


HAPPY BIRTHDAY




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Class:- 1st

D.O.B:- 24-04-2016

JKPS Panjtirthi

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STATE TIMES

## India requires more than one vibrant exchange, tweaking products to enliven BSE: MD & CEO

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KOLKATA: India needs more than one vibrant exchange, and the BSE is tweaking its capital market products to revitalise the bourse and offer greater flexibility to investors, a top official said.

The goal is to encourage technology providers, brokers and end users to actively participate in the BSE, he said.

"India requires more than one active exchange, and hence the need to make the BSE more vibrant. We trying to differentiate by tweaking our product offerings," the bourse's MD & CEO S u n d a r a r a m a n Ramamurthy said in an interview to PTL.

After taking over the bourse's charge in January, Ramamurthy has taken several measures to reinvigorate the BSE.

"We are re-launching Sensex and Bankex derivatives with lower lot sizes and a new expiry cycle of Friday from May 15. The launch of Sensex 30 and Bankex derivatives will provide investors an opportunity to trade these popular and well-tracked indices," he said.

"We will also be approaching the regulator for introducing weekly options expiries on multiple days of the week, similar to what it is in the US. That will be subject to regulatory approval," Ramamurthy said.

Besides, the BSE will continue to strengthen the STAR MF, India INX, and SME platforms, where "we are the market leaders", he stated. BSE STAR MF is India's

largest mutual funds distribution platform.

The lot size of futures and options will be reduced to 10 from 15 for Sensex, and to 15 from 20 in case of Bankex, the top BSE official said.

The new contracts aim at deepening the market, providing greater flexibility to investors with lower capital to hedge their risk with differential settlement day of Friday and smaller lot sizes, Ramamurthy said.

Derivatives are considered to be high-risk-reward financial instruments aimed at hedging risk in the equity market.

"BSE is committed to provide innovative and cost-effective solutions to meet the evolving needs of customers," Ramamurthy said.

He also said the country's oldest exchange does not charge any transaction fees for equity futures, and charges 90 per cent less fees for equity options than its rival NSE, which commands significant market share.

BSE's equity market share declined from 42 per cent to 7.2 per cent over the past two decades, and its equity derivatives market share fell to less than one per cent during the period, according to industry data.

The Sensex and Nifty have a 99.92 per cent correlation, while Bankex and Nifty Bank have a 99.97 per cent correlation, according to historical trading data over the past 11 years. "This will encourage market participants to create strategies that leverage both exchange platforms," he said.

# Ukrainian troop positions spark counteroffensive speculation

■ **AGENCY**  
KYIV: Ukrainian military forces have successfully established positions on the eastern side of the Dnieper River, according to a new analysis, giving rise to speculation Sunday that the advances could be an early sign of Kyiv's long-awaited spring counteroffensive.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, reported late Saturday that geolocated footage from pro-Kremlin military bloggers indicated that Ukrainian troops had established a foothold near the town of Oleshky, along with "stable supply lines" to their positions.

Analysts widely believe that if Ukraine goes ahead with a spring counteroffensive, a major goal would be to break through the land corridor between Russia and the annexed Crimean Peninsula, which would necessitate crossing the Dnieper River in the country's south.

Responding to Ukrainian media reports proclaiming that the establishment of such positions indicated the counteroffensive had begun, Natalia Humeniuk, the

spokeswoman for Ukraine's Operational Command South, called for patience.

While neither confirming nor denying the ISW report, she said only that details of military operations in the Dnieper delta couldn't be disclosed for operational and security reasons.

Speaking on Ukrainian television, Humeniuk added that it was "very difficult work" when "it's necessary to overcome an obstacle such as the Dnieper, when the front line passes through a wide and powerful river."

After more than a year since the Russian invasion, recent fighting has become a war of attrition, with neither side able to gain momentum.

But Ukraine has recently received sophisticated weapons from its Western allies, and new troops freshly trained in the West, giving rise to growing anticipation of a counteroffensive.

