



माँ महागौरी



BRIEF



Bollywood actors Shahid Kapoor and Mrunal Thakur pose for photos during a promotional event for their upcoming film Jersey, in New Delhi, Friday.

Coal seized

■ **Shillong:** Total 45,000 tons of illegally mined coal was seized in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district after the high court pulled up the state government for its failure to check illegal mining, officials said on Friday. The seizures were made over the last three weeks, they said. "Over 50,000 tons of coal was seized during the last three weeks. Of this, 45,000 tons was found to be illegal, while legal papers were available for 5,000 tons of coal," a senior official at the Directorate of Mineral Resources told PTI.

Five extremists held

■ **Hazaribag:** Five members of the outlawed Jharkhand Prastuti Committee (JPC) have been arrested from a forest area in Hazaribag district, a senior police officer said. Three rifles including one looted from the police, 30 live cartridges, 7.5 kg liquid gelatine, two pieces of detonators and an SUV were seized from their possession. Those arrested include the outfit's sub-zonal commander Harendra Ganju alias Netaji (23) and Area Commander Ishwar Dayal Mahto (27).

Infant mauled

■ **Saharanpur (UP):** A two-year-old infant was mauled to death by a stray dog in a village here, police said on Friday. Superintendent of police (Rural) Atul Sharma said, "A two-year-old daughter of a labourer was killed after being attacked by a stray dog. The incident was reported in Jhadwan village under Titron police station limits."

Patole meets Pawar

■ **Mumbai:** Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole on Friday said he met NCP president Sharad Pawar to discuss the misuse of Central agencies and the power crisis in the state. A meeting of MVA leaders on important issues will be scheduled soon, Patole told reporters after the meeting, which took place at Pawar's residence Silveroak in south Mumbai.

Weather
High 40 Low 26

MARKET
NIFTY 17,784.35
SENSEX 59,447.18

BULLION
GOLD 52,095
SILVER 66,850

Receiving foreign donation not an absolute right: SC

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Friday upheld the validity of certain amendments to the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, which came into effect in September 2020, saying "the strict regime had become essential because of the past experience of abuse and misutilisation of foreign contribution.

Observing that receiving foreign donations cannot be an absolute or even a vested right, the apex court said no one can be heard to claim a vested



right to accept the foreign donation because the theory of the possibility of the national polity being influenced by foreign contribution is globally recognised.

Upholding the amendments meant to strictly regulate the foreign funding of the NGOs, the top court noted many recipients of foreign contribu-

■ **Clears amendments to FCRA**

tions had not utilised the same for the purposes for which they were registered or granted prior permission under the Act and that many recipients had also failed to adhere to and fulfil the statutory compliances.

"...the strict regime had become essential because of the past experience of abuse and misutilisation of the foreign contribution' and cancellation of certificates of as many as 19,000 registered organisa-

tions on the ground of being grossly non-compliant, the apex court said.

A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar declared that the amended provisions namely, sections 7, 12(1A), 12A, and 17 of the 2010 Act, are intra vires the Constitution and the principal Act.

However, it read down section 12A and construed it as permitting the key functionaries or office bearers of the associations/NGOs, who are Indian nationals, to produce Indian passports for the purpose of their identification.

Terrorist Hafiz Saeed sentenced to 31 years in jail

New Delhi, Apr 08:

26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed was today sentenced to jail for 31 years by an anti-terror court in Pakistan.

Hafiz Saeed, the founder of the terror group Lashkar e Taiba and the chief of Jamaat ud Dawa, was sentenced in two cases. The court also ordered all his assets be seized and fined the UN-designated terrorist Rs 3,40,000. Reports suggest a mosque and madrassa that Hafiz Saeed allegedly built will be taken over.



Hafiz Saeed, 70, has been sentenced in multiple cases of terror financing in the past. In 2020, he was sentenced to 15 years in jail. He has spent years in and out of detention in varying forms in Pakistan, sometimes under house arrest. But he

roams freely across the country while addressing incendiary speeches targeting India with impunity. He was arrested in 2019, just before Pakistan PM Imran Khan's visit to the US. At the time, US President Donald Trump had tweeted that Saeed had been detained after a 10-year search.

Saeed was travelling to Gujranwala from Lahore to appear before an anti-terrorism court when he was arrested by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab.

Card-less cash withdrawal at all ATMs soon: RBI

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday proposed to make card-less cash withdrawal facility available across all banks and automated teller machine (ATM) networks using unified payments interface (UPI). "At present, the facility of card-less cash withdrawal through ATMs is limited only to a few banks. It is now proposed to make card-less cash withdrawal facility available across all banks and ATM networks using the UPI," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in his first monetary policy statement for the financial year 2022-23. Under the card-less cash withdrawal facility, a customer is not required to use his/her debit or credit cards while withdrawing cash from ATMs.

RAMADAN PRAYERS



Devotees leave after offering prayers during the holy month of Ramadan, at Jama Masjid in New Delhi, Friday.

Rahul calls for Opposition unity

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

Opposition parties against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the RSS should come together and discussions are ongoing on what should be its framework, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Friday after meeting RJD leader Sharad Yadav, whom he described as his "guru". Addressing the media at his house with the Congress leader by his side, Yadav said Gandhi should take over as the Congress president.

Asked if the Opposition must come together to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP),



Gandhi said, "Opposition parties that are against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Narendra Modi should come together. Discussions are ongoing on how they should come together, what should be the framework of it, and that has to be developed."

On whether Gandhi should become Congress president, Yadav said, "Why not? Rahul Gandhi works for the party 24x7 and I think he should become the president of the party. The Congress should make him president only then something big can happen."

When Gandhi was asked to comment on the issue, he parried the question, saying, "We will see about that." Describing Yadav as his "guru", Gandhi said Yadav was unwell for a long time, and he was happy to see him "fighting fit" now. "He has taught me a lot about politics," Gandhi added.

Pak oppn eyes Nawaz return, President Alvi's ouster

Islamabad, Mar 08, (PTI):

Pakistan's Opposition has completed its initial talks for the formation of a new government once Prime Minister Imran Khan is ousted on Saturday after the no-confidence motion and plans are afoot for the removal of President Arif Alvi and the return of deposed premier Nawaz Sharif from the United Kingdom, a media report said on Friday.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President and Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif, 70, who is the Opposition's candidate

for the new prime minister, will announce his possible government priorities after taking the oath.

In a landmark 5-0 verdict on Thursday, a five-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial ruled that National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri's ruling rejecting a no-confidence motion against Khan was "contrary to the Constitution and the law, and of no legal effect.

The apex court also declared the advice by the Prime Minister to President Alvi to dissolve the national assembly as "unconstitutional."

Paid booster shots for all adults from Sunday

New Delhi:

Precaution vaccination against Covid-19 will now be available to the 18+ population group from April 10 at private vaccination centres. Precautionary doses are called booster doses all over the world. Those who are 18 years of age and have completed 9 months after the administration of the second dose are eligible for precaution dose at private vaccination centres, the government said.

"The ongoing free vaccination programme through government vaccination centres for the first and second dose to the eligible population as well as precaution dose to health-care workers, frontline workers and 60+ population would continue and would be accelerated," the government added.

India successfully flight testes missile system SFDR booster



Odisha, Mar 08 (PTI):

India on Friday successfully flight tested Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet booster, a missile system, at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur off the Odisha coast.

The SFDR-based propulsion enables the missile to intercept aerial threats at

very long range at supersonic speeds, the Defence Research and Development Organisation said.

The test demonstrated reliable functioning of all critical components involved in the complex missile system and met all the mission objectives, it said.

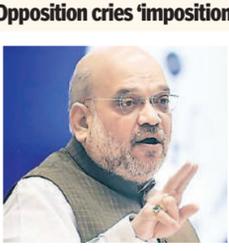
The performance of the system has been confirmed from the data captured by a number of instruments like telemetry, radar and electro Optical tracking systems deployed by ITR.

Amit Shah bats for Hindi as alternative to English

New Delhi, Apr 08:

Hindi should be accepted as an alternative to English and not to local languages, Union Home minister Amit Shah said on Friday. He made the remarks during the 37th meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee in New Delhi.

As per a statement issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), the Union Home minister suggested to the committee that it is time to carry out a revision of the Hindi



dictionary. He even mentioned that 70 per cent of the Union Cabinet's agenda is now prepared in Hindi. Union Home minister Amit Shah also stressed the need for "elementary knowledge of

Hindi for students up to 9th class" and "more attention to Hindi teaching examinations". "Time has come to make the Official Language an important part of the unity of the country. When people from states which speak other languages communicate with each other, it should be in the language of India. "Unless we make Hindi flexible by accepting words from other local languages, it will not be promoted," the Union Home minister said.

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HIGH KICK KRACKER

Creamfeast

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Whole Wheat DIGESTIVE

Twisty Tasty

Creamfeast

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60 minutes power cut ensures ample water supply to localities at tail-end

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: The positive effect of one hour power-cut every morning is visible now. Due to power-cut, the water pressure in taps has increased across all the zones of Bhilai Municipal Corporation. Even the taps situated at the tail end are getting ample water supply.

On the instructions of Mayor Neeraj Pal, Commissioner Prakash Surve and his team worked hard and the positive outcome is visible now. BMC has already geared up to deal with the drinking water crisis in the summer.

Mayor Neeraj Pal has instructed the officials to ensure sufficient water supply at every household during the summer. Every family should get enough water. The use of Tullu Pumps by numerous households had resulted in water crises in various localities.

Considering the public demand and on the basis of the report prepared by the Water Works Department,



BMC ensured one-hour power-cut in the morning across the city. Now the people are unable to use tullu pumps. This has increased the water pressure across the city. Now the taps located at the tail end are also getting sufficient water supply.

In view of the complaints received from common people, Commissioner Prakash Surve inspected the localities and slums in Sunder Nagar Ward Number 32 of Zone 3. During the morning visit, he interacted with the people and assured them to resolve the problems.

The women informed

him that the old pipeline laid by BSP has worn out at various places. Commissioner assured the residents that an action plan has been prepared for laying the pipeline under AMRUT Mission Phase-II. Works will be launched soon after completing the departmental process.

Commissioner directed the Zone Commissioner Yesha Lahere to continue to monitor and prevent the use of tullu pumps. He instructed the Sanitation Inspector Virendra Banjare to ensure regular sanitation activities. He asked the Zone Commissioner to supply

water through tankers to the places where water is not reaching yet.

Zone 3 Commissioner Yesha Lahare, Sub Engineer Krishna Kumar Janghel, Inspector Virendra Banjare, Bablu Ram Sahu, Shyam Thakur, Venkat and other employees were present.

It needs to be mentioned here that water was not reaching due to low pressure in Sector 11 Balaji Nagar, Subhash Nagar, Babu Nagar, Sonia Nagar and Gautam Nagar of Zone 4 area. Now due to the one-hour power cut, enough water is reaching every house.

Bereaved family refuses Rs 2 lakh compensation from contractor

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: On Friday, the bereaved family of the contract labour, who died in road mishap at BSP, refused to accept the compensation of Rs 2 lakh offered by the contractor. The principal employer, Bhilai Steel Plant provided an offer letter to provide compassionate appointment to one of the dependents of the deceased. Later, the family agreed to accept the mortal remains for conducting the last rites.

It could be recollected here that a contract labour of Bhilai Steel Plant was killed in a road mishap which occurred inside the plant premises on Thursday evening. Speeding earth moving equipment had crushed the cyclist labour to death. The incident occurred around 16:00 hrs on the road between Gas Holder Square to Oxygen Plant 2. The deceased was Leeladhar Swarnakar (53)

BSP gives offer letter of compassionate appointment



a resident of Prem Nagar, Camp-2, Chhawani. He worked as a painter for the contractor GP Electricals. He was travelling on a bicycle when a speeding Fowler Crane crushed him to death. He is survived by a son, daughter and family.

On Friday morning, the bereaved family accompanied with the neighbours and leaders of trade unions reached the Mortuary of Sector 9

Hospital and raised the demand of compassionate appointment and proper compensation.

CITU leader Yogesh Soni informed that the officials of Industrial Relations Department reached there and provided a letter of compassionate appointment to one of the dependents. Later, under the pressure of trade unions, the Contractor also reached there and negotiated with

the family. He made an offer of providing Rs 2 lakh compensation, which was rejected by the family. They were demanding a minimum of Rs 5 lakhs.

Later the family accepted the mortal remains of the deceased labour for conducting the last rites. Hindustan Ispat Theka Shramik Union leader Yogesh Soni, Jai Prakash Nair, Sanjay Sahu and other labour leaders were present.

Online cricket satta bookies arrested

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: Durg Police is continuously taking action against the people involved in illegal activities of betting and gambling. During the IPL season, Police are concentrating on people involved in online cricket betting. In this sequel, police nabbed two persons who were accepting online bets on the cricket match.

Inspector Gaurav Tiwari (I/c Cyber Cell) informed that they received a tip off regarding two suspects who were conducting an online cricket betting racket at Sector 6. Acting on this tip off, police conducted a raid at a house situated in Avenue-A, Sector 6 and caught two persons red handed while accepting bets on cricket matches.

The accused were identified as M Kishan Rao (28) son of M Venkat Rao a resident of Sector 6 and Baljeet Singh (38) son of



Late Charan Singh a resident of Sector 6.

The accused had downloaded online betting apps including Cricket Line Guru, Mobile Cricket Line and Crickline on their mobile phone. They were getting betting rates through these apps and were accepting bets from people for the match played between Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants.

Police seized three nos mobile phones and Rs 9900 cash from their possession.

Sub Inspector Rajiv Tiwari, ASI Purna Bahadur, Constable Anil Singh, Rinku Soni, Santosh Gupta, Panne Lal, Shahbaz Khan, Jugnu Singh, Anup Sharma and Shamim Khan played vital role in arresting the accused.

Development works worth Rs 23.60 cr in mining affected areas

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: Coaching of PSC and other competitive examinations will also be provided in the block headquarters. Considering the good response of the participants for the ongoing coaching of competitive examinations in the district headquarters, this decision was taken in the meeting of DMF held the other day.

Presiding over the Governing Council meeting of DMF, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure said that a big change can be brought in the educational scenario through DMF. It has been proposed to organise coaching at Block headquarters for the students

Coaching for competitive exams now at Block Headquarters too



preparing for NEET, engineering entrance examinations along with other competitive examinations and PSC. Further, the infrastructure of the library will also be improved. Maithilisharan Gupta reading room located in the district headquarters will be renovated.

Books and materials will be kept here for the preparation of competitive examinations. There will also be a facility for accommodating fifty students. Digital classroom solutions will be set up in 13 schools in mining affected areas so

that arrangements can be made to teach children in an innovative and digital mode. TML labs will be set up in 25 mining affected schools. The infrastructure of primary schools of 92 mining-affected villages will be improved and all possible facilities will be provided.

Proposals worth Rs 41.73 crore were placed in the meeting. Of these, proposals worth Rs 23.60 crore were for the areas directly affected by mining and Rs 18.13 crore for the areas indirectly affected by mining. District Panchayat

President Shalini Rivendra Yadav, Additional Collector Nupur Rashi Panna, District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan and other officers were present.

Units for jam, jelly, ketchup, rose extract, cow urine extract, tulsi extract etc will be established in Gauthans. Proposals were also made to expand livelihood activities in Gauthans. A proposal was tabled to manufacture rose extracts, basil extracts, cow urine extracts etc in Gauthan.

Proposals for incense sticks, incense sticks made

from cow dung, incense stands etc were also tabled. Food processing unit was also proposed for production of jam, jelly, and ketchup. Proposals for agricultural sprinklers etc were also placed.

Proposal for distribution of supplementary feed, distribution of nets etc was also proposed to promote fisheries. Decision was taken to distribute solar lights to 2000 beneficiary farmers engaged in community baadis. Fiber production unit from banana stems was proposed at Khiloraakala. SHGs in Thanaud, Kolihapuri, Changori etc will be trained for beekeeping.

In the meeting of DMF, a proposal was made to provide hot food to malnourished children and lactating mothers in Anganwadi. Rs 1.08 lakh will be spent for this project through DMF.

Divisional Commissioner lauds SHGs for their appreciable works at Gauthans



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: Nodal officers are inspecting the Gauthans under the two-day Gauthan Pahuch programme. According to the instructions of the state government, they are inspecting the activities happening in Gauthans of Durg district. On Friday, Durg Divisional Commissioner Mahadev Kavre visited various gram panchayats to explore the ground reality.

During the visit to gauthans at villages Risama and Matwari, he oversaw the arrangements made for the cattle. He inquired about the activities from women self-help groups and members of Village Gauthan Samiti. After seeking complete information about dung procurement and manure making, he gave many suggestions to make Gauthan as a livelihood center.

While inspecting all the activities of Gauthan, Kavre asked the members of the group to maintain accounts register, explore new means of livelihood by making better use of the

available space in Gauthan. In Risama Gauthan, he interacted with the members of Laxmi Mahila Self Help Group, Sheela Mahila Self Help Group and Sri Sri Mahila Self Help Group.

The women informed that last year a total of 606 quintals of manure were manufactured and sold. They earned Rs 53000, Rs 33000 and Rs 39000 respectively. The divisional commissioner expressed happiness and encouraged the women. He also appreciated the women for the activities at Baadi. He inspected the works of vermicompost, poultry, and fish farming in Matwari Gauthan.

Vermi compost was produced by the women of the Bihari group. Ankur Mahila Self Help Group earned Rs 42000 and Arpana Mahila Self Help Group earned Rs 19000. Ashtangi Mata Mahila Self Help Group earned Rs 45000 from poultry farming and Abhilasha Mahila Self Help Group earned Rs 20000 from fisheries.

Joint Director (Agriculture) RK Rathore, Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat Durg

Shailesh Bhagat, ADEO Manoj Dewangan, members of women's group, members of Village Gauthan Committee and field staff of various departments were present.

Shailesh Bhagat, CEO, Janpad Panchayat Durg said that the inspection of all the Gauthans of Janpad Panchayat is being done by the Nodal Officer. They will prepare a report and submit it to respective Janpad Panchayats. This work is being done to collect information about the benefits of Gauthans. CEO Janpad Panchayat further informed that as per the guidelines of the government, Gauthans have been constructed in the village panchayats and urban areas of the district and various economic activities including vermin compost production, sack making, vegetable production, poultry farming, quail rearing, fish farming and other seasonal activities are being conducted. Cow dung is being procured by the Village Gauthan Samitis. District level nodal officers have been appointed to look after all these works.

Five including two junk dealers arrested for theft

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: Police have arrested three ruffians on charges of committing theft at a factory-M/s Dhiraj Traders Company located in Light Industrial Area. Two junk dealers were also arrested for purchasing the stolen booty. Police have recovered the machine parts worth Rs 5 lakhs from the possession of the accused.

CSP (Old Bhilai) Vishwas Chandrakar informed that Khursipar Police Station had received a complaint regarding theft at M/s Dhiraj Traders Company. During investigation, police examined the CCTV footage and found three unknown persons trespassing into the factory and escaping with the machine parts.

As the footage was not clear, police activated its network of informers and soon a suspect Salmaan of Machli Market Khursipar was taken in custody. During interrogation, he confessed to have committed the crime. He disclosed the names of his accomplices Vivek and Chandan as well as the junk dealers who purchased the stolen items.



All the accused were arrested under the provisions mentioned in section 457, 380, 411, 34 of IPC. The accused are identified as Salmaan Khan (19) of Machli Market Khursipar; Vivek Yadav (29) of Machli Market Khursipar and Chandan alias Kallu (27) a resident of Machli Market Khursipar.

The arrested junk dealers are Mahendra Sahni (74) of Machli Market Khursipar and Jwala Singh (48) of Panch Rasta Supela. Inspector Durgesh Sharma (SHO, Khursipar), Sub Inspector Satish Sahu, Constable Rakesh Chaudhary, D Prakash and Subhash Chand played vital roles in arresting the accused.

KH Memorial School celebrates World Health Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: On the occasion of "World Health Day", a special assembly was organized at KH Memorial School. Principal Vibha Jha gave tips to the students to stay healthy and fit. Dr Vikas Verma conducted the health checkup of all the students. In the special assembly, the students explained the importance of "World Health Day" through Poems, Slogans and Drama.

Principal Vibha Jha said that the purpose of celebrating "World Health Day" is that every person in the world should have access to good health facilities. People should be health conscious. Aware citizens can help in prevention of diseases across the globe.

She further said that presently the entire world is struggling against coronavirus infection, pollution and other dangerous diseases. In such a situation, it is very important to be health conscious. This year's theme of World Health Day was 'Our planet, our health'.

Director Nishchay Jha and Academic Director Shrishti Jha also addressed the students and asked them to be always aware of their health. The students presented



cultural programmes. Class 5 student Ishika Devangan presented a song on the importance of World Health Day. Devika of class-12 delivered a speech on the concerned topic. Class 8 and 9 students Deepti Yadav, Akanksha Dubey, Rashi Shukla, Riya Vishwakarma, Isha Suryavanshi, Omkar Prasad and others gave slogans for health awareness. Class 2 to 5 students Shikha, Ishant, Pawan, Aditi, Gurveer, Vivek, Aadhy, Yash, Aaradhy, Yasir, Anshika and Mansi presented a drama.

Later, Dr Vikas Verma and his colleague RN Rama Rao conducted the health checkup of all the students. He checked the body weight of the students and detailed them

about a balanced diet. He asked them to consume plenty of pulses, green vegetables, roti, paratha, milk, porridge, soybean, fresh fruits, gram, groundnut, jaggery etc in the food.

Dr Verma suggested the students to drink plenty of water. He added that physical activities like exercise, gardening, cycling, jogging, running etc are also important for good health.

Rupesh Choudhary, TG Rao, Monalisa Roy Chowdhury, Anjana Soni, Purnima Dubey, Sujata Sahu, Rajni Pandey, Sonal Jaiswal, Sadhna, Kamaljit Kaur, Monika Srivastava, Rashmi Jaiswal, Ramita Yadav, Jagriti Yadav, Sanjeet Paswan, Hitesh Kumar and other teachers were present.

BJP should disclose whether it can pay MSP on paddy in line with Cong: Baghel



Addresses huge gathering in Gram Jalbandha for Khairagarh by-poll

Central Chronicle News

Rajnandgaon, Apr 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is addressing series of public meetings in different parts of

Khairagarh VS area for the by-poll on April 12 and he started the fifth day of his electioneering from Gram Jalbandha.

CM Bhupesh Baghel on reaching the dais first beg apology from the public for coming late. Addressing the public meeting, CM Baghel made an appeal to all the voters to vote in favour of party's candidate Yashoda Verma

and in favour of Congress party. On this occasion he reiterated party's promise in its election manifesto to form new District of Khairagarh and making Jalbandha as sub-tehsil.

Giving reply on arrival of CM of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan for campaigning for BJP in Khairagarh by-poll in novel way, CM Baghel said that how is it possible that

'Mama' can face 'Kaka', as 'Kaka' is still alive. Baghel said that he should come here and talk about Raman Singh and the scams in his state and questioned as to whether they can pay the MSP on paddy which his government is paying to the farmers.

Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey also addressed in the election campaign in Jalbandha area for Khairagarh by-poll and gave information about various pro-farmer schemes being run by the state government and he held the Centre's Modi government and state's ex-CM Raman Singh as anti-farmer. He made an appeal to all present to vote in favour of party's candidate Yashoda Verma and ensure her with resounding victory.

COLOURFUL PROGRAMME



Students of St. Vincent Pallotti College presented colourful cultural programme here on Friday.

About 1000 Transport Facilitation Centers to be set up in the State

Chief Minister had announced on January 26

Raipur, Apr 08: In order to provide easy and near to home transportation related services in Chhattisgarh, the process of opening Transport Facilitation Centers across the state has been approved. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had made an announcement on January 26 for the establishment of Transport Facilitation Centers across the state to expand the transport related services. After the announcement of Chief Minister Mr. Baghel, the process was started in this regard.

During this, a draft was prepared by the Transport Department regarding the establishment and role of Transport Facilitation Center. After approving this draft, the process has been started for further action. According to the issued guidelines, about one thousand transport facility centers can be opened across the state. At the same time, the possibility of employment generation for about five thousand youth will also be created with the establishment of transport facilities. According to the information received from the department, the Transport Facilitation Center can be authorized to make a learning license according to the Gazette No. 240 (A)

of the Government of India issued on March 31, 2021. In order to give employment-oriented nature to this vision, it has been decided to establish a Transport Facilitation Center in Chhattisgarh. The biggest benefit of the establishment of transport facility centers in the state will be to the general public. Till now, due to lack of correct information, a large number of people have been applying for transportation related service by contacting unauthorized agents. Due to which they have to suffer financial loss in addition to taking more time. There will be no need to visit unauthorized agents for transport related facilities.

Take immediate action on the recommendation of the Third State Finance Commission: Minj

Raipur, Apr 08: The first meeting was held by the State Finance Commission with the departments related to the Finance Commission on April 5th. The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of the State Finance Commission, Mr. Sergius Minz. In the meeting, Mr. Minj directed all the departments concerned to take prompt action on the valid recommendations of the Third State Finance Commission and follow them up and send the report to the Commission at the earliest. In the meeting, it was informed by the Commission that software is being prepared to collect information from Panchayat and urban bodies. The Panchayat and Urban Administration

Department was asked to cooperate in uploading the information in this software. Finance Secretary Mrs. Alarmel Mangai D informed that action is in progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third State Finance Commission. In the meeting, the commission has been asked to cooperate with the commissioner of the higher education department in the study works related to the commission's work area to be completed within a period of three months. The Commissioner of Panchayat Department, Commissioner and Director of Higher Education Department, Secretary of State Finance Commission were present in the meeting.

Four caught playing satta during IPL matches

Raipur, Apr 08: Police have arrested four persons playing satta during IPL matches in different police station areas of the capital. Mobiles and cash have been seized from them. Acting on a tip of by an informer the police conducted raid at Satti Bazar. Phawwara Chowk resident Vijay Jain and Pawan Sakhre, were caught playing satta online. Two mobiles and cash of Rs 12,500 were recovered from their possession.

Meanwhile DD Nagar Police arrested Sachin Kumar Chidhad, a resident of Bandhwapara, who was operating online satta in a paan shop in Kushalpur area. Two mobiles and Rs 11,300 in cash were seized

from his possession. Similarly, the police arrested Kharora resident Tarachand Yadav and seized a mobile phone and Rs 10,000 in cash from him.

The Anti Crime and Cyber ??Unit team caught a person red handed while he was operating online satta under the Kharora police station. It was learned that a person was playing satta with an ID in his mobile phone in a street located in Ward No. 08, during the match between Lucknow Super Giants vs Delhi Capitals. The joint team of Anti Crime and Cyber ??Unit and Police Station Kharora caught him red handed at the place mentioned by an informer.

During interrogation the arrested person revealed his name as Tarachand Yadav resident Kharora Raipur.

After checking the mobile phone of the arrested person, police found that he was operating satta in a cricket match by adding an ID from Instagram to the Mahadev app. During interrogation he confessed of having conducted online satta in cricket match by taking ID in his mobile phone. One mobile phone and cash of Rs 10000 were recovered from his possession. With registration of offense under Section 4 (a) of the Gambling Act, action was also taken under separate prohibitory sections against him in Kharora police station.

Contract electricity worker killed in accident

Raipur, Apr 08: An electricity worker who had come to Raipur to participate in ongoing strike of contract electricity workers in Raipur was killed in a road accident. He was killed after he was hit on his bike by an SUV vehicle. The accident took place on late Thursday night when he was returning from Mana along with two others on a bike. Meanwhile a fortuner car coming behind him hit the bike. The deceased identified as Baliram had gone to Mana area with two other youth. After being hit by fortuner car all three of them fell on ground. Speeding fortuner car then ran over Baliram and fled. Two youths who were coming along with Baliram said that they rushed him to Hospital in a bid to save his life after accident but he died.

Contract electricity workers from different districts of Chhattisgarh suddenly gathered behind Ambedkar

Hospital on Friday afternoon. Police were also stunned to see contractual employees gathered outside the mortuary building. The top officers immediately reached the spot and started talking to the employees. In fact the employees were planning to agitate at the same place due to death of their colleague in road accident.

Infuriated over the accident the contract electricity workers gathered outside post mortem house of mortuary. After persuasion by the police officers, a delegation of these contractual electricians agreed to meet the administrative officers. Now all are demanding that due to this death of Baliram, a family member should be given compassionate appointment and a compensation of Rs 15 lakh should be released. Contract electricity workers started agitation in support of demand for regularisation.

21000 houses approved in the state under the housing mission for all



Raipur, Apr 08: Under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Amitabh Jain, a meeting of the State Level Approval and Monitoring Committee of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Housing for All Mission (Urban) was held at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan on Friday. In the meeting, Chief Secretary Jain said that

21,340 houses have been approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee in 126 urban bodies under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Housing for All Mission (Urban) in the state. He directed to determine the priority basis for allot-

ment of houses under the scheme. He clearly said in the meeting that the beneficiaries who have booked accommodation earlier, should be allotted accommodation on priority basis. It was informed in the meeting that 21,340 houses would be constructed under the Housing for All (Urban) scheme in 126 urban areas of the state at a cost of Rs 644 crore 17 lakh 54 thousand. 320 crore 10 lakh central share and 176 crore two lakh four thousand rupees state share will be there in the scheme. The contribution of the beneficiaries will be Rs 168 crore five lakh 49 thousand.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), other topics were discussed in the meeting including rental houses at concessional rates, self-construction of housing by the beneficiary, affordable housing construction in partnership. In the meeting, Secretary of Urban Administration Department, Ms. Alarmel Mangai D., Secretary of Revenue and Disaster Management Department Mr. N.N.Akka, Commissioner Chhattisgarh Home Construction Board Mr. Ayaz Tamboli, Director Village and City Investment Mr. Jaiprakash Maurya, State Urban Development Agency. Representatives of HUDCO, Indian Oil Corporation along with Chief Executive Officer Mr. Saumil Ranjan Choubey participated.



Former Governor Shekhar Dutt calls on Chhattisgarh Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey

Raipur, Apr 08: Former Governor of Chhattisgarh, Shekhar Dutt had a courtesy call on Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey at Chhattisgarh Bhawan in Delhi. Mr. Dutt, while discussing various subjects of the country and state with Governor Ms. Uikey, also discussed the present economic, social situation and law and order of Chhattisgarh in detail. On this occasion, Governor Ms. Uikey honoured Mr. Dutt with a shawl and a memento. Former Governor Shekhar Dutt also presented a collection of poetry to Ms. Uikey.

Dr. Ram Sundar Das inaugurates state level Manas singing competition



In Shivrinayan State level Manas singing competition from April 8 to 10

Raipur, Apr 08: Mahant Dr. Ram Sundar Das, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Gauseva Aayog, on Friday inaugurated the three-day state level Manas Mandali competition at the fair ground of Shivrinayan. State level competition for singing of Ramayana troupes at Shivrinayan, a famous pilgrimage site of Janjgir-Champa district, was organized from April 8 to 10, on the occasion of the inauguration of the first phase of develop-

ment works completed in the famous pilgrimage Shivrinayan under Ram Navami and Ram Van Gaman tourism circuit. In the state level Manas singing competition, about 350 artists from selected Manas circles of 25 districts will give their presentations in the state level competition on April 8-9 and 10.

At the conclusion of the competition, on April 10, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will reward the Ramayana congregations who came first three places in the competition. First prize Rs 5 lakh, second prize Rs 3 lakh and third prize Rs 2 lakh will be given to the winners.

Work of setting up rural industry centers to start soon in Ch'garh

Raipur, Apr 08: With a view to create employment opportunities in villages and prepare roadmap for establishment of Rural Industries Centers under Rural Industrial Park, a flagship scheme to connect farmers, youth, women with innovation and entrepreneurship in their own villages a workshop was organised by the State Planning Commission at Yojana Bhawan, Nava Raipur on Friday.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the field implementation of Rural Industries Centers. On the basis of suggestions given by the officers of various departments on the implementation and operation of the Rural Industrial Park, an intense discussion on finalizing the strategy for the upcoming implementation of the scheme



was held at the workshop. Presiding over the programme State Planning Commission Vice Chairman

Ajay Singh, said that the most important topic in the manifesto of the government was the flagship scheme of farmers

and Narva, Garwa, Ghurva, Bari, whose expansion and implementation at the ground level is being done in a planned manner. Discussions about the successful implementation of this scheme are being held at the national and international level.

Teams from other states are constantly coming for study to implement the plan of the state. The Government of Chhattisgarh is realizing the Gram Swaraj as envisioned by Gandhiji. According to Singh it has been planned to make Gouthans as focal point of rural economy in form of Rural Industrial Park with arrangements for collection, production, processing and marketing at the local level. Its primary objective is to connect young

farmers with enterprise innovation, to give direction to the educated youth of the village who want to do some startups by staying in the village and to strengthen the rural economy.

Adviser to the Chief Minister Pradeep Sharma told through a presentation that the government wants to establish Gouthans as the backbone of the rural economy. In the first phase, work related to cow promotion, protection and Godhan Nyay Yojana has been done in Gouthans. Now the development of Rural Industrial Park is targeted in the second phase.

As many as 85 thousand women have produced 56 lakh quintals of cow dung manure, the highest in the country and 20 lakh quintals of organic fertilizers have been produced in

Gouthans. With this work women's groups have earned an income of Rs 36 crore so far. The Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana has enriched the farmers of the state. Rural Industrial Park is the flagship to inspire the young generation of farmers for enterprise. He said that land, electricity, water, shed, banking linkage, training and skill up-gradation, storage, commercial facility would be developed for Rural Industrial Park (RIPA). Under this scheme, Nava Sevagram Society at the state level, Gandhi Gram at the district level, Rural Economic Zone at the block level, Rural Industrial Park at the panchayat level will work by creating a channel.

In the Q&A session, representative officers of various

departments of the state spoke on different topics, including importance of special rural industrial parks in tribal areas, training and skill upgradation, assurance of employment, production according to market demand, quality standards and development and put questions and suggestions on many points on the basis of infrastructure, relaxation in procurement and storage rules, transportation and regional importance.

Rural Industrial Park Principal Director Dr Alok Shukla stressed the need to work keeping in view the implementation and effectiveness of the scheme at the ground level. All the departments have to ensure that the trainees get 100% employment

in the areas where they are getting training. For this it is necessary that product meets the standard of quality, so that it can be useful to the consumers in the market.

The objective of the Rural Industrial Park scheme is to prepare the villages to operate a strong economy. Rural youth should get employment in villages, they should be inspired towards innovation and they should be encouraged to set up enterprises. To fulfill this objective, it is necessary to work on employment oriented policies. Officers of all the departments of the state government and representatives of institutions, colleges and agencies working closely with the government in important flagship schemes were present.

Ensure proper supply of drinking water: Chief Secretary

● Chief Secretary held a meeting of commissioners and collectors through video conferencing

Central Chronicle News



Chief Secretary held a meeting of commissioners and collectors through video conferencing. He reviewed the implementation of important schemes of the government by holding a meeting of the State Commissioners, Collectors and Chief Executive Officers of District Panchayats through video conferencing from Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan here.

The Chief Secretary mainly asked the Collectors that such arrangements should be made so that there is continuous supply of drinking water during the summer season. He has directed to maintain continuous monitoring of drinking water supply in rural and urban areas. He has

said that all necessary work should be done for cleanliness and purification around drinking water sources. There should be continuous monitoring of hand pumps, tube wells, tap-water and water harvesting schemes in all areas, where repairs, rectifications are required, they should be done immediately.

For this, instructions have been given to the officials of Rural and Panchayat Department and Urban Administration Department to form teams in all areas and provide them all necessary resources. The Chief Secretary has asked the

officers of Urban Administration, Public Health Engineering, Panchayat and Rural Development, Revenue and Public Health and Family Welfare Departments to work in coordination. He has given instructions to make proper arrangements to deal with heat-wave, water crisis in summer.

The Chief Secretary said that in the past, the commissioners were instructed to visit the Tehsil level regarding the status of disposal of revenue cases. The commissioners have done a good job in this regard. The commissioner is constantly visiting the tehsils and reviewing the resolution of revenue cases. The Chief Secretary directed the officers of the Revenue Department to record 100 percent reasons for the external revenue cases within the time-limit in the portal. Similarly, the revenue officers have been asked to prepare an action plan for the purification of the records of the land received under the revenue head and their use. The Chief Secretary has directed the Panchayat and Rural Development Department to work faster regarding the OBC census. Similarly, in the urban areas where OBC census has not been done, the officials of the Urban Administration Department were instructed to take appropriate action to do the calculation and to make 100% ration cards of OBC beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the district wise paddy lifting from the paddy procurement centers and directed to ensure immediate lifting of

the remaining paddy from the offtake. Similarly, district-wise review of depositing rice in Food Corporation of India as per the target. Principal Secretary Health and Family Welfare Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Urban Administration Secretary Mrs. Alarmel Mangai D., Secretary Water Resources, Anbalgan P., Revenue Secretary, N.N.Akka, Secretary General Administration Department Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, Secretary, Food Department, Mr. Topeshwar Verma, Secretary Public Health Engineering Mr. Dhananjay Devangan, Managing Director Chhattisgarh State Civil Supplies Corporation Mr. Niranjan Das, MD of Markfed Ms. Kiran Kaushal, Commissioner Land Records Mr. Dharmesh Sahu and officials of other departments including PHE, Rural Development Department were present.

ROADS ENCROACHED



Large number of heavy vehicles have been parked in the service lane of city's six-lane road, be it Ring Road or those in the industrial area of city and administration is not taking any action.

