

BRIEF



A health worker administers a dose of COVID-19 vaccine to a beneficiary, during a special vaccination drive for senior citizens, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Warrant

New Delhi: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued an arrest warrant against Ashish Thackeray, the district magistrate of Keonjhar in Odisha. An official said the commission had asked Thackeray to appear before it on April 4 in connection with multiple complaints related to tribal affairs, but the officer played truant.

Mishap

Jaipur: Two women were killed and eight others were injured on Tuesday after their car overturned in Rajasthan's Barmer district, police said on Tuesday. The accident occurred in between the Mungeria and Tibaniyar village on Tuesday after a tyre of the SUV burst, they said. The deceased were identified as Geeta Kanwar and Nano Kanwar, police said.

Terrorist

New Delhi: Ali Kashif Jan, the Pakistani handler of the 2016 terror attack on Pathankot air base, has been designated as a terrorist by the government. Jan alias Jan Ali Kashif is the third terrorist to have been designated as a terrorist by the central government in last five days.

Explosion

Shivpur: A woman and her daughter were killed and eight others were injured in an explosion at an illegal firecracker manufacturing unit in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpur district on Tuesday, police said. The incident took place around noon at Badarwas town, 55 km from the district headquarters here. Firecrackers were being manufactured illegally on the ground floor of a two-storey building owned by Mohammed Hussain Ansari, said Badarwas police station in-charge Rakesh Sharma.

'Take precaution, pandemic is not over yet'

Mandaviya takes stock of 'XE variant'

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday played down apprehensions about XE variant of the coronavirus saying it is just another form of Omicron, and asked people to maintain precautions as the pandemic is not over yet.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters where he spoke



in detail about the central government's measures to deal with the pandemic since its outbreak in 2020, he also said that it is up to experts to decide as far as starting vaccination of children below 12 years are concerned.

He, though, noted that very few countries have gone for administering the jabs to children in this age group.

To a question about the government fixing the price of precaution dose at Rs 225, he said it is the maximum price, and this may still come down due to competition in future as more vaccine manufacturers enter the market.

The precaution dose is being provided free of cost for those above 60 years of age at government centres but others will have to get

them at private facilities.

While the COVID-19 situation is under control, the government is continuously monitoring it and advising states accordingly, Mandaviya said.

One has to take precaution as the pandemic is not over yet, he said. "We cannot predict tomorrow," he added. The XE variant is a combination or recombination of both sub-variants - BA.1 and BA.2 -- of Omicron.

Hailing India's fight against the pandemic, Mandaviya said over 97

per cent of the eligible population has been given the first dose of vaccine and 85 per cent both which, he added, played a key role in curbing the severity of the Omicron wave that hit many countries hard.

In a presentation, he highlighted that the total fatality rate (TFR) was much lower in India compared to many developed countries. India reported 380 deaths per million population compared to the global average of 788 deaths, he said.

BJP sweeps UP council polls but loses Varanasi

Lucknow, Apr 12 (PTI):

A month after its resounding victory in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the BJP has swept the biennial polls to the state's legislative council by winning 33 out of 36 constituencies.

According to the results declared on Tuesday, the BJP won 24 of the 27 the local authority seats, where polling was held last week. In addition, the BJP had won nine of the 36 seats unopposed.

The results take the BJP past the halfway-mark in the 100-member House. Now, it will have 67 members in the upper house of the state legislature.

But it suffered a setback in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, where it stood distant third. The



UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath receives a bouquet from UP Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, UP BJP President Swatantra Dev Singh and others, after BJPs victory in UP Legislative Council elections, in Lucknow, Tuesday.

Samajwadi Party, the main opposition in the state, drew a blank. Two independents and a candidate from the Jansatta Dal (Loktantrik) emerged victorious in the elections. In Varanasi, BJP's

Sudama Patel stood third with just 170 votes as Independent candidate Annapurna Singh secured a resounding victory with 4,234 votes. Samajwadi Party's Umesh Yadav got 345

votes, Varanasi District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma said.

Before the polls, the BJP had 34 members in the House.

"In the last elections held in 2016, the BJP had not won any of the seats, which went to polls this time," UP minister JPS Rathore told PTL.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath congratulated the winners and said the BJP's resounding victory in the council polls has again established that people of the state have faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The mood at the BJP office here was upbeat as jubilant party workers danced and distributed sweets to mark the party's victory.

Not much activity was seen at the Samajwadi Party office.

Bullet trains to be modified for temp, dust, weight

Surat, Apr 12 (PTI):

Japan's high speed Shinkansen trains will be modified for Indian conditions like temperature, dust and weight before they are sent to India for the country's ambitious 'bullet train project'.

Satish Agnihotri, Managing Director, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) said the project is slated to complete a 48 km section between Surat-Billimora in 2027, with the first trials to be held a year earlier. He, however, said

Trials to begin in 2026

the project is stuck in Maharashtra due to land acquisition issues.

We will get the E5 Shinkansen series trains currently operating in Japan. However, we are conducting studies to upgrade them to Indian conditions in terms of dust and temperature," Agnihotri said.

The E5 series are Japanese Shinkansen high-speed train types built by Hitachi and Kawasaki Heavy Industries. They are

capable of running at a speed of 320 kmph and are 3.35 m wide, the widest among such trains are available in countries like France and Germany.

Sources said another aspect that the Japanese are working on is to ensure that the trains are able to carry the Indian weight as the Japanese are lighter.

They indicated that Japan will initially send six trains which are modified according to Indian specifications, and also bring in coaches in knockdown condition to be assembled here in the country.

SECURITY BREACH

Explosion near Nitish's speech venue, none injured

Bihar Sharif, Apr 12 (PTI):

A loud explosion took place on Tuesday merely a few metres away from where Bihar Chief Minister was addressing a gathering in his home district of Nalanda.

No casualties were reported so far, as police suspected it was a firecracker.

Nalanda Superintendent of Police Ashok Mishra said that



the incident took place in a high school in Silao, around 20 km from the district headquarters here.

The suspected carrier of the explosive, identified as Shubham Kumar, was arrested from the spot. "Prima facie, it seems to be a firecracker but further details regarding the exact nature of the explosive and the motive of the suspected carrier are being investigated," he said.

Over 52 % voting ; minor incidents of violence in Asansol

Kolkata, Apr 12 (PTI):

Barring minor incidents of violence, the polling for West Bengal's Asansol Lok Sabha constituency and Ballygunge Assembly seat, where by-elections are being held on Tuesday, has been peaceful, with over 52 per cent of eligible voters casting their votes till 5 pm.

The Asansol Lok Sabha seat saw 64.03 per cent polling, while the prestigious Ballygunge Assembly constituency in south Kolkata, witnessed a lower

41.10 er cent voter turnout till 5 pm, an official said.

On Tuesday morning, stones were hurled at the vehicle of BJP's candidate for Asansol, Agnimitra Paul, leading to tension in a few localities of the industrial town. Stones were thrown when the candidate's personal security personnel baton-charged a group of TMC supporters who gheraoed Paul's vehicle alleging that she tried to enter a polling booth along with her security guards.

Television grabs also seemed to show that her

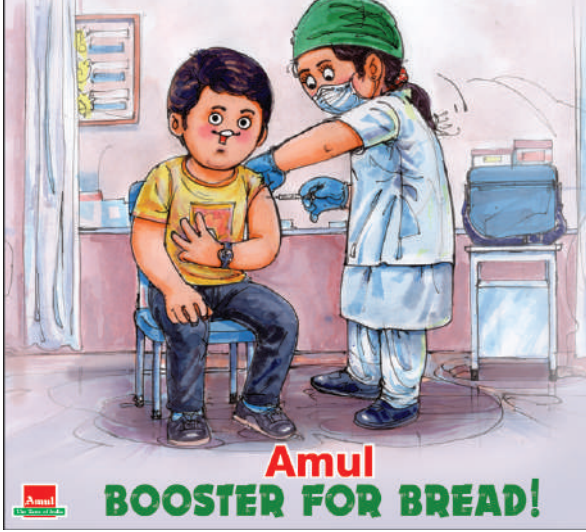
guards had tried to enter the booth. "My polling agent was not allowed to enter a booth in Barabani. My vehicle was also attacked, and the police were mute spectators. Does TMC think they can ensure Shatrughan Sinha's victory by plotting to kill me? The BJP will again win in Asansol," Paul said.

As her security personnel tried to escort her out of the spot, TMC activists shouted slogans against the BJP, following which a melee between the security forces and the activists was

reported. The TMC alleged that Paul and her security personnel tried to create disturbance in the area.

"How can a candidate move with a convoy of 20 cars? She and her security personnel were trying to create tension in the area," TMC leader V Sivadatan said. The TMC has fielded veteran actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha from Asansol, which has a substantial Hindi-speaking population. The BJP has nominated Paul, who is the MLA from Asansol Dakshin.

VAXIMUM IMMUNITY!



Amul BOOSTER FOR BREAD!

Khairagarh assembly bypoll

77.88% voter turnout

Rajnandgaon, Apr 12 (PTI): A provisional voter turnout of 77.88 per cent was recorded on Tuesday for the bypoll to the Khairagarh Assembly constituency in Chhattisgarh, which passed off peacefully amid tight security in the segment which falls under the Naxal-affected Rajnandgaon district, a poll official said.

A total of ten candidates were in the fray but the main contest lies between the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP.

The counting of votes will be taken up on April 16.

The bypoll to the Khairagarh constituency became necessary after Janata Congress

Chhattisgarh (J) MLA and former MP Devvrat Singh died last November.

Voting began at 7 AM amid tight security. After the deadline for voting ended at 5 pm, 77.88 per cent voter turnout was recorded. But this figure is provisional, the official said, adding that no untoward incident was reported during polling which was by and large peaceful. In the 2018 assembly elections, Khairagarh had recorded a voter turnout of 84.59 per cent.

As many as 2,11,516 voters- 1,06,266 males and 1,05,250 females - can exercise their franchise, for which 291 polling stations have been set up. Of these, 53 have been recognised as hypersensitive polling booths and 11 as sensitive, he said.

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Fire mishap victims being rehabilitated at the same spot



BMC Mayor and Commissioner lead the relief operations
Bamboo sticks and tin sheds provided to reconstruct shanties

Bhilai, Apr 12: Under the leadership of Mayor Neeraj Pal and BMC Commissioner Prakash Surve, the relief and rehabilitation works are being conducted on a large scale for the fire-mishap victims of Surya Nagar, Chhawani. The victims are being rehabilitated at the same spot in shanties only. On the instructions of Mayor Neeraj Pal and Commissioner Prakash Surve, arrangements for daily needs items like com-

plete set of clothes, set of utensils, etc are being made for the families.

Mayor and Commissioner are camping at the spot to supervise the relief operations. BMC administration has made arrangements of bamboo sticks and tin sheds to reconstruct the shanties. The consignment of 2000 tin sheds reached the spot on Monday late evening. After the fire, the most important task was to construct shelters for the affected families. Mayor Neeraj Pal discussed the issue with the victims and as per their demands, necessary items were provided to them for reconstructing the shelter. Bamboo sticks were installed to prepare the structure of

Former VS Speaker meets victims

Former Vidhan Sabha Speaker Prem Prakash Pandey met the victims of fire mishap and interacted with them on Monday. He inquired about the expectations of the victims and gave instructions to the administrative officials for making the arrangements accordingly. He asked them to help the victims as per the provisions mentioned in the Revenue Book 6/4. He further demanded from the state government to provide Rs 2 lakh compensation to every affected family from the Chief Minister Relief Fund. Corporator Piyush Mishra, Vinod Chelak, Laxmi Sahu, Priyanka Bhola Sahu, Laxmi Diwakar, Maoj Yadav, Rinku Sahu, Ashish Agrawal, Channa Rao and others were present.



Rupali Mahtari Sanstha extends helping hand

Members of Rupali Mahtari Gudi Bahuudeshiya Sanstha extended helping hand to the fire victims and distributed rice, soaps, detergent powder, sarees, clothes, footwear, utensils and other daily use items. 200 sarees were provided by Village Urla residents while Sanstha had arranged 300 sarees for distribution. Village Umarpoti Sarpanch Tikendra Thakur, Patron



Pankaj Markandey, Sohan Lal Sahu (Ex-army) of Urla, Govind Sharma of Shani Mandir Sector 6, Sangeeta

Das and Sanstha President Shanta Sharma made significant contributions in this relief work.

hutmets. Tin sheds were distributed among the families on Tuesday in presence of Mayor Neeraj Pal so that the affected families can build their own shelter. About 95% of the structure has been erected in Surya Nagar

with the help of Bamboo and wooden logs. Preparations are being made to provide mattress, pillow, bed sheet, fan, gas stove, utensils, complete set of clothes for women and men and other daily use items to the affected

families. The entire kit of relief material is being prepared. Mayor Neeraj Pal and Commissioner Prakash Surve are regularly reviewing the arrangements. Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi MIC member

Vinod Nair and Saroj Bala selected referees in Khelo India tournament

Bhilai, Apr 12:



Vinod Nair, a talented player working in the Enforcement section of Town Services Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and Saroj Bala, an energetic player working in the Finance and Accounts Department of BSP have brought laurels to the Bhilai with their sports talent. Vinod Nair and Saroj Bala of BSP have been selected as referees in the Volleyball competition organized by Sports Authority of India Limited, Government of India under the Khelo India program under the prestigious University Games-2021 organized at Jain University, Bengaluru in the month of April. This tournament is being held in Bengaluru from April 23 to April 26, 2022. Nair has been NIS Volleyball Coach and has made Bhilai proud by contributing as referee in International and National Championships. It may be noted that Vinod Nair was awarded the Veer Hanuman Singh Award in the year 2014 for the best contribution made by him as International Referee of Volleyball match by the Government of Chhattisgarh. In addition, Nair participated as an official in the Asian Qualification Tournament for the World Women's Championship in China in the year 2014. He also participated in the 17th Asian Senior Women Volleyball

Championship in Thailand; Served as Technical Official in the 5th FIVB Men's Under-21 World Volleyball Championship in Pune (Maharashtra); Contributed as referee in 6th Asian Youth Girls Volleyball Championship in Thailand; Indo-Pak Men's Volleyball Test Series in Visakhapatnam and 2nd Commonwealth Volleyball Championship (Men) in Kolkata. In this sequence, he served as a technical official in the 13th World Men's Under-21 Volleyball Championship in Visakhapatnam. It is worth mentioning that Vinod Nair has served as International Referee as well as Technical Official in more than 20 different National Volleyball Championships and as Coach in more than fifteen tournaments in his playing career.

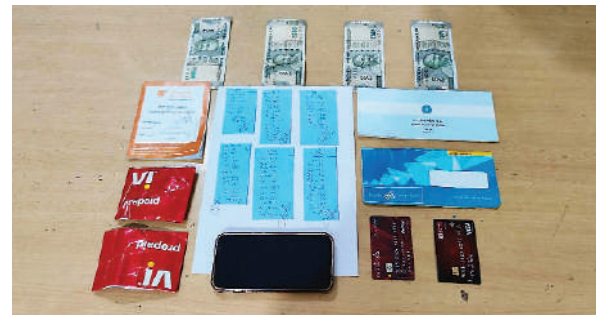
Saroj Bala has the distinction of being the first female volleyball national referee of Chhattisgarh and has also made Bhilai proud by contributing as a referee in many national competitions. The sports fraternity of Bhilai has congratulated both these personnel for their remarkable achievement.

Police nabs branch head of Mahadev Book cricket betting racket

Betting records worth lakhs, luxury car, passbook of various banks, ATM card and 20 nos sim cards seized

Bhilai, Apr 12: In a major action against online cricket betting, Durg Police have succeeded in arresting the Branch Head of the Mahadev Book online cricket betting racket. The accused had recently returned from Dubai and was operating the racket in Bhilai. He was trapped red-handed while accepting online bets while sitting in his car near Amrapali Vananchal City.

It needs to be mentioned here that on the instructions of SSP, Durg and guidance of ASP (city) and CSP (Chhawani), special operations are being conducted against the illegal activities of betting and gambling. During the IPL season, police are paying special attention towards online cricket betting. In this sequel, a joint team of Jamul Police Station and Cyber Cell managed to trap the Branch Head of Mahadev Book. The ac-



used is Chetan Joshi (23) son of Ramesh Chand Joshi a resident of Amrapali Vananchal City. His elder brother Bhupesh Joshi is still staying in Dubai for operating the online cricket betting racket.

During interrogation, the accused Chetan Joshi informed that he along with his brother Bhupesh Joshi and Raj Gupta had

gone to Dubai three months ago and got involved in generating and providing ID of online cricket betting through Mahadev Book. The accused used to get a hefty amount from the owners of Mahadev Book for this work. A few weeks ago, the accused Chetan returned back to India and was conducting the online betting works from Bhilai. The ac-

used had acquired 20 nos SIM cards from a person named Ajay for the transaction of money of online betting. The accused used these SIM cards for opening the bank accounts for doing the betting transactions. The accused was sitting in his car and was accepting bets on a cricket match when the police team arrested him.

Police have seized a Hyundai Alcazar (CG07-CF-7777), Rs 2000 cash, i-phone, bank pass books, ATM cards, and 20 nos sim cards from his possession. He has been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 4(a) of Gambling Act. Police are further investigating the matter and separate legal action will be taken accordingly.

Fuel station sealed for illegal trade of biodiesel

Bhilai, Apr 12: On Tuesday, a joint team of the Food Department and officials of public sector fuel companies conducted surprise inspections of various fuel stations in the district. They found that a fuel station had illegally stored and was selling the biodiesel. The fuel station has been sealed by the joint team and further legal action is being taken.

As per the instructions of Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, a joint inspection team is taking action for the prevention of illegal storage and sale of biodiesel. In this sequence, the officers of District Food Office, HPCL, BPCL and IOCL conducted surprise checks at fuel stations. They had received a tip off regarding illegal storage and trade of biodiesel from Shivay Fuels, situated in Janjiri.

The team conducted an inspection at this firm and found that biodiesel was illegally stored in two underground tanks. The firm was illegally selling the biodiesel. The team sealed the fuel station and action is being taken against the firm for violation of Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel Oil Order.

Encroachments to be removed from Khamharia sports ground

Bhilai, Apr 12: A delegation of the Sports and Culture Association met the District Collector during Jandarshan on Tuesday and made a complaint regarding illegal encroachment in the sports ground located in village Khamharia.

They appraised the Collector that in the year 2016, the village panchayat passed a resolution and had sent a proposal to the district administration and state government for construction of a sports facility of international level on 24 acres of land in the village. At present, some anti-social elements are encroaching this land and are illegally constructing houses and shanties.

Some people are using this land for parking the Tractors, harvesters and other equipment. About 2 acres of ground has been already encroached and fenced by the anti-social elements. This illegal activity is hampering the development work related to sports. As a result, the players who practice here are also feeling uncomfortable. Due to the lack of a boundary wall, anti-social elements often gather here. Women players feel troubled due to such people. The associ-



ation appealed to the Collector for getting the proposed land secured. This will help in future planning and development of this sports facility. Separate sections can be established in the ground like athlete track, volleyball, badminton, hockey, cricket and kabaddi etc. Taking cognizance of the matter, the Collector immediately verified the complaint and took stock of the situation. He has forwarded the application to the concerned officer of the Revenue Department for legal action.

Apart from this, an applicant sought construction of a separate structure for canal and drain in Urla diversion. The applicant stated that the water of the drains also flows in the same canal and its water is

used for irrigation. The applicant requested the Collector to start the work at the earliest. Collector forwarded the application to the concerned officer for speedy action.

Presently the admission process is going on in the schools. Jandarshan is also receiving applications regarding admission and fee waiver in schools. The Collector conducted special discussion with the District Education Officer in this regard and asked him to follow the guidelines of the government on matters related to monitoring of schools and admission and fees, and create such a transparent system so that all sections can get equal opportunities.

On Tuesday, 22 applications were received in Jandarshan.

BSP signs MoU with BECIL for installing CCTV surveillance system



Bhilai, Apr 12:

Bhilai Steel Plant recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd (BECIL) regarding the installation of a Perimeter CCTV Surveillance System at Bhilai Steel Plant. The tender for the turnkey project has been awarded to BECIL for the value of 19.89 crores. Asit Saha, CGM (Instrumentation and Automation) and PH Sharma, GM I/c, Project Commercial, signed an MOU with Vishal Singh Rotele, Assistant Manager

(IT, BECIL). The contract includes security and surveillance of the perimeter of SAIL Bhilai Steel Plant with over 570 high featured cameras, wagon monitoring system and monitoring station with ANPR and command and control room for the entire SAIL- BSP perimeter of over 30 km.

This project will increase the security and surveillance of the Bhilai Steel Plant manifold and will set a roadmap for the new age equipment for monitoring and vigilance for steel plants. The project essentially embodies the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India.

Gram Panchayat Jevara and Block Panchayat Patan selected for national award

Bhilai, Apr 12: Gram Panchayat Jevara of Durg District Panchayat has been selected for the Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award (GPDPA) - 2022 (Appraisal Year 2020-21) while Block Panchayat Patan has been selected for the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUP-SP) - 2022 (Appraisal Year 2020-21). These awards will be given away on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) on April 24 by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India. This year the National Function of NPRD 2022 is proposed to be organised in Pali Gram Panchayat of Samba District of Jammu and Kashmir. The PM will grace this event as chief guest. Arrangements will be made at all the gram panchayats for watching the web-cast of this programme. Guardian Ministers of the Districts, MPs, MLAs, Senior Administrative officers and eminent personalities will attend the programmes at Gram Panchayats and will confer the awards to the awardees. Cultural programmes, debates, presentations, etc will be organised at the Gram Panchayats keeping localisation of sustainable development goals in focus.

SAIL Khel Mela inaugurated at Narayanpur

1500 tribal students from 25 schools in Rowghat area participating in sports events



Bhilai, Apr 12:

The 15th edition of SAIL Khel Mela organised by Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur and Bhilai Steel Plant was inaugurated on April 11, 2022 with chief guest KK Singh, ED (P&A) lighting the ceremonial lamp. As many as 1500 tribal students including 300 girl students from 25 schools in Antagarh, Orchha and Narayanpur blocks surrounding Rowghat area would be participating in various sports events like Football,



Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Badminton, Athletics, Archery etc in the SAIL Khel Mela being organised from 11th to 16th April 2022. The SAIL Khel Mela could not be organised in

the last two years owing to COVID.

The inaugural ceremony was presided by Swami Vyaptanandji Maharaj, Secretary Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur. Samir Swaroop, CGM Mines-Rowghat, BSP, Devnath Usendi, President, District Congress, Narayanpur; H Shekhar, GM (Personnel) BSP, Sairam Jakhad, DGM, Sports, Culture & Civic Amenities Department, Mohanlal, Addl Secretary, Chhattisgarh Football Association, Jawahar Das, International Football Coach, Swami Anubhavanand, Joint Secretary, Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur, Swami Vasudanand, Swami Krishnamritanand, Swami Tapasanand, Swami Pranatpaland were present. Teachers and other staff members of Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur were also present. Students from different schools participated in march-past.

'Stress management' workshop held for BSP's Projects Department



Bhilai, Apr 12: A workshop on 'Stress management' was held for SAIL-BSP's Projects department recently. A K Bhatta, ED (Projects) in his address stated that as desired by Chairman SAIL, a better, safe and healthy work culture must be cultivated through 'Stress management' programmes. He urged that all the employees of the Projects Department should be covered under this programme.

Ashok Kumar, CGM (Projects) was the Special Guest on the occasion. Unmesh Bharadwaj, Jitendra Yadav Sapkale and other General

Managers of Projects department were present on the occasion.

The programme was organised under the guidance of B K Dey, CGM (Projects). Satish Padegaonkar, ex GM, BSP was the main Speaker during the programme. He gave tips and demonstrated exercises to deal with disorders of mind, body, soul, feelings, emotions, memory etc.

The participants of the programme found the workshop to be useful in their day-to-day lives. The programme was completed by Ashok Jaswani, AGM (Projects - Safety, HRD & Rajbhasha).

People have ensured that 71st MLA of Cong will be from Kh'garh: Markam

Cong candidate to register win with thumping majority
Expresses gratitude towards voters of Kh'garh for huge polling percentage

Central Chronicle News



Raipur, Apr 12: PCC Chief Mohan Markam commenting upon massive polling for Khairagarh by-poll said that on completion of the polling the people of Khairagarh have made it aptly clear that the party's (Congress) 71st MLA will be from Khairagarh and expressed gratitude towards all the voters of Khairagarh for strengthening of democratic system. With voters in large number taking part in the

by-poll have indirectly granted acceptance to massive development works carried out by CM Bhupesh Baghel and the promise to make Khairagarh-Chuikhanda-Gandai as a new district. The historic polling for Khairagarh by-poll has made it clear that the people of Khairagarh VS have juxtaposed confidence towards Congress government and on the 29th point in the party's election manifesto for Khairagarh by-poll. Markam claimed that

People of Khairagarh have showed faith on BJP: Sai

Raipur: Chhattisgarh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Vishnu Deo Sai on Tuesday claimed that they have received blessings from people and would get positive result in Khairagarh Legislative Assembly by-elections.

In a statement issued here, the senior BJP leader extended

gratitude towards people of Khairagarh for showing faith on the party during the by-elections. He added that people in large number have exercised their franchise to strengthen the democracy. He claimed that the result would be in favour of BJP on April 16 as it would bring about positive result.

charges against Congress government and tried to create conspiracy and in this even the BJP leaders from outside the state were speaking lies in Khairagarh. Like every time, BJP was playing politics of rivalry and framing charges against others. He charged that BJP has failed to present its vision before

the people of Khairagarh. Set aside this PCC Chief said that prior to Khairagarh By-poll, in the by-polls held in three VS of the state and in Nagar Palika and Nagar Nigam BJP has made false promises in its manifesto and playing politics likewise and its befitting reply was given by the people of Chitrakot, Datewada and Marwahi and in all urban bodies poll.

PCC Chief Mohan Markam said that Congress fulfills the promises it makes and on April 16 on declaration of Khairagarh by-poll result the Congress candidate Yashoda Verma will win with thumping majority and on April 17, new district of Khairagarh-Chuikhanda and Gandai will come into existence and other demands in the party's election manifesto will be completed in due course of time.

Fate of all 10 candidates sealed in EVMs

■ Results on April 16 for Khairagarh by-poll



Khairagarh, Apr 12: There was great deal of enthusiasm among the voters of Khairagarh VS area to elect their new MLA and that too amidst 40 Deg. Celsius temperature for Khairagarh by-poll here on Tuesday. It was right from Salhevara forest area to Gandai, Chuikhanda and Khairagarh field areas there was huge enthusiasm among the voters. Though in comparison to 2018 general election, this year despite huge polling percentage, there was 4% less of voting. But surpassing all this, voters in large number came out and voted in favour of their respective party candidates. With this the fate of all 10 candidates in fray for Khairagarh by-poll has been sealed into EVMs and its results will be declared on April 16.

There was huge enthusiasm among both male and female voters for

Khairagarh by-poll along with youths as well. Apart from this senior citizen voters and differently able and even those suffering completed their voting rights by exercising their franchise. The polling for Khairagarh by-poll concluded without any untoward incident, as huge security was deployed in all the sensitive and hyper-sensitive polling booths.

Long queue for polling right since morning

With start of polling at 7:00 am in the polling stations, there was long queue of villagers seen in Khairagarh and Chuikhanda block. In Dilippur there was 12.71% polling till 8:00 am; 16.13% i

Kachari by 8:30 am; 19% polling in Katlawadi by 9:00 am; 28.34% polling in Tekapar by 10:00 am; 21.08% polling in Bhulatola till 10:30 am; 34.31% polling in Bajguda till 10:40 am; 26% polling in Dokrabhat till 11:00 am; 42.04% polling in Khongha till 11:05 am; 29.35% and 46.91% polling in two booths of Padnavatipur till 11:10 am; 64% polling in Khapari Darbar till 11:15 am; 58.28% and 94.8% polling in two booths of Udaipur; 97% polling in Sitadabari till 1:00 pm; 35.37% polling in Kulikasa till 1:30 pm and this continue to increase in all other polling centres by end of the polling time reaching around 77.88% tentative polling at the end of the day.

Income-expenditure of last quarter of Panchayats to be reviewed

● Verification of landless families to be done through Gram Sabha

Raipur, Apr 12: Collector Sourabh Kumar has given directions to all the Sub-Divisional Officers (Revenue) and Chief Executive Officer regarding organizing the meeting of Gram Sabha from April 14, 2022.

In section 6 of the Chhattisgarh Panchayat Raj Act 1993, there is a provision to organize at least one conference of the Gram Sabha in every three months. According to this, Gram Sabha is to be organized in every village every

year in the month of June and November, on convenient dates, in addition to the scheduled dates 23 January, 14 April, 20 August and 2 October.

He said that review of last quarter's income-expenditure of Panchayats should be done in Gram Sabha and discussions should be held on reading of the names of works approved from various schemes in the last six months, amount received, sanctioned amount, expenditure amount and updated status of work. Strategy for gram panchayat development project for next financial year 2022-23 should be discussed.

There should not be any complaint regarding problem of drinking water: Collector

Instructs officials to sort out pending cases within time frame

TL Meeting

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: District Collector Sourabh Kumar has directed the officers to resolve the pending cases of their respective departments at the earliest. In the near future the Chief Minister will visit the district intensively and the implementation of government schemes will be reviewed after receipt of feedback at the field level, he said while chairing the



time limit meeting organised at Red Cross Meeting Hall in the Collectorate here today. He asked the departmental officers to update and send information about the progress of various government schemes till April 13.

The collector took information from the District Education Officer about the process of admission in Swami Atmanand English Medium School. He inquired from the

Additional Collector about the progress of compensation amount to be given to the heirs of the those died of COVID. Taking information about the problem of heat and water, the collector directed the officials that complaints should not come regarding the problem of water.

The Collector discussed over present status of applications under revenue cases to be resolved under

time limit. Such cases include disputed and undisputed mutation, division, diversion and delimitation, progress in redressal of applications pertaining to land ownership right on slum pattas, applications pertaining to land ownership right on nazool, agriculture land and abadi land and redressal of applications pertaining to allotment/rehabilitation.

The Collector directed to prominently resolve the applications of Chief Minister Jan Chaupal and Public Service Guarantee. Additional Collector Gopal Verma, BC Sahu, all sub-divisional magistrates, revenue and departmental officers were present.

IAS Champawat relieved for central deputation

Posted as Director in Niti Aayog in New Delhi

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Senior Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer Avinash Champawat was on Tuesday relieved for central deputation.

According to the information received, the General Administration Department of Chhattisgarh Government has issued orders in this re-

gard. The 2003 batch IAS officer Champawat was holding the post of Secretary Parliamentary Affairs apart from the post of Commissioner Panchayat.

Recently, he was posted as Director at Niti Aayog in New Delhi under central deputation.

After being relieved by Chhattisgarh government, the senior bureaucrat Champawat would assume office of Director in Niti Aayog New Delhi soon.

Apart from him, nearly half a dozen IAS officers from Chhattisgarh Cadre are presently on central deputation.

Precaution dose now in private Covid vaccination center

Raipur, Apr 12: People in the age group of 18 to 59 are being given precaution doses from April 10 at private Covid-19 vaccination centers in the state. The health department gave training to the paramedical staff of private immunization centers regarding vaccination through webinars. State Nodal Covid Vaccination Officer, Dr. Priyanka Shukla also participated in this program. The doctors and paramedical staff of private hospitals of all the districts participated in the training. In the training, along with vaccination, information was also given about the Covid guidelines. In the webinar, Dr. Priyanka Shukla told that under the Covid-19 vaccination program in the state of Chhattisgarh, 99 percent of the beneficiaries of above 15 years of age have been given the first dose and 83 percent of the ben-

eficiaries have been given the second dose. According to the decision of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, the precaution dose of Covid-19 vaccination has been started in private Covid-19 vaccination centers from April 10, 2022 for the beneficiaries in the age group of 18 to 59 years. Beneficiaries who have completed 9 months or 39 weeks or 273 days after the second dose will be eligible to receive the precaution dose. He informed that at present services of Covid 19 Precaution Dose are being provided by two private health institutions of the state. Dr Shukla informed that the same vaccine will be used for the precaution dosage which was used for the first and second doses of vaccination. In addition to the base price of the vaccine, private COVID-19 immunizations can charge a maximum price of Rs

150 per dose as a service charge. In private Covid-19 vaccination centers, the maximum amount has been fixed at 386.25 (GST and service charges) per dose fee for the beneficiaries which is mandatory to display in the Covin portal during the Covid 19 vaccination session. Private COVID-19 vaccination centers are required to follow the COVID-19 vaccination guide issued by the Government of India. It is mandatory to be vaccinated through the COVIN portal. Eligible beneficiaries can take online and walk in appointment for vaccination.

Following all the instructions, precaution dose will be done free of cost in private Covid-19 vaccination centers and health workers, first line workers and beneficiaries above 60 years of age in government Covid 19 vaccination centers as before.

Dr KK Sahu presents research paper in National Conference of Heart Surgery

Represents Ch'garh Gets appreciation from eminent heart surgeons across the country

Raipur, Apr 12: Dr Krishna Kant Sahu, Head of the Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, Medical College, Raipur, represented Chhattisgarh in the National Conference held in Jaipur and read his research article. This conference (IACTS CON 2022) is organized annually by the Indian Association of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons.

Eminent heart surgeons from across the country



and abroad participated in this conference. About 3000 heart surgeons participated in this conference.

Dr KK Sahu was invited as faculty in this conference. Dr Sahu presented case report on new technique of operation, which was highly appreciated by the heart surgeons of the country and abroad. Dr Sahu also presented a research article explaining the new technique of operation of leg veins.

PNB celebrates 128th Foundation Day

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Various programs were organised by Punjab National Bank, Zonal and Divisional Office, Raipur on the auspicious occasion of 128th Foundation Day of the bank on April 12, 2022 in which Zonal Manager, Mr. V. Srinivas, Deputy Zonal Manager, Mr. T. Badpanda, PNB Divisional Head, Raipur Mr. Manoj Kumar Rai inaugurated the foundation day program by garlanding the statue of Lala Lajpat Rai, Punjab Kesari, the founder of the bank. On this occasion, cultural programs were organized in the Zonal and Divisional Office, Raipur. On the auspicious occasion of Foundation Day, under CSR activities, water cooler was donated



to Government Primary School, Jora, Raipur. In addition to this Mudra loan, PM Svanidhi loan and education loan were distributed to the beneficiaries. Zonal Manager V.Srinivas congratulated all the staff members on the foundation day and said that 128th foundation day of PNB is an important occa-

sion for us in keeping with the legacy of PNB. Punjab National Bank, the second largest public sector bank, is committed to cater to all types of needs of the customers. He urged more and more people to connect with Punjab National Bank and make maximum use of various digital products.

Creativity of youth leads us towards positivity: CM

Raipur, Apr 12: The youth of Chhattisgarh were filled with joy and enthusiasm when they got an opportunity to meet and interact directly with the Chief Minister of the state. On the occasion youths, showing their creativity, presented their paintings to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Prizes were distributed to the participants of competitions based on the theme of Chhattisgarh Model. The slogans made by them were also narrated by the young participants to the Chief Minister here which was freely appreciated by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.



Addressing the youth, Chief Minister Baghel said that youth can give creative form to your imagination. Your creativity leads us to

positivity. Positive actions happen slowly, but their effect is lasting. In this program organized by the Public Relations Department at the Chief Minister's residence, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel met the youth intimately and rewarded them. It is noteworthy that on the occasion of completion of three years of Chhattisgarh government, photography, slogan writing, slogan and Instagram reel competition was organized from December 2 to December

12, 2021. Subjects like tourism, nature, architecture, infrastructure, public facilities, people of Chhattisgarh, cleanliness, education, festivals and traditions were included in this competition. In the program, best three participants in photography competition were rewarded with Rs.11-11 thousand, best 20 contestants were awarded Rs.2100-2100 and best 10 participants in competition were rewarded with Rs.5-5 thousand and certificates. On this occasion, Public Relations Commissioner Mr. Dipanshu Kabra, Public Relations Director Mr. Saumil Ranjan Choubey, Additional Directors Mr. Umesh Mishra and Mr. Sanjesh Tiwari and senior officers were present.

COVID-19: Ch'garh logs 6 new cases, no fresh death; active tally at 41
Raipur, Apr 12: Chhattisgarh on Monday reported six fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the state's overall tally to 11,52,208, while no new death due to the viral infection was reported in the state, an official said. The death toll remained unchanged at 14,034, the official said. The positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, stood at 0.13 per cent, he said. The recovery count in Chhattisgarh rose to 11,38,133 after 12 people completed their home isolation period during the day, leaving the state with 41 active cases, he said. With 4,557 swab samples examined during the day, the tally of tests carried out so far in Chhattisgarh went up to 1,75,69,973, the official added. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,52,208, new cases 6, death toll 14,034, recovered 11,38,133, active cases 41, total tests 1,75,69,973.

Mantralaya employees suspend leave en-masse decision

Association holds talks with senior officers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Chhattisgarh Mantralaya Association (CMKA) on Tuesday suspended their proposed agitation to go en-masse leave on April 13 in support to their three-point demand including hike in Dearness Allowance to them on line with recent hike announced by Government of India.

Employees have been informed about the decision. A notice pasted in Mantralaya said that they have taken the above decision following positive meeting with the Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain and General Administration Department (GAD) Secretary in support to their demand.

