juventus Cup semi ends in scuffle after 1-1 draw

Turin, Apr 05 (AP):

The Italian Cup semifinal between Inter Milan and Juventus ended with a mass scuffle and three red cards following a 1-1 draw in the first leg. After Romelu Lukaku converted a penalty in stoppage time to equalise for Inter on Tuesday, the Belgium striker picked up his second yellow card for apparently taunting the crowd. Juan Cuadrado, who had put Juventus ahead in the 83rd, and Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic were also shown red cards as they clashed after the final whistle, with players from both teams then getting involved as they tried to separate the two.

"It's nothing, just a bit of chaos at the end of a balanced game," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "We knew it would be difficult. Although they were coming off a difficult period, they are still Inter and proved it tonight." Lukaku, Cuadrado and Handanovic should all miss the second leg on



Inter Milan's forward Romelu Lukaku (c) argues with Juventus' midfielder Juan Cuadrado from Colombia during the Italian Cup semi-final first leg football match between Juventus and Inter Milan at the "Allianz Stadium" in Turin.

April 26. Last-place Serie A club Cremonese hosts Fiorentina in the other semifinal on Wednesday.

The result didn't do much to alleviate the crisis at Inter, which has lost three straight matches in Serie A. The outcome of

the semifinal and Inter's upcoming Champions League quarterfinal against Benfica could be crucial in determining whether Simone Inzaghi stays on as Inter's coach.

Inter beat Juventus 4-2 after extra time in last

year's final to win its eighth Italian Cup but Juventus has had the upper hand in the derby d'Italia this season, beating Inter twice in Serie A including a 1-0 victory little more than two weeks ago.

## Chelsea, Liverpool draw 0-0 again to underline sharp decline



Liverpool's Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah (L) vies with Chelsea's Spanish defender Marc Cucurella (R) during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Liverpool at Stamford Bridge in London.

London, Apr 05 (AP):

Another 0-0 stalemate between Chelsea and Liverpool. Another match highlighting the sharp decline of two of England's top teams who, at this rate, are unlikely to be playing in the Champions League next season.

Chelsea was playing its first game since the firing of Graham Potter on

Sunday but little was different under his interim replacement, Bruno Salto.

Indeed, there was something very familiar about the teams serving up a goalless draw. That has been the score in this fixture in their last four meetings both Premier League matches this season and both domestic cup finals last season, which were ultimately

won by Liverpool via penalty shootouts. The top four, and qualification for the Champions League, is looking increasingly unlikely for both teams.

Liverpool, which ran Manchester City so close for the title last season, is in eighth place and seven points off fourth-place Tottenham. Chelsea, on the back of spending USD 630 million in the last two transfer windows, is four points further back in 11th place.

Scoring goals remains Chelsea's big problem, with the expensively assembled team failing to net at home for the fifth time in 2023.

Reece James had a strike disallowed for a narrow offside against Enzo Fernandez and Kai Havertz's celebrations for a goal in the second half were cut short after VAR spotted the ball rebounded off his arm and into the net after Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker saved the striker's shot.

## Shubman Gill reaches career-best 4th spot in ODI rankings

Dubai, Apr 05 (PTI): India opener Shubman Gill has climbed a spot to career-best fourth position among batters in the latest ICC ODI Player Rankings released on Wednesday.

Apart from Gill, Virat Kohli and

Rohit Sharma too

features in the top 10. While Kohli also moved a spot to seventh, Rohit remained static at eighth in the list led by Pakistan skipper Babar Azam. Pacer Mohammed Siraj continues to be the only Indian bowler in the top 10 as he held on to his number three spot, behind Australian quick Josh Hazlewood and New Zealand's Trent Boult. South Africa's Aiden Markram gained 13 spots to reach 41st position in the batting chart and 16 places to 32nd in the all-rounders' list, another career-best feat in both the departments as South Africa beat the Dutch 2-0 in their three-match



series in Johannesburg. They edged closer to automatic qualification for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in India later this year. Other gains were made by New Zealand's Henry Nicholls, who climbed two spots to 69 in the batting rankings and his teammate Will Young, who leaped 60 spots to a personal best 143rd following their 2-0 series victory over Sri Lanka.