Prof. Manish Srivastava nominated

Bilaspur, Apr 08: Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), Prof. Manish Srivastava, Department of English and Foreign Languages

has been nominated by the competent authority for the preparation and printing of the University's Annual Report 2021-2022 in Hindi and English language.

The Chairman of the Annual Report 2021-2022 will form the editorial board, according to the need, after the approval from the competent authority.

School children will get free textbooks

Distribution to start from April 18 in government and aided schools

Raipur, Apr 08: For the education session 2022-23, Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation has prepared an action plan for the distribution of Hindi medium text books of class I to X in government and aided schools. According to which free textbooks of Hindi medium of class 9th and 10th of government and aided schools will be distributed at the high school level.

In this regard, the work of distribution of textbooks will be started from April 18, in case Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation receives district wise student numbers from Divisional Joint Director School Education. According to the

number of students received district wise, and as per the data uploaded online by the NIC branch of the Text Book Corporation Headquarters, all the depot in-charges of the Corporation will ensure the distribution of the text books. Text books will be distributed in 5,540 packages, 4,720 high schools through 6 depots of Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation. Distribution of free text books from class 1st to 10th will be done to government and aided schools between April 18 and May 31 on the basis of utility of textbooks.

Distribution of free text books will be started in class 9th and 10th government and aided schools. The distribution will be done keeping in mind the number of 4,720 high schools. After distribution in high schools, 5,540 packages will

be distributed to the students of classes I to VIII. On completion of distribution of textbooks in government-aided schools, distribution of textbooks to private schools will be done from 6 permanent depots of the corporation. The distribution and transportation of text books will be operated on Sundays and other government holidays. If less or more text books are received than the prescribed number, then only after mentioning this, the acknowledgment should be made available to the transporter. The information of more or less found in the bundles of textbooks of a particular class will have to be given to the distribution in-charge immediately. After receiving the approval of the text books, all the responsibility will be of the recipient on the complaint of less or more text books.

Collector Raigarh conducts review visit of NTPC Talaipalli Project

Central Chronicle News

Talaipalli, (Raigarh) Apr 08: Bhim Singh (IAS) District Collector and District Magistrate Raigarh reviewed NTPC Talaipalli Coal Mining Project visited the project affected village Raikera on April 7th for public hearing. Bhim Singh held a review meeting with the officials of the Talaipalli coal mining project.

On the tour, Bhim Singh (IAS) District Collector Raigarh held a public hearing in the project affected village Raikera. During the public hearing, the Collector stressed on completing the construction of the railway line from NTPC Talaipalli to Lara project at the earliest. With the completion of the railway

line, coal can be easily transported to the Lara project in a pollution-free manner without harming the environment. The Collector inquired about the problems of the sarpanch's and villagers of the project affected villages, assured for quick solution, and expected meaningful cooperation from the villagers. During the hearing, Bhim Singh (IAS) directed the villagers who have received compensation to expedite vacating the houses. To run the works of NTPC Talaipalli, he also directed to provide support & cooperation to the sarpanch's and public representatives of the project affected villages so that all the stalled work related to the project can be started expeditiously. The Collector told

the villagers that the NTPC Talaipalli project has been discharging its corporate social responsibilities towards the society very well and is always striving for the development of the project affected villages. The Collector also appreciated the development work being carried out by NTPC Talaipalli. During the interaction, Bhim Singh, (IAS) District Collector, Surya Kanta Ray, Business Unit Head NTPC Talaipalli, Head of Department, Sub-Divisional Officer (Revenue) Gharghoda, Naib Tehsildar Gharghoda, other officers of Raigarh, Janpad Panchayat Members and Sarpanch and public representatives of the project affected villages were present.

Weeklong Bhagwat Katha begins

● Kalash Shobha Yatra taken out from Narheshwar Mandir to Pujari Park on 1st day



Raipur, Apr 08: The weeklong Bhagwat Katha has been organized from 7th April to 13th April at Pujari Park, Pachpedi Naka Raipur. The Bhagwat Katha began today with Kalash Shobhayatra from Narheshwar Mandir premises to Pujari Park. As many as 150 women participated in Kalash Yatra. Srimad Bhagwat Katha head Amitabh Agrawal and Kamal Agrawal said that first day of weeklong Bhagwat Katha was marked with observance of Prakatya Utsav of Yamuna today.

Srimad Bhagwat Katha Pariwar campaign head Dilip Kedia and Rajendra Parakh said that Srihit Lalitvallahacharya Nagarch ji from Vrindavan Dham recited Srimad Bhagwat Katha on the first day. According to Srihit Lalitvallahacharya Nagarch ji

Satsang is the holy bath of the conscience. Vallabhacharya gave first position to Chhattisgarh in Champaran. Moreover service of the scripture is the service to the God. Devotees across entire Chhattisgarh state took part in the first day of this religious event. Prasad was distributed at the end of first day of this religious event. Prominent among those present were Rajiv Mundra, Dr Manoj Pandey, Rajesh Sharma, Ghanshyam Agrawal, Pawan Agrawal, Muktesh Agrawal, Satish Shukla and members of Srimad Bhagwatkatha Pariwar. Tectical of Srimadbhagwat Rachna, Devrishi Narad, Purva Janma Prasang, Kunti Stuti, Bishma Stuti, Raja Parikshit Janma and arrival of Shukdev Muni would be held on Friday on 8th April.

New chain of tourism pilgrimages taking shape in Chhattisgarh



Raipur, Apr 08: Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit Project has been started by the Chhattisgarh government to preserve the memories of the exile period of Lord Shri Ram associated with Chhattisgarh and to promote culture and tourism. To this end nine tourist pilgrimages selected in the first phase are being rejuvenated rapidly. Apart from attractive land scap-



ing of all these tourist pilgrimages, facilities for tourists are also being developed under this project.

Sites related to the exile period of Lord Ram are being conserved and developed from Koriya district of North Chhattisgarh to

Sukma district of South Chhattisgarh under this project of Rs 139 crore. After Chandkhuri, now development work has been completed in Shivrinarayan too, which will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel on 10th April. For this, the three-day grand ceremony will begin on 8th April.

Construction of Ram Vanagaman Tourist Circuit was started in the year 2019 with Bhoomi Pujan at Mata Kaushalya Temple in Chandkhuri at the hands of Chief Minister Baghel. The places coming in this circuit are being decorated and beautified according to the theme of Ramayana. With this ambitious scheme of Chhattisgarh government, the future generation will get the opportunity to get acquainted with its Sanatan culture and tourists of the country and abroad will also get high standard facilities.

Somesh Patel honored with Media Excellence Award 2022

● A senior journalist from Ch'garh

Raipur, Apr 08: The grand event of Media Excellence Awards 2022 was held in Delhi last evening. In this event, more than 15 eminent government officers of the country and those who achieved outstanding performance and achievements in their field of work were felicitated. In which Professor Sanjay Dwivedi, Director General, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi, Dr. Sandeep Marwah, Media Personality and Chancellor,



AAFT University honored along with Arun Sharma, President Media Federation of India. Somesh Patel, a senior journalist from Chhattisgarh, has been honored with this honor for his distinguished achievement

in the field of journalism in this event. It is worth mentioning that Somesh Kumar published news drawing attention towards relief and facilities of the people through ground reporting during the outbreak of covid 19.

He constantly stood at ground zero and without caring about his life, he kept helping people through his news. Apart from this, excellent journalism is being done by him in Chhattisgarh for a long time. Not only in this award, not only in the country but also abroad, eminent people presented their expression towards online participation through Zoom, in which Dr. Nirmla M. Adhikari Co-Acharya Kathmandu University Nepal, Ms. Lise Olsen, Senior Investigative Journalists Editor, Texas Observer USA, Ms. Gina Wildo

CU students visit to Narmada Drinks Industry

Bilaspur, Apr 08: Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), to get practical knowledge and to give an insight about the way things work in the real-life scenario, the Industry Institute Interaction Cell of SoS, Engineering and Technology and Department of Industrial & Production Engineering, GGV (Central University) has jointly organized one day Industrial visit for B.Tech IV Sem Industrial and Production Engineering Students on April 4 at Narmada Drinks Private

Limited located at Parsada Sircitti, Industrial Area, Sector B, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh 495004. The General Manager, S. P. Chauhan has provided permission for this visit. Visit was started at 10:00 AM from new IT building. The students have reached at Narmada Drinks Pvt. Limited, Bilaspur 10.40 AM by the University bus. Moreover, during the visit, the following faculty members of department of Industrial and Production Engineering were accompanied, Arpita Roy

Chowdhary (IPE Department), Kawal Lal Kurrey (IPE Department), Kailash Kumar Borkar (IPE Department). Students held interaction with the engineers & staff of Narmada Drinks Pvt. Limited, they have explained the detailed operational activities of the industry to young students. After visiting the entire plant, the students reached to GGV Campus at near about 2.00 PM. The basic aim of this industrial visit is to provide the practical knowledge of how a busi-

ness can be started and what are the real life challenges being faced that can only be learnt through have practical experience from these kind of industrial visits. Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Vice Chancellor of GGV, Bilaspur always encourages to conduct these kinds of activities in different teaching departments. III Cell and Department of Industrial and Production Engineering extend warm thanks to HVC Sir, Registrar Sir and administration of GGV for their support and motivation.

Three days State Level Inter-College competition Arohan 2022 began

Raipur, Apr 08: Inaugural Ceremony marks beginning of Arohan 2022, the three days state level inter college sports competition and in this chief guest Dr. Umesh Mishra lights up Arohan, 2022 cauldron.

In this three-days state level inter-college sports competition more than 1000 players from 32 districts of the Chhattisgarh state take participation, in which 6 types of sports are being organized, namely Chess, Table Tennis, Badminton, Volleyball, Basketball and Carrom.

With the main purpose of organizing Arohan 2022, began to provide a platform for encouraging the talent of the students of our state not only at national level but also in international level and make the name of the state proud as well as trying to reach the new heights of our youth today and



tomorrow's future through sports, Dr. Pratp Singh, Registrar of the Shri Rawatpura Sarkar University, said. Mr. G.S Bamba, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Sports Association, special guest of the inaugural ceremony Arohan2022, through blessing the Shri Ravishankar Maharaj Ji, chancellor of the University and Chairman of Shri

Rawatpura Sarkar Loka Kalyan Trust, said that he feel very graceful to see that this is a very great opportunity to enhance the sportsmanship not only at the university level as well as at state level and national level, and this is the first ever initiative taken by any private university in our state. Our Chief Guest of the event Dr.

Umesh Mishra, head of Chhattisgarh Private Universities Regulatory Commission (CGPURC), said that the great platform provided by the University in the field of sports, students have to give complete dedication and take consummate advantage of this type of platform to prove their self in the field of sports. Dr. Mishra also said that, "A Healthy Body Reside in Healthy Mind". Students who want to become success in all aspects of life, fit body is too much important that is mainly maintain by continue playing sports, which is also helpful to stay away us from all types of diseases. At the end of the inaugural ceremony, lighting the Arohan 2022 cauldron NCC Cadet taken the Lighting torch revolves around the University Campus while everybody stand up in arena.

Warm welcome accorded to CM Bhupesh Baghel

On his arrival at Narayanpur



Central Chronicle News

Narayanpur, Apr 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival at Narayanpur today. Baghel was welcomed by the local artists of the district with a mesmerizing dance performance showcasing the traditional tribal culture. Chief Minister

Baghel was on a day-long visit to Narayanpur today. Bastar MP Deepak Baij, Chairman of Handicraft Development Board and MLA Chandan Kashyap, Zila Panchayat President Shyambati Netam, Municipality President Sunita Manjhi, Zila Panchayat Vice President Devnath Usendi were present on the occasion. The

local people's representatives, women organizations and villagers, present on the occasion, gave a warm welcome to Chief Minister Baghel. IG Sundarraj P, Collector Rituraj Raghuvanshi, Superintendent of Police Sadanand Kumar, along with other officers and public representatives of the area were also present.

CM Baghel unveils devp works worth Rs 127.83 cr

- For the residents of Narayanpur district
- Distribution of 'masahati khasra' to 500 farmers of newly surveyed village
- As many as 251 couples tied nuptial knot in a mass marriage program organized today

Central Chronicle News

Narayanpur, Apr 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today unveiled as many as 101 development works worth Rs 127.83 cr for the residents of Narayanpur, during his Narayanpur visit today. Baghel inaugurated 46 development works costing Rs 72.08 cr and performed bhoomi puja of 55 development works worth Rs 55.75 cr. Moreover, under Kanya Vivah Yojna, 251 newly married couples tied nuptial knots and took blessings of Chief Minister.



At the programme, Baghel also distributed cheques and goods to the beneficiaries of various government schemes. In this program organized at the Children's Higher Secondary School Sports Ground, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel distributed masahati pattas to the 500 farmers of Abujmad area, distributed hearing aids, tricycle, battery operated tricycles, Divyangjan unique identification card, amount under National Family Assistance Scheme to 36 beneficiaries of Social

Welfare Department, 100 units of Tussar basic reeling machine to the beneficiaries of silk department, cheque distribution to the women sericulture group. Urad seeds, spare pumps, sprinklers to the beneficiaries of Agriculture Department, cheques of financial aid under Bhagini Matritva Sahayta Yojana and Mukhyamantri Noni Sashaktikaran Sahayta Yojana to the beneficiaries of Labor Department, and also the cheques of financial aid under Chief

Minister Sewing Machine Assistance Scheme, Chief Minister Construction Workers Death and Divyangjan Assistance Scheme Distributed and forest rights letters to 26 beneficiaries. The development works inaugurated by Chief Minister Mr. Baghel in Narayanpur district are as follows bridge from Brehbeda to Matadongri worth Rs 7.67 cr; circuit house in Narayanpur district worth Rs 5.89 cr; Sulenga to Tirakanar worth Rs 5.50 cr; District

Education and Training Institute academic building constructed at the cost of Rs 5.55 cr; roads built from village Mahimagwadi to Tadonar built under Prime Minister Rural Road Development Agency at the cost of Rs 3.20 cr Schoolpara to Kohkapara at the cost of Rs 3.33 cr; Nayapara Kukdajhor to Khaspara at the cost of Rs. 3.35 cr and other development work.

Similarly, in Narayanpur district, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel performed bhoomipujan for 36 solar based tap-water scheme to be set up at a cost of Rs 24.72 cr; Khodgaon to Chichadipara cost Rs 6.22 cr; under Public Health Engineering Department, Solar Dual pump installation work under Jal Jeevan Mission worth Rs 5 crore, Madhonar to Kawamar cost Rs 3.82 cr; construction work of 37 new Anganwadi buildings costing Rs 2.045 cr and other development works.

'Hamar Gothan Hamar Goth' program inaugurated

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Apr 08: 'Hamar Gothan Hamar Goth' program was organized in village Panchayat Katkona Gauthan of Khadgwan, Vidhan Sabha constituency Manendragarh by MLA Dr Vinay Jaiswal.

People should get self-employment opportunities in their village itself so that the rural economy can be strengthened and village women are becoming self-reliant by joining income-oriented activities in Gauthans in the form of Self Help Groups, said the MLA asserting the economic benefits of laying a Gauthan.



Kuldeep Sharma appealed to the villagers to keep their active participation in the better operation of the Gauthans and the MLA and Collector both appreciated the activism of women in Katkona Gauthan, here were women of Self Help

Groups have earned an income of about Rs 1 lakh from the sale of vermicompost itself. Apart from this the group is also into phenyl and washing powder manufacturing and poultry farming. The Collector also met villagers in Tuhar

Duar camp in Bundeli, and loan books were distributed to 14 beneficiaries.

On coming upon the notice of the problem of low voltage electricity in the area, the Collector instructed EE CSEB to make arrangements within 10 days.

District level officers-employees were present along with SP Shri Praful Thakur, District Panchayat CEO Shri Kunal Dudawat, Sub-Divisional Officer Manendragarh and Police Administration team. In the mobile police station, the SP listened to the problems of the villagers, and appealed for cooperation in maintaining law and order in the region.

Railways starts demolition drive as residents resent



Central Chronicle News

Balod, Apr 08: The demolition action by the railways is gathering speed, as equally residents took to resentment. The demolition drive was being started in Oriya Basti, adjacent to Paras railway line, and in the first phase the shops on the Balod

side have been demolished.

Both public representatives and residents were opposing the drive, seeking more time to vacate and relocate. Municipality President Vikas Chopra said that no written notice has been issued, as it is necessary to give 24 hours prior notice



before demolition drive.

As the Railways were adamant to carry on the drive, tension prevailed and police forces were also deployed on the spot. Eventually people vacated to rented accommodation and other places.

City Youth Congress President Sajjan Patel said that about 30 families

were residing in the said area, of which 18 families are economically weak; therefore they need to be relocated with government aid. Meanwhile the Railways have denied authoritarian behavior and Railway officials said that in the past too many notices have been given to vacate the place.

Banjara caste celebrated World Banjara Day

By planting fruitful saplings

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Apr 08: People of Banjara community in Dornapal celebrated World Banjara Day on April 8 with great enthusiasm on the auspicious occasion of World Banjara Day. To make this day special, men and women of Banjara community together planted saplings at the temple of Dharma Guru Sant Shri Sevalal Maharaj, Lalita Nayak, Baliram Nayak, Jitendra Nayak, Dornapal youth president Krishna Nayak, youth vice president Thau Nayak, Lal Singh Nayak, Ramesh Nayak, Laxman Nayak, Jagdish Nayak, Sanjay Nayak were present.



'Purpose of celebrating World Banjara Day' State Vice President of Women's Cell Radha Nayak informed that this society showed the direction to the whole country and did the work of serving mankind through logistics. Beginning of World Banjara Day, the way our ancestors had

created the structure of water by making wells, stepwells, ponds etc.

From place to place, humans, animals and birds etc. quench their thirst. To maintain that tradition and to understand the importance of water, World Banjara Day was started.

The saint of the society,

Shri Sevalal Maharaj, had predicted this many years ago, a bowl of water will be available for one rupee. Today the words of that saint are becoming meaningful.

This day gives the message of saving water and shows the importance of water utility for the future.

Vocational trainers demand regularization and increment

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Apr 08: The delegation of Chhattisgarh New Vocational Trainer Welfare Association met MLA Daleshwar Sahu and demanded regularization and increment.

The members of the union informed that from the academic session 2015 till today, 1184 vocational in-

structors are working in 598 government higher secondary schools in the state of Chhattisgarh. All the vocational trainers have been performing various tasks in the working school, alike helping in UDISE work, other official works as well as teaching students through innovation. As per information, employees are working in a salary of only

sixteen thousand, which they allege they get in a period after 2-3 months of month completion. The union has alleged that in the year 2018, the Congress government was not formed in the state of Chhattisgarh, then in the election manifesto by the then State Congress President, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, it was

clearly written in point number 11 and 30 that - all irregular working in Chhattisgarh will be regularized and outsourcing will be stopped. The union has asked for justice for the 1184 vocational instructors at the earliest and for the same submitted a memorandum to the concerned ministers including the Chief Minister.

Collector inspects Gauthans of Bhairamgarh block

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Apr 08: District Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara inspected various Gauthans of Bhairamgarh block, mainly in Pusnar, Bhairamgarh and Minagachal Gauthan and inspected intensively the livelihood works, fodder for



livestock vermi tank, drinking water, seed stock under construction, and also gave necessary guidelines to the observers. The REO, RHO present on the occasion were instructed to take disciplinary action if the activity conducted in Gauthan is not satisfactory. While praising Nelsnar,

Minagachal, Bhairamgarh and Pusnar gauthan for better production of vermicompost, the Collector appraised the other economic activities in the Gauthans. The Collector also directed the District Panchayat CEO, Ravi Kumar Sahu to make available the necessary resources in the Gauthans in order to make available funds for repair of pipelines, cement bricks manufacturing, as per the demand. During the inspection, SDM Bhairamgarh Shri AR Rana, CEO Bhairamgarh JR Arkara, Tehsildar Shri Jugal Kishore Patel and staff were present.

ज्यायालय कलेक्टर, जिला-गरियाबंद (छत्तीसगढ़)

॥ सूचना ॥

प्रकरण क्रमांक 202201220600001
क्रमांक/1754/कले./व्यवक/2022
तारीख: दिनांक: 07.04.2022

प्रति, 1- गौरव जैन निता मुनीलाल जैन, प्रोप्राइटर, मेसर्स रामकुमार इंडस्ट्रीज ग्राम कर्चिया तहसील देवभोग

2- शक्ति जैन पति धमन जैन, (जमानदार) चट्टर, मेसर्स गौरव जैन (जमानदार) चट्टर, मेसर्स गौरव जैन ग्राम कर्चिया तहसील देवभोग

पुनर् द्वारा आपको सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक बैंक/संस्था बैंक ऑफ इंडिया, सिहावा चौक धमतरी (छत्तीसगढ़) की ओर से आवेदन पत्र अंतर्गत धारा 14 वित्तीय आस्थियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूति हित का प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 प्रस्तुत कर बैंक अग्रण के एवज में बंधक रखी गई संपत्ति- ग्राम खुटगांव तहसील देवभोग स्थित भूमि खसरा नंबर 191/3, 191/4 रकबा क्रमांक: 0.71 हेक्टेयर, 0.98 हेक्टेयर तथा ग्राम लालरा तहसील देवभोग स्थित भूमि खसरा नंबर 228, 185 रकबा क्रमांक: 0.33 हेक्टेयर, 0.89 हेक्टेयर का भौतिक आधिपत्य प्रदाय करने हेतु अनुरोध किये गये है। उक्त संबंध में प्रकरण, इस व्यायालय में विचारार्थ है।

अनुपूर प्रकरण में सुनवाई दिनांक 21/4/22 को समय 03:00 बजे स्वयं या अपने वेष प्रतिनिधि के माध्यम से उपस्थिति सुनिश्चित कर अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के समक्ष अपना पक्ष रखें। अन्यथा आपके विरुद्ध एकपक्षीय कार्यवाही की जावेगी।

कलेक्टर गरियाबंद (छ.ग.)

APPENDIX IV [See rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)	
Whereas,	The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (CIN:L65922DL2005PLC136029) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 22.11.2021 calling upon the Borrowers JITENDRA KUMAR SINGH ; NH 06, GE ROAD, TATIBANDH RAIPUR, BESIDE OF BHARAT BENTZ, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492099, JITENDRA KUMAR SINGH ; LIG 1027, GALI 01, TATIBANDH, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492099, TARA SINGH ; LIG 1027 GALI 01, TATIBANDH, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492099 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.4,25,503.92 (Rupees Four Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred Three and Paise Ninety Two Only) against Loan Account No. HHLRPR00417965 as on 19.11.2021 and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 06.04.2022	
The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED for an amount of Rs.4,25,503.92 (Rupees Four Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred Three and Paise Ninety Two Only) as on 19.11.2021 and interest thereon.	
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.	
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
PLOT NO. L-165, RALAS ROYAL PARK, PART OF KH. NO 1310/6-7-8-9, MOUJA PARSADA, PH NO. 04, RNM BHILAI 3, TAHSIL PATAN, DURG, CHHATTISGARH - 490001.	PLOT NO. L-150, RALAS ROYAL PARK, PART OF KH NO. 1326/3-4, GRAM PARSADA, PH. NO. 04, RNM BHILAI 3, TAHSIL PATAN, DURG, CHHATTISGARH - 490001.
Sd/	Sd/
Date : 06.04.2022 Place: DURG	Date : 06.04.2022 Place: DURG
Authorized Officer INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED	Authorized Officer INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

APPENDIX IV [See rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)	
Whereas,	The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (CIN:L65922DL2005PLC136029) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 20.11.2021 calling upon the Borrowers SHANKAR LAL BAJAJ ; H. NO.205, F-BLOCK, RDA COLONY, RING ROAD NO. 1, SARONA, RAIPUR, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492001, SHANKAR LAL BAJAJ ; H. NO. 205, F-BLOCK, RING ROAD NO. 1, RDA COLONY, SARONA, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492001, KRITI BAJAJ ; H. NO. 205, F-BLOCK, RING ROAD NO.1, RDA COLONY, SARONA, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492001 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.3,87,542.652 (Rupees Three Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Forty Two and Paise Sixty Five Only) against Loan Account No. HHLRPR00373771 as on 18.11.2021 and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 06.04.2022 .	
The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED for an amount of Rs.3,87,542.65 (Rupees Three Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Forty Two and Paise Sixty Five Only) as on 18.11.2021 and interest thereon.	
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.	
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
PLOT NO. L-165, RALAS ROYAL PARK, PART OF KH. NO 1310/6-7-8-9, MOUJA PARSADA, PH NO. 04, RNM BHILAI 3, TAHSIL PATAN, DURG, CHHATTISGARH - 490001.	PLOT NO. L-150, RALAS ROYAL PARK, PART OF KH NO. 1326/3-4, GRAM PARSADA, PH. NO. 04, RNM BHILAI 3, TAHSIL PATAN, DURG, CHHATTISGARH - 490001.
Sd/	Sd/
Date : 06.04.2022 Place: DURG	Date : 06.04.2022 Place: DURG
Authorized Officer INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED	Authorized Officer INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

BRIEF

Feedback

New Delhi: The Delhi government will soon launch a portal to collect feedback from Delhiites on 525 regulatory compliances related to services of its 32 departments, officials said. The portal will provide a list of all the compliances removed by different departments and seek feedback from people on how it impacted them.

Heroin

Ferozpur: BSF personnel apprehended two women and recovered two packets of heroin weighing 1.2 kg from them near an outpost along the Indo-Pakistan border here, officials said. The estimated cost of the heroin is Rs 6 crore in the international market. BSF troops observed that two Indian women — mother and her daughter — were roaming suspiciously near a pillar along the border, officials said. Acting swiftly, the BSF troops apprehended the women.

Arrest

Jammu: The Border Security Force (BSF) arrested a Bangladeshi national from near the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. The 50-year-old man was roaming suspiciously along the border with Pakistan when alert BSF troops nabbed him, they said. During initial questioning, he revealed his identity as Mohammad Siraj of Barisal district of Bangladesh, they said.

Held

Hyderabad: Three members of the banned CPI (Maoist) party were arrested in Nizamabad district of Telangana and explosive material was seized from them, police said. The three were arrested from Jakranpally mandal and 11 gelatin sticks, 10 detonators, three bags, Maoist party literature, memory card and pen drive were seized from their possession, said Nizamabad Police Commissioner KR Nagaraju.

Illegal

Pune: Three persons including two bogus doctors have been arrested for allegedly carrying out illegal abortions in Western Maharashtra's Kolhapur district, police said. Acting on a tip-off, a woman constable was sent as a decoy patient to a clinic run by Harshal Naik in Padal area of Panhala tehsil on Wednesday, police said. The woman told him that she wanted to terminate her pregnancy.

Rescued

New Delhi: A 16-year-old girl, who was missing for close to a year, has been rescued from Surat in Gujarat and a man has been arrested on the charge of kidnapping and sexually assaulting her, police said. The accused Santosh Subhash Gamme (30) was a native of Maharashtra's Bhandara district and wanted by the state police in multiple cases, including that of robbery and murder, officials said. The girl's mother had complained to the police on May 18 last year.

'Carry awareness to check child marriages on 'Akshaya Tritiya'

● **NCPCR asks DMs**

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTD):

Ahead of the 'Akshaya Tritiya' period when a high number of child marriages take place, the apex child rights body, NCPCR, has asked district magistrates to carry out awareness campaigns, family counselling and make a list of drop out and irregular children in schools to ensure prevention of any such marriages from taking place.

Child marriage is solemnized from time to time in various rural and tribal belts of the country but in few communities, this has been a practice that is followed in a dedicated manner during some specific



Priyank Kanoongo

time periods of the year. 'Akshaya Tritiya', also known as 'Akti' or 'Akha Teej', is an annual spring-time festival when holding weddings is considered auspicious. This year 'Akshaya Tritiya' will be celebrated on May 3. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

(NCPCR) chairperson Priyank Kanoongo, in a letter to district magistrates, said various media sources suggest that a large number of child marriages take place during this period of the year. "You must be aware that the Protection of Child Marriage Act, 2006, seeks to prevent child marriages by making certain actions punishable and by appointing certain authorities responsible for the prevention and prohibition of child marriages. Section 13 (4) of PCMA, 2006, states that for the purposes of preventing solemnisation of mass child marriages on certain days such as Akshaya Tritiya, the District Magistrate (DM) shall be deemed to be the Child

Marriage Prohibition Officer (CMPO)," the commission said.

The commission asked district magistrates and collectors to undertake awareness programmes at the village, urban/ward, Zila, tehsil level, prepare a school wise list of children who are drop out, out of school and not attending school regularly and DM/CMPO must identify children from these lists who can be at risk of child marriage.

The NCPCR further said that family counselling and proper inquiry of all such identified children must be ensured to prevent any possible child marriage.

The NCPCR sought these details from the DMs by April 20.

Over Rs 154 cr fine imposed for Covid violations in Delhi

● **Rs 16 cr collected**

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTD):

The Delhi government imposed over Rs 154 crore in fines for COVID-19 violations between 2021 and 2022, with the maximum fines being imposed for not wearing masks in public places.

According to official data available for the period between April 17, 2021, and April 6, 2022, the fine imposed during the period stood at Rs 1,54,75,22,968 but the amount collected was only Rs 16,79,27,080.

A total of 37,809 FIRs were registered for various Covid violations, with the New Delhi (37,803) district contributing the major chunk. There were

five FIRs registered in the south district while a single FIR was lodged in the southwest district. Three people were arrested for violating Covid protocols, according to the data.

There were zero FIRs registered in the remaining eight districts.

The maximum number of fines were issued for not wearing a mask in public places with the highest number of such offences being recorded in Shahdara district (1,85,354), followed by the east (1,84,618) and north district (1,78,563). The least number of such offenders were found in the Central district (80,496). New Delhi (90,293) and south (91,572) districts also recorded less than lakh violations, the

data said. Last week, the Delhi government issued an order stating that no fine will be imposed anymore on people for not wearing face masks in the national capital. However, the order advised people to continue wearing masks in public places. A total of 70,932 violations were recorded for not following social distancing guidelines, with the maximum being recorded in the north district (27,823), followed by the west (14,328) and northeast (14,310) districts respectively. The Northwest district recorded zero such violations while only three cases of people not adhering to COVID-19 protocols came to light in the south district.

UDF to form 'human chain' against SilverLine project

Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 08 (PTD):

At a time when the Left government in Kerala has affirmed its stand to go ahead with its flagship SilverLine project, the opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) on Friday announced a series of state-wide protest programmes against the multi-crore semi high speed rail corridor to create awareness about its social, economic and environmental impact on the southern state.

After a meeting of the top leaders of the Congress-led front here, UDF convenor M M Hassan said anti-SilverLine rallies would be conducted across the state for four days from May 13 after dividing 14 districts into four zones.

"Prominent leaders of the UDF will lead the rallies in each district and



Congress and alliance leaders interact with each other during the United Democratic Front (UDF) meeting, in Thiruvananthapuram, Friday.

they will take part in a series of protest meetings in each zone. The social, economic and environmental impact of the proposed project will be exposed through the protest rallies and meetings," he told reporters here. If the government was still not ready to backtrack from the mammoth initiative, a human

chain of party activists, environmentalists and like-minded people would be created from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod on August 15, the independence day, he said. The opposition front also decided to observe May 20, the first anniversary of the second Pinarayi Vijayan government, as the

'Hindi is not India's national language, will never let it happen'

Bengaluru, Apr 08 (PTD):

Asserting that Hindi is not India's national language, former Karnataka chief minister and senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Friday accused the ruling BJP of trying to unleash its agenda of "cultural terrorism" against non-Hindi speaking states.

Taking offence to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comment regarding the official language, the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka assembly accused him of betraying the former's home state Gujarat and mother-tongue Gujarati for Hindi, for his political agenda. Shah on Thursday said Hindi should be accepted as an alternative to English and not to local languages. Presiding over the

OFFERS PRAYERS



Uttar Pradesh Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya offers prayers to 'Maa Alop Shankari Devi' during Chaitra Navratri festival at Alop Shankari Shakti Peeth temple in Prayagraj.



Former Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah at a function in Mysuru on Friday.

37th meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee, Shah had said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided that the medium of running the government is the official language and this will definitely increase the importance of Hindi. "As a Kannadiga, I take strong of-

fence to @HMOIndia @AmitShah's comment on Official language & medium of communication. Hindi is not our National Language & we will never let it to be," Siddaramaiah tweeted with the tagline "#IndiaAgainstHindiImposition" Stating that linguistic di-

versity is the essence of our country and we will respect each other's sentiments, the former chief minister said pluralism is what has held our nation together and any attempt by the BJP to undo this will be met with strong opposition and retaliation.

"Imposing Hindi is a sign of coercive federalism rather than cooperative federalism. Myopic view of BJP regarding our languages needs to be corrected and their opinions are derived from pseudo-nationalists like Savarkar," Siddaramaiah added. Pointing out that 70 per cent of the agenda of the Cabinet is prepared in Hindi, Shah at the committee meeting had said the time has now come to make the official language Hindi an important part of the unity of the country.

Odisha vigilance seizes cash, gold biscuits at engineer's house

Bhubaneswar, Apr 08 (PTD):

The anti-corruption vigilance sleuths have seized over Rs 2 crore in cash and 20 gold biscuits weighing around 580 gm during a search in the house of an assistant engineer working in the state government's Water Resources department. The vigilance sleuths detected the wealth during a raid at the house of assistant engineer Kartikeswar Roul in Bhubaneswar. He was posted at the Minor Irrigation Division, Bhanjanagar in Ganjam district. The raids were conducted following an allegation that he had accumulated assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. The department in a statement said that during the search in the house of



Cash being seized by vigilance department from residence of AE Kartikeswar Roul in Bhubaneswar.

Roul and his second wife Kalpana Pradhan at a luxury apartment in Bhubaneswar, the Vigilance officials seized around Rs 2 crore in cash.

Raids were also conducted on other properties of Roul at six places in Khurda

and Ganjam districts on Wednesday. The Vigilance found two double-storey buildings, two flats, 7 plots of land and deposits worth over Rs 37 lakh in the name of the assistant engineer.

"We have enhanced our focus on benami assets/cash stashed in bank accounts of relations as well as those stacked in houses of close contacts by corrupt government officials. Odisha Vigilance remains committed towards strong action against corrupt officials," YK Jethwa, Director Vigilance, Odisha, said in a statement. Earlier on March 28, the Vigilance had made a seizure of over Rs 1.36 crore in cash from Ashish Kumar Dash, Superintending Engineer of Rural Development department in Malkangiri.

RRU celebrated 1st National Maritime Day

● **Endeavours of the men on Sea**

Gandhinagar, Apr 08:

The School of Integrated Coastal and Maritime Security Studies (SICMSS) organized a workshop on the occasion of "National Maritime Day" on April 5th and celebrated the endeavours of the men on sea. This was the 1st National Maritime Day which has been celebrated by the RRU in the Campus. Reason behind celebrating the National Maritime Day is to recognise the sail of the first Indian commercial vessel of colonial India from Mumbai to London in the year 1919. The commercial vessel was named SS Loyalty, which was owned by Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd. On this occasion we



recognise the work of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Coastal Marine Police who has been serving, promoting and safeguarding the Indian Coasts. At the same time, we also recognize the constant support, efforts and work of the Merchant Navy, Seafarers, Coastal communities and all those who live and earn their livelihood, contributing in

the coastal areas promoting the international trade and navigation across the globe.

The event was honoured by the auspicious presence of Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel (Vice Chancellor, RRU) Guest of honour, Dr. Vijay Sakhuja (Former Director, National Maritime Foundation) and Commandant Rajeev Ranjan (Indian Coast Guard).

On this occasion VC of the University Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel, talked about the geographical and historical importance of India in the Indian Ocean Region. The first merchant ship SS Loyalty marked the beginning of the International trade through its sail from Mumbai to London in the year 1919 and since then there is almost 95% of trade by volume and 74% by travel from India has done through waters. He further explained about the SAGARMALA Initiative where he envisioned and discussed hosts of issues related to the increase in maritime power, port development, port security and others.

Dr. Vijay Sakhuja, on the topic of "Sustainable Shipping Beyond COVID", he spoke about the report of UNCTAD 2021, the growth

of sea trade over the decades, the carbon footprint showcasing the evolution of fuel usage from wind energy to fossil fuels (Coal, oil, diesel) and now back to wind, solar powered batteries and AI technologies.

Commandant Rajeev Ranjan on the topic of "Maritime Search and Rescue", shared his life experiences serving in field for past two decades and more, where he was part of several search and rescue operations being in Indian Coast Guard.

The workshop was a great success with the participation of more than 60 students from the university. The workshop was devised into Essay presentations, Lectures, Documentary on the National Maritime Day and Externalized Quiz throughout the day.

Delhi plans EMI facility to encourage electric 2-wheelers

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTD):

Aiming to encourage large-scale adoption of electric vehicles in Delhi to reduce air pollution, the city government plans to provide e-two-wheelers to its employees on easy monthly installments, officials have said.

The government had announced a major plan to push e-cycles — first 10,000 electric cycle buyers will get a purchase incentive of up to Rs 5,500, while the first 1,000 will get an extra incentive of Rs 2,000.

The Delhi government is now contemplating a partnership with Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited, a joint venture of public sector companies under the Union Ministry

of Power, to provide electric two-wheelers to its employees, an official told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

As two-wheelers (scooters and motorcycles) account for two-thirds of the new vehicle registrations in Delhi, it is important that this segment switches over to electric mode to help bring a significant reduction in air pollution in the capital, the official said.

According to official estimates, the Delhi government has more than two lakh employees.