Employees claimed that they have been given assurance to consider demand by the state government soon.

It is notable that the employees have been holding a series of agitation in support to their various demands.

Employment Notification No.05/2022 Dated: 08.04.2022

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Khanij Bhawan, 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 028
CIN : L13100TG195SG01001674

WALK-IN - INTERVIEW FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

NMDC Limited, a Navaratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Steel requires Medical Professionals who can join at a short notice for its Project Hospitals in Chhattisgarh/Madhya Pradesh. Those who possess MBBS with Post Graduate Degree/ Diploma in General Medicine/Orthopedics/ENT/Radiology with required experience as indicated below may Walk-in for an Interview.

Sl. No	Discipline	Post & Grade	Min. Exp (Years)	Pay Scale (Rs.)	No. of Posts
1.	General Medicine	Medical Officer, (M-04)	4	70000-200000	3
2.	Orthopedics	Medical Officer, (M-04)	4	70000-200000	1
3.	ENT	Medical Officer, (M-04)	4	70000-200000	1
4.	Radiologist	JL.CMO, (M-07)	12	100000-260000	1

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Sl. No	Place	Venue	Date of Walk-in-Interview
1	Raipur (Chhattisgarh)	Hotel Babylon Inn, Jail Road Near Gobind Singh Square, Devendra Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492001	30.04.2022 (Saturday)
2	Bhubaneswar (Odisha)	Hotel Sandy's Tower, Plot No. P-1 & P-1/A, Jaydev Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751013	02.05.2022 (Monday)
3	Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	Hotel Green Park, Waltair Main Rd, Jagadamba Centre, Nehru Nagar, Ram Nagar, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh 530002	04.05.2022 (Wednesday)

Registration for the interview will close at 11.00 AM on the same day.
For details regarding age, qualification minimum years of experience, payscale, CTC payable etc., interested candidates may visit 'Careers' page of NMDC website: www.nmdc.co.in or see the Employment News/ Rozgar Samachar dated 23.04.2022.
CGM (Personnel)

Ch'garh and Vidarbha have a very old relationship : Baghel

CM attended the foundation day celebrations of Maratha Seva Sangh, emphasized on the deep connections between Vidarbha and Ch'garh

Beautification of the mausoleum of former Maratha ruler of Chhattisgarh Shri Bimbhaji Rao Bhosale located in Narra village of Mahasamund district

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Addressing the foundation day celebrations of Maratha Seva Sangh organized in the capital Raipur today, Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel said that Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha have a very old and rooted relationship. Geographically, politically as well as at the social level. The people of Chhattisgarh have a bread-daughter relationship with Maharashtra. He further assured that



this relationship will get even stronger in the future.

Chief Minister Mr. Baghel announced the beautification of the 'Samadhi Sthal' of former Maratha ruler of Chhattisgarh Shri Bimbhaji Rao Bhosale situated in Narra village of Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh. He said that this monument is in a dilapidated condition. Its beautification will be done according to the reputation of the great ruler. On the demand of providing land for the social building of Maratha Sangh, the Chief Minister said that like other Communities, Maratha Sevak Sangh would also be provided land at 10 percent price of collector guideline rate.

National President of Maratha Seva Sangh Shri Kamaji Pawar, Founder

President Shri Purushottam Khedekar, State President Shri Ravindra Dani, Former MLA Smt. Rekha Tai, Relatives of former Maratha ruler Shri Bimbaji Bhosale Shri Madhoji Bhosale and various office bearers and members of the association including Mrs. Mangala Dani were present on the occasion. The Chief Minister inaugurated the program by garlanding the portrait of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the great social reformer Jyotiba Phule. He released the quarterly magazine of Maratha Seva Sangh on this occasion and also honored the talents of the society for excellent work.

Referring to the relations between Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha, Chief Minister

Mr. Bhupesh Baghel said that after independence, the area of Chhattisgarh Zone was also included in CP and Berar, whose capital was Nagpur. People of the Maratha community reside in large numbers in many cities of Chhattisgarh. The Dudhadhari Math of Raipur was renovated by the Maratha ruler, similarly the Bhosale kings started the public Dussehra festival at the 400-year-old Ravana Bhata Maidan in Raipur.

Referring to the historical background of Maharashtra, the Chief Minister said that many great battles were fought in Maharashtra; there is a mention of numerous brave Maratha warriors and powerful rulers. There was also a big movement in Maharashtra in the field of social reform. Savitribai Phule was the first teacher and Jyotiba Phule contributed extensively in the country's social reformation. He further said that the great men and saints of Maharashtra had worked for the progress of the society and for connecting the society. The message given by our saints and great men needs to be taken to the entire country. He had done the work of uniting the country, so Let us unite everyone and de-

feat the breaking forces. Mr. Minister Shri Baghel said that society and politics are not separate. Politics is also a big social platform. People of all political parties live in all societies, problems related to our social life should also be considered at political level and efforts should be made towards their solution. The Chief Minister mentioned the ever-increasing inflation in this regard. Mr. Baghel said that while emphasizing on the need to save PSUs from going into private hands, he said that when PSUs are not left then it will be very difficult for people to get reservation. Giving the example of Bhilai Steel Plant, Mr. Baghel said that after the commissioning of this plant, people from all over the country came and worked there. This led to an up-gradation in their socio-economic status. Public undertakings are not only a means of earning profit, but the social concern of raising the standard of living of the people is also associated with them. The program was also addressed by the National President of Maratha Seva Sangh Mr. Kamaji Pawar, Founder President Mr. Purushottam Khedekar, State President Mr. Ravindra Dani and Mr. Madhoji Bhosale.

HUGE RUSH



Huge rush of rural women at Lodhi patti polling centre for the Khairagrh by-poll. (Inset) A senior citizen with assistance being brought to the polling booth

NSS students of Govt Polytechnic extend helping hand



Khairagarh, Apr 12:

College, Khairagarh helped many senior citizens above 80 yrs and differently able persons reach polling booth for the Khairagrh by-poll in

different centres here on Tuesday. It is worthwhile to mention here that these students were active right since 7:00 am to 5:00 pm and helped more than 50 helpless voters reach upto the polling booth. The SVEEP Ambassador Polytechnic College Sanjay Kumar and Vanshika Yadav along with 13 other students took active part in this drive. SVEEP Nodal officer SK Soni and female NSS programme officer Anshu Preeti Kujur and Principal Mrs. Varsha Chourasia gave proper guidance to the students for the same.

Tentative date of entrance examinations conducted by Vyapam announced

Local domiciles of Ch'garh exempted from paying examination fee

Implementation started on the announcement made by CM in this budget session

Raipur, Apr 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel made a big announcement for the youth of Chhattisgarh state while presenting the state budget for this financial year 2022-23. As per the

announcement local domiciles of Chhattisgarh have been exempted from paying examination fees for the entrance and recruitment examinations conducted by Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board (CG-VYAPAM) and the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission (CG-PSC). The implementation of the said announcement of the Chief Minister has also been started in the state. Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board has recently released the tentative dates for examinations to be conducted for admission to various technical courses at the undergraduate level. According

to the notification released, no fee will be charged from the resident of Chhattisgarh for these examinations.

According to the date released by Vyapam, Pre-Engineering Test (PET) and Pre Pharmacy Test (PPHT) is proposed to be conducted on May 22. This exam will be conducted in all 28 districts of the state. PET is for admission in BE, BTech (Engineering), BTech (Dairy Technology), Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya Durg, BTech (Agriculture Engineering), BTech (Food Technology) and Diploma in Dairy Technology. Similarly, Pre MCA and Pre Polytechnic Test

(PPT) are proposed to be held on May 29. Similarly, the Pre Agriculture Test (PAT) and Pre Veterinary and Polytechnic Test (PVPT) for admission to B.Sc (Agriculture), B.Sc. (Horticulture), Diploma in Animal Husbandry and Diploma in Fisheries Science is proposed to be conducted on June 5. Pre B.Ed and Pre D.El.Ed examinations will be held on June 12 while the entrance exam for Pre.BA.B.Ed and Pre.BSc.B.Ed is proposed to be conducted on June 19. It is worth mentioning that the fee has also been waived in the examinations of Junior Services Selection Board constituted for the recruitment of residents of Bastar and Surguja.

Herbal medicinal products on sale

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Raipur railway stations on April 09 became the first station in the division to start the "One Station One Product" initiative announced in 2022-23 union budget to promote and sell locally produced products, thereby giving a major boost to livelihoods of local artisans, potters, handloom weavers, tribals and so on. Through the



initiative of "One Station One Product", Indian Railways is offering support to local artisans by

providing Station Stalls and Platform Vending with easy access to rail passengers. Raipur railway station has started selling herbal medicine products from a stall located at the main gate of platform no 01. The stall will function till April 23 and is open from 9 am to 9 pm. The stall is getting good response from the passenger right from the day it has started functioning here. The initiative aims to promote local products by making each railway station a promotional and sales hub for the product.

Sarpanchs of Rampur Assembly Constituency meets CM



Raipur, Apr 12: Sarpanchs from as many as 6 Gram Panchayats of Rampur assembly constituency paid courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at

his official residence here on Tuesday. Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey was also present on the occasion. They submitted a memorandum to the Chief

Minister regarding various development works including construction of CC Road in the Gram Panchayat area. The Chief Minister assured them of proper initiative.

The Sarpanchs present on the occasion include Smt. Pushpa Kanwar from Gram Panchayat Bagbuda, Smt. Deepti Kamal from Gram Panchayat Kukricholi, Smt. Chameli Kanwar from Gram Panchayat Sempali, Ku. Rupa Tirkey from Gram Panchayat Naktikhar, Smt. Nandani Kanwar from Gram Panchayat Dewarmal and Smt. Padma Kanwar from Gram Panchayat Kudurmala.

Application submitted in thana to file FIR

Against two Samitis for shortage of paddy

Deobhog, Apr 12: Failing to compensate for the 'sukhat' (drying of paddy purchased) proved to be costly proposition for two samitis of Jhargaon and Dhorarra and an application has been submitted in Goharapadar branch to file a case in this regard.

As per information in this regard Nodal Officer District Co-op Central Bank Gariyaband district of Raipur circle Avinash Sharma informed that in two branches of District Co-



op Bank of Goharapadar, there was shortage of paddy found and against which an application has been filed in Deobhog

Thana. Sharma informed that there was 1361.73 quintal of paddy found short and it is estimated to be around Rs

26.41 lakh, whereas a total of 1912.45 quintal of paddy was found short in Jhargaon Samiti, estimated to be around Rs 37.10 lakh.

Nodal officer informed that both the Samiti's manager, paddy purchase centre in-charge; computer operator and watchman have been found to be guilty. In such conditions, SDM has asked Goharapadar branch manager to file complaint in Police thana against all accused.

In this case, Manager Goharapadar branch said that along with Food department of the District, DMO and Asst. Registrar ad block level officers have carried out investigation and found

the employees of Samiti responsible for the shortage. After this FIR an application has been submitted to file complaint in Deobhog thana.

On the other hand, Deobhog Thana in-Charge Basant Baghel informed that application has been filed against the Manager Dhorarra and Jhargaon Samiti Manager, paddy purchase in-charge, computer operator and watchman. They are facing the charges that the employees of the Samiti are responsible for the shortage and it is informing the seniors that due action has been taken as per the instructions received.

'Chhaya' contraceptive pills effective family planning method

Increasing awareness among women increases use, no side effects

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Chhaya weekly contraceptive pills are becoming the first choice of women as a temporary method of family planning. With increasing awareness, its use has started in cities as well as in rural areas. Mitani (community health workers) are also playing an im-

portant role in the promotion of Chhaya contraceptive pills.

According to Dr Tarun Kumar Tondar, Deputy Director of the Family Welfare Branch in the Health and Family Welfare Department, Chhaya contraceptive pills are very effective in family planning. Its use is increasing in the state. In the year 2020-21, 1 lakh 16 thousand 840 strips were used whereas 1 lakh 56 thousand 411 strips have been used in 2021-22. Apart from health centers, distribution of Chhaya contra-

ceptive pills is also being done by Mitani during their home visits.

The interest of women towards family planning is increasing in the state. There has been an increase in the number of women using Chhaya this year as compared to last year. Chhaya contraceptive pill is available free of cost at all district maternal and child hospitals, district hospitals, primary health centres, community health centers and sub-health centers in the state. Many Mitani themselves are setting an exam-

ple by adopting Chhaya for family planning. They are also inspiring other women as well.

Dr Tondar told that due to the absence of steroids, Chhaya is a non-hormonal contraceptive pill, which does not have any side effects. Apart from prolongation of the menstrual cycle, no side effects of Chhaya have been found. There are no side effects like obesity, nausea, vomiting or dizziness, bleeding and acne in comparison to hormonal pills. Because of this it is more secure. Dr Tondar told that to

start taking Chhaya, the first pill has to be taken on the day of the onset of menstruation. After this the second pill on the fourth day. For example, if someone's menstrual cycle starts on Sunday, then the first pill has to be taken on Sunday and the second on the fourth day i.e. Wednesday. After this, this pill is to be taken every week on Sunday and Wednesday for three months. After three months, one tablet in a week is to be taken only on Sundays until the child is not wanted.

Delegation of SAS paid courtesy call on CM

Raipur, Apr 12: The delegation of Sarva Adivasi Samaj (SAS) under the leadership of Deputy Speaker Mr. Manoj Mandavi paid courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office here today. The delegation told the Chief Minister that as per his announcement, the Veer Mela Organizing Committee has received a state amount of Rs 65 lakh for the development of Devgudi in Rajarao plateau, the establishment of the statue of Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh and the construc-

tion of the memorial and the development of the Budhadev site. For this, the delegation expressed its gratitude to Chief Minister Mr. Baghel. It is worth mentioning that on the occasion of martyrdom day of freedom fighter Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced a grant of Rs 65 lakhs for various works in the Veer Mela organized at Rajarao plateau of Gurur develop-



ment block of Balod district on December 10 last year. State President of Sarva Adivasi Samaj Sohan Potai, General Secretary of Veer Mela Organizing Committee Rajarao Plateau Mr. Krishna Kumar Thakur along with other members were present on this occasion.

'If tribals will be strong, then Ch'garh will become strong'

Konta, Apr 12:

State Excise and Industries Minister Kawasi Lakhma on Tuesday performed Bhoomipujan and dedicated various works to reach the sensitive area village Badesatti, located about 45 km away from Sukma district headquarters. In his address at the general meeting held here, he said that the Chhattisgarh government is determined for the empowerment, social upliftment and economic development of the tribals. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the government is listening to the demands of every section and working for their development. Many welfare schemes are being run in the interest of the general public. Tribals depend on forest produce as their main source of income. The government increased the support price of tendu leaves, so that the collectors of tendu leaves would get more income.



Along with this, the government is providing financial assistance of up to Rs 2 lakh to the families of tendupatta collectors through the Shaheed Mahendra Karma tendupatta collectors social security scheme in the event of death or disability of the head. In the districts of Surguja division including Bastar, Tamarind, Mahua, Tora etc. forest produce processing centers are being established, so that by adding value to the forest produce, more benefits are provided to the tribal community. He said that Mahua would be

procured by the government at the rate of Rs 30 per kg. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Bhumiless Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana, benefits are being given to the villagers who run their homes by doing daily wages.

Foundation stone laid for works worth Rs 1.82 cr; inauguration of works worth Rs 8 crore 26 lakhs

Lakhma, who reached village Badesatti on his one-day visit, gave development works worth 182.83 lakhs to the villagers. He laid the foundation stone of 3 km road construction work from

Badesatti to Gadempara, Nistari pond construction work at Badesatti Kangodipara and CC road construction work at Badesatti Schoolpara. At the same time, he inaugurated 22.60 km road up to Devgudi, Ramaram-Kudkel-Badesatti, built at a cost of 5 lakhs in village Badesatti.

Congratulating the villagers on the road construction, he said that now there will be no problem in going to the district headquarters Sukma. The top officers of the departments including Collector, SP will reach your village

to solve your problems. Better health facilities, better education to the children will be ensured by the construction of the road. In his address, while declaring electricity arrangements in Singhanpara, Palodi, Gandharapara and Kungod of village Badesatti, he directed the officers to start the work soon. Lakhma said that in the sensitive villages of Sukma district, where earlier administration, health facilities, education, electricity etc. did not reach, today strong roads, culverts and security are being provided there. Due to which better health facilities to the residents, better education to the children etc. have become easier. Addressing the gathering, he said that Chhattisgarh will become strong only when the tribals become strong. The government is making every effort in the development of the tribal area, which is showing successful results.

Illegal liquor seized after constant complaints



Balod, Apr 12: Illegal liquor was seized, here after there were constant complaints that liquor was being sold illegally in the residential area of ??Balod's railway colony. Liquor was allegedly sold at a higher price by a person living here, and the team of excise department planned to catch the accused and after getting solid information, the house of the accused was raided.

Secretary cum Excise Commissioner Niranjan Das and Managing Director A.P. Tripathi, Deputy Commissioner Excise Divisional Flying Squadron S.L. Pawar, under the direction of District Collector Balod Janmejy Mahobe and under the guidance of Assistant Commissioner Excise Rajesh Jaiswal, S. R. Bhandekar Excise Sub-Inspector Circle Balod are taking continu-

ous action on illegal possession and sale of illicit liquor with the joint team of District Balod. On April 11, accused Ashok Rajput father Prem Singh Rajput, caste Rajput, age 38 years resident of Railway Colony Balod, Thana-Balod, was held for possession of liquor, 52 pav desi liquor. A non-bailable offense under Section 34 (1) A, 34 (2), 59-A, of the Chhattisgarh Excise Act was established against the accused and was arrested and lodged in jail.

Similarly Komal Sahu father Ramesh Kumar Sahu caste Teli age 41 years was arrested for possessing 19 pav illegal liquor. Probationary Excise Sub-Inspectors Neha Singh, Atul Devangan, Excise Conservator Milap Mandavi Chandrasekhar Singhvar and Kuldeep Thakur were involved in the said proceedings.

Launch of Shri Ram Mahayaga and Sant Sammelan with Kalash Yatra

**Dongargarh, Apr 12:**

Under the banner of Shriram Mahayaga Samiti Kshetra Musra in village Musra, Shriram Mahayaga and Sant Sammelan program was launched here along with a grand urn procession. Women from 20 villages participated in the urn procession, followed by

five Kundi Yajnas performed by the priests and divine discourse was given by Shubham Maharaj.

The Krishna Leela Jhanki program of the people of Plandur was completed in the night, in which thousands of people gathered. Committee Chairman Om Prakash Lilhare, Bas Ram Sahu, Jagdev Verma, Tikeswar,

Golu Sahu, Bhushan, Ramkumar Sahu, Lok Bhuneshwar Tendulkar, Nirmalkar, Ishwari Nirmalkar, Jhule Ram Sahu, Shivkumar Tampuka Bajrang Sahu Pappu Sahu Janak Sahu Jeevan Lal Sahu were present and have urged the people to be present for 5 days to hear the divine narration.

Highhandedness of Sarpanch, Sachiv posing problems

Mungeli, Apr 12:

The Sarpanch and Sachiv in majority of the Gram Panchayats in the district are beyond control as neither they are worried about problems of the villagers, nor have anything to do about development works in the villages. The condition at present is such that the villagers now have to visit the block headquarters in order to get even minor works done, as the Panchayat offices in their Janpad often remain closed, despite the fact that 90% of the villagers work can be done from Panchayat office itself. But neither the Sarpanch nor the Sachiv of Gram Panchayats are at all bothered about it. The most

- To villagers as they are made to go to block Hq's to get small works done
- CEO District Panchayat not taking firm action

surprising thing here is that seeing such a condition of Panchayat in their area, even the officers are keeping mum!

During the Corona period when the Panchayat Sachiv got the chance to work from home has not been discontinued and even today they all are now working from home itself. The Sachivs are carrying out the work of register and others that of the Panchayat from their



homes itself. Set aside majority of Gram Panchayat Sachiv are so that those who are interested should visit their house or keep waiting outside the Janpad Panchayat office for their work.

CEO Janpad not taking firm action:

Actually it is generally due to attitude of the CEO

Janpad Panchayat that the Panchayat Sarpanch and Sachiv are taking villagers for a ride. Despite knowing that there is huge crowd of villagers outside their office, they are not taking any action against the Sachivs. Failing this the villagers are forced to go to block headquarters even for

small work and which could have been resolved if at all Panchayat Sachiv and sarpanch would have shown their presence in the Panchayat office. But it is carelessness on part of the CEO Janpad Panchayat that the villagers are made to face the music and travel all the way to block hq's in hot sun to get small works done.

No weightage to officer's words:

The CEO District Panchayat is regularly conducting tour of the block and tehsil and reviewing the works and is even directing the officers to do better work. But the careless officers of the block are not moved at all and it is the villagers who are facing the problems.

Educational tour conducted for students of GNC

Dongargarh, Apr 12: Under the guidance of Pradeep Kumar Jambulkar, Principal of Government Nehru College, the students of Computer Science Department and Commerce Department were given an educational tour of MSME Technology Center Durg and Akshaya Patra Bihilai. A total of 90 students of PGDCA, B.Com, B.Sc. Computer Science, and DCA of the college visited MSME Technology Center Durg and were also given participation certificates by MSME. The students were also taken to Akshaya Patra Bihilai, where the students got information about the techniques of making food with machines. College Principal Dr. Jambulkar congratulated the organizing department for a successful educational tour.



Korba Apr 12: On the instructions of Commissioner Shri Prabhakar Pandey continuous action is being taken by the employees of Korba Municipal Corporation on the sale and use of banned plastic

and taking action in this direction, confiscated materials from various shops of the city while imposing a penalty of Rs.15000. It is worth mentioning here that the manufacture of other plastic items including

Penalty imposed on use of banned plastic bags

carry bags, disposables made of plastic material not conforming to the prescribed standard, has been banned by KMC owing to its serious adverse effect on the environment and sanitation. The raids were conducted in Darri Road Ramsagarpara, Power House Road Main Road and the concerned were given strict instructions to not store, sell and use banned plastic carry bags disposals and other banned materials. The Commissioner has appealed to the general public and said that health, cleanliness and sanitation is affected due to plastic bags, therefore people should not sell, use and store the disposal and other materials, instead adopt alternative means.

WARM WELCOME



CM Bhupesh Baghel was accorded warm welcome by the public representatives and citizens of the region on his arrival at Police Line Helipad in Surajpur here on Tuesday.

Opposition to transfer Irrigation Division Office intensifies

From Marwahi to Bodhghat Project

Gourela- Pendra-Marwahi, Apr 12: In order to increase the area of ??irrigation in Pendra / Marwahi assembly constituency, former Chief Minister Late Ajit Jogi had established the Water Resources Division Marwahi office 21 years ago, due to which the area under irrigation increased from 4 percent to 32 percent, but The present government has issued an order to shift this office from here to accommodate the Bodhghat project in Bijapur, due to which there is displeasure among the residents of the area. JCC(J) has also submitted a memorandum in the name of the Chief Minister to the Collector in protest against this.



of this extremely backward tribal dominated district is mainly based on agricultural activities. The geographical structure of this district is mostly hilly from where more than 7 rivers have their origin. At present, many construction works are going on for irrigation work and many works are included in the budget for approval. Some works are

also proposed after being surveyed, in such a situation the Marwahi Irrigation Division will be transferred elsewhere, the development, agriculture and irrigation schemes of the area will be affected and will be called action blocking the development of the area.

In order to make the district prosperous, a public agitation has been warned demanding that the office of Water Resources Division Marwahi be kept unchanged for increasing the area of ??irrigation. Chief among those who submitted the memorandum, the state vice-president Ram Niwas Tiwari, Rural District President Ramshankar Rai, City District President Ashok Nagaich, Senior Leader

Omprakash Jaiswal, MLA Representative Ganesh Jaiswal and Nirman Jaiswal, Block President Vinay Choubey Marwahi, Moolchand Kushram Pendra, Mukesh Chandravansi Gaurela, City President Umesh Agarwal Gaurela, Santosh Sahu Pendra, District Women Cell President Devki Otty, Jayshree Kushram, Ganesh Pandey, Ramashray Sharma, Divisional Spokesperson Thakur Arjun Singh. Rajkumar Rajak, Nadeem Malik, Ramesh Patkar, Yuva Morcha District President Deepak Pandey, Hirachand Jain, Sonu Sardar, Dayaram Pav, Ashok Activists including Singh Sendram, Lalji Patel, Vimal Mishra, Chhatra Morcha District President Ayusha Pandey, Vijendra Padwar were also present.

ASPIRE HOME FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED
Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opposite ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025.
CIN - U65923MH2013PLC248741

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of 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/s on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/date of receipt of the said notice/s.

The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules to the dates mentioned against each account.

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd., for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrowers' 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.

Sr No	Loan Agreement No. / Name of the Borrower/ Co Borrower/Guarantor	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of possession Taken	Description of the Property/ies mortgaged
1	LXDUR00217-180057096 Kamal Dev Ramteke & Kalpa Ramteke	24-06-2019 for Rs. 899194/-	09-04-2022	Kh No 132/1, Ph No 35/1, Madhaw Mukti Bodh, Ward No 7, Infront Of Santoshi Temple, Shankarpur, Village Chikili, Tah & Dist Rjnadgaon, Chhattisgarh - 491441
2	LXDUR00417-180069421 Dilip Kumar Sen & Saroj Bai Sen	29-11-2021 for Rs. 674056/-	09-04-2022	Kh No - 98, Ph No - 01, Rnm - Kowwa, Village - Hasgaon, Near Shiv Mandiir, Berla, Bemetara, Chhattisgarh - 491332
3	LXRAI00117-180063102 Nilu Soni & Devchand Durga	28-01-2021 for Rs. 1641054/-	11-04-2022	Plot Kh No - 99/277 Part, Khat No - 1732 Part -2, Ph No - 105, Ward No - 52, Chandra Sekhar Azad Ward, Mouja - Mathpurena, Peehu Genral Store, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001
4	LXRAI00116-170048679 Vijaykumar Mahesh Kumar Sarthi & Hemlata Vijay Sarthi	07-12-2020 for Rs. 947604/-	11-04-2022	Plot Kh. No. - 201/1, Khata No. - 1133, Ph No. - 105/49, R.n.m. Raipur - 1, Dr. Khubchand Baghel Ward- 67, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001
5	LXRAI00417-180058367 Ravindra Ram Nakhet & Nisha Nakhet	20-07-2021 for Rs. 388600/-	11-04-2022	Flat No - 519, 5Th Floor, Block - D, Indraparatha Raipura Yojna, Phase - II, Nagar Vikas Yojana No - 01, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001

Place : Chhattisgarh
Date : 13.04.2022

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
(Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd.)

BRIEF

Bribery

Pune: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested an assistant commissioner-rank officer of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and two of his subordinates for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000 to clear the pending bills of a contractor, officials said. The ACB registered a case and laid a trap after receiving a complaint from the 31-year-old contractor. The accused were identified as Sachin Tamkhede, Anant Thok and Dattatray Kindare.

Distributes

Bhaderwah: As part of its efforts to empower women from weaker sections in remote villages, the army distributed 10 solar-powered vegetable and fruit dryers among 10 groups in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. The dryers, each costing Rs 98,000, were handed over to the women groups at a function in Nalthi-Panchayat of Bhaderwah by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhaderwah, Dilmir Chowdhary and officiating commanding officer of 4 Rashtriya Rifles AK Singh.

Attempting

Kolkata: BSF has arrested six Bangladeshis, including three women and a child, in West Bengal while they were attempting to illegally entering India. However, they were later handed over to the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) on humanitarian grounds. The six people were nabbed while trying to cross the international border in North 24 Parganas district. Some of them were coming to India to meet their relatives, while one woman had first come to the country.

FOB

New Delhi: To ease the transit of passengers between Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station, the NCRTC will construct a 280-metre-long foot over bridge (FOB) with a travelator. Sarai Kale Khan will be one of the major stations on the 82-km-long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) semi high-speed rail corridor. Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station is located in vicinity of Nizamuddin Metro station.

Thrashed

Gurugram: The cashier of the parking lot of a mall here was allegedly thrashed by two men when he asked them to pay the parking fee, police said. The accused also fired in the air when the security guards intervened. The incident took place in the parking lot of Sahara mall. A jeep reached the exit gate from the parking lot in which the two accused, including the driver, were sitting. The cashier, Raghendra, asked them to pay Rs 130 as parking fee but they refused.

Rise above caste, religion: VP tells students

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday asked the youth to rise above narrow considerations such as caste and region, be tolerant and never disrespect other religions.

Interacting with Telugu students from various colleges under Delhi University at his official residence here, Naidu said one cannot become a leader if he or she is intolerant.

You should always rise above narrow considerations such as caste, religion and region, and never disrespect other religions, he said, according to an official statement issued by the Vice President's Secretariat.

He also advised them to develop a constructive and positive outlook towards life.

Observing that one cannot become a leader if he or she is intolerant, Naidu



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu interacts with students of Delhi University at his official residence in New Delhi on Tuesday.

said a leader should be tolerant towards the mandate given by the people and stressed on developing calibre, capacity, good conduct and character.

He urged the youngsters to imbibe qualities of patience, discipline, hard-work, reading and empathy to become successful leaders in their chosen

fields, the statement mentioned.

Emphasising the importance of maintaining fitness by undertaking regular physical activities, including running or yoga, he cautioned them against consuming junk food.

Pointing out that COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of protect-

ing immunity, he advised them to focus on a healthy and protein-rich diet.

Naidu reiterated the need to protect and promote one's mother tongue. He said that the early education of a child should be in his or her mother tongue and that proficiency in other languages could be acquired later.

CBI gets Govt nod to prosecute Aakar Patel

● I-T Dept and ED to be also involved

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

The Centre has given the go ahead to the CBI to prosecute Amnesty International India and its former chief Aakar Patel for alleged violations of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), paving way for a special court to take cognisance of its charge sheet filed on December 31, 2021, officials said on Tuesday.

The CBI had sought the sanction of the government to prosecute the international human rights organisation because of mandatory clause of Section 40 of the FCRA.

Section 40 bars any court to take cognisance of offence under the FCRA without the previous sanction of the Central Government or any officer authorised by that Government in this behalf. The charge sheet was filed



Aakar Patel

on December 31, 2021 by the agency in the Special CBI Court at Rouse Avenue against Patel and Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd (AIPL), Indians For Amnesty International Trust (IAIT), Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT), Amnesty International South Asia Foundation (AISAF) and others in November, 2019.

It was alleged that the provision of the FCRA and IPC were contravened by the aforesaid entities by receiving foreign contributions from Amnesty International UK through AIPL even though prior registration or permissions were denied to AIIFT and other trusts under FCRA, the officials said.

The court will take cognisance of charges on April 18, they said.

Following the charge sheet the agency had issued a Look Out Circular against Amnesty International India Chair Patel on the basis of which he was stopped from leaving Bengaluru Airport for

the US where he was scheduled to deliver academic lectures in various universities.

A magistrate court had allowed withdrawal of the LOC but the order was overturned last Friday by a Special Judge who had asked Patel to not leave the country without its permission. The case was registered against Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd (AIPL), Indians For Amnesty International Trust (IAIT), Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT), Amnesty International South Asia Foundation (AISAF) and others in November, 2019.

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'JATHA' DEPARTS



A Sikh 'jatha' chants religious slogans as they leave for Pakistan to take part in Baisakhi festival celebrations, in Amritsar on Tuesday.

Bomma vouches for transparent probe over contractor's death

● Police asked to act on provocative statements

Mangaluru, Apr 12 (PTI):

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday said the police will conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the death of a contractor, who had accused a Karnataka minister of demanding 40 per cent commission in a public work.

He also ruled out any resignations in this regard.

"One thing I want to make it clear that this case will be thoroughly investigated. There will not be any interference or direction from our side. Police will independently investi-



Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai addresses a press conference, in Mangaluru, Tuesday.

gate the case and truth will come out," Bommai said addressing a press conference here.

Santosh Patil from Belagavi was found dead in his room in a hotel in Udupi. He had earlier accused Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K

S Eshwarappa of demanding 40 per cent commission on the work executed by him. The minister not only dismissed his allegations but also filed a defamation suit against him.

In his purported WhatsApp message, Patil held the minister responsible for his death.

The Chief Minister added that the action will be taken based on the outcome of the investigation.

"We have given direction to the police to probe the matter systematically such as forensic science, spot inspection, inquiry and everything should be in accordance with the law. It will be an honest and transparent investigation," Bommai said.

To a query on opposition Congress party's de-

mand for resignation over the death, Bommai said, "A police officer had committed suicide in the past when Siddaramaiah was the Chief Minister I want to ask you, did Siddaramaiah resign."

Regarding the purported WhatsApp message claimed to be sent by Santosh Patil, Bommai said it will also be part of the investigation.

Replying to a question, Bommai said Eshwarappa had told him during the assembly session that he had filed a defamation suit against the contractor and a notice has been sent to him. Also, a case has been registered against a media house, he added.

"Eshwarappa has rejected the charge and has filed a defamation suit as well.

Dhinakaran appears before ED in EC 'bribery' case

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

AMMK leader TTV Dhinakaran on Tuesday appeared before the ED here for questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged bribing of Election Commission officials to get the AIADMK's 'two leaves' symbol for the VK Sasikala faction, officials said.

The federal agency's notice to the 58-year-old politician last week came after the Enforcement Directorate recently arrested jailed 'conman' and another accused in this case, Sukesh Chandrashekhar.

The ED case is based on the primary FIR filed against the accused by the Delhi Police crime branch in 2017.

Both Dhinakaran and



AMMK leader TTV Dhinakaran at Enforcement Directorate (ED) office, after being called for questioning, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Chandrashekhar were arrested by the crime branch then.

Officials had said that they have recorded the statement of Chandrashekhar in this case early this month and

now they want to grill Dhinakaran and confront him with Chandrashekhar to take the probe forward.

The statement of the AMMK general secretary was being recorded under

the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Chandrashekhar was arrested in April 2017 from a five star hotel by the Delhi Police for allegedly taking money from Dhinakaran to bribe EC officials to get the AIADMK's two leaves symbol for the Sasikala faction in a by-election to the RK Nagar assembly seat in Tamil Nadu.

Dhinakaran, who has been charge sheeted by the police, was arrested by the Delhi Police after four days of questioning for allegedly attempting to bribe EC officials for the symbol.

The bypoll was necessitated by the death of the then Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa, who represented the assembly seat.

Chidambaram counters FM, says social sector spending dipped

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Tuesday hit back at Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for stating that the NDA government's developmental expenditure was higher than that under the UPA regime, asserting that as a proportion, social services expenditure had plummeted after 2014-15.

Citing the Reserve Bank of India data, Sitharaman's office had tweeted on Saturday that the total developmental expenditure incurred by the Modi government in 2014-22 was Rs 90.9 lakh crore, far higher than what was being alleged by some sections of the Opposition.

In contrast, only Rs 49.2



P Chidambaram

lakh crore was spent for the purpose from 2004-14, the tweet read.

Taking objection to her remarks, Chidambaram stated, Regrettably, the FM thinks that the average Indian has below-average intelligence in understanding numbers relating to finances.

On the figures quoted by Sitharaman, he said, The finance minister's arithmetic is correct but her mathematical conclusion

is wrong.

The size of the Budget is bigger every year. Total expenditure is bigger every year. Developmental expenditure or social services expenditure will also be bigger every year!, the former finance minister said in a series of tweets.

The correct mathematical analysis will require the finance minister to compare the proportion of any head of expenditure to total expenditure, he pointed out.

Such a comparison will reveal that, as a proportion, social services expenditure has plummeted after 2014-15, he said.

Substantiating his claim, the Congress leader wrote The FM's numbers are in the RBI's Handbook of Statistics.

Kerala Govt order renaming special pay to judicial officers

Kochi, Apr 12 (PTI):

The Kerala High Court has put on hold a state government order renaming as 'special allowance' the special pay that was being given to judicial officers, observing that it was an attempt to deny the monetary benefit to them and that prima facie it "cannot be sustained".

The interim order by Justice VG Arun came on a plea by the Kerala Judicial Officers Association which has sought quashing of the state government's 2022 decision by which the special pay was renamed as special allowance.

The court while putting on hold the operation of the government's 2022 decision, also issued notice

to it seeking its stand on the association's plea.

Senior advocate Jaju Babu, who represented the association, told the court that the description of the special pay as special allowance was not a drafting mistake but a "deliberate mischief" as based on the latest government order, "the special pay drawn by judicial officers of the District Judiciary as part of their pay will be considerably reduced."

The concept of special pay was evolved on the basis of the recommendations by the 1st National Judicial Commission, also known as Shetty Commission, which had said that judicial officers who were also having considerable administrative work should be provided

this monetary benefit, the association has said in its plea.

The recommendation was accepted by the Supreme Court and it asked the High Courts to take a decision on payment of special pay and the Kerala High Court in 2006 forwarded to the state government a proposal to sanction 'special pay', the petition has said.

The state government sanctioned special pay to serving judicial officers entrusted with administrative work but described it as 'special allowance', it has said.

Subsequently, the benefit was also extended to judicial officers working on deputation based on a direction from the Supreme Court.

Alappuzha, Apr 12 (PTI):

A day after a paddy farmer ended his life over crop loss in heavy summer rains, a delegation of opposition Congress-led UDF on Tuesday visited the Upper Kuttanad region here to meet the peasants and take stock of the damage.