## New Zealand beat Sri Lanka in 2nd T20, level series

Dunedin, Apr 05 (AP):

Fast bowler Adam Milne took 5-26 as New Zealand bowled out Sri Lanka for 141 on Wednesday and went on to win the second Twenty20 cricket international by nine wickets. Milne became only the third New Zealander to claim a five-wicket haul in a T20 international after Tim Southee (5-18 vs. Pakistan) and Lockie Ferguson (5-21 vs. West Indies), helping the Black Caps bowl out Sri Lanka in exactly 19 overs. Opener Tim Seifert then hit an unbeaten 79 from 43 balls as New Zealand reached 146-1 in 14.4 overs to win with 32 balls to spare, finishing off with consecutive sixes. Milne's bag included the wickets of Kusal Perera (35) and Charith Asalanka (26), who were half century-makers in the first T20 match between the teams on Sunday which Sri Lanka won in a Super Over. He also dismissed opener Pathum Nissanka (0) and wrapped up the innings by clean bowling Pramod Madushan and Dilshan Madushanka. "Any time



New Zealand's Tim Seifert (R) and Tom Latham run between wickets during the second Twenty20 international cricket match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Dunedin on April 5.

## Chose cricket over athletics because I liked team sport: Hazlewood



Bengaluru, Apr 05 (PTI): Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) premier pace bowler Josh Hazlewood says he chose cricket over athletics because, even on a bad day, he could bank in the success of fellow players. The Australian quick is recovering from an Achilles heel problem and will likely be available for his IPL franchise by the fourth week of April. In his school days, Hazlewood had interest in field events. He developed interest in javelin throw but eventually settled for the gentleman's game. On why he chose cricket over javelin throw, the 32-year-old who was RCB's pace spearhead during IPL 2022, taking 20 wickets, said, "Cricket was my first passion. I think I was 15-16 years of age when I guess I had to make a choice.

## Real Madrid earns most UEFA prize money with USD 146M in 2022



Geneva, Apr 05 (AP):

Champions League prize fund of more than 2 billion euros (USD 2.2 billion). Only two other clubs earned nine-figure sums: Bayern Munich got nearly 110 million euros (USD 120.4 million) and Manchester City was paid nearly 109 million euros (USD 119 million).

Paris Saint-Germain's loss to Madrid in the round of 16 meant it was paid just 92 million euros (USD 100.7 million) by UEFA.

UEFA said the 32 group-stage clubs were paid an average of 61.8 million euros (USD 67.7 million) with the lowest payment of 23.7 million euros (USD 26 million) to Moldovan champion Sheriff.

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Chelsea was eliminated by Madrid in the quarterfinals and earned 91.9 million euros (USD 100.6 million). Chelsea faces Madrid again in the quarterfinals this month and risks having no income from UEFA next season while it stands 11th in the English Premier League table.

Barcelona earned 64.6 million euros (USD 70.7 million) from the Champions League group stage last season, then an additional 6.4 million euros (USD 7 million) from switching across to the Europa League knockout rounds. Barcelona lost in the quarterfinals to eventual winner Eintracht Frankfurt.

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## New evidence against Sisodia in excise scam case: ED

New Delhi, Apr 05 (PTI):

The ED Wednesday told a Delhi court the investigation in the money laundering probe against AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the alleged excise scam is at a "crucial" stage and it has found fresh evidence of his complicity. The agency made the submissions while seeking time to argue on the bail application of the former Delhi deputy chief minister.

Special Judge M K Nagpal adjourned for April 12 the arguments on the application.

The judge also extended till April 17 the judicial custody of Sisodia after he was produced before the court and the agency sought an extension of custody. During the argu-

ments, the Enforcement Directorate counsel said the agency was "in process of gathering fresh evidence that has come to light." "We need time...requesting court to grant time to advance arguments," the counsel said after a brief argument.

The counsel appearing for Sisodia, meanwhile, claimed before the court the ED does not have evidence to prove the charge that he had indulged in money laundering.

"There's no basis (for the charge). They've probed and examined everything, raided my residence etc. but found nothing. The (excise) policy was approved by various authorities concerned, including the LG. Now you're blaming Sisodia solely. Also,

this (the probe) is not under the preview of the ED," the counsel said.

He asserted the central anti-money laundering agency cannot make the vague allegation that he will tamper with evidence if enlarged on bail.

"You never claimed any effort by me to influence, contact, threaten witnesses when I was out and the holding (excise) portfolio. Now I'm not even holding any portfolio," he said. The counsel claimed "not a single penny" came to the bank accounts of Sisodia or his family members.