"The electric two-wheeler scheme for government employees will also encourage the general public to adopt such vehicles, overcoming psychological barriers related to the cost and technology," another official said.

BRIEF

Flooding

Abriaqui: Torrential rains and flooding have killed at least 10 people at a mining camp in mountainous north-west Colombia, with several reported missing and more damage expected, authorities said. The flooding at Abriaqui in the Antioquia department surprised a group of miners as they were eating dinner, mayor Hector Urrego told local television. The National Disaster Risk Management Unit said the preliminary toll was 10 dead, seven missing and 10 injured.

Agreement

Washington: The IMF announced that after months of negotiations it reached a staff-level agreement to provide Lebanon with USD 3 billion in aid to help it emerge from a severe economic crisis. The country has been battered by triple digit inflation, soaring poverty rates, and the collapse of its currency since a 2020 debt default, and officials in Beirut applauded the announcement as it will open the door to additional financial support as situation has been exacerbated.

Sentenced

St Louis: A Chinese national who pleaded guilty earlier this year to stealing a trade secret from agribusiness giant Monsanto while he worked in Missouri, US has been sentenced to more than two years in prison. Haitao Xiang, formerly of Chesterfield, Missouri, was sentenced in federal court in St. Louis to 29 months in prison and fined 150,000. Xiang also must undergo three years of supervision upon his release from prison. In January, Xiang pleaded guilty for the charges.

Asked

New York: Likening "unfair and deceptive" firearms advertising to that of tobacco products, gun safety advocates asked US regulators to crack down on the industry. A coalition of three groups asked the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which regulates advertising, to "investigate and regulate the gun industry's unfair and deceptive advertising," according to their 40-page petition. These messages have been compounded by the heavy presence of arms companies.

Bolster

Tokyo: The defense ministers of Japan and the Philippines agreed to bolster security cooperation and expand joint drills between their forces as they shared concerns about China's increasingly assertive military actions in the region. Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi and his Philippine counterpart, Delfin Lorenzana, also shared concern about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impact in the Indo-Pacific, and noted that attempts to change the status quo.

NATO eyes in sky, keeping Europe out of Russia's war

Uedem, Apr 08 (AP):

As Russia's military buildup near Ukraine accelerated early this year, military planners at NATO began preparing to dispatch scores of fighter jets and surveillance aircraft into the skies near Russia and Ukraine. It was a warning to Moscow not to make the mistake of targeting any member country.

Even in the weeks preceding the war, politicians and analysts were divided over whether President Vladimir Putin would really order Russian troops to invade. From a military point of view, though, the forces arrayed around Ukraine appeared designed to do just that.

It became a matter of urgency to put more eyes in the sky and to tightly link NATO aircraft, warships, ground-based missile systems and radar installations to protect the alliance's eastern flank.

We are monitoring very closely, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said this week. Information, best possible situation awareness, is of course extremely critical



NATO fighter jets fly over Independence Square in Vilnius, Lithuania.

in such a dangerous situation as we see in Ukraine now.

In the lead-up to the Feb 24 invasion, the alliance's Combined Air Operations Centre in Uedem, western Germany, shifted gear. A few dozen military personnel now simultaneously manage up to 30 aircraft in skies from the northern tip of Norway down to Slovakia. From an underground bunker in quiet farmland, patrolling aircraft are diverted to monitor suspicious Russian planes. Jets on 15-minute standbys are routinely Alpha Scrambled from around Europe to intercept unidentified aircraft near

NATO airspace.

More than 100 aircraft can be working aloft on any given day, mixed in among roughly 30,000 civilian flights made daily through European skies.

Six Boeing E-3A surveillance planes from NATO's ageing fleet of early warning and control aircraft help create an air picture to share with member nations. These eyes in the sky do not fly into Ukraine or Russia, but can see up to 400 km (250 miles) across borders. Fighter jets also provide information about what is going on inside part of two countries at war. These assets are sometimes sent from as far away

as western France, refuelled mid-air, and can patrol for about an hour in the border area before they must return.

The 30-nation military alliance is wary of being drawn into a wider war with Russia, so borders and airspace are scrupulously respected.

There is always the fog of war, and we don't want to have NATO assets close by because even unintentionally you might have some losses, said Major General Harold Van Pee, commander of the NATO facility in Uedem. The most sensitive zones for unidentified planes are the Kola Peninsula at the high north borders of Russia and Norway the Gulf of Finland approaching the Russian city of St Petersburg, and the skies around Russia's exclave of Kaliningrad, sandwiched between Lithuania and Poland. From their computer screens, NATO personnel can also track cruise missiles, like those that Russia used last month to pound a military training base in western Ukraine near NATO member Poland, killing 35 people.

France to rely on paper ballot for Presidential election

● No faith in EVMS

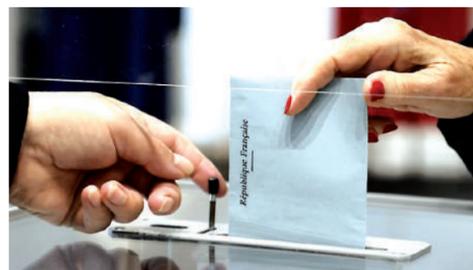
Paris Apr 08 (AP):

French voters in Sunday's presidential election will use the same system that's been used for generations: paper ballots that are cast in person and counted by hand. Despite periodic calls for more flexibility or modernization, France doesn't do mail-in voting, early voting or use voting machines en masse like the United States. President Emmanuel Macron is the clear front-runner, though an unprecedented proportion of people say they are unsure who they will vote for or whether they will vote at all.

Voters must be at least 18 years old. About 48.7 million French are registered on the electoral rolls of the place where they live.

Voters make their choices in a booth, with the curtains closed, then place their ballot in an envelope that is then put into a transparent ballot box. They must show photo identification and sign a document, next to their name, to complete the process.

Volunteers count the ballots one by one.



Testing of transparent ballot boxes ahead of election in Paris, France.

Officials will then use state-run software to register and report results more efficiently. But legally only the paper counts. If a result is challenged, the paper ballots are recounted manually.

People who can't go to the polls for various reasons can authorize someone else to vote for them.

To do so, a voter must fill out a form ahead of time and bring it to a police station. A person can be the proxy of no more than one voter living in France and potentially one additional person living abroad.

Up to 7% of people voted by proxy in the last presidential election five years ago.

Mail-in voting was banned in 1975 amid fears of potential fraud.

Machine-voting was allowed as an experiment

starting in 2002, but the purchase of new machines has been frozen since 2008 due to security concerns. Only a few dozens towns still use them.

Last year, Macron's centrist government tried to pass an amendment to allow early voting by machine to encourage electoral participation amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Senate, led by a conservative majority, rejected the measure, arguing it was announced with too little notice and was not solid enough legally.

Most COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in the country. Though the number of cases is significantly lower than earlier this year, infections have been creeping up again for several weeks, reaching over 130,000 new confirmed cases each day.

PAINT OVER GRAFFITI



Inmates of the "La Esperanza" prison paint over graffiti linked to Mara Salvatrucha gang, at the 22 de Abril community, in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Shanghai lockdown snarls world's busiest supply chains

Beijing, Apr 08 (AFP):

Shanghai's grinding coronavirus lockdown is slowly clogging China's supply chains, as delays hit the world's busiest container port where staff are tangled in a morass of Covid controls.

Beijing has refused to tack away from its strict zero-Covid strategy that has protected its public health system through the pandemic but at a mounting economic cost.

China's financial hub Shanghai — home to multinational firms and its busiest port — has been sealed off almost entirely for a week following an outbreak fuelled by the Omicron virus variant.

That has many forced companies to halt production and slow new projects, factories told AFP, while



Health workers at entrance of a neighborhood during a COVID-19 lockdown in Shanghai on Friday.

those still operating are struggling with a shortage of truck drivers on top of onerous permit and Covid testing requirements. At Shanghai's port, the lack of drivers and other workers means getting goods in and out is increasingly hard.

The docks are working normally with a "single-digit" number of vessels waiting to berth, Shanghai International Port Group said this week.

"But the fact is... due to restrictions caused for truck drivers, it is not real-

ly operating," Bettina Schoen-Behanzin, vice president of the EU Chamber of Commerce's Shanghai Chapter, told AFP. "The figure I heard is that... week-on-week volumes at the Shanghai port are down by 40 percent. So that's really enormous."

Shortages are starting to bite across China's vast consumer economy, where online shopping platforms such as Taobao face delivery delays, especially of imported goods. Covid curbs in a number of cities have forced factories to find new suppliers.

But the impact may soon also be felt outside China if lockdowns persist. Shanghai is the world's number one container port, a spinal point in the global supply chain and a key gateway for foreign trade.

Struggle to save Cuban sugar from bitter end



Antonio Sanchez Sugar Mill, in Aguada de Pasajeros, Cuba.

Havana, Apr 08 (AFP):

A whistle reverberates through a sugar factory in central Cuba to signal the resumption of milling at midday after an hours-

long halt when the raw cane ran out.

It is cane harvest time in Cuba — once the world's top sugar exporter but now reliant on imports.

A critical shortage of harvesters and trucks to deliver the cane to factories has hamstrung production even as the government scrambles to revive the once-vibrant industry.

Cuba's 2020-21 harvest yielded 800,000 tons of the sweet stuff, according to official figures.

This was just 10 percent of peak production some three decades ago and the worst outcome in 130 years for an industry that was once Cuba's economic motor and a huge source of national pride.

"This is a war without end," Lazaro Manuel Torres, boss of the

Antonio Sanchez mill in Cuba's central Cienfuegos province, told AFP.

"From the moment you wake up, you run into a mountain" of problems, said Torres, watching with obvious relief as a column of white smoke billowed from the chimney after the restart.

Until 1989, Cuba was the world's biggest sugar exporter. The United States was its major client until 1960 — two years before Washington imposed crippling sanctions on the communist island nation.

The Soviet Union, a political ally, then became an important buyer and was given preferential rates.

UN demands Mali allow peacekeepers into town

United Nations, Apr 08 (AP):

The top UN envoy in Mali has demanded that the country's military leaders allow UN peacekeepers to visit a town where Human Rights Watch says the Malian army and foreign soldiers suspected to be Russian recently killed an estimated 300 men, one of several alleged rights abuses denounced by the US, Britain and France.

According to Human Rights Watch, the killings in Moura were the worst single atrocity reported in Mali's 10-year armed conflict against Islamic extremists. Britain and France alleged that

Russian mercenaries from the Kremlin-linked Wagner Group were involved.

UN special representative El-Ghassim Wane told the UN Security Council that the government asserted in an April 1 communique that it had neutralised scores of terrorist elements in the Moura area in central Mali south of Mopti.

But he said the UN peacekeeping mission known as MINUSMA received reports of serious human rights abuses committed against large numbers of civilians during this operation. It sought access to the area which has so far been denied, ex-

cept for a reconnaissance flight on April 3, he said.

France's UN Ambassador Nicolas De Riviere cited reports of human rights violations in Moura by elements of the Malian armed forces accompanied by Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group that could constitute war crimes.

He called for national and international investigations to be opened quickly and for MINUSMA to conduct its own unhindered investigation to establish the facts and report to the Security Council. Mali has struggled to contain an Islamic extremist insurgency since 2012.

Alleged ISI cell trying to intrude US security agencies busted

Washington, Apr 08 (PTT):

The United States busted an alleged ISI cell trying to intrude into the American intelligence and security apparatus including its high profile Secret Service which is in charge of the security of the President.

Arian Taherzadeh, 40, and Haider Ali, 35, were arrested by the FBI in Southeast Washington Wednesday on a criminal complaint charging them with the federal offence of False Impersonation of an

Officer of the United States.

Four members of the Secret Service have been placed on administrative leave.

During their court appearance, Assistant US Attorney Joshua Rothstein told Magistrate Judge G Michael Harvey in the US District Court for the District of Columbia that Ali had told witnesses that he was affiliated with the Inter-Services Intelligence agency in Pakistan. Ali also had multiple

visas from Pakistan and Iran, federal law enforcement officials said.

We have not verified the accuracy of his claims but Ali made claims to witnesses that he had ties to ISI which is the Pakistani intelligence service, Rothstein told the judge.

Taherzadeh and Ali attempted to use their false and fraudulent affiliation with the Department of Homeland Security to ingratiate themselves with members of federal law enforcement and the defence community.

US speeds entry for Ukrainians

● As more Ukrainians reach through Mexico border

Tijuana, Apr 08 (AP):

The United States has sharply increased the number of Ukrainians admitted to the country at the Mexican border as even more refugees fleeing the Russian invasion follow the same circuitous route.

A government recreation centre in the Mexican border city of Tijuana grew to about 1,000 refugees, according to city officials.

A canopy under which children played soccer only two days earlier was packed with people in rows of chairs and lined with bunk beds.

US officials began funneling Ukrainians Wednesday to a pedestrian crossing in San Diego that is temporarily closed to the public, hoping to process 578 people a day there with 24 officers, said Enrique Lucero, the city of Tijuana's director of migrant affairs.

Tijuana has suddenly become a final stop for Ukrainians seeking refuge in the United

States, where they are drawn by friends and families ready to host them

and are convinced that the US will be a more suitable haven than Europe.

छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य सहकारी दुग्ध महासंघ मर्यादित
ग्राम-उरला, पो - वी.एम.वाय. चरोदा, जिला-दुर्ग, छ.ग.
क्रमांक/211/छगदुमस/क्रय/2022/ दिनांक- 08/04/2022
//निविदा सूचना//
दुग्ध महासंघ द्वारा उरला एवं खिलासपुर डेयरी संयंत्र में स्थापित ई.टी.पी. संयंत्र के वार्षिक रखरखाव एवं संचालन हेतु दो वर्ष की अनुबंध बाबत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, निविदा जमा करने एवं खोलने हेतु अंतिम तिथि 10.05.2022 निर्धारित है, जिसका विस्तृत विवरण दुग्ध महासंघ की वेबसाइट :- www.cgcoopdairyfed.in पर उपलब्ध है।
प्रबंध संचालक



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Digital transaction autonomy

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its monetary policy meeting has proposed to allow interoperability in cardless cash withdrawal transactions at all banks and ATMs using the UPI facility. In addition to enhancing ease of transactions, the absence of the need for physical card for such transactions would help prevent frauds such as card skimming, card cloning. Last month, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had launched UPI for feature phones called UPI123Pay. He also launched 24x7 helpline for digital payments, DigiSaathi. UPI on feature phones will help people in rural areas who cannot afford a smartphone. UPI has emerged as one of the most used payment systems in India in the recent years. In terms of volume of transactions, UPI is the single largest retail payment system in the country. This move is to further popularise the use of digital payments has proposed to introduce a framework for retail offline payments across the country. India has been able to develop technology autonomy in sphere of digital transactions, but need to pass data protection bill soon to ensure security against rising cases of cybercrime. The learning of these tests strongly suggests that there is more wiggle room for digital payment-related solutions especially in the remote parts of the country. With this development, the RBI is optimistic about increasing the ease of doing business in India along with more innovative fintech opportunities to capitalise on. The Jan Dhan scheme has given significant impetus to financial inclusion, allowing millions to access bank accounts, but there is a gap in debit card issuance. The Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched in August 2014, is a financial inclusion programme that envisages universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic account for every household. Around 448.2 million people have benefited, but the number of Rupay debit cards issued under the scheme is 314.6 million, according to data. A few challenges are there.

One needs a debit card to set up a UPI handle but many banks in rural areas do not issue debit cards. As the share of UPI grows in the overall retail payments pie, payment processing agents will lose out on revenue over time. In February, UPI accounted for about 80 percent of the total retail digital payments by value. Digital payments here exclude net-banking routes such as IMPS and NEFT, which process large-sized transactions and recurring payments such as equated monthly instalments of loans in addition to other retail payments. The share of UPI in person-to-merchant payments widened to 42 percent in the first nine months of FY22 from 28 percent in FY21. In 2019, the government cut the merchant discount rate (MDR) on UPI transactions to zero to encourage greater use of the digital payment system. MDR is a charge paid by merchants to payment service providers for the infrastructure to give customers digital payment options. Banks have a dominant share in the MDR payment pool as card issuance and usage are largely through them. Banks can charge MDR on card-based payments and other digital modes. Analysts estimate that the fees collected through cards and other payment modes account for at least a quarter of the total fee income of banks. This is now threatened by the surge of UPI. The increasing share of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in merchant payments has begun to gnaw at banks and non-banks' fee incomes. The homegrown payments channel does not earn merchant fees due to government rules and the growing trend of UPI usage is now coming to bite banks and other payments players who have been its biggest champions.

Lessons from Turkey

Yearly inflation in Turkey hit 61.14 percent last week, climbing to a new 20-year high and deepening a cost of living crisis for many households. The Turkish Statistical Institute said consumer prices rose by 5.46 percent in March compared with the previous month. Yearly inflation was up from 54.44 percent in February. The highest yearly price increase was in the transportation sector, at 99.12 percent, while the increase in food prices was 70.33 percent, according to the data. It was the biggest year-on-year increase since March 2002. Other nations need to learn lessons from previously progressive society of Turkey embarking on alleged nationalism. Although it receives far less attention than it deserves, Turkey is a geopolitically and economically significant country, sharing territorial or maritime borders with the European Union, Russia, and four Middle Eastern countries. It is the only Muslim-majority member of NATO, and has the Alliance's second-largest military, after the United States. Its crisis matters far beyond its borders. Turkey's problems are almost entirely self-inflicted. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has spent years hollowing out the country's democratic institutions and sowing division within the population to suppress the rise of a united political opposition. Owing to the strong economic performance of previous years, Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) has been re-elected at every ballot since 2002.

But that support has fallen sharply as a result of the deteriorating political and economic situation. Politically, the Erdogan government has increasingly come to support the idea of a religious state, even though the constitution mandates a secular one, and it has been ruthlessly suppressing journalists and political dissent since a coup attempt in 2016. Making matters worse, Erdogan has long pressured the central bank to keep interest rates low, because he subscribes to a crackpot theory that inflation is caused by high interest rates. Any credible economist would point out that higher, not lower, interest rates are needed to cool inflation. But Erdogan persists in his perverse belief, and he has replaced the central bank governor three times in the past two years to ensure that the monetary authority continues to do his bidding. As Erdogan clings tenaciously to his unorthodox policies, goods shortages are becoming more frequent and severe, prompting efforts by some state-owned enterprises to control prices. But the mounting deficits at state-owned firms are increasing fiscal deficits, thereby adding to the inflationary pressures. Centralisation of power is always risky.

TRADITIONAL QATARI BOATS

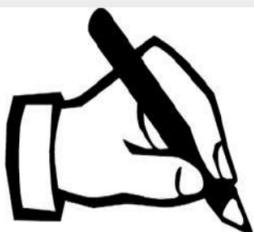


Traditional boats against the skyline of the Qatari capital Doha.

India, Australia to be joint winners in trade



PIYUSH GOYAL



The India Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) heralds another new chapter in India's exciting rise in the global trading arena. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the country is regularly scaling new heights in the fiercely competitive global market. Just last month, India achieved and exceeded the ambitious export target of USD 400 billion for 2021-22, as Indian exporters, including small enterprises, amplified their existing operations, penetrated new markets and shipped out new products, accelerating economic growth and creating jobs at a time the global economy was rattled by the pandemic. A month before that, India signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the United Arab Emirates, creating new avenues for wealth and jobs for its people. The IndAus ECTA, which symbolises ekta, or unity, between India and Australia, is a major milestone. It will propel bilateral trade from the existing USD 27.5 billion to USD 45-50 billion in five years, bringing huge benefits to both countries. This is the first trade agreement with a developed economy after more than a decade, and has been achieved after widespread consultations with exporters, traders, small enterprises and professionals.

The trade deals and the laudable performance of Indian exporters is a testimony to New India's new

energy, dedication, determination and the hunger to succeed as the country observes the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the inspiring 75-week countdown to the 75th anniversary of Indian independence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi rightly said that the world is very rapidly moving towards a new world order after the Corona period. 'This is such a turning point that we as India should not miss this opportunity. India's voice should also remain vociferous on the main table. India should not underestimate itself for a leadership role,' he said. It is in this context that the entire spectrum of India's export machinery, from the humble weavers and workers, to world-beating entrepreneurs, engineers and software professionals are hoisting India to a prominent position in the global market, and the world is recognizing India as an emerging superpower. India and Australia have a complementary economic relationship. India exports mainly finished products to Australia and imports primarily minerals, raw material and intermediate goods. India will have duty-free access in Australia for all its products, removing the disadvantage India faced against major rivals who already have trade deals with Australia. India will also enjoy greater market access for its products, while the easing of regulatory processes for pharmaceutical products will open up the attractive \$12 billion Australian

market in the sector.

Similarly, textiles exports are expected to triple USD 1.1 billion in three years, creating 40,000 new jobs every year with new units likely to come up in small towns and rural areas. Exports of engineering products is likely to jump from USD 1.2 billion in 2020-21 to USD 2.7 billion in five years. Trade agreements with Australia and UAE are estimated to generate 1 million jobs each in the next five to seven years. They will also increase investor interest and boost India's position in global supply chains, adding a strategic dimension to the pact. India has already entered into the trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) arrangement with Australia and Japan. The agreement reduces the cost of raw material, minerals and intermediate goods for Indian companies, which will help consumers and increase exports. The government has taken care of its farmers and kept many sectors out of the agreement. These include dairy products, chickpeas, walnut, pistachio nut, wheat, rice, bajra, apple, sunflowers seed oil, sugar, oil cake, gold, silver, platinum, jewellery, iron ore and most medical devices. In fact, when there will be more access with different markets, hopefully products will be available to us at more competitive prices on which we can do value addition particularly in labor-oriented areas and expand our business. FTAs are a two-way traffic. It cannot be one-sided access for Indian goods and services alone.

In India, we have a billion people going to buy their first car, a billion people looking to be first home owners, a billion people looking to travel outside the country, probably for the first time. Students are major beneficiaries. They will be able to get post-study visa for up to four years, which will give them vital international job exposure and give Australia the benefit of the talented, hardworking pool of young professionals who have made their mark globally and risen to the top

of major Western companies. Further, Indians will get a liberal visa regime, which will allow temporary stay up to four years for intra-corporate transferees, executives and contractual service providers. There are also commitments for entry, stay and work rights for family members. Indian chefs and yoga teachers will also be able to make their mark in Australia with concessions in the visa regime that will allow them to stay for up to four years if they meet eligibility criteria. This will enhance India's cultural influence and help Australians get the benefits of yoga. The two countries are also united by their love for cricket, and Indians have admired Australian cricket legends like Don Bradman, Steve Waugh, Brett Lee, and Shane Warne. While each team strives hard to beat the other in intense cricket contests, in the trade arena there is no loser -- it's a win-win situation for both countries.

The traditional rule book is being thrown out the window because we are seeing some countries using their economic weight and their economic power, using economic coercion, using non-market practices, to try and influence global trade. We now have a Quad between Japan, Australia, the US and India which has many dimensions, both strategic, political. They're working to ensure peace and stability, greater economic partnership between countries in this region. And there is more excitement on the horizon. India is negotiating trade deals with major Western trading partners such as the European Union, Canada and UK. The agreements with UAE and Australia have demonstrated India's earnest desire, and industry's confidence, to enter into trade deals where both countries gain, and given a solid basis for more trade pacts.

(Piyush Goyal is Union Minister of Commerce and Industry in Government of India.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Next step

A strike by trade unions cannot be dismissed as it did have an effect. As the government of the day, in its second term, has stepped up its drive to centralise all powers in its hands, there is a general assault on the federal principle which affects the fiscal, economic and legislative spheres. The time is now ripe for building broad unity to take on anti-people policies.

SK Khosla, via email

No relief

Citizens seemed assured when it was clear that India was going to purchase crude from Russia at a discount, thereby expecting fuel prices to come down. But to everybody's shock, fuel prices have started rising immediately, especially after the Assembly elections. The increase in fuel prices is triggering the inflation of all essential commodities. Governments should control inflation rather than accelerating it.

Kailash, via email

Big powers

This time the whole world is again going to witness a 'big powers' fight'. The Ukraine-Russia conflict has become a serious issue in contemporary world politics. Russian President Vladimir Putin has threatened Ukraine and has ordered his army to invade the eastern part of Ukraine. He also has made it clear to other nations that they should maintain distance from this crisis. On the other hand, the big brother of the NATO and also the prime enemy of Russia, the USA has made it clear that it will take action against the power which tries to invade NATO's area. With such a statement, the USA has indirectly threatened Russia. On the other hand, the United Nations has again played a passive role on this issue. It can be assumed that this crisis may lead to a conflict between First World countries and Second World countries. In the UN Security Council meet, India called for immediate de-escalation. We, the people of the rest of the world, now can only pray that the peace comes back to the world soon.

Aditya, via email

Caution

Macro-economic miseries such as high tax-cuts, a Budget deficit, depleting forex reserves and a significant loss of income from tourism have all wrecked Sri Lanka's plans for an economic recovery. The perception is that President Rajapaksa seems clueless about the shape of a credible road map for economic recovery. As a responsible neighbour, India has extended economic assistance to Sri Lanka. However, India should be cautious about opening its doors to refugees who may try to flee the island-nation.

Kangayam, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Rajeev Mantri@RMantri
Kolkata and the region's economy has stagnated to the point where Chandigarh contributes higher share of direct taxes! What will shake up the people, awake them from their slumber and overcome deep-seated emotional supremacy over the rest of India?

Gaurav@GauravPandhi

For those who don't know, the JHATKA is when Petrol price is increased by Rs 10 in a day. HALAL is when Petrol price is increased by 80 paise every day & eventually by Rs 10 in 12 days. Clearly, Modi Govt prefers Halal over Jhatka?



Vivek Menon@vivek4wild

White- eyes, that miniature olive-yellow blob with a bulls-eye eye is my offering.



Harsh@harshmahadhusudan

Either you are a diner or you are dinner. India decided to be the former after being the latter for a long time. That many are whining globally, including some within, confirms that we are broadly on the right path. The whining will be louder for longer: enjoy it and keep rising.

The Legal@LegalTL

Trust me, our own PK (Pawan Khera) @Pawankhera ji is far far better political strategist than that PK Prashant Kishor. @INCIndia @RahulGandhi @priyankagandhi need to give Pawan ji full authority to handle the state of Gujarat and they will never regret it. We will easily win.

BRIEF

Expansion



Kolkata: Tea retailer Golden Tips plans to expand its footprint through the e-commerce route by entering into strategic partnerships. Madhav Sarada said the company follows the practice of sourcing tea directly from producers as this will ensure optimum realisation.

Center

New Delhi: Technology solutions provider Infogain on Friday announced the opening of its delivery center in Montevideo, Uruguay. The center, Infogain's seventh center globally, marks the company's entry into Latin America and adds to its nearshore capabilities. Infogain said it has opened a new global delivery center in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Plans



New Delhi: Offgrid Energy Labs on Friday said it plans to commercially launch products with its ZincGel battery technology next year. CEO Tejas Kusrkar said with the ability to prioritise, our innovation is focused on addressing a wide variety of applications.

Sales

New Delhi: Sales of apartments priced at Rs 1 crore and above rose 83 per cent to 10,988 units during the January-March period this year on a rising demand for bigger flats amid the pandemic, according to JLL India. Sales volume in this price category stood at 5,994 units in the year-ago period.

Rise



New Delhi: Mercedes-Benz India on Friday reported a 26 per cent jump in sales at 4,022 units in the first quarter of 2022. CEO Martin Schwenk said, this achievement becomes important in the context of continued intense headwinds like semiconductor shortage.

Enhance

New Delhi: Force Motors on Friday said it has tied up with the Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) to recruit and to enhance skill set of the workforce at its dealerships. A service agreement in this regard was inked between the two entities.

Rates unchanged, RBI expects lower growth with inflation

RBI to set up panel to review, improve customer service

Mumbai: In a bid to improve customer service in regulated entities, the Reserve Bank of India on Friday said it will set up a panel to review and further strengthen consumer protection.



Shaktikanta Das

Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday kept the benchmark interest rate unchanged at 4 per cent and going forward decided to withdraw its accommodative stance to ensure that inflation remains within the target level.

It raised the retail inflation target for the current financial year to 5.7 per cent on the back of rising global prices amidst the ongoing geo-political tensions, even as it expected

the prices of cereals and pulses to soften on prospects of good winter crop harvest.

"Global food prices along with metal prices have hardened significantly. Economy is grappling with a sharp rise in inflation... Inflation is now projected at 5.7 per cent in 2022-23 with Q1 at 6.3 per cent; Q2 at 5 per cent; Q3 at 5.4 per cent and Q4 at 5.1 per cent," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while unveiling the first monetary policy review

Industry welcomes RBI decision

New Delhi: Welcoming the RBI's move to keep the borrowing costs unchanged on Friday, India Inc said the central bank has maintained a fine balance to support growth as well as keep inflation within the target range amid geopolitical worries.

for the current fiscal year.

It slashed economic growth projection to 7.2 per cent for the current fiscal from 7.8 per cent estimated earlier amid volatile crude oil prices and supply chain disruptions due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Shaktikanta Das said external developments during the past two months have led to the materialisation of downside risks to domestic growth and upside risks to inflation.

Ruchi Soya jumps nearly 15% after listing of FPO shares

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

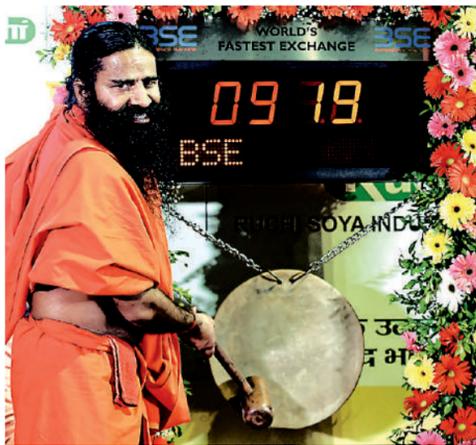
Stock of Ruchi Soya Industries on Friday jumped nearly 15 per cent after listing of shares of the company pursuant to its Follow on Public Offer (FPO).

The stock zoomed 12.94 per cent to settle at Rs 924.85 on BSE. During the day, it jumped 14.79 per cent to Rs 940.

On NSE, it gained 14.71 per cent to close at Rs 938.

According to a notice by BSE on Thursday, 6,61,53,846 equity shares of Rs 2 each fully paid up of Ruchi Soya Industries Limited are listed and admitted for trading on the exchange with effect from Friday, April 08, 2022.

On Tuesday, the company had informed stock exchanges that it has ap-



Yoga guru and non-executive director of RSIL Baba Ramdev rings gong during the company's FPO listing ceremony at BSE, in Mumbai, Friday.

proved the allotment of 6,61,53,846 equity shares for an amount aggregat-

ing to Rs 4,300 crore pursuant to the FPO. The company had fixed the

JEWELLERY EXHIBITION



Visitors at a stall during a three day jewellery exhibition in Bengaluru, Karnataka on Friday.

Int'l Holding Co to invest USD 2 bn in Adani Group's green portfolio

IHC will invest USD 2 bn (INR 15,400 Cr) in three green-focused companies in the Adani portfolio - AGEL, ATL and AEL

Ahmedabad, Apr 08:

International Holding Company PJSC (IHC), the Abu Dhabi based conglomerate, will invest USD 2 billion as primary capital in three Adani portfolio companies - Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), Adani Transmission Ltd (ATL) and Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) - which are all listed on Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE) in India, through the preferential allotment route.

Earlier today, the boards of AGEL, ATL and AEL met and approved the transaction. The investment is subject to share-

holder and regulatory approvals and shall comply with SEBI regulations.

Sagar Adani, Executive Director, AGEL, said "We are delighted to commence this inter-generational relationship with IHC. We are deeply committed to the shared vision and values of investment in sustainable infrastructure, green energy and energy transition.

This is a landmark transaction and marks a start of a wider relationship between The Adani Group and IHC and attracting further investment from UAE into India." The three Adani companies - AGEL, ATL and AEL - are market

leaders in their business sectors and span the Adani Group's green portfolio. Every one of these three businesses has the core aspects of ESG woven into their operations. This investment is testament to the IHC's and the Adani Portfolio's shared vision and commitment of investing in sustainable companies that are leading the charge in energy transition.

Mr Syed Basar Shueb, CEO and Managing Director of IHC, said "This will be a long-term investment in India as the country is driving much innovation globally, including the green energy sector.

Manipal Health Map acquires Hyderabad-based Medcis Path Labs

Mumbai, Apr 08:

Manipal HealthMap, a leading integrated diagnostic service provider in India, announced the acquisition of Hyderabad-based MedcisPathLabs Pvt Ltd in an all-cash deal for a majority stake. With this deal, Manipal HealthMap expands its footprint to 19 (nineteen) additional centres which takes the total number to 60 (sixty) centres across 14 states, strengthening its position as a major integrated diagnostic services brand. Manipal HealthMap is known for its state-of-the-art technology, affordable access, and delivering high-end clinical results across all its centres.

Through this acquisition, Manipal HealthMap will have access to additional 19 laboratories, including one NABL accredited central laboratory (based in Hyderabad). Dr. (Capt.) Sandeep Sharma, CEO, Manipal HealthMap said, "We are delighted to welcome MedcisPathLabs to the Manipal HealthMap family and bring in new advanced standards of integrated diagnostics services in the country. This acquisition is in sync with our brand salience to serve patients across multiple states with high quality yet affordable radiology and pathology services supported with state-of-the-art technology for accuracy and faster reporting."

Loco announces India's first officially supported Pokemon unite tournament

Mumbai, Apr 08:

India's Leading eSports and game streaming platform LOCO, is the first official collaborator/partner and an exclusive broadcaster of the 'Pokémon UNITE City Tournament India 2022'. There exists an active community for Pokemon UNITE in India, and there is immense potential for it to grow, both within the competitive and entertainment segments in gaming. Loco being a pioneer in the live game streaming and eSports sector in India along with Pokemon Unite's shared vision of growing the esports ecosystem at large makes for the perfect region collaborator.



'Pokemon Unite' is a popular smartphone game title that was released in July 2021 and has recorded more than 70 million downloads worldwide; adding Hindi to the supported languages with its recent update on March 14th, 2022 which made all the game features playable in Hindi. To celebrate the Hindi language support, the 'Pokemon Unite City

Tournament 2022' will be held in April, powered by and streamed exclusively on Loco.

Players for the city tournament will be scouted from major cities across India, and star streamer captains will select their respective team players via an auction; a tried and tested format which has worked wonderfully on Loco and is now being scaled further. The goal of this tournament is to recognize talented Pokemon Unite players at a grassroots level, encourage them to play the game and provide them a platform to showcase their gameplay. The platform will also be integrating exciting giveaways to gratify and grow the community further.

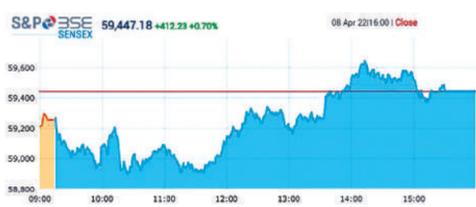
Amazon.in announces fresh offers on 'Super Value Days'

Mumbai, Apr 08: With the onset of the summer season, Amazon.in has announced some fresh offers on 'Super Value Days.' Devour 45% off on grocery, household essentials, packaged foods, personal care, and baby and pet care products among others from 1st to 7th April 2022. Amazon.in is offering grocery deals starting at Rs 1 and free delivery for prime members. Customers can avail of great prices and fresh offers from popular brands including Daawat, Himalaya, Sunfeast, Dabur, Cadbury, Kellogg, Mother Dairy among others at convenient delivery options from one single online destination. In addition, customers can avail of an instant discount of 10% on SBI Credit Card and Credit EMI from 1st -3rd April 2022 and ICICI Credit Card from 4th-7th April 2022 with a minimum transaction of Rs

2,500 and discounts up to Rs 300. Whereas ICICI CBCC holders can avail an additional discount of 5% from 4th-7th April 2022 with a minimum transaction of Rs 2,500, and discounts up to Rs 250. Daawat Rozana Super, basmati Rice, 5kg available on Amazon Fresh for Rs 335, Sunfeast Dark Fantasy Choco Fills, 600g available at Rs 182. Tata Tea Gold (1.5Kg) at Rs 717, Maggi 2-Minute Noodles Masala, 70g (Pack of 12) at Rs 138, Tetley Green Tea Immune with added Vitamin C, Lemon, and Honey, 100 Tea Bags at Rs 440, Hershey's Syrup Chocolate, 623G available at Rs 185, Nimyle Eco friendly floor cleaner available on Amazon Fresh for Rs 257. Godrej Protekt Germ Fighter Handwash Refill Pack available on Amazon Fresh at just Rs 169, Palmolive Aroma Absolute Relax Body Wash at Rs 324.

Sensex rallies 412 pts, Nifty jumps above 17,700

Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):



The Sensex jumped 412.23 points on Friday, braving heavy volatility during the day, amid the Reserve Bank of India maintaining status quo on the benchmark lending rate and buying in index heavyweights Reliance Industries Limited and ITC. The BSE Sensex climbed 412.23 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 59,447.18. During the day, the benchmark hit a high of 59,654.44 and a low 58,876.36.

The Nifty also gained 144.80 points or 0.82 per cent to finish at 17,784.35. "Market was cautious during the last 2-3 days ahead the RBI meet and its future policy stance. Measures being in-line with market expectations led to a relief rally. The focus has shifted to the Q4 earnings season, which

will start next week, initiated by the IT and Banking sector," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

From the 30-share pack, ITC, Dr Reddy's, M&M, Titan, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel and Asian Paints were the major gainers.