The fiercest battles have been in the eastern Donetsk region, where Russia is struggling to encircle the city of Bakhmut in the face of dogged Ukrainian defense.

On Sunday, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman

Igor Konashenkov claimed Moscow's forces had captured two more neighborhoods in the western part of Bakhmut, without providing further details or clarifying what areas were still in Ukrainian hands.

In the south, the Dnieper has for months marked the contact line in the Kherson region, where its namesake capital is regularly pummeled by shelling from Russian forces stationed across the river.

In addition to having established a foothold near the town of Oleshky, across the Dnieper delta from Kherson, ISW said that Ukrainian troops were also approaching the nearby village of Dachi, citing data from Russian military bloggers.

In Telegram posts on Thursday and Saturday, ISW said the bloggers claimed that Ukrainian forces had maintained these positions for weeks and established stable supply lines to them, indicating a lack of Russian control over the area.

The Associated Press confirmed the posts from the bloggers, but it wasn't immediately possible to independently verify the data they shared.

Russia is also expected to launch more intensive attacks in the spring, but ISW reported that top Russian defense figures are showing signs that they may be pushing for a consolidation of existing gains in Ukraine, rather than costly new operations, as Moscow struggles with both material and manpower.

The think tank cited comments from financier Yevgeniy Prigozhin, the head of the Wagner Group a private Russian military company whose fighters have spearheaded the offensive on Bakhmut.

On Saturday, Prigozhin's press service posted comments he made on its official Telegram channel in which he argued that Russian forces need to "anchor (themselves) in such a way that it is only possible to tear them out with (the) opponent's claws." The interview was published shortly after Western leaders meeting at the Ramstein Air Base in Germany pledged to train more Ukrainian personnel

and keep up their military support for Kyiv.

As Moscow seeks to bolster its troop numbers, the U.K. Ministry of Defense noted Sunday in an intelligence briefing that Russian authorities had mounted a large-scale military recruitment campaign using social media, billboards and state television.

It said Russian officials are "almost certainly seeking to delay any new, overt mandatory mobilization for as long as possible to minimize domestic dissent," while assessing that this latest effort would likely fail to meet the defense ministry's stated goal of recruiting 400,000 new volunteers.

In attacks overnight, local authorities in eastern Ukraine reported that Russian forces had launched at least five S-300 missiles at Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city and the surrounding region.

The missiles damaged an industrial facility and private homes but caused no casualties, according to Oleh Syniehubov, the Kharkiv regional governor.

In Kherson, one civilian

was killed and two were wounded as Russian troops used artillery, drones and warplanes to launch a total of 54 strikes on the province, Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said on Telegram on Sunday morning.

Russian forces on Saturday and overnight also dropped five guided aerial bombs over the Kherson region, Ukraine's Operational Command South said in a Facebook post Sunday. According to the post, the bombs were launched from drones and aircraft and damaged multiple residential buildings, but caused no casualties.

Also in the Kherson region, two women, ages 85 and 57, were hospitalized after being wounded in a Russian artillery attack that damaged a local school and about 25 residential buildings in the village of Kizomys, Prokudin said in a Telegram post.

In the neighbouring Zaporizhzhia region, Russian shelling wounded a 56-year-old man in Stepnohorsk, a town on the banks of the Dnieper river; local Gov. Yuri Malashko wrote on Telegram. (AP).

## Countdown for BRS Government has begun: Amit Shah



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HYDERABAD: Countdown for the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS Government in Telangana has begun and the BJP's fight will not stop until the present regime is dethroned, Union Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday.

Addressing a public meeting titled "Vijay Sankalp Sabha" at Chevella near here, Shah said if BJP comes to power in Telangana, reservations for Muslims will be removed. Elections are due in the southern state later this year.

"The countdown for the ruling BRS in Telangana which has been running a corrupt government in the state for the last eight-nine years has begun," Shah said.

He alleged the entire world is watching the

public outrage against BRS (Bharat Rashtira Samiti) and KCR, as Rao is addressed.

