

BRIEF



An activist wearing a costume holds a placard during a rally to mark the World Earth Day in Bengaluru, Friday.

Foreigners detained

Karimganj: Two nationals, suspected to be Ukrainian nationals, have been detained by the police at Badarpur railway station in Assam after they were disembarked from a Punjab-bound train for travelling without valid documents, a police officer said on Friday.

Celebratory firing

Sultanpur (UP): A man was killed in celebratory firing during a marriage ceremony in Pipri Bhawanipur village here, police said on Friday. Sheshmani Pandey (59) died in the incident that happened on Thursday night, they said. He got injured during the celebratory firing when he along with other family members was going to the village to attend Shaileendra Pandey's tilak ceremony, police said.

Judicial custody

Mumbai: A special court here on Friday extended till May 6 the judicial custody of Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik in a money laundering probe linked to the activities of fugitive don Dawood Ibrahim and his aides. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had arrested Malik (62), a senior NCP leader, on February 23 in the case registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Tihar prisoners

New Delhi: Fifteen prisoners of Tihar jail injured themselves with sharp cutlery, officials said on Friday. The incident took place on Wednesday. Four of the injured inmates were sent to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital for treatment and later brought back to the prison. The 11 others sustained minor injuries and they were administered first aid in-house, the officials said. They, however, did not specify the reason why the prisoners injured themselves.

Weather	
High	39
Low	27
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,171.95
SENSEX	57,197.15
BULLION	
GOLD	52,276
SILVER	66,500

2 Jaish suicide bombers, CISF officer killed in encounter

Jammu, Apr 22 (PTI):

An attempt by banned terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) to carry out a suicide attack ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit was foiled after two suspected Pakistani terrorists were killed here in an encounter on Friday in which a CISF officer also died, officials said.

Nine security personnel were also injured in the pre-dawn gunfight near an Army camp in Sunjwan area on the outskirts of Jammu.

Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh, who visited the encounter



A security person inspects a bus after an encounter between security forces and militants, at Sunjawan area in Jammu district, Friday.

site, said the two terrorists were part of a suicide squad of Pakistan-based JeM and their infiltration

NIA files charge sheet against 2 persons in espionage case

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The National Investigation Agency on Friday filed a charge sheet against two persons in connection with their alleged involvement in conspiracy and espionage activities with an intention to wage war against India, an agency spokesperson said. The charge sheet was filed before a competent court in Hyderabad against Altaf Husen Ganchibhai alias Shakil, who hails from Gujarat, and Waseem, a Pakistani national under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, IT Act and the stringent

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The case, pertaining to a criminal conspiracy to carry out anti-national activities by Pakistani agents, was originally registered with the Andhra Pradesh police and re-registered by the NIA on December 23 last year, the spokesperson said in a statement. The agents, in a bid to obtain "crucial and sensitive information pertaining to Defence establishments" from Indian Armed Forces personnel, used to engage civilians using social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, the spokesperson said.

Couple, three daughters charred to death in car

Rajnandgaon, Apr 22 (PTI):

A businessman, his wife and the couple's three daughters in their twenties were burnt to death when their car caught fire after hitting the railing of a culvert in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district on Friday, police said.

The victims, natives of Khairagarh town in the district, were returning home after attending a wedding in neighbouring Balod district, they said. The accident took place around 2 am near Singarpur village under Thekadh police station limits, a police official said. "According to an eyewitness,

tial investigation, the two terrorists entered the outskirts of Jammu city on Thursday after infiltrating from the international border in R S Pura sector and were staying in a locality close to the Sunjwan Army camp.

"Last night, police and other forces were involved in an operation which culminated... As per reports, the two terrorists were part of JeM's suicide squad, launched from Pakistan and tasked with targeting a camp of the security forces or engaging... to inflict a lot of casualties," the DGP told reporters near the scene of the encounter.

Johnson felt like Sachin Tendulkar, Amitabh Bachchan

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):



Britain Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks at a press conference in Delhi, on the last day of his two day trip to India, Friday.

The bonhomie between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Prime Minister Boris Johnson was palpable at a media event here on Friday with the UK PM referring to Modi as "khaas dost (special friend)" and calling him by his first name multiple times.

Johnson also appreciated the welcome he received in India, especially in Gujarat, saying he felt a bit like Sachin Tendulkar and his face was ubiquitous like Amitabh Bachchan. Addressing a joint press event with Modi, "Thank you my friend Narendra, my Khaas dost is the phrase I would (like to) use in

Hindi. We have had a fantastic two days here in India." "Yesterday I became the first conservative prime minister to visit Gujarat, which is your birth place of course Narendra, but as you just said the ancestral home of about half of all the

British Indians and I had an amazing reception, absolutely amazing, I felt a bit like Sachin Tendulkar and my face was ubiquitous everywhere as Amitabh Bachchan. I was everywhere to be seen and it was fantastic," Johnson said.

Mask mandate returns in Delhi within 3 weeks

Rs 500 fine for violation

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Within three weeks of lifting its mask mandate, the Delhi government Friday made masks mandatory at public places with immediate effect, and imposed a fine of Rs 500 for any violation as coronavirus cases rise in the city again.