In contrast, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Sun Pharma, HDFC and HDFC Bank were the laggards. Markets in Asia in Seoul, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Tokyo ended in the green. Stocks in the US

also ended higher in the overnight session.

International oil benchmark Brent crude gained 0.65 per cent to USD 101.2 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth Rs 5,009.62 crore on Thursday, as per exchange data.

"For us the most important take away from the policy is that RBI has kept its ammunition intact and is well prepared to safeguard the Indian economy from any external shocks," said Siddharth Bhamre, Research Head, Religare Broking Ltd.

Rupee surges 13 paise to 75.90 against USD, gold falls slightly

Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

The rupee appreciated 13 paise to settle at 75.90 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, amid the Reserve Bank of India maintaining status quo on the benchmark lending rate.

Announcing the monetary policy, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Indian economy has large forex reserves and that it stands ready and resolute to defend the economy.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 75.99 against the US dollar and touched an intra-day high of 75.70 and finally closed at 75.90, registering a rise of 13 paise over its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee had declined 19 paise to close at 76.03.

Over 34.42 cr beneficiaries get Rs 18.60 lakh cr loan

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

More than 34.42 crore beneficiaries have received Rs 18.60 lakh crore loan under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) since its launch seven years ago, the Finance Ministry said on Friday.

The PMMY was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 8, 2015, for providing loans up to Rs 10 lakh to the non-corporate and non-farm small/micro-enterprises. "It is noteworthy that more than 34.42 crore loan accounts amounting to Rs 18.60 lakh crore have been opened under the Scheme for the creation of income-generating activities," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman said on the seventh anniversary of the scheme.



Nirmala Sitharman

The scheme has helped in creating an enabling environment, particularly for small businesses and generate large-scale employment opportunities at the grassroots level, she said. More than 68 per cent of the loan accounts have been sanctioned to women and 22 per cent of the loans have been given to new entrepreneurs who had not availed any loan since the inception of the

scheme, the minister added. While greeting and congratulating all the Mudra beneficiaries and urging other prospective borrowers to come forward and take part in the nation-building process, Sitharman said, "With 51 per cent of total loans sanctioned so far going to the SC/ST/ OBC category, the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana stands for social justice in action and embodies the true spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' as envisioned by the Prime Minister".

On the occasion, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad said the driving force behind launching the PMMY has been to provide institutional credit to micro, small and medium enterprises in a hassle-free/seamless manner.



Pankhuri takes a cue for her role from Aishwarya Rai

Ever since the promo launch of Star Bharat's newest offering, 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq,' viewers have been anticipating the show's unique love story and, of course, its title track, 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq' makes the audience feel as if they are lost in the mountains. Not only that, but the show's lead character, played by the audience's favourite actress Pankhuri Awasthi, will be seen as a tourist guide who will defy the stereotypes inherent in this male-dominated society. Pankhuri Awasthi has played many powerful characters in the past, and she has drawn inspiration from Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's character of 'Taal' in this show to play Kajju, a role she is very excited to play. Pankhuri Awasthi, who premised her character Kajju from Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's character

in the 1999 film 'Taal,' says, "The title track of the show is very beautiful, and the 'Taal' is the best in itself. When it comes to dancing on this song in the show, the first person who comes to mind is the renowned Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai. Because no one could have envisioned this song better than her. Especially when During my recent photoshoot for the show 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq' I was shown a picture of Mrs. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan as a reference on how to pose in my Pahari look. So it's not a stretch to say that I drew inspiration for Kajju from her. I hope that my character will be adored by the audience and that people will continue to love my character."

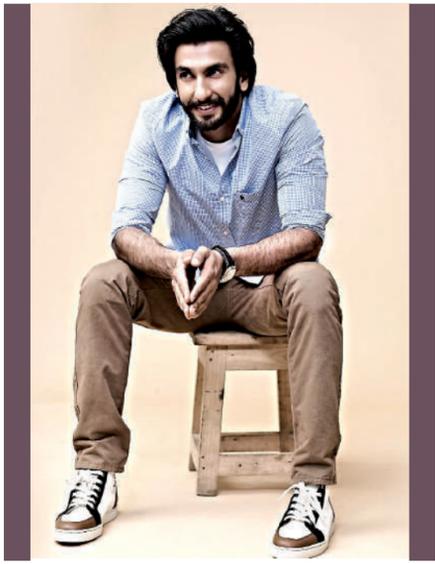
For more details, watch 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq' show this 18th April, Monday to Friday at 7:30 PM on Star Bharat.

Ranveer reveals what he loves about Gujarat

Actor Ranveer Singh, who is playing a Gujarati once again on the big screen after essaying Gujarati romeo in the Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Goliyon Ki Raasleela - Ram Leela', is thrilled about the prospect of getting 'the same amount of love from Gujaratis across the world, all over again' with his performance in the upcoming film 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar'. Ranveer says, "I'm playing a Gujarati boy again after Ram Leela, a film that gave me a mounting of a star in this industry. 'Ram Leela' showered me with incredible love from people, especially from Gujaratis across the world! Even now, when I meet any Gujarati, they always happen to mention how they loved my performance in Ram Leela." About

his love for Gujarat, the superstar says, "I love everything about Gujarat - its culture, its vibrancy, its zeal to be the best, and most importantly its people. So, I was really inspired to become a Gujarati boy in 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar' and get the same amount of love from Gujaratis across the world, all over again." "I hope they love the film and love my performance in it. I have given it my all and I know we have a very special film to offer to them." The much-awaited Yash Raj Films' 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar', also starring Arjun Reddy fame Shalini Pandey, who debuts on Bollywood's big screen opposite Ranveer, has been directed by debutant Divyang Thakkar.

The film is releasing on May 13 worldwide.



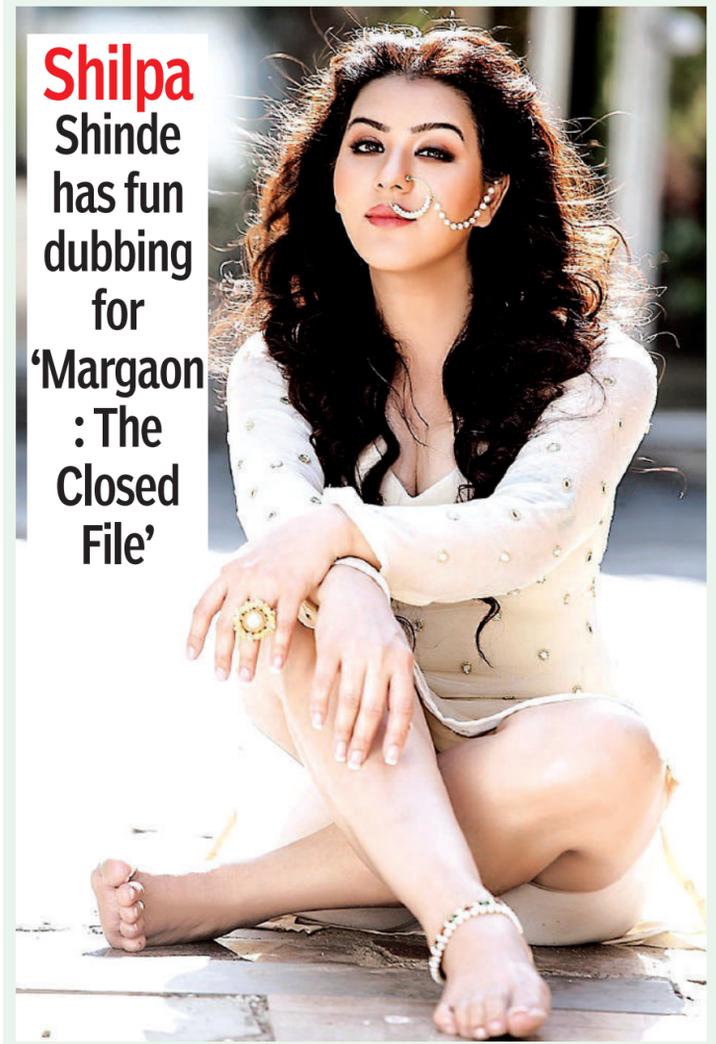
Popular television actor Shilpa Shinde is looking forward to the release of her next web-series 'Margaon: The Closed File'. Shilpa recently finished dubbing for the series which has been produced and directed by Kapil Kaustubh Sharma. According to her, shooting for this series has been one of the fun experiences of her career. Elaborating on the same, she says: "While dubbing for 'Margaon: The Closed File', I had exactly the kind of fun I had while shooting for it. Once the dubbing session got over, I also felt a tinge of sadness as it marked the end of my journey

on the show." "One of the things that made the experience of working on the show so memorable was the fact that there was so much positivity on the sets. Kapil made sure that everybody was comfortable and happy even while shooting some of the most challenging scenes," adds the 'Bhabi Ji Ghar Par Hai' actress. For producer-director Kapil Kaustubh Sharma, 'Margaon: The Closed File' is a special project for multiple reasons. It features some of the most respected actresses in the industry across different generations like Zeenat Aman, Pallavi Joshi, Kitu Gidwani, Shilpa

Shinde, Tanaaz Currim Irani and Suchitra Krishnamoorthi. Talking about getting so many talented actresses on board, Kapil says: "It was an honour and privilege to work with so many legendary actresses on this series. I am grateful to each one of them for saying a yes to this project. During her dubbing session, Shilpa ji said that it was one of the most special projects for her. For me, the goodwill and blessings of these actresses was the biggest reward of making this series."

'Margaon: The Closed File' will stream on a leading OTT platform later this year.

Shilpa Shinde has fun dubbing for 'Margaon: The Closed File'



Mahesh Babu does it again, comes to aid of 30 suffering children

On the occasion of World Health Day, Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu organised financial help to save the lives of more than 30 children. Mahesh Babu, besides delivering super hit movies, is also known for his generosity and philanthropy. Everyone is aware of the star's help, as he sponsors heart surgeries for suffering children. Recently, the 'Murari' actor sponsored 30 children, who underwent heart surgeries and interventions, with the help of doctors at Andhra Hospitals, Vijayawada, and Mahesh Babu Foundation. Mahesh Babu's wife Namrata Shirodkar Ghattamaneni took to her Instagram and thanked Biswa Bhusan Harichandan, the governor of Andhra Pradesh, for facilitating the event and lending his support as well. Namrata's Instagram post reads, "On the occasion of World Health Day today, 30 children underwent heart surgeries and interventions. The event was felicitated by hon'ble @governorap Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan garu." "Thank you team @andhrahospitals for your commitment to medical excellence and quality healthcare", Namrata mentioned. Namrata also shared a few pics, of the children who underwent the surgeries with the help of Mahesh's financial support.

On the work front, Mahesh will be next seen in Parasuram Petia's 'Sarkaru Vaari Paata'.



Raj Verma roped in for 'Dosti Anokhi'

New entries always brings in a lot of twist and turns to the storyline. And, spicing up the drama in Sony Entertainment Television's 'Jagannath Aur Purvi Ki Dosti Anokhi' that showcases an endearing relationship between an elderly gentleman, Jagannath Mishra and a young girl, Purvi, will be the character of Alok Mishra portrayed by the popular television actor Raj Singh Verma. During the course of the show, viewers have seen how Jagannath Mishra and Purvi's unique bond has grown stronger over time and how he has started treating her like his own daughter.

But while this new friendship is brewing, Jagannath is taken by surprise as Alok and Deepa return home for reasons unknown. It will be interesting to see if their entry back into the Mishra house change the dynamics between Jagannath and Purvi. Alok Mishra is the eldest son of Jagannath and Kusum Mishra who has always been the responsible sibling and tried to help his parents in whatever way possible. But, his

behaviour towards his family changed over time as he shifted abroad. So much so that he gave an excuse to send money when Jagannath had to go through an important surgery. Deeply hurt by this incident, Jagannath has not been able to forgive Alok about this. But, with Alok return to the Mishra house, help him mend his relationship with his father? Will Jagannath be able to let go and forgive his son?

Elated to be portraying the character of Alok Mishra, actor Raj Singh Verma said, "My character Alok is a very ambitious guys and has a highly realistic outlook on life as he approaches everything with a practical mindset. So, instead of being upset and hurrying back home when he learns of his father's heart attack, he came up with a more sensible approach. Many people think that he's rigid, but that doesn't imply that he doesn't love or care about his family."

Tune into Jagannath aur Purvi Ki Dosti Anokhi at 9:30 P.M. every Monday to Friday only on Sony TV.

HOROSCOPE SATURDAY APRIL 09

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

A group of friends might want you to go out with them today, Aquarius, but you probably won't feel up to it. Your financial situation could also require a little belt-tightening now, so you may not feel you can justify the expense. In any case, you aren't going to want to spend the evening alone. Invite a friend or love partner over to watch a movie with you.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Today you could feel full of energy and eager to get out for some exercise, Pisces, but other responsibilities might threaten to keep you from doing it. The resulting frustration could zap all your energy and put you in a lethargic mood. Don't fall into this trap! Get the most urgent tasks done and then get the exercise you need. This way, you can recoup both your physical and mental energy.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Your energy is probably pretty low today, Aries. You won't feel like socializing, nor will you feel like staying in and reading or watching TV. Chances are you won't know what to do with yourself all day. Under these circumstances, the best thing to do is find a distraction. Go work out, read a thrilling book, go to a funny movie. Get your mind off your lethargy and it could well disappear.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Career and financial goals could seem completely stalled, Taurus, and this could have you depressed, frustrated, and in something of a panic. Don't fall into this trap. This isn't a permanent condition. You'll be back on track in a few days. In the meantime, be good to yourself. Go to your favorite restaurant, buy yourself a present, or spend the afternoon in a bookstore. If nothing else, you'll feel better.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

A colleague could be in a very bad mood, Gemini, and therefore not the easiest person in the world to deal with. In fact, today he or she could resist working at all, and you might feel obligated to take up the slack. Only do it if the tasks are urgent. It isn't fair to you to have to do someone else's job. Don't feel guilty if you leave it unfinished.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Plans to go away on vacation or perhaps a business trip could be put on hold today, Cancer. Events you might have been scheduled to attend could be temporarily postponed. This could leave you feeling somewhat at a loss because you'd planned to be away and now you don't know what to do with yourself in the meantime. Be your usual ingenious self and you'll find something! Go to it!

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

This isn't a good day to visit the racetrack, Las Vegas, or any store that sells lottery tickets. Stay away from the stock market, too, Leo. Speculation of any kind now could be risky at best and disastrous at worst. Romance is also likely to be blocked today, since you're probably feeling a bit lethargic and not very social. Read a good book. That's the most productive thing you could do today!

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Virgo, you're likely to want to retreat into your bedroom and slam the door today. You won't feel like talking or socializing with anyone, not even those closest to you. Too much work could have you in a state of near exhaustion and almost total burnout, which means that getting some rest is probably the best thing you could do right now. Relax now, and get yourself going again tomorrow.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

This might prove to be one of those days in which it's very hard to get anything related to work or communication off the ground, Libra. You could find excuses to stop working more often than usual, particularly if it involves calling people on the phone. Don't fight it. Take care of the most urgent tasks. The world won't come to an end if you put the rest off a while.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

You might have planned to make a particular purchase today, Scorpio, but a quick check of your financial situation could reveal that it would be better if you waited until your next payday. This could prove disappointing and frustrating, but look at it this way - you've waited this long for this item. It isn't urgent, so waiting a little longer certainly won't hurt. Do something else today.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

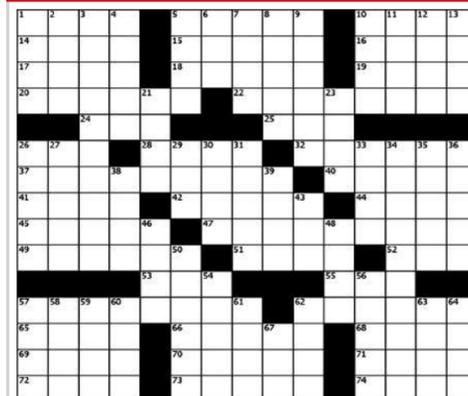
A lack of physical and mental energy as well as motivation could have you in a lethargic mood today, Sagittarius. You won't feel like doing much of anything. You might get extremely irritated at the thought of having to work in any way. It might be a good idea to go to a movie in the evening, preferably a thriller or action movie. This will get your juices flowing again.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Usually you enjoy talking with others, Capricorn, but today you won't even want to answer the phone. Your physical stamina and mental energy are low, and you could feel out of sorts. It might help if you go for a walk sometime in the afternoon. You won't want to waste your evening lying around the house. Get the endorphins going and then go to a movie. You'll soon be your old self again!

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- Doll's cry
- Sings alone
- Log float
- Guitarist _____ Clapton
- Not fitting
- Wheel shaft
- Fine sand
- Player
- Youth
- Cowboy bar

DOWN

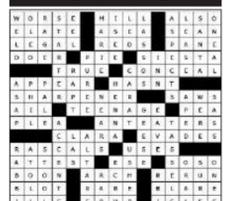
- Wrist ornament
- Pester
- Tire filler
- Uncle _____
- Dare
- Wanderers
- Running
- Military student
- Calendar number
- Water vapor
- At rest
- Stadium

- Orbiting object
- Walk leisurely
- Hero shop
- Paving goo
- Building site
- Chem., e.g.
- Evaluation
- Hubbub
- Loony
- Beatle Ringo _____
- Machu Picchu dweller
- Walter's handout
- Like Santa's helpers
- Calcutta dress
- Iditarod vehicle
- Plant beginnings
- Implored

DOWN

- Army cafeteria
- Divya's forte
- Small metric measure
- Role player
- Endorse
- "Snakes _____ Plane" (2 wds.)
- Young sheep
- "Carmen," e.g.
- Stress
- Assess
- Skating jump
- Take flight
- Portable shelter
- Gumbo veggie
- Gator's kin
- Soft drinks
- Separate

SOLUTION 263



Srikanth, Sindhu enter semifinals of Korea Open



Suncheon, Apr 08 (PTI):

Top Indian shuttlers P V Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the semifinals of the Korea Open Super 500 badminton tournament with contrasting wins here on Friday.

Third seed Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medalist, notched up her 17th win over familiar foe Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan 21-10 21-16 in the women's singles quarterfinals.

She will next face second seeded Korean An Seyoung, an opponent who has beaten her twice last year. In a battle between two former world number ones, it was World Championships silver medalist Srikanth, who rode on his power and precision to outwit local hope Son Wan Ho 21-12 18-21 21-12 in a men's singles quarterfinal match that lasted just over an hour. Srikanth had a 4-7 record against the Korean, having lost to him on last three occa-

sions. However, the Indian played better badminton on Friday to come up trumps against an opponent, who is coming back to international badminton after a two-year hiatus. The Indian, seeded fifth, will next face third seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia, who had claimed the Swiss Open last month. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty failed to make it to the semifinal after going down fighting 20-22 21-18

20-22 to Korean pairing of Kang Minhyuk and Seo Seungjae. In women's singles, Sindhu had no issues in disposing off Busanan, whom she had beaten at Swiss Open final last month. The Thai lead 5-2 in the opening game but after that it was a Sindhu show as she kept the match under her tight grip. Leading 11-7, Sindhu produced an eight-point burst to pull away from the Thai and grab the lead in the match.

Things were similar after the change of sides as Sindhu held a 8-2 lead and kept moving ahead as the Thai crumbled.

In men's singles, Srikanth showed better control as he dominated the short rallies to move to a comfortable 11-6 lead at the first interval and though Son Wan Ho made it 12-14, the Indian soon changed gears to walk away with the first game. The Korean came back strongly in the second game, opening up a 10-7 lead but Srikanth moved ahead to 13-11. An alert Son Wan Ho didn't let the game slip away and soon charged ahead to take it to the decider.

Srikanth made a rollicking 4-0 start in the decider but unforced errors allowed the Korean to make it 4-6. The Indian changed the pace with some quick attacking returns and his precision earned him returns. Srikanth managed a 11-7 lead at the interval.

India beat South Korea 3-0 to enter Women's Jr Hockey WC semifinals



Potchefstroom, Apr 08 (PTI):

The Indian women's hockey team continued its unbeaten run and defeated South Korea 3-0 here on Friday to enter the semifinals of the FIH Junior World Cup for only the second time.

The Indians, who topped the pool stage with an all-win record, scored through Mumtaz Khan (11th minute), Lalrindiki (15th) and Sangita Kumari (41st) to emerge winners in the quarterfinal match.

India's best result in the tournament remains the

bronze medal finish at the 2013 edition in M o n c h e n g l a d b a c h, Germany, where they defeated England 3-2 in shootout following a 1-1 stalemate in regulation time.

Against Korea, India made a sedate start but found their footing 10 minutes into the game.

The Indian players used their speed and defence-splitting runs to trouble the Korean backline, which resulted in two penalty corners, the first of which was capitalised by Mumtaz. It was

Olympian Sharmila Devi's brilliant run and a resultant pass that created the short corner for India and Mumtaz deflected home skipper Salima Tete's slap for her sixth goal of the tournament.

Seconds from the end of first quarter, Lalrindiki doubled India's lead by tapping in a rebound after Deepika's reverse shot was saved by Korean goalkeeper Eunji Kim.

The second quarter was more physical from both the teams but it was India who dominated possession.

Focus on Gaikwad as CSK face SRH in battle of strugglers



Navi Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

Battling poor form, opener Ruturaj Gaikwad will be under the scanner when strugglers Chennai Super Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad face off in the IPL here on Saturday, looking to register their first win.

Three successive losses have put new skipper Ravindra Jadeja under immense pressure and he would hope his teammates can script a turnaround against the Sunrisers, who too are smarting from two reverses.

One of the most decorated teams in the history of the IPL, CSK have endured a tough season so far, with

the team struggling on multiple fronts, especially batting. Gaikwad, last edition's leading scorer, has struggled with his footwork and his scores of 0, 1,1 has put CSK under pressure at the top.

The Maharashtra batter, who had scored 635 runs across 16 matches in 2021, will look to find his rhythm against Sunrisers. The good thing for Gaikwad is that he has the backing of his captain.

"We need to give him (Gaikwad) confidence as we all know he's a very good player. I'm sure he will come good," Jadeja had said after their last match. There is a lot of experience in CSK's batting

but it didn't help them against Punjab Kings as they could muster just 126 while chasing 180.

While Robin Uthappa had scored a fifty in one of the games, the likes of Moeen Ali and Ambati Rayudu have failed to capitalise on their starts.

Skipper Jadeja, too, will need to give a better account of himself, even as 'de facto' captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni looks to keep guiding the team.

In CSK's last outing, Shivam Dube's entertaining fifty was the only bright spot for the 'yellow brigade', and the team will expect him to deliver again.

Shubman Gill is one of the finest talents in world cricket: Shastri

Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

Former India coach Ravi Shastri has called young batter Shubman Gill "one of the finest talents in world cricket", someone who is tailor-made for the game's T20 format because of his wide range of strokes.

Gill, 22, who is playing for Gujarat Titans in the IPL, is using the ongoing season as an opportunity to make the Indian team for the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia.

Speaking on Gill's performance in the early stages of the tournament, Shastri said on



Star Sports' Cricket Live, "Gill is one of the finest talents in the country and in world cricket, to be honest. If he gets going, he can score big. He makes it (batting) look easy when he's set. 'He's got the punch, he's got the time, and he's got the power to clear the ground. He's just made

for this format of the game. It's just his shot selection, his rotation of the strike which helps him take the pressure away." Gill has impressed with his game in the on-going IPL and looks set to play a few influential knocks in the coming weeks. "He's the guy who's capable of putting bad balls away. Very good on the short ball and the short-arm jab," Shastri said. "Early stages in the tournament, good batting tracks, you get to your highest score, you're playing for a new franchise, it can only boost your confidence."

Main issue with football in India is league structure: Kushal Das

Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das on Friday said that the main issue with football in the country is the lack of a robust league structure.

The Indian men's football league system consists of three divisions (Indian Super League, I-league and I-League 2nd Division), besides the Indian Women's League (IWL). Currently ranked 106th in the FIFA chart, the men's national team is aiming to qualify for its second successive AFC Asian Cup finals

and are clubbed with Afghanistan (150), Cambodia (171) Hong Kong (147) in Group D for the qualifiers in June.

"... It's such a popular sport, easy to play, still India is far from where it should be and that's a very valid question. I think the main issue with football in India is the league structure," Das said at the launch of 'International Sports Expo' here.

India kicked off the I-league in 2007 while countries like Japan and South Korea had started much before, and Das conceded that India was late on that front too.

MI need to fire in unison to effect turnaround

Pune, Apr 08 (PTI):



Rohit gets some run under his belt. He has managed 41, 10 and 3 in the first three games. Despite their struggles, a few players

have done well individually. With scores of 81, 54, 14, Ishan Kishan has been a revelation at the top for MI, while young Tilak

Varma (22, 61, 38) has made an impression in the middle-order. The inclusion of Dewald Brevis, known as 'Baby AB', and

fit-again Suryakumar Yadav, who made 52 off 36 balls against KKR, has provided some solidarity to MI's bowing line-up.

Kieron Pollard, who made a 5-ball unbeaten 22-run cameo in the last match, is always a threat for rival bowling attack.

While MI's batting has been sorted to some extent, it is the team's bowling which needs to do better.

While its domestic bowlers — Basil Thampi and Murugan Ashwin — need to step up, it is the performance of its foreign recruits Australian Daniel Sams and Tymal Mills which is a cause of concern. Sams and Mills leaked runs aplenty against KKR.

Bond expects turnaround from MI bowlers after 3 losses

Pune, Apr 08 (PTI):

Shane Bond expects a turnaround from Mumbai Indians bowlers soon, but for that he said the five-time champions will have to stick to their plans, starting with Friday's IPL game against Royal Challengers Bangalore here.

Winless so far in their first three games, the MI bowling coach said he is not worried about their below-par effort with the ball. "It's a simple fix really. If we can stick to our plans and stick to the

areas we want to bowl when the pressure is on, then I think you'll see a turnaround," Bond said in a note shared by MI on the eve of their game against RCB.

"As I said, I think we've seen that when we've executed our plans the way that we wanted to, we've been really successful. We saw it in the last game against Andre Russell," he said.

"Venkatesh Iyer, we made him work really hard for a fifty and bowled really well to him. We've just had one player who's



come out in each game and hit 30-plus off sort of 10-11 balls which has taken the game away from us. Bond said it was a mixed bag performance

from MI bowlers in the first three games. "It's been a real mixed bag from us I suppose from a bowling unit. You look at the last game; the first ten overs were fantastic. We had a couple of overs that got away from us.

"It's been a little bit of a pattern for us, that we've done some really good stuff, we've taken out a number of the big players exactly how we thought we would but when the game's been in the balance, we've gone for some overs of 20-plus. And when you go for overs of

20-plus, then you end up losing matches," explained the former Kiwi speedster.

Bond reiterated that it was all about execution. "So the message really from me is to go back to what we are trying to do against a certain type of player? If we execute those plans, then we make it as hard as we possibly can.

"The challenge for us is to do that when the pressure is on at the back end of the game, which we haven't done so far," he signed off.

Pant fined for DC's slow over rate against LSG

Navi Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant has been fined Rs 12 lakh for his side's slow over rate against Lucknow Super Giants in an Indian Premier League match here. "As it was the team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences, Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant was fined Rs 12 lakh," the IPL said in a statement. DC lost by six wickets to LSG here on Thursday, to suffer their second defeat from three matches in the ongoing season. DC posted a modest 149 for three after being sent into bat but LSG rode on Quinton de Kock's 80 off 52 balls to easily chase down the target.



Yogi directs officers to not bulldoze properties of poor

Lucknow, Apr 08, (PTI):

With bulldozers running overtime to raze structures built out of illegally earned money in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday gave a clear-cut instruction to officials to not use them to demolish huts and shops of the poor. "Bulldozers should not be used on the huts and shops of the poor. It should be applied only against illegally earned wealth of criminals and mafias. Action should be taken against people who have forcibly taken away properties of the poor and traders," Adityanath said in his order to "bulldozer-baaz officials", according to a statement.

Adityanath has of late earned the nickname "bulldozer baba", which helped the party create a narrative of tough administration in the state polls. Such is the fear of bulldozers in UP that over 50 criminals have given themselves up to police in two weeks after the BJP returned to power in the state. "Bulldozers are giving a message that the criminals and mafias no longer control the system in Uttar Pradesh. It is also building confidence of the poor in the government,"



Yogi Adityanath

Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal told PTI. Many known toughies and influential politicians of the state too have faced the wrath of the bulldozer. A petrol pump that had allegedly been built illegally by Samajwadi Party MLA Shazil Islam Ansari was bulldozed on Thursday, days after the legislator was booked over a provocative remark against Adityanath. The demolition of the fuel station at Parsakheda on the Bareilly-Delhi National

Highway was carried out by the Bareilly Development Authority, an official said. It was not an isolated case. The Shamli district administration had on Wednesday freed a land allegedly encroached by Samajwadi Party MLA Nahid Hasan's uncle Sarvan Hasan in Kairana by razing the structure there.

A joint team of Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA), district administration, and police had on Monday demolished a wall and two sheds alleged to have been constructed without approval on the land of jailed don and former MP Atiq Ahmad's ancestral house in Chakia locality of the city.

MURAL BY ITALIAN PAINTER



A student with his mother walks past a mural, depicting the Indian national animal, the Royal Bengal Tiger, painted by Italian wildlife painter Maurizio Boshceri in collaboration with artists from the Government College of Arts, in Kolkata, Friday.

A hasty move which will add fuel to fire: China

On Russia's suspension from UNHRC

Beijing, Apr 08 (PTI):

A day after voting against the resolution suspending Russia's membership of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) at the UN General Assembly over civilian killings in Ukraine, China on Friday defended its vote, saying such a "hasty move" will set a dangerous precedent.

In a rare move, the 193-member UN General Assembly voted to adopt a draft resolution moved by the US to suspend Russia from the world body's top human rights organisation over allegations of Russian soldiers killing civilians while retreating from

towns near the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. The draft received 93 votes in favour, 24 against and 58 abstentions. India abstained from voting. China's all-weather ally Pakistan too abstained from voting.

Reacting to the developments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said: "It is like adding fuel to the fire which is not constructive to the de-escalation of the conflict, even less to advance peace talks." "The relevant resolution will deprive Russia of its membership of the UNHRC and sets a danger-ous precedent," he said.

No permanent member of the UN Security Council

has ever had its membership revoked from any organ of the world body. In 2011, Libya was suspended from the Council because of violence against protesters by forces loyal to then-leader Muammar Gaddafi.

As a close ally of Moscow, China has declined to condemn Russia's war on Ukraine even though it walked a fine line calling for peaceful resolution while highlighting Russia's security concerns relating to NATO expansion.

Observers say China, which faces serious human rights violation accusations against Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, ap-

prehends similar moves by the US and the EU countries who already have criticised Beijing.

We oppose politicising and instrumentalising the issue of human rights," Zhao told a media briefing here while elaborating on China's move to vote against the resolution moved by the US.

We oppose double standards, selective approach and confrontational moves on this issue and we oppose using this issue to pressure other countries," he said.

The relevant resolution will deprive Russia of its membership of the UNHRC, he said. For such a matter of great impor-

tedness a lot of prudence is needed. It should be handled in a cool-headed and objective manner based on facts and truth, he said.

On April 6, China said that images of civilian deaths in Bucha in Ukraine where the retreating Russian soldiers were alleged to have killed civilians are deeply disturbing.

The relevant circumstances and specific causes of the incident must be verified and ascertained. Humanitarian issues shouldn't be politicised. Any accusations should be based on facts," Zhao said at the time, when asked about civilian killings in Bucha.

BJP conspiring to make Mumbai a UT, says Raut

Mumbai, Apr 08, (PTI):

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Friday accused the BJP of conspiring to make Mumbai a Union Territory, saying that a presentation to that effect has been made to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Raut alleged that former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya and a group of party leaders, builders, businessmen were part of this conspiracy.

"A presentation about making Mumbai a union territory has been made to the MHA (by this group). Meetings have been held



Sanjay Raut

and funds are being collected for this purpose. This has been going on for the last two months and I am saying this with full responsibility. I have proof to substantiate what I am

saying. Chief minister (Uddhav Thackeray) is also aware of this development," Raut said.

"In the next few months, the group led Somaiya is likely to move court saying the percentage of Marathi people in Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra, has gone down drastically and hence the city should be made a union territory under the central government rule," the Sena MP claimed. Raut said Somaiya had earlier challenged the state government's decision to make Marathi a compulsory language in schools.

62 pc of parents favour mandatory masking for children, staff in schools while indoors

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

At least 62 per cent of parents favour mandatory masking for children and staff members in schools while they are indoors, a new survey has claimed. The survey conducted by online platform LocalCircles had over 25,000 respondents residing across 381 districts of India. Forty-two per cent of the respondents were from tier-1 cities, 35 per cent from tier-2 and 23 per cent from tier-3 and 4 cities and rural districts.

"At least 62 per cent of citizens said the mask mandate should be there. Only nine per cent said the mask

mandate should be removed. Eight per cent respondents said that mask mandate should be removed and reinstated if the national TPR rises above one per cent," the survey report said. According to the survey, nine in 10 parents indicated that most people in their areas either did not have masks or were not wearing them properly.

"Some of the participants criticised the state governments that have removed the mask mandates stating that the move will mark an end to the pandemic from a people's perception, making the situation highly vulnerable in case India experiences a fourth wave in the

coming months," the report said. "In states like Delhi, some parents have urged the state government to make the use of masks optional at schools. However, many others want masking to be mandatory and children be given mask breaks outdoors.

With the daily temperature surpassing 40 degrees in most parts of India, it is difficult for children to be with masks for seven-eight hours continuously," it added. The survey comes against the backdrop of states easing restrictions imposed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic following the reduction in the spread of the virus.

India to launch digital gaming research initiative soon

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

India is set to launch its digital gaming research initiative to develop high-end technologies for an immersive gaming environment with an aim to promote and popularise Indian culture, a senior official said.

The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Digital Gaming Research Initiative will have three verticals R&D in Learning and Leisure Gaming Platforms; Collaborative Technical Design Process; SERB Game Labs; and Immersive Game Prototypes with focus on Indian Culture and Values.

Principal, teacher among 6 arrested for helping students cheat in UP board exams

Ghaziipur (UP), Apr 08 (PTI):

The Uttar Pradesh Police Special Task Force (STF) has arrested six people in Ghaziipur district for allegedly being involved in organised cheating in the state board examinations, officials said on Friday.

The arrests were made on Thursday. A principal and a teacher of a government school in the Dhua Arjun area under the Saidpur police station limits of the district are among them, they said.

As per a statement issued by the STF, the arrests were made by its Varanasi unit.

"An STF unit acting on an intelligence input arrested six people from a panchayat building adjacent to the Kedarnath Inter College in Ghaziipur district. Those arrested were involved in organised cheating during the Uttar Pradesh board exams," it said.

District Magistrate of Ghaziipur Mangala Prasad told PTI on Friday that the accused would be charged under the National Security Act (NSA).

When the Class 12 board exam for Physics was underway at the school, the accused were supplying solved answer sheets to

some students taking the test. They took Rs 25,000 for each solved copy, according to the STF.

Those arrested include Ravindra Rai, the principal and assistant centre manager; Ashok Kumar Patel, a teacher; and solvers Rajneesh Kumar; Shailendra Yadav; Ravi Yadav and Piyush Kumar Yadav, the statement said.

"The principal took a picture of the question paper and shared it on a messaging application with the solvers. The solvers then solved the question paper which was to be submitted with help of Ashok Patel," it read.

It seems there is 'Taliban' govt in Rajasthan: BJP

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

The BJP on Friday accused the Congress government in Rajasthan of pursuing "appeasement politics", alleging that it seems to be taking steps to aid "communalism" in the state.

Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia and party spokesperson Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore hit out at the government led by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in the wake of the communal violence in Karauli.

Addressing a press conference, Poonia said the majority community, a reference to Hindus, are in "fear" of celebrating their festivals due to the government's "appeasement" policy.

Former village-level workers will be preferred for jobs under MGNREGS: TN CM

Chennai, Apr 08 (PTI):

Tamil Nadu government would accord preference to former Makkal Nala Paniyalargal (or village-level workers) and their legal heirs in providing them employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) with enhanced wages, Chief Minister M K Stalin informed the Assembly on Friday.

The former MNP workers, who are willing, would be appointed as project coordinators in all the 12,524 village panchayats in the State. The legal heirs of the workers, who had died in the past 10 years, would also be given preference in assigning work under MGNREGS as coordinators, the Chief Minister said. Refuting the charge made by former AIADMK Minister Sellur K

Raja that the DMK was distributing medicines at people's doorstep through the MNP, Stalin said the AIADMK regime abolished the MNP posts whenever the DMK government tried to revive the scheme. In 1989, the DMK government led by the then Chief Minister M Karunanidhi launched the Makkal Nala Paniyalargal Scheme through the Rural Development Department on September 2 that year to provide employment to the educated youth in the 12,617 village panchayats.

Government orders were issued for appointing the MNP to each village panchayat to look after the maintenance of basic details of the panchayat, safeguard its assets, encourage people in small savings and the duties assigned by the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.

SUNBIRD



A sunbird perches on a bunch of flowers, in New Delhi, Friday.

Sri Lanka's main Opposition party to move no-confidence motion against govt

Colombo, Apr 08 (PTI):

Sri Lanka's main Opposition party SJB on Friday announced that it will move a no-confidence motion against the government of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa if it fails to take steps to address the concerns of the public facing hardships due to the worst economic crisis. Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa also called for the Executive Presidency to be abolished, saying power should be divided between the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary.