"There is nothing connecting me (Sisodia) to the proceeds of crime. Neither there are any allegations nor any material to show that I received the money, hid it or spent it," the coun-

sel asserted.

He said Sisodia was not the only person responsible for formulating the excise policy which was approved at different levels.

"A committee was formed, certain recommendations were given. Cabinet decided to constitute a GoM (group of ministers). This GoM has a duty to recommend the changes. It is then the duty of the excise department to draft the policy. GoM does not draft the policy... The policy went to several departments. Everyone accepted it. It also went to the LG," he said.

He claimed after the policy was implemented the government received the highest revenue from the excise department in the last 10 years.

## DHARAMRAJ FEST



'Dhaakis' (drummers) perform during Gajan sanyasis (unseen) go through pains as a part of their rituals to get the blessing of the god on Dharamraj festival at Goalpara in Birbhum district of West Bengal, Wednesday morning.

## Maha Guv felicitates participants of 'HindAyan' Cycling Expedition



Mumbai, Apr 05:

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais felicitated the members of the Armed Forces who successfully completed the first 'HindAyan Annual National Multi-Stage Cycling Race Cum Expedition' at Raj Bhavan Mumbai on Wed (5 April).

The Governor also felicitated the senior officers of the Government who supported the event. The Cycling Race and Expedition was organised between New Delhi and Pune by the HindAyan

Foundation during February 5-19.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor complimented the team of HindAyan for introducing the nation wide Cycling Race in the country and complimented the participants from the Armed Forces for successfully completing the race.

Founder of HindAyan Vishnudas Chapke, Additional DGP Ravinder Singhal, Col Vimal Sethi, Lt Col S Chowdhury, Capt Jayasanker and MCPO Rishi Kumar were among those present.

## Ministry of I&B inks partnership with Amazon India

### In the field of Media, Entertainment and Public Awareness

New Delhi, Apr 05:

Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Anurag Thakur on Wednesday announced a partnership between the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and Amazon India in the field of media, entertainment and public awareness.

Speaking at the launch of the partnership Anurag Thakur said that India being an ancient civilization offers millions of stories which are yet to be told. The gamut of stories transcends time and covers a vast domain from spirituality to software, traditions to trends, folklore to festivals and from rural India to rising

India. He added that recently Indian content has experienced success at the international fora, and Indian actors have achieved high popularity among foreign audience.

The Minister delved into the steps taken by the Ministry to create a conducive atmosphere for the entertainment industry in India and said that the Government recognises the strengths as well as the opportunities of the Indian entertainment industry, especially new platforms such as OTTs. The Ministry has recognised audio visual services as a Champion



Union I&B minister Anurag Thakur and actor Varun Dhawan during signing of a collaboration agreement between Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Amazon, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Services Sector and recently brought out the self-regulatory framework of OTT content regulation.

Speaking about the partnership with Amazon, Thakur stated that the

partnership with Amazon India is unique on a number of counts and the Letter of Engagement spans across various aspects of the creative industry. The partnership would

help strengthen industry-academia linkages through provisions for scholarships, internships, masterclasses, and other opportunities for students at Film and Television Institute of India and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute of India. The initiative would help to reduce the period of struggle for the talented artists coming out of prestigious film institutes of India, he added.

The Minister also voiced his concern for quality of content on OTT platforms saying OTT platforms have the responsibility of ensuring that their plat-

forms do not propagate vulgarity and abuse camouflaged as creative expressions. OTT must reflect the collective conscience of the country, he further added.

Guest of Honour for the event, Varun Dhawan spoke about the depths being reached by streaming services and said Indian cinema by way of streaming is now reaching a world stage and streaming services have today given Indian content a reach hitherto unimaginable. Shri Dhawan highlighted that streaming services act as a leveler and said that "new actors and creators, talent that had so far remained on sidelines can now connect with audiences worldwide."

## FESTIVE PREPARATION



A worker prepares vermicelli which is used in making traditional sweet dishes consumed during the holy month of Ramadan, at a factory in Prayagraj, Wednesday.