BJP is forming government in Telangana and the corrupt will be put behind bars, he claimed.

"Telangana people have come to know about you ( KCR) and your family corruption. To divert attention they made TRS to BRS," Shah said about KCR recently renaming his founded party.

He charged policing and administration in Telangana have been completely politicised and welfare measures which are being extended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi are not percolating down to the grassroots.

Referring to the arrest of Telangana BJP president and Lok Sabha MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar recently in connection with the case of malpractice after a Class 10 board exam question paper surfaced in an instant messaging app, Shah said party workers won't be cowed down by such acts.

"He feels that BJP party workers will be scared if put behind bars. KCR listen, our workers are not scared of your atrocities. Our fight will not stop until you are dethroned," Shah charged, PTI VVK GDK GDK.

## India positions 2 IAF Aircrafts in Jeddah, ship at Port Sudan to evacuate Indians

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India has positioned two heavy-lift military transport aircraft in Jeddah and a naval ship at a key port in violence-hit Sudan as part of its contingency plans to evacuate stranded Indians from the African country.

In a related development, Saudi Arabia said it has evacuated from Sudan 66 citizens from "brotherly and friendly" foreign countries that included a few Indian nationals.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said contingency plans for evacuation of Indians have been put in place but noted that any movement on the ground would depend on the security situation.

It said the security situation in Sudan continues to be "volatile" with reports of fierce fighting coming from

various locations in the country's capital Khartoum.

The government on Friday said it was focusing on the safety of over 3,000 Indian citizens currently located throughout Sudan.

"As part of our preparations, and in order to move swiftly, the Government of India is pursuing multiple options," the MEA said in a statement on Sunday.

"Two Indian Air Force C-130J are currently positioned on standby in Jeddah. And, INS Sumedha has reached Port Sudan," it said.

"Contingency plans are in place but any movement on the ground would depend on the security situation, which continues to be volatile with reports of fierce fighting at various locations in Khartoum," the MEA said.

## Chhattisgarh earns record mineral revenue of Rs 12,941 cr in 2022-23

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh has earned record revenue of Rs 12,941 crore from minerals for the year 2022-23, a rise of Rs 636 crore from the previous fiscal, a state government official said on Sunday.

Iron ore fetched the highest Rs 3,607 crore followed by Rs 3,336 crore from coal, while Dantewada was the top-earning district in terms of mineral revenue, a press release from the state government said.

"Limestone and bauxite too fetched sizable revenue. Dantewada contributed Rs 6419 crore, followed by Korba Rs 2361 crore, Raigarh Rs 1717 crore, Balod Rs 760 crore, Baloda Bazar Rs 315 crore, Kanker Rs 286 crore and Surguja Rs 262 crore," an official said.

"The state government has auctioned 29 mineral blocks in Chhattisgarh on revenue

sharing mode, which in the coming years will fetch the state Rs 1 lakh crore," said Anurag Diwan, Joint Director, Geology and Mining.

For the first time under the revenue sharing system, the state government was able to earn Rs 52.52 lakh by participating in two limestone block auctions, the release said. Diwan said the state government's policy introduced in 2015-16 has facilitated e-auctioning of two major limestone blocks, namely Karhi Chandi in Balodabazar-Bhatapara district and Kesla in Raipur district. "The limestone production from these blocks commenced in 2022-23, and the government has received its share through a revenue-sharing mechanism that includes royalties, DMF, environment, and infrastructure charges, along with profits generated by the blocks," Diwan said.

## India transforming and will become third largest economy in world by 2030: VP Dhankhar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India is transforming and will become the third largest economy in the world by 2030, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Sunday.

Addressing a gathering at a state-level programme on saint Dhanna Bhagat's birth anniversary in Haryana's Kaithal, Dhankhar said India's prestige in the world has never been as high as it is now.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar also attended the event.

The vice president said the contributions of saints in the country's history have been tremendous.