The government must pay heed to the public demand for the Rajapaksa to quit, if not we will bring a no confidence motion," the leader of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) told Parliament. The SJB has begun to collect signatures from MPs for the no-confidence motion, according to media reports. Rajapaksa earlier proposed the cre-

ation of a unity government, but the main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) rejected the idea. Premadasa said that he cannot agree to an interim Government with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa remaining as President. The SJB said that it is also prepared to impeach the President.

He also submitted a set of proposals to Parliament on behalf of the SJB to address the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The Opposition backs the public protests happening all over the island, demanding the resignation of the President and the entire Rajapaksa family. Opposition JVP legislator Vijitha Herath said if Rajapaksa does not resign there needs to be a motion of impeachment for his removal as the President. If he is not responsive to the problems of the people let's be ready to impeach and remove him," he said.

Thousands of people

from all walks of life have been demonstrating, demanding a solution to the crisis and calling for Rajapaksa to resign over economic mismanagement. Rajapaksa has resisted the demands to step down, even after members of his own coalition joined the anti-government demonstrations this week, with governing party lawmakers calling for the appointment of an interim government to avoid possible violence.

Parliament has failed to reach a consensus in three days of debate on how to deal with the economic crisis. The President and his older brother, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, continue to hold power, despite their family being the focus of public ire. Five other family members are lawmakers, including Basil Rajapaksa, Irrigation Minister Chamal Rajapaksa and a nephew, Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa.



माँ महागौरी



BRIEF



Bollywood actors Shahid Kapoor and Mrunal Thakur pose for photos during a promotional event for their upcoming film Jersey, in New Delhi, Friday.

Coal seized

■ **Shillong:** Total 45,000 tons of illegally mined coal was seized in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district after the high court pulled up the state government for its failure to check illegal mining, officials said on Friday. The seizures were made over the last three weeks, they said. "Over 50,000 tons of coal was seized during the last three weeks. Of this, 45,000 tons was found to be illegal, while legal papers were available for 5,000 tons of coal," a senior official at the Directorate of Mineral Resources told PTI.

Five extremists held

■ **Hazaribag:** Five members of the outlawed Jharkhand Prastuti Committee (JPC) have been arrested from a forest area in Hazaribag district, a senior police officer said. Three rifles including one looted from the police, 30 live cartridges, 7.5 kg liquid gelatine, two pieces of detonators and an SUV were seized from their possession. Those arrested include the outfit's sub-zonal commander Harendra Ganju alias Netaji (23) and Area Commander Ishwar Dayal Mahto (27).

Infant mauled

■ **Saharanpur (UP):** A two-year-old infant was mauled to death by a stray dog in a village here, police said on Friday. Superintendent of police (Rural) Atul Sharma said, "A two-year-old daughter of a labourer was killed after being attacked by a stray dog. The incident was reported in Jhadwan village under Titron police station limits."

Patole meets Pawar

■ **Mumbai:** Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole on Friday said he met NCP president Sharad Pawar to discuss the misuse of Central agencies and the power crisis in the state. A meeting of MVA leaders on important issues will be scheduled soon, Patole told reporters after the meeting, which took place at Pawar's residence Silveroak in south Mumbai.

Weather
High 40 Low 26

MARKET
NIFTY 17,784.35
SENSEX 59,447.18

BULLION
GOLD 52,095
SILVER 66,850

Receiving foreign donation not an absolute right: SC

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Friday upheld the validity of certain amendments to the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, which came into effect in September 2020, saying "the strict regime had become essential because of the past experience of abuse and misutilisation of foreign contribution."

Observing that receiving foreign donations cannot be an absolute or even a vested right, the apex court said no one can be heard to claim a vested



right to accept the foreign donation because the theory of the possibility of the national polity being influenced by foreign contribution is globally recognised.

Upholding the amendments meant to strictly regulate the foreign funding of the NGOs, the top court noted many recipients of foreign contribu-

■ **Clears amendments to FCRA**

tions had not utilised the same for the purposes for which they were registered or granted prior permission under the Act and that many recipients had also failed to adhere to and fulfil the statutory compliances.

"...the strict regime had become essential because of the past experience of abuse and misutilisation of the foreign contribution' and cancellation of certificates of as many as 19,000 registered organisa-

tions on the ground of being grossly non-compliant, the apex court said.

A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar declared that the amended provisions namely, sections 7, 12(1A), 12A, and 17 of the 2010 Act, are intra vires the Constitution and the principal Act.

However, it read down section 12A and construed it as permitting the key functionaries or office bearers of the associations/NGOs, who are Indian nationals, to produce Indian passports for the purpose of their identification.

Terrorist Hafiz Saeed sentenced to 31 years in jail

New Delhi, Apr 08:

26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed was today sentenced to jail for 31 years by an anti-terror court in Pakistan.

Hafiz Saeed, the founder of the terror group Lashkar e Taiba and the chief of Jamaat ud Dawa, was sentenced in two cases. The court also ordered all his assets be seized and fined the UN-designated terrorist Rs 3,40,000. Reports suggest a mosque and madrasa that Hafiz Saeed allegedly built will be taken over.



Hafiz Saeed, 70, has been sentenced in multiple cases of terror financing in the past. In 2020, he was sentenced to 15 years in jail. He has spent years in and out of detention in varying forms in Pakistan, sometimes under house arrest. But he

roams freely across the country while addressing incendiary speeches targeting India with impunity. He was arrested in 2019, just before Pakistan PM Imran Khan's visit to the US. At the time, US President Donald Trump had tweeted that Saeed had been detained after a 10-year search.

Saeed was travelling to Gujranwala from Lahore to appear before an anti-terrorism court when he was arrested by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab.

Card-less cash withdrawal at all ATMs soon: RBI

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday proposed to make card-less cash withdrawal facility available across all banks and automated teller machine (ATM) networks using unified payments interface (UPI). "At present, the facility of card-less cash withdrawal through ATMs is limited only to a few banks. It is now proposed to make card-less cash withdrawal facility available across all banks and ATM networks using the UPI," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in his first monetary policy statement for the financial year 2022-23. Under the card-less cash withdrawal facility, a customer is not required to use his/her debit or credit cards while withdrawing cash from ATMs.

RAMADAN PRAYERS



Devotees leave after offering prayers during the holy month of Ramadan, at Jama Masjid in New Delhi, Friday.

Rahul calls for Opposition unity

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

Opposition parties against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the RSS should come together and discussions are ongoing on what should be its framework, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Friday after meeting RJD leader Sharad Yadav, whom he described as his "guru". Addressing the media at his house with the Congress leader by his side, Yadav said Gandhi should take over as the Congress president.

Asked if the Opposition must come together to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP),



Gandhi said, "Opposition parties that are against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Narendra Modi should come together. Discussions are ongoing on how they should come together, what should be the framework of it, and that has to be developed."

On whether Gandhi should become Congress president, Yadav said, "Why not? Rahul Gandhi works for the party 24x7 and I think he should become the president of the party. The Congress should make him president only then something big can happen."

When Gandhi was asked to comment on the issue, he parried the question, saying, "We will see about that." Describing Yadav as his "guru", Gandhi said Yadav was unwell for a long time, and he was happy to see him "fighting fit" now. "He has taught me a lot about politics," Gandhi added.

Pak oppn eyes Nawaz return, President Alvi's ouster

Islamabad, Mar 08, (PTI):

Pakistan's Opposition has completed its initial talks for the formation of a new government once Prime Minister Imran Khan is ousted on Saturday after the no-confidence motion and plans are afoot for the removal of President Arif Alvi and the return of deposed premier Nawaz Sharif from the United Kingdom, a media report said on Friday.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President and Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif, 70, who is the Opposition's candidate

for the new prime minister, will announce his possible government priorities after taking the oath.

In a landmark 5-0 verdict on Thursday, a five-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial ruled that National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri's ruling rejecting a no-confidence motion against Khan was "contrary to the Constitution and the law, and of no legal effect."

The apex court also declared the advice by the Prime Minister to President Alvi to dissolve the national assembly as "unconstitutional."

Paid booster shots for all adults from Sunday

New Delhi:

Precaution vaccination against Covid-19 will now be available to the 18+ population group from April 10 at private vaccination centres. Precautionary doses are called booster doses all over the world. Those who are 18 years of age and have completed 9 months after the administration of the second dose are eligible for precaution dose at private vaccination centres, the government said.

"The ongoing free vaccination programme through government vaccination centres for the first and second dose to the eligible population as well as precaution dose to health-care workers, frontline workers and 60+ population would continue and would be accelerated," the government added.

India successfully flight testes missile system SFDR booster



Odisha, Mar 08 (PTI):

India on Friday successfully flight tested Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet booster, a missile system, at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur off the Odisha coast.

The SFDR-based propulsion enables the missile to intercept aerial threats at

very long range at supersonic speeds, the Defence Research and Development Organisation said.

The test demonstrated reliable functioning of all critical components involved in the complex missile system and met all the mission objectives, it said.

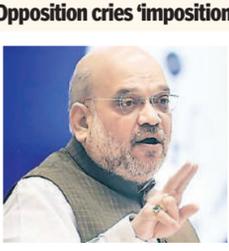
The performance of the system has been confirmed from the data captured by a number of instruments like telemetry, radar and electro Optical tracking systems deployed by ITR.

Amit Shah bats for Hindi as alternative to English

New Delhi, Apr 08:

Hindi should be accepted as an alternative to English and not to local languages, Union Home minister Amit Shah said on Friday. He made the remarks during the 37th meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee in New Delhi.

As per a statement issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), the Union Home minister suggested to the committee that it is time to carry out a revision of the Hindi



dictionary. He even mentioned that 70 per cent of the Union Cabinet's agenda is now prepared in Hindi. Union Home minister stressed the need for "elementary knowledge of

Hindi for students up to 9th class" and "more attention to Hindi teaching examinations". "Time has come to make the Official Language an important part of the unity of the country. When people from states which speak other languages communicate with each other, it should be in the language of India. "Unless we make Hindi flexible by accepting words from other local languages, it will not be promoted," the Union Home minister said.

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60 minutes power cut ensures ample water supply to localities at tail-end

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: The positive effect of one hour power-cut every morning is visible now. Due to power-cut, the water pressure in taps has increased across all the zones of Bhilai Municipal Corporation. Even the taps situated at the tail end are getting ample water supply.

On the instructions of Mayor Neeraj Pal, Commissioner Prakash Surve and his team worked hard and the positive outcome is visible now. BMC has already geared up to deal with the drinking water crisis in the summer.

Mayor Neeraj Pal has instructed the officials to ensure sufficient water supply at every household during the summer. Every family should get enough water. The use of Tullu Pumps by numerous households had resulted in water crises in various localities.

Considering the public demand and on the basis of the report prepared by the Water Works Department,



BMC ensured one-hour power-cut in the morning across the city. Now the people are unable to use tullu pumps. This has increased the water pressure across the city. Now the taps located at the tail end are also getting sufficient water supply.

In view of the complaints received from common people, Commissioner Prakash Surve inspected the localities and slums in Sunder Nagar Ward Number 32 of Zone 3. During the morning visit, he interacted with the people and assured them to resolve the problems.

The women informed

him that the old pipeline laid by BSP has worn out at various places. Commissioner assured the residents that an action plan has been prepared for laying the pipeline under AMRUT Mission Phase-II. Works will be launched soon after completing the departmental process.

Commissioner directed the Zone Commissioner Yesha Lahere to continue to monitor and prevent the use of tullu pumps. He instructed the Sanitation Inspector Virendra Banjare to ensure regular sanitation activities. He asked the Zone Commissioner to supply

water through tankers to the places where water is not reaching yet.

Zone 3 Commissioner Yesha Lahare, Sub Engineer Krishna Kumar Janghel, Inspector Virendra Banjare, Bablu Ram Sahu, Shyam Thakur, Venkat and other employees were present.

It needs to be mentioned here that water was not reaching due to low pressure in Sector 11 Balaji Nagar, Subhash Nagar, Babu Nagar, Sonia Nagar and Gautam Nagar of Zone 4 area. Now due to the one-hour power cut, enough water is reaching every house.

Bereaved family refuses Rs 2 lakh compensation from contractor

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: On Friday, the bereaved family of the contract labour, who died in road mishap at BSP, refused to accept the compensation of Rs 2 lakh offered by the contractor. The principal employer, Bhilai Steel Plant provided an offer letter to provide compassionate appointment to one of the dependents of the deceased. Later, the family agreed to accept the mortal remains for conducting the last rites.

It could be recollected here that a contract labour of Bhilai Steel Plant was killed in a road mishap which occurred inside the plant premises on Thursday evening. Speeding earth moving equipment had crushed the cyclist labour to death. The incident occurred around 16:00 hrs on the road between Gas Holder Square to Oxygen Plant 2. The deceased was Leeladhar Swarnakar (53)

BSP gives offer letter of compassionate appointment



a resident of Prem Nagar, Camp-2, Chhawani. He worked as a painter for the contractor GP Electricals. He was travelling on a bicycle when a speeding Fowler Crane crushed him to death. He is survived by a son, daughter and family.

On Friday morning, the bereaved family accompanied with the neighbours and leaders of trade unions reached the Mortuary of Sector 9

Hospital and raised the demand of compassionate appointment and proper compensation.

CITU leader Yogesh Soni informed that the officials of Industrial Relations Department reached there and provided a letter of compassionate appointment to one of the dependents. Later, under the pressure of trade unions, the Contractor also reached there and negotiated with

the family. He made an offer of providing Rs 2 lakh compensation, which was rejected by the family. They were demanding a minimum of Rs 5 lakhs.

Later the family accepted the mortal remains of the deceased labour for conducting the last rites. Hindustan Ispat Theka Shramik Union leader Yogesh Soni, Jai Prakash Nair, Sanjay Sahu and other labour leaders were present.

Online cricket satta bookies arrested

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: Durg Police is continuously taking action against the people involved in illegal activities of betting and gambling. During the IPL season, Police are concentrating on people involved in online cricket betting. In this sequel, police nabbed two persons who were accepting online bets on the cricket match.

Inspector Gaurav Tiwari (I/c Cyber Cell) informed that they received a tip off regarding two suspects who were conducting an online cricket betting racket at Sector 6. Acting on this tip off, police conducted a raid at a house situated in Avenue-A, Sector 6 and caught two persons red handed while accepting bets on cricket matches.

The accused were identified as M Kishan Rao (28) son of M Venkat Rao a resident of Sector 6 and Baljeet Singh (38) son of



Late Charan Singh a resident of Sector 6.

The accused had downloaded online betting apps including Cricket Line Guru, Mobile Cricket Line and Crickline on their mobile phone. They were getting betting rates through these apps and were accepting bets from people for the match played between Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants.

Police seized three nos mobile phones and Rs 9900 cash from their possession.

Sub Inspector Rajiv Tiwari, ASI Purna Bahadur, Constable Anil Singh, Rinku Soni, Santosh Gupta, Panne Lal, Shahbaz Khan, Jugnu Singh, Anup Sharma and Shamim Khan played vital role in arresting the accused.

Development works worth Rs 23.60 cr in mining affected areas

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: Coaching of PSC and other competitive examinations will also be provided in the block headquarters. Considering the good response of the participants for the ongoing coaching of competitive examinations in the district headquarters, this decision was taken in the meeting of DMF held the other day.

Presiding over the Governing Council meeting of DMF, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure said that a big change can be brought in the educational scenario through DMF. It has been proposed to organise coaching at Block headquarters for the students

Coaching for competitive exams now at Block Headquarters too



preparing for NEET, engineering entrance examinations along with other competitive examinations and PSC. Further, the infrastructure of the library will also be improved. Maithilisharan Gupta reading room located in the district headquarters will be renovated.

Books and materials will be kept here for the preparation of competitive examinations. There will also be a facility for accommodating fifty students. Digital classroom solutions will be set up in 13 schools in mining affected areas so

that arrangements can be made to teach children in an innovative and digital mode. TML labs will be set up in 25 mining affected schools. The infrastructure of primary schools of 92 mining-affected villages will be improved and all possible facilities will be provided.

Proposals worth Rs 41.73 crore were placed in the meeting. Of these, proposals worth Rs 23.60 crore were for the areas directly affected by mining and Rs 18.13 crore for the areas indirectly affected by mining. District Panchayat

President Shalini Rivendra Yadav, Additional Collector Nupur Rashi Panna, District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan and other officers were present.

Units for jam, jelly, ketchup, rose extract, cow urine extract, tulsi extract etc will be established in Gauthans. Proposals were also made to expand livelihood activities in Gauthans. A proposal was tabled to manufacture rose extracts, basil extracts, cow urine extracts etc in Gauthan.

Proposals for incense sticks, incense sticks made

from cow dung, incense stands etc were also tabled. Food processing unit was also proposed for production of jam, jelly, and ketchup. Proposals for agricultural sprinklers etc were also placed.

Proposal for distribution of supplementary feed, distribution of nets etc was also proposed to promote fisheries. Decision was taken to distribute solar lights to 2000 beneficiary farmers engaged in community baadis. Fiber production unit from banana stems was proposed at Khiloraakala. SHGs in Thanaud, Kolihapuri, Changori etc will be trained for beekeeping.

In the meeting of DMF, a proposal was made to provide hot food to malnourished children and lactating mothers in Anganwadi. Rs 1.08 lakh will be spent for this project through DMF.

Divisional Commissioner lauds SHGs for their appreciable works at Gauthans



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: Nodal officers are inspecting the Gauthans under the two-day Gauthan Pahuch programme. According to the instructions of the state government, they are inspecting the activities happening in Gauthans of Durg district. On Friday, Durg Divisional Commissioner Mahadev Kavre visited various gram panchayats to explore the ground reality.

During the visit to gauthans at villages Risama and Matwari, he oversaw the arrangements made for the cattle. He inquired about the activities from women self-help groups and members of Village Gauthan Samiti. After seeking complete information about dung procurement and manure making, he gave many suggestions to make Gauthan as a livelihood center.

While inspecting all the activities of Gauthan, Kavre asked the members of the group to maintain accounts register, explore new means of livelihood by making better use of the

available space in Gauthan. In Risama Gauthan, he interacted with the members of Laxmi Mahila Self Help Group, Sheela Mahila Self Help Group and Sri Sri Mahila Self Help Group.

The women informed that last year a total of 606 quintals of manure were manufactured and sold. They earned Rs 53000, Rs 33000 and Rs 39000 respectively. The divisional commissioner expressed happiness and encouraged the women. He also appreciated the women for the activities at Baadi. He inspected the works of vermicompost, poultry, and fish farming in Matwari Gauthan.

Vermi compost was produced by the women of the Bihan group. Ankur Mahila Self Help Group earned Rs 42000 and Arpana Mahila Self Help Group earned Rs 19000. Ashtangi Mata Mahila Self Help Group earned Rs 45000 from poultry farming and Abhilasha Mahila Self Help Group earned Rs 20000 from fisheries.

Joint Director (Agriculture) RK Rathore, Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat Durg

Shailesh Bhagat, ADEO Manoj Dewangan, members of women's group, members of Village Gauthan Committee and field staff of various departments were present.

Shailesh Bhagat, CEO, Janpad Panchayat Durg said that the inspection of all the Gauthans of Janpad Panchayat is being done by the Nodal Officer. They will prepare a report and submit it to respective Janpad Panchayats. This work is being done to collect information about the benefits of Gauthans. CEO Janpad Panchayat further informed that as per the guidelines of the government, Gauthans have been constructed in the village panchayats and urban areas of the district and various economic activities including vermin compost production, sack making, vegetable production, poultry farming, quail rearing, fish farming and other seasonal activities are being conducted. Cow dung is being procured by the Village Gauthan Samitis. District level nodal officers have been appointed to look after all these works.

Five including two junk dealers arrested for theft

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: Police have arrested three ruffians on charges of committing theft at a factory-M/s Dhiraj Traders Company located in Light Industrial Area. Two junk dealers were also arrested for purchasing the stolen booty. Police have recovered the machine parts worth Rs 5 lakhs from the possession of the accused.

CSP (Old Bhilai) Vishwas Chandrakar informed that Khursipar Police Station had received a complaint regarding theft at M/s Dhiraj Traders Company. During investigation, police examined the CCTV footage and found three unknown persons trespassing into the factory and escaping with the machine parts.

As the footage was not clear, police activated its network of informers and soon a suspect Salmaan of Machli Market Khursipar was taken in custody. During interrogation, he confessed to have committed the crime. He disclosed the names of his accomplices Vivek and Chandan as well as the junk dealers who purchased the stolen items.

All the accused were arrested under the provisions mentioned in section 457, 380, 411, 34 of IPC. The accused are identified as Salmaan Khan (19) of Machli Market Khursipar; Vivek Yadav (29) of Machli Market Khursipar and Chandan alias Kallu (27) a resident of Machli Market Khursipar. The arrested junk dealers are Mahendra Sahni (74) of Machli Market Khursipar and Jwala Singh (48) of Panch Rasta Supela. Inspector Durgesh Sharma (SHO, Khursipar), Sub Inspector Satish Sahu, Constable Rakesh Chaudhary, D Prakash and Subhash Chand played vital roles in arresting the accused.

KH Memorial School celebrates World Health Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 08: On the occasion of "World Health Day", a special assembly was organized at KH Memorial School. Principal Vibha Jha gave tips to the students to stay healthy and fit. Dr Vikas Verma conducted the health checkup of all the students. In the special assembly, the students explained the importance of "World Health Day" through Poems, Slogans and Drama.

Principal Vibha Jha said that the purpose of celebrating "World Health Day" is that every person in the world should have access to good health facilities. People should be health conscious. Aware citizens can help in prevention of diseases across the globe.

She further said that presently the entire world is struggling against coronavirus infection, pollution and other dangerous diseases. In such a situation, it is very important to be health conscious. This year's theme of World Health Day was 'Our planet, our health'.

Director Nishchay Jha and Academic Director Shrishti Jha also addressed the students and asked them to be always aware of their health. The students presented



cultural programmes. Class 5 student Ishika Devangan presented a song on the importance of World Health Day. Devika of class-12 delivered a speech on the concerned topic. Class 8 and 9 students Deepti Yadav, Akanksha Dubey, Rashi Shukla, Riya Vishwakarma, Isha Suryavanshi, Omkar Prasad and others gave slogans for health awareness. Class 2 to 5 students Shikha, Ishant, Pawan, Aditi, Gurveer, Vivek, Aadhy, Yash, Aaradhy, Yasir, Anshika and Mansi presented a drama.

Later, Dr Vikas Verma and his colleague RN Rama Rao conducted the health checkup of all the students. He checked the body weight of the students and detailed them

about a balanced diet. He asked them to consume plenty of pulses, green vegetables, roti, paratha, milk, porridge, soybean, fresh fruits, gram, groundnut, jaggery etc in the food.

Dr Verma suggested the students to drink plenty of water. He added that physical activities like exercise, gardening, cycling, jogging, running etc are also important for good health.

Rupesh Choudhary, TG Rao, Monalisa Roy Chowdhury, Anjana Soni, Purnima Dubey, Sujata Sahu, Rajni Pandey, Sonal Jaiswal, Sadhna, Kamaljit Kaur, Monika Srivastava, Rashmi Jaison, Ramita Yadav, Jagriti Yadav, Sanjeet Paswan, Hitesh Kumar and other teachers were present.

BJP should disclose whether it can pay MSP on paddy in line with Cong: Baghel



Addresses huge gathering in Gram Jalbandha for Khairagarh by-poll

Central Chronicle News

Rajnandgaon, Apr 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is addressing series of public meetings in different parts of

Khairagarh VS area for the by-poll on April 12 and he started the fifth day of his electioneering from Gram Jalbandha.

CM Bhupesh Baghel on reaching the dais first beg apology from the public for coming late.

Addressing the public meeting, CM Baghel made an appeal to all the voters to vote in favour of party's candidate Yashoda Verma

and in favour of Congress party. On this occasion he reiterated party's promise in its election manifesto to form new District of Khairagarh and making Jalbandha as sub-tehsil.

Giving reply on arrival of CM of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan for campaigning for BJP in Khairagarh by-poll in novel way, CM Baghel said that how is it possible that

'Mama' can face 'Kaka', as 'Kaka' is still alive. Baghel said that he should come here and talk about Raman Singh and the scams in his state and questioned as to whether they can pay the MSP on paddy which his government is paying to the farmers.

Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey also addressed in the election campaign in Jalbandha area for Khairagarh by-poll and gave information about various pro-farmer schemes being run by the state government and he held the Centre's Modi government and state's ex-CM Raman Singh as anti-farmer. He made an appeal to all present to vote in favour of party's candidate Yashoda Verma and ensure her with resounding victory.

COLOURFUL PROGRAMME



Students of St. Vincent Pallotti College presented colourful cultural programme here on Friday.

About 1000 Transport Facilitation Centers to be set up in the State

Chief Minister had announced on January 26

Raipur, Apr 08: In order to provide easy and near to home transportation related services in Chhattisgarh, the process of opening Transport Facilitation Centers across the state has been approved. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had made an announcement on January 26 for the establishment of Transport Facilitation Centers across the state to expand the transport related services. After the announcement of Chief Minister Mr. Baghel, the process was started in this regard.

During this, a draft was prepared by the Transport Department regarding the establishment and role of Transport Facilitation Center. After approving this draft, the process has been started for further action. According to the issued guidelines, about one thousand transport facility centers can be opened across the state. At the same time, the possibility of employment generation for about five thousand youth will also be created with the establishment of transport facilities. According to the information received from the department, the Transport Facilitation Center can be authorized to make a learning license according to the Gazette No. 240 (A)

of the Government of India issued on March 31, 2021. In order to give employment-oriented nature to this vision, it has been decided to establish a Transport Facilitation Center in Chhattisgarh. The biggest benefit of the establishment of transport facility centers in the state will be to the general public. Till now, due to lack of correct information, a large number of people have been applying for transportation related service by contacting unauthorized agents. Due to which they have to suffer financial loss in addition to taking more time. There will be no need to visit unauthorized agents for transport related facilities.

Take immediate action on the recommendation of the Third State Finance Commission: Minj

Raipur, Apr 08: The first meeting was held by the State Finance Commission with the departments related to the Finance Commission on April 5th. The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of the State Finance Commission, Mr. Sergius Minz. In the meeting, Mr. Minj directed all the departments concerned to take prompt action on the valid recommendations of the Third State Finance Commission and follow them up and send the report to the Commission at the earliest. In the meeting, it was informed by the Commission that software is being prepared to collect information from Panchayat and urban bodies. The Panchayat and Urban Administration

Department was asked to cooperate in uploading the information in this software. Finance Secretary Mrs. Alarmel Mangai D informed that action is in progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third State Finance Commission. In the meeting, the commission has been asked to cooperate with the commissioner of the higher education department in the study works related to the commission's work area to be completed within a period of three months. The Commissioner of Panchayat Department, Commissioner and Director of Higher Education Department, Secretary of State Finance Commission were present in the meeting.

Four caught playing satta during IPL matches

Raipur, Apr 08: Police have arrested four persons playing satta during IPL matches in different police station areas of the capital. Mobiles and cash have been seized from them. Acting on a tip of by an informer the police conducted raid at Satti Bazar. Phawwara Chowk resident Vijay Jain and Pawan Sakhre, were caught playing satta online. Two mobiles and cash of Rs 12,500 were recovered from their possession.

Meanwhile DD Nagar Police arrested Sachin Kumar Chidhad, a resident of Bandhwapara, who was operating online satta in a paan shop in Kushalpur area. Two mobiles and Rs 11,300 in cash were seized

from his possession. Similarly, the police arrested Kharora resident Tarachand Yadav and seized a mobile phone and Rs 10,000 in cash from him.

The Anti Crime and Cyber ??Unit team caught a person red handed while he was operating online satta under the Kharora police station. It was learned that a person was playing satta with an ID in his mobile phone in a street located in Ward No. 08, during the match between Lucknow Super Giants vs Delhi Capitals. The joint team of Anti Crime and Cyber ??Unit and Police Station Kharora caught him red handed at the place mentioned by an informer.

During interrogation the arrested person revealed his name as Tarachand Yadav resident Kharora Raipur.

After checking the mobile phone of the arrested person, police found that he was operating satta in a cricket match by adding an ID from Instagram to the Mahadev app. During interrogation he confessed of having conducted online satta in cricket match by taking ID in his mobile phone. One mobile phone and cash of Rs 10000 were recovered from his possession. With registration of offense under Section 4 (a) of the Gambling Act, action was also taken under separate prohibitory sections against him in Kharora police station.

Contract electricity worker killed in accident

Raipur, Apr 08: An electricity worker who had come to Raipur to participate in ongoing strike of contract electricity workers in Raipur was killed in a road accident. He was killed after he was hit on his bike by an SUV vehicle. The accident took place on late Thursday night when he was returning from Mana along with two others on a bike. Meanwhile a fortuner car coming behind him hit the bike. The deceased identified as Baliram had gone to Mana area with two other youth. After being hit by fortuner car all three of them fell on ground. Speeding fortuner car then ran over Baliram and fled. Two youths who were coming along with Baliram said that they rushed him to Hospital in a bid to save his life after accident but he died.

Contract electricity workers from different districts of Chhattisgarh suddenly gathered behind Ambedkar

Hospital on Friday afternoon. Police were also stunned to see contractual employees gathered outside the mortuary building. The top officers immediately reached the spot and started talking to the employees. In fact the employees were planning to agitate at the same place due to death of their colleague in road accident.

Infuriated over the accident the contract electricity workers gathered outside post mortem house of mortuary. After persuasion by the police officers, a delegation of these contractual electricians agreed to meet the administrative officers. Now all are demanding that due to this death of Baliram, a family member should be given compassionate appointment and a compensation of Rs 15 lakh should be released. Contract electricity workers started agitation in support of demand for regularisation.

21000 houses approved in the state under the housing mission for all



Raipur, Apr 08: Under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Amitabh Jain, a meeting of the State Level Approval and Monitoring Committee of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Housing for All Mission (Urban) was held at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan on Friday. In the meeting, Chief Secretary Jain said that

21,340 houses have been approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee in 126 urban bodies under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Housing for All Mission (Urban) in the state. He directed to determine the priority basis for allot-

ment of houses under the scheme. He clearly said in the meeting that the beneficiaries who have booked accommodation earlier, should be allotted accommodation on priority basis. It was informed in the meeting that 21,340 houses would be constructed under the Housing for All (Urban) scheme in 126 urban areas of the state at a cost of Rs 644 crore 17 lakh 54 thousand. 320 crore 10 lakh central share and 176 crore two lakh four thousand rupees state share will be there in the scheme. The contribution of the beneficiaries will be Rs 168 crore five lakh 49 thousand.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), other topics were discussed in the meeting including rental houses at concessional rates, self-construction of housing by the beneficiary, affordable housing construction in partnership. In the meeting, Secretary of Urban Administration Department, Ms. Alarmel Mangai D., Secretary of Revenue and Disaster Management Department Mr. N.N.Akka, Commissioner Chhattisgarh Home Construction Board Mr. Ayaz Tamboli, Director Village and City Investment Mr. Jaiprakash Maurya, State Urban Development Agency. Representatives of HUDCO, Indian Oil Corporation along with Chief Executive Officer Mr. Saumil Ranjan Choubey participated.



Former Governor Shekhar Dutt calls on Chhattisgarh Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey

Raipur, Apr 08: Former Governor of Chhattisgarh, Shekhar Dutt had a courtesy call on Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey at Chhattisgarh Bhawan in Delhi. Mr. Dutt, while discussing various subjects of the country and state with Governor Ms. Uikey, also discussed the present economic, social situation and law and order of Chhattisgarh in detail. On this occasion, Governor Ms. Uikey honoured Mr. Dutt with a shawl and a memento. Former Governor Shekhar Dutt also presented a collection of poetry to Ms. Uikey.

Dr. Ram Sundar Das inaugurates state level Manas singing competition



In Shivrinayan State level Manas singing competition from April 8 to 10

Raipur, Apr 08: Mahant Dr. Ram Sundar Das, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Gauseva Aayog, on Friday inaugurated the three-day state level Manas Mandali competition at the fair ground of Shivrinayan. State level competition for singing of Ramayana troupes at Shivrinayan, a famous pilgrimage site of Janjgir-Champa district, was organized from April 8 to 10, on the occasion of the inauguration of the first phase of develop-

ment works completed in the famous pilgrimage Shivrinayan under Ram Navami and Ram Van Gaman tourism circuit. In the state level Manas singing competition, about 350 artists from selected Manas circles of 25 districts will give their presentations in the state level competition on April 8-9 and 10.

At the conclusion of the competition, on April 10, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will reward the Ramayana congregations who came first three places in the competition. First prize Rs 5 lakh, second prize Rs 3 lakh and third prize Rs 2 lakh will be given to the winners.

Work of setting up rural industry centers to start soon in Ch'garh

Raipur, Apr 08: With a view to create employment opportunities in villages and prepare roadmap for establishment of Rural Industries Centers under Rural Industrial Park, a flagship scheme to connect farmers, youth, women with innovation and entrepreneurship in their own villages a workshop was organised by the State Planning Commission at Yojana Bhawan, Nava Raipur on Friday.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the field implementation of Rural Industries Centers. On the basis of suggestions given by the officers of various departments on the implementation and operation of the Rural Industrial Park, an intense discussion on finalizing the strategy for the upcoming implementation of the scheme



was held at the workshop. Presiding over the programme State Planning Commission Vice Chairman

Ajay Singh, said that the most important topic in the manifesto of the government was the flagship scheme of farmers

and Narva, Garwa, Ghurva, Bari, whose expansion and implementation at the ground level is being done in a planned manner. Discussions about the successful implementation of this scheme are being held at the national and international level.

Teams from other states are constantly coming for study to implement the plan of the state. The Government of Chhattisgarh is realizing the Gram Swaraj as envisioned by Gandhiji. According to Singh it has been planned to make Gouthans as focal point of rural economy in form of Rural Industrial Park with arrangements for collection, production, processing and marketing at the local level. Its primary objective is to connect young

farmers with enterprise innovation, to give direction to the educated youth of the village who want to do some startups by staying in the village and to strengthen the rural economy.

Adviser to the Chief Minister Pradeep Sharma told through a presentation that the government wants to establish Gouthans as the backbone of the rural economy. In the first phase, work related to cow promotion, protection and Godhan Nyay Yojana has been done in Gouthans. Now the development of Rural Industrial Park is targeted in the second phase.

As many as 85 thousand women have produced 56 lakh quintals of cow dung manure, the highest in the country and 20 lakh quintals of organic fertilizers have been produced in

Gouthans. With this work women's groups have earned an income of Rs 36 crore so far. The Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana has enriched the farmers of the state. Rural Industrial Park is the flagship to inspire the young generation of farmers for enterprise. He said that land, electricity, water, shed, banking linkage, training and skill up-gradation, storage, commercial facility would be developed for Rural Industrial Park (RIPA). Under this scheme, Nava Sevagram Society at the state level, Gandhi Gram at the district level, Rural Economic Zone at the block level, Rural Industrial Park at the panchayat level will work by creating a channel.

In the Q&A session, representative officers of various

departments of the state spoke on different topics, including importance of special rural industrial parks in tribal areas, training and skill upgradation, assurance of employment, production according to market demand, quality standards and development and put questions and suggestions on many points on the basis of infrastructure, relaxation in procurement and storage rules, transportation and regional importance.

Rural Industrial Park Principal Director Dr Alok Shukla stressed the need to work keeping in view the implementation and effectiveness of the scheme at the ground level. All the departments have to ensure that the trainees get 100% employment

in the areas where they are getting training. For this it is necessary that product meets the standard of quality, so that it can be useful to the consumers in the market.

The objective of the Rural Industrial Park scheme is to prepare the villages to operate a strong economy. Rural youth should get employment in villages, they should be inspired towards innovation and they should be encouraged to set up enterprises. To fulfill this objective, it is necessary to work on employment oriented policies. Officers of all the departments of the state government and representatives of institutions, colleges and agencies working closely with the government in important flagship schemes were present.

Ensure proper supply of drinking water: Chief Secretary

● Chief Secretary held a meeting of commissioners and collectors through video conferencing

Central Chronicle News



Chief Secretary said that all necessary work should be done for cleanliness and purification around drinking water sources. There should be continuous monitoring of hand pumps, tube wells, tap-water and water harvesting schemes in all areas, where repairs, rectifications are required, they should be done immediately.

For this, instructions have been given to the officials of Rural and Panchayat Department and Urban Administration Department to form teams in all areas and provide them all necessary resources. The Chief Secretary has asked the

officers of Urban Administration, Public Health Engineering, Panchayat and Rural Development, Revenue and Public Health and Family Welfare Departments to work in coordination. He has given instructions to make proper arrangements to deal with heat-wave, water crisis in summer.

The Chief Secretary said that in the past, the commissioners were instructed to visit the Tehsil level regarding the status of disposal of revenue cases. The commissioners have done a good job in this regard. The commissioner is constantly visiting the tehsils and review-

ing the resolution of revenue cases. The Chief Secretary directed the officers of the Revenue Department to record 100 percent reasons for the external revenue cases within the time-limit in the portal. Similarly, the revenue officers have been asked to prepare an action plan for the purification of the records of the land received under the revenue head and their use. The Chief Secretary has directed the Panchayat and Rural Development Department to work faster regarding the OBC census. Similarly, in the urban areas where OBC census has not been done, the officials of the Urban Administration Department were instructed to take appropriate action to do the calculation and to make 100% ration cards of OBC beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the district wise paddy lifting from the paddy procurement centers and directed to ensure immediate lifting of

the remaining paddy from the offtake. Similarly, district-wise review of depositing rice in Food Corporation of India as per the target. Principal Secretary Health and Family Welfare Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Urban Administration Secretary Mrs. Alarmel Mangai D., Secretary Water Resources, Anbalgan P., Revenue Secretary, N.N.Akka, Secretary General Administration Department Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, Secretary, Food Department, Mr. Topeshwar Verma, Secretary Public Health Engineering Mr. Dhananjay Devangan, Managing Director Chhattisgarh State Civil Supplies Corporation Mr. Niranjan Das, MD of Markfed Ms. Kiran Kaushal, Commissioner Land Records Mr. Dharmesh Sahu and officials of other departments including PHE, Rural Development Department were present.