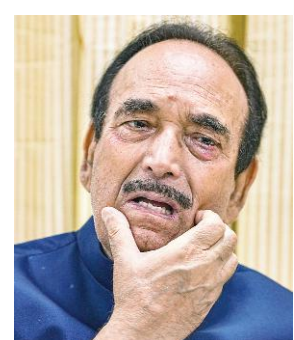
## 'Cong still run by remote control, inexperienced sycophants'

New Delhi, Apr 05 (PTI):

Veteran politician and former Union minister Ghulam Nabi Azad believes the Congress is still run by "remote control" and alleges that a "new coterie of inexperienced sycophants" manage its affairs. Ahead of the release of his book 'Azaad - An Autobiography', the former Congress stalwart, who quit the party last year, refused to talk about the issues he had with his former colleagues.

"The more I dig into the past, the more bitterness surfaces, and I don't want to dwell with that since I have stepped out of the party," he said. At the same time, Azad, who was chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and leader of opposition in the

Rajya Sabha, said he had great respect for Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Sanjay Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, but acknowledged there were political differences with Rahul Gandhi. "...as an individual, I am not saying Rahul Gandhi is a bad person. As an individual he is a good person. Maybe we have some political issues but those are the political issues that I had with him as long as I was in the Congress. Since I am no longer in the Congress party, I am nobody to tell him what is right for him and what is wrong for him," the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chief said. "I can only wish him well both health wise and politically. It is for him to navigate. I only wish he is a good swimmer and he



Ghulam Nabi Azad

knows how to navigate the rough waters. Politics is an art of navigating in rough sea. Even the best captains, if they don't have the experience...can doom the entire ship," Azad told PTI. Rahul Gandhi might not be holding any post as of now but everyone knows that he is the "captain of the ship (Congress)", he said and added that "...everybody

knows who is calling the shots". "If tomorrow (Congress president Mallikarjun) Kharge ji wants a CWC (Congress Working Committee) meeting in Bengaluru, nobody will go...so I only wish him (Rahul Gandhi) to navigate the ship," he said and added that "it is for him to find whether he is a good navigator or a bad navigator, I am out of the ship and I better navigate in the river". "The remote-control model that destroyed the institutional integrity of the party in the manner in which proxies were being propped up to take over the leadership of the party, it was a no-holds-barred account of how the grand old party had lost both the will and the ability to fight for what is right for India", he said.

## 'BJP is 'sinking ship' in K'taka, Cong a united force'

New Delhi, Apr 04 (PTI):

Terming the ruling BJP a 'sinking ship' in Karnataka which even Prime Minister Narendra Modi cannot save, Congress leaders on Tuesday said their party is "united" in the southern state and will ensure the "40 percent commission" government is ousted.

The Congress also claimed that it had information that the BJP is unable to select its candidates as "mass exodus" is happening in the party and Prime Minister Modi is "resorting to its last weapon of misusing Income Tax and ED officials" against Congress leaders and candidates.

AICC General Secretary Randeep Surjewala and former chief minister Siddaramaiah also dismissed reports claiming that the latter had pushed his case as a contender for the top post and said his statements to a channel were "misinterpreted".

They said Siddaramaiah had never claimed that he would be the chief minister and had only stated that he is a contender and that the party high command would decide after consulting the elected MLAs on who the leader would be. Siddaramaiah and PCC president D K Shivakumar were in the national capital to attend the party's central elec-



Senior Congress leader DK Shivakumar with party leaders Siddaramaiah and Randeep Surjewala addresses the media after the Congress Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting regarding the upcoming Karnataka Assembly elections, in New Delhi.

tion committee meeting here on Tuesday. Congress president

Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi were pres-

ent during the meeting, where the leadership discussed the allocation of tickets for the remaining 100 seats. The Congress was the first to declare 124 candidates for the May 10 election to the 224-member Karnataka Assembly.

Surjewala told reporters that the screening committee and the Central Election Committee again met on Tuesday and discussed the probable candidates for the remaining seats and would declare some more seats by the late evening. He stressed that the leaders were unanimous while deciding on the party candidates for the upcoming elections.

"The '40 percent Commission BJP Sarkara' in Karnataka has floundered and failed. The so-called 'double engine Sarkar' is a double-betrayal for Karnataka. Modi government betrays Karnataka on one hand and the Bommai government brazenly loots Karnataka on the other hand," he alleged.

"The way in which BJP leaders are leaving the party in Karnataka in hordes, as over 10 MLAs have left expressing no confidence in the Bommai government, it (BJP) is a sinking ship which is on a nosedive and neither Prime Minister Narendra Modi nor the corrupt BJP gov-

ernment can save it anymore," Surjewala told reporters. He also claimed that the Congress stood firmly united while the BJP is running scared.

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