However, those travelling together in a private four-wheeler are out of the purview of the new rule, according to an order issued by the city's Health and Family Welfare Department. The order does not mention if people travelling in hired cabs and taxis

will be required to wear masks. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) had in a meeting last Wednesday decided to make masks mandatory at public places with a fine of Rs 500 for any violation. The DDMA meeting, attended by Lt Governor Anil Bajjal and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal among others, had noted that Covid case positivity rate has been increasing in Delhi over the past fortnight. In its order on Friday, the DDMA said it took the decision on fine after examining all relevant facts related to the issue of penal provisions for not adhering to the protocol of wearing masks at public places.

Police chief writes to ED to probe money laundering charges against prime accused

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana has written to the Enforcement Directorate to investigate the money laundering charges against the prime accused in the Jahangirpuri violence case, a senior officer said on Friday. Anwar, 35, a resident of B-Block of Jahangirpuri, is alleged to be the "main conspirator" behind the violence that took place on



Security forces personnel stand guard in the violence-hit Jahangirpuri area, in New Delhi, Friday.

April 16 during a procession on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, police said. "A letter has been written to the director of

the Enforcement Directorate to probe Anwar under PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) charges," the senior police officer told PTI. Asthana has written to Director, Enforcement Directorate (ED), Sanjay Kumar Mishra. During preliminary investigation, it has emerged that Anwar has money in many of bank accounts and is also in possession of several properties which allegedly were purchased through gambling money, police said.

Delhi, Bihar to reimburse Centre for using Covid jabs as free precaution dose

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Delhi and Bihar, which have started administering free Covid precaution doses for the 18-59 year age group, have to reimburse the National Health Authority for using the available stock of jabs provided by the Union government for the purpose, official sources said Friday. Following requests from these two states, the Union Health Ministry has made a provision on the CoWIN portal for creating sessions to administer the precaution doses at

government Covid vaccination centres, they said.

They had sought permission from the ministry to use the available stock of Covid vaccine as precaution dose in government vaccination centres free of cost, saying they would reimburse or replenish the stock upon procurement.

"The Union Health Ministry has agreed to their proposal... But they shall reimburse the cost of the vaccine used for the purpose to the National Health Authority," an official source said.

Citizens send postcards to CPCB demanding revision of air quality standards

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI)

Over 10,000 citizens sent a petition and postcards to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Friday, demanding a speedy revision of India's air quality standards, environmental group Greenpeace India said. The postcards have been mounted on an eight-foot-high metallic tree installed outside the CPCB office here, evoking the multi-cultural symbolism of the Tree of Life, it said. "Citizens, especially from vulnerable groups, including mothers, children, senior citizens, urban poor and other marginalised communities, are amplifying this message.

Court has power to review govt's decision on remission: SC

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The convict sought the issuance of a writ directing the Chhattisgarh government to grant him pre-mature release.

It said the prerogative of the executive is subject to the rule of law and fairness in state action embodied in Article 14 of the Constitution.

The Court has the power to review the decision of the government regarding the acceptance or rejection of an application for remission under Section 432 of the CrPC to determine whether the decision is arbitrary in nature, the

bench said. The observations of the top court came on a plea filed by a convict Ram Chander who is undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for life upon being convicted for the commission of offences punishable under Section 302 (murder) read with Section 149 (unlawful assembly) of the Indian Penal Code. The top court said though the court can re-

view the decision of the government to determine whether it was arbitrary, it cannot usurp the power of the government and grant remission itself. On the issue of the opinion of the presiding judge of the court for deciding remission, the apex court said that the appropriate government should not mechanically follow the opinion of the presiding judge. In the present case, there is nothing to indicate that the presiding judge took into account the factors which have been laid down.

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Durg to have a wholesale corridor like Raipur, announces CM

Baghel inaugurates Amrut Mission Scheme



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched Phase-I of Amrut Mission Scheme in Durg. This scheme has been completed with an investment of about Rs 140 crore in Durg Municipal Corporation. The scheme is aimed to provide pure drinking water to 32000 families. Under this scheme, along with the

renovation of the water treatment plant, pipeline expansion and construction of 5 high capacity tanks have been done. On this occasion, Urban Administration Minister Dr Shivkumar Dahria, State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Arun Vora and Municipal Corporation Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and other public representatives were present.

trial parks are ready to supply their products as per the requirement of businesses and industries, which can turn out to be a great help to the industries. Baghel assured the industrialists of extending every possible support from the State Government, while they strive to improve the industrial scenario of the state tremendously.

Chief Minister also mentioned about his discussion with the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari. He said that there is a lot of potential in the energy sector of the state. Receiving permits to manufacture ethanol from paddy can be a big leap for this industry. The market has benefited from farmer-oriented policies and the urban economy has also benefited from the same. We aim to create opportunities for all in both the core sector and beyond. Our industrialists are the brand ambassadors of our industry, he said. Chief Minister also conducted personal interaction with the industrialists during the program.

CM inaugurates Working Women Hostel; interacts with DMC Corporators

Bhilai, Apr 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated a Working Women Hostel in Durg on Friday. This hostel has been constructed for the convenience of working women. 100 working women will get accommodation in this hostel which has been built at a cost of Rs 3.55 crore. This hostel has 42 rooms with attached bathrooms. On the occasion, CM interacted with the Corporators of Durg Municipal Corporation. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Urban Administration Minister Dr Shiv Daharia, State Warehousing Corporation President Arun Vora and other public representatives