ROADS ENCROACHED



Large number of heavy vehicles have been parked in the service lane of city's six-lane road, be it Ring Road or those in the industrial area of city and administration is not taking any action.

Prof. Manish Srivastava nominated

Bilaspur, Apr 08: Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), Prof. Manish Srivastava, Department of English and Foreign Languages

has been nominated by the competent authority for the preparation and printing of the University's Annual Report 2021-2022 in Hindi and English lan-

guage. The Chairman of the Annual Report 2021-2022 will form the editorial board, according to the need, after the approval from the competent authority.

School children will get free textbooks

Distribution to start from April 18 in government and aided schools

Raipur, Apr 08: For the education session 2022-23, Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation has prepared an action plan for the distribution of Hindi medium text books of class I to X in government and aided schools. According to which free textbooks of Hindi medium of class 9th and 10th of government and aided schools will be distributed at the high school level.

In this regard, the work of distribution of textbooks will be started from April 18, in case Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation receives district wise student numbers from Divisional Joint Director School Education. According to the

number of students received district wise, and as per the data uploaded online by the NIC branch of the Text Book Corporation Headquarters, all the depot in-charges of the Corporation will ensure the distribution of the text books. Text books will be distributed in 5,540 packages, 4,720 high schools through 6 depots of Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation. Distribution of free text books from class 1st to 10th will be done to government and aided schools between April 18 and May 31 on the basis of utility of textbooks.

Distribution of free text books will be started in class 9th and 10th government and aided schools. The distribution will be done keeping in mind the number of 4,720 high schools. After distribution in high schools, 5,540 packages will

be distributed for the students of classes I to VIII. On completion of distribution of textbooks in government-aided schools, distribution of textbooks to private schools will be done from 6 permanent depots of the corporation. The distribution and transportation of text books will be operated on Sundays and other government holidays. If less or more text books are received than the prescribed number, then only after mentioning this, the acknowledgment should be made available to the transporter. The information of more or less found in the bundles of textbooks of a particular class will have to be given to the distribution in-charge immediately. After receiving the approval of the text books, all the responsibility will be of the recipient on the complaint of less or more text books.

Collector Raigarh conducts review visit of NTPC Talaipalli Project

Central Chronicle News

Talaipalli, (Raigarh) Apr 08: Bhim Singh (IAS) District Collector and District Magistrate Raigarh reviewed NTPC Talaipalli Coal Mining Project visited the project affected village Raikera on April 7th for public hearing. Bhim Singh held a review meeting with the officials of the Talaipalli coal mining project.

On the tour, Bhim Singh (IAS) District Collector Raigarh held a public hearing in the project affected village Raikera. During the public hearing, the Collector stressed on completing the construction of the railway line from NTPC Talaipalli to Lara project at the earliest. With the completion of the railway

line, coal can be easily transported to the Lara project in a pollution-free manner without harming the environment. The Collector inquired about the problems of the sarpanch's and villagers of the project affected villages, assured for quick solution, and expected meaningful cooperation from the villagers. During the hearing, Bhim Singh (IAS) directed the villagers who have received compensation to expedite vacating the houses. To run the works of NTPC Talaipalli, he also directed to provide support & cooperation to the sarpanch's and public representatives of the project affected villages so that all the stalled work related to the project can be started expeditiously. The Collector told

the villagers that the NTPC Talaipalli project has been discharging its corporate social responsibilities towards the society very well and is always striving for the development of the project affected villages. The Collector also appreciated the development work being carried out by NTPC Talaipalli.

During the interaction, Bhim Singh, (IAS) District Collector, Surya Kanta Ray, Business Unit Head NTPC Talaipalli, Head of Department, Sub-Divisional Officer (Revenue) Gharghoda, Naib Tehsildar Gharghoda, other officers of Raigarh, Janpad Panchayat Members and Sarpanch and public representatives of the project affected villages were present.

Weeklong Bhagwat Katha begins

● Kalash Shobha Yatra taken out from Narheshwar Mandir to Pujari Park on 1st day



Raipur, Apr 08: The weeklong Bhagwat Katha has been organized from 7th April to 13th April at Pujari Park, Pachpedi Naka Raipur. The Bhagwat Katha began today with Kalash Shobhayatra from Narheshwar Mandir premises to Pujari Park. As many as 150 women participated in Kalash Yatra. Srimad Bhagwat Katha head Amitabh Agrawal and Kamal Agrawal said that first day of weeklong Bhagwat Katha was marked with observance of Prakatya Utsav of Yamuna today.

Srimad Bhagwat Katha Pariwar campaign head Dilip Kedia and Rajendra Parakh said that Srihit Lalitvallahacharya Nagarch ji from Vrindavan Dham recited Srimad Bhagwat Katha on the first day. According to Srihit Lalitvallahacharya Nagarch ji

Satsang is the holy bath of the conscience. Vallabhacharya gave first position to Chhattisgarh in Champaran. Moreover service of the scripture is the service to the God. Devotees across entire Chhattisgarh state took part in the first day of this religious event. Prasad was distributed at the end of first day of this religious event. Prominent among those present were Rajiv Mundra, Dr Manoj Pandey, Rajesh Sharma, Ghanshyam Agrawal, Pawan Agrawal, Muktesh Agrawal, Satish Shukla and members of Srimad Bhagwatkatha Pariwar. Tectical of Srimadbhagwat Rachna, Devrishi Narad, Purva Janma Prasang, Kunti Stuti, Bishma Stuti, Raja Parikshit Janma and arrival of Shukdev Muni would be held on Friday on 8th April.

New chain of tourism pilgrimages taking shape in Chhattisgarh



Raipur, Apr 08: Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit Project has been started by the Chhattisgarh government to preserve the memories of the exile period of Lord Shri Ram associated with Chhattisgarh and to promote culture and tourism. To this end nine tourist pilgrimages selected in the first phase are being rejuvenated rapidly. Apart from attractive land scap-



ing of all these tourist pilgrimages, facilities for tourists are also being developed under this project.

Sites related to the exile period of Lord Ram are being conserved and developed from Koriya district of North Chhattisgarh to

Sukma district of South Chhattisgarh under this project of Rs 139 crore. After Chandkhuri, now development work has been completed in Shivrinarayan too, which will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel on 10th April. For this, the three-day grand ceremony will begin on 8th April.

Construction of Ram Vanagaman Tourist Circuit was started in the year 2019 with Bhoomi Pujan at Mata Kaushalya Temple in Chandkhuri at the hands of Chief Minister Baghel. The places coming in this circuit are being decorated and beautified according to the theme of Ramayana. With this ambitious scheme of Chhattisgarh government, the future generation will get the opportunity to get acquainted with its Sanatan culture and tourists of the country and abroad will also get high standard facilities.

Somesh Patel honored with Media Excellence Award 2022

● A senior journalist from Ch'garh

Raipur, Apr 08: The grand event of Media Excellence Awards 2022 was held in Delhi last evening. In this event, more than 15 eminent government officers of the country and those who achieved outstanding performance and achievements in their field of work were felicitated. In which Professor Sanjay Dwivedi, Director General, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi, Dr. Sandeep Marwah, Media Personality and Chancellor,



AAFT University honored along with Arun Sharma, President Media Federation of India. Somesh Patel, a senior journalist from Chhattisgarh, has been honored with this honor for his distinguished achieve-

ment in the field of journalism in this event. It is worth mentioning that Somesh Kumar published news drawing attention towards relief and facilities of the people through ground reporting during the outbreak of covid 19.

He constantly stood at ground zero and without caring about his life, he kept helping people through his news. Apart from this, excellent journalism is being done by him in Chhattisgarh for a long time. Not only in this award, not only in the country but also abroad, eminent people presented their expression towards online participation through Zoom, in which Dr. Nirmla M. Adhikari Co-Acharya Kathmandu University Nepal, Ms. Lise Olsen, Senior Investigative Journalists Editor, Texas Observer USA, Ms. Gina Wildo

Three days State Level Inter-College competition Arohan 2022 began

Raipur, Apr 08: Inaugural Ceremony marks beginning of Arohan 2022, the three days state level inter college sports competition and in this chief guest Dr. Umesh Mishra lights up Arohan, 2022 cauldron.

In this three-days state level inter-college sports competition more than 1000 players from 32 districts of the Chhattisgarh state take participation, in which 6 types of sports are being organized, namely Chess, Table Tennis, Badminton, Volleyball, Basketball and Carrom.

With the main purpose of organizing Arohan 2022, began to provide a platform for encouraging the talent of the students of our state not only at national level but also in international level and make the name of the state proud as well as trying to reach the new heights of our youth today and



tomorrow's future through sports, Dr. Pratp Singh, Registrar of the Shri Rawatpura Sarkar University, said. Mr. G.S Bamba, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Sports Association, special guest of the inaugural ceremony Arohan2022, through blessing the Shri Ravishankar Maharaj Ji, chancellor of the University and Chairman of Shri

Rawatpura Sarkar Loka Kalyan Trust, said that he feel very graceful to see that this is a very great opportunity to enhance the sportsmanship not only at the university level as well as at state level and national level, and this is the first ever initiative taken by any private university in our state. Our Chief Guest of the event Dr.

Umesh Mishra, head of Chhattisgarh Private Universities Regulatory Commission (CGPURC), said that the great platform provided by the University in the field of sports, students have to give complete dedication and take consummate advantage of this type of platform to prove their self in the field of sports. Dr. Mishra also said that, "A Healthy Body Reside in Healthy Mind". Students who want to become success in all aspects of life, fit body is too much important that is mainly maintain by continue playing sports, which is also helpful to stay away us from all types of diseases. At the end of the inaugural ceremony, lighting the Arohan 2022 cauldron NCC Cadet taken the Lighting torch revolves around the University Campus while everybody stand up in arena.

CU students visit to Narmada Drinks Industry

Bilaspur, Apr 08: Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), to get practical knowledge and to give an insight about the way things work in the real-life scenario, the Industry Institute Interaction Cell of SoS, Engineering and Technology and Department of Industrial & Production Engineering, GGV (Central University) has jointly organized one day Industrial visit for B.Tech IV Sem Industrial and Production Engineering Students on April 4 at Narmada Drinks Private

Limited located at Parsada Sircitti, Industrial Area, Sector B, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh 495004. The General Manager, S. P. Chauhan has provided permission for this visit. Visit was started at 10:00 AM from new IT building. The students have reached at Narmada Drinks Pvt. Limited, Bilaspur 10.40 AM by the University bus. Moreover, during the visit, the following faculty members of department of Industrial and Production Engineering were accompanied, Arpita Roy

Chowdhary (IPE Department), Kawal Lal Kurrey (IPE Department), Kailash Kumar Borkar (IPE Department). Students held interaction with the engineers & staff of Narmada Drinks Pvt. Limited, they have explained the detailed operational activities of the industry to young students. After visiting the entire plant, the students reached to GGV Campus at near about 2.00 PM. The basic aim of this industrial visit is to provide the practical knowledge of how a busi-

ness can be started and what are the real life challenges being faced that can only be learnt through have practical experience from these kind of industrial visits. Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Vice Chancellor of GGV, Bilaspur always encourages to conduct these kinds of activities in different teaching departments. III Cell and Department of Industrial and Production Engineering extend warm thanks to HVC Sir, Registrar Sir and administration of GGV for their support and motivation.

Warm welcome accorded to CM Bhupesh Baghel

On his arrival at Narayanpur



Central Chronicle News

Narayanpur, Apr 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival at Narayanpur today. Baghel was welcomed by the local artists of the district with a mesmerizing dance performance showcasing the traditional tribal culture. Chief Minister

Baghel was on a day-long visit to Narayanpur today. Bastar MP Deepak Baij, Chairman of Handicraft Development Board and MLA Chandan Kashyap, Zila Panchayat President Shyambati Netam, Municipality President Sunita Manjhi, Zila Panchayat Vice President Devnath Usendi were present on the occasion. The

local people's representatives, women organizations and villagers, present on the occasion, gave a warm welcome to Chief Minister Baghel. IG Sundarraj P, Collector Rituraj Raghuvanshi, Superintendent of Police Sadanand Kumar, along with other officers and public representatives of the area were also present.

CM Baghel unveils devp works worth Rs 127.83 cr

- For the residents of Narayanpur district
- Distribution of 'masahati khasra' to 500 farmers of newly surveyed village
- As many as 251 couples tied nuptial knot in a mass marriage program organized today

Central Chronicle News

Narayanpur, Apr 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today unveiled as many as 101 development works worth Rs 127.83 cr for the residents of Narayanpur, during his Narayanpur visit today. Baghel inaugurated 46 development works costing Rs 72.08 cr and performed bhoomi puja of 55 development works worth Rs 55.75 cr. Moreover, under Kanya Vivah Yojna, 251 newly married couples tied nuptial knots and took blessings of Chief Minister.



At the programme, Baghel also distributed cheques and goods to the beneficiaries of various government schemes. In this program organized at the Children's Higher Secondary School Sports Ground, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel distributed masahati pattas to the 500 farmers of Abujmad area, distributed hearing aids, tricycle, battery operated tricycles, Divyangjan unique identification card, amount under National Family Assistance Scheme to 36 beneficiaries of Social

Welfare Department, 100 units of Tussar basic reeling machine to the beneficiaries of silk department, cheque distribution to the women sericulture group. Urad seeds, spare pumps, sprinklers to the beneficiaries of Agriculture Department, cheques of financial aid under Bhagini Matritva Sahayta Yojana and Mukhyamantri Noni Sashaktikaran Sahayta Yojana to the beneficiaries of Labor Department, and also the cheques of financial aid under Chief

Minister Sewing Machine Assistance Scheme, Chief Minister Construction Workers Death and Divyangjan Assistance Scheme Distributed and forest rights letters to 26 beneficiaries. The development works inaugurated by Chief Minister Mr. Baghel in Narayanpur district are as follows bridge from Brehbeda to Matadongri worth Rs 7.67 cr; circuit house in Narayanpur district worth Rs 5.89 cr; Sulenga to Tirakanar worth Rs 5.50 cr; District

Education and Training Institute academic building constructed at the cost of Rs 5.55 cr; roads built from village Mahimagwadi to Tadonar built under Prime Minister Rural Road Development Agency at the cost of Rs 3.20 cr; Schoolpara to Kohkapara at the cost of Rs 3.33 cr; Nayapara Kukdajhor to Khaspara at the cost of Rs. 3.35 cr and other development work. Similarly, in Narayanpur district, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel performed bhoomipujan for 36 solar based tap-water scheme to be set up at a cost of Rs 24.72 cr; Khodgaon to Chichadipara cost Rs 6.22 cr; under Public Health Engineering Department, Solar Dual pump installation work under Jal Jeevan Mission worth Rs 5 crore, Madhonar to Kawamar cost Rs 3.82 cr; construction work of 37 new Anganwadi buildings costing Rs 2.045 cr and other development works.

'Hamar Gothan Hamar Goth' program inaugurated

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Apr 08: 'Hamar Gothan Hamar Goth' program was organized in village Panchayat Katkona Gauthan of Khadgwan, Vidhan Sabha constituency Manendragarh by MLA Dr Vinay Jaiswal. People should get self-employment opportunities in their village itself so that the rural economy can be strengthened and village women are becoming self-reliant by joining income-oriented activities in Gauthans in the form of Self Help Groups, said the MLA asserting the economic benefits of laying a Gauthan. In the program Collector



Kuldeep Sharma appealed to the villagers to keep their active participation in the better operation of the Gauthans and the MLA and Collector both appreciated the activism of women in Katkona Gauthan, here were women of Self Help

Groups have earned an income of about Rs 1 lakh from the sale of vermicompost itself. Apart from this the group is also into phenyl and washing powder manufacturing and poultry farming. The Collector also met villagers in Tuhar

Duar camp in Bundeli, and loan books were distributed to 14 beneficiaries. On coming upon the notice of the problem of low voltage electricity in the area, the Collector instructed EE CSEB to make arrangements within 10 days. District level officers-employees were present along with SP Shri Praful Thakur, District Panchayat CEO Shri Kunal Dudawat, Sub-Divisional Officer Manendragarh and Police Administration team. In the mobile police station, the SP listened to the problems of the villagers, and appealed for cooperation in maintaining law and order in the region.

Railways starts demolition drive as residents resent



Central Chronicle News

Balod, Apr 08: The demolition action by the railways is gathering speed, as equally residents took to resentment. The demolition drive was being started in Oriya Basti, adjacent to Paras railway line, and in the first phase the shops on the Balod

side have been demolished. Both public representatives and residents were opposing the drive, seeking more time to vacate and relocate. Municipality President Vikas Chopra said that no written notice has been issued, as it is necessary to give 24 hours prior notice



before demolition drive. As the Railways were adamant to carry on the drive, tension prevailed and police forces were also deployed on the spot. Eventually people vacated to rented accommodation and other places. City Youth Congress President Sajjan Patel said that about 30 families

were residing in the said area, of which 18 families are economically weak; therefore they need to be relocated with government aid. Meanwhile the Railways have denied authoritarian behavior and Railway officials said that in the past too many notices have been given to vacate the place.

Collector inspects Gauthans of Bhairamgarh block



Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Apr 08: District Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara inspected various Gauthans of Bhairamgarh block, mainly in Pusnar, Bhairamgarh and Minagachal Gauthan and inspected intensively the livelihood works, fodder for livestock vermi tank, drinking water, seed stock under construction, and also gave necessary guidelines to the observers. The REO, RHO present on the occasion were instructed to take disciplinary action if the activity conducted in Gauthan is not satisfactory. While praising Nelsnar,

Minagachal, Bhairamgarh and Pusnar gauthan for better production of vermicompost, the Collector appraised the other economic activities in the Gauthans. The Collector also directed the District Panchayat CEO, Ravi Kumar Sahu to make available the necessary resources in the Gauthans in order to make available funds for repair of pipelines, cement bricks manufacturing, as per the demand. During the inspection, SDM Bhairamgarh Shri AR Rana, CEO Bhairamgarh JR Arka, Tehsildar Shri Jugal Kishore Patel and staff were present.

Banjara caste celebrated World Banjara Day

- By planting fruitful saplings

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Apr 08: People of Banjara community in Dornapal celebrated World Banjara Day on April 8 with great enthusiasm on the auspicious occasion of World Banjara Day. To make this day special, men and women of Banjara community together planted saplings at the temple of Dharmma Guru Sant Shri Sevalal Maharaj, Lalita Nayak, Baliram Nayak, Jitendra Nayak, Dornapal youth president Krishna Nayak, youth vice president Thau Nayak, Lal Singh Nayak, Ramesh Nayak, Laxman Nayak, Jagdish Nayak, Sanjay Nayak were present.



'Purpose of celebrating World Banjara Day' State Vice President of Women's Cell Radha Nayak informed that this society showed the direction to the whole country and did the work of serving mankind through logistics. Beginning of World Banjara Day, the way our

ancestors had created the structure of water by making wells, stepwells, ponds etc. from place to place, humans, animals and birds etc. quench their thirst. To maintain that tradition and to understand the importance of water, World Banjara Day was started. The saint of the society,

Shri Sevalal Maharaj, had predicted this many years ago, a bowl of water will be available for one rupee. Today the words of that saint are becoming meaningful. This day gives the message of saving water and shows the importance of water utility for the future.

Vocational trainers demand regularization and increment

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Apr 08: The delegation of Chhattisgarh New Vocational Trainer Welfare Association met MLA Daleshwar Sahu and demanded regularization and increment. The members of the union informed that from the academic session 2015 till today, 1184 vocational instructors are working in 598 government higher secondary schools in the state of Chhattisgarh. All the vocational trainers have been performing various tasks in the working school, alike helping in UDISE work, other official works as well as teaching students through innovation. As per information, employees are working in a

salary of only sixteen thousand, which they allege they get in a period after 2-3 months of month completion. The union has alleged that in the year 2018, the Congress government was not formed in the state of Chhattisgarh, then in the election manifesto by the then State Congress President, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, it was clearly written in point number 11 and 30 that - all irregular working in Chhattisgarh will be regularized and outsourcing will be stopped. The union has asked for justice for the 1184 vocational instructors at the earliest and for the same submitted a memorandum to the concerned ministers including the Chief Minister.

Any citizen can obtain information from any dept: Raut

One-day workshop of PIOs and First Appellate Officers held in Jagdalpur

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Apr 08: One-day workshop of Public Information Officers (PIOs) and 1st Appellate Officers under the Right to Information Act 2005 was held in 'Prerna Room' of Collectorate here on Friday and it was chaired by Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) MK Raut. On this occasion CIC MK Raut and Information Commissioners gave information about objectives and intricacies of Acts of RTI. They also gave information about the works and responsibilities of PIOs and 1st Appellate officers. This workshop was attended by Information Commissioners Ashok Agrawal, Dhanvendra

Jaiswal and Manoj Trivedi and Collector Rajat Bansal, CEO District Panchayat Rohit Vyas, State Information Commission Jt. Director Dhananjay Rathore and PIOs and 1st Appellate officers of the District in large number. On this occasion CIC MK Raut said that in a democratic system of governance, in order to ensure that the government and its machinery is responsible towards the public and bring in transparency in implementation of government machinery that this Right to Information (RTI) Act has been introduced. Through this Act, such a system has been introduced that under this any citizens can avail information about working of any public work and its



department. Giving definition of Public works he informed that under this not only a citizen can obtain information about administrative system, but can also avail information

about work of all the bodies, which are controlled through public works or those for which financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh and above is obtained.

He informed that in this Act there is a provision that if any PIO fails to provide required information on time, then the committee of Information Commission established by the

state government can even impose fine against them. On this occasion Raut took information about the application solved from different departments related to RTI Act.

CIC giving information about implementation of this Act to PIOs and 1st Appellate Officers said that on asking about any information by an applicant, they need to be given information about judicial cases as well. He said that under this the information which is not supposed to be given or important from that document, then it can be deleted as well. Raut said that in case of information being sought by an applicant, it is necessary to provide information from that document for last 20 years. Information Commissioner Ashok Agrawal said that the applicant should be provided information about the date of his application and failing to provide required information

on time can lead to imposing of fine against that PIO. Agrawal asked the 1st Appellate officer to sort out all the applications and mention their name and post while resolving it. On this occasion Information Commissioners Dhanvendra Jaiswal and Manoj Trivedi also gave information in detailed to PIOs and 1st Appellate officers about their works and responsibilities. In this workshop, Jt. Director Dhananjay Rathore highlighted about the objectives of the Act. Collector Rajat Bansal expressed gratitude towards CIC and Information Commissioners for the valuable information provided to PIOs and First Appellate Officers in the workshop.

BRIEF

Feedback

New Delhi: The Delhi government will soon launch a portal to collect feedback from Delhiites on 525 regulatory compliances related to services of its 32 departments, officials said. The portal will provide a list of all the compliances removed by different departments and seek feedback from people on how it impacted them.

Heroin

Ferozpur: BSF personnel apprehended two women and recovered two packets of heroin weighing 1.2 kg from them near an outpost along the Indo-Pakistan border here, officials said. The estimated cost of the heroin is Rs 6 crore in the international market. BSF troops observed that two Indian women — mother and her daughter — were roaming suspiciously near a pillar along the border, officials said. Acting swiftly, the BSF troops apprehended the women.

Arrest

Jammu: The Border Security Force (BSF) arrested a Bangladeshi national from near the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. The 50-year-old man was roaming suspiciously along the border with Pakistan when alert BSF troops nabbed him, they said. During initial questioning, he revealed his identity as Mohammad Siraj of Barisal district of Bangladesh, they said.

Held

Hyderabad: Three members of the banned CPI (Maoist) party were arrested in Nizamabad district of Telangana and explosive material was seized from them, police said. The three were arrested from Jakranpally mandal and 11 gelatin sticks, 10 detonators, three bags, Maoist party literature, memory card and pen drive were seized from their possession, said Nizamabad Police Commissioner KR Nagaraju.

Illegal

Pune: Three persons including two bogus doctors have been arrested for allegedly carrying out illegal abortions in Western Maharashtra's Kolhapur district, police said. Acting on a tip-off, a woman constable was sent as a decoy patient to a clinic run by Harshal Naik in Padal area of Panhala tehsil on Wednesday, police said. The woman told him that she wanted to terminate her pregnancy.

Rescued

New Delhi: A 16-year-old girl, who was missing for close to a year, has been rescued from Surat in Gujarat and a man has been arrested on the charge of kidnapping and sexually assaulting her, police said. The accused Santosh Subhash Gamme (30) was a native of Maharashtra's Bhandara district and wanted by the state police in multiple cases, including that of robbery and murder, officials said. The girl's mother had complained to the police on May 18 last year.

'Carry awareness to check child marriages on 'Akshaya Tritiya'

● **NCPCR asks DMs**

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTD):

Ahead of the 'Akshaya Tritiya' period when a high number of child marriages take place, the apex child rights body, NCPCR, has asked district magistrates to carry out awareness campaigns, family counselling and make a list of drop out and irregular children in schools to ensure prevention of any such marriages from taking place.

Child marriage is solemnized from time to time in various rural and tribal belts of the country but in few communities, this has been a practice that is followed in a dedicated manner during some specific



Priyank Kanoongo

time periods of the year. 'Akshaya Tritiya', also known as 'Akti' or 'Akha Teej', is an annual spring-time festival when holding weddings is considered auspicious. This year 'Akshaya Tritiya' will be celebrated on May 3. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

(NCPCR) chairperson Priyank Kanoongo, in a letter to district magistrates, said various media sources suggest that a large number of child marriages take place during this period of the year. "You must be aware that the Protection of Child Marriage Act, 2006, seeks to prevent child marriages by making certain actions punishable and by appointing certain authorities responsible for the prevention and prohibition of child marriages. Section 13 (4) of PCMA, 2006, states that for the purposes of preventing solemnisation of mass child marriages on certain days such as Akshaya Tritiya, the District Magistrate (DM) shall be deemed to be the Child

Marriage Prohibition Officer (CMPO)," the commission said.

The commission asked district magistrates and collectors to undertake awareness programmes at the village, urban/ward, Zila, tehsil level, prepare a school wise list of children who are drop out, out of school and not attending school regularly and DM/CMPO must identify children from these lists who can be at risk of child marriage.

The NCPCR further said that family counselling and proper inquiry of all such identified children must be ensured to prevent any possible child marriage.

The NCPCR sought these details from the DMs by April 20.

Over Rs 154 cr fine imposed for Covid violations in Delhi

● **Rs 16 cr collected**

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTD):

The Delhi government imposed over Rs 154 crore in fines for COVID-19 violations between 2021 and 2022, with the maximum fines being imposed for not wearing masks in public places.

According to official data available for the period between April 17, 2021, and April 6, 2022, the fine imposed during the period stood at Rs 1,54,75,22,968 but the amount collected was only Rs 16,79,27,080.

A total of 37,809 FIRs were registered for various Covid violations, with the New Delhi (37,803) district contributing the major chunk. There were

five FIRs registered in the south district while a single FIR was lodged in the southwest district. Three people were arrested for violating Covid protocols, according to the data.

There were zero FIRs registered in the remaining eight districts.

The maximum number of fines were issued for not wearing a mask in public places with the highest number of such offences being recorded in Shahdara district (1,85,354), followed by the east (1,84,618) and north district (1,78,563). The least number of such offenders were found in the Central district (80,496). New Delhi (90,293) and south (91,572) districts also recorded less than lakh violations, the

data said. Last week, the Delhi government issued an order stating that no fine will be imposed anymore on people for not wearing face masks in the national capital. However, the order advised people to continue wearing masks in public places. A total of 70,932 violations were recorded for not following social distancing guidelines, with the maximum being recorded in the north district (27,823), followed by the west (14,328) and northeast (14,310) districts respectively. The Northwest district recorded zero such violations while only three cases of people not adhering to COVID-19 protocols came to light in the south district.

UDF to form 'human chain' against SilverLine project

Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 08 (PTD):

At a time when the Left government in Kerala has affirmed its stand to go ahead with its flagship SilverLine project, the opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) on Friday announced a series of state-wide protest programmes against the multi-core semi high speed rail corridor to create awareness about its social, economic and environmental impact on the southern state.

After a meeting of the top leaders of the Congress-led front here, UDF convenor M M Hassan said anti-SilverLine rallies would be conducted across the state for four days from May 13 after dividing 14 districts into four zones.

"Prominent leaders of the UDF will lead the rallies in each district and



Congress and alliance leaders interact with each other during the United Democratic Front (UDF) meeting, in Thiruvananthapuram, Friday.

they will take part in a series of protest meetings in each zone. The social, economic and environmental impact of the proposed project will be exposed through the protest rallies and meetings," he told reporters here. If the government was still not ready to backtrack from the mammoth initiative, a human

chain of party activists, environmentalists and like-minded people would be created from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod on August 15, the independence day, he said. The opposition front also decided to observe May 20, the first anniversary of the second Pinarayi Vijayan government, as the

'Hindi is not India's national language, will never let it happen'

Bengaluru, Apr 08 (PTD):

Asserting that Hindi is not India's national language, former Karnataka chief minister and senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Friday accused the ruling BJP of trying to unleash its agenda of "cultural terrorism" against non-Hindi speaking states.

Taking offence to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comment regarding the official language, the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka assembly accused him of betraying the former's home state Gujarat and mother-tongue Gujarati for Hindi, for his political agenda. Shah on Thursday said Hindi should be accepted as an alternative to English and not to local languages. Presiding over the

OFFERS PRAYERS



Uttar Pradesh Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya offers prayers to 'Maa Alop Shankari Devi' during Chaitra Navratri festival at Alop Shankari Shakti Peeth temple in Prayagraj.



Former Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah at a function in Mysuru on Friday.

37th meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee, Shah had said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided that the medium of running the government is the official language and this will definitely increase the importance of Hindi. "As a Kannadiga, I take strong of-

fence to @HMOIndia @AmitShah's comment on Official language & medium of communication. Hindi is not our National Language & we will never let it to be," Siddaramaiah tweeted with the tagline "#IndiaAgainstHindiImposition" Stating that linguistic di-

versity is the essence of our country and we will respect each other's sentiments, the former chief minister said pluralism is what has held our nation together and any attempt by the BJP to undo this will be met with strong opposition and retaliation.

"Imposing Hindi is a sign of coercive federalism rather than cooperative federalism. Myopic view of BJP regarding our languages needs to be corrected and their opinions are derived from pseudo-nationalists like Savarkar," Siddaramaiah added. Pointing out that 70 per cent of the agenda of the Cabinet is prepared in Hindi, Shah at the committee meeting had said the time has now come to make the official language Hindi an important part of the unity of the country.

Odisha vigilance seizes cash, gold biscuits at engineer's house

Bhubaneswar, Apr 08 (PTD):

The anti-corruption vigilance sleuths have seized over Rs 2 crore in cash and 20 gold biscuits weighing around 580 gm during a search in the house of an assistant engineer working in the state government's Water Resources department. The vigilance sleuths detected the wealth during a raid at the house of assistant engineer Kartikeswar Roul in Bhubaneswar. He was posted at the Minor Irrigation Division, Bhanjanagar in Ganjam district. The raids were conducted following an allegation that he had accumulated assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. The department in a statement said that during the search in the house of



Cash being seized by vigilance department from residence of AE Kartikeswar Roul in Bhubaneswar.

Roul and his second wife Kalpana Pradhan at a luxury apartment in Bhubaneswar, the Vigilance officials seized around Rs 2 crore in cash.

Raids were also conducted on other properties of Roul at six places in Khurda

and Ganjam districts on Wednesday. The Vigilance found two double-storey buildings, two flats, 7 plots of land and deposits worth over Rs 37 lakh in the name of the assistant engineer.

"We have enhanced our focus on benami assets/cash stashed in bank accounts of relations as well as those stacked in houses of close contacts by corrupt government officials. Odisha Vigilance remains committed towards strong action against corrupt officials," YK Jethwa, Director Vigilance, Odisha, said in a statement. Earlier on March 28, the Vigilance had made a seizure of over Rs 1.36 crore in cash from Ashish Kumar Dash, Superintending Engineer of Rural Development department in Malkangiri.

RRU celebrated 1st National Maritime Day

● **Endeavours of the men on Sea**

Gandhinagar, Apr 08:

The School of Integrated Coastal and Maritime Security Studies (SICMSS) organized a workshop on the occasion of "National Maritime Day" on April 5th and celebrated the endeavours of the men on sea. This was the 1st National Maritime Day which has been celebrated by the RRU in the Campus. Reason behind celebrating the National Maritime Day is to recognise the sail of the first Indian commercial vessel of colonial India from Mumbai to London in the year 1919. The commercial vessel was named SS Loyalty, which was owned by Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd. On this occasion we



recognise the work of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Coastal Marine Police who has been serving, promoting and safeguarding the Indian Coasts. At the same time, we also recognize the constant support, efforts and work of the Merchant Navy, Seafarers, Coastal communities and all those who live and earn their livelihood, contributing in

the coastal areas promoting the international trade and navigation across the globe.

The event was honoured by the auspicious presence of Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel (Vice Chancellor, RRU) Guest of honour, Dr. Vijay Sakhuja (Former Director, National Maritime Foundation) and Commandant Rajeev Ranjan (Indian Coast Guard).

On this occasion VC of the University Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel, talked about the geographical and historical importance of India in the Indian Ocean Region. The first merchant ship SS Loyalty marked the beginning of the International trade through its sail from Mumbai to London in the year 1919 and since then there is almost 95% of trade by volume and 74% by travel from India has done through waters. He further explained about the SAGARMALA Initiative where he envisioned and discussed hosts of issues related to the increase in maritime power, port development, port security and others.

Dr. Vijay Sakhuja, on the topic of "Sustainable Shipping Beyond COVID", he spoke about the report of UNCTAD 2021, the growth

of sea trade over the decades, the carbon footprint showcasing the evolution of fuel usage from wind energy to fossil fuels (Coal, oil, diesel) and now back to wind, solar powered batteries and AI technologies.

Commandant Rajeev Ranjan on the topic of "Maritime Search and Rescue", shared his life experiences serving in field for past two decades and more, where he was part of several search and rescue operations being in Indian Coast Guard.

The workshop was a great success with the participation of more than 60 students from the university. The workshop was divided into Essay presentations, Lectures, Documentary on the National Maritime Day and Externalized Quiz throughout the day.

Delhi plans EMI facility to encourage electric 2-wheelers

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTD):

Aiming to encourage large-scale adoption of electric vehicles in Delhi to reduce air pollution, the city government plans to provide e-two-wheelers to its employees on easy monthly installments, officials have said.

The government had announced a major plan to push e-cycles — first 10,000 electric cycle buyers will get a purchase incentive of up to Rs 5,500, while the first 1,000 will get an extra incentive of Rs 2,000.

The Delhi government is now contemplating a partnership with Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited, a joint venture of public sector companies under the Union Ministry

of Power, to provide electric two-wheelers to its employees, an official told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

As two-wheelers (scooters and motorcycles) account for two-thirds of the new vehicle registrations in Delhi, it is important that this segment switches over to electric mode to help bring a significant reduction in air pollution in the capital, the official said.

According to official estimates, the Delhi government has more than two lakh employees.

"The electric two-wheeler scheme for government employees will also encourage the general public to adopt such vehicles, overcoming psychological barriers related to the cost and technology," another official said.

BRIEF

Flooding

Abriaqui: Torrential rains and flooding have killed at least 10 people at a mining camp in mountainous north-west Colombia, with several reported missing and more damage expected, authorities said. The flooding at Abriaqui in the Antioquia department surprised a group of miners as they were eating dinner, mayor Hector Urrego told local television. The National Disaster Risk Management Unit said the preliminary toll was 10 dead, seven missing and 10 injured.

Agreement

Washington: The IMF announced that after months of negotiations it reached a staff-level agreement to provide Lebanon with USD 3 billion in aid to help it emerge from a severe economic crisis. The country has been battered by triple digit inflation, soaring poverty rates, and the collapse of its currency since a 2020 debt default, and officials in Beirut applauded the announcement as it will open the door to additional financial support as situation has been exacerbated.

Sentenced

St Louis: A Chinese national who pleaded guilty earlier this year to stealing a trade secret from agribusiness giant Monsanto while he worked in Missouri, US has been sentenced to more than two years in prison. Haitao Xiang, formerly of Chesterfield, Missouri, was sentenced in federal court in St. Louis to 29 months in prison and fined 150,000. Xiang also must undergo three years of supervision upon his release from prison. In January, Xiang pleaded guilty for the charges.

Asked

New York: Likening "unfair and deceptive" firearms advertising to that of tobacco products, gun safety advocates asked US regulators to crack down on the industry. A coalition of three groups asked the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which regulates advertising, to "investigate and regulate the gun industry's unfair and deceptive advertising," according to their 40-page petition. These messages have been compounded by the heavy presence of arms companies.

Bolster

Tokyo: The defense ministers of Japan and the Philippines agreed to bolster security cooperation and expand joint drills between their forces as they shared concerns about China's increasingly assertive military actions in the region. Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi and his Philippine counterpart, Delfin Lorenzana, also shared concern about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impact in the Indo-Pacific, and noted that attempts to change the status quo.