The Upper Kuttanad region, comprising parts of Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha districts, witnessed heavy waterlogging and widespread damage of crops in the recent rains.

The delegation, led by Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly VD Satheesan and KPCC chief K Sudhakaran, later lashed out at the LDF government in Kerala saying that they were completely



UDF delegation visits Upper Kuttanad region on Tuesday.

ignoring the issues and concerns of farmers and no action was being taken to protect them despite giving assurance in the Assembly.

The government is busy going ahead to implement the semi-high speed rail corridor project spending 2.5 lakh crore rupees but

have no money to provide assistance to the hapless farmers, they alleged.

These farmers have found money for cultivation by taking loans for exorbitant interest and pledging their gold ornaments, Satheesan told reporters here. Only very few people

could enroll in the crop insurance scheme, launched by the government and those who have already joined are getting only a meagre amount in this regard, he added.

"No single project has been implemented in Kuttanad by this government including the Rs 2000 crore worth programme announced by former finance minister TM Thomas Isaac. What Kuttanad needs is a comprehensive package in view of climate change," Satheesan said.

Even thickly populated areas were flooded and Kuttanad people were forced to flee from their homes but the ruling CPI(M) and its government were taking their issues in a light manner, he further alleged.

BRIEF

Convicted

Washington: A federal jury convicted a former Virginia police officer of storming the US Capitol with another off-duty officer to obstruct Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory. Jurors convicted former Rocky Mount police officer Thomas Robertson of all six counts he faced stemming from the January 6, 2021, riot, including charges that he interfered with police officers at the Capitol and that he entered a restricted area with a dangerous weapon.

Charged

Abuja: Nigeria's decision to conduct the trials of suspects charged with terrorism behind closed doors has been criticised by human rights advocates. The West African nation last week began implementing a new court practice that bans the media and the public from trials involving terrorism charges at the start of the trial of a pro-Biafra separatist leader: Nnamdi Kanu, who holds dual Nigerian and British citizenship, leads the Biafra campaigning for the secession from Nigeria.

Citizen

London: A leading Egyptian pro-democracy activist who has been imprisoned for more than 3 1/2 years has obtained a British passport, his family announced. The move is likely meant to pressure Egyptian authorities to release him. Alaa Abdel-Fattah, an outspoken dissident, rose to prominence with the 2011 pro-democracy uprisings that swept the Middle East and in Egypt toppled long-time President Hosni Mubarak. The 40-year old activist spent most of past decade behind bars.

Climb

Kathmandu: A team of 22 mountaineers, including 10 foreigners and 12 Nepali guides, have scaled Nepal's Mt Dhaulagiri, the seventh highest in the world, officials said. This was the first successful climb of the 8,167 metre high mountain this season, according to Man Bahadur GC, spokesperson of the Department of Tourism. The official said as many as 505 mountaineers of 61 expedition teams had taken permission to climb 18 mountains this spring season in Himalayas.

Junk

Berlin: Germany's health ministry said that the country may have to discard 3 million doses of expired COVID-19 vaccine by the end of June. Ministry spokesman Hanno Kautz told reporters in Berlin that not many doses have been destroyed so far, though he couldn't give an exact figure. But Kautz said that we have more vaccine available at the moment than is being used and that we can donate. He added that UN backed COVAX, isn't currently accepting donations.

US not yet decided over CATSAA regarding India

Washington, Apr 12 (PTI):

The US has not yet made any decision on potential sanctions or waivers to India under CATSAA law for its purchase of the S-400 missile defence system from Russia, Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said.

The US administration is required under its domestic law, Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) to impose sanctions on any country that has significant transactions with Iran, North Korea or Russia.

CAATSA is a tough US law that authorises the administration to impose sanctions on countries that purchase major defence hardware from Russia in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its alleged meddling in the 2016 US presidential elections.

We continue to urge all countries to avoid major new transactions for Russian weapons systems, particularly in light of what Russia is doing to Ukraine. We've not yet made a determination on potential sanctions or potential waivers under the



Antony Blinken

CATSAA law, Blinken said.

Blinken's comments came during a joint news conference with Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin along with their Indian counterparts — External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh after the 2+2 Ministerial here.

He was responding to a question on India purchasing the S-400 missile system from Russia.

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, despite a warning from the then Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions.

The US has already im-

US reaffirm support for India's membership in UNSC, NSG

Washington: The Biden administration has reaffirmed its commitment to support India's permanent membership in a reformed UN Security Council and New Delhi's entry to the Nuclear Suppliers' Group.

posed sanctions on Turkey under the CAATSA for the purchase of a batch of S-400 missile defence systems from Russia. Following the US sanctions on Turkey over the procurement of S-400 missile systems, there were apprehensions that Washington may impose similar punitive measures on India.

Russia has been one of India's key major suppliers of arms and ammunition.

Blinken noted that there is a long history and a long relationship between India and Russia, including when it comes to military equipment. That rela-

tionship took hold many years ago at a time when, as I said, we were not able to be a partner to India, he said.

We are now both able and willing to be such a partner, to be a security partner of choice for India. That's one of the areas that we discussed in some detail, he said. The White House echoed Blinken's view earlier in the day.

In terms of military actions: So we have not made a decision about the waiver under CAATSA. In terms of how much it was discussed during the call, I'd have to get more details from our national security team on that specifically, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said in response to a question.

Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby told reporters that the US has a strong defence partnership with India.

We are going to continue to look for ways to deepen that defence partnership. India is an important partner in the region, in the Indo-Pacific region, and we're going to continue to look for ways to improve that partnership, he said.

More than 10,000 civilians dead in Ukraine port city



Vadym Boychenko

Kyiv, Apr 12 (AP):

Six weeks of brutal Russian siege have left more than 10,000 civilians dead in the southern port city of Mariupol and corpses carpeted through the streets, the mayor of that cut-off city said, as the West warned that a Russian convoy and other troops and weapons were on the move for a suspected planned Russian assault in Ukraine's east.

Mariupol has been the site of some of the heaviest attacks and civilian suffering in the 6-week-old war, but the land, sea and air assaults by Russian forces fighting to capture it have increasingly limited information on circumstances inside the city.

Speaking by phone with The Associated Press, Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boychenko accused Russian forces of having blocked weeks of attempted humanitarian convoys into the city in part to conceal the carnage there from the outside world. Boychenko said the death toll there could surpass 20,000. Boychenko also gave new details of allegations by Ukrainian officials in recent weeks that Russian forces have brought mobile cremation equipment to Mariupol to dispose of the corpses of victims of the siege.

Colombo, Apr 12 (PTI): The beleaguered Rajapaksa family received a much-needed shot in the arm as two dissident members who had resigned over the government's handling of the current economic crisis have returned to the party fold, even as widespread anti-government protests continued for the fourth day in Sri Lanka on Tuesday. The members, including Shantha Bandara who is from former President Maithripala Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), took oaths as state ministers, days after they had resigned from their positions to protest the government's economic mismanagement. Last week the entire Sri Lankan cabinet resigned apart from Prime Minister Mahinda

Two anti-Rajapaksa members return to party fold amid protests

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his elder brother, Prime Minister Mahinda, continue to hold power in Sri Lanka, despite their politically powerful family that has been in power for most of the past two decades being the focus of public ire.

Five other family members are lawmakers, three of whom resigned as ministers last Sunday. As part of a group, the dissident members had held talks with President Rajapaksa to form an all-party unity cabinet and had urged the entire Rajapaksa family to step down from positions.

Rajapaksa at a time when the country was facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from the UK in 1948.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his elder brother, Prime Minister Mahinda, continue to hold power in Sri Lanka, despite their politically powerful family that has been in power for most of the past two decades being the focus of public ire.

Russian war worsens fertilizer crunch, risking food supplies



Farmer Monicah Wanjiku walks around her farm in Kiambu, near Nairobi, in Kenya.

Kiambu, Apr 12 (AP):

Monica Kariuki is about ready to give up on farming. What is driving her off her 10 acres of land outside Nairobi isn't bad weather, pests or blight, the traditional agricultur-

al curses but fertilizer. It costs too much. Despite thousands of miles separating her from the battlefields of Ukraine, Kariuki and her cabbage, corn and spinach farm are indirect victims of Russian President

Kariuki used to spend 20,000 Kenyan shillings, or about \$175, to fertilize her entire farm. Now, she would need to spend five times as much. Continuing to work the land, she said, would yield nothing but losses. 'I cannot continue with the farming business. I am quitting farming to try something else,' she said. Higher fertilizer prices are making the world's food supply more expensive and less abundant, as farmers skimp on nutrients for their crops and get lower yields. While the ripples will be felt by grocery shoppers in wealthy countries, the squeeze on food supplies will land hardest on families in poorer countries. It could hardly come at a worse time: The UN Food and Agriculture Organization said last week that its world food-price index in March reached the highest level since it started in 1990.

Vladimir Putin's invasion. The war has pushed up the price of natural gas, a key ingredient in fertilizer, and has led to severe sanctions against Russia, a major exporter of fertilizer.

The fertilizer crunch threatens to further limit worldwide food supplies, already constrained by the disruption of crucial grain shipments from Ukraine and Russia.

University Hospital, Singapore, and corresponding author of the study.

Heart inflammation following Covid vaccination rare

Singapore, Apr 12 (PTI):

The overall risk of myocarditis — a condition that causes inflammation of the heart muscles — following COVID-19 vaccination is very low, affecting 18 people per million vaccine doses, according to a study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal. The research confirms that the risk of myocarditis is comparable to or lower following COVID-19 vaccination than other non-COVID-19 vaccines. The team analysed international databases, looking at over 400 mil-

lion vaccination doses, to compare the risk of myocarditis against COVID-19 and other diseases such as influenza and smallpox. They found no statistically significant difference between the incidence of myocarditis following COVID-19 vaccination — 18 cases per million doses — and other vaccinations, which was 56 cases per million doses. "Our research suggests that the overall risk of myocarditis appears to be no different for this newly approved group of vaccines against COVID-19, compared

to vaccines against other diseases," said Kollengode Ramanathan, from National

University Hospital, Singapore, and corresponding author of the study.

China denies online rumours' blaming co-pilot for plane crash killing

Beijing, Apr 12 (PTI):

The cause of China's recent passenger plane crash which killed 132 people remains under investigation, a Chinese aviation official has said, rejecting online speculation that the co-pilot may be responsible for the tragic accident.

The Chinese passenger

plane crashed in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on March 21, killing all 132 people on board including the nine crew members. The Boeing 737-800 aircraft of China Eastern Airlines, which flew from Kunming to Guangzhou, plunged into the mountains in Tengxian County in the city of

Wuzhou. Rumours have been doing rounds online that the co-pilot "might be responsible" for the crash, attributing it to the data from black boxes, with some believing that the CAAC will require flight crews to undergo mental health monitoring, the state-run Global Times reported.

राजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.-33004/99 REGD. NO. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं- 1470] नई दिल्ली, बुधस्पर्तिवार, मार्च 31, 2022 / चैत्र 10, 1944
No. 1470] NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022/CHAITRA 10, 1944

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 31st March, 2022

S.O. 1522(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH130CD in the stretch of land from Km 105.5 to Km123.21 (Office of the Sub Divisional Officer(Rev.) Keshkal) in the district of KONDAGAON in the state of CHHATTISGARH, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land. Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Sub Divisional Officer (Rev.) & -Competent Authority Land Acquisition Keshkal in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH 130CD in the stretch of land from NH130CD (Office of the Sub Divisional Officer (Rev.) Keshkal) in the district of KONDAGAON in the state of CHHATTISGARH.

State: CHHATTISGARH		District: KONDAGAON			
Sl. No.	Survey/Plot No.	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
Taluk: Bade Rajpur					
Village: Govindpur					
1	490	Private(Forest Rights letter)	Unirrigated	0.0502000(Hectare)	0.0502000
2	491	Private(Forest Rights letter)	Unirrigated	0.2352000(Hectare)	0.2352000
3	492	Private(Forest Rights letter)	Unirrigated	0.1922000(Hectare)	0.1922000
4	508/37	Private(Forest Rights letter)	Unirrigated	0.0484000(Hectare)	0.0484000
Village: Palana					
1	1/1	Government	Bade Jhad ka Jangal	0.1765000(Hectare)	0.1765000
2	1/2	Government	Bade Jhad ka Jangal	0.0270000(Hectare)	0.0270000
3	10	Private	Unirrigated	0.0161000(Hectare)	0.0161000
4	11/1	Private	Unirrigated	0.0368000(Hectare)	0.0368000
5	11/10	Private	Unirrigated	0.0194000(Hectare)	0.0194000
6	11/2/ka	Private	Unirrigated	0.0758000(Hectare)	0.0758000
7	11/2/kha	Private	Unirrigated	0.0274000(Hectare)	0.0274000
8	11/3	Private	Unirrigated	0.0293000(Hectare)	0.0293000
9	11/4/ga	Private	Unirrigated	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
10	11/4/ka	Private	Unirrigated	0.0386000(Hectare)	0.0386000
11	11/5	Private	Unirrigated	0.0204000(Hectare)	0.0204000
12	11/8	Private	Unirrigated	0.0201000(Hectare)	0.0201000
13	23/1	Private	Unirrigated	0.2440000(Hectare)	0.2440000
14	23/2/kha	Private	Unirrigated	0.1603000(Hectare)	0.1603000
15	23/4	Private	Unirrigated	0.0751000(Hectare)	0.0751000
16	25/2/ka	Private	Unirrigated	0.1827000(Hectare)	0.1827000
17	27	Government	Nala	0.0583000(Hectare)	0.0583000
18	34/1	Private	Unirrigated	0.0617000(Hectare)	0.0617000
19	34/8,34/5	Private	Irrigated	0.1956000(Hectare)	0.1956000
20	5/1/ga	Private	Unirrigated	0.0182000(Hectare)	0.0182000
21	5/1/gka	Private	Unirrigated	0.0562000(Hectare)	0.0562000
22	5/1/ka	Private	Unirrigated	0.2450000(Hectare)	0.2450000
23	5/1/kha	Private	Unirrigated	0.0044000(Hectare)	0.0044000
24	5/2/ga	Private	Unirrigated	0.0658000(Hectare)	0.0658000
25	5/2/ka	Private	Unirrigated	0.1453000(Hectare)	0.1453000
26	5/2/kha	Private	Unirrigated	0.1161000(Hectare)	0.1161000
27	64	Government	Road	0.0130000(Hectare)	0.0130000
28	7	Private	Unirrigated	0.0398000(Hectare)	0.0398000
29	75/1	Private	Unirrigated	0.0450000(Hectare)	0.0450000
30	75/2	Private	Unirrigated	0.0060000(Hectare)	0.0060000
31	79/1	Private	Irrigated	0.0800000(Hectare)	0.0800000
32	8	Government	Road	0.0219000(Hectare)	0.0219000
33	80/3	Private	Irrigated	0.0040000(Hectare)	0.0040000
34	9/2/gka	Private	Unirrigated	0.1031000(Hectare)	0.1031000
Village: Salna					
1	118/10 ka	Government	Bade Jhad ke Jangle	0.1337000(Hectare)	0.1337000
2	118/140	Private	Unirrigated	0.1553000(Hectare)	0.1553000
3	118/145	Private	Unirrigated	0.1735000(Hectare)	0.1735000
4	118/147	Private	Unirrigated	0.1823000(Hectare)	0.1823000
5	118/223	Private	Unirrigated	0.1802000(Hectare)	0.1802000
6	118/257	Private	Unirrigated	0.1024000(Hectare)	0.1024000
7	118/258	Private	Unirrigated	0.0064000(Hectare)	0.0064000
8	118/5/ka	Private	Unirrigated	0.1711000(Hectare)	0.1711000
9	118/5/kha	Private	Unirrigated	0.1038000(Hectare)	0.1038000
10	118/8	Government	Bade jhad ke jangal	0.0250000(Hectare)	0.0250000
11	203/2	Private	Unirrigated	0.0846000(Hectare)	0.0846000
12	203/4	Private	Unirrigated	0.0631000(Hectare)	0.0631000
13	214	Private	Unirrigated	0.2047000(Hectare)	0.2047000
14	215/1	Private	Unirrigated	0.0141000(Hectare)	0.0141000
15	215/2	Private	unirrigated	0.0882000(Hectare)	0.0882000
16	215/3	Private	Unirrigated	0.0154000(Hectare)	0.0154000
17	215/5	Private	Unirrigated	0.0593000(Hectare)	0.0593000
18	215/6	Private	Unirrigated	0.0624000(Hectare)	0.0624000
19	215/8	Private	Unirrigated	0.0113000(Hectare)	0.0113000
20	216	Government	Chote Jhad ke jangal	0.0946000(Hectare)	0.0946000
21	217	Private	Unirrigated	0.1242000(Hectare)	0.1242000
22	218	Private	Unirrigated	0.0391000(Hectare)	0.0391000
23	219/1/ka	Private	Unirrigated	0.1388000(Hectare)	0.1388000
24	219/2	Private	Unirrigated	0.0878000(Hectare)	0.0878000
25	219/3	Private	Unirrigated	0.0110000(Hectare)	0.0110000
26	220/1/ka	Private	Unirrigated	0.0440000(Hectare)	0.0440000
27	220/1/kha	Private	Unirrigated	0.0020000(Hectare)	0.0020000
Village: Sigpal					
1	43	Government	Road	0.0083000(Hectare)	0.0083000
2	44/11	Private	Unirrigated	0.0221000(Hectare)	0.0221000
3	45	Government	Road	0.0117000(Hectare)	0.0117000
4	46/1/kha	Private	Unirrigated	0.0889000(Hectare)	0.0889000
				Total	5.4682

[F. No. PD/DMT/Rai-Vish/LA/3A.]
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

G-90207/1

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,
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eegar-phe-cg@nic.in

निविदा निरस्तीकरण

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत एजेंसी/उत्केदारों से निम्नानुसार ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की गई थी। जिसे जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन (डी.डब्ल्यू.एच.एम.) जिला गरियाबंद के बैठक में लिये गये निर्माणानुसार अप्रतिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है। शीघ्र ही पुनः निविदा आमंत्रित की जायेगी।

किस्टम क्रमांक / जी क्र. / दिनांक
95107, 95108, 95110, 95120
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कार्यालय अभियंता,
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड,
गरियाबंद (छ.ग.)



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India's American dream

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that strategic partnerships like the one between India and the US are built through shared interests, common values and constant nurturing, underlining that in a changing world Indo-US ties have not only kept pace but actually emerged as a major contributor to global peace. The integrated perspective that we brought to bear in this 2+2 format only underlines the gains made in different domains in recent times. The economic side of the story is particularly significant. The government's readout of the meeting said India's PM Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden had discussed Ukraine at the meeting, as well as regional and global issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy, climate and recent developments in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. The strategic meet between India and US can be described as India's American dream. India has more economic relationship with US than any other country. India gradually came to appreciate that the US-Pakistan relationship was deeply troubled and not directed against India. The US understood that, far from being an enthusiastic supporter of Russia's belligerent actions abroad and repression at home, New Delhi was bound to Moscow by its dependence on the Russian military-industrial complex and a complicated Cold War legacy. Despite India's undeniable regional and global importance to American interests, for decades, the US was unwilling to consider key areas for deepening bilateral and regional cooperation, largely due to India's possession of nuclear weapons. In the early 2000s, however, Washington began to view an active and constructive relationship with India as essential to making progress in a range of issues. The US' global war on terror, for example, aligned with India's efforts to combat its own organised terrorism threats; it gave both countries a practical platform for increased cooperation in intelligence, law enforcement and military relations. In recent years, cybersecurity cooperation has steadily increased between the two nations. India's approach to the Ukraine crisis and its aversion to criticizing Moscow can thus be attributed principally to vital defence dependencies, and to historical loyalties to Russia dating back to the Cold War. Additionally, India has a long history of adopting neutral diplomatic positions toward international conflicts, including past US military interventions. For the first time in recent memory, Indians are openly criticizing Russia on prime-time television, questioning the morality of the invasion and the wisdom of India's enduring dependence on Russian military hardware. Moreover, the US has realised that enhanced cooperation with India is essential to counter a rising China, which is already well-underway in exercising its considerable economic and political clout regionally and beyond. For its part, India has long understood China's principal strategic aim to replace the US as the most consequential security power in Asia and, more importantly, to challenge the prevailing international global order underwritten by the US. At the same time, India understands the continuing and strong regional and global position of the US as crucial to curbing Beijing's strategic aspirations. India will take over the presidency of the G20 on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia. This year the G20 agenda will focus on issues including health, digital transformation, and energy transition. Each of these issues is important to India and will likely be maintained. In taking over the leadership of this body, India will also have the opportunity to further shape the agenda and drive critical issues. India's success in areas like financial inclusion, digital tools for governance, and more could become core parts of the agenda. The United States' deep embrace of the Indian agenda can immeasurably strengthen the relationship.

Ropeways safety

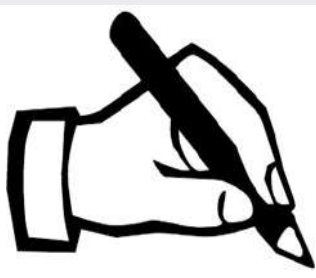
During rescue operation involving Air Force helicopters was taking place to extract people stranded on the ropeway in Deoghar. Trikut hill is the only tourist destination in Jharkhand where ropeway is used. It is one of the highest vertical ropeways and has a maximum lens angle of 44 degrees. It has been built some 20 km from Baba Baidyanath Temple and is about 766 metres long. The Trikut hill is 392 metres high. There are a total of 26 cabins available for tourists in Trikut Ropeway, in which four people can sit in each cabin and it is only 8 to 10 minutes to reach the peak. And after reaching the peak, the view from there is very spectacular. The thrilling panoramic 360-degree view of Deoghar is worth seeing. Trikut hill is also a popular place for Pilgrimage. In the dense forest on the uphill lies the famous Trikutchal Mahadeva Temple and Saint Dayananda's Ashram. The government has 'Parvatmala' scheme for development of ropeways across India. The mishap at Deoghar will force government to enact safety rules. There is no formal safety standard for ropeways in India, unlike railways, airlines, marine or road transport. The world's highest ropeway is in Northern China and employs some very special safety measures due to its location. The incident at Deoghar has reminds about last year's ropeway mishap in Italy. The three suspects in Italy's ropeway disaster that killed 14 people were allowed to leave prison after a judge had indicated that most of the blame fell on just one of them, a service technician who intentionally disabled the car's emergency brake because it kept locking spontaneously. Investigations will reveal lapse at Deoghar. The Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 were revised in February last year, allowing the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to oversee the development of ropeways and alternative modes of transportation. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had earlier this year said the National Ropeways Development Programme will be implemented using a public-private partnership (PPP) model with the goal of improving connectivity. The National Ropeways Development Programme will be implemented as a preferred environment-friendly alternative to conventional highways in tough steep terrain. Ropeways as a transport system began in Alps mountains of Europe. Ropeways need regular servicing and trained workforce at site. The central government needs to enact safety standards before permitting construction of ropeways across India for public use.

'MATKAS' FOR COOLING WATER



People buy a Matka, an earthen pot used to store cool drinking water, at a roadside stall in Amritsar, Punjab.

Sri Lanka needs immediate healing from crisis

**TK NANDANAM**

As a fallout of the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, political unrest already sprung up and the mayhem started recently in Mirihana near the private residence of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The protest was really an outpouring of mass anger at the hardships the people are bearing at present. However, the Presidential Media Division (PMD) called the incident as 'unrest and riot' and blamed the protesters on an 'unnamed extremist group.'

Many of the protests, catalysed by despair, are spontaneous. Besides, April 3, 2022 was picked for country-wide protests and they have already shaken the country. Writing on the wall is crystal clear-people want to end the economic mess that the Rajapaksa government created out of its reckless handling of the economy and sheer profligacy. It is pertinent to note that today's economic crunch is largely due to the covid pandemic which forced lockdowns and restrictions. But this pandemic situation is everywhere and even Bangladesh has laudably handled the situation and why couldn't Sri Lanka?

Now the President of Sri Lanka, having convinced of the situation going out of hands, invited Opposition parties to join a unity government and the Opposition on Monday dismissed the President's invitation as 'nonsensical' and instead demanded that he resign over the country's worsening shortages of food. The President asked the Opposition parties repre-

sented in Parliament to 'join the effort to seek solutions to the national crises, after the resignation of nearly all Cabinet ministers to pave the way for a revamped administration. A legislator of the leftist People's Liberation Front (JVP) said, 'He really must be a lunatic to think that Opposition MPs will prop up a government that is crumbling.' Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) lawmaker Manusha Nanayakkara says the main Opposition party wouldn't, under any circumstances, accept the so-called SLPP dissident group's proposal to form an interim administration. Addressing the media in Colombo the other day, a lawmaker claimed that the Rajapaksas had amassed ill-gotten money and should hand it back to the country and leave public office once and for all. The political melodrama is also replete with irony. It is recorded in history that in 2015 Mahinda Rajapaksa was defeated and people rushed to his Tangalle residence, Carlton, to pledge solidarity with him and urged him to remain in active politics. They backed him to the hilt and made his comeback possible. Today, people are protesting near Carlton, asking him as well as his family members to leave politics. This is the best example of how a public leader is liked for his good deeds and disliked for his bad deeds. Yes, he once became the apple of people's eye and later he became the persona non grata. The people re-elected the Rajapaksas in 2019/20 expecting the

family to learn from its mistakes and act differently. But old habits die hard, and the Rajapaksas, true to form, began to do more of what they had been doing from 2010 to 2015 and thus the all-pervading corruption ruined the country beyond redemption. As a prudent government, something should have been done to keep Sri Lanka's foreign currency reserve intact. Admittedly, there is no need to labour the fact that Sri Lanka has long lived way beyond its means. Two of their major problems are a highly overloaded public service and an oversized military. The sad fact is that no serious effort has been made to trim these behemoths to realistic proportions. There is a reason for the Sri Lankan armed forces growing to the present size- it was due to the civil war. The Sri Lankan civil war was fought from 1983 to 2009 between the Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lankan government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) insurgent group, the latter of which had hoped to establish a separate state for the Tamil minority.

Sinhalese constitute 75 percent of Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan Tamil constitute 11.2 percent. Moreover, Sinhalese tend to be Buddhist and Tamils tend to be Hindu. The strife between them began much further back in Sri Lanka's ancient settlement history.

Though the arrival of Sinhalese into Sri Lanka is shrouded in ambiguity, history says that Sinhalese ancestors likely arrived on the island from India in the 500 BC, but the arrival of the Tamils on the island both as invaders and traders was from India's Chola Kingdom.

These origin stories suggest that the Sinhalese and Tamil communities have experienced tensions from the very beginning- not out of cultural incompatibility, but rather out of power disputes. Thus, this country has indeed a rich Indian cultural heritage as the ancestors of the current people of Sri Lanka of both Sinhalese

and Tamils were from India and this factor alone is sufficient for India to rush with all that Sri Lanka needs now. Sri Lanka is our neighbor country with a lot of similarities in culture and religious practices and we should always be on good terms with them. People have the same traditions and occupations and it would be like a dream-come-true for people of both these countries if they are blessed with the opportunity to walk or drive in from India to Sri Lanka and vice versa. Considering the importance and historical closeness between the two countries, a concrete mega project can be considered like constructing a mega bridge utilizing the natural limestone shoals that form the Ram Setu or a channel tunnel between the two countries can be constructed capitalizing upon the technical expertise India acquired and with the fund pumped in by the two countries.

Construction of underground passage with that country would be like having an umbilical cord, a relationship others cannot cut off. Hopefully, India and Sri Lanka can conceptualize and construct a tunnel underneath the sea bed from Rameswaram to Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. It would be a scientific marvel of both these nations, especially India, as India is capable of materializing this dream.

Once this project is commissioned, it will attract millions of tourists and will definitely pave the way for a great change and development in these parts of India and Sri Lanka. China is another big nation looking for an opportunity to establish a strong tie with this island nation and we should not let China access Sri Lanka too much.

If they are given an inch, they will take away a mile. So, India must think of this mega project and start holding talks with the President of Sri Lanka towards its realization.

(TK Nandanam is a political commentator based in Kochi.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Over-ambitious

We all know that TMC is a regional political party of West Bengal. Mamata Banerjee, popularly addressed as Didi by her supporters, is the ruthless supreme of TMC known for her foul mouth and uncivil behaviour around the nation. With her recent success in the Assembly and civic body elections in West Bengal, she has become an all-Indian figure, ready to take on Modi headlong. From her State she has started to spread her party's tentacles to other parts of the nation like Goa. To establish herself as an alternative to Modi, she has of late become very vocal against the Centre on all issues, some of which are not supposed to be her domain like Foreign Affairs and Defence. The whole nation knows about the wonderful job done by the Central Government in the recent evacuation of Indian nationals from Kabul during the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan. Now evacuation of Indian nationals from war-torn Ukraine is going on and all the evacuees along with their families have openly lauded the Government's efforts except her. According to her and TMC, the evacuation process is a simple gimmick and the Government's role in the UN, where India tactfully maintained a neutral stand, was also questioned. We remember that like Chandra Babu Naidu, ex-CM of Andhra Pradesh and also ex-Cabinet Minister of the then NDA Government, she was also a Cabinet Minister during the NDA Government. But due to being over-ambitious to be the PM of the nation, Naidu became history in the nation's politics. Mamata Banerjee, with her zero knowledge about global politics, should focus only on West Bengal, once the 'think tank of India'.

Ashim, via email

Legal tender

Some days ago, I had been to Bengaluru on work. I visited a photocopying shop and handed over a Rs 10 coin to the owner for the copies made. To my surprise, he flatly refused to accept the coin, adding that it is not recognised in any shop in Bengaluru and even government-run buses. This is unacceptable. This is a legal tender and the Reserve Bank of India needs to issue a notification to these States and warn those who do not accept this legal tender that they should be ready to face the music. The Government of India and RBI need to issue a notice in all the dailies.

Ramesh, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Vandana
@drvandanas
Greece, Lebanon & Sri LankaHow many countries will the world's financial system destroy through pushing them into a debt trap, destroying economic sovereignty and food sovereignty, creating dependence on borrowing & food imports? How long will the poor keep paying interest?

atul@atulkasbekar
Much as I think that Steven Spielberg is the greatest director of all time for the unreal range he's demonstrated in a legendary career; I didn't like #WestSideStory I tried really hard to but just couldn't Is that kinda illegal to say this?



IAnand@vardhanan
A walk in a new campus @tvmiiser



Monica@jasuja
The ultimate test of being perceived as trustworthy is asking foreigners for help and receiving it instantly. Always grateful for kind strangers who go out of the way to help me no matter which part of the world I am in. Gratitude to and for the good people I meet

Shephali@Bhatt
Hard to be excited for the future if you know what's happening around you. Hard to take anyone excited about the future seriously if they don't know what's happening around them. Hard to not be terrified of those excited for the future while knowing what's happening around them.



Pravin@PravinSawhney
Pak Army will be in total control of foreign policy in new gov. It wants good ties with China & US, and talks for Kashmir resolution under Musharraf formula with India. Pak ties with Russia will take backseat. Expect Gen Bajwa to get another extension!

Nivedita@TiwariNivedita
The 'liberal' idea of empathy is often in conflict with its idea of equality. Which is why liberalism, as it has come to be practiced today, lends itself to hypocrisy. Many of the current world problems arise out of this conflict. The antidote? Dharma. Do right over feel good.

BRIEF

Exports



New Delhi: Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday pitched for taking the textiles exports of the country to USD 100 billion by 2030 as the sector is recording a healthy growth. The textiles minister also said the exports would get a boost with zero duty access.

IPO

New Delhi: Ethnic wear fashion label Biba Fashion, which is backed by Warburg Pincus and Faering Capital, has filed preliminary papers with Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 90 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 2.77 crore equity shares by promoter and existing investors, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Promoter will offload.

Facility



Mumbai: Welspun Logistics Parks (WOLP) on Tuesday said it has handed over a 3.7-lakh sq ft warehousing facility in Bhiwandi to third-party logistics company FM Logistic for operations. WOLP CEO Anshul Singhal said on-time site delivery is of utmost importance.

Invest

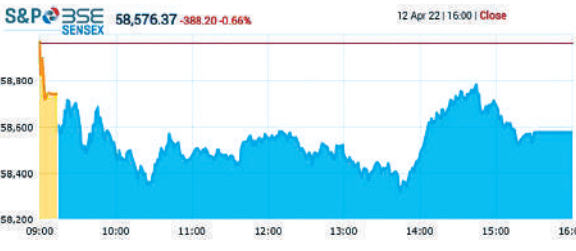
New Delhi: Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) will invest Rs 2,600 crore to acquire 49 per cent stake in TATA Realty and Infrastructure's two premium commercial office projects at Chennai and Gurugram, and their joint venture plans to further invest Rs 2,000 crore to buy land and completed assets for future growth. In interview with PTI, TATA Realty and Infrastructure MD and CEO Sanjay Dutt told of partnership.

Alternative



London: Winvesta, a neobank building cross-border banking and wealth management solutions, has launched a foreign payment collections system for Indian exporters. CEO Swastik Nigam said much of that money never made it to Indian shores in raw deals.

Sensex declines over 388 points, Nifty tests 17,500 on weak global cues



Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI):

BSE benchmark Sensex plummeted over 388 points to close at 58,576.37 on Tuesday, tracking weakness in index majors Wipro, RIL and Bharti Airtel amid a weak trend in global markets.

Investors also remained cautious ahead of crucial macroeconomic data announcements -- industrial production for February and inflation rate for March -- post trading hours.

The Sensex declined 388.20 points or 0.66 per cent to settle at 58,576.37. During the day, the benchmark tanked 666 points or 1.12 per cent to 58,298.57. The Nifty

went lower by 144.65 points or 0.82 per cent to finish at 17,530.30. From the 30-share pack, Tata Steel, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro and Bajaj Finserv were among the major laggards. In contrast, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Power Grid, Maruti Suzuki, and ICICI Bank were among the gainers. "Market will continue to be choppy in the near-term, pulled up and down by positive and negative news. The near-term headwind continues to be the rising US bond yields which have crossed 2.8 per cent for the 10-year and outflows from equity.

Steel ministry seeks duty-free import of ferronickel

Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI):

Union steel ministry has asked the finance ministry to remove the basic customs duty on ferronickel, a key raw material for stainless steel makers, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

The move will help stainless steel makers to reduce their input cost.

At present, a 2.5 per cent duty is imposed on the imports of ferronickel.

The domestic stainless steel manufacturing industry meets the bulk of its nickel requirements through ferronickel and stainless steel scrap.

Earlier, the government had removed the 2.5 per cent import duty on scrap for a limited period till March 2023.

The government is aware of the challenges the Indian stainless sector is facing. Raw material availability is one of the major challenges in front



of the industry. Additional Steel Secretary Rasika Chaube told PTI on the sidelines of the Global Stainless Steel Expo (GSSE) 2022 here.

"We got (zero duty on scrap) extended up to March 23. Second is nickel and chromium. Chromium is in good supply but nickel is not available. We have taken up the matter (to remove duty ferronickel) with the finance ministry because this is a

very important raw material for the stainless steel industry," Chaube said.

Such decisions are taken after a lot of considerations by the finance ministry, and the steel ministry can recommend for the same, the official said.

Ferronickel is required for the manufacturing of corrosion-free steel which is used in various sectors like auto, defence, rail ways and infrastructure.

Rupee falls 23 paise at 76.14 against USD, bullion rises

Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI):

The rupee fell 23 paise to close at 76.14 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking a strong American currency in the overseas market and a negative trend in domestic equities.

Forex traders said investors are trading on a cautious note as they await inflation data.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 76.05 against the American currency and settled at 76.14, down 23 paise from the previous close.

During the trading session, the rupee witnessed an intra-day high of 75.97 and a low of 76.17 against the American currency.

On Monday, the rupee rose marginally to 75.91 against the US dollar.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.17 per cent higher at 100.10.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures jumped

3.17 per cent to USD 101.60 per barrel. "In line with regional currencies, Indian rupee traded lower after overnight surge in bond yields which attracted haven buying in dollar," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said. Further, Parmar said the rebound in crude oil prices and weaker risk sentiments also weighed on rupee ahead of inflation data. "Spot USD-INR is in congestion mode as traders are in wait and watch mode ahead of economic data. The pair has been facing stiff resistance around 76.30 and support at 75.80," Parmar added. Bullion prices rose.

Gold prices on Tuesday rose by Rs 363 to Rs 52,542 per 10 grams in futures trade as speculators created fresh positions on a firm spot demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for June delivery traded higher by Rs 363 or 0.7 per cent to Rs 52,542 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 18,146 lots.

NMDC wins two awards at the 80th SKOCH Summit 2022

Hyderabad, Apr 12:

NMDC, India's largest producer of iron ore awarded one gold and one silver award in the 80th SKOCH Summit and SKOCH Awards on 9th April 2022 conducted by SKOCH, New Delhi. The theme for the SKOCH Summit was 'State of BFSI & PSUs'.

NMDC won the Gold Award in the category social responsibility for the project 'Promotion of Technical Education & Skill Development in Dantewada District through NMDC ITI Bhansi' and the Silver Award in the category digital inclusion for the 'Project Kalpataru' for ERP implementation. The awards were received by



Shri Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Finance) via video conferencing on behalf of Chairman and Managing Director Shri Sumit Deb.

The SKOCH Awards were given to the winners based on the application submitted on their website, presentation to jury followed by three rounds of popular online voting and second round of jury eval-

uation. In addition to above, NMDC also received the 3 SKOCH -Order of Merit Awards for its exemplary efforts in ensuring seamless digitalization in Project Kalpataru, for its expansive CSR efforts in promoting technical education and skill development in the remote districts of Dantewada and "Project Safety First" in the category Response to COVID.

Pepperfry strengthens its presence

Bhopal, Apr 12:

Pepperfry, India's No.1 furniture and home products marketplace, announced the launch of its second Studio in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The offline expansion is in line with the company's aim to penetrate niche markets and build the largest omnichannel business in the furniture and home products segment in India. Pepperfry, which launched its first Studio in 2014, currently has 150 plus Studios across 80plus cities in the country. The Studio, which is launched in partnership with M/S Sunshine Enterprises, is located at a prime location at LIC Colony Mawa, Raipur, spanning a carpet area of 736sq.ft. It offers customers a first-hand experience of a curated range of furniture and décor, which is carefully selected from the differentiated portfolio of more than 1 lakh products available on Pepperfry's website.

Demand for thermal coal to rise due to electricity demand

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Coal block allocatees have a golden opportunity to augment production as the demand for thermal coal will rise due to an increase in electricity demand, according to a senior government official.

There are reports of coal shortages amid rising demand for electricity with the onset of summer season.

New coal blocks are being allocated for commercial mining and prospective bidders have shown encouraging responses for these blocks. Some of these blocks have started coal production within a year of allocation, the coal ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.



"Coal block allocatees have a golden opportunity for increasing coal production as the price of imported coal is very high at the moment and demand of thermal coal will increase due to increase in electricity demand of country," Coal Secretary Anil Kumar Jain said.

The production from captive coal blocks registered an increase of 35 per cent to 85 million tonnes in

FY22. It was at 63 million tonnes in FY21.

"The nominated authority, Ministry of Coal has reviewed the production of coal with allocatees of captive coal blocks whose coal blocks have either commenced production or are likely to commence production during the financial year 2022-23," the statement said.

The review meeting was chaired by Jain.

HDFC Bank's 'Mooh Band Rakho' campaign on safe banking practices

Mumbai, Apr 12:

HDFC Bank concluded the second edition of its "Mooh Band Rakho" campaign, which created history by spreading awareness on safe banking practices among more than 100 million Indians, through print and digital media.

In November 2021, the second edition of the campaign was launched which involved a 360-degree consumer education programme on cyber frauds and how to combat them by simply practicing a few safe banking habits. The programme highlighted the importance of not sharing confidential personal information with anyone.

The closing ceremony was graced by Shri. Sameer Shukla (IAS), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Lt. General Rajesh Pant, National Cyber Security Coordinator in the

presence of senior HDFC Bank officials including the bank's Head of Retail Credit Strategy and Control Mr. Prashant Mehra, Chief Information Security Officer Mr. Sameer Ratolikar, Head of Credit Intelligence and Control (CIC) Mr. Manish Agrawal, and Head - CIC, Payment Business and Digital Loans Mr. Vivek Goyal. As part of this campaign, the bank has conducted more than 2,800 secured banking workshops in just four months across the country. The workshops covered a wide range of audiences that included students, teachers, law enforcement agencies, senior citizens, channel partners, housing societies, and educational institutions. More than 60,000 students participated in 620 workshops that were aimed at inculcating safe banking habits from an early age.

Motorola announces the feature-packed g22

New Delhi, Apr 12:

An exceptional addition to the g series franchise, Motorola today announced the launch of the feature-packed moto g22. Reinforcing its commitment to bring premium features and experiences to the moto g family at competitive price points, Motorola brings a renewed design, a 6.5" 90 Hz Max Vision display, along with a 16MP selfie, 50MP quad-camera system, and an incredible battery life that is supported by a 20W TurboPower charger. Moto g22 delivers a complete set of features along with Android 12 out-of-the-box experience, that will help the consumers' vision come to life.

The camera system in moto g22 is the only quad camera system to feature



photos with 4x better low light sensitivity. moto g22 also comes with an industry-leading 16MP Selfie Camera with quad pixel technology. moto g22 also has a segment leading 90 Hz 6.5" IPS LCD punch hole display that gives an exceptionally seamless viewing experience. Furthermore, the long lasting 5000mAh battery along with a 20W TurboPower Charger gives you power to do more on the go. moto g22 will go on sale on April 13th in two snazzy color variants including Iceberg Blue and Cosmic Black at Rs. 10,999. Customers can avail the bank offers and grab the device at an effective price of just Rs. 9,999 on Flipkart between 13th - 14th April, on limited stocks only.

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Trairecommendations on cut in spectrum prices lower than demand

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Trairecommendations on cut in 5G spectrum base price are incrementally positive, not transformational, some sector analysts said, while others felt that bidding intensity could be moderate or muted in the upcoming auction.

The reduction proposed in pricing, though largely on expected lines, is not in sync with the 90 per cent drop that the industry had been asking for, the experts said.

Credit Suisse in its note said recommendations are "incrementally positive" and that Jio and Airtel are well placed to participate in the auction.

"Trairecommends 25-50 per cent reduction in spectrum pricing; incremen-



tally positive but nothing transformational," Credit Suisse said.

The 700MHz band could likely see demand by telcos, it added.

"Also, while the price for 3.4 GHz 5G spectrum was reduced by 36 per cent, it was less than telcos demand for about 90 per cent reduction. Also, the price for mmWave spectrum has been set at 2.2 per cent of the price of 3.4 GHz spectrum versus telco's demand for about 1 per cent," it said.

Institutional investments in real estate jumps over 2-fold

To USD 1.1 bln in Jan-Mar

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Institutional investments in real estate jumped over two-fold to USD 1.1 billion (Rs 8,375 crore) in the three months ended March 2022 with the opening up of the economy after the third COVID wave, according to property consultant Colliers India.

Institutional investments in real estate stood at USD 0.5 billion in the year-ago period and USD 1 billion in the previous quarter. "Institutional investments in Indian real estate



touched USD 1.1 billion during Q1 2022, doubling from the same period last year. The opening up of the economy post the third wave of COVID-19 infections, and an improvement in investors' sentiment has led to surging investments, compared to the prior quarter," Colliers India said in a statement.

The investment activity during the quarter under review was driven by some large-sized deals in the office sector.

"Investments were largely driven by foreign investors, that accounted for about 70 per cent of the inflows during the quarter. Interestingly, after a drop in 2020, the share of domestic

investments has reached 30 per cent, almost the same as pre-pandemic levels. This shows a resurgence in the confidence of domestic investors," the consultant said.

Office, retail, and industrial & logistics segments contributed 95 per cent of the total institutional investment in the real estate sector during January-March period.

The retail sector attracted the second-highest share of investments at 23 per cent, backed by one major transaction. Industrial and logistics assets received inflows of USD 0.2 billion, accounting for about 16 per cent of total investments.

EVs offer Rs 3 lakh cr biz opportunities by FY-26

Mobility as a service is yet another model

Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI):

Electric vehicles (EVs) offer an almost Rs 3-lakh crore business for various stakeholders in India in the five years through fiscal 2026, a CRISIL analysis indicated on Tuesday.

The segment is expected to be driven by shared mobility, battery swapping and shift from ICE vehicles besides government support, it said. The opportunity includes potential revenue of



about Rs 1.5-lakh crore across vehicle segments for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and around Rs 90,000 crore in the form of disbursements for vehicle financiers, with shared mobility and insurance accounting for the balance, as per the analysis.

CRISIL also does not rule out EV penetration reaching 15 per cent in two-wheelers, 25-30 per cent in three-wheelers, and 5 per cent in cars and buses by fiscal 2026 in terms of vehicle sales.

According to CRISIL, EV adoption continues to surge as more people shift from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles.

Data on the Vahan portal shows the share of electric three-wheelers (3Ws) increased to almost 5 per cent of 3Ws registered last fiscal year from less than 1 per cent in fiscal 2018.

Ranveer Singh: Like to convince people that I can transform myself into anyone

Bollywood's livewire star Ranveer Singh, who is gearing up for the release of his next 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar', says for him, the best thing about being an actor is that one can live many lives.

Ranveer says: "For me, the best thing about being an actor is that you can live so many lives and experience so much because each character that I choose to play are remarkably different from one another. "When people saw 'Band Baaja Baaraat', they felt for the longest time that I was a boy who was born and brought up in Delhi. "This has happened many times during the course of my 11-year career and that to me is the biggest compliment because I like to convince people that I can transform myself into anyone." The actor is clear that he doesn't want to get typecast in the industry and among audiences. He, thus, picks his projects with care to wow audiences.

Ranveer said: "I have a personal ambition to never be typecast and it's a tough one but I choose my scripts quite cleverly. 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar' presented me with a huge opportunity to play a character with no reference point all over again. I think I really manifest these roles into my life." The Yash Raj Films' 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar', also starring Arjun Reddy fame Shalini Pandey, is releasing on May 13.



Reyhna Pandit: 'Lock Upp' is a wake-up call for many reality shows

Ishqbaaz' actress Reyhna Pandit is enjoying watching her boyfriend and TV personality Zeeshan Khan in the reality show 'Lock Upp'.

She says: "'Lock Upp' game is very good. It is successful and keeps the audience engaged every second. Until now I feel it's the most genuine reality show. Not like other shows where you wonder why the contestant is being dragged even though they have nothing to offer. It's a wake-up call for many reality shows."

The actress known for featuring in shows like 'Jamai Raja', 'Ishqbaaz', 'Manmohini' among others is supporting her love.

She adds: "I enjoy watching Zeeshan, not only because he's close to me but also being liked by the audience. He is super entertaining, straight forward and clear. I just hope he comes out as a winner. In fact reading about the feedback for his game on social media by his fans and audience is making me feel proud of him."

Sakshi, Raima and Atul Mongia visit Delhi to promote 'Mai'

Starring Sakshi Tanwar, Vivek Mishra, Prashant Narayanan, Wamiqa Gabbi and Raima Sen, among others, Netflix's upcoming series 'Mai' is one of the most awaited series of this summer. Set to be released on April 15, 'Mai' is co-directed by Atul Mongia and Anshai Lal. With the release coming closer, the promotions of the show are underway, with the latest stop being the capital city, New Delhi. This weekend the star



cast of the crime drama and thriller, 'Mai' including Sakshi Tanwar aka 'Sheel' who headlines the series, actress Raima Sen who plays the antagonist 'Neelam' and co-director Atul Mongia were interacting with media and the fans in the national capital. Having much love towards the city, the team visited Delhi to promote their upcoming series.

Talking about the show and her visit to Delhi, Sakshi Tanwar shares, "I was very excited to be in Delhi."

Akansha Singh: Fascinating to see Ajay Devgn direct and act at the same time

Actress Akansha Singh who is playing a pivotal role in the upcoming film 'Runway 34', directed by and starring Ajay Devgn along with the legendary Amitabh Bachchan, says it was quite fascinating for her to see how the actor-filmmaker was multitasking on the set.

Akansha is playing the wife of Captain Vikrant Khanna played by Ajay. Asked about sharing screen space with Ajay, Akansha said: "It was quite fascinating for me to watch how Ajay sir was directing and acting in the same scene. Of course, it was not easy, especially in some of those action sequences. But Ajay sir is a master in it I guess because he was handling multi-tasking with so much ease." During the shooting of the film, the actress had a leg injury and had to shoot some of the sequences with her plaster on. Sharing how cooperative the whole cast and crew were, Akansha said, "throughout that time, I was in a wheelchair but Ajay sir and all our crew members were so supportive. In one of the plane sequences, when I was almost immobile, they picked me up and put me in the place and stood by me throughout, including Ajay sir. It is my first big project in Bollywood and this is such a special memory." Starting her career in theatre, making her screen debut with the TV serial 'Na Bole Tum Na Maine Kuch Kaha', Akansha always had a wish to work with Amitabh Bachchan.

COLORS presents 'Dance Deewane Juniors'

Our country is replete with many young dance prodigies whose energy and hardcore dance moves can blow your mind. The little wonders are now set to take on the dance floor and celebrate the Deewangi with COLORS' new dance reality show 'Dance Deewane Juniors'. Handpicked from various parts of the nation through a stringent audition process, these children aged between 4-14 years are sure to set the stage on fire whilst performing in solos, duos, and groups and competing with each other. Guiding and mentoring them in this journey will be the esteemed panel of judges- the ever-graceful Neetu Kapoor, the powerhouse of



talent Nora Fatehi and the ace choreographer and dancer Marzi Pestonji. Joining them will be television's heartthrob Karan

Kundrra as the host of the show. Produced by Frames Production, Dance Deewane Juniors will premiere on 23rd April 2022

and air every Saturday and Sunday at 9 pm, only on COLORS!

Dance Deewane franchise has been pivotal in discovering some of the best dancers in this country, and it is now presenting a dazzling new format of 'Dance Deewane Juniors'. With the promise of 'Deewangi More, Dance Hardcore', the show aims to find children with a flaming desire to dance and give them a befitting stage. Be it the incredible dance group 'ABCD Little Angels' including Rithyha, Navya, Janvi, Shanaya and Myra, the energetic dancing duo of Urva and Aska also or solo performers Geet Kaur Bagga, Aditya Vinod Patil and Anshika Dhara, their spirit and passion for dance is unmatched.

HOROSCOPE WEDNESDAY APRIL 13

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18
Today, you're up against those who want to get back at you. But not for nothing are you the King! Ganesha says you needn't worry, as few can match your prowess. Amid all the hullabaloo, your spouse will be a supportive presence.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20
Within adversity, lie the lessons of success; avoid having to resort to that philosophy by implementing your plans, if they are well thought out, in a phased manner. This will help you achieve your targets, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20
Your sportsman spirit will find its way into both your professional and personal life. Today may be an important day in your life, and Ganesha says you must not forget your special quality.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21
Today, you will be as creative and competent as you can get. Your work style, the deft way you handle things will awe and amaze your colleagues and superiors. Your subordinates will be highly impressed and motivated. They will be eager and compliant and will support and assist you to the utmost.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21
Dress to kill today! People around you may or may not comment, but they will definitely notice you. Your sense of style and taste will bowl everyone over. People would scramble for a glimpse of you. In short, you will be a celebrity. Most probably, your beloved will share the limelight with you. Enjoy!

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
You are at your industrious best today. You are able to think the unthinkable, achieve the unachievable, and impress an emotionally impregnable boss. Your confidence level will be sky-high; in fact, it will make overconfidence wallow in self-doubt. Your colleagues will be awestruck, considering themselves lucky to see you in action.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23
If it's a fresh start that you are looking for, then this day promises to give you just that, predicts Ganesha. If you have chalked out plans for your future, today you may go ahead and implement some. Remember that rushing blindly into anything is not the solution; it is always the slow and steady who wins the race.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22
An unusual dose of creativity will motivate you to make a trip to some exotic place and mingle with new people. You will have some experiences that will enrich you mentally and emotionally. But don't unpack yet, there may be another adventure on the cards. Ganesha says you will be very flexible and adaptable today.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23
An unusual dose of creativity will motivate you to make a trip to some exotic place and mingle with new people. You will have some experiences that will enrich you mentally and emotionally. But don't unpack yet, there may be another adventure on the cards. Ganesha says you will be very flexible and adaptable today.

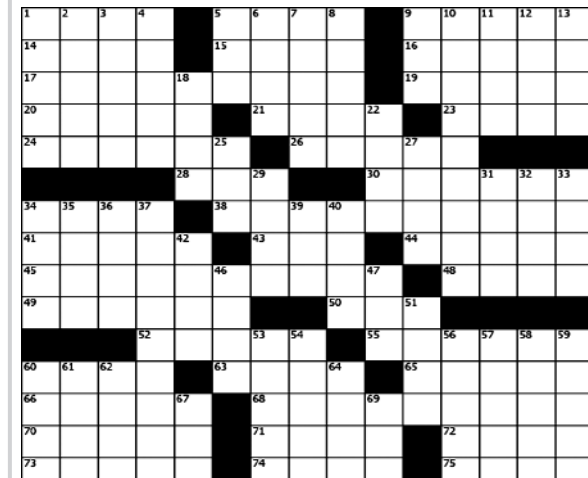
Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22
You might just blow your fuse today, warns Ganesha. Anger will strike and strike hard. Alternatively, you may also find yourself in an argument with a loved one that ought to have been avoided. An evening of romance beckons... keep the roses ready and the carpet rolled to heal any bruises you might have caused.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21
Watch out for Cupid's arrow today, warns Ganesha. Love will strike and strike hard. Alternatively, you may also find yourself in an argument with a loved one that ought to have been avoided. An evening of romance beckons... keep the roses ready and the carpet rolled to heal any bruises you might have caused.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20
Your extraordinary skills, passion for perfection, and an overpowering personality will inspire and motivate those around you, says Ganesha. Many will, in fact, emulate your actions, so much so that you could most likely have a fan following.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

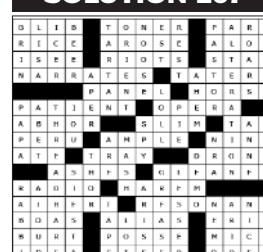
- Ring stones
- Upper limbs
- Sheriff's star
- Figure skater's jump
- Froth
- Embellish
- Turning point
- Totalled
- Marry clandestinely
- Pottery oven
- Aisles
- Leased car
- Males
- Fidel
- Garment edges
- Car franchise
- Upper crust
- Physicians' org.
- Minimum
- Change
- Expires

- Minor aspect
- Turf
- River mouth
- Dictator
- Fifty percent
- Dog's cry
- Knife feature
- Locales
- Observer
- Wash cycle
- Biblical "you"
- Knights
- Italian staple
- Harvard's rival
- Firefighter's need

DOWN

- Player
- Banish
- Honeydew, e.g.
- Dozed
- Fore's opposite
- Chess piece
- Excessive excitement
- Odor
- Sheep's bleat
- Spoke to
- Extinct creature
- Flourished
- Goals
- Garment juncture
- Agreeable
- Showed the way
- Poet Sandburg
- Tidy
- Asian language

SOLUTION 267



Batters have stopped taking risks against me: Rashid



Always a slow-starter

Against his old team Sunrisers Hyderabad on Monday, Rashid had decent figures of 1/28 as Gujarat suffered their first defeat after three wins, losing by eight wickets. One shy of getting his 100th IPL scalp, Rashid said he's always been a slow starter in the IPL.

"If you look at the stats in IPL, I always have similar (slow) starts. I've always taken 5-6 wickets, not 12-13 in the first four-five games. It always remained the same. But definitely, I will try my best to keep improving. Definitely, there will be a time when I'll deliver that magic spell," he promised. Rashid, who has played 80 matches across 2017-2022, said it's an unbelievable journey for him so far.

"Coming here from Afghanistan and playing all the games since my debut, it's been amazing. Five years back, I didn't even think of playing IPL. Nearing 100 (wickets), becoming vice-captain of Gujarat, it's massive. I'm so lucky and blessed."

On being part of the leadership group by being the deputy to Hardik Pandya, Rashid said the best part is about having clarity about their individual roles.

Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI): Rashid Khan has been steady without being extraordinary like previous years and the reason for that is the safety first approach by opposition batters during this edition of IPL, feels Gujarat Titans spinner.

Rashid has taken six

wickets from four matches at an economy rate of 6.68 but batters across teams have negotiated the Afghan great pretty well.

But the 23-year-old, who is among the most sought-after leg-spinners in franchise cricket around the world, is not surprised and says it's just a matter of time.

Injured Washington likely to miss SRH's next two matches



Navi Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI):

All-rounder Washington Sundar is likely to miss at least the next two IPL matches for Sunrisers Hyderabad after suffering split webbing in his bowling hand, head coach Tom Moody has said.

A disciplined bowling effort followed by skipper Kane Williamson's half-century helped SRH beat Gujarat Titans by eight wickets at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Monday night.

During the match however, Washington got injured and couldn't bowl his full quota of overs. His three wicketless overs - two of which were in the powerplay - went for just 14 runs. "Washington has torn the webbing in his right hand, between his thumb and first finger. We must monitor that over the next two-three days. Hopefully, it isn't a significant blow. I'd imagine it'd take probably a week or so to settle down," SRH coach Moody said after the win.

It's perform or perish for Mumbai Indians vs Punjab

Pune, Apr 12 (PTI):

Winless after four games, Mumbai Indians will be desperate to reverse the trend when they face Punjab Kings in the IPL here on Wednesday. It has been a nightmarish beginning for the five-time champions who are known for their slow starts. A formidable all-round side over the years, MI have looked a pale shadow of themselves in the ongoing edition, and will need several things to fall in place if they are to arrest the slide and restore their campaign. Apart from their batters' inability to go big, the below-par performance by the bowlers has made things hard.

The road to redemption looks difficult as they are placed ninth on the points table but skipper Rohit Sharma would be eager to turn things around, not just for the team but for himself, too.

Rohit has not been the influential batter that he normally is for his franchise and will have to lead from the front, even as the need to find the right combination rings out loud.

With two wins and as many losses, Punjab are lying seventh in the standings and come into the game on the back of a defeat against Gujarat Titans.



Rohit is very important at the top but the others, including his opening partner Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma, will also need to rise to the occasion before it gets too late for MI to stage a comeback.

Also Dewald Brevis, known for his ability to play a wide range of strokes, is yet to announce himself in the league. The team management would be hoping that the batters are able to fire in unison.

One of the top three batters will definitely need to score big if Mumbai are to

post a big total or chase down one. "We want batters to bat deep. And if you get runs on the board, there's something for the bowlers to do," Rohit had said.

The weakest link for Mumbai is the indifferent form of veteran all-rounder Kieron Pollard. Pollard, who can single-handedly take games away, has been far from his best and the West Indian would be aiming to regain his mojo.

MI, though, will be up against a quality Punjab attack led by Kagiso Rabada and faces a tricky task against the likes of Rahul

Chahar, Vaibhav Arora or Arshdeep Singh.

The Mumbai bowlers, including Jasprit Bumrah, have been off the radar.

The current attack comprising leg-spinner Murugan Ashwin, Basil Thampi and Jaydev Unadkat will have to support Bumrah, who will be keen to recreate his magic. The trio's 12 overs will be crucial if MI's fortunes are to change.

MI are up against a team comprising power-hitters like Shikhar Dhawan, Liam Livingstone and M Shahruxh Khan.

More all-rounders you have, better it is for any team in T20s: Thakur



Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI): When it comes to all-rounders, more the merrier, feels Delhi Capitals' Shardul Thakur, who feels that multi-skilled cricketers become key when specialists fail in one department.

The Capitals have all-rounders in abundance including the likes of Mitchell Marsh, Axar Patel, Lalit Yadav, Mandeep Singh and

Thakur himself. "We have great depth in our batting. The more all-rounders are there, the better it is for any team in T20s.

"If we lose quick wickets at the top, then the role of the players batting at 6,7 & 8 becomes important," Thakur was quoted as saying in a DC media release.

Thakur, who has made vital contributions with ball and bat in the ongoing IPL so far, said he aims to make an impact in every

match.

"The environment within the team is quite good. There are a lot of youngsters in the team and we are all friends as we've been playing together for some time. I like to make an impact in every match I play and that's why I play with a lot of energy," Thakur said.

The Capitals are currently placed sixth in the league table having won two of their four matches.

"The team is moving in the right direction and our Head Coach Ricky Ponting has always told us to play our natural game no matter what the situation is. He backs us so we always try to give our best."

The seam bowling all-rounder, who has represented India in 25 T20Is, has impressed everyone with the ball and the bat.

"I look to enjoy playing cricket. I have worked hard to reach this stage so I don't want to put myself under any kind of pressure. Even when the crowd cheers for our opponents in the stadium, I look to enjoy those situations."

Saina Nehwal decides to skip selection trials for CWG, Asian Games



New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Saina Nehwal's chances of defending her title at the Commonwealth Games looks bleak as she has decided to skip the selection trials for the upcoming multi-sport events. The big-ticket events include the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and the Hangzhou Asian Games. The selection trials are scheduled here from April 15 to 20.

The 32-year-old Hisar-born shuttler, a two-time CWG gold medallist and 2012 London Olympics bronze medallist, has informed the Badminton Association of India (BAI) about her decision to skip the trials.

"Saina has written to BAI, informing her decision to not play in the trials which will be the only

tournament to pick players for CWG, Asiad and Uber Cup," a BAI source told PTI.

The CWG squad will consist of 10 members with equal number of men and women, while the Asian Games and Thomas & Uber Cup contingents will have 20 members each, including 10 men and 10 women.

The BAI has made it clear that players inside the top 15 in the BWF rankings will be picked directly, while the rest will be chosen from the trials which will see participation of shuttlers ranked between 16 to 50 in the latest world rankings, released on March 29. The national governing body will also be "finalising probabilities for the senior core group for the 2024 Olympic Games" during the trials.

We are in transition phase every team goes through: Bumrah

Pune, Apr 12 (PTI):

Mumbai Indians vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah understands and accepts the hard truth that Mumbai Indians is indeed going through a "transition phase" and the new kids in the block need to understand how to react to pressure situations in a high intensity tournament like IPL.

MI have already lost four games on trot and lack of bowling options is hurting the five-time champions badly.

"It's a transition phase that every cricketer understands, and every team goes through that. We are in that phase; we have got a new group," Bumrah said.

"So understanding the format of the IPL, how you have to handle pressure and achieve success in this league."

"We are going through that. We are looking forward that we go through this transition, and then we have all the players we had and the quality will come back again," he said.

For Bumrah, it is important that MI lives in the present rather than stressing on the past.

"Right now, we live in



the present. Yes, things have not gone according to plan so far, but we keep on fighting and we keep on finding a way," Bumrah was quoted as saying in media release issued by the franchise.

"That is the way the game of cricket works. Whenever a challenge comes, you try to find solutions to the challenge and we are trying to do that," he added.

Bumrah feels that the tracks have been heavily loaded in favour of batters this time and the toss has proved to be crucial so far.

"This year when the

wickets are helping the batters and it's difficult to take wickets, you have to find your ways. We are not different. We are trying to find new ways. We've come up with a few plans," the right-arm speedster said, without divulging the plans. Toss indeed has become a crucial factor.

"If it was up to me, I would say win the toss. That really helps. But yes, whenever you come into this scenario, there is a little bit of help with the new ball, so maintaining a good line, trying to swing the ball upfront, I think will help you," he quipped.

Bublik cuts short Wawrinka's return to tour after injury

Monaco, Apr 12 (AP):

Alexander Bublik cut short Stan Wawrinka's return to the tour, defeating the Swiss 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 in the first round of the Monte Carlo Masters in his first singles in 13 months.

Wawrinka started off confidently against the Kazakh, winning the first set with ease. He staved off three set points in the second to hold for 5-5 but appeared tired. In the decisive third, Bublik pulled ahead early and wrapped up the match in just over two hours on Monday.

Wawrinka, 37, last competed on tour in March 2021 when he lost his opening match at the Qatar Open. He's had two surgeries on his left foot since then and months of difficult recovery.

I'm still far away from where I want to be, but I



think I'm in the right direction, Wawrinka said. Despite a tough loss to No.

35-ranked Bublik, the Swiss said it felt good to be on the court, packed with

spectators, and playing for real points. It was much better than what I was expecting, Wawrinka said.

Still, the physical and mental fatigue made him consider he might have returned to the tour too soon. He has not lined up other tournaments but intends to spend more time on practice.

I need a lot more ... and I need to work hard on my tennis and my physical condition, Wawrinka said.

Marin Cilic of Croatia overwhelmed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 6-2, turning the Frenchman's opening match in Monaco into his final clay-court appearance in a Masters event.

Tsonga, 36, announced last week he will retire after the French Open, hoping to put the final touches on an injury-plagued career in front of his home crowd.

NZ Cricket Awards

Wellington, Apr 12 (PTI):

Black Caps pace spearhead Trent Boult and White Ferns skipper Sophie Devine won the 'T20 International Player of the Year' for their sensational run in the shortest format of the game at the New Zealand Cricket Awards.

The awards are being delivered virtually over three days.

Boult was awarded for his splendid run at the T20 World Cup in UAE 1st here where New Zealand reached the final.

The 32-year old had taken 13 wickets in the tournament and played a crucial role in taking his side to the finals.

Boult defeated Tim



Southee, Devon Conway, Daryl Mitchell and Ish Sodhi -- who also played vital roles in the Black Caps' run to the final before they lost to Australia -- to take home the award.



"It means a lot. T20 is a format I really enjoy and one I'm constantly trying to adapt my game to in order to become a better bowler. It's something very special to win this award

and I feel really grateful to receive it," Boult, who is currently in India for the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022, said.

Devine, on the other hand, bagged her her second International Women's T20 Player of the Year award in two years.

She scored 118 runs in four outings at an average of 29.50 with an overall strike-rate of 113.46 and a top-score of 50 against England in Hove. The fan moment of the summer went to the retired Ross Taylor for his final wicket in his last Test against Bangladesh in Christchurch. Melie Kerr and Michael Bracewell were named the respective Super Smash Players of the Year following their efforts for Wellington.

J'khand ropeway accident rescue ops end

Three dead, 60 evacuated

Deoghar (Jharkhand), Apr 12 (PTI): All the tourists trapped in cable cars in Jharkhand's Deoghar district were rescued by 2 PM on Tuesday even as one more person fell down from a helicopter while being winched up, taking the death toll in the incident to three, officials said. Rescue operations spread over 46 hours ended as all the 60 passengers stranded in cable cars due to an accident on a ropeway at Trikut hills around 4 PM on Sunday were evacuated by two Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters.



Damaged cable cars following a collision at Trikut Ropeway, in Deoghar district of Jharkhand, Tuesday.

Fourteen of the last remaining 15 tourists, who were trapped mid-air for more than 40 hours, were rescued during the day. "Of the remaining 15 people trapped in cable cars, 14 were rescued while a woman fell off the chopper during the course of the operation,"

Additional Director General of Police R K Mallick told PTI from the spot over phone.

Deoghar Civil Surgeon C K Shahi said that the woman, identified as 60-year-old Shobha Devi, was declared dead on being taken to a hospital. Mallick said that the res-

cued people were sent to hospitals, where they will be examined.

Three people have died so far, including two tourists who fell to their deaths from helicopters on Monday and Tuesday during botched rescue attempts, while 12 injured people are undergoing

treatment at hospitals.

The rescue operation was conducted jointly by the IAF, Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the district administration. Food and water were supplied to the stranded people using drones. Chief Minister Hemant Soren has ordered a high-level probe into the incident. "I have directed all the senior officials to find out the reasons behind the accident and who are accountable for this. A high-level probe will be conducted in the matter and action will be taken accordingly. The state government is keeping a close watch on the situation," Soren said.

Governor Ramesh Bais has expressed deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured people.

TRADITIONAL ATTIRE



Students wearing traditional Punjabi attire take part in Vaisakhi celebrations at a college in Amritsar, Tuesday.

Spiralling prices of essentials, fuel strain household budgets across country

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

A sharp rise in prices of essential commodities over the past few months coupled with the latest burden of steep hike in fuel rates have made life difficult for almost every section of the society across the country, with people finding it hard to manage their household budget.

While the prices of vegetables and several other food items have gone through the roof, the rates of petrol and diesel have increased by about Rs 10 per litre each in the past one month. Besides, the prices of other petroleum products, including cooking gas, have also witnessed a rise in the past

few days, adding to the woes of the people.

The daily hike in fuel prices has made our life difficult. An LPG cylinder now costs around Rs 1,000, while prices of other commodities, including fruits, vegetables, and cooking oil, have sharply increased, said Anudeep Kaur Goraya, a homemaker from Phagwara in Punjab.

Ompal Singh, a businessman from Haryana's Hisar who runs a shop in the auto market, said the rising inflation has also hit small businesses and traders.

The rising prices have hit almost everyone, either it be a milkman from Madhya Pradesh or a fish vendor from Kerala. Kallu

Ram (50), a milkman from Bhopal, said the high petrol price has made a big dent in his savings. I use a bike to deliver milk to my customers. Now, I have to spend Rs 160 per day on petrol as against Rs 100 a few months ago. I want the price of petrol to be reduced, said Ram.

Abdul Rahiman, a fish vendor in Kerala's Kozhikode who uses a two-wheeler for his business, said his daily petrol bill has gone up to Rs 250 which was Rs 150 till last month. "I drive 23 km from Perumanna to Puthiyappa fishing harbour in the morning and gather a variety of fish in the container fitted on my bike. I take a round through Puthiyara, Pottemnal,

Chevayur, and Chevarambalam, and return home by 2 pm. Now, I have to spend Rs 100 more on petrol every day," he said.

Baldev Chand, a retired government employee from Chandigarh, said the price rise has adversely hit his family's budget. A good part of my pension was already being consumed by the medicines that me and my wife have to take. Now, the rising prices of essential commodities have forced us to cut down on all non-essential expenses, he said.

In Delhi's Mayur Vihar-1, Pradeep Kushwaha, a vegetable seller, said the hike in fuel prices is making vegetables costlier in the national capital.

"Transportation cost has gone up by 10-15 per cent due to steep hike in the prices of petrol, diesel and CNG. It is causing a ripple effect on vegetable prices," Kushwaha said.

The steep hike in CNG prices (about Rs 10 per kg in the past one month) has also prompted auto and cab drivers to threaten an indefinite strike from April 18.

Rajendra Soni, General Secretary of the Delhi Auto-rickshaw Sangh, said, "CNG is now sold at over Rs 69 per kg. We demand that the government should provide Rs 35 per kg subsidy on CNG so that we can survive. We will go on an indefinite strike from April 18 if our demand is not met," Soni

said. Rising petrol prices have squeezed the income of Anand Vaghela, a contractual worker with a public sector firm in Ahmedabad. Vaghela, who travels around 30 km daily on his two-wheeler, says he is not able to save a single penny. "Not just petrol, prices of almost everything have increased in the past few months. As a result, I am unable to manage my household budget," says Vaghela, who lives in a rented apartment along with his wife and two children.

Similarly, Rahul Desai, a marketing professional from South Goa, claimed that his travel expense has really gone up. Petrol is available at Rs 105 per litre in Goa.

13 police stations in Washim get 'seva desks' to help citizens

Nagpur, Apr 12 (PTI):

The police in Maharashtra's Washim district has started 'Seva desks' to make the process of registration of complaints more transparent as well as to proactively reach out to citizens, a senior official said on Tuesday. The initiative was started under the Right to Public Services Act and it comprises staff manning these helpdesks taking down details from the complainant or citizen in a handheld tablet, which is then made part of the centralised SEVA cell, Washim Superintendent of Police Bachchan Singh

told PTI. It started at the SP office as a visitor management system in December last year and then tablets were provided to all 13 police stations in the district in February, he said.

"The basic idea is to take cognizance of trivial and small issues as well so that they don't build up into crimes later. The system takes feedback and also gives guidance on district legal services authority, Manodhairya scheme etc. So far, 3,797 people have visited these Seva desks and we have contacted 1,129 of them for feedback on their experience," Singh said.

VISHU PREPARATIONS



Girls with the 'Kanikonna' flowers ahead of the Vishu festival, in Kannur, Tuesday.

Skywalk, New Durga Bhawan among several facilities coming up

At Vaishno Devi shrine

Jammu, Apr 12 (PTI): Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the newly constituted Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) here, which discussed and approved various proposals related to facilities for the devotees to make their pilgrimage hassle-free, officials said.

The new facilities and upgradation works will ensure that pilgrims from around the world have access to state-of-the-art amenities and the connection between local economy and pilgrimage is fur-

ther strengthened, the Lt Governor said. He said efforts are being made to create modern facilities like skywalk, new Durga Bhawan, spiritual theme park and services such as Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag for devotees within a stipulated time-frame for the pleasant divine experience. Sinha said the number of devotees from India and abroad visiting the holy shrine is continuously breaking records.

Last month, the Lt Governor, who is also the chairman of the SMVDSB, reconstituted the board and nominated eight personalities, from various walks of life, as members for three years.

Seeks independent probe

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI): The Congress on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the BJP over the death of Santosh Patil, a contractor who levelled corruption charges against K S Eshwarappa, and demanded an FIR against the Karnataka minister and an independent probe into the incident.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi accused the prime minister and the Karnataka chief minister of being complicit in the contractor's death, saying that the victim's pleas to them went unanswered.

"BJP's 40% Commission Government in Karnataka has claimed the life of their own Karyakarta. The victim's pleas to the PM went unanswered. The PM and CM are complicit. #BJPCorruptionFiles (sic)," Gandhi said on Twitter.

Patil was found dead in a hotel room in Udipi on Tuesday morning. He had earlier accused Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwarappa of demanding 40 per cent commission in a public work executed by him. The minister not only dismissed his allegations but also filed a defamation suit against him. Congress general sec-

Jamiat seeks high-level judicial inquiry

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Prominent Muslim body Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind on Tuesday sought Home Minister Amit Shah's intervention over the issue of alleged harassment of the minority community in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone and demanded a high-level judicial inquiry into the violence there.

Jamiat said its chief Maulana Mahmood Madani has written a letter to Shah flagging the issue of "harassment" of Muslims, saying their properties were being razed in a "selective manner". The letter comes in the wake of Khargone district administration on

Monday starting demolition of at least 50 "illegal" structures of people accused of pelting stones at a Ram Navami procession.

The state government has said damage caused to public and private properties during the violence will be recovered from rioters. More than 80 people have been arrested after stones hurled at a Ram Navami procession triggered large-scale arson, officials said.

Madani expressed deep anguish over the communal violence in several parts of the country coinciding with the Ram Navami festival, a Jamiat statement said. He condemned the violence and

subsequent demolition of the houses and shops of the accused especially in Khargone, it said.

Madani alleged that "rioters" have made a set pattern of going to Muslim localities and chanting hateful slogans as well as carrying out highly provocative acts. In his letter to Shah, Madani drew the attention of the home minister to the communal violence in Khargone and said it was very unfortunate that after the outbreak of violence, the local administration is set on "harassing" the minority community. Madani demanded a time-bound high-level judicial inquiry into the Khargone vio-

lence. "I also request you to prosecute all those who instigated the violence during the procession that caused this entire incident to happen...I would also request you to pay attention to the discriminatory modus operandi of the law-enforcement agencies," Madani said.

There must be an immediate halt to the demolition of the properties as it is believed that many innocent and poor are wrongly being caught in the drive, he said.

"I hope that your good office will intervene in the matter adequately, which will restore the faith of the minority community," Madani wrote in the letter.

CONTRACTOR DEATH

Congress demands FIR against K'taka minister

retary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai should lodge an FIR of murder and corruption against the minister and dismiss him, otherwise Bommai's complicity is clear. "The CM and PM should Lodge an FIR of Murder and Corruption against the BJP Minister. Arrest the Minister. Dismiss him as a Minister. Conduct an independent probe. Otherwise, it will be clear that CM Bommai is complicit in the alleged corruption (sic)," Surjewala said on Twitter. "Dear Friends of the BJP,

At least show guts to speak for a fellow BJP worker! The wife of BJP Worker, Late Santosh Patil is crying and telling how she had to sell her jewellery to fulfil the insatiable lust of Corruption. Will Sh. J.P. Nadda speak up (sic)?" he asked.

Eshwarappa has turned down the demand of the opposition Congress seeking his resignation.

Chief Minister Bommai said the police will conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the contractor's death. He also ruled out any resignations in this regard.

Surjewala alleged that the "stench of corruption in 40% Commission

Bommai Government, Karnataka has reached its nadir". "Even BJP workers are not spared and are forced to commit suicide as the CM and PM refuse to act upon allegations of 40% Commission against BJP Minister, Eshwarappa," the Congress leader alleged.

Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar also alleged that "it's a murder, not suicide. If the BJP has any shame they will immediately arrest the minister." "I demand an immediate time-bound judicial inquiry into the alleged suicide" of Santosh Patil," Shivakumar said in a tweet. He said a businessman who had publicly

alleged that BJP leaders and ministers were asking for bribes has been suspiciously found dead.

"Corruption is at an all time high under the BJP rule," he alleged.

"The unease of doing business in Karnataka is such that private companies don't want to invest in the state. This is one of the reasons why we have high unemployment rate. Job creators are harassed by BJP's corruption demands," the state Congress chief said.

Meanwhile, a group of Congress workers protested outside the residence of Eshwarappa in Bengaluru, demanding his resignation.

BRIEF



A health worker administers a dose of COVID-19 vaccine to a beneficiary, during a special vaccination drive for senior citizens, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Warrant

New Delhi: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued an arrest warrant against Ashish Thackeray, the district magistrate of Keonjhar in Odisha. An official said the commission had asked Thackeray to appear before it on April 4 in connection with multiple complaints related to tribal affairs, but the officer played truant.

Mishap

Jaipur: Two women were killed and eight others were injured on Tuesday after their car overturned in Rajasthan's Barmer district, police said on Tuesday. The accident occurred in between the Mungeria and Tibaniyar village on Tuesday after a tyre of the SUV burst, they said. The deceased were identified as Geeta Kanwar and Nano Kanwar, police said.

Terrorist

New Delhi: Ali Kashif Jan, the Pakistani handler of the 2016 terror attack on Pathankot air base, has been designated as a terrorist by the government. Jan alias Jan Ali Kashif is the third terrorist to have been designated as a terrorist by the central government in last five days.

Explosion

Shivpur: A woman and her daughter were killed and eight others were injured in an explosion at an illegal firecracker manufacturing unit in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpur district on Tuesday, police said. The incident took place around noon at Badarwas town, 55 km from the district headquarters here. Firecrackers were being manufactured illegally on the ground floor of a two-storey building owned by Mohammed Hussain Ansari, said Badarwas police station in-charge Rakesh Sharma.

Weather	
High	39
Low	28
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,530.30
SENSEX	58,576.37
BULLION	
GOLD	52,981
SILVER	68,833

'Take precaution, pandemic is not over yet'

■ Mandaviya takes stock of 'XE variant'

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday played down apprehensions about XE variant of the coronavirus saying it is just another form of Omicron, and asked people to maintain precautions as the pandemic is not over yet.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters where he spoke



in detail about the central government's measures to deal with the pandemic since its outbreak in 2020, he also said that it is up to experts to decide as far as starting vaccination of children below 12 years are concerned.

He, though, noted that very few countries have gone for administering the jabs to children in this age group.

To a question about the government fixing the price of precaution dose at Rs 225, he said it is the maximum price, and this may still come down due to competition in future as more vaccine manufacturers enter the market.

The precaution dose is being provided free of cost for those above 60 years of age at government centres but others will have to get

them at private facilities.

While the COVID-19 situation is under control, the government is continuously monitoring it and advising states accordingly, Mandaviya said.

One has to take precaution as the pandemic is not over yet, he said. "We cannot predict tomorrow," he added. The XE variant is a combination or recombination of both sub-variants - BA.1 and BA.2 -- of Omicron.

Hailing India's fight against the pandemic, Mandaviya said over 97

per cent of the eligible population has been given the first dose of vaccine and 85 per cent both which, he added, played a key role in curbing the severity of the Omicron wave that hit many countries hard.

In a presentation, he highlighted that the total fatality rate (TFR) was much lower in India compared to many developed countries. India reported 380 deaths per million population compared to the global average of 788 deaths, he said.

BJP sweeps UP council polls but loses Varanasi

Lucknow, Apr 12 (PTI):

A month after its resounding victory in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the BJP has swept the biennial polls to the state's legislative council by winning 33 out of 36 constituencies.

According to the results declared on Tuesday, the BJP won 24 of the 27 the local authority seats, where polling was held last week. In addition, the BJP had won nine of the 36 seats unopposed.

The results take the BJP past the halfway-mark in the 100-member House. Now, it will have 67 members in the upper house of the state legislature.

But it suffered a setback in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, where it stood distant third. The



UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath receives a bouquet from UP Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, UP BJP President Swatantra Dev Singh and others, after BJPs victory in UP Legislative Council elections, in Lucknow, Tuesday.

Samajwadi Party, the main opposition in the state, drew a blank. Two independents and a candidate from the Jansatta Dal (Loktantrik) emerged victorious in the elections. In Varanasi, BJP's

Sudama Patel stood third with just 170 votes as Independent candidate Annapurna Singh secured a resounding victory with 4,234 votes. Samajwadi Party's Umesh Yadav got 345

votes, Varanasi District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma said.

Before the polls, the BJP had 34 members in the House.

"In the last elections held in 2016, the BJP had not won any of the seats, which went to polls this time," UP minister JPS Rathore told PTL.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath congratulated the winners and said the BJP's resounding victory in the council polls has again established that people of the state have faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The mood at the BJP office here was upbeat as jubilant party workers danced and distributed sweets to mark the party's victory.

Not much activity was seen at the Samajwadi Party office.

Bullet trains to be modified for temp, dust, weight

Surat, Apr 12 (PTI):

Japan's high speed Shinkansen trains will be modified for Indian conditions like temperature, dust and weight before they are sent to India for the country's ambitious 'bullet train project'.

Satish Agnihotri, Managing Director, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) said the project is slated to complete a 48 km section between Surat-Billimora in 2027, with the first trials to be held a year earlier. He, however, said

■ Trials to begin in 2026

the project is stuck in Maharashtra due to land acquisition issues.

We will get the E5 Shinkansen series trains currently operating in Japan. However, we are conducting studies to upgrade them to Indian conditions in terms of dust and temperature," Agnihotri said.

The E5 series are Japanese Shinkansen high-speed train types built by Hitachi and Kawasaki Heavy Industries. They are

capable of running at a speed of 320 kmph and are 3.35 m wide, the widest among such trains are available in countries like France and Germany.

Sources said another aspect that the Japanese are working on is to ensure that the trains are able to carry the Indian weight as the Japanese are lighter.

They indicated that Japan will initially send six trains which are modified according to Indian specifications, and also bring in coaches in knockdown condition to be assembled here in the country.

SECURITY BREACH

Explosion near Nitish's speech venue, none injured

Bihar Sharif, Apr 12 (PTI):

A loud explosion took place on Tuesday merely a few metres away from where Bihar Chief Minister was addressing a gathering in his home district of Nalanda.

No casualties were reported so far, as police suspected it was a firecracker.

Nalanda Superintendent of Police Ashok Mishra said that



the incident took place in a high school in Silao, around 20 km from the district headquarters here.

The suspected carrier of the explosive, identified as Shubham Kumar, was arrested from the spot. "Prima facie, it seems to be a firecracker but further details regarding the exact nature of the explosive and the motive of the suspected carrier are being investigated," he said.

Over 52 % voting ; minor incidents of violence in Asansol

Kolkata, Apr 12 (PTI):

Barring minor incidents of violence, the polling for West Bengal's Asansol Lok Sabha constituency and Ballygunge Assembly seat, where by-elections are being held on Tuesday, has been peaceful, with over 52 per cent of eligible voters casting their votes till 5 pm.

The Asansol Lok Sabha seat saw 64.03 per cent polling, while the prestigious Ballygunge Assembly constituency in south Kolkata, witnessed a lower

41.10 per cent voter turnout till 5 pm, an official said.

On Tuesday morning, stones were hurled at the vehicle of BJP's candidate for Asansol, Agnimitra Paul, leading to tension in a few localities of the industrial town. Stones were thrown when the candidate's personal security personnel baton-charged a group of TMC supporters who gheraoed Paul's vehicle alleging that she tried to enter a polling booth along with her security guards.

Television grabs also seemed to show that her

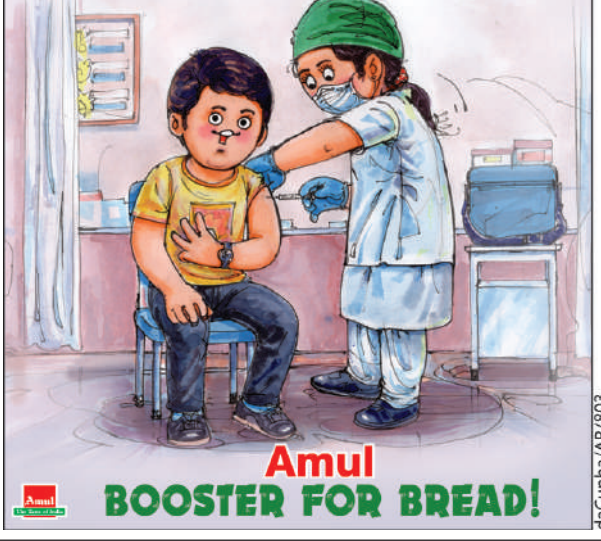
guards had tried to enter the booth. "My polling agent was not allowed to enter a booth in Barabani. My vehicle was also attacked, and the police were mute spectators. Does TMC think they can ensure Shatrughan Sinha's victory by plotting to kill me? The BJP will again win in Asansol," Paul said.

As her security personnel tried to escort her out of the spot, TMC activists shouted slogans against the BJP, following which a melee between the security forces and the activists was

reported. The TMC alleged that Paul and her security personnel tried to create disturbance in the area.

"How can a candidate move with a convoy of 20 cars? She and her security personnel were trying to create tension in the area," TMC leader V Sivadasan said. The TMC has fielded veteran actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha from Asansol, which has a substantial Hindi-speaking population. The BJP has nominated Paul, who is the MLA from Asansol Dakshin.

VAXIMUM IMMUNITY!



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Khairagarh assembly bypoll

77.88% voter turnout

Rajnandgaon, Apr 12 (PTI):

A provisional voter turnout of 77.88 per cent was recorded on Tuesday for the bypoll to the Khairagarh Assembly constituency in Chhattisgarh, which passed off peacefully amid tight security in the segment which falls under the Naxal-affected Rajnandgaon district, a poll official said.

A total of ten candidates were in the fray but the main contest lies between the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP.

The counting of votes will be taken up on April 16.

The bypoll to the Khairagarh constituency became necessary after Janata Congress

Chhattisgarh (J) MLA and former MP Devvrat Singh died last November.

Voting began at 7 AM amid tight security. After the deadline for voting ended at 5 pm, 77.88 per cent voter turnout was recorded. But this figure is provisional, the official said, adding that no untoward incident was reported during polling which was by and large peaceful. In the 2018 assembly elections, Khairagarh had recorded a voter turnout of 84.59 per cent.

As many as 2,11,516 voters- 1,06,266 males and 1,05,250 females - can exercise their franchise, for which 291 polling stations have been set up. Of these, 53 have been recognised as hypersensitive polling booths and 11 as sensitive, he said.

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Fire mishap victims being rehabilitated at the same spot



BMC Mayor and Commissioner lead the relief operations
Bamboo sticks and tin sheds provided to reconstruct shanties

Bhilai, Apr 12: Under the leadership of Mayor Neeraj Pal and BMC Commissioner Prakash Surve, the relief and rehabilitation works are being conducted on a large scale for the fire-mishap victims of Surya Nagar, Chhawani. The victims are being rehabilitated at the same spot in shanties only. On the instructions of Mayor Neeraj Pal and Commissioner Prakash Surve, arrangements for daily needs items like com-

plete set of clothes, set of utensils, etc are being made for the families.

Mayor and Commissioner are camping at the spot to supervise the relief operations. BMC administration has made arrangements of bamboo sticks and tin sheds to reconstruct the shanties. The consignment of 2000 tin sheds reached the spot on Monday late evening. After the fire, the most important task was to construct shelters for the affected families. Mayor Neeraj Pal discussed the issue with the victims and as per their demands, necessary items were provided to them for reconstructing the shelter. Bamboo sticks were installed to prepare the structure of

Former VS Speaker meets victims

Former Vidhan Sabha Speaker Prem Prakash Pandey met the victims of fire mishap and interacted with them on Monday. He inquired about the expectations of the victims and gave instructions to the administrative officials for making the arrangements accordingly. He asked them to help the victims as per the provisions mentioned in the Revenue Book 6/4. He further demanded from the state government to provide Rs 2 lakh compensation to every affected family from the Chief Minister Relief Fund. Corporator Piyush Mishra, Vinod Chelak, Laxmi Sahu, Priyanka Bhola Sahu, Laxmi Diwakar, Maoj Yadav, Rinku Sahu, Ashish Agrawal, Channa Rao and others were present.



Rupali Mahtari Sanstha extends helping hand

Members of Rupali Mahtari Gudi Bahuudeshiya Sanstha extended helping hand to the fire victims and distributed rice, soaps, detergent powder, sarees, clothes, footwear, utensils and other daily use items. 200 sarees were provided by Village Urla residents while Sanstha had arranged 300 sarees for distribution. Village Umarpoti Sarpanch Tikendra Thakur, Patron



Pankaj Markandey, Sohan Lal Sahu (Ex-army) of Urla, Govind Sharma of Shani Mandir Sector 6, Sangeeta

Das and Sanstha President Shanta Sharma made significant contributions in this relief work.

hutmets. Tin sheds were distributed among the families on Tuesday in presence of Mayor Neeraj Pal so that the affected families can build their own shelter. About 95% of the structure has been erected in Surya Nagar

with the help of Bamboo and wooden logs. Preparations are being made to provide mattress, pillow, bed sheet, fan, gas stove, utensils, complete set of clothes for women and men and other daily use items to the affected

families. The entire kit of relief material is being prepared. Mayor Neeraj Pal and Commissioner Prakash Surve are regularly reviewing the arrangements. Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi MIC member

Vinod Nair and Saroj Bala selected referees in Khelo India tournament

Bhilai, Apr 12:



Vinod Nair, a talented player working in the Enforcement section of Town Services Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and Saroj Bala, an energetic player working in the Finance and Accounts Department of BSP have brought laurels to the Bhilai with their sports talent. Vinod Nair and Saroj Bala of BSP have been selected as referees in the Volleyball competition organized by Sports Authority of India Limited, Government of India under the Khelo India program under the prestigious University Games-2021 organized at Jain University, Bengaluru in the month of April. This tournament is being held in Bengaluru from April 23 to April 26, 2022. Nair has been NIS Volleyball Coach and has made Bhilai proud by contributing as referee in International and National Championships. It may be noted that Vinod Nair was awarded the Veer Hanuman Singh Award in the year 2014 for the best contribution made by him as International Referee of Volleyball match by the Government of Chhattisgarh. In addition, Nair participated as an official in the Asian Qualification Tournament for the World Women's Championship in China in the year 2014. He also participated in the 17th Asian Senior Women Volleyball

Championship in Thailand; Served as Technical Official in the 5th FIVB Men's Under-21 World Volleyball Championship in Pune (Maharashtra); Contributed as referee in 6th Asian Youth Girls Volleyball Championship in Thailand; Indo-Pak Men's Volleyball Test Series in Visakhapatnam and 2nd Commonwealth Volleyball Championship (Men) in Kolkata. In this sequence, he served as a technical official in the 13th World Men's Under-21 Volleyball Championship in Visakhapatnam. It is worth mentioning that Vinod Nair has served as International Referee as well as Technical Official in more than 20 different National Volleyball Championships and as Coach in more than fifteen tournaments in his playing career.

Saroj Bala has the distinction of being the first female volleyball national referee of Chhattisgarh and has also made Bhilai proud by contributing as a referee in many national competitions. The sports fraternity of Bhilai has congratulated both these personnel for their remarkable achievement.

Police nabs branch head of Mahadev Book cricket betting racket

Betting records worth lakhs, luxury car, passbook of various banks, ATM card and 20 nos sim cards seized

Bhilai, Apr 12: In a major action against online cricket betting, Durg Police have succeeded in arresting the Branch Head of the Mahadev Book online cricket betting racket. The accused had recently returned from Dubai and was operating the racket in Bhilai. He was trapped red-handed while accepting online bets while sitting in his car near Amrapali Vananchal City.



It needs to be mentioned here that on the instructions of SSP, Durg and guidance of ASP (city) and CSP (Chhawani), special operations are being conducted against the illegal activities of betting and gambling. During the IPL season, police are paying special attention towards online cricket betting. In this sequel, a joint team of Jamul Police Station and Cyber Cell managed to trap the Branch Head of Mahadev Book. The ac-

cusced is Chetan Joshi (23) son of Ramesh Chand Joshi a resident of Amrapali Vananchal City. His elder brother Bhupesh Joshi is still staying in Dubai for operating the online cricket betting racket. During interrogation, the accused Chetan Joshi informed that he along with his brother Bhupesh Joshi and Raj Gupta had

gone to Dubai three months ago and got involved in generating and providing ID of online cricket betting through Mahadev Book. The accused used to get a hefty amount from the owners of Mahadev Book for this work. A few weeks ago, the accused Chetan returned back to India and was conducting the online betting works from Bhilai. The ac-

cusced had acquired 20 nos SIM cards from a person named Ajay for the transaction of money of online betting. The accused used these SIM cards for opening the bank accounts for doing the betting transactions. The accused was sitting in his car and was accepting bets on a cricket match when the police team arrested him.

Police have seized a Hyundai Alcazar (CG07-CF-7777), Rs 2000 cash, i-phone, bank pass books, ATM cards, and 20 nos sim cards from his possession. He has been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 4(a) of Gambling Act. Police are further investigating the matter and separate legal action will be taken accordingly.

Fuel station sealed for illegal trade of biodiesel

Bhilai, Apr 12: On Tuesday, a joint team of the Food Department and officials of public sector fuel companies conducted surprise inspections of various fuel stations in the district. They found that a fuel station had illegally stored and was selling the biodiesel. The fuel station has been sealed by the joint team and further legal action is being taken.

As per the instructions of Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, a joint inspection team is taking action for the prevention of illegal storage and sale of biodiesel. In this sequence, the officers of District Food Office, HPCL, BPCL and IOCL conducted surprise checks at fuel stations. They had received a tip off regarding illegal storage and trade of biodiesel from Shivay Fuels, situated in Janjiri.

The team conducted an inspection at this firm and found that biodiesel was illegally stored in two underground tanks. The firm was illegally selling the biodiesel. The team sealed the fuel station and action is being taken against the firm for violation of Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel Oil Order.

Encroachments to be removed from Khamharia sports ground

Bhilai, Apr 12: A delegation of the Sports and Culture Association met the District Collector during Jandarshan on Tuesday and made a complaint regarding illegal encroachment in the sports ground located in village Khamharia.

They appraised the Collector that in the year 2016, the village panchayat passed a resolution and had sent a proposal to the district administration and state government for construction of a sports facility of international level on 24 acres of land in the village. At present, some anti-social elements are encroaching this land and are illegally constructing houses and shanties.

Some people are using this land for parking the Tractors, harvesters and other equipment. About 2 acres of ground has been already encroached and fenced by the anti-social elements. This illegal activity is hampering the development work related to sports. As a result, the players who practice here are also feeling uncomfortable. Due to the lack of a boundary wall, anti-social elements often gather here. Women players feel troubled due to such people. The associ-



ation appealed to the Collector for getting the proposed land secured. This will help in future planning and development of this sports facility. Separate sections can be established in the ground like athlete track, volleyball, badminton, hockey, cricket and kabaddi etc. Taking cognizance of the matter, the Collector immediately verified the complaint and took stock of the situation. He has forwarded the application to the concerned officer of the Revenue Department for legal action.

Apart from this, an applicant sought construction of a separate structure for canal and drain in Urla diversion. The applicant stated that the water of the drains also flows in the same canal and its water is

used for irrigation. The applicant requested the Collector to start the work at the earliest. Collector forwarded the application to the concerned officer for speedy action.

Presently the admission process is going on in the schools. Jandarshan is also receiving applications regarding admission and fee waiver in schools. The Collector conducted special discussion with the District Education Officer in this regard and asked him to follow the guidelines of the government on matters related to monitoring of schools and admission and fees, and create such a transparent system so that all sections can get equal opportunities.

On Tuesday, 22 applications were received in Jandarshan.

BSP signs MoU with BECIL for installing CCTV surveillance system



Bhilai, Apr 12:

Bhilai Steel Plant recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd (BECIL) regarding the installation of a Perimeter CCTV Surveillance System at Bhilai Steel Plant. The tender for the turnkey project has been awarded to BECIL for the value of 19.89 crores. Asit Saha, CGM (Instrumentation and Automation) and PH Sharma, GM I/c, Project Commercial, signed an MOU with Vishal Singh Rotele, Assistant Manager

(IT, BECIL). The contract includes security and surveillance of the perimeter of SAIL Bhilai Steel Plant with over 570 high featured cameras, wagon monitoring system and monitoring station with ANPR and command and control room for the entire SAIL- BSP perimeter of over 30 km.

This project will increase the security and surveillance of the Bhilai Steel Plant manifold and will set a roadmap for the new age equipment for monitoring and vigilance for steel plants. The project essentially embodies the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India.

Gram Panchayat Jevara and Block Panchayat Patan selected for national award

Bhilai, Apr 12: Gram Panchayat Jevara of Durg District Panchayat has been selected for the Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award (GPDPA) - 2022 (Appraisal Year 2020-21) while Block Panchayat Patan has been selected for the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUP-SP) - 2022 (Appraisal Year 2020-21). These awards will be given away on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) on April 24 by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India. This year the National Function of NPRD 2022 is proposed to be organised in Pali Gram Panchayat of Samba District of Jammu and Kashmir. The PM will grace this event as chief guest. Arrangements will be made at all the gram panchayats for watching the web-cast of this programme. Guardian Ministers of the Districts, MPs, MLAs, Senior Administrative officers and eminent personalities will attend the programmes at Gram Panchayats and will confer the awards to the awardees. Cultural programmes, debates, presentations, etc will be organised at the Gram Panchayats keeping localisation of sustainable development goals in focus.

SAIL Khel Mela inaugurated at Narayanpur

1500 tribal students from 25 schools in Rowghat area participating in sports events



Bhilai, Apr 12:

The 15th edition of SAIL Khel Mela organised by Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur and Bhilai Steel Plant was inaugurated on April 11, 2022 with chief guest KK Singh, ED (P&A) lighting the ceremonial lamp. As many as 1500 tribal students including 300 girl students from 25 schools in Antagarh, Orchha and Narayanpur blocks surrounding Rowghat area would be participating in various sports events like Football,



Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Badminton, Athletics, Archery etc in the SAIL Khel Mela being organised from 11th to 16th April 2022. The SAIL Khel Mela could not be organised in

the last two years owing to COVID.

The inaugural ceremony was presided by Swami Vyaptanandji Maharaj, Secretary Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur. Samir Swaroop, CGM Mines-Rowghat, BSP, Devnath Usendi, President, District Congress, Narayanpur; H Shekhar, GM (Personnel) BSP, Sairam Jakhad, DGM, Sports, Culture & Civic Amenities Department, Mohanlal, Addl Secretary, Chhattisgarh Football Association, Jawahar Das, International Football Coach, Swami Anubhavanand, Joint Secretary, Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur, Swami Vasudanand, S w a m i Krishnamritanand, Swami Tapasanand, Swami Pranatpaland were present. Teachers and other staff members of Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur were also present. Students from different schools participated in march-past.

'Stress management' workshop held for BSP's Projects Department



Bhilai, Apr 12: A workshop on 'Stress management' was held for SAIL-BSP's Projects department recently. A K Bhatta, ED (Projects) in his address stated that as desired by Chairman SAIL, a better, safe and healthy work culture must be cultivated through 'Stress management' programmes. He urged that all the employees of the Projects Department should be covered under this programme.

Ashok Kumar, CGM (Projects) was the Special Guest on the occasion. Unmesh Bharadwaj, Jitendra Yadav Sapkale and other General

Managers of Projects department were present on the occasion.

The programme was organised under the guidance of B K Dey, CGM (Projects). Satish Padegaonkar, ex GM, BSP was the main Speaker during the programme. He gave tips and demonstrated exercises to deal with disorders of mind, body, soul, feelings, emotions, memory etc.

The participants of the programme found the workshop to be useful in their day-to-day lives. The programme was completed by Ashok Jaswani, AGM (Projects - Safety, HRD & Rajbhasha).

People have ensured that 71st MLA of Cong will be from Kh'garh: Markam

Cong candidate to register win with thumping majority

Expresses gratitude towards voters of Kh'garh for huge polling percentage

Central Chronicle News



by-poll have indirectly granted acceptance to massive development works carried out by CM Bhupesh Baghel and the promise to make Khairagarh-Chuikhanda-Gandai as a new district. The historic polling for Khairagarh by-poll has made it clear that the people of Khairagarh VS have juxtaposed confidence towards Congress government and on the 29th point in the party's election manifesto for Khairagarh by-poll. Markam claimed that

People of Khairagarh have showed faith on BJP: Sai

Raipur: Chhattisgarh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Vishnu Deo Sai on Tuesday claimed that they have received blessings from people and would get positive result in Khairagarh Legislative Assembly by-elections.

In a statement issued here, the senior BJP leader extend-

ed gratitude towards people of Khairagarh for showing faith on the party during the by-elections. He added that people in large number have exercised their franchise to strengthen the democracy. He claimed that the result would be in favour of BJP on April 16 as it would bring about positive result.

party's official candidate Yashoda Verma will register victory with historic votes and BJP will face huge defeat and it will bring an end to politics of lie and hollow promises of BJP to an end.

PCC Chief Mohan Markam charged that both BJP and RSS have been creating false rumour and

charges against Congress government and tried to create conspiracy and in this even the BJP leaders from outside the state were speaking lies in Khairagarh. Like every time, BJP was playing politics of rivalry and framing charges against others. He charged that BJP has failed to present its vision before

the people of Khairagarh. Set aside this PCC Chief said that prior to Khairagarh By-poll, in the by-polls held in three VS of the state and in Nagar Palika and Nagar Nigam BJP has made false promises in its manifesto and playing politics likewise and its befitting reply was given by the people of Chitrakot, Datewada and Marwahi and in all urban bodies poll.

PCC Chief Mohan Markam said that Congress fulfills the promises it makes and on April 16 on declaration of Khairagarh by-poll result the Congress candidate Yashoda Verma will win with thumping majority and on April 17, new district of Khairagarh-Chuikhanda and Gandai will come into existence and other demands in the party's election manifesto will be completed in due course of time.

Fate of all 10 candidates sealed in EVMs

Results on April 16 for Khairagarh by-poll



Khairagarh, Apr 12: There was great deal of enthusiasm among the voters of Khairagarh VS area to elect their new MLA and that too amidst 40 Deg. Celsius temperature for Khairagarh by-poll here on Tuesday. It was right from Salhevara forest area to Gandai, Chuikhanda and Khairagarh field areas there was huge enthusiasm among the voters. Though in comparison to 2018 general election, this year despite huge polling percentage, there was 4% less of voting. But surpassing all this, voters in large number came out and voted in favour of their respective party candidates. With this the fate of all 10 candidates in fray for Khairagarh by-poll has been sealed into EVMs and its results will be declared on April 16.

There was huge enthusiasm among both male and female voters for

Khairagarh by-poll along with youths as well. Apart from this senior citizen voters and differently able and even those suffering completed their voting rights by exercising their franchise. The polling for Khairagarh by-poll concluded without any untoward incident, as huge security was deployed in all the sensitive and hyper-sensitive polling booths.

Long queue for polling right since morning

With start of polling at 7:00 am in the polling stations, there was long queue of villagers seen in Khairagarh and Chuikhanda block. In Dilippur there was 12.71% polling till 8:00 am; 16.13% i

Kachari by 8:30 am; 19% polling in Katlawadi by 9:00 am; 28.34% polling in Tekapur by 10:00 am; 21.08% polling in Bhulatola till 10:30 am; 34.31% polling in Bajguda till 10:40 am; 26% polling in Dokrabhat till 11:00 am; 42.04% polling in Khongha till 11:05 am; 29.35% and 46.91% polling in two booths of Padnavatipur till 11:10 am; 64% polling in Khapari Darbar till 11:15 am; 58.28% and 94.8% polling in two booths of Udaipur; 97% polling in Sitadabari till 1:00 pm; 35.37% polling in Kulikasa till 1:30 pm and this continue to increase in all other polling centres by end of the polling time reaching around 77.88% tentative polling at the end of the day.

Income-expenditure of last quarter of Panchayats to be reviewed

Verification of landless families to be done through Gram Sabha

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Collector Sourabh Kumar has given directions to all the Sub-Divisional Officers (Revenue) and Chief Executive Officer regarding organizing the meeting of Gram Sabha from April 14, 2022.

In section 6 of the Chhattisgarh Panchayat Raj Act 1993, there is a provision to organize at least one conference of the Gram Sabha in every three months. According to this, Gram Sabha is to be organized in every village every

year in the month of June and November, on convenient dates, in addition to the scheduled dates 23 January, 14 April, 20 August and 2 October.

He said that review of last quarter's income-expenditure of Panchayats should be done in Gram Sabha and discussions should be held on reading of the names of works approved from various schemes in the last six months, amount received, sanctioned amount, expenditure amount and updated status of work. Strategy for gram panchayat development project for next financial year 2022-23 should be discussed.

There should not be any complaint regarding problem of drinking water: Collector

Instructs officials to sort out pending cases within time frame

TL Meeting

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: District Collector Sourabh Kumar has directed the officers to resolve the pending cases of their respective departments at the earliest. In the near future the Chief Minister will visit the district intensively and the implementation of government schemes will be reviewed after receipt of feedback at the field level, he said while chairing the



time limit meeting organised at Red Cross Meeting Hall in the Collectorate here today. He asked the departmental officers to update and send information about the progress of various government schemes till April 13.

The collector took information from the District Education Officer about the process of admission in Swami Atmanand English Medium School. He inquired from the

Additional Collector about the progress of compensation amount to be given to the heirs of the those died of COVID. Taking information about the problem of heat and water, the collector directed the officials that complaints should not come regarding the problem of water.

The Collector discussed over present status of applications under revenue cases to be resolved under

time limit. Such cases include disputed and undisputed mutation, division, diversion and delimitation, progress in redressal of applications pertaining to land ownership right on slum pattas, applications pertaining to land ownership right on nazool, agriculture land and abadi land and redressal of applications pertaining to allotment/rehabilitation.

The Collector directed to prominently resolve the applications of Chief Minister Jan Chaupal and Public Service Guarantee. Additional Collector Gopal Verma, BC Sahu, all sub-divisional magistrates, revenue and departmental officers were present.

IAS Champawat relieved for central deputation

Posted as Director in Niti Aayog in New Delhi

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Senior Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer Avinash Champawat was on Tuesday relieved for central deputation.

According to the information received, the General Administration Department of Chhattisgarh Government has issued orders in this re-

gard. The 2003 batch IAS officer Champawat was holding the post of Secretary Parliamentary Affairs apart from the post of Commissioner Panchayat.

Recently, he was posted as Director at Niti Aayog in New Delhi under central deputation.

After being relieved by Chhattisgarh government, the senior bureaucrat Champawat would assume office of Director in Niti Aayog New Delhi soon.

Apart from him, nearly half a dozen IAS officers from Chhattisgarh Cadre are presently on central deputation.

Precaution dose now in private Covid vaccination center

Raipur, Apr 12: People in the age group of 18 to 59 are being given precaution doses from April 10 at private Covid-19 vaccination centers in the state. The health department gave training to the paramedical staff of private immunization centers regarding vaccination through webinars. State Nodal Covid Vaccination Officer, Dr. Priyanka Shukla also participated in this program. The doctors and paramedical staff of private hospitals of all the districts participated in the training. In the training, along with vaccination, information was also given about the Covid guidelines. In the webinar, Dr. Priyanka Shukla told that under the Covid-19 vaccination program in the state of Chhattisgarh, 99 percent of the beneficiaries of above 15 years of age have been given the first dose and 83 percent of the ben-

eficiaries have been given the second dose. According to the decision of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, the precaution dose of Covid-19 vaccination has been started in private Covid-19 vaccination centers from April 10, 2022 for the beneficiaries in the age group of 18 to 59 years. Beneficiaries who have completed 9 months or 39 weeks or 273 days after the second dose will be eligible to receive the precaution dose. He informed that at present services of Covid 19 Precaution Dose are being provided by two private health institutions of the state. Dr Shukla informed that the same vaccine will be used for the precaution dosage which was used for the first and second doses of vaccination. In addition to the base price of the vaccine, private COVID-19 immunizations can charge a maximum price of Rs

150 per dose as a service charge. In private Covid-19 vaccination centers, the maximum amount has been fixed at 386.25 (GST and service charges) per dose fee for the beneficiaries which is mandatory to display in the Covin portal during the Covid 19 vaccination session. Private COVID-19 vaccination centers are required to follow the COVID-19 vaccination guide issued by the Government of India. It is mandatory to be vaccinated through the COVIN portal. Eligible beneficiaries can take online and walk in appointment for vaccination.

Following all the instructions, precaution dose will be done free of cost in private Covid-19 vaccination centers and health workers, first line workers and beneficiaries above 60 years of age in government Covid 19 vaccination centers as before.

Dr KK Sahu presents research paper in National Conference of Heart Surgery

Represents Ch'garh Gets appreciation from eminent heart surgeons across the country

Raipur, Apr 12: Dr Krishna Kant Sahu, Head of the Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, Medical College, Raipur, represented Chhattisgarh in the National Conference held in Jaipur and read his research article. This conference (IACTS CON 2022) is organized annually by the Indian Association of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons.

Eminent heart surgeons from across the country



and abroad participated in this conference. About 3000 heart surgeons participated in this conference.

Dr KK Sahu was invited as faculty in this conference. Dr Sahu presented case report on new technique of operation, which was highly appreciated by the heart surgeons of the country and abroad. Dr Sahu also presented a research article explaining the new technique of operation of leg veins.

PNB celebrates 128th Foundation Day

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Various programs were organised by Punjab National Bank, Zonal and Divisional Office, Raipur on the auspicious occasion of 128th Foundation Day of the bank on April 12, 2022 in which Zonal Manager, Mr. V. Srinivas, Deputy Zonal Manager, Mr. T. Badpanda, PNB Divisional Head, Raipur Mr. Manoj Kumar Rai inaugurated the foundation day program by garlanding the statue of Lala Lajpat Rai, Punjab Kesari, the founder of the bank. On this occasion, cultural programs were organized in the Zonal and Divisional Office, Raipur. On the auspicious occasion of Foundation Day, under CSR activities, water cooler was donated



to Government Primary School, Jora, Raipur. In addition to this Mudra loan, PM Svanidhi loan and education loan were distributed to the beneficiaries. Zonal Manager V.Srinivas congratulated all the staff members on the foundation day and said that 128th foundation day of PNB is an important occa-

sion for us in keeping with the legacy of PNB. Punjab National Bank, the second largest public sector bank, is committed to cater to all types of needs of the customers. He urged more and more people to connect with Punjab National Bank and make maximum use of various digital products.

Creativity of youth leads us towards positivity: CM

Raipur, Apr 12: The youth of Chhattisgarh were filled with joy and enthusiasm when they got an opportunity to meet and interact directly with the Chief Minister of the state. On the occasion youths, showing their creativity, presented their paintings to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Prizes were distributed to the participants of competitions based on the theme of Chhattisgarh Model. The slogans made by them were also narrated by the young participants to the Chief Minister here which was freely appreciated by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.



Addressing the youth, Chief Minister Baghel said that youth can give creative form to your imagination. Your creativity leads us to

positivity. Positive actions happen slowly, but their effect is lasting. In this program organized by the Public Relations Department at the Chief Minister's residence, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel met the youth intimately and rewarded them. It is noteworthy that on the occasion of completion of three years of Chhattisgarh government, photography, slogan writing, slogan and Instagram reel competition was organized from December 2 to December

12, 2021. Subjects like tourism, nature, architecture, infrastructure, public facilities, people of Chhattisgarh, cleanliness, education, festivals and traditions were included in this competition. In the program, best three participants in photography competition were rewarded with Rs.11-11 thousand, best 20 contestants were awarded Rs.2100-2100 and best 10 participants in competition were rewarded with Rs.5-5 thousand and certificates. On this occasion, Public Relations Commissioner Mr. Dipanshu Kabra, Public Relations Director Mr. Saumil Ranjan Choubey, Additional Directors Mr. Umesh Mishra and Mr. Sanjesh Tiwari and senior officers were present.

Mantralaya employees suspend leave en-masse decision

Association holds talks with senior officers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Chhattisgarh Mantralaya Karmachari Sangh (CMKS) on Tuesday suspended their proposed agitation to go en-masse leave on April 13 in support to their three-point demand including hike in Dearness Allowance to them on line with recent hike announced by Government of India.

Employees have been informed about the decision. A notice pasted in Mantralaya said that they have taken the above decision following positive meeting with the Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain and General Administration Department (GAD) Secretary in support to their demand.

Employees claimed that they have been given assurance to consider demand by the state government soon. It is notable that the employees have been holding a series of agitation in support to their various demands.

Employment Notification No.05/2022 Dated: 08.04.2022

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Khanij Bhawan, 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 028
CIN : L13100TG1955G01001674

WALK-IN - INTERVIEW FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

NMDC Limited, a Navaratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Steel requires Medical Professionals who can join at a short notice for its Project Hospitals in Chhattisgarh/Madhya Pradesh. Those who possess MBBS with Post Graduate Degree/ Diploma in General Medicine/Orthopedics/ENT/Radiology with required experience as indicated below may Walk-in for an Interview.

Sl. No	Discipline	Post & Grade	Min. Exp (Years)	Pay Scale (Rs.)	No. of Posts
1.	General Medicine	Medical Officer, (M-04)	4	70000-200000	3
2.	Orthopedics	Medical Officer, (M-04)	4	70000-200000	1
3.	ENT	Medical Officer, (M-04)	4	70000-200000	1
4.	Radiologist	JL.CMO, (M-07)	12	100000-260000	1

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Sl. No	Place	Venue	Date of Walk-in-Interview
1	Raipur (Chhattisgarh)	Hotel Babylon Inn, Jail Road Near Gobind Singh Square, Devendra Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492001	30.04.2022 (Saturday)
2	Bhubaneswar (Odisha)	Hotel Sandy's Tower, Plot No. P-1 & P-1/A, Jaydev Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751013	02.05.2022 (Monday)
3	Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	Hotel Green Park, Waltair Main Rd, Jagadamba Centre, Nehru Nagar, Ram Nagar, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh 530002	04.05.2022 (Wednesday)

Registration for the interview will close at 11.00 AM on the same day.
For details regarding age, qualification minimum years of experience, payscale, CTC payable etc., interested candidates may visit 'Careers' page of NMDC website: www.nmdc.co.in or see the Employment News/ Rozgar Samachar dated 23.04.2022.
CGM (Personnel)

Ch'garh and Vidarbha have a very old relationship : Baghel

CM attended the foundation day celebrations of Maratha Seva Sangh, emphasized on the deep connections between Vidarbha and Ch'garh

Beautification of the mausoleum of former Maratha ruler of Chhattisgarh Shri Bimbhaji Rao Bhosale located in Narra village of Mahasamund district

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Addressing the foundation day celebrations of Maratha Seva Sangh organized in the capital Raipur today, Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel said that Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha have a very old and rooted relationship. Geographically, politically as well as at the social level. The people of Chhattisgarh have a bread-daughter relationship with Maharashtra. He further assured that



this relationship will get even stronger in the future.

Chief Minister Mr. Baghel announced the beautification of the 'Samadhi Sthal' of former Maratha ruler of Chhattisgarh Shri Bimbhaji Rao Bhosale situated in Narra village of Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh. He said that this monument is in a dilapidated condition. Its beautification will be done according to the reputation of the great ruler. On the demand of providing land for the social building of Maratha Sangh, the Chief Minister said that like other Communities, Maratha Sevak Sangh would also be provided land at 10 percent price of collector guideline rate.

National President of Maratha Seva Sangh Shri Kamaji Pawar, Founder

President Shri Purushottam Khedekar, State President Shri Ravindra Dani, Former MLA Smt. Rekha Tai, Relatives of former Maratha ruler Shri Bimbaji Bhosale Shri Madhoji Bhosale and various office bearers and members of the association including Mrs. Mangala Dani were present on the occasion. The Chief Minister inaugurated the program by garlanding the portrait of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the great social reformer Jyotiba Phule. He released the quarterly magazine of Maratha Seva Sangh on this occasion and also honored the talents of the society for excellent work.

Referring to the relations between Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha, Chief Minister

Mr. Bhupesh Baghel said that after independence, the area of Chhattisgarh Zone was also included in CP and Berar, whose capital was Nagpur. People of the Maratha community reside in large numbers in many cities of Chhattisgarh. The Dudhadhari Math of Raipur was renovated by the Maratha ruler, similarly the Bhosale kings started the public Dussehra festival at the 400-year-old Ravana Bhata Maidan in Raipur.

Referring to the historical background of Maharashtra, the Chief Minister said that many great battles were fought in Maharashtra; there is a mention of numerous brave Maratha warriors and powerful rulers. There was also a big movement in Maharashtra in the field of social reform. Savitribai Phule was the first teacher and Jyotiba Phule contributed extensively in the country's social reformation. He further said that the great men and saints of Maharashtra had worked for the progress of the society and for connecting the society. The message given by our saints and great men needs to be taken to the entire country. He had done the work of uniting the country, so Let us unite everyone and de-

feat the breaking forces. Mr. Minister Shri Baghel said that society and politics are not separate. Politics is also a big social platform. People of all political parties live in all societies, problems related to our social life should also be considered at political level and efforts should be made towards their solution. The Chief Minister mentioned the ever-increasing inflation in this regard. Mr. Baghel said that while emphasizing on the need to save PSUs from going into private hands, he said that when PSUs are not left then it will be very difficult for people to get reservation. Giving the example of Bhilai Steel Plant, Mr. Baghel said that after the commissioning of this plant, people from all over the country came and worked there. This led to an up-gradation in their socio-economic status. Public undertakings are not only a means of earning profit, but the social concern of raising the standard of living of the people is also associated with them. The program was also addressed by the National President of Maratha Seva Sangh Mr. Kamaji Pawar, Founder President Mr. Purushottam Khedekar, State President Mr. Ravindra Dani and Mr. Madhoji Bhosale.

HUGE RUSH



Huge rush of rural women at Lodhi patti polling centre for the Khairagrh by-poll. (Inset) A senior citizen with assistance being brought to the polling booth

NSS students of Govt Polytechnic extend helping hand



Khairagrh, Apr 12:

Unde SVEEP India programme, NSS students from Government Polytechnic

College, Khairagrh helped many senior citizens above 80 yrs and differently able persons reach polling booth for the Khairagrh by-poll in

different centres here on Tuesday.

It is worthwhile to mention here that these students were active right since 7:00 am to 5:00 pm and helped more than 50 helpless voters reach up to the polling booth. The SVEEP Ambassador Polytechnic College Sanjay Kumar and Vanshika Yadav along with 13 other students took active part in this drive. SVEEP Nodal officer SK Soni and female NSS programme officer Anshu Preeti Kujur and Principal Mrs. Varsha Chourasia gave proper guidance to the students for the same.

Tentative date of entrance examinations conducted by Vyapam announced

Local domiciles of Ch'garh exempted from paying examination fee

Implementation started on the announcement made by CM in this budget session

Raipur, Apr 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel made a big announcement for the youth of Chhattisgarh state while presenting the state budget for this financial year 2022-23. As per the

announcement local domiciles of Chhattisgarh have been exempted from paying examination fees for the entrance and recruitment examinations conducted by Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board (CG-VYAPAM) and the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission (CG-PSC). The implementation of the said announcement of the Chief Minister has also been started in the state. Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board has recently released the tentative dates for examinations to be conducted for admission to various technical courses at the undergraduate level. According

to the notification released, no fee will be charged from the resident of Chhattisgarh for these examinations.

According to the date released by Vyapam, Pre-Engineering Test (PET) and Pre Pharmacy Test (PPHT) is proposed to be conducted on May 22. This exam will be conducted in all 28 districts of the state. PET is for admission in BE, B.Tech (Engineering), B.Tech (Dairy Technology), Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya Durg, B.Tech (Agriculture Engineering), B.Tech (Food Technology) and Diploma in Dairy Technology. Similarly, Pre MCA and Pre Polytechnic Test

(PPT) are proposed to be held on May 29. Similarly, the Pre Agriculture Test (PAT) and Pre Veterinary and Polytechnic Test (PVPT) for admission to B.Sc (Agriculture), B.Sc. (Horticulture), Diploma in Animal Husbandry and Diploma in Fisheries Science is proposed to be conducted on June 5. Pre B.Ed and Pre D.El.Ed examinations will be held on June 12 while the entrance exam for Pre.BA.B.Ed and Pre.B.Sc.B.Ed is proposed to be conducted on June 19. It is worth mentioning that the fee has also been waived in the examinations of Junior Services Selection Board constituted for the recruitment of residents of Bastar and Surguja.

Herbal medicinal products on sale

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Raipur railway stations on April 09 became the first station in the division to start the "One Station One Product" initiative announced in 2022-23 union budget to promote and sell locally produced products, thereby giving a major boost to livelihoods of local artisans, potters, handloom weavers, tribals and so on. Through the



initiative of "One Station One Product", Indian

Railways is offering support to local artisans by

providing Station Stalls and Platform Vending with easy access to rail passengers. Raipur railway station has started selling herbal medicine products from a stall located at the main gate of platform no 01. The stall will function till April 23 and is open from 9 am to 9 pm. The stall is getting good response from the passenger right from the day it has started functioning here. The initiative aims to promote local products by making each railway station a promotional and sales hub for the product.

Sarpanchs of Rampur Assembly Constituency meets CM



Raipur, Apr 12: Sarpanchs from as many as 6 Gram Panchayats of Rampur assembly constituency paid courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at

his official residence here on Tuesday. Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey was also present on the occasion. They submitted a memorandum to the Chief

Minister regarding various development works including construction of CC Road in the Gram Panchayat area. The Chief Minister assured them of proper initiative.

The Sarpanchs present on the occasion include Smt. Pushpa Kanwar from Gram Panchayat Bagbuda, Smt. Deepti Kamal from Gram Panchayat Kukricholi, Smt. Chameli Kanwar from Gram Panchayat Sempali, Ku. Rupa Tirkey from Gram Panchayat Naktikhar, Smt. Nandani Kanwar from Gram Panchayat Dewarmal and Smt. Padma Kanwar from Gram Panchayat Kudurmala.

Application submitted in thana to file FIR

Against two Samitis for shortage of paddy

Deobhog, Apr 12: Failing to compensate for the 'sukhat' (drying of paddy purchased) proved to be costly proposition for two samitis of Jhargaon and Dhorarra and an application has been submitted in Goharapadar branch to file a case in this regard.

As per information in this regard Nodal Officer District Co-op Central Bank Gariyaband district of Raipur circle Avinash Sharma informed that in two branches of District Co-



op Bank of Goharapadar, there was shortage of paddy found and against which an application has been filed in Deobhog

Thana. Sharma informed that there was 1361.73 quintal of paddy found short and it is estimated to be around Rs

26.41 lakh, whereas a total of 1912.45 quintal of paddy was found short in Jhargaon Samiti, estimated to be around Rs 37.10 lakh.

Nodal officer informed that both the Samiti's manager, paddy purchase centre in-charge; computer operator and watchman have been found to be guilty. In such conditions, SDM has asked Goharapadar branch manager to file complaint in Police thana against all accused.

In this case, Manager Goharapadar branch said that along with Food department of the District, DMO and Asst. Registrar ad block level officers have carried out investigation and found

the employees of Samiti responsible for the shortage. After this FIR an application has been submitted to file complaint in Deobhog thana.

On the other hand, Deobhog Thana in-Charge Basant Baghel informed that application has been filed against the Manager Dhorarra and Jhargaon Samiti Manager, paddy purchase in-charge, computer operator and watchman. They are facing the charges that the employees of the Samiti are responsible for the shortage and it is informing the seniors that due action has been taken as per the instructions received.

'Chhaya' contraceptive pills effective family planning method

Increasing awareness among women increases use, no side effects

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: Chhaya weekly contraceptive pills are becoming the first choice of women as a temporary method of family planning. With increasing awareness, its use has started in cities as well as in rural areas. Mitani (community health workers) are also playing an im-

portant role in the promotion of Chhaya contraceptive pills.

According to Dr Tarun Kumar Tondar, Deputy Director of the Family Welfare Branch in the Health and Family Welfare Department, Chhaya contraceptive pills are very effective in family planning. Its use is increasing in the state. In the year 2020-21, 1 lakh 16 thousand 840 strips were used whereas 1 lakh 56 thousand 411 strips have been used in 2021-22. Apart from health centers, distribution of Chhaya contra-

ceptive pills is also being done by Mitani during their home visits.

The interest of women towards family planning is increasing in the state. There has been an increase in the number of women using Chhaya this year as compared to last year. Chhaya contraceptive pill is available free of cost at all district maternal and child hospitals, district hospitals, primary health centres, community health centers and sub-health centers in the state. Many Mitani themselves are setting an exam-

ple by adopting Chhaya for family planning. They are also inspiring other women as well.

Dr Tondar told that due to the absence of steroids, Chhaya is a non-hormonal contraceptive pill, which does not have any side effects. Apart from prolongation of the menstrual cycle, no side effects of Chhaya have been found. There are no side effects like obesity, nausea, vomiting or dizziness, bleeding and acne in comparison to hormonal pills. Because of this it is more secure. Dr Tondar told that to

start taking Chhaya, the first pill has to be taken on the day of the onset of menstruation. After this the second pill on the fourth day. For example, if someone's menstrual cycle starts on Sunday, then the first pill has to be taken on Sunday and the second on the fourth day i.e. Wednesday. After this, this pill is to be taken every week on Sunday and Wednesday for three months. After three months, one tablet in a week is to be taken only on Sundays until the child is not wanted.

Delegation of SAS paid courtesy call on CM

Raipur, Apr 12: The delegation of Sarva Adivasi Samaj (SAS) under the leadership of Deputy Speaker Mr. Manoj Mandavi paid courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office here today. The delegation told the Chief Minister that as per his announcement, the Veer Mela Organizing Committee has received a state amount of Rs 65 lakh for the development of Devgudi in Rajarao plateau, the establishment of the statue of Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh and the construc-

tion of the memorial and the development of the Budhadev site. For this, the delegation expressed its gratitude to Chief Minister Mr. Baghel. It is worth mentioning that on the occasion of martyrdom day of freedom fighter Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced a grant of Rs 65 lakhs for various works in the Veer Mela organized at Rajarao plateau of Gurur develop-



ment block of Balod district on December 10 last year. State President of Sarva Adivasi Samaj Sohan Potai, General Secretary of Veer Mela Organizing Committee Rajarao Plateau Mr. Krishna Kumar Thakur along with other members were present on this occasion.

'If tribals will be strong, then Ch'garh will become strong'

Konta, Apr 12:

State Excise and Industries Minister Kawasi Lakhma on Tuesday performed Bhoomipujan and dedicated various works to reach the sensitive area village Badesatti, located about 45 km away from Sukma district headquarters. In his address at the general meeting held here, he said that the Chhattisgarh government is determined for the empowerment, social upliftment and economic development of the tribals. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the government is listening to the demands of every section and working for their development. Many welfare schemes are being run in the interest of the general public. Tribals depend on forest produce as their main source of income. The government increased the support price of tendu leaves, so that the collectors of tendu leaves would get more income.



Along with this, the government is providing financial assistance of up to Rs 2 lakh to the families of tendupatta collectors through the Shaheed Mahendra Karma tendupatta collectors social security scheme in the event of death or disability of the head. In the districts of Surguja division including Bastar, Tamarind, Mahua, Tora etc. forest produce processing centers are being established, so that by adding value to the forest produce, more benefits are provided to the tribal community. He said that Mahua would be

procured by the government at the rate of Rs 30 per kg. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Bhumiless Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana, benefits are being given to the villagers who run their homes by doing daily wages.

Foundation stone laid for works worth Rs 1.82 cr; inauguration of works worth Rs 8 crore 26 lakhs. Lakhma, who reached village Badesatti on his one-day visit, gave development works worth 182.83 lakhs to the villagers. He laid the foundation stone of 3 km road construction work from

Badesatti to Gadempara, Nistari pond construction work at Badesatti Kangodipara and CC road construction work at Badesatti Schoolpara. At the same time, he inaugurated 22.60 km road up to Devgudi, Ramaram-Kudkel-Badesatti, built at a cost of 5 lakhs in village Badesatti.

Congratulating the villagers on the road construction, he said that now there will be no problem in going to the district headquarters Sukma. The top officers of the departments including Collector, SP will reach your village

to solve your problems. Better health facilities, better education to the children will be ensured by the construction of the road. In his address, while declaring electricity arrangements in Singhanpara, Palodi, Gandharapara and Kungod of village Badesatti, he directed the officers to start the work soon. Lakhma said that in the sensitive villages of Sukma district, where earlier administration, health facilities, education, electricity etc. did not reach, today strong roads, culverts and security are being provided there. Due to which better health facilities to the residents, better education to the children etc. have become easier. Addressing the gathering, he said that Chhattisgarh will become strong only when the tribals become strong. The government is making every effort in the development of the tribal area, which is showing successful results.

Illegal liquor seized after constant complaints



Balod, Apr 12: Illegal liquor was seized, here after there were constant complaints that liquor was being sold illegally in the residential area of ??Balod's railway colony. Liquor was allegedly sold at a higher price by a person living here, and the team of excise department planned to catch the accused and after getting solid information, the house of the accused was raided.

Secretary cum Excise Commissioner Niranjan Das and Managing Director A.P. Tripathi, Deputy Commissioner Excise Divisional Flying Squadron S.L. Pawar, under the direction of District Collector Balod Janmejay Mahobe and under the guidance of Assistant Commissioner Excise Rajesh Jaiswal, S. R. Bhandekar Excise Sub-Inspector Circle Balod are taking continu-

ous action on illegal possession and sale of illicit liquor with the joint team of District Balod. On April 11, accused Ashok Rajput father Prem Singh Rajput, caste Rajput, age 38 years resident of Railway Colony Balod, Thana-Balod, was held for possession of liquor, 52 pav desi liquor. A non-bailable offense under Section 34 (1) A, 34 (2), 59-A, of the Chhattisgarh Excise Act was established against the accused and was arrested and lodged in jail.

Similarly Komal Sahu father Ramesh Kumar Sahu caste Teli age 41 years was arrested for possessing 19 pav illegal liquor. Probationary Excise Sub-Inspectors Neha Singh, Atul Devangan, Excise Conservator Milap Mandavi Chandrasekhar Singhsar and Kuldeep Thakur were involved in the said proceedings.

Launch of Shri Ram Mahayaga and Sant Sammelan with Kalash Yatra



Dongargarh, Apr 12:

Under the banner of Shriram Mahayaga Samiti Kshetra Musra in village Musra, Shriram Mahayaga and Sant Sammelan program was launched here along with a grand urn procession. Women from 20 villages participated in the urn procession, followed by

five Kundi Yajnas performed by the priests and divine discourse was given by Shubham Maharaj. The Krishna Leela Jhanki program of the people of Plandur was completed in the night, in which thousands of people gathered. Committee Chairman Om Prakash Lilhare, Bas Ram Sahu, Jagdev Verma, Tikeswar,

Golu Sahu, Bhushan, Ramkumar Sahu, Lok Bhuneshwar Tendulkar, Nirmalkar, Ishwari Nirmalkar, Jhule Ram Sahu, Shivkumar Tampuka Bajrang Sahu Pappu Sahu Janak Sahu Jeevan Lal Sahu were present and have urged the people to be present for 5 days to hear the divine narration.

Highhandedness of Sarpanch, Sachiv posing problems

Mungeli, Apr 12:

The Sarpanch and Sachiv in majority of the Gram Panchayats in the district are beyond control as neither they are worried about problems of the villagers, nor have anything to do about development works in the villages. The condition at present is such that the villagers now have to visit the block headquarters in order to get even minor works done, as the Panchayat offices in their Janpad often remain closed, despite the fact that 90% of the villagers work can be done from Panchayat office itself. But neither the Sarpanch nor the Sachiv of Gram Panchayats are at all bothered about it. The most

- To villagers as they are made to go to block Hq's to get small works done
- CEO District Panchayat not taking firm action

surprising thing here is that seeing such a condition of Panchayat in their area, even the officers are keeping mum!

During the Corona period when the Panchayat Sachiv got the chance to work from home has not been discontinued and even today they all are now working from home itself. The Sachivs are carrying out the work of register and others that of the Panchayat from their



homes itself. Set aside majority of Gram Panchayat Sachiv are so that those who are interested should visit their house or keep waiting outside the Janpad Panchayat office for their work.

CEO Janpad not taking firm action: Actually it is generally due to attitude of the CEO

Janpad Panchayat that the Panchayat Sarpanch and Sachiv are taking villagers for a ride. Despite knowing that there is huge crowd of villagers outside their office, they are not taking any action against the Sachivs. Failing this the villagers are forced to go to block headquarters even for

small work and which could have been resolved if at all Panchayat Sachiv and sarpanch would have shown their presence in the Panchayat office. But it is carelessness on part of the CEO Janpad Panchayat that the villagers are made to face the music and travel all the way to block hq's in hot sun to get small works done.

No weightage to officer's words:

The CEO District Panchayat is regularly conducting tour of the block and tehsil and reviewing the works and is even directing the officers to do better work. But the careless officers of the block are not moved at all and it is the villagers who are facing the problems.

Educational tour conducted for students of GNC

Dongargarh, Apr 12: Under the guidance of Pradeep Kumar Jambulkar, Principal of Government Nehru College, the students of Computer Science Department and Commerce Department were given an educational tour of MSME Technology Center Durg and Akshaya Patra Bihilai. A total of 90 students of PGDCA, B.Com, B.Sc. Computer Science, and DCA of the college visited MSME Technology Center Durg and were also given participation certificates by MSME. The students were also taken to Akshaya Patra Bihilai, where the students got information about the techniques of making food with machines. College Principal Dr. Jambulkar congratulated the organizing department for a successful educational tour.

Penalty imposed on use of banned plastic bags



Korba Apr 12: On the instructions of Commissioner Shri Prabhakar Pandey continuous action is being taken by the employees of Korba Municipal Corporation on the sale and use of banned plastic

and taking action in this direction, confiscated materials from various shops of the city while imposing a penalty of Rs.15000. It is worth mentioning here that the manufacture of other plastic items including

carry bags, disposables made of plastic material not conforming to the prescribed standard, has been banned by KMC owing to its serious adverse effect on the environment and sanitation. The raids were conducted in Darri Road Ramsagarpara, Power House Road Main Road and the concerned were given strict instructions to not store, sell and use banned plastic carry bag disposals and other banned materials. The Commissioner has appealed to the general public and said that health, cleanliness and sanitation is affected due to plastic bags, therefore people should not sell, use and store the disposal and other materials, instead adopt alternative means.

WARM WELCOME



CM Bhupesh Baghel was accorded warm welcome by the public representatives and citizens of the region on his arrival at Police Line Helipad in Surajpur here on Tuesday.

Opposition to transfer Irrigation Division Office intensifies

From Marwahi to Bodhghat Project



Gourela- Pendra-Marwahi, Apr 12: In order to increase the area of ??irrigation in Pendra / Marwahi assembly constituency, former Chief Minister Late Ajit Jogi had established the Water Resources Division Marwahi office 21 years ago, due to which the area under irrigation increased from 4 percent to 32 percent, but the present government has issued an order to shift this office from here to accommodate the Bodhghat project in Bijapur, due to which there is displeasure among the residents of the area. JCC(J) has also submitted a

memorandum in the name of the Chief Minister to the Collector in protest against this. It has been said in the memorandum that the livelihood of the people of this extremely backward tribal dominated district is mainly based on agricultural activities. The geographical structure of this district is mostly hilly from where more than 7 rivers have their origin. At present, many construction works are going on for irrigation work and many works are included in the budget for approval. Some works are also proposed after being surveyed, in such

a situation the Marwahi Irrigation Division will be transferred elsewhere, the development, agriculture and irrigation schemes of the area will be affected and will be called action blocking the development of the area. In order to make the district prosperous, a public agitation has been warned demanding that the office of Water Resources Division Marwahi be kept unchanged for increasing the area of ??irrigation. Chief among those who submitted the memorandum, the state vice-president Ram Niwas Tiwari, Rural District President

Ramshankar Rai, City District President Ashok Nagaich, Senior Leader Omprakash Jaiswal, MLA Representative Ganesh Jaiswal and Nirman Jaiswal, Block President Vinay Choubey Marwahi, Moolchand Kushram Pendra, Mukesh Chandravansi Gaurela, City President Umesh Agarwal Gaurela, Santosh Sahu Pendra, District Women Cell President Devki Otty, Jayshree Kushram, Ganesh Pandey, Ramashray Sharma, Divisional Spokesperson Thakur Arjun Singh, Rajkumar Rajak, Nadeem Malik, Ramesh Patkar, Yuva Morcha District President Deepak Pandey, Hiranand Jain, Sonu Sardar, Dayaram Pav, Ashok Activists including Singh Sendram, Lalji Patel, Vimal Mishra, Chhatra Morcha District President Ayush Pandey, Vijendra Padwar were also present.

Immersion journey of Jyot Jawara taken out with fervour

Anvari, Apr 12: The process of immersion of Jyot Jawara in village Anvari in the temple of Mother Goddess Mahamaya and Sheeta Mata were taken out with fervor.

After worshipping for nine days on the last day of Chaitra Navratri, the process of immersion of Jyot Jawaara of the village's Aaradhya Devi Maa Sheeta was done in the Jawara Bandha pond. During this, devotees took blessings from place to place by offering Shriphal to the Goddess. Due to Ashtami and Navami being on the same day, Havan Poojan and Nav Kanya Bhoj were organized in the village

on Saturday itself in Devi temples. Villager Chandrika Dhruva told that the festival of Chaitra Navratri was celebrated with great pomp, many devotees lit the Manokamana flame in the village deity Aaradhya Devi temples, as well as in the court of Mother Sheeta, which was celebrated on the last day of Navratri on Sunday. On this occasion, mainly Panda Chandrika Dhruva, Roopram Dhruva and Ajay Dhruva, Belan Kushant, Baram Dhruva, Phalend Dhuv, Bhuneshwar Sahu and all the villagers and women folks were present in large numbers in the service of Mother Mahamaya.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Maithew Masihah S/O Mr. Kushal Chand R/O Village Gobara Bhantha, Post Churtela, District Janjgir Champa - 495688, Chhattisgarh inform the general public that I have changed my name from Mathew Mahish, S/O Mr. Kushal Chand to Maithew Masihah, S/O Mr. Kushal Chand. Hereby, from now I will be identified by my new name Maithew Masihah S/O Mr. Kushal Chand and this will be recorded in all my official and semi-official documents.

MAITHEW MASIHAH
Village - Gobara Bhantha
Post - Churtela
Distt. - Janjgir Champa
Pin - 495688, Chhattisgarh

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, SAYED ASHFAQUE HUSSAIN S/O Late SAYED IKBAL HUSSAIN resident of HOUSE NO. 9/2, AKBAR CHALL, INFRONT OF MISSION HOSPITAL, WARD NO. 19, JUNI LINE, BILASPUR, (C.G.) have changed my old name SAYED ASHFAQUE HUSSAIN S/O Late SAYED IKBAL HUSSAIN, so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is SYED ASHFAK HUSSAIN S/O Late SAYED IKBAL HUSSAIN in all Government and other documents.

SYED ASHFAK HUSSAIN
HOUSE NO. 9/2, AKBAR CHALL, INFRONT OF MISSION HOSPITAL, WARD NO. 19, JUNI LINE, BILASPUR, (C.G.) - 495001

BRIEF

Bribery

Pune: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested an assistant commissioner-rank officer of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and two of his subordinates for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000 to clear the pending bills of a contractor, officials said. The ACB registered a case and laid a trap after receiving a complaint from the 31-year-old contractor. The accused were identified as Sachin Tamkhede, Anant Thok and Dattatray Kindare.

Distributes

Bhaderwah: As part of its efforts to empower women from weaker sections in remote villages, the army distributed 10 solar-powered vegetable and fruit dryers among 10 groups in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. The dryers, each costing Rs 98,000, were handed over to the women groups at a function in Nalhi-Panchayat of Bhaderwah by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhaderwah, Dilmir Chowdhary and officiating commanding officer of 4 Rashtriya Rifles AK Singh.

Attempting

Kolkata: BSF has arrested six Bangladeshis, including three women and a child, in West Bengal while they were attempting to illegally entering India. However, they were later handed over to the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) on humanitarian grounds. The six people were nabbed while trying to cross the international border in North 24 Parganas district. Some of them were coming to India to meet their relatives, while one woman had first come to the country.

FOB

New Delhi: To ease the transit of passengers between Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station, the NCRTC will construct a 280-metre-long foot over bridge (FOB) with a travelator. Sarai Kale Khan will be one of the major stations on the 82-km-long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) semi high-speed rail corridor. Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station is located in vicinity of Nizamuddin Metro station.

Thrashed

Gurugram: The cashier of the parking lot of a mall here was allegedly thrashed by two men when he asked them to pay the parking fee, police said. The accused also fired in the air when the security guards intervened. The incident took place in the parking lot of Sahara mall. A jeep reached the exit gate from the parking lot in which the two accused, including the driver, were sitting. The cashier, Raghendra, asked them to pay Rs 130 as parking fee but they refused.

Rise above caste, religion: VP tells students

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday asked the youth to rise above narrow considerations such as caste and region, be tolerant and never disrespect other religions.

Interacting with Telugu students from various colleges under Delhi University at his official residence here, Naidu said one cannot become a leader if he or she is intolerant.

You should always rise above narrow considerations such as caste, religion and region, and never disrespect other religions, he said, according to an official statement issued by the Vice President's Secretariat.

He also advised them to develop a constructive and positive outlook towards life.

Observing that one cannot become a leader if he or she is intolerant, Naidu



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu interacts with students of Delhi University at his official residence in New Delhi on Tuesday.

said a leader should be tolerant towards the mandate given by the people and stressed on developing calibre, capacity, good conduct and character.

He urged the youngsters to imbibe qualities of patience, discipline, hard-work, reading and empathy to become successful leaders in their chosen

fields, the statement mentioned.

Emphasising the importance of maintaining fitness by undertaking regular physical activities, including running or yoga, he cautioned them against consuming junk food.

Pointing out that COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of protect-

ing immunity, he advised them to focus on a healthy and protein-rich diet.

Naidu reiterated the need to protect and promote one's mother tongue. He said that the early education of a child should be in his or her mother tongue and that proficiency in other languages could be acquired later.

CBI gets Govt nod to prosecute Aakar Patel

● I-T Dept and ED to be also involved

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

The Centre has given the go ahead to the CBI to prosecute Amnesty International India and its former chief Aakar Patel for alleged violations of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), paving way for a special court to take cognisance of its charge sheet filed on December 31, 2021, officials said on Tuesday.

The CBI had sought the sanction of the government to prosecute the international human rights organisation because of mandatory clause of Section 40 of the FCRA.

Section 40 bars any court to take cognisance of offence under the FCRA without the previous sanction of the Central Government or any officer authorised by that Government in this behalf. The charge sheet was filed



Aakar Patel

on December 31, 2021 by the agency in the Special CBI Court at Rouse Avenue against Patel and Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd (AIPL), Indians For Amnesty International Trust (IAIT), Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT), Amnesty International South Asia Foundation (AISAF) and others in November, 2019.

It was alleged that the provision of the FCRA and IPC were contravened by the aforesaid entities by receiving foreign contributions from Amnesty International UK through AIPL even though prior registration or permissions were denied to AIIFT and other trusts under FCRA, the officials said.

The court will take cognisance of charges on April 18, they said.

Following the charge sheet the agency had issued a Look Out Circular against Amnesty International India Chair Patel on the basis of which he was stopped from leaving Bengaluru Airport for

the US where he was scheduled to deliver academic lectures in various universities.

A magistrate court had allowed withdrawal of the LOC but the order was overturned last Friday by a Special Judge who had asked Patel to not leave the country without its permission. The case was registered against Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd (AIPL), Indians For Amnesty International Trust (IAIT), Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT), Amnesty International South Asia Foundation (AISAF) and others in November, 2019.

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'JATHA' DEPARTS



A Sikh 'jatha' chants religious slogans as they leave for Pakistan to take part in Baisakhi festival celebrations, in Amritsar on Tuesday.

Bomma vouches for transparent probe over contractor's death

● Police asked to act on provocative statements

Mangaluru, Apr 12 (PTI):

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday said the police will conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the death of a contractor, who had accused a Karnataka minister of demanding 40 per cent commission in a public work.

He also ruled out any resignations in this regard.

"One thing I want to make it clear that this case will be thoroughly investigated. There will not be any interference or direction from our side. Police will independently investi-



Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai addresses a press conference, in Mangaluru, Tuesday.

gate the case and truth will come out," Bommai said addressing a press conference here.

Santosh Patil from Belagavi was found dead in his room in a hotel in Udupi. He had earlier accused Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K

S Eshwarappa of demanding 40 per cent commission on the work executed by him. The minister not only dismissed his allegations but also filed a defamation suit against him.

In his purported WhatsApp message, Patil held the minister responsible for his death.

The Chief Minister added that the action will be taken based on the outcome of the investigation.

"We have given direction to the police to probe the matter systematically such as forensic science, spot inspection, inquiry and everything should be in accordance with the law. It will be an honest and transparent investigation," Bommai said.

To a query on opposition Congress party's de-

mand for resignation over the death, Bommai said, "A police officer had committed suicide in the past when Siddaramaiah was the Chief Minister I want to ask you, did Siddaramaiah resign."

Regarding the purported WhatsApp message claimed to be sent by Santosh Patil, Bommai said it will also be part of the investigation.

Replying to a question, Bommai said Eshwarappa had told him during the assembly session that he had filed a defamation suit against the contractor and a notice has been sent to him. Also, a case has been registered against a media house, he added.

"Eshwarappa has rejected the charge and has filed a defamation suit as well.

Dhinakaran appears before ED in EC 'bribery' case

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

AMMK leader TTV Dhinakaran on Tuesday appeared before the ED here for questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged bribing of Election Commission officials to get the AIADMK's 'two leaves' symbol for the VK Sasikala faction, officials said.

The federal agency's notice to the 58-year-old politician last week came after the Enforcement Directorate recently arrested jailed 'conman' and another accused in this case, Sukesh Chandrashekhar.

The ED case is based on the primary FIR filed against the accused by the Delhi Police crime branch in 2017.

Both Dhinakaran and



AMMK leader TTV Dhinakaran at Enforcement Directorate (ED) office, after being called for questioning, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Chandrashekhar were arrested by the crime branch then.

Officials had said that they have recorded the statement of Chandrashekhar in this case early this month and

now they want to grill Dhinakaran and confront him with Chandrashekhar to take the probe forward.

The statement of the AMMK general secretary was being recorded under

the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Chandrashekhar was arrested in April 2017 from a five star hotel by the Delhi Police for allegedly taking money from Dhinakaran to bribe EC officials to get the AIADMK's two leaves symbol for the Sasikala faction in a by-election to the RK Nagar assembly seat in Tamil Nadu.

Dhinakaran, who has been charge sheeted by the police, was arrested by the Delhi Police after four days of questioning for allegedly attempting to bribe EC officials for the symbol.

The bypoll was necessitated by the death of the then Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa, who represented the assembly seat.

Chidambaram counters FM, says social sector spending dipped

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Tuesday hit back at Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for stating that the NDA government's developmental expenditure was higher than that under the UPA regime, asserting that as a proportion, social services expenditure had plummeted after 2014-15.

Citing the Reserve Bank of India data, Sitharaman's office had tweeted on Saturday that the total developmental expenditure incurred by the Modi government in 2014-22 was Rs 90.9 lakh crore, far higher than what was being alleged by some sections of the Opposition.

In contrast, only Rs 49.2



P Chidambaram

lakh crore was spent for the purpose from 2004-14, the tweet read.

Taking objection to her remarks, Chidambaram stated, Regrettably, the FM thinks that the average Indian has below-average intelligence in understanding numbers relating to finances.

On the figures quoted by Sitharaman, he said, The finance minister's arithmetic is correct but her mathematical conclusion

is wrong.

The size of the Budget is bigger every year. Total expenditure is bigger every year. Developmental expenditure or social services expenditure will also be bigger every year!, the former finance minister said in a series of tweets.

The correct mathematical analysis will require the finance minister to compare the proportion of any head of expenditure to total expenditure, he pointed out.

Such a comparison will reveal that, as a proportion, social services expenditure has plummeted after 2014-15, he said.

Substantiating his claim, the Congress leader wrote The FM's numbers are in the RBI's Handbook of Statistics.

Kerala Govt order renaming special pay to judicial officers

Kochi, Apr 12 (PTI):

The Kerala High Court has put on hold a state government order renaming as 'special allowance' the special pay that was being given to judicial officers, observing that it was an attempt to deny the monetary benefit to them and that prima facie it "cannot be sustained".

The interim order by Justice VG Arun came on a plea by the Kerala Judicial Officers Association which has sought quashing of the state government's 2022 decision by which the special pay was renamed as special allowance.

The court while putting on hold the operation of the government's 2022 decision, also issued notice

to it seeking its stand on the association's plea.

Senior advocate Jaju Babu, who represented the association, told the court that the description of the special pay as special allowance was not a drafting mistake but a "deliberate mischief" as based on the latest government order, "the special pay drawn by judicial officers of the District Judiciary as part of their pay will be considerably reduced."

The concept of special pay was evolved on the basis of the recommendations by the 1st National Judicial Commission, also known as Shetty Commission, which had said that judicial officers who were also having considerable administrative work should be provided

this monetary benefit, the association has said in its plea.

The recommendation was accepted by the Supreme Court and it asked the High Courts to take a decision on payment of special pay and the Kerala High Court in 2006 forwarded to the state government a proposal to sanction 'special pay', the petition has said.

The state government sanctioned special pay to serving judicial officers entrusted with administrative work but described it as 'special allowance', it has said.

Subsequently, the benefit was also extended to judicial officers working on deputation based on a direction from the Supreme Court.

Alappuzha, Apr 12 (PTI):

A day after a paddy farmer ended his life over crop loss in heavy summer rains, a delegation of opposition Congress-led UDF on Tuesday visited the Upper Kuttanad region here to meet the peasants and take stock of the damage.

The Upper Kuttanad region, comprising parts of Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha districts, witnessed heavy waterlogging and widespread damage of crops in the recent rains.

The delegation, led by Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly VD Satheesan and KPCC chief K Sudhakaran, later lashed out at the LDF government in Kerala saying that they were completely



UDF delegation visits Upper Kuttanad region on Tuesday.

ignoring the issues and concerns of farmers and no action was being taken to protect them despite giving assurance in the Assembly.

The government is busy going ahead to implement the semi-high speed rail corridor project spending 2.5 lakh crore rupees but

have no money to provide assistance to the hapless farmers, they alleged.

These farmers have found money for cultivation by taking loans for exorbitant interest and pledging their gold ornaments, Satheesan told reporters here.

Only very few people could enroll in the crop insurance scheme, launched by the government and those who have already joined are getting only a meagre amount in this regard, he added.

"No single project has been implemented in Kuttanad by this government including the Rs 2000 crore worth programme announced by former finance minister TM Thomas Isaac. What Kuttanad needs is a comprehensive package in view of climate change," Satheesan said.

Even thickly populated areas were flooded and Kuttanad people were forced to flee from their homes but the ruling CPI(M) and its government were taking their issues in a light manner, he further alleged.

BRIEF

Convicted

Washington: A federal jury convicted a former Virginia police officer of storming the US Capitol with another off-duty officer to obstruct Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory. Jurors convicted former Rocky Mount police officer Thomas Robertson of all six counts he faced stemming from the January 6, 2021, riot, including charges that he interfered with police officers at the Capitol and that he entered a restricted area with a dangerous weapon.

Charged

Abuja: Nigeria's decision to conduct the trials of suspects charged with terrorism behind closed doors has been criticised by human rights advocates. The West African nation last week began implementing a new court practice that bans the media and the public from trials involving terrorism charges at the start of the trial of a pro-Biafra separatist leader: Nnamdi Kanu, who holds dual Nigerian and British citizenship, leads the Biafra campaigning for the secession from Nigeria.

Citizen

London: A leading Egyptian pro-democracy activist who has been imprisoned for more than 3 1/2 years has obtained a British passport, his family announced. The move is likely meant to pressure Egyptian authorities to release him. Alaa Abdel-Fattah, an outspoken dissident, rose to prominence with the 2011 pro-democracy uprisings that swept the Middle East and in Egypt toppled long-time President Hosni Mubarak. The 40-year old activist spent most of past decade behind bars.

Climb

Kathmandu: A team of 22 mountaineers, including 10 foreigners and 12 Nepali guides, have scaled Nepal's Mt Dhaulagiri, the seventh highest in the world, officials said. This was the first successful climb of the 8,167 metre high mountain this season, according to Man Bahadur GC, spokesperson of the Department of Tourism. The official said as many as 505 mountaineers of 61 expedition teams had taken permission to climb 18 mountains this spring season in Himalayas.

Junk

Berlin: Germany's health ministry said that the country may have to discard 3 million doses of expired COVID-19 vaccine by the end of June. Ministry spokesman Hanno Kautz told reporters in Berlin that not many doses have been destroyed so far, though he couldn't give an exact figure. But Kautz said that we have more vaccine available at the moment than is being used and than we can donate. He added that UN backed COVAX, isn't currently accepting donations.

US not yet decided over CATSAA regarding India

Washington, Apr 12 (PTI):



Antony Blinken

The US has not yet made any decision on potential sanctions or waivers to India under CATSAA law for its purchase of the S-400 missile defence system from Russia, Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said.

The US administration is required under its domestic law, Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) to impose sanctions on any country that has significant transactions with Iran, North Korea or Russia.

CAATSA is a tough US law that authorises the administration to impose sanctions on countries that purchase major defence hardware from Russia in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its alleged meddling in the 2016 US presidential elections.

We continue to urge all countries to avoid major new transactions for Russian weapons systems, particularly in light of what Russia is doing to Ukraine. We've not yet made a determination on potential sanctions or potential waivers under the

CATSAA law, Blinken said.

Blinken's comments came during a joint news conference with Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin along with their Indian counterparts — External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh after the 2+2 Ministerial here.

He was responding to a question on India purchasing the S-400 missile system from Russia.

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, despite a warning from the then Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions.

The US has already im-

US reaffirm support for India's membership in UNSC, NSG

Washington: The Biden administration has reaffirmed its commitment to support India's permanent membership in a reformed UN Security Council and New Delhi's entry to the Nuclear Suppliers' Group.

posed sanctions on Turkey under the CAATSA for the purchase of a batch of S-400 missile defence systems from Russia. Following the US sanctions on Turkey over the procurement of S-400 missile systems, there were apprehensions that Washington may impose similar punitive measures on India.

Russia has been one of India's key major suppliers of arms and ammunition.

Blinken noted that there is a long history and a long relationship between India and Russia, including when it comes to military equipment. That rela-

tionship took hold many years ago at a time when, as I said, we were not able to be a partner to India, he said.

We are now both able and willing to be such a partner, to be a security partner of choice for India. That's one of the areas that we discussed in some detail, he said. The White House echoed Blinken's view earlier in the day.

In terms of military actions: So we have not made a decision about the waiver under CAATSA. In terms of how much it was discussed during the call, I'd have to get more details from our national security team on that specifically, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said in response to a question.

Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby told reporters that the US has a strong defence partnership with India.

We are going to continue to look for ways to deepen that defence partnership. India is an important partner in the region, in the Indo-Pacific region, and we're going to continue to look for ways to improve that partnership, he said.

More than 10,000 civilians dead in Ukraine port city



Vadym Boychenko

Kyiv, Apr 12 (AP):

Six weeks of brutal Russian siege have left more than 10,000 civilians dead in the southern port city of Mariupol and corpses carpeted through the streets, the mayor of that cut-off city said, as the West warned that a Russian convoy and other troops and weapons were on the move for a suspected planned Russian assault in Ukraine's east.

Mariupol has been the site of some of the heaviest

attacks and civilian suffering in the 6-week-old war, but the land, sea and air assaults by Russian forces fighting to capture it have increasingly limited information on circumstances inside the city.

Speaking by phone with The Associated Press, Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boychenko accused Russian forces of having blocked weeks of attempted humanitarian convoys into the city in part to conceal the carnage there from the outside world. Boychenko said the death toll there could surpass 20,000. Boychenko also gave new details of allegations by Ukrainian officials in recent weeks that Russian forces have brought mobile cremation equipment to Mariupol to dispose of the corpses of victims of the siege.

Two anti-Rajapaksa members return to party fold amid protests

Colombo, Apr 12 (PTI): The beleaguered Rajapaksa family received a much-needed shot in the arm as two dissident members who had resigned over the government's handling of the current economic crisis have returned to the party fold, even as widespread anti-government protests continued for the fourth day in Sri Lanka on Tuesday. The members, including Shantha Bandara who is from former President Maithripala Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), took oaths as state ministers, days after they had resigned from their positions to protest the government's economic mismanagement. Last week the entire Sri Lankan cabinet resigned apart from Prime Minister Mahinda

Rajapaksa at a time when the country was facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from the UK in 1948.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his elder brother, Prime Minister Mahinda, continue to hold power in Sri Lanka, despite their politically powerful family that has been in power for most of the past two decades being the focus of public ire.

Five other family members are lawmakers, three of whom resigned as ministers last Sunday. As part of a group, the dissident members had held talks with President Rajapaksa to form an all-party unity cabinet and had urged the entire Rajapaksa family to step down from positions.

Russian war worsens fertilizer crunch, risking food supplies



Farmer Monicah Wanjiku walks around her farm in Kiambu, near Nairobi, in Kenya.

Kiambu, Apr 12 (AP):

Monica Kariuki is about ready to give up on farming. What is driving her off her 10 acres of land outside Nairobi isn't bad weather, pests or blight, the traditional agricultur-

al curses but fertilizer: It costs too much.

Despite thousands of miles separating her from the battlefields of Ukraine, Kariuki and her cabbage, corn and spinach farm are indirect victims of Russian President

Vladimir Putin's invasion. The war has pushed up the price of natural gas, a key ingredient in fertilizer, and has led to severe sanctions against Russia, a major exporter of fertilizer.

Kariuki used to spend 20,000 Kenyan shillings, or about \$175, to fertilize her entire farm. Now, she would need to spend five times as much. Continuing to work the land, she said, would yield nothing but losses.

'I cannot continue with the farming business. I am quitting farming to try something else,' she said.

Higher fertilizer prices are making the world's food supply more expen-

sive and less abundant, as farmers skip on nutrients for their crops and get lower yields. While the ripples will be felt by grocery shoppers in wealthy countries, the squeeze on food supplies will land hardest on families in poorer countries. It could hardly come at a worse time: The UN Food and Agriculture Organization said last week that its world food-price index in March reached the highest level since it started in 1990.

The fertilizer crunch threatens to further limit worldwide food supplies, already constrained by the disruption of crucial grain shipments from Ukraine and Russia.

Heart inflammation following Covid vaccination rare

Singapore, Apr 12 (PTI):

The overall risk of myopericarditis — a condition that causes inflammation of the heart muscles — following COVID-19 vaccination is very low, affecting 18 people per million vaccine doses, according to a study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal. The research confirms that the risk of myopericarditis is comparable to or lower following COVID-19 vaccination than other non-COVID-19 vaccines. The team analysed international databases, looking at

over 400 million vaccination doses, to compare the risk of myopericarditis following vaccination against COVID-19 and other diseases such as influenza and smallpox. They found no statistically significant difference between the incidence of myopericarditis following COVID-19 vaccination — 18 cases per million doses — and other vaccinations, which was 56 cases per million doses. 'Our research suggests that the overall risk of myopericarditis appears to be no different for this newly approved group of vaccines against COVID-19, compared

to vaccines against other diseases,' said Kollengode Ramanathan, from National University Hospital, Singapore, and corresponding author of the study. 'The risk of such rare events should be balanced against the risk of myopericarditis from infection and these findings should bolster public confidence in the safety of COVID-19 vaccinations,' Ramanathan said.

Myopericarditis, in some cases, may cause severe permanent heart damage. It is most often caused by viruses but can also occur after vaccination in rare instances.

There have been reports of myopericarditis following mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccination, especially in adolescents and young adults.

The researchers analysed more than 20 studies with reported incidences of myopericarditis following any type of vaccination between January 1947 and December 2021.

Among COVID-19 vaccinations, the risk of myopericarditis was higher for those who received mRNA vaccines (22.6 cases per million doses) compared to non-mRNA vaccines (7.9 cases per million doses), the researchers said.

COMMEMORATION



Party to commemorate the 10th anniversary of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's election as the top party and state leader in Pyongyang, North Korea on Tuesday.

China denies online rumours' blaming co-pilot for plane crash killing

Beijing, Apr 12 (PTI):

The cause of China's recent passenger plane crash which killed 132 people remains under investigation, a Chinese aviation official has said, rejecting online speculation that the co-pilot may be responsible for the tragic accident.

The Chinese passenger plane crashed in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on March 21, killing all 132 people on board including the nine crew members. The Boeing 737-800 aircraft of China Eastern Airlines, which flew from Kunming to Guangzhou, plunged into the mountains in Tengxian County in the city of Wuzhou.

Rumours have been doing rounds online that the co-pilot "might be responsible" for the crash, attributing it

to the data from black boxes, with some believing that the CAAC will require flight crews to undergo mental health monitoring, the state-run Global Times reported.

China's civil aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), refuted such rumours over the co-pilot's involvement in the crash of China Eastern flight MU5375, saying the accident is still under investigation, and no conclusions have been drawn on the cause and nature of the accident yet. The "rumours", claimed to be sourced from some public security departments are misleading, would undermine public confidence in the ongoing investigation, and may represent a violation of the law, said Wu Shijie, a CAAC official told the official media.

"We will try our best to find out the cause of the accident as soon as possible and release the relevant information according to the law and procedures," he said. Wu said the crash has had an impact on the welfare of frontline civil aviation workers, and some employees have suffered from emotional strain, particularly younger workers.

The CAAC attaches great importance to the mental well-being of aviation workers and requested that airlines take measures to support pilots, flight attendants and safety officers in managing their psychological pressure.

Early this month a working group sent by the US National Transportation Safety Board arrived in China to help investigate the crash of the China Eastern Airlines aircraft.

Search for survivors in Philippine villages hit by landslides

Manila, Apr 12 (AFP):

Rescuers hampered by mud and rain searched Tuesday for survivors of landslides that smashed into villages in the central Philippines, as the death toll from tropical storm Megi rose to 28.

More than 17,000 people fled their homes as the storm pummelled the disaster-prone region in recent days, flooding houses, severing roads and knocking out power.

At least 22 people were dead and 27 missing after landslides slammed into multiple villages in Leyte province — one of the hardest hit by the storm — local authorities said. Just over 100 people were injured.

Three people were also killed in the central province of Negros Oriental and three on the main southern island of Mindanao, according to the national disaster agency.



Philippine Coast Guard shows coast guard personnel evacuating local residents from their flooded homes on a makeshift raft in Panitan.

"It's supposed to be the dry season but maybe climate change has upended that," said Marissa Miguel Cano, public information officer for Leyte's Baybay City, where many of the devastated villages are located.

Drone footage shared on Facebook and verified by AFP showed a wide

stretch of mud that had swept down a hill of coconut trees and engulfed Bunga, one of the communities affected.

At least one person had been killed and 21 people were missing in the devastated village, which had been reduced to a few rooftops poking through the mud.

US pulls staff from Shanghai amid COVID surge

Beijing, Apr 12 (AP):

The US has ordered non-emergency government staff to leave Shanghai, which is under a tight lockdown to contain a COVID-19 surge.

Many residents in the city of 26 million have been confined to their homes for up to three weeks as China maintains its 'zero-COVID' strategy of handling outbreaks with strict isolation and mass testing.

But people living under the restrictions have described an increasingly desperate situation, with families unable to leave their homes or obtain food and daily necessities, while people who test positive for the coronavirus have been forced into mass quarantine centers



US consulate in Shanghai.

where conditions at times have been called crowded and unsanitary.

The State Department said the order announced is an upgrade from the 'authorized' departure advisory last week that made the decision voluntary. The order covers non-emergency US government employees at the consulate in Shanghai and their family mem-

bers. Consular officers will remain on duty at the consulate.

'Our change in posture reflects our assessment that it is best for our employees and their families to be reduced in number and our operations to be scaled down as we deal with the changing circumstances on the ground,' the announcement said.



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India's American dream

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that strategic partnerships like the one between India and the US are built through shared interests, common values and constant nurturing, underlining that in a changing world Indo-US ties have not only kept pace but actually emerged as a major contributor to global peace. The integrated perspective that we brought to bear in this 2+2 format only underlines the gains made in different domains in recent times. The economic side of the story is particularly significant. The government's readout of the meeting said India's PM Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden had discussed Ukraine at the meeting, as well as regional and global issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy, climate and recent developments in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. The strategic meet between India and US can be described as India's American dream. India has more economic relationship with US than any other country. India gradually came to appreciate that the US-Pakistan relationship was deeply troubled and not directed against India. The US understood that, far from being an enthusiastic supporter of Russia's belligerent actions abroad and repression at home, New Delhi was bound to Moscow by its dependence on the Russian military-industrial complex and a complicated Cold War legacy. Despite India's undeniable regional and global importance to American interests, for decades, the US was unwilling to consider key areas for deepening bilateral and regional cooperation, largely due to India's possession of nuclear weapons. In the early 2000s, however, Washington began to view an active and constructive relationship with India as essential to making progress in a range of issues. The US' global war on terror, for example, aligned with India's efforts to combat its own organised terrorism threats; it gave both countries a practical platform for increased cooperation in intelligence, law enforcement and military relations. In recent years, cybersecurity cooperation has steadily increased between the two nations. India's approach to the Ukraine crisis and its aversion to criticizing Moscow can thus be attributed principally to vital defence dependencies, and to historical loyalties to Russia dating back to the Cold War. Additionally, India has a long history of adopting neutral diplomatic positions toward international conflicts, including past US military interventions. For the first time in recent memory, Indians are openly criticizing Russia on prime-time television, questioning the morality of the invasion and the wisdom of India's enduring dependence on Russian military hardware. Moreover, the US has realised that enhanced cooperation with India is essential to counter a rising China, which is already well-underway in exercising its considerable economic and political clout regionally and beyond. For its part, India has long understood China's principal strategic aim to replace the US as the most consequential security power in Asia and, more importantly, to challenge the prevailing international global order underwritten by the US. At the same time, India understands the continuing and strong regional and global position of the US as crucial to curbing Beijing's strategic aspirations. India will take over the presidency of the G20 on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia. This year the G20 agenda will focus on issues including health, digital transformation, and energy transition. Each of these issues is important to India and will likely be maintained. In taking over the leadership of this body, India will also have the opportunity to further shape the agenda and drive critical issues. India's success in areas like financial inclusion, digital tools for governance, and more could become core parts of the agenda. The United States' deep embrace of the Indian agenda can immeasurably strengthen the relationship.

Ropeways safety

During rescue operation involving Air Force helicopters was taking place to extract people stranded on the ropeway in Deoghar. Trikut hill is the only tourist destination in Jharkhand where ropeway is used. It is one of the highest vertical ropeways and has a maximum lens angle of 44 degrees. It has been built some 20 km from Baba Baidyanath Temple and is about 766 metres long. The Trikut hill is 392 metres high. There are a total of 26 cabins available for tourists in Trikut Ropeway, in which four people can sit in each cabin and it is only 8 to 10 minutes to reach the peak. And after reaching the peak, the view from there is very spectacular. The thrilling panoramic 360-degree view of Deoghar is worth seeing. Trikut hill is also a popular place for Pilgrimage. In the dense forest on the uphill lies the famous Trikutachal Mahadeva Temple and Saint Dayananda's Ashram. The government has 'Parvatmala' scheme for development of ropeways across India. The mishap at Deoghar will force government to enact safety rules. There is no formal safety standard for ropeways in India, unlike railways, airlines, marine or road transport. The world's highest ropeway is in Northern China and employs some very special safety measures due to its location. The incident at Deoghar has reminds about last year's ropeway mishap in Italy. The three suspects in Italy's ropeway disaster that killed 14 people were allowed to leave prison after a judge had indicated that most of the blame fell on just one of them, a service technician who intentionally disabled the car's emergency brake because it kept locking spontaneously. Investigations will reveal lapse at Deoghar. The Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 were revised in February last year, allowing the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to oversee the development of ropeways and alternative modes of transportation. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had earlier this year said the National Ropeways Development Programme will be implemented using a public-private partnership (PPP) model with the goal of improving connectivity. The National Ropeways Development Programme will be implemented as a preferred environment-friendly alternative to conventional highways in tough steep terrain. Ropeways as a transport system began in Alps mountains of Europe. Ropeways need regular servicing and trained workforce at site. The central government needs to enact safety standards before permitting construction of ropeways across India for public use.

'MATKAS' FOR COOLING WATER

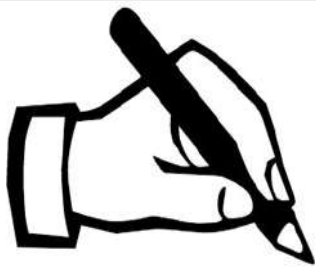


People buy a Matka, an earthen pot used to store cool drinking water, at a roadside stall in Amritsar, Punjab.

Sri Lanka needs immediate healing from crisis



TK NANDANAN



As a fallout of the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, political unrest already sprung up and the mayhem started recently in Mirihana near the private residence of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The protest was really an outpouring of mass anger at the hardships the people are bearing at present. However, the Presidential Media Division (PMD) called the incident as 'unrest and riot' and blamed the protesters on an 'unnamed extremist group.'

Many of the protests, catalysed by despair, are spontaneous. Besides, April 3, 2022 was picked for country-wide protests and they have already shaken the country. Writing on the wall is crystal clear-people want to end the economic mess that the Rajapaksa government created out of its reckless handling of the economy and sheer profligacy. It is pertinent to note that today's economic crunch is largely due to the covid pandemic which forced lockdowns and restrictions. But this pandemic situation is everywhere and even Bangladesh has laudably handled the situation and why couldn't Sri Lanka?

Now the President of Sri Lanka, having convinced of the situation going out of hands, invited Opposition parties to join a unity government and the Opposition on Monday dismissed the President's invitation as 'nonsensical' and instead demanded that he resign over the country's worsening shortages of food. The President asked the Opposition parties repre-

sented in Parliament to 'join the effort to seek solutions to the national crises, after the resignation of nearly all Cabinet ministers to pave the way for a revamped administration. A legislator of the leftist People's Liberation Front (JVP) said, 'He really must be a lunatic to think that Opposition MPs will prop up a government that is crumbling.' Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) lawmaker Manusha Nanayakkara says the main Opposition party wouldn't, under any circumstances, accept the so-called SLPP dissident group's proposal to form an interim administration. Addressing the media in Colombo the other day, a lawmaker claimed that the Rajapaksas had amassed ill-gotten money and should hand it back to the country and leave public office once and for all. The political melodrama is also replete with irony. It is recorded in history that in 2015 Mahinda Rajapaksa was defeated and people rushed to his Tangalle residence, Carlton, to pledge solidarity with him and urged him to remain in active politics. They backed him to the hilt and made his comeback possible. Today, people are protesting near Carlton, asking him as well as his family members to leave politics. This is the best example of how a public leader is liked for his good deeds and disliked for his bad deeds. Yes, he once became the apple of people's eye and later he became the persona non grata. The people re-elected the Rajapaksas in 2019/20 expecting the

family to learn from its mistakes and act differently. But old habits die hard, and the Rajapaksas, true to form, began to do more of what they had been doing from 2010 to 2015 and thus the all-pervading corruption ruined the country beyond redemption. As a prudent government, something should have been done to keep Sri Lanka's foreign currency reserve intact. Admittedly, there is no need to labour the fact that Sri Lanka has long lived way beyond its means. Two of their major problems are a highly overloaded public service and an out-sized military. The sad fact is that no serious effort has been made to trim these behemoths to realistic proportions. There is a reason for the Sri Lankan armed forces growing to the present size- it was due to the civil war. The Sri Lankan civil war was fought from 1983 to 2009 between the Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lankan government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) insurgent group, the latter of which had hoped to establish a separate state for the Tamil minority.

Sinhalese constitute 75 percent of Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan Tamil constitute 11.2 percent. Moreover, Sinhalese tend to be Buddhist and Tamils tend to be Hindu. The strife between them began much further back in Sri Lanka's ancient settlement history.

Though the arrival of Sinhalese into Sri Lanka is shrouded in ambiguity, history says that Sinhalese ancestors likely arrived on the island from India in the 500 BC, but the arrival of the Tamils on the island both as invaders and traders was from India's Chola Kingdom.

These origin stories suggest that the Sinhalese and Tamil communities have experienced tensions from the very beginning- not out of cultural incompatibility, but rather out of power disputes. Thus, this country has indeed a rich Indian cultural heritage as the ancestors of the current people of Sri Lanka of both Sinhalese

and Tamils were from India and this factor alone is sufficient for India to rush with all that Sri Lanka needs now. Sri Lanka is our neighbor country with a lot of similarities in culture and religious practices and we should always be on good terms with them. People have the same traditions and occupations and it would be like a dream-come-true for people of both these countries if they are blessed with the opportunity to walk or drive from India to Sri Lanka and vice versa. Considering the importance and historical closeness between the two countries, a concrete mega project can be considered like constructing a mega bridge utilizing the natural limestone shoals that form the Ram Setu or a channel tunnel between the two countries can be constructed capitalizing upon the technical expertise India acquired and with the fund pumped in by the two countries.

Construction of underground passage with that country would be like having an umbilical cord, a relationship others cannot cut off. Hopefully, India and Sri Lanka can conceptualize and construct a tunnel underneath the sea bed from Rameswaram to Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. It would be a scientific marvel of both these nations, especially India, as India is capable of materializing this dream.

Once this project is commissioned, it will attract millions of tourists and will definitely pave the way for a great change and development in these parts of India and Sri Lanka. China is another big nation looking for an opportunity to establish a strong tie with this island nation and we should not let China access Sri Lanka too much.

If they are given an inch, they will take away a mile. So, India must think of this mega project and start holding talks with the President of Sri Lanka towards its realization.

(TK Nandan is a political commentator based in Kochi.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Over-ambitious

We all know that TMC is a regional political party of West Bengal. Mamata Banerjee, popularly addressed as Didi by her supporters, is the ruthless supreme of TMC known for her foul mouth and uncivil behaviour around the nation. With her recent success in the Assembly and civic body elections in West Bengal, she has become an all-Indian figure, ready to take on Modi headlong. From her State she has started to spread her party's tentacles to other parts of the nation like Goa. To establish herself as an alternative to Modi, she has of late become very vocal against the Centre on all issues, some of which are not supposed to be her domain like Foreign Affairs and Defence. The whole nation knows about the wonderful job done by the Central Government in the recent evacuation of Indian nationals from Kabul during the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan. Now evacuation of Indian nationals from war-torn Ukraine is going on and all the evacuees along with their families have openly lauded the Government's efforts except her. According to her and TMC, the evacuation process is a simple gimmick and the Government's role in the UN, where India tactfully maintained a neutral stand, was also questioned. We remember that like Chandra Babu Naidu, ex-CM of Andhra Pradesh and also ex-Cabinet Minister of the then NDA Government, she was also a Cabinet Minister during the NDA Government. But due to being over-ambitious to be the PM of the nation, Naidu became history in the nation's politics. Mamata Banerjee, with her zero knowledge about global politics, should focus only on West Bengal, once the 'think tank of India'.

Ashim, via email

Legal tender

Some days ago, I had been to Bengaluru on work. I visited a photocopying shop and handed over a Rs 10 coin to the owner for the copies made. To my surprise, he flatly refused to accept the coin, adding that it is not recognised in any shop in Bengaluru and even government-run buses. This is unacceptable. This is a legal tender and the Reserve Bank of India needs to issue a notification to these States and warn those who do not accept this legal tender that they should be ready to face the music. The Government of India and RBI need to issue a notice in all the dailies.

Ramesh, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Vandana @drvandanashiva
Greece, Lebanon & Sri LankaHow many countries will the world's financial system destroy through pushing them into a debt trap,destroying economic sovereignty and food sovereignty,creating dependence on borrowing & food imports ? How long will the poor keep paying interest?

atul@atulkasbekar
Much as I think that Steven Spielberg is the greatest director of all time for the unreal range he's demonstrated in a legendary career; I didn't like #WestSideStory I tried really hard to but just couldn't Is that kinda illegal to say this?



IAnand@vardhanan
A walk in a new campus @tvmtiiser



Monica@jasuja
The ultimate test of being perceived as trustworthy is asking foreigners for help and receiving it instantly. Always grateful for kind strangers who go out of the way to help me no matter which part of the world I am in. Gratitude to and for the good people I meet

Shephali@Bhatt
Hard to be excited for the future if you know what's happening around you. Hard to take anyone excited about the future seriously if they don't know what's happening around them. Hard to not be terrified of those excited for the future while knowing what's happening around them.



Pravin@PravinSawhney
Pak Army will be in total control of foreign policy in new gov. It wants good ties with China & US, and talks for Kashmir resolution under Musharraf formula with India. Pak ties with Russia will take backseat. Expect Gen Bajwa to get another extension!

Nivedita@TiwariNivedita
The 'liberal' idea of empathy is often in conflict with its idea of equality. Which is why liberalism, as it has come to be practiced today, lends itself to hypocrisy. Many of the current world problems arise out of this conflict. The antidote? Dharma. Do right over feel good.

BRIEF

Exports



New Delhi: Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday pitched for taking the textiles exports of the country to USD 100 billion by 2030 as the sector is recording a healthy growth. The textiles minister also said the exports would get a boost with zero duty access.

IPO

New Delhi: Ethnic wear fashion label Biba Fashion, which is backed by Warburg Pincus and Faering Capital, has filed preliminary papers with Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 90 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 2.77 crore equity shares by promoter and existing investors, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Promoter will offload.

Facility



Mumbai: Wespun Logistics Parks (WOLP) on Tuesday said it has handed over a 3.7-lakh sq ft warehousing facility in Bhiwandi to third-party logistics company FM Logistic for operations. WOLP CEO Anshul Singhal said on-time site delivery is of utmost importance.

Invest

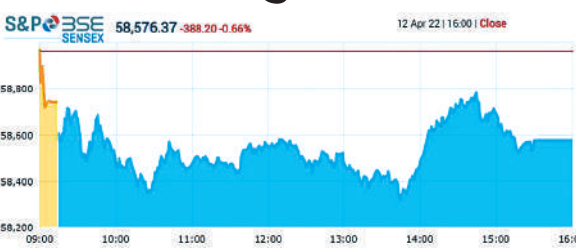
New Delhi: Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPIIB) will invest Rs 2,600 crore to acquire 49 per cent stake in TATA Realty and Infrastructure's two premium commercial office projects at Chennai and Gurugram, and their joint venture plans to further invest Rs 2,000 crore to buy land and completed assets for future growth. In interview with PTI, TATA Realty and Infrastructure MD and CEO Sanjay Dutt told of partnership.

Alternative



London: Winvesta, a neobank building cross-border banking and wealth management solutions, has launched a foreign payment collections system for Indian exporters. CEO Swastik Nigam said much of that money never made it to Indian shores in raw deals.

Sensex declines over 388 points, Nifty tests 17,500 on weak global cues



Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI):

BSE benchmark Sensex plummeted over 388 points to close at 58,188.20 on Tuesday, tracking weakness in index majors Wipro, RIL and Bharti Airtel amid a weak trend in global markets.

Investors also remained cautious ahead of crucial macroeconomic data announcements -- industrial production for February and inflation rate for March -- post trading hours.

The Sensex declined 388.20 points or 0.66 per cent to settle at 58,188.20. During the day, the benchmark tanked 666 points or 1.12 per cent to 58,298.57. The Nifty

went lower by 144.65 points or 0.82 per cent to finish at 17,530.30. From the 30-share pack, Tata Steel, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro and Bajaj Finserv were among the major laggards. In contrast, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Power Grid, Maruti Suzuki, and ICICI Bank were among the gainers. "Market will continue to be choppy in the near-term, pulled up and down by positive and negative news. The near-term headwind continues to be the rising US bond yields which have crossed 2.8 per cent for the 10-year and outflows from equity.

NMDC wins two awards at the 80th SKOCH Summit 2022

Hyderabad, Apr 12:

NMDC, India's largest producer of iron ore awarded one gold and one silver award in the 80th SKOCH Summit and SKOCH Awards on 9th April 2022 conducted by SKOCH, New Delhi. The theme for the SKOCH Summit was 'State of BFSI & PSUs'.

NMDC won the Gold Award in the category social responsibility for the project 'Promotion of Technical Education & Skill Development in Dantewada District through NMDC ITI Bhansi' and the Silver Award in the category digital inclusion for the 'Project Kalpataru' for ERP implementation. The awards were received by



Shri Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Finance) via video conferencing on behalf of Chairman and Managing Director Shri Sumit Deb.

The SKOCH Awards were given to the winners based on the application submitted on their website, presentation to jury followed by three rounds of popular online voting and second round of jury evaluation.

Steel ministry seeks duty-free import of ferronickel

Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI):

Union steel ministry has asked the finance ministry to remove the basic customs duty on ferronickel, a key raw material for stainless steel makers, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

The move will help stainless steel makers to reduce their input cost.

At present, a 2.5 per cent duty is imposed on the imports of ferronickel.

The domestic stainless steel manufacturing industry meets the bulk of its nickel requirements through ferronickel and stainless steel scrap.

Earlier, the government had removed the 2.5 per cent import duty on scrap for a limited period till March 2023.

The government is aware of the challenges the Indian stainless sector is facing. Raw material availability is one of the major challenges in front



of the industry. Additional Steel Secretary Rasika Chaube told PTI on the sidelines of the Global Stainless Steel Expo (GSSE) 2022 here.

"We got (zero duty on scrap) extended up to March 23. Second is nickel and chromium. Chromium is in good supply but nickel is not available. We have taken up the matter (to remove duty ferronickel) with the finance ministry because this is a

very important raw material for the stainless steel industry," Chaube said.

Such decisions are taken after a lot of considerations by the finance ministry, and the steel ministry can recommend for the same, the official said.

Ferronickel is required for the manufacturing of corrosion-free steel which is used in various sectors like auto, defence, railway and infrastructure.

Pepperfry strengthens its presence

Bhopal, Apr 12:

Pepperfry, India's No.1 furniture and home products marketplace, announced the launch of its second Studio in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The offline expansion is in line with the company's aim to penetrate niche markets and build the largest omnichannel business in the furniture and home products segment in India. Pepperfry, which launched its first Studio in 2014, currently has 150 plus Studios across 80 plus cities in the country. The Studio, which is launched in partnership with M/S Sunshine Enterprises, is located at a prime location at LIC Colony Mawa, Raipur, spanning a carpet area of 736sq.ft. It offers customers a first-hand experience of a curated range of furniture and décor, which is carefully selected from the differentiated portfolio of more than 1 lakh products available on Pepperfry's website.

Demand for thermal coal to rise due to electricity demand

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Coal block allocatees have a golden opportunity to augment production as the demand for thermal coal will rise due to an increase in electricity demand, according to a senior government official.

There are reports of coal shortages amid rising demand for electricity with the onset of summer season.

New coal blocks are being allocated for commercial mining and prospective bidders have shown encouraging responses for these blocks. Some of these blocks have started coal production within a year of allocation, the coal ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.



"Coal block allocatees have a golden opportunity for increasing coal production as the price of imported coal is very high at the moment and demand of thermal coal will increase due to increase in electricity demand of country," Coal Secretary Anil Kumar Jain said.

The production from captive coal blocks registered an increase of 35 per cent to 85 million tonnes in

FY22. It was at 63 million tonnes in FY21.

"The nominated authority, Ministry of Coal has reviewed the production of coal with allocatees of captive coal blocks whose coal blocks have either commenced production or are likely to commence production during the financial year 2022-23," the statement said.

The review meeting was chaired by Jain.

HDFC Bank's 'Mooh Band Rakho' campaign on safe banking practices

Mumbai, Apr 12:

HDFC Bank concluded the second edition of its "Mooh Band Rakho" campaign, which created history by spreading awareness on safe banking practices among more than 100 million Indians, through print and digital media.

In November 2021, the second edition of the campaign was launched which involved a 360-degree consumer education programme on cyber frauds and how to combat them by simply practicing a few safe banking habits. The programme highlighted the importance of not sharing confidential personal information with anyone.

The closing ceremony was graced by Shri. Sameer Shukla (IAS), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Lt. General Rajesh Pant, National Cyber Security Coordinator in the

presence of senior HDFC Bank officials including the bank's Head of Retail Credit Strategy and Control Mr. Prashant Mehra, Chief Information Security Officer Mr. Sameer Ratolikar, Head of Credit Intelligence and Control (CIC) Mr. Manish Agrawal, and Head - CIC, Payment Business and Digital Loans Mr. Vivek Goyal. As part of this campaign, the bank has conducted more than 2,800 secured banking workshops in just four months across the country. The workshops covered a wide range of audiences that included students, teachers, law enforcement agencies, senior citizens, channel partners, housing societies, and educational institutions. More than 60,000 students participated in 620 workshops that were aimed at inculcating safe banking habits from an early age.

Motorola announces the feature-packed g22

New Delhi, Apr 12:

An exceptional addition to the g series franchise, Motorola today announced the launch of the feature-packed moto g22. Reinforcing its commitment to bring premium features and experiences to the moto g family at competitive price points, Motorola brings a renewed design, a 6.5" 90 Hz Max Vision display, along with a 16MP selfie, 50MP quad-camera system, and an incredible battery life that is supported by a 20W TurboPower charger. Moto g22 delivers a complete set of features along with Android 12 out-of-the-box experience, that will help the consumers' vision come to life.

The camera system in moto g22 is the only quad camera system to feature



photos with 4x better low light sensitivity. moto g22 also comes with an industry-leading 16MP Selfie Camera with quad pixel technology. moto g22 also has a segment leading 90 Hz 6.5" IPS LCD punch hole display that gives an exceptionally seamless viewing experience. Furthermore, the long lasting 5000mAh battery along with a 20W TurboPower Charger gives you power to do more on the go. moto g22 will go on sale on April 13th in two snazzy color variants including Iceberg Blue and Cosmic Black at Rs.10,999. Customers can avail the bank offers and grab the device at an effective price of just Rs. 9,999 on Flipkart between 13th - 14th April, on limited stocks only.

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Trairecommendations on cut in spectrum prices lower than demand

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Trairecommendations on cut in 5G spectrum base price are incrementally positive, not transformational, some sector analysts said, while others felt that bidding intensity could be moderate or muted in the upcoming auction.

The reduction proposed in pricing, though largely on expected lines, is not in sync with the 90 per cent drop that the industry had been asking for, the experts said.

Credit Suisse in its note said recommendations are "incrementally positive" and that Jio and Airtel are well placed to participate in the auction.

"Trairecommends 25-50 per cent reduction in spectrum pricing; incremen-



tally positive but nothing transformational," Credit Suisse said.

The 700MHz band could likely see demand by telcos, it added.

"Also, while the price for 3.4 GHz 5G spectrum was reduced by 36 per cent, it was lesser than telcos demand for about 90 per cent reduction. Also, the price for mmWave spectrum has been set at 2.2 per cent of the price of 3.4 GHz spectrum versus telco's demand for about 1 per cent," it said.

Institutional investments in real estate jumps over 2-fold

To USD 1.1 bln in Jan-Mar

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Institutional investments in real estate jumped over two-fold to USD 1.1 billion (Rs 8,375 crore) in the three months ended March 2022 with the opening up of the economy after the third COVID wave, according to property consultant Colliers India.

Institutional investments in real estate stood at USD 0.5 billion in the year-ago period and USD 1 billion in the previous quarter. "Institutional investments in Indian real estate



touched USD 1.1 billion during Q1 2022, doubling from the same period last year. The opening up of the economy post the third wave of COVID-19 infections, and an improvement in investors' sentiment has led to surging investments, compared to the prior quarter," Colliers India said in a statement.

The investment activity during the quarter under review was driven by some large-sized deals in the office sector.

"Investments were largely driven by foreign investors, that accounted for about 70 per cent of the inflows during the quarter. Interestingly, after a drop in 2020, the share of domestic

investments has reached 30 per cent, almost the same as pre-pandemic levels. This shows a resurgence in the confidence of domestic investors," the consultant said.

Office, retail, and industrial & logistics segments contributed 95 per cent of the total institutional investment in the real estate sector during January-March period.

The retail sector attracted the second-highest share of investments at 23 per cent, backed by one major transaction. Industrial and logistics assets received inflows of USD 0.2 billion, accounting for about 16 per cent of total investments.

EVs offer Rs 3 lakh cr biz opportunities by FY-26

Mobility as a service is yet another model

Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI):

Electric vehicles (EVs) offer an almost Rs 3-lakh crore business for various stakeholders in India in the five years through fiscal 2026, a CRISIL analysis indicated on Tuesday.

The segment is expected to be driven by shared mobility, battery swapping and shift from ICE vehicles besides government support, it said. The opportunity includes potential revenue of



about Rs 1.5-lakh crore across vehicle segments for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and around Rs 90,000 crore in the form of disbursements for vehicle financiers, with shared mobility and insurance accounting for the balance, as per the analysis.

CRISIL also does not rule out EV penetration reaching 15 per cent in two-wheelers, 25-30 per cent in three-wheelers, and 5 per cent in cars and buses by fiscal 2026 in terms of vehicle sales.

According to CRISIL, EV adoption continues to surge as more people shift from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles.

Data on the Vahan portal shows the share of electric three-wheelers (3Ws) increased to almost 5 per cent of 3Ws registered last fiscal year from less than 1 per cent in fiscal 2018.



Ranveer Singh: Like to convince people that I can transform myself into anyone

Bollywood's livewire star Ranveer Singh, who is gearing up for the release of his next 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar', says for him, the best thing about being an actor is that one can live many lives.

Ranveer says: "For me, the best thing about being an actor is that you can live so many lives and experience so much because each character that I choose to play are remarkably different from one another. "When people saw 'Band Baaja Baaraat', they felt for the longest time that I was a boy who was born and brought up in Delhi. "This has happened many times during the course of my 11-year career and that to me is the biggest compliment because I like to convince people that I can transform myself into anyone." The actor is clear that he doesn't want to get typecast in the industry and among audiences. He, thus, picks his projects with care to wow audiences.

Ranveer said: "I have a personal ambition to never be typecast and it's a tough one but I choose my scripts quite cleverly. 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar' presented me with a huge opportunity to play a character with no reference point all over again. I think I really manifest these roles into my life." The Yash Raj Films' 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar', also starring Arjun Reddy fame Shalini Pandey, is releasing on May 13.



Reyhna Pandit: 'Lock Upp' is a wake-up call for many reality shows

Ishqbaaz' actress Reyhna Pandit is enjoying watching her boyfriend and TV personality Zeeshan Khan in the reality show 'Lock Upp'.

She says: "'Lock Upp' game is very good. It is successful and keeps the audience engaged every second. Until now I feel it's the most genuine reality show. Not like other shows where you wonder why the contestant is being dragged even though they have nothing to offer. It's a wake-up call for many reality shows."

The actress known for featuring in shows like 'Jamai Raja', 'Ishqbaaz', 'Manmohini' among others is supporting her love.

She adds: "I enjoy watching Zeeshan, not only because he's close to me but also being liked by the audience. He is super entertaining, straight forward and clear. I just hope he comes out as a winner. In fact reading about the feedback for his game on social media by his fans and audience is making me feel proud of him."

Sakshi, Raima and Atul Mongia visit Delhi to promote 'Mai'

Starring Sakshi Tanwar, Vivek Mishra, Prashant Narayanan, Wamiqa Gabbi and Raima Sen, among others, Netflix's upcoming series 'Mai' is one of the most awaited series of this summer. Set to be released on April 15, 'Mai' is co-directed by Atul Mongia and Anshai Lal. With the release coming closer, the promotions of the show are underway, with the latest stop being the capital city, New Delhi. This weekend the star



cast of the crime drama and thriller, 'Mai' including Sakshi Tanwar aka 'Sheel' who headlines the series, actress Raima Sen who plays the antagonist 'Neelam' and co-director Atul Mongia were interacting with media and the fans in the national capital. Having much love towards the city, the team visited Delhi to promote their upcoming series.

Talking about the show and her visit to Delhi, Sakshi Tanwar shares, "I was very excited to be in Delhi."

Akansha Singh: Fascinating to see Ajay Devgn direct and act at the same time

Actress Akansha Singh who is playing a pivotal role in the upcoming film 'Runway 34', directed by and starring Ajay Devgn along with the legendary Amitabh Bachchan, says it was quite fascinating for her to see how the actor-filmmaker was multitasking on the set.

Akansha is playing the wife of Captain Vikrant Khanna played by Ajay. Asked about sharing screen space with Ajay, Akansha said: "It was quite fascinating for me to watch how Ajay sir was directing and acting in the same scene. Of course, it was not easy, especially in some of those action sequences. But Ajay sir is a master in it I guess because he was handling multi-tasking with so much ease." During the shooting of the film, the actress had a leg injury and had to shoot some of the sequences with her plaster on. Sharing how cooperative the whole cast and crew were, Akansha said, "throughout that time, I was in a wheelchair but Ajay sir and all our crew members were so supportive. In one of the plane sequences, when I was almost immobile, they picked me up and put me in the place and stood by me throughout, including Ajay sir. It is my first big project in Bollywood and this is such a special memory."

Starting her career in theatre, making her screen debut with the TV serial 'Na Bole Tum Na Maine Kuch Kaha', Akansha always had a wish to work with Amitabh Bachchan.

COLORS presents 'Dance Deewane Juniors'

Our country is replete with many young dance prodigies whose energy and hardcore dance moves can blow your mind. The little wonders are now set to take on the dance floor and celebrate the Deewangi with COLORS' new dance reality show 'Dance Deewane Juniors'. Handpicked from various parts of the nation through a stringent audition process, these children aged between 4-14 years are sure to set the stage on fire whilst performing in solos, duos, and groups and competing with each other. Guiding and mentoring them in this journey will be the esteemed panel of judges- the ever-graceful Neetu Kapoor, the powerhouse of



talent Nora Fatehi and the ace choreographer and dancer Marzi Pestonji. Joining them will be television's heartthrob Karan

Kundrra as the host of the show. Produced by Frames Production, Dance Deewane Juniors will premiere on 23rd April 2022

and air every Saturday and Sunday at 9 pm, only on COLORS!

Dance Deewane franchise has been pivotal in discovering some of the best dancers in this country, and it is now presenting a dazzling new format of 'Dance Deewane Juniors'. With the promise of 'Deewangi More, Dance Hardcore', the show aims to find children with a flaming desire to dance and give them a befitting stage. Be it the incredible dance group 'ABCD Little Angels' including Rithyha, Navya, Janvi, Shanaya and Myra, the energetic dancing duo of Urva and Aska also or solo performers Geet Kaur Bagga, Aditya Vinod Patil and Anshika Dhara, their spirit and passion for dance is unmatched.

HOROSCOPE WEDNESDAY APRIL 13

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18
Today, you're up against those who want to get back at you. But not for nothing are you the king! Ganesha says you needn't worry, as few can match your prowess. Amid all the hullabaloo, your spouse will be a supportive presence.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20
Within adversity, lie the lessons of success; avoid having to resort to that philosophy by implementing your plans, if they are well thought out, in a phased manner. This will help you achieve your targets, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20
Your sportsman spirit will find its way into both your professional and personal life. Today may be an important day in your life, and Ganesha says you must not forget your special quality.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21
Today, you will be as creative and competent as you can get. Your work style, the deft way you handle things will awe and amaze your colleagues and superiors. Your subordinates will be highly impressed and motivated. They will be eager and compliant and will support and assist you to the utmost.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21
Dress to kill today! People around you may or may not comment, but they will definitely notice you. Your sense of style and taste will bowl everyone over. People would scramble for a glimpse of you. In short, you will be a celebrity. Most probably, your beloved will share the limelight with you. Enjoy!

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
You are at your industrious best today. You are able to think the unthinkable, achieve the unachievable, and impress an emotionally impregnable boss. Your confidence level will be sky-high; in fact, it will make overconfidence wallow in self-doubt. Your colleagues will be awestruck, considering themselves lucky to see you in action.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23
If it's a fresh start that you are looking for, then this day promises to give you just that, predicts Ganesha. If you have chalked out plans for your future, today you may go ahead and implement some. Remember that rushing blindly into anything is not the solution; it is always the slow and steady who wins the race.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22
An unusual dose of creativity will motivate you to make a trip to some exotic place and mingle with new people. You will have some experiences that will enrich you mentally and emotionally. But don't unpack yet, there may be another adventure on the cards. Ganesha says you will be very flexible and adaptable today.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23
An unusual dose of creativity will motivate you to make a trip to some exotic place and mingle with new people. You will have some experiences that will enrich you mentally and emotionally. But don't unpack yet, there may be another adventure on the cards. Ganesha says you will be very flexible and adaptable today.

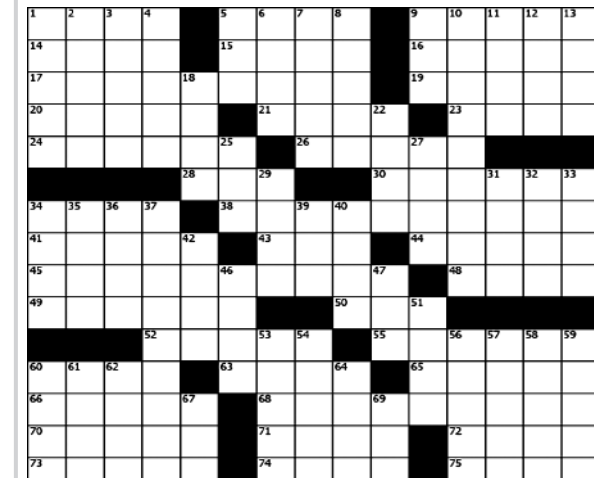
Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22
You might just blow your fuse today, warns Ganesha. Anger will strike and sensibilities. But if logic does prevail eventually, things may just improve as the day passes. Ganesha says it is high time you awakened your softer side.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21
Watch out for Cupid's arrow today, warns Ganesha. Love will strike and strike hard. Alternatively, you may also find yourself in an argument with a loved one that ought to have been avoided. An evening of romance beckons... keep the roses ready and the carpet rolled to heal any bruises you might have caused.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20
Your extraordinary skills, passion for perfection, and an overpowering personality will inspire and motivate those around you, says Ganesha. Many will, in fact, emulate your actions, so much so that you could most likely have a fan following.

CROSSWORD

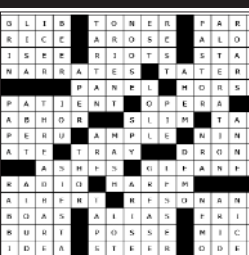
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- ACROSS**
- Ring stones
 - Upper limbs
 - Sheriff's star
 - Figure skater's jump
 - Froth
 - Embellish
 - Turning point
 - Totaled
 - Marry clandestinely
 - Pottery oven
 - Aisles
 - Leased car
 - Rocker _____ Cooper
 - Males
 - Fidel _____
 - Garment edges
 - Car franchise
 - Upper crust
 - Physicians' org.
 - Minimum
 - Change
 - Expires

- DOWN**
- Player
 - Banish
 - Honeydew, e.g.
 - Dozed
 - Fore's opposite
 - Chess piece
 - Excessive excitement
 - Odor
 - Sheep's bleat
 - Spoke to
 - Extinct creature
 - Flourished
 - Goals
 - Garment juncture
 - Agreeable
 - Showed the way
 - Poet _____ Sandburg
 - Tidy
 - Asian language
 - Go up
 - Makes a choice
 - _____ over heels
 - She, in Toulouse
 - Catcher's glove
 - Firmly loyal
 - French pal
 - Vietnam's neighbor
 - Historic canal
 - Associate
 - Silent assent
 - Liability
 - Grouchy
 - Greek vowel
 - Long cut
 - Deck's kin
 - Scents
 - Concise
 - Stringed instrument
 - Pavarotti solo
 - Telescope glass
 - Rind
 - Baltic, e.g.
 - Middling grade

SOLUTION 267



Batters have stopped taking risks against me: Rashid



Always a slow-starter

Against his old team Sunrisers Hyderabad on Monday, Rashid had decent figures of 1/28 as Gujarat suffered their first defeat after three wins, losing by eight wickets. One shy of getting his 100th IPL scalp, Rashid said he's always been a slow starter in the IPL.

"If you look at the stats in IPL, I always have similar (slow) starts. I've always taken 5-6 wickets, not 12-13 in the first four-five games. It always remained the same. But definitely, I will try my best to keep improving. Definitely, there will be a time when I'll deliver that magic spell," he promised. Rashid, who has played 80 matches across 2017-2022, said it's an unbelievable journey for him so far.

"Coming here from Afghanistan and playing all the games since my debut, it's been amazing. Five years back, I didn't even think of playing IPL. Nearing 100 (wickets), becoming vice-captain of Gujarat, it's massive. I'm so lucky and blessed."

On being part of the leadership group by being the deputy to Hardik Pandya, Rashid said the best part is about having clarity about their individual roles.

Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI):

Rashid Khan has been steady without being extraordinary like previous years and the reason for that is the safety first approach by opposition batters during this edition of IPL, feels Gujarat Titans spinner.

Rashid has taken six wickets from four matches at an economy rate of 6.68 but batters across teams have negotiated the Afghan great pretty well.

But the 23-year-old, who is among the most sought-after leg-spinners in franchise cricket around the world, is not surprised and says it's just a matter of time.

Injured Washington likely to miss SRH's next two matches



Navi Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI):

All-rounder Washington Sundar is likely to miss at least the next two IPL matches for Sunrisers Hyderabad after suffering split webbing in his bowling hand, head coach Tom Moody has said.

A disciplined bowling effort followed by skipper Kane Williamson's half-century helped SRH beat Gujarat Titans by eight wickets at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Monday night.

During the match however, Washington got injured and couldn't bowl his full quota of overs. His three wicketless overs - two of which were in the powerplay - went for just 14 runs.

"Washington has torn the webbing in his right hand, between his thumb and first finger. We must monitor that over the next two-three days. Hopefully, it isn't a significant blow. I'd imagine it'd take probably a week or so to settle down," SRH coach Moody said after the win.

It's perform or perish for Mumbai Indians vs Punjab

Pune, Apr 12 (PTI):

Winless after four games, Mumbai Indians will be desperate to reverse the trend when they face Punjab Kings in the IPL here on Wednesday. It has been a nightmarish beginning for the five-time champions who are known for their slow starts. A formidable all-round side over the years, MI have looked a pale shadow of themselves in the ongoing edition, and will need several things to fall in place if they are to arrest the slide and restore their campaign. Apart from their batters' inability to go big, the below-par performance by the bowlers has made things hard.

The road to redemption looks difficult as they are placed ninth on the points table but skipper Rohit Sharma would be eager to turn things around, not just for the team but for himself, too.

Rohit has not been the influential batter that he normally is for his franchise and will have to lead from the front, even as the need to find the right combination rings out loud.

With two wins and as many losses, Punjab are lying seventh in the standings and come into the game on the back of a defeat against Gujarat Titans.



Rohit is very important at the top but the others, including his opening partner Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma, will also need to rise to the occasion before it gets too late for MI to stage a comeback.

Also Dewald Brevis, known for his ability to play a wide range of strokes, is yet to announce himself in the league. The team management would be hoping that the batters are able to fire in unison.

One of the top three batters will definitely need to score big if Mumbai are to

post a big total or chase down one. "We want batters to bat deep. And if you get runs on the board, there's something for the bowlers to do," Rohit had said.

The weakest link for Mumbai is the indifferent form of veteran all-rounder Kieron Pollard. Pollard, who can single-handedly take games away, has been far from his best and the West Indian would be aiming to regain his mojo.

MI, though, will be up against a quality Punjab attack led by Kagiso Rabada and faces a tricky task against the likes of Rahul

Chahar, Vaibhav Arora or Arshdeep Singh.

The Mumbai bowlers, including Jasprit Bumrah, have been off the radar.

The current attack comprising leg-spinner Murugan Ashwin, Basil Thampi and Jaydev Unadkat will have to support Bumrah, who will be keen to recreate his magic. The trio's 12 overs will be crucial if MI's fortunes are to change.

MI are up against a team comprising power-hitters like Shikhar Dhawan, Liam Livingstone and M Shahruxh Khan.

More all-rounders you have, better it is for any team in T20s: Thakur



Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI):

When it comes to all-rounders, more the merrier, feels Delhi Capitals' Shardul Thakur, who feels that multi-skilled cricketers become key when specialists fail in one department.

The Capitals have all-rounders in abundance including the likes of Mitchell Marsh, Axar Patel, Lalit Yadav, Mandeep Singh and

Thakur himself. "We have great depth in our batting. The more all-rounders are there, the better it is for any team in T20s."

"If we lose quick wickets at the top, then the role of the players batting at 6,7 & 8 becomes important," Thakur was quoted as saying in a DC media release.

Thakur, who has made vital contributions with ball and bat in the ongoing IPL so far, said he aims to make an impact in every

match. "The environment within the team is quite good. There are a lot of youngsters in the team and we are all friends as we've been playing together for some time. I like to make an impact in every match I play and that's why I play with a lot of energy," Thakur said.

The Capitals are currently placed sixth in the league table having won two of their four matches.

"The team is moving in the right direction and our Head Coach Ricky Ponting has always told us to play our natural game no matter what the situation is. He backs us so we always try to give our best."

The seam bowling all-rounder, who has represented India in 25 T20Is, has impressed everyone with the ball and the bat.

"I look to enjoy playing cricket. I have worked hard to reach this stage so I don't want to put myself under any kind of pressure. Even when the crowd cheers for our opponents in the stadium, I look to enjoy those situations."

Saina Nehwal decides to skip selection trials for CWG, Asian Games



New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Saina Nehwal's chances of defending her title at the Commonwealth Games looks bleak as she has decided to skip the selection trials for the upcoming multi-sport events. The big-ticket events include the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and the Hangzhou Asian Games. The selection trials are scheduled here from April 15 to 20.

The 32-year-old Hisar-born shuttler, a two-time CWG gold medallist and 2012 London Olympics bronze medallist, has informed the Badminton Association of India (BAI) about her decision to skip the trials.

"Saina has written to BAI, informing her decision to not play in the trials which will be the only

tournament to pick players for CWG, Asiad and Uber Cup," a BAI source told PTI.

The CWG squad will consist of 10 members with equal number of men and women, while the Asian Games and Thomas & Uber Cup contingents will have 20 members each, including 10 men and 10 women.

The BAI has made it clear that players inside the top 15 in the BWF rankings will be picked directly, while the rest will be chosen from the trials which will see participation of shuttlers ranked between 16 to 50 in the latest world rankings, released on March 29. The national governing body will also be "finalising probabilities for the senior core group for the 2024 Olympic Games" during the trials.

We are in transition phase every team goes through: Bumrah

Pune, Apr 12 (PTI):

Mumbai Indians vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah understands and accepts the hard truth that Mumbai Indians is indeed going through a "transition phase" and the new kids in the block need to understand how to react to pressure situations in a high intensity tournament like IPL.

MI have already lost four games on trot and lack of bowling options is hurting the five-time champions badly.

"It's a transition phase that every cricketer understands, and every team goes through that. We are in that phase; we have got a new group," Bumrah said.

"So understanding the format of the IPL, how you have to handle pressure and achieve success in this league."

"We are going through that. We are looking forward that we go through this transition, and then we have all the players we had and the quality will come back again," he said.

For Bumrah, it is important that MI lives in the present rather than stressing on the past.

"Right now, we live in



the present. Yes, things have not gone according to plan so far, but we keep on fighting and we keep on finding a way," Bumrah was quoted as saying in media release issued by the franchise.

"That is the way the game of cricket works. Whenever a challenge comes, you try to find solutions to the challenge and we are trying to do that," he added.

Bumrah feels that the tracks have been heavily loaded in favour of batters this time and the toss has proved to be crucial so far.

"This year when the

wickets are helping the batters and it's difficult to take wickets, you have to find your ways. We are not different. We are trying to find new ways. We've come up with a few plans," the right-arm speedster said, without divulging the plans. Toss indeed has become a crucial factor.

"If it was up to me, I would say win the toss. That really helps. But yes, whenever you come into this scenario, there is a little bit of help with the new ball, so maintaining a good line, trying to swing the ball upfront, I think will help you," he quipped.

Bublik cuts short Wawrinka's return to tour after injury

Monaco, Apr 12 (AP):

Alexander Bublik cut short Stan Wawrinka's return to the tour, defeating the Swiss 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 in the first round of the Monte Carlo Masters in his first singles in 13 months.

Wawrinka started off confidently against the Kazakh, winning the first set with ease. He staved off three set points in the second to hold for 5-5 but appeared tired. In the decisive third, Bublik pulled ahead early and wrapped up the match in just over two hours on Monday.

Wawrinka, 37, last competed on tour in March 2021 when he lost his opening match at the Qatar Open. He's had two surgeries on his left foot since then and months of difficult recovery.

I'm still far away from where I want to be, but I



think I'm in the right direction, Wawrinka said. Despite a tough loss to No.

35-ranked Bublik, the Swiss said it felt good to be on the court, packed with

spectators, and playing for real points. It was much better than what I was expecting, Wawrinka said.

Still, the physical and mental fatigue made him consider he might have returned to the tour too soon. He has not lined up other tournaments but intends to spend more time on practice.

I need a lot more ... and I need to work hard on my tennis and my physical condition, Wawrinka said.

Marin Cilic of Croatia overwhelmed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 6-2, turning the Frenchman's opening match in Monaco into his final clay-court appearance in a Masters event.

Tsonga, 36, announced last week he will retire after the French Open, hoping to put the final touches on an injury-plagued career in front of his home crowd.

Boult, Devine named T20 International Player of the Year

Wellington, Apr 12 (PTI):

Black Caps pace spearhead Trent Boult and White Ferns skipper Sophie Devine won the 'T20 International Player of the Year' for their sensational run in the shortest format of the game at the New Zealand Cricket Awards.

The awards are being delivered virtually over three days.

Boult was awarded for his splendid run at the T20 World Cup in UAE last here where New Zealand reached the final.

The 32-year old had taken 13 wickets in the tournament and played a crucial role in taking his side to the finals. Boult defeated Tim



Southey, Devon Conway, Daryl Mitchell and Ish Sodhi -- who also played vital roles in the Black Caps' run to the final before they lost to Australia -- to take home the award.



"It means a lot. T20 is a format I really enjoy and one I'm constantly trying to adapt my game to in order to become a better bowler. It's something very special to win this award

and I feel really grateful to receive it," Boult, who is currently in India for the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022, said.

Devine, on the other hand, bagged her her second International Women's T20 Player of the Year award in two years.

She scored 118 runs in four outings at an average of 29.50 with an overall strike-rate of 113.46 and a top-score of 50 against England in Hove. The fan moment of the summer went to the retired Ross Taylor for his final wicket in his last Test against Bangladesh in Christchurch. Melie Kerr and Michael Bracewell were named the respective Super Smash Players of the Year following their efforts for Wellington.

J'khand ropeway accident rescue ops end

Three dead, 60 evacuated

Deoghar (Jharkhand), Apr 12 (PTI): All the tourists trapped in cable cars in Jharkhand's Deoghar district were rescued by 2 PM on Tuesday even as one more person fell down from a helicopter while being winched up, taking the death toll in the incident to three, officials said. Rescue operations spread over 46 hours ended as all the 60 passengers stranded in cable cars due to an accident on a ropeway at Trikut hills around 4 PM on Sunday were evacuated by two Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters.



Damaged cable cars following a collision at Trikut Ropeway, in Deoghar district of Jharkhand, Tuesday.

Fourteen of the last remaining 15 tourists, who were trapped mid-air for more than 40 hours, were rescued during the day. "Of the remaining 15 people trapped in cable cars, 14 were rescued while a woman fell off the chopper during the course of the operation,"

Director General of Police R K Mallick told PTI from the spot over phone. Deoghar Civil Surgeon C K Shahi said that the woman, identified as 60-year-old Shobha Devi, was declared dead on being taken to a hospital. Mallick said that the res-

cueed people were sent to hospitals, where they will be examined. Three people have died so far, including two tourists who fell to their deaths from helicopters on Monday and Tuesday during botched rescue attempts, while 12 injured people are undergoing

treatment at hospitals. The rescue operation was conducted jointly by the IAF, Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the district administration. Food and water were supplied to the stranded people using drones. Chief Minister Hemant Soren has ordered a high-level probe into the incident. "I have directed all the senior officials to find out the reasons behind the accident and who are accountable for this. A high-level probe will be conducted in the matter and action will be taken accordingly. The state government is keeping a close watch on the situation," Soren said. Governor Ramesh Bais has expressed deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured people.

TRADITIONAL ATTIRE



Students wearing traditional Punjabi attire take part in Vaisakhi celebrations at a college in Amritsar, Tuesday.

Spiralling prices of essentials, fuel strain household budgets across country

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

A sharp rise in prices of essential commodities over the past few months coupled with the latest burden of steep hike in fuel rates have made life difficult for almost every section of the society across the country, with people finding it hard to manage their household budget. While the prices of vegetables and several other food items have gone through the roof, the rates of petrol and diesel have increased by about Rs 10 per litre each in the past one month. Besides, the prices of other petroleum products, including cooking gas, have also witnessed a rise in the past

few days, adding to the woes of the people. The daily hike in fuel prices has made our life difficult. An LPG cylinder now costs around Rs 1,000, while prices of other commodities, including fruits, vegetables, and cooking oil, have sharply increased, said Anudeep Kaur Goraya, a homemaker from Phagwara in Punjab. Ompal Singh, a businessman from Haryana's Hisar who runs a shop in the auto market, said the rising inflation has also hit small businesses and traders. The rising prices have hit almost everyone, either it be a milkman from Madhya Pradesh or a fish vendor from Kerala. Kallu

Ram (50), a milkman from Bhopal, said the high petrol price has made a big dent in his savings. I use a bike to deliver milk to my customers. Now, I have to spend Rs 160 per day on petrol as against Rs 100 a few months ago. I want the price of petrol to be reduced, said Ram. Abdul Rahiman, a fish vendor in Kerala's Kozhikode who uses a two-wheeler for his business, said his daily petrol bill has gone up to Rs 250 which was Rs 150 till last month. "I drive 23 km from Perumanna to Puthiyappa fishing harbour in the morning and gather a variety of fish in the container fitted on my bike. I take a round through Puthiyara, Pottemmal,

Chevayur, and Chevarambalam, and return home by 2 pm. Now, I have to spend Rs 100 more on petrol every day," he said. Baldev Chand, a retired government employee from Chandigarh, said the price rise has adversely hit his family's budget. A good part of my pension was already being consumed by the medicines that me and my wife have to take. Now, the rising prices of essential commodities have forced us to cut down on all non-essential expenses, he said. In Delhi's Mayur Vihar-1, Pradeep Kushwaha, a vegetable seller, said the hike in fuel prices is making vegetables costlier in the national capital.

"Transportation cost has gone up by 10-15 per cent due to steep hike in the prices of petrol, diesel and CNG. It is causing a ripple effect on vegetable prices," Kushwaha said. The steep hike in CNG prices (about Rs 10 per kg in the past one month) has also prompted auto and cab drivers to threaten an indefinite strike from April 18. Rajendra Soni, General Secretary of the Delhi Auto-rickshaw Sangh, said, "CNG is now sold at over Rs 69 per kg. We demand that the government should provide Rs 35 per kg subsidy on CNG so that we can survive. We will go on an indefinite strike from April 18 if our demand is not met," Soni

said. Rising petrol prices have squeezed the income of Anand Vaghela, a contractual worker with a public sector firm in Ahmedabad. Vaghela, who travels around 30 km daily on his two-wheeler, says he is not able to save a single penny. "Not just petrol, prices of almost everything have increased in the past few months. As a result, I am unable to manage my household budget," says Vaghela, who lives in a rented apartment along with his wife and two children. Similarly, Rahul Desai, a marketing professional from South Goa, claimed that his travel expense has really gone up. Petrol is available at Rs 105 per litre in Goa.

13 police stations in Washim get 'seva desks' to help citizens

Nagpur, Apr 12 (PTI):

The police in Maharashtra's Washim district has started 'Seva desks' to make the process of registration of complaints more transparent as well as to proactively reach out to citizens, a senior official said on Tuesday. The initiative was started under the Right to Public Services Act and it comprises staff manning these helpdesks taking down details from the complainant or citizen in a handheld tablet, which is then made part of the centralised SEVA cell, Washim Superintendent of Police Bachchan Singh

told PTI. It started at the SP office as a visitor management system in December last year and then tablets were provided to all 13 police stations in the district in February, he said. "The basic idea is to take cognizance of trivial and small issues as well so that they don't build up into crimes later. The system takes feedback and also gives guidance on district legal services authority, Manodhairya scheme etc. So far, 3,797 people have visited these Seva desks and we have contacted 1,129 of them for feedback on their experience," Singh said.

VISHU PREPARATIONS



Girls with the 'Kanikonna' flowers ahead of the Vishu festival, in Kannur, Tuesday.

Skywalk, New Durga Bhawan among several facilities coming up

● **At Vaishno Devi shrine**

Jammu, Apr 12 (PTI): Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the newly constituted Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) here, which discussed and approved various proposals related to facilities for the devotees to make their pilgrimage hassle-free, officials said. The new facilities and upgradation works will ensure that pilgrims from around the world have access to state-of-the-art amenities and the connection between local economy and pilgrimage is fur-

ther strengthened, the Lt Governor said. He said efforts are being made to create modern facilities like skywalk, new Durga Bhawan, spiritual theme park and services such as Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag for devotees within a stipulated time-frame for the pleasant divine experience. Sinha said the number of devotees from India and abroad visiting the holy shrine is continuously breaking records. Last month, the Lt Governor, who is also the chairman of the SMVDSB, reconstituted the board and nominated eight personalities, from various walks of life, as members for three years.

● **Seeks independent probe**

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI): The Congress on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the BJP over the death of Santosh Patil, a contractor who levelled corruption charges against K S Eshwarappa, and demanded an FIR against the Karnataka minister and an independent probe into the incident. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi accused the prime minister and the Karnataka chief minister of being complicit in the contractor's death, saying that the victim's pleas to them went unanswered.

"BJP's 40% Commission Government in Karnataka has claimed the life of their own Karyakarta. The victim's pleas to the PM went unanswered. The PM and CM are complicit. #BJPCorruptionFiles (sic)," Gandhi said on Twitter. Patil was found dead in a hotel room in Udipi on Tuesday morning. He had earlier accused Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwarappa of demanding 40 per cent commission in a public work executed by him. The minister not only dismissed his allegations but also filed a defamation suit against him. Congress general sec-

Khargone violence Jamiat seeks high-level judicial inquiry

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Prominent Muslim body Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind on Tuesday sought Home Minister Amit Shah's intervention over the issue of alleged harassment of the minority community in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone and demanded a high-level judicial inquiry into the violence there. Jamiat said its chief Maulana Mahmood Madani has written a letter to Shah flagging the issue of "harassment" of Muslims, saying their properties were being razed in a "selective manner". The letter comes in the wake of Khargone district administration on

Monday starting demolition of at least 50 "illegal" structures of people accused of pelting stones at a Ram Navami procession. The state government has said damage caused to public and private properties during the violence will be recovered from rioters. More than 80 people have been arrested after stones hurled at a Ram Navami procession triggered large-scale arson, officials said. Madani expressed deep anguish over the communal violence in several parts of the country coinciding with the Ram Navami festival, a Jamiat statement said. He condemned the violence and

subsequent demolition of the houses and shops of the accused especially in Khargone, it said. Madani alleged that "rioters" have made a set pattern of going to Muslim localities and chanting hateful slogans as well as carrying out highly provocative acts. In his letter to Shah, Madani drew the attention of the home minister to the communal violence in Khargone and said it was very unfortunate that after the outbreak of violence, the local administration is set on "harassing" the minority community. Madani demanded a time-bound high-level judicial inquiry into the Khargone vio-

lence. "I also request you to prosecute all those who instigated the violence during the procession that caused this entire incident to happen...I would also request you to pay attention to the discriminatory modus operandi of the law-enforcement agencies," Madani said. There must be an immediate halt to the demolition of the properties as it is believed that many innocent and poor are wrongly being caught in the drive, he said. "I hope that your good office will intervene in the matter adequately, which will restore the faith of the minority community," Madani wrote in the letter.

CONTRACTOR DEATH

Congress demands FIR against K'taka minister

retary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai should lodge an FIR of murder and corruption against the minister and dismiss him, otherwise Bommai's complicity is clear. "The CM and PM should Lodge an FIR of Murder and Corruption against the BJP Minister. Arrest the Minister. Dismiss him as a Minister. Conduct an independent probe. Otherwise, it will be clear that CM Bommai is complicit in the alleged corruption (sic)," Surjewala said on Twitter. "Dear Friends of the BJP,

At least show guts to speak for a fellow BJP worker! The wife of BJP Worker, Late Santosh Patil is crying and telling how she had to sell her jewellery to fulfil the insatiable lust of Corruption. Will Sh. J.P. Nadda speak up (sic)?" he asked. Eshwarappa has turned down the demand of the opposition Congress seeking his resignation. Chief Minister Bommai said the police will conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the contractor's death. He also ruled out any resignations in this regard. Surjewala alleged that the "stench of corruption in 40% Commission

Bommai Government, Karnataka has reached its nadir". "Even BJP workers are not spared and are forced to commit suicide as the CM and PM refuse to act upon allegations of 40% Commission against BJP Minister, Eshwarappa," the Congress leader alleged. Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar also alleged that "it's a murder, not suicide. If the BJP has any shame they will immediately arrest the minister." "I demand an immediate time-bound judicial inquiry into the alleged suicide" of Santosh Patil," Shivakumar said in a tweet. He said a businessman who had publicly

alleged that BJP leaders and ministers were asking for bribes has been suspiciously found dead. "Corruption is at an all time high under the BJP rule," he alleged. "The unease of doing business in Karnataka is such that private companies don't want to invest in the state. This is one of the reasons why we have high unemployment rate. Job creators are harassed by BJP's corruption demands," the state Congress chief said. Meanwhile, a group of Congress workers protested outside the residence of Eshwarappa in Bengaluru, demanding his resignation.