"Today the country is witnessing something that was never imagined before.... India has become the fifth largest economy, surpassing the Britishers who had ruled us

for 200 years, and farmers and workers have a major contribution in this.

"By the end of this decade...India will be the third



largest economy on this planet," he said.

Dhankhar lauded the Haryana government for celebrating the birth anniversary of Dhanna Bhagat on a large scale.

At the event, Khattar announced that his government will install a big statue of Dhanna Bhagat in Dhanauri or a nearby area. He also announced that a medical college being constructed in

Kaithal will be named after Dhanna Bhagat.

Speaking at the event, the vice president said that farmers are the backbone of the country's economy and added more than Rs 2.25 lakh crore has been disbursed to more than 11 crore farmers under a government scheme.

He said that India is transforming, adding people are getting benefits at their doorstep due to technology.

Dhankhar also hailed the role played by religious leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our sants encouraged every person to help the needy during the COVID-19 pandemic and at that time, there was no crisis in our country...", he said.

Dhankhar, his wife and Khattar also offered prayers at Dhanna Bhagat temple in Dhanauri village.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has told a couple, who are software engineers seeking divorce, why don't they give a second chance to the marriage as both of them were not able to devote time to their union.

A bench of Justices K M Joseph and B V Nagarathna said, "Where is the time for marriage. Both of you are software engineers posted in Bengaluru. One goes to duty in the day and the other in the night. You have no regret for divorce but have regret for marriage. Why don't you give a second chance to the marriage."

Justice Nagarathna said that Bengaluru is not a place where divorces take place so frequently and the couple may give a chance towards their union.

However, the counsels for both the husband and wife told the bench that during the pendency of this petition the parties were referred to the Supreme Court Mediation

Centre in order to explore the possibility of a settlement between them.

The bench was informed that both husband and wife have agreed upon a settlement agreement in which they have decided to dissolve their marriage by a decree of divorce by mutual consent under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 on certain terms and conditions.

The counsels informed the bench that one of the terms being that the husband would pay a total sum of Rs 12.51 lakh towards full and final settlement of all monetary claims of the wife as a permanent alimony.

The bench noted in its order dated April 18, "When queried by this Court, the parties stated that they have indeed agreed to settle their disputes amicably by parting ways and seeking divorce by mutual consent. They also state that the terms of settlement would be adhered

to by them and hence the marriage may be dissolved by a decree of divorce by mutual consent."

The bench added that in the circumstances, "we have taken on record the settlement agreement as well as the application filed under Article 142 of the Constitution. We have perused the same. On perusal, we find that the terms of the settlement agreements are lawful and there is no legal impediment for accepting the terms of settlement."

It also took on record that the husband paid a total sum of Rs 12,51,000 to the petitioner-wife who has acknowledged the receipt of the demand drafts.

"In the circumstances, we exercise our power under Article 142 of the Constitution and dissolve the marriage between the parties by a decree of divorce by mutual consent under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955," the top court said.

## Lok Sabha Secretariat to hold Chintan Shivi'r for its staff

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha Secretariat will hold a series of "chintan shivirs" for its officers and staff members beginning Monday to bring more transparency and objectivity in its functioning.

A brainchild of Speaker Om Birla, the first two-day

brainstorming session will be inaugurated by Lok Sabha Secretary General Utpal Kumar Singh on Monday.

Nearly 250 officials from various services of the secretariat are expected to attend the "chintan shivir" on Monday.

According to a Lok Sabha Secretariat statement, the

broad objectives of the initiative are to encourage creative and innovative thinking, break down hierarchy and promote camaraderie, harness technology and out-of-box solutions, and to bring more transparency and objectivity in the functioning. The shivirs are also expected to energize and pro-

fessionalize the Lok Sabha Secretariat services, share best practices-learning from others, and upgrade knowledge and develop leadership.

"The deliberations are expected to provide a road map and an implementation plan for the secretariat," a senior Lok Sabha secretariat official said.