NATO eyes in sky, keeping Europe out of Russia's war

Uedem, Apr 08 (AP):

As Russia's military buildup near Ukraine accelerated early this year, military planners at NATO began preparing to dispatch scores of fighter jets and surveillance aircraft into the skies near Russia and Ukraine. It was a warning to Moscow not to make the mistake of targeting any member country.

Even in the weeks preceding the war, politicians and analysts were divided over whether President Vladimir Putin would really order Russian troops to invade. From a military point of view, though, the forces arrayed around Ukraine appeared designed to do just that.

It became a matter of urgency to put more eyes in the sky and to tightly link NATO aircraft, warships, ground-based missile systems and radar installations to protect the alliance's eastern flank.

We are monitoring very closely, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said this week. Information, best possible situation awareness, is of course extremely critical



NATO fighter jets fly over Independence Square in Vilnius, Lithuania.

in such a dangerous situation as we see in Ukraine now.

In the lead-up to the Feb 24 invasion, the alliance's Combined Air Operations Centre in Uedem, western Germany, shifted gear. A few dozen military personnel now simultaneously manage up to 30 aircraft in skies from the northern tip of Norway down to Slovakia. From an underground bunker in quiet farmland, patrolling aircraft are diverted to monitor suspicious Russian planes. Jets on 15-minute standbys are routinely Alpha Scrambled from around Europe to intercept unidentified aircraft near

NATO airspace.

More than 100 aircraft can be working aloft on any given day, mixed in among roughly 30,000 civilian flights made daily through European skies.

Six Boeing E-3A surveillance planes from NATO's ageing fleet of early warning and control aircraft help create an air picture to share with member nations. These eyes in the sky do not fly into Ukraine or Russia, but can see up to 400 km (250 miles) across borders. Fighter jets also provide information about what is going on inside part of two countries at war. These assets are sometimes sent from as far away

as western France, refuelled mid-air, and can patrol for about an hour in the border area before they must return.

The 30-nation military alliance is wary of being drawn into a wider war with Russia, so borders and airspace are scrupulously respected.

There is always the fog of war, and we don't want to have NATO assets close by because even unintentionally you might have some losses, said Major General Harold Van Pee, commander of the NATO facility in Uedem. The most sensitive zones for unidentified planes are the Kola Peninsula at the high north borders of Russia and Norway the Gulf of Finland approaching the Russian city of St Petersburg, and the skies around Russia's exclave of Kaliningrad, sandwiched between Lithuania and Poland. From their computer screens, NATO personnel can also track cruise missiles, like those that Russia used last month to pound a military training base in western Ukraine near NATO member Poland, killing 35 people.

France to rely on paper ballot for Presidential election

● No faith in EVMS

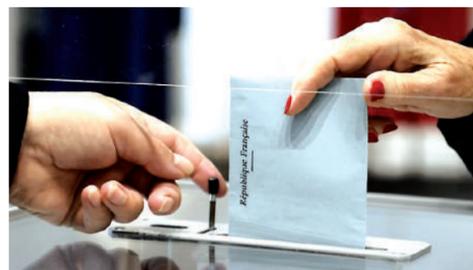
Paris Apr 08 (AP):

French voters in Sunday's presidential election will use the same system that's been used for generations: paper ballots that are cast in person and counted by hand. Despite periodic calls for more flexibility or modernization, France doesn't do mail-in voting, early voting or use voting machines en masse like the United States. President Emmanuel Macron is the clear front-runner, though an unprecedented proportion of people say they are unsure who they will vote for or whether they will vote at all.

Voters must be at least 18 years old. About 48.7 million French are registered on the electoral rolls of the place where they live.

Voters make their choices in a booth, with the curtains closed, then place their ballot in an envelope that is then put into a transparent ballot box. They must show photo identification and sign a document, next to their name, to complete the process.

Volunteers count the ballots one by one.



Testing of transparent ballot boxes ahead of election in Paris, France.

Officials will then use state-run software to register and report results more efficiently. But legally only the paper counts. If a result is challenged, the paper ballots are recounted manually.

People who can't go to the polls for various reasons can authorize someone else to vote for them.

To do so, a voter must fill out a form ahead of time and bring it to a police station. A person can be the proxy of no more than one voter living in France and potentially one additional person living abroad.

Up to 7% of people voted by proxy in the last presidential election five years ago.

Mail-in voting was banned in 1975 amid fears of potential fraud.

Machine-voting was allowed as an experiment

starting in 2002, but the purchase of new machines has been frozen since 2008 due to security concerns. Only a few dozens towns still use them.

Last year, Macron's centrist government tried to pass an amendment to allow early voting by machine to encourage electoral participation amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Senate, led by a conservative majority, rejected the measure, arguing it was announced with too little notice and was not solid enough legally.

Most COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in the country. Though the number of cases is significantly lower than earlier this year, infections have been creeping up again for several weeks, reaching over 130,000 new confirmed cases each day.

PAINT OVER GRAFFITI



Inmates of the "La Esperanza" prison paint over graffiti linked to Mara Salvatrucha gang, at the 22 de Abril community, in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Shanghai lockdown snarls world's busiest supply chains

Beijing, Apr 08 (AFP):

Shanghai's grinding coronavirus lockdown is slowly clogging China's supply chains, as delays hit the world's busiest container port where staff are tangled in a morass of Covid controls.

Beijing has refused to tack away from its strict zero-Covid strategy that has protected its public health system through the pandemic but at a mounting economic cost.

China's financial hub Shanghai — home to multinational firms and its busiest port — has been sealed off almost entirely for a week following an outbreak fuelled by the Omicron virus variant.

That has many forced companies to halt production and slow new projects, factories told AFP, while



Health workers at entrance of a neighborhood during a COVID-19 lockdown in Shanghai on Friday.

those still operating are struggling with a shortage of truck drivers on top of onerous permit and Covid testing requirements. At Shanghai's port, the lack of drivers and other workers means getting goods in and out is increasingly hard.

The docks are working normally with a "single-digit" number of vessels waiting to berth, Shanghai International Port Group said this week.

"But the fact is... due to restrictions caused for truck drivers, it is not real-

ly operating," Bettina Schoen-Behanzin, vice president of the EU Chamber of Commerce's Shanghai Chapter, told AFP. "The figure I heard is that... week-on-week volumes at the Shanghai port are down by 40 percent. So that's really enormous."

Shortages are starting to bite across China's vast consumer economy, where online shopping platforms such as Taobao face delivery delays, especially of imported goods. Covid curbs in a number of cities have forced factories to find new suppliers.

But the impact may soon also be felt outside China if lockdowns persist. Shanghai is the world's number one container port, a spinal point in the global supply chain and a key gateway for foreign trade.

Struggle to save Cuban sugar from bitter end



Antonio Sanchez Sugar Mill, in Aguada de Pasajeros, Cuba.

Havana, Apr 08 (AFP):

A whistle reverberates through a sugar factory in central Cuba to signal the resumption of milling at midday after an hours-

long halt when the raw cane ran out.

It is cane harvest time in Cuba — once the world's top sugar exporter but now reliant on imports.

A critical shortage of harvesters and trucks to deliver the cane to factories has hamstrung production even as the government scrambles to revive the once-vibrant industry.

Cuba's 2020-21 harvest yielded 800,000 tons of the sweet stuff, according to official figures.

This was just 10 percent of peak production some three decades ago and the worst outcome in 130 years for an industry that was once Cuba's economic motor and a huge source of national pride.

"This is a war without end," Lazaro Manuel Torres, boss of the

Antonio Sanchez mill in Cuba's central Cienfuegos province, told AFP.

"From the moment you wake up, you run into a mountain" of problems, said Torres, watching with obvious relief as a column of white smoke billowed from the chimney after the restart.

Until 1989, Cuba was the world's biggest sugar exporter. The United States was its major client until 1960 — two years before Washington imposed crippling sanctions on the communist island nation.

The Soviet Union, a political ally, then became an important buyer and was given preferential rates.

UN demands Mali allow peacekeepers into town

United Nations, Apr 08 (AP):

The top UN envoy in Mali has demanded that the country's military leaders allow UN peacekeepers to visit a town where Human Rights Watch says the Malian army and foreign soldiers suspected to be Russian recently killed an estimated 300 men, one of several alleged rights abuses denounced by the US, Britain and France.

According to Human Rights Watch, the killings in Moura were the worst single atrocity reported in Mali's 10-year armed conflict against Islamic extremists. Britain and France alleged that

Russian mercenaries from the Kremlin-linked Wagner Group were involved.

UN special representative El-Ghassim Wane told the UN Security Council that the government asserted in an April 1 communique that it had neutralised scores of terrorist elements in the Moura area in central Mali south of Mopti.

But he said the UN peacekeeping mission known as MINUSMA received reports of serious human rights abuses committed against large numbers of civilians during this operation. It sought access to the area which has so far been denied, ex-

cept for a reconnaissance flight on April 3, he said.

France's UN Ambassador Nicolas De Riviere cited reports of human rights violations in Moura by elements of the Malian armed forces accompanied by Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group that could constitute war crimes.

He called for national and international investigations to be opened quickly and for MINUSMA to conduct its own unhindered investigation to establish the facts and report to the Security Council. Mali has struggled to contain an Islamic extremist insurgency since 2012.

Alleged ISI cell trying to intrude US security agencies busted

Washington, Apr 08 (PTD):

The United States busted an alleged ISI cell trying to intrude into the American intelligence and security apparatus including its high profile Secret Service which is in charge of the security of the President.

Arian Taherzadeh, 40, and Haider Ali, 35, were arrested by the FBI in Southeast Washington Wednesday on a criminal complaint charging them with the federal offence of False Impersonation of an

Officer of the United States.

Four members of the Secret Service have been placed on administrative leave.

During their court appearance, Assistant US Attorney Joshua Rothstein told Magistrate Judge G Michael Harvey in the US District Court for the District of Columbia that Ali had told witnesses that he was affiliated with the Inter-Services Intelligence agency in Pakistan. Ali also had multiple

visas from Pakistan and Iran, federal law enforcement officials said.

We have not verified the accuracy of his claims but Ali made claims to witnesses that he had ties to ISI which is the Pakistani intelligence service, Rothstein told the judge.

Taherzadeh and Ali attempted to use their false and fraudulent affiliation with the Department of Homeland Security to ingratiate themselves with members of federal law enforcement and the defence community.

US speeds entry for Ukrainians

● As more Ukrainians reach through Mexico border

Tijuana, Apr 08 (AP):

The United States has sharply increased the number of Ukrainians admitted to the country at the Mexican border as even more refugees fleeing the Russian invasion follow the same circuitous route.

A government recreation centre in the Mexican border city of Tijuana grew to about 1,000 refugees, according to city officials.

A canopy under which children played soccer only two days earlier was packed with people in rows of chairs and lined with bunk beds.

US officials began funneling Ukrainians Wednesday to a pedestrian crossing in San Diego that is temporarily closed to the public, hoping to process 578 people a day there with 24 officers, said Enrique Lucero, the city of Tijuana's director of migrant affairs.

Tijuana has suddenly become a final stop for Ukrainians seeking refuge in the United

States, where they are drawn by friends and families ready to host them

and are convinced that the US will be a more suitable haven than Europe.

छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य सहकारी दुग्ध महासंघ मर्यादित
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निविदा सूचना
 दुग्ध महासंघ द्वारा उरला एवं बिलासपुर डेयरी संयंत्र में स्थापित ई.टी.पी. संयंत्र के वार्षिक रखरखाव एवं संचालन हेतु दो वर्ष की अनुबंध बाबत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, निविदा जमा करने एवं खोलने हेतु अंतिम तिथि 10.05.2022 निर्धारित है, जिसका विस्तृत विवरण दुग्ध महासंघ की वेबसाइट :- www.cgcoopdairyfed.in पर उपलब्ध है।
प्रबंध संचालक



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 09

Digital transaction autonomy

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its monetary policy meeting has proposed to allow interoperability in cardless cash withdrawal transactions at all banks and ATMs using the UPI facility. In addition to enhancing ease of transactions, the absence of the need for physical card for such transactions would help prevent frauds such as card skimming, card cloning. Last month, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had launched UPI for feature phones called UPI123Pay. He also launched 24x7 helpline for digital payments, DigiSaathi. UPI on feature phones will help people in rural areas who cannot afford a smartphone. UPI has emerged as one of the most used payment systems in India in the recent years. In terms of volume of transactions, UPI is the single largest retail payment system in the country. This move is to further popularise the use of digital payments has proposed to introduce a framework for retail offline payments across the country. India has been able to develop technology autonomy in sphere of digital transactions, but need to pass data protection bill soon to ensure security against rising cases of cybercrime. The learning of these tests strongly suggests that there is more wiggle room for digital payment-related solutions especially in the remote parts of the country. With this development, the RBI is optimistic about increasing the ease of doing business in India along with more innovative fintech opportunities to capitalise on. The Jan Dhan scheme has given significant impetus to financial inclusion, allowing millions to access bank accounts, but there is a gap in debit card issuance. The Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched in August 2014, is a financial inclusion programme that envisages universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic account for every household. Around 448.2 million people have benefited, but the number of Rupay debit cards issued under the scheme is 314.6 million, according to data. A few challenges are there.

One needs a debit card to set up a UPI handle but many banks in rural areas do not issue debit cards. As the share of UPI grows in the overall retail payments pie, payment processing agents will lose out on revenue over time. In February, UPI accounted for about 80 percent of the total retail digital payments by value. Digital payments here exclude net-banking routes such as IMPS and NEFT, which process large-sized transactions and recurring payments such as equated monthly instalments of loans in addition to other retail payments. The share of UPI in person-to-merchant payments widened to 42 percent in the first nine months of FY22 from 28 percent in FY21. In 2019, the government cut the merchant discount rate (MDR) on UPI transactions to zero to encourage greater use of the digital payment system. MDR is a charge paid by merchants to payment service providers for the infrastructure to give customers digital payment options. Banks have a dominant share in the MDR payment pool as card issuance and usage are largely through them. Banks can charge MDR on card-based payments and other digital modes. Analysts estimate that the fees collected through cards and other payment modes account for at least a quarter of the total fee income of banks. This is now threatened by the surge of UPI. The increasing share of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in merchant payments has begun to gnaw at banks and non-banks' fee incomes. The homegrown payments channel does not earn merchant fees due to government rules and the growing trend of UPI usage is now coming to bite banks and other payments players who have been its biggest champions.

Lessons from Turkey

Yearly inflation in Turkey hit 61.14 percent last week, climbing to a new 20-year high and deepening a cost of living crisis for many households. The Turkish Statistical Institute said consumer prices rose by 5.46 percent in March compared with the previous month. Yearly inflation was up from 54.44 percent in February. The highest yearly price increase was in the transportation sector, at 99.12 percent, while the increase in food prices was 70.33 percent, according to the data. It was the biggest year-on-year increase since March 2002. Other nations need to learn lessons from previously progressive society of Turkey embarking on alleged nationalism. Although it receives far less attention than it deserves, Turkey is a geopolitically and economically significant country, sharing territorial or maritime borders with the European Union, Russia, and four Middle Eastern countries. It is the only Muslim-majority member of NATO, and has the Alliance's second-largest military, after the United States. Its crisis matters far beyond its borders. Turkey's problems are almost entirely self-inflicted. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has spent years hollowing out the country's democratic institutions and sowing division within the population to suppress the rise of a united political opposition. Owing to the strong economic performance of previous years, Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) has been re-elected at every ballot since 2002.

But that support has fallen sharply as a result of the deteriorating political and economic situation. Politically, the Erdogan government has increasingly come to support the idea of a religious state, even though the constitution mandates a secular one, and it has been ruthlessly suppressing journalists and political dissent since a coup attempt in 2016. Making matters worse, Erdogan has long pressured the central bank to keep interest rates low, because he subscribes to a crackpot theory that inflation is caused by high interest rates. Any credible economist would point out that higher, not lower, interest rates are needed to cool inflation. But Erdogan persists in his perverse belief, and he has replaced the central bank governor three times in the past two years to ensure that the monetary authority continues to do his bidding. As Erdogan clings tenaciously to his unorthodox policies, goods shortages are becoming more frequent and severe, prompting efforts by some state-owned enterprises to control prices. But the mounting deficits at state-owned firms are increasing fiscal deficits, thereby adding to the inflationary pressures. Centralisation of power is always risky.

TRADITIONAL QATARI BOATS

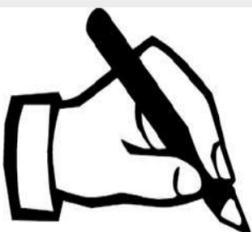


Traditional boats against the skyline of the Qatari capital Doha.

India, Australia to be joint winners in trade



PIYUSH GOYAL



The India Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) heralds another new chapter in India's exciting rise in the global trading arena. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the country is regularly scaling new heights in the fiercely competitive global market. Just last month, India achieved and exceeded the ambitious export target of USD 400 billion for 2021-22, as Indian exporters, including small enterprises, amplified their existing operations, penetrated new markets and shipped out new products, accelerating economic growth and creating jobs at a time the global economy was rattled by the pandemic. A month before that, India signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the United Arab Emirates, creating new avenues for wealth and jobs for its people. The IndAus ECTA, which symbolises ekta, or unity, between India and Australia, is a major milestone. It will propel bilateral trade from the existing USD 27.5 billion to USD 45-50 billion in five years, bringing huge benefits to both countries. This is the first trade agreement with a developed economy after more than a decade, and has been achieved after widespread consultations with exporters, traders, small enterprises and professionals.

The trade deals and the laudable performance of Indian exporters is a testimony to New India's new

energy, dedication, determination and the hunger to succeed as the country observes the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the inspiring 75-week countdown to the 75th anniversary of Indian independence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi rightly said that the world is very rapidly moving towards a new world order after the Corona period. 'This is such a turning point that we as India should not miss this opportunity. India's voice should also remain vociferous on the main table. India should not underestimate itself for a leadership role,' he said. It is in this context that the entire spectrum of India's export machinery, from the humble weavers and workers, to world-beating entrepreneurs, engineers and software professionals are hoisting India to a prominent position in the global market, and the world is recognizing India as an emerging superpower. India and Australia have a complementary economic relationship. India exports mainly finished products to Australia and imports primarily minerals, raw material and intermediate goods. India will have duty-free access in Australia for all its products, removing the disadvantage India faced against major rivals who already have trade deals with Australia. India will also enjoy greater market access for its products, while the easing of regulatory processes for pharmaceutical products will open up the attractive \$12 billion Australian

market in the sector.

Similarly, textiles exports are expected to triple USD 1.1 billion in three years, creating 40,000 new jobs every year with new units likely to come up in small towns and rural areas. Exports of engineering products is likely to jump from USD 1.2 billion in 2020-21 to USD 2.7 billion in five years. Trade agreements with Australia and UAE are estimated to generate 1 million jobs each in the next five to seven years. They will also increase investor interest and boost India's position in global supply chains, adding a strategic dimension to the pact. India has already entered into the trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) arrangement with Australia and Japan. The agreement reduces the cost of raw material, minerals and intermediate goods for Indian companies, which will help consumers and increase exports. The government has taken care of its farmers and kept many sectors out of the agreement. These include dairy products, chickpeas, walnut, pistachio nut, wheat, rice, bajra, apple, sunflowers seed oil, sugar, oil cake, gold, silver, platinum, jewellery, iron ore and most medical devices. In fact, when there will be more access with different markets, hopefully products will be available to us at more competitive prices on which we can do value addition particularly in labor-oriented areas and expand our business. FTAs are a two-way traffic. It cannot be one-sided access for Indian goods and services alone.

In India, we have a billion people going to buy their first car, a billion people looking to be first home owners, a billion people looking to travel outside the country, probably for the first time. Students are major beneficiaries. They will be able to get post-study visa for up to four years, which will give them vital international job exposure and give Australia the benefit of the talented, hardworking pool of young professionals who have made their mark globally and risen to the top

of major Western companies. Further, Indians will get a liberal visa regime, which will allow temporary stay up to four years for intra-corporate transferees, executives and contractual service providers. There are also commitments for entry, stay and work rights for family members. Indian chefs and yoga teachers will also be able to make their mark in Australia with concessions in the visa regime that will allow them to stay for up to four years if they meet eligibility criteria. This will enhance India's cultural influence and help Australians get the benefits of yoga. The two countries are also united by their love for cricket, and Indians have admired Australian cricket legends like Don Bradman, Steve Waugh, Brett Lee, and Shane Warne. While each team strives hard to beat the other in intense cricket contests, in the trade arena there is no loser -- it's a win-win situation for both countries.

The traditional rule book is being thrown out the window because we are seeing some countries using their economic weight and their economic power, using economic coercion, using non-market practices, to try and influence global trade. We now have a Quad between Japan, Australia, the US and India which has many dimensions, both strategic, political. They're working to ensure peace and stability, greater economic partnership between countries in this region. And there is more excitement on the horizon. India is negotiating trade deals with major Western trading partners such as the European Union, Canada and UK. The agreements with UAE and Australia have demonstrated India's earnest desire, and industry's confidence, to enter into trade deals where both countries gain, and given a solid basis for more trade pacts.

(Piyush Goyal is Union Minister of Commerce and Industry in Government of India.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Next step

A strike by trade unions cannot be dismissed as it did have an effect. As the government of the day, in its second term, has stepped up its drive to centralise all powers in its hands, there is a general assault on the federal principle which affects the fiscal, economic and legislative spheres. The time is now ripe for building broad unity to take on anti-people policies.

SK Khosla, via email

No relief

Citizens seemed assured when it was clear that India was going to purchase crude from Russia at a discount, thereby expecting fuel prices to come down. But to everybody's shock, fuel prices have started rising immediately, especially after the Assembly elections. The increase in fuel prices is triggering the inflation of all essential commodities. Governments should control inflation rather than accelerating it.

Kailash, via email

Big powers

This time the whole world is again going to witness a 'big powers' fight'. The Ukraine-Russia conflict has become a serious issue in contemporary world politics. Russian President Vladimir Putin has threatened Ukraine and has ordered his army to invade the eastern part of Ukraine. He also has made it clear to other nations that they should maintain distance from this crisis. On the other hand, the big brother of the NATO and also the prime enemy of Russia, the USA has made it clear that it will take action against the power which tries to invade NATO's area. With such a statement, the USA has indirectly threatened Russia. On the other hand, the United Nations has again played a passive role on this issue. It can be assumed that this crisis may lead to a conflict between First World countries and Second World countries. In the UN Security Council meet, India called for immediate de-escalation. We, the people of the rest of the world, now can only pray that the peace comes back to the world soon.

Aditya, via email

Caution

Macro-economic miseries such as high tax-cuts, a Budget deficit, depleting forex reserves and a significant loss of income from tourism have all wrecked Sri Lanka's plans for an economic recovery. The perception is that President Rajapaksa seems clueless about the shape of a credible road map for economic recovery. As a responsible neighbour, India has extended economic assistance to Sri Lanka. However, India should be cautious about opening its doors to refugees who may try to flee the island-nation.

Kangayam, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Rajeev Mantri@RMantri
Kolkata and the region's economy has stagnated to the point where Chandigarh contributes higher share of direct taxes! What will shake up the people, awake them from their slumber and overcome deep-seated emotional supremacy over the rest of India?

Gaurav@GauravPandhi
For those who don't know, the JHATKA is when Petrol price is increased by Rs 10 in a day. HALAL is when Petrol price is increased by 80 paise every day & eventually by Rs 10 in 12 days. Clearly, Modi Govt prefers Halal over Jhatka?



Vivek Menon@vivek4wild
White- eyes, that miniature olive-yellow blob with a bulls-eye eye is my offering.



Harsh@harshmahadhusudan
Either you are a diner or you are dinner. India decided to be the former after being the latter for a long time. That many are whining globally, including some within, confirms that we are broadly on the right path. The whining will be louder for longer: enjoy it and keep rising.

Maj Gen@satbirsm
HSC has upheld Govt version of OROP which totally kills its soul by changing world automatic to periodic with and further making period as 5 yrs. How can faulty concept/definition which does not qualify as OROP be accepted?

Ramandeep@ramanmann1974
Switzerland farmers got prices that were 41% above International prices. China farmers got prices that were 10% above International Prices. EU farmers got prices that were 4% above International prices. Whereas, Indian farmers got prices that were 13% less than International price.

The Legal@LegalTL
Trust me, our own PK (Pawan Khera) @Pawankhera ji is far far better political strategist than that PK Prashant Kishor. @INCIndia @RahulGandhi @priyankagandhi need to give Pawan ji full authority to handle the state of Gujarat and they will never regret it. We will easily win.

BRIEF

Expansion



Kolkata: Tea retailer Golden Tips plans to expand its footprint through the e-commerce route by entering into strategic partnerships. Madhav Sarada said the company follows the practice of sourcing tea directly from producers as this will ensure optimum realisation.

Center

New Delhi: Technology solutions provider Infogain on Friday announced the opening of its delivery center in Montevideo, Uruguay. The center, Infogain's seventh center globally, marks the company's entry into Latin America and adds to its nearshore capabilities. Infogain said it has opened a new global delivery center in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Plans



New Delhi: Offgrid Energy Labs on Friday said it plans to commercially launch products with its ZincGel battery technology next year. CEO Tejas Kusrkar said with the ability to prioritise, our innovation is focused on addressing a wide variety of applications.

Sales

New Delhi: Sales of apartments priced at Rs 1 crore and above rose 83 per cent to 10,988 units during the January-March period this year on rising demand for bigger flats amid the pandemic, according to JLL India. Sales volume in this price category stood at 5,994 units in the year-ago period.

Rise



New Delhi: Mercedes-Benz India on Friday reported a 26 per cent jump in sales at 4,022 units in the first quarter of 2022. CEO Martin Schwenk said, this achievement becomes important in the context of continued intense headwinds like semiconductor shortage.

Enhance

New Delhi: Force Motors on Friday said it has tied up with the Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) to recruit and to enhance skill set of the workforce at its dealerships. A service agreement in this regard was inked between the two entities.

Rates unchanged, RBI expects lower growth with inflation

RBI to set up panel to review, improve customer service

Mumbai: In a bid to improve customer service in regulated entities, the Reserve Bank of India on Friday said it will set up a panel to review and further strengthen consumer protection.



Shaktikanta Das

Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday kept the benchmark interest rate unchanged at 4 per cent and going forward decided to withdraw its accommodative stance to ensure that inflation remains within the target level.

It raised the retail inflation target for the current financial year to 5.7 per cent on the back of rising global prices amidst the ongoing geo-political tensions, even as it expected

the prices of cereals and pulses to soften on prospects of good winter crop harvest.

"Global food prices along with metal prices have hardened significantly. Economy is grappling with a sharp rise in inflation... Inflation is now projected at 5.7 per cent in 2022-23 with Q1 at 6.3 per cent; Q2 at 5 per cent; Q3 at 5.4 per cent and Q4 at 5.1 per cent," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while unveiling the first monetary policy review

Industry welcomes RBI decision

New Delhi: Welcoming the RBI's move to keep the borrowing costs unchanged on Friday, India Inc said the central bank has maintained a fine balance to support growth as well as keep inflation within the target range amid geopolitical worries.

for the current fiscal year. It slashed economic growth projection to 7.2 per cent for the current fiscal from 7.8 per cent estimated earlier amid volatile crude oil prices and supply chain disruptions due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Shaktikanta Das said external developments during the past two months have led to the materialisation of downside risks to domestic growth and upside risks to inflation.

Ruchi Soya jumps nearly 15% after listing of FPO shares

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

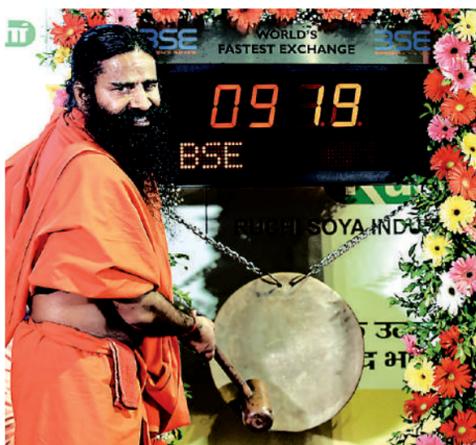
Stock of Ruchi Soya Industries on Friday jumped nearly 15 per cent after listing of shares of the company pursuant to its Follow on Public Offer (FPO).

The stock zoomed 12.94 per cent to settle at Rs 924.85 on BSE. During the day, it jumped 14.79 per cent to Rs 940.

On NSE, it gained 14.71 per cent to close at Rs 938.

According to a notice by BSE on Thursday, 6,61,53,846 equity shares of Rs 2 each fully paid up of Ruchi Soya Industries Limited are listed and admitted for trading on the exchange with effect from Friday, April 08, 2022.

On Tuesday, the company had informed stock exchanges that it has ap-



Yoga guru and non-executive director of RSIL Baba Ramdev rings gong during the company's FPO listing ceremony at BSE, in Mumbai, Friday.

proved the allotment of 6,61,53,846 equity shares for an amount aggregat-

ing to Rs 4,300 crore pursuant to the FPO. The company had fixed the

JEWELLERY EXHIBITION



Visitors at a stall during a three day jewellery exhibition in Bengaluru, Karnataka on Friday.

Int'l Holding Co to invest USD 2 bn in Adani Group's green portfolio

IHC will invest USD 2 bn (INR 15,400 Cr) in three green-focused companies in the Adani portfolio - AGEL, ATL and AEL

Ahmedabad, Apr 08:

International Holding Company PJSC (IHC), the Abu Dhabi based conglomerate, will invest USD 2 billion as primary capital in three Adani portfolio companies - Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), Adani Transmission Ltd (ATL) and Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) - which are all listed on Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE) in India, through the preferential allotment route.

Earlier today, the boards of AGEL, ATL and AEL met and approved the transaction. The investment is subject to share-

holder and regulatory approvals and shall comply with SEBI regulations.

Sagar Adani, Executive Director, AGEL, said "We are delighted to commence this inter-generational relationship with IHC. We are deeply committed to the shared vision and values of investment in sustainable infrastructure, green energy and energy transition.

This is a landmark transaction and marks a start of a wider relationship between The Adani Group and IHC and attracting further investment from UAE into India." The three Adani companies - AGEL, ATL and AEL - are market

leaders in their business sectors and span the Adani Group's green portfolio. Every one of these three businesses has the core aspects of ESG woven into their operations. This investment is testament to the IHC's and the Adani Portfolio's shared vision and commitment of investing in sustainable companies that are leading the charge in energy transition.

Mr Syed Basar Shueb, CEO and Managing Director of IHC, said "This will be a long-term investment in India as the country is driving much innovation globally, including the green energy sector.

Manipal Health Map acquires Hyderabad-based Medcis Path Labs

Mumbai, Apr 08:

Manipal HealthMap, a leading integrated diagnostic service provider in India, announced the acquisition of Hyderabad-based MedcisPathLabs Pvt Ltd in an all-cash deal for a majority stake. With this deal, Manipal HealthMap expands its footprint to 19 (nineteen) additional centres which takes the total number to 60 (sixty) centres across 14 states, strengthening its position as a major integrated diagnostic services brand. Manipal HealthMap is known for its state-of-the-art technology, affordable access, and delivering high-end clinical results across all its centres.

Through this acquisition, Manipal HealthMap will have access to additional 19 laboratories, including one NABL accredited central laboratory (based in Hyderabad). Dr. (Capt.) Sandeep Sharma, CEO, Manipal HealthMap said, "We are delighted to welcome MedcisPathLabs to the Manipal HealthMap family and bring in new advanced standards of integrated diagnostics services in the country. This acquisition is in sync with our brand salience to serve patients across multiple states with high quality yet affordable radiology and pathology services supported with state-of-the-art technology for accuracy and faster reporting."

Loco announces India's first officially supported Pokemon unite tournament

Mumbai, Apr 08:

India's Leading eSports and game streaming platform LOCO, is the first official collaborator/partner and an exclusive broadcaster of the 'Pokémon UNITE City Tournament India 2022'. There exists an active community for Pokemon UNITE in India, and there is immense potential for it to grow, both within the competitive and entertainment segments in gaming. Loco being a pioneer in the live game streaming and eSports sector in India along with Pokemon Unite's shared vision of growing the esports ecosystem at large makes for the perfect region collaborator.



'Pokemon Unite' is a popular smartphone game title that was released in July 2021 and has recorded more than 70 million downloads worldwide; adding Hindi to the supported languages with its recent update on March 14th, 2022 which made all the game features playable in Hindi. To celebrate the Hindi language support, the 'Pokemon Unite City

Tournament 2022' will be held in April, powered by and streamed exclusively on Loco.

Players for the city tournament will be scouted from major cities across India, and star streamer captains will select their respective team players via an auction; a tried and tested format which has worked wonderfully on Loco and is now being scaled further. The goal of this tournament is to recognize talented Pokemon Unite players at a grassroots level, encourage them to play the game and provide them a platform to showcase their gameplay. The platform will also be integrating exciting giveaways to gratify and grow the community further.

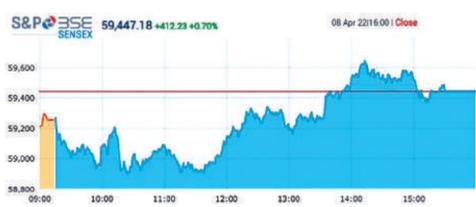
Amazon.in announces fresh offers on 'Super Value Days'

Mumbai, Apr 08: With the onset of the summer season, Amazon.in has announced some fresh offers on 'Super Value Days.' Devour 45% off on grocery, household essentials, packaged foods, personal care, and baby and pet care products among others from 1st to 7th April 2022. Amazon.in is offering grocery deals starting at Rs 1 and free delivery for prime members. Customers can avail of great prices and fresh offers from popular brands including Daawat, Himalaya, Sunfeast, Dabur, Cadbury, Kellogg, Mother Dairy among others at convenient delivery options from one single online destination. In addition, customers can avail of an instant discount of 10% on SBI Credit Card and Credit EMI from 1st -3rd April 2022 and ICICI Credit Card from 4th-7th April 2022 with a minimum transaction of Rs

2,500 and discounts up to Rs 300. Whereas ICICI CBCC holders can avail an additional discount of 5% from 4th-7th April 2022 with a minimum transaction of Rs 2,500, and discounts up to Rs 250. Daawat Rozana Super, basmati Rice, 5kg available on Amazon Fresh for Rs 335, Sunfeast Dark Fantasy Choco Fills, 600g available at Rs 182. Tata Tea Gold (1.5Kg) at Rs 717, Maggi 2-Minute Noodles Masala, 70g (Pack of 12) at Rs 138, Tetley Green Tea Immune with added Vitamin C, Lemon, and Honey, 100 Tea Bags at Rs 440, Hershey's Syrup Chocolate, 623g available at Rs 185, Nimyle Eco friendly floor cleaner available on Amazon Fresh for Rs 257. Godrej Protekt Germ Fighter Handwash Refill Pack available on Amazon Fresh at just Rs 169, Palmolive Aroma Absolute Relax Body Wash at Rs 324.

Sensex rallies 412 pts, Nifty jumps above 17,700

Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):



The Sensex jumped 412.23 points on Friday, braving heavy volatility during the day, amid the Reserve Bank of India maintaining status quo on the benchmark lending rate and buying in index heavyweights Reliance Industries Limited and ITC. The BSE Sensex climbed 412.23 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 59,447.18. During the day, the benchmark hit a high of 59,654.44 and a low of 58,876.36.

The Nifty also gained 144.80 points or 0.82 per cent to finish at 17,784.35. "Market was cautious during the last 2-3 days ahead the RBI meet and its future policy stance. Measures being in-line with market expectations led to a relief rally. The focus has shifted to the Q4 earnings season, which

will start next week, initiated by the IT and Banking sector," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

From the 30-share pack, ITC, Dr Reddy's, M&M, Titan, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel and Asian Paints were the major gainers.

In contrast, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Sun Pharma, HDFC and HDFC Bank were the laggards. Markets in Asia in Seoul, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Tokyo ended in the green. Stocks in the US

also ended higher in the overnight session.

International oil benchmark Brent crude gained 0.65 per cent to USD 101.2 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth Rs 5,009.62 crore on Thursday, as per exchange data.

"For us the most important take away from the policy is that RBI has kept its ammunition intact and is well prepared to safeguard the Indian economy from any external shocks," said Siddharth Bhamre, Research Head, Religare Broking Ltd.

Rupee surges 13 paise to 75.90 against USD, gold falls slightly

Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

The rupee appreciated 13 paise to settle at 75.90 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, amid the Reserve Bank of India maintaining status quo on the benchmark lending rate.

Announcing the monetary policy, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Indian economy has large forex reserves and that it stands ready and resolute to defend the economy.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 75.99 against the US dollar and touched an intra-day high of 75.70 and finally closed at 75.90, registering a rise of 13 paise over its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee had declined 19 paise to close at 76.03.

Over 34.42 cr beneficiaries get Rs 18.60 lakh cr loan

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

More than 34.42 crore beneficiaries have received Rs 18.60 lakh crore loan under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) since its launch seven years ago, the Finance Ministry said on Friday.

The PMMY was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 8, 2015, for providing loans up to Rs 10 lakh to the non-corporate and non-farm small/micro-enterprises. "It is noteworthy that more than 34.42 crore loan accounts amounting to Rs 18.60 lakh crore have been opened under the Scheme for the creation of income-generating activities," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman said on the seventh anniversary of the scheme.



Nirmala Sitharman

The scheme has helped in creating an enabling environment, particularly for small businesses and generate large-scale employment opportunities at the grassroots level, she said.

More than 68 per cent of the loan accounts have been sanctioned to women and 22 per cent of the loans have been given to new entrepreneurs who had not availed any loan since the inception of the

scheme, the minister added. While greeting and congratulating all the Mudra beneficiaries and urging other prospective borrowers to come forward and take part in the nation-building process, Sitharman said, "With 51 per cent of total loans sanctioned so far going to the SC/ST/OBC category, the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana stands for social justice in action and embodies the true spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' as envisioned by the Prime Minister".

On the occasion, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad said the driving force behind launching the PMMY has been to provide institutional credit to micro, small and medium enterprises in a hassle-free/seamless manner.



Pankhuri takes a cue for her role from Aishwarya Rai

Ever since the promo launch of Star Bharat's newest offering, 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq,' viewers have been anticipating the show's unique love story and, of course, its title track, 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq' makes the audience feel as if they are lost in the mountains. Not only that, but the show's lead character, played by the audience's favourite actress Pankhuri Awasthi, will be seen as a tourist guide who will defy the stereotypes inherent in this male-dominated society. Pankhuri Awasthi has played many powerful characters in the past, and she has drawn inspiration from Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's character of 'Taal' in this show to play Kajju, a role she is very excited to play. Pankhuri Awasthi, who premised her character Kajju from Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's character

in the 1999 film 'Taal,' says, "The title track of the show is very beautiful, and the 'Taal' is the best in itself. When it comes to dancing on this song in the show, the first person who comes to mind is the renowned Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai. Because no one could have envisioned this song better than her. Especially when During my recent photoshoot for the show 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq' I was shown a picture of Mrs. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan as a reference on how to pose in my Pahari look. So it's not a stretch to say that I drew inspiration for Kajju from her. I hope that my character will be adored by the audience and that people will continue to love my character."

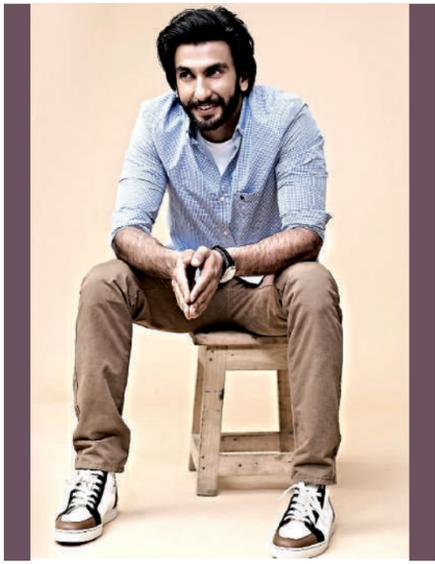
For more details, watch 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq' show this 18th April, Monday to Friday at 7:30 PM on Star Bharat.

Ranveer reveals what he loves about Gujarat

Actor Ranveer Singh, who is playing a Gujarati once again on the big screen after essaying Gujarati romeo in the Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Goliyon Ki Raasleela - Ram Leela', is thrilled about the prospect of getting 'the same amount of love from Gujaratis across the world, all over again' with his performance in the upcoming film 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar'. Ranveer says, "I'm playing a Gujarati boy again after Ram Leela, a film that gave me a mounting of a star in this industry. 'Ram Leela' showered me with incredible love from people, especially from Gujaratis across the world! Even now, when I meet any Gujarati, they always happen to mention how they loved my performance in Ram Leela." About

his love for Gujarat, the superstar says, "I love everything about Gujarat - its culture, its vibrancy, its zeal to be the best, and most importantly its people. So, I was really inspired to become a Gujarati boy in 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar' and get the same amount of love from Gujaratis across the world, all over again." "I hope they love the film and love my performance in it. I have given it my all and I know we have a very special film to offer to them." The much-awaited Yash Raj Films' 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar', also starring Arjun Reddy fame Shalini Pandey, who debuts on Bollywood's big screen opposite Ranveer, has been directed by debutant Divyang Thakkar.

The film is releasing on May 13 worldwide.



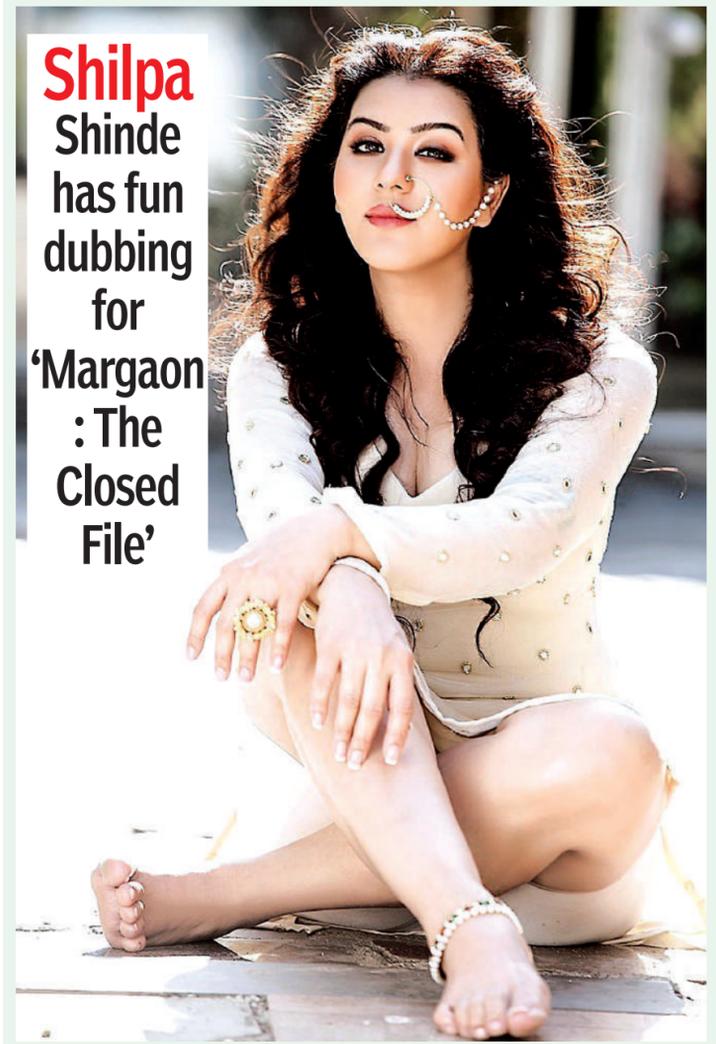
Popular television actor Shilpa Shinde is looking forward to the release of her next web-series 'Margaon: The Closed File'. Shilpa recently finished dubbing for the series which has been produced and directed by Kapil Kaustubh Sharma. According to her, shooting for this series has been one of the fun experiences of her career. Elaborating on the same, she says: "While dubbing for 'Margaon: The Closed File', I had exactly the kind of fun I had while shooting for it. Once the dubbing session got over, I also felt a tinge of sadness as it marked the end of my journey

on the show." "One of the things that made the experience of working on the show so memorable was the fact that there was so much positivity on the sets. Kapil made sure that everybody was comfortable and happy even while shooting some of the most challenging scenes," adds the 'Bhabi Ji Ghar Par Hai' actress. For producer-director Kapil Kaustubh Sharma, 'Margaon: The Closed File' is a special project for multiple reasons. It features some of the most respected actresses in the industry across different generations like Zeenat Aman, Pallavi Joshi, Kitu Gidwani, Shilpa

Shinde, Tanaaz Currim Irani and Suchitra Krishnamoorthi. Talking about getting so many talented actresses on board, Kapil says: "It was an honour and privilege to work with so many legendary actresses on this series. I am grateful to each one of them for saying a yes to this project. During her dubbing session, Shilpa ji said that it was one of the most special projects for her. For me, the goodwill and blessings of these actresses was the biggest reward of making this series."

'Margaon: The Closed File' will stream on a leading OTT platform later this year.

Shilpa Shinde has fun dubbing for 'Margaon: The Closed File'



Mahesh Babu does it again, comes to aid of 30 suffering children

On the occasion of World Health Day, Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu organised financial help to save the lives of more than 30 children. Mahesh Babu, besides delivering super hit movies, is also known for his generosity and philanthropy. Everyone is aware of the star's help, as he sponsors heart surgeries for suffering children. Recently, the 'Murari' actor sponsored 30 children, who underwent heart surgeries and interventions, with the help of doctors at Andhra Hospitals, Vijayawada, and Mahesh Babu Foundation. Mahesh Babu's wife Namrata Shirodkar Ghattamaneni took to her Instagram and thanked Biswa Bhusan Harichandan, the governor of Andhra Pradesh, for facilitating the event and lending his support as well. Namrata's Instagram post reads, "On the occasion of World Health Day today, 30 children underwent heart surgeries and interventions. The event was felicitated by hon'ble @governorap Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan garu." "Thank you team @andhrahospitals for your commitment to medical excellence and quality healthcare", Namrata mentioned. Namrata also shared a few pics, of the children who underwent the surgeries with the help of Mahesh's financial support.

On the work front, Mahesh will be next seen in Parasuram Petia's 'Sarkaru Vaari Paata'.



Raj Verma roped in for 'Dosti Anokhi'

New entries always brings in a lot of twist and turns to the storyline. And, spicing up the drama in Sony Entertainment Television's 'Jagannath Aur Purvi Ki Dosti Anokhi' that showcases an endearing relationship between an elderly gentleman, Jagannath Mishra and a young girl, Purvi, will be the character of Alok Mishra portrayed by the popular television actor Raj Singh Verma. During the course of the show, viewers have seen how Jagannath Mishra and Purvi's unique bond has grown stronger over time and how he has started treating her like his own daughter.

But while this new friendship is brewing, Jagannath is taken by surprise as Alok and Deepa return home for reasons unknown. It will be interesting to see if their entry back into the Mishra house change the dynamics between Jagannath and Purvi. Alok Mishra is the eldest son of Jagannath and Kusum Mishra who has always been the responsible sibling and tried to help his parents in whatever way possible. But, his

behaviour towards his family changed over time as he shifted abroad. So much so that he gave an excuse to send money when Jagannath had to go through an important surgery. Deeply hurt by this incident, Jagannath has not been able to forgive Alok about this. But, with Alok return to the Mishra house, help him mend his relationship with his father? Will Jagannath be able to let go and forgive his son?

Elated to be portraying the character of Alok Mishra, actor Raj Singh Verma said, "My character Alok is a very ambitious guys and has a highly realistic outlook on life as he approaches everything with a practical mindset. So, instead of being upset and hurrying back home when he learns of his father's heart attack, he came up with a more sensible approach. Many people think that he's rigid, but that doesn't imply that he doesn't love or care about his family."

Tune into Jagannath aur Purvi Ki Dosti Anokhi at 9:30 P.M. every Monday to Friday only on Sony TV.

HOROSCOPE SATURDAY APRIL 09

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

A group of friends might want you to go out with them today, Aquarius, but you probably won't feel up to it. Your financial situation could also require a little belt-tightening now, so you may not feel you can justify the expense. In any case, you aren't going to want to spend the evening alone. Invite a friend or love partner over to watch a movie with you.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Today you could feel full of energy and eager to get out for some exercise, Pisces, but other responsibilities might threaten to keep you from doing it. The resulting frustration could zap all your energy and put you in a lethargic mood. Don't fall into this trap! Get the most urgent tasks done and then get the exercise you need. This way, you can recoup both your physical and mental energy.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Your energy is probably pretty low today, Aries. You won't feel like socializing, nor will you feel like staying in and reading or watching TV. Chances are you won't know what to do with yourself all day. Under these circumstances, the best thing to do is find a distraction. Go work out, read a thrilling book, go to a funny movie. Get your mind off your lethargy and it could well disappear.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Career and financial goals could seem completely stalled, Taurus, and this could have you feel like staying in and reading or watching TV. Chances are you won't know what to do with yourself all day. Under these circumstances, the best thing to do is find a distraction. Go work out, read a thrilling book, go to a funny movie. Get your mind off your lethargy and it could well disappear.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

A colleague could be in a very bad mood, Gemini, and therefore not the easiest person in the world to deal with. In fact, today he or she could resist working at all, and you might feel obligated to take up the slack. Only do it if the tasks are urgent. It isn't fair to you to have to do someone else's job. Don't feel guilty if you leave it unfinished.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Plans to go away on vacation or perhaps a business trip could be put on hold today, Cancer. Events you might have been scheduled to attend could be temporarily postponed. This could leave you feeling somewhat at a loss because you'd planned to be away and now you don't know what to do with yourself in the meantime. Be your usual ingenious self and you'll find something! Go to it!

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

This isn't a good day to visit the racetrack, Las Vegas, or any store that sells lottery tickets. Stay away from the stock market, too, Leo. Speculation of any kind now could be risky at best and disastrous at worst. Romance is also likely to be blocked today, since you're probably feeling a bit lethargic and not very social. Read a good book. That's the most productive thing you could do today!

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Virgo, you're likely to want to retreat into your bedroom and slam the door today. You won't feel like talking or socializing with anyone, not even those closest to you. Too much work could have you in a state of near exhaustion and almost total burnout, which means that getting some rest is probably the best thing you could do right now. Relax now, and get yourself going again tomorrow.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

This might prove to be one of those days in which it's very hard to get anything related to work or communication off the ground, Libra. You could find excuses to stop working more often than usual, particularly if it involves calling people on the phone. Don't fight it. Take care of the most urgent tasks. The world won't come to an end if you put the rest off a while.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

You might have planned to make a particular purchase today, Scorpio, but a quick check of your financial situation could reveal that it would be better if you waited until your next payday. This could prove disappointing and frustrating, but look at it this way - you've waited this long for this item. It isn't urgent, so waiting a little longer certainly won't hurt. Do something else today.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

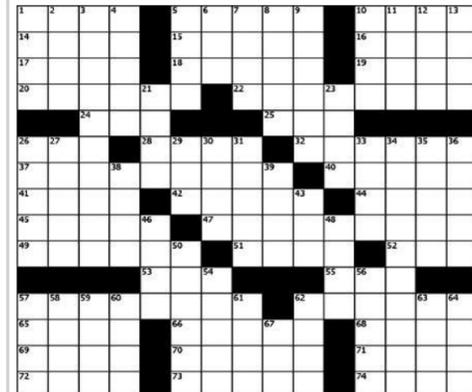
A lack of physical and mental energy as well as motivation could have you in a lethargic mood today, Sagittarius. You won't feel like doing much of anything. You might get extremely irritated at the thought of having to work in any way. It might be a good idea to go to a movie in the evening, preferably a thriller or action movie. This will get your juices flowing again.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Usually you enjoy talking with others, Capricorn, but today you won't even want to answer the phone. Your physical stamina and mental energy are low, and you could feel out of sorts. It might help if you go for a walk sometime in the afternoon. You won't want to waste your evening lying around the house. Get the endorphins going and then go to a movie. You'll soon be your old self again!

CROSSWORD

264



ACROSS

- Doll's cry
- Sings alone
- Log float
- Guitarist _____ Clapton
- Not fitting
- Wheel shaft
- Fine sand
- Player
- Youth
- Cowboy bar

DOWN

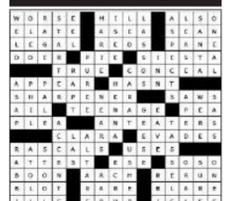
- Wrist ornament
- Pester
- Tire filler
- Uncle _____
- Dare
- Wanderers
- Running
- Military student
- Calendar number
- Water vapor
- At rest
- Stadium

- Orbiting object
- Walk leisurely
- Hero shop
- Paving goo
- Building site
- Chem., e.g.
- Evaluation
- Hubbub
- Loony
- Beatle Ringo _____
- Machu Picchu dweller
- Walter's handout
- Like Santa's helpers
- Calcutta dress
- Iditarod vehicle
- Plant beginnings
- Implored

DOWN

- Army cafeteria
- Divya's forte
- Small metric measure
- Role player
- Endorse
- "Snakes _____ Plane" (2 wds.)
- Young sheep
- "Carmen," e.g.
- Stress
- Assess
- Skating jump
- Take flight
- Portable shelter
- Gumbo veggie
- Gator's kin
- Soft drinks
- Separate

SOLUTION 263



Srikanth, Sindhu enter semifinals of Korea Open



Suncheon, Apr 08 (PTI):

Top Indian shuttlers P V Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the semifinals of the Korea Open Super 500 badminton tournament with contrasting wins here on Friday.

Third seed Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medalist, notched up her 17th win over familiar foe Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan 21-10 21-16 in the women's singles quarterfinals.

She will next face second seeded Korean An Seyoung, an opponent who has beaten her twice last year. In a battle between two former world number ones, it was World Championships silver medalist Srikanth, who rode on his power and precision to outwit local hope Son Wan Ho 21-12 18-21 21-12 in a men's singles quarterfinal match that lasted just over an hour. Srikanth had a 4-7 record against the Korean, having lost to him on last three occa-

sions.

However, the Indian played better badminton on Friday to come up trumps against an opponent, who is coming back to international badminton after a two-year hiatus. The Indian, seeded fifth, will next face third seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia, who had claimed the Swiss Open last month. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty failed to make it to the semifinal after going down fighting 20-22 21-18

20-22 to Korean pairing of Kang Minhyuk and Seo Seungjae. In women's singles, Sindhu had no issues in disposing off Busanan, whom she had beaten at Swiss Open final last month. The Thai lead 5-2 in the opening game but after that it was a Sindhu show as she kept the match under her tight grip.

Leading 11-7, Sindhu produced an eight-point burst to pull away from the Thai and grab the lead in the match.

Things were similar after the change of sides as Sindhu held a 8-2 lead and kept moving ahead as the Thai crumbled.

In men's singles, Srikanth showed better control as he dominated the short rallies to move to a comfortable 11-6 lead at the first interval and though Son Wan Ho made it 12-14, the Indian soon changed gears to walk away with the first game.

The Korean came back strongly in the second game, opening up a 10-7 lead but Srikanth moved ahead to 13-11. An alert Son Wan Ho didn't let the game slip away and soon charged ahead to take it to the decider.

Srikanth made a rollicking 4-0 start in the decider but unforced errors allowed the Korean to make it 4-6. The Indian changed the pace with some quick attacking returns and his precision earned him returns. Srikanth managed a 11-7 lead at the interval.

India beat South Korea 3-0 to enter Women's Jr Hockey WC semifinals



Potchefstroom, Apr 08 (PTI):

The Indian women's hockey team continued its unbeaten run and defeated South Korea 3-0 here on Friday to enter the semifinals of the FIH Junior World Cup for only the second time.

The Indians, who topped the pool stage with an all-win record, scored through Mumtaz Khan (11th minute), Lalrindiki (15th) and Sangita Kumari (41st) to emerge winners in the quarterfinal match.

India's best result in the tournament remains the

bronze medal finish at the 2013 edition in M o n c h e n g l a d b a c h, Germany, where they defeated England 3-2 in shootout following a 1-1 stalemate in regulation time.

Against Korea, India made a sedate start but found their footing 10 minutes into the game.

The Indian players used their speed and defence-splitting runs to trouble the Korean backline, which resulted in two penalty corners, the first of which was capitalised by Mumtaz. It was

Olympian Sharmila Devi's brilliant run and a resultant pass that created the short corner for India and Mumtaz deflected home skipper Salima Tete's slap for her sixth goal of the tournament.

Seconds from the end of first quarter, Lalrindiki doubled India's lead by tapping in a rebound after Deepika's reverse shot was saved by Korean goalkeeper Eunji Kim.

The second quarter was more physical from both the teams but it was India who dominated possession.

Focus on Gaikwad as CSK face SRH in battle of strugglers



Navi Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

Battling poor form, opener Ruturaj Gaikwad will be under the scanner when strugglers Chennai Super Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad face off in the IPL here on Saturday, looking to register their first win.

Three successive losses have put new skipper Ravindra Jadeja under immense pressure and he would hope his teammates can script a turnaround against the Sunrisers, who too are smarting from two reverses.

One of the most decorated teams in the history of the IPL, CSK have endured a tough season so far, with

the team struggling on multiple fronts, especially batting. Gaikwad, last edition's leading scorer, has struggled with his footwork and his scores of 0, 1,1 has put CSK under pressure at the top.

The Maharashtra batter, who had scored 635 runs across 16 matches in 2021, will look to find his rhythm against Sunrisers. The good thing for Gaikwad is that he has the backing of his captain.

"We need to give him (Gaikwad) confidence as we all know he's a very good player. I'm sure he will come good," Jadeja had said after their last match. There is a lot of experience in CSK's batting

but it didn't help them against Punjab Kings as they could muster just 126 while chasing 180.

While Robin Uthappa had scored a fifty in one of the games, the likes of Moeen Ali and Ambati Rayudu have failed to capitalise on their starts.

Skipper Jadeja, too, will need to give a better account of himself, even as 'de facto' captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni looks to keep guiding the team.

In CSK's last outing, Shivam Dube's entertaining fifty was the only bright spot for the 'yellow brigade', and the team will expect him to deliver again.

Shubman Gill is one of the finest talents in world cricket: Shastri

Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

Former India coach Ravi Shastri has called young batter Shubman Gill "one of the finest talents in world cricket", someone who is tailor-made for the game's T20 format because of his wide range of strokes.

Gill, 22, who is playing for Gujarat Titans in the IPL, is using the ongoing season as an opportunity to make the Indian team for the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia.

Speaking on Gill's performance in the early stages of the tournament, Shastri said on



Star Sports' Cricket Live, "Gill is one of the finest talents in the country and in world cricket, to be honest. If he gets going, he can score big. He makes it (batting) look easy when he's set. "He's got the punch, he's got the time, and he's got the power to clear the ground. He's just made

for this format of the game. It's just his shot selection, his rotation of the strike which helps him take the pressure away." Gill has impressed with his game in the on-going IPL and looks set to play a few influential knocks in the coming weeks. "He's the guy who's capable of putting bad balls away. Very good on the short ball and the short-arm jab," Shastri said. "Early stages in the tournament, good batting tracks, you get to your highest score, you're playing for a new franchise, it can only boost your confidence."

Main issue with football in India is league structure: Kushal Das

Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das on Friday said that the main issue with football in the country is the lack of a robust league structure.

The Indian men's football league system consists of three divisions (Indian Super League, I-league and I-League 2nd Division), besides the Indian Women's League (IWL). Currently ranked 106th in the FIFA chart, the men's national team is aiming to qualify for its second successive AFC Asian Cup finals

and are clubbed with Afghanistan (150), Cambodia (171) Hong Kong (147) in Group D for the qualifiers in June.

"... It's such a popular sport, easy to play, still India is far from where it should be and that's a very valid question. I think the main issue with football in India is the league structure," Das said at the launch of 'International Sports Expo' here.

India kicked off the I-league in 2007 while countries like Japan and South Korea had started much before, and Das conceded that India was late on that front too.

MI need to fire in unison to effect turnaround

Pune, Apr 08 (PTI):

More than the individual brilliance, Mumbai Indians need to fire as a unit if they have to effect a turnaround as they gear up to clash with Royal Challengers Bangalore in an IPL match here on Saturday.

Mumbai Indians are enduring a poor beginning to the season as they have lost their first three games to remain pointless in the tournament so far.

MI lost by four wickets to Delhi Capitals before suffering a 23-run and five-wicket defeat at the hands of Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders respectively.

It is imperative for Mumbai that their skipper



Rohit gets some run under his belt. He has managed 41, 10 and 3 in the first three games. Despite their struggles, a few players

have done well individually. With scores of 81, 54, 14, Ishan Kishan has been a revelation at the top for MI, while young Tilak

Varma (22, 61, 38) has made an impression in the middle-order. The inclusion of Dewald Brevis, known as 'Baby AB', and

fit-again Suryakumar Yadav, who made 52 off 36 balls against KKR, has provided some solidarity to MI's bowing line-up.

Kieron Pollard, who made a 5-ball unbeaten 22-run cameo in the last match, is always a threat for rival bowling attack.

While MI's batting has been sorted to some extent, it is the team's bowling which needs to do better.

While its domestic bowlers — Basil Thampi and Murugan Ashwin — need to step up, it is the performance of its foreign recruits Australian Daniel Sams and Tymal Mills which is a cause of concern. Sams and Mills leaked runs aplenty against KKR.

Bond expects turnaround from MI bowlers after 3 losses

Pune, Apr 08 (PTI):

Shane Bond expects a turnaround from Mumbai Indians bowlers soon, but for that he said the five-time champions will have to stick to their plans, starting with Friday's IPL game against Royal Challengers Bangalore here.

Winless so far in their first three games, the MI bowling coach said he is not worried about their below-par effort with the ball. "It's a simple fix really. If we can stick to our plans and stick to the

areas we want to bowl when the pressure is on, then I think you'll see a turnaround," Bond said in a note shared by MI on the eve of their game against RCB.

"As I said, I think we've seen that when we've executed our plans the way that we wanted to, we've been really successful. We saw it in the last game against Andre Russell," he said.

"Venkatesh Iyer, we made him work really hard for a fifty and bowled really well to him. We've just had one player who's



come out in each game and hit 30-plus off sort of 10-11 balls which has taken the game away from us. Bond said it was a mixed bag performance

from MI bowlers in the first three games. "It's been a real mixed bag from us I suppose from a bowling unit. You look at the last game; the first ten overs were fantastic. We had a couple of overs that got away from us.

"It's been a little bit of a pattern for us, that we've done some really good stuff, we've taken out a number of the big players exactly how we thought we would but when the game's been in the balance, we've gone for some overs of 20-plus. And when you go for overs of

20-plus, then you end up losing matches," explained the former Kiwi speedster.

Bond reiterated that it was all about execution.

"So the message really from me is to go back to what we are trying to do against a certain type of player? If we execute those plans, then we make it as hard as we possibly can.

"The challenge for us is to do that when the pressure is on at the back end of the game, which we haven't done so far," he signed off.

Pant fined for DC's slow over rate against LSG

Navi Mumbai, Apr 08 (PTI):

Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant has been fined Rs 12 lakh for his side's slow over rate against Lucknow Super Giants in an Indian Premier League match here. "As it was the team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences, Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant was fined Rs 12 lakh," the IPL said in a statement. DC lost by six wickets to LSG here on Thursday, to suffer their second defeat from three matches in the ongoing season. DC posted a modest 149 for three after being sent into bat but LSG rode on Quinton de Kock's 80 off 52 balls to easily chase down the target.



Yogi directs officers to not bulldoze properties of poor

Lucknow, Apr 08, (PTI):

With bulldozers running overtime to raze structures built out of illegally earned money in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday gave a clear-cut instruction to officials to not use them to demolish huts and shops of the poor. "Bulldozers should not be used on the huts and shops of the poor. It should be applied only against illegally earned wealth of criminals and mafias. Action should be taken against people who have forcibly taken away properties of the poor and traders," Adityanath said in his order to "bulldozer-baaz officials", according to a statement.

Adityanath has of late earned the nickname "bulldozer baba", which helped the party create a narrative of tough administration in the state polls. Such is the fear of bulldozers in UP that over 50 criminals have given themselves up to police in two weeks after the BJP returned to power in the state. "Bulldozers are giving a message that the criminals and mafias no longer control the system in Uttar Pradesh. It is also building confidence of the poor in the government,"



Yogi Adityanath

Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal told PTI. Many known toughies and influential politicians of the state too have faced the wrath of the bulldozer. A petrol pump that had allegedly been built illegally by Samajwadi Party MLA Shazil Islam Ansari was bulldozed on Thursday, days after the legislator was booked over a provocative remark against Adityanath. The demolition of the fuel station at Parsakheda on the Bareilly-Delhi National

Highway was carried out by the Bareilly Development Authority, an official said. It was not an isolated case. The Shamli district administration freed a land allegedly encroached by Samajwadi Party MLA Nahid Hasan's uncle Sarvan Hasan in Kairana by razing the structure there. A joint team of Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA), district administration, and police had on Monday demolished a wall and two sheds alleged to have been constructed without approval on the land of jailed don and former MP Atiq Ahmad's ancestral house in Chakia locality of the city.

MURAL BY ITALIAN PAINTER



A student with his mother walks past a mural, depicting the Indian national animal, the Royal Bengal Tiger, painted by Italian wildlife painter Maurizio Boshceri in collaboration with artists from the Government College of Arts, in Kolkata, Friday.

A hasty move which will add fuel to fire: China

On Russia's suspension from UNHRC

Beijing, Apr 08 (PTI):

A day after voting against the resolution suspending Russia's membership of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) at the UN General Assembly over civilian killings in Ukraine, China on Friday defended its vote, saying such a "hasty move" will set a dangerous precedent. In a rare move, the 193-member UN General Assembly voted to adopt a draft resolution moved by the US to suspend Russia from the world body's top human rights organisation over allegations of Russian soldiers killing civilians while retreating from

towns near the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. The draft received 93 votes in favour, 24 against and 58 abstentions. India abstained from voting. China's all-weather ally Pakistan too abstained from voting. Reacting to the developments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said: "It is like adding fuel to the fire which is not constructive to the de-escalation of the conflict, even less to advance peace talks." "The relevant resolution will deprive Russia of its membership of the UNHRC and sets a dangerous precedent," he said. No permanent member of the UN Security Council

has ever had its membership revoked from any organ of the world body. In 2011, Libya was suspended from the Council because of violence against protesters by forces loyal to then-leader Muammar Gaddafi. As a close ally of Moscow, China has declined to condemn Russia's war on Ukraine even though it walked a fine line calling for peaceful resolution while highlighting Russia's security concerns relating to NATO expansion. Observers say China, which faces serious human rights violation accusations against Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, ap-

prehends similar moves by the US and the EU countries who already have criticised Beijing. We oppose politicising and instrumentalising the issue of human rights," Zhao told a media briefing here while elaborating on China's move to vote against the resolution moved by the US. We oppose double standards, selective approach and confrontational moves on this issue and we oppose using this issue to pressure other countries," he said. The relevant resolution will deprive Russia of its membership of the UNHRC, he said. For such a matter of great impor-

tedence a lot of prudence is needed. It should be handled in a cool-headed and objective manner based on facts and truth, he said. On April 6, China said that images of civilian deaths in Bucha in Ukraine where the retreating Russian soldiers were alleged to have killed civilians are deeply disturbing. The relevant circumstances and specific causes of the incident must be verified and ascertained. Humanitarian issues shouldn't be politicised. Any accusations should be based on facts," Zhao said at the time, when asked about civilian killings in Bucha.

BJP conspiring to make Mumbai a UT, says Raut

Mumbai, Apr 08, (PTI):

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Friday accused the BJP of conspiring to make Mumbai a Union Territory, saying that a presentation to that effect has been made to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Raut alleged that former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya and a group of party leaders, builders, businessmen were part of this conspiracy. "A presentation about making Mumbai a union territory has been made to the MHA (by this group). Meetings have been held



Sanjay Raut

and funds are being collected for this purpose. This has been going on for the last two months and I am saying this with full responsibility. I have proof to substantiate what I am

saying. Chief minister (Uddhav Thackeray) is also aware of this development," Raut said. "In the next few months, the group led Somaiya is likely to move court saying the percentage of Marathi people in Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra, has gone down drastically and hence the city should be made a union territory under the central government rule," the Sena MP claimed. Raut said Somaiya had earlier challenged the state government's decision to make Marathi a compulsory language in schools.

62 pc of parents favour mandatory masking for children, staff in schools while indoors

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

At least 62 per cent of parents favour mandatory masking for children and staff members in schools while they are indoors, a new survey has claimed. The survey conducted by online platform LocalCircles had over 25,000 respondents residing across 381 districts of India. Forty-two per cent of the respondents were from tier-1 cities, 35 per cent from tier-2 and 23 per cent from tier-3 and 4 cities and rural districts. "At least 62 per cent of citizens said the mask mandate should be there. Only nine per cent said the mask

mandate should be removed. Eight per cent respondents said that mask mandate should be removed and reinstated if the national TPR rises above one per cent," the survey report said. According to the survey, nine in 10 parents indicated that most people in their areas either did not have masks or were not wearing them properly. "Some of the participants criticised the state governments that have removed the mask mandates stating that the move will mark an end to the pandemic from a people's perception, making the situation highly vulnerable in case India experiences a fourth wave in the

coming months," the report said. "In states like Delhi, some parents have urged the state government to make the use of masks optional at schools. However, many others want masking to be mandatory and children be given mask breaks outdoors. With the daily temperature surpassing 40 degrees in most parts of India, it is difficult for children to be with masks for seven-eight hours continuously," it added. The survey comes against the backdrop of states easing restrictions imposed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic following the reduction in the spread of the virus.

India to launch digital gaming research initiative soon

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

India is set to launch its digital gaming research initiative to develop high-end technologies for an immersive gaming environment with an aim to promote and popularise Indian culture, a senior official said. The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Digital Gaming Research Initiative will have three verticals R&D in Learning and Leisure Gaming Platforms; Collaborative Technical Design Process; SERB Game Labs; and Immersive Game Prototypes with focus on Indian Culture and Values.

Principal, teacher among 6 arrested for helping students cheat in UP board exams

Ghaziipur (UP), Apr 08 (PTI):

The Uttar Pradesh Police Special Task Force (STF) has arrested six people in Ghaziipur district for allegedly being involved in organised cheating in the state board examinations, officials said on Friday. The arrests were made on Thursday. A principal and a teacher of a government school in the Dhua Arjun area under the Saidpur police station limits of the district are among them, they said. As per a statement issued by the STF, the arrests were made by its Varanasi unit.

"An STF unit acting on an intelligence input arrested six people from a panchayat building adjacent to the Kedarnath Inter College in Ghaziipur district. Those arrested were involved in organised cheating during the Uttar Pradesh board exams," it said. District Magistrate of Ghaziipur Mangala Prasad told PTI on Friday that the accused would be charged under the National Security Act (NSA). When the Class 12 board exam for Physics was underway at the school, the accused were supplying solved answer sheets to

some students taking the test. They took Rs 25,000 for each solved copy, according to the STF. Those arrested include Ravindra Rai, the principal and assistant centre manager; Ashok Kumar Patel, a teacher; and solvers Rajneesh Kumar; Shaileendra Yadav; Ravi Yadav and Piyush Kumar Yadav, the statement said. "The principal took a picture of the question paper and shared it on a messaging application with the solvers. The solvers then solved the question paper which was to be submitted with help of Ashok Patel," it read.

It seems there is 'Taliban' govt in Rajasthan: BJP

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI):

The BJP on Friday accused the Congress government in Rajasthan of pursuing "appeasement politics", alleging that it seems to be taking steps to aid "communalism" in the state. Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia and party spokesperson Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore hit out at the government led by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in the wake of the communal violence in Karauli. Addressing a press conference, Poonia said the majority community, a reference to Hindus, are in "fear" of celebrating their festivals due to the government's "appeasement" policy.

Former village-level workers will be preferred for jobs under MGNREGS: TN CM

Chennai, Apr 08 (PTI):

Tamil Nadu government would accord preference to former Makkal Nala Paniyalargal (or village-level workers) and their legal heirs in providing them employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) with enhanced wages, Chief Minister M K Stalin informed the Assembly on Friday. The former MNP workers, who are willing, would be appointed as project coordinators in all the 12,524 village panchayats in the State. The legal heirs of the workers, who had died in the past 10 years, would also be given preference in assigning work under MGNREGS as coordinators, the Chief Minister said. Refuting the charge made by former AIADMK Minister Sellur K

Raja that the DMK was distributing medicines at people's doorstep through the MNP, Stalin said the AIADMK regime abolished the MNP posts whenever the DMK government tried to revive the scheme. In 1989, the DMK government led by the then Chief Minister M Karunanidhi launched the Makkal Nala Paniyalargal Scheme through the Rural Development Department on September 2 that year to provide employment to the educated youth in the 12,617 village panchayats. Government orders were issued for appointing the MNP to each village panchayat to look after the maintenance of basic details of the panchayat, safeguard its assets, encourage people in small savings and the duties assigned by the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.

SUNBIRD



A sunbird perches on a bunch of flowers, in New Delhi, Friday.

Sri Lanka's main Opposition party to move no-confidence motion against govt

Colombo, Apr 08 (PTI):

Sri Lanka's main Opposition party SJB on Friday announced that it will move a no-confidence motion against the government of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa if it fails to take steps to address the concerns of the public facing hardships due to the worst economic crisis. Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa also called for the Executive Presidency to be abolished, saying power should be divided between the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. The government must pay heed to the public demand for the Rajapaksa to quit, if not we will bring a no confidence motion," the leader of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) told Parliament. The SJB has begun to collect signatures from MPs for the no-confidence motion, according to media reports. Rajapaksa earlier proposed the cre-

ation of a unity government, but the main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) rejected the idea. Premadasa said that he cannot agree to an interim Government with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa remaining as President. The SJB said that it is also prepared to impeach the President. He also submitted a set of proposals to Parliament on behalf of the SJB to address the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The Opposition backs the public protests happening all over the island, demanding the resignation of the President and the entire Rajapaksa family. Opposition JVP legislator Vijitha Herath said if Rajapaksa does not resign there needs to be a motion of impeachment for his removal as the President. If he is not responsive to the problems of the people let's be ready to impeach and remove him," he said. Thousands of people

from all walks of life have been demonstrating, demanding a solution to the crisis and calling for Rajapaksa to resign over economic mismanagement. Rajapaksa has resisted the demands to step down, even after members of his own coalition joined the anti-government demonstrations this week, with governing party lawmakers calling for the appointment of an interim government to avoid possible violence. Parliament has failed to reach a consensus in three days of debate on how to deal with the economic crisis. The President and his older brother, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, continue to hold power, despite their family being the focus of public ire. Five other family members are lawmakers, including Basil Rajapaksa, Irrigation Minister Chamal Rajapaksa and a nephew, Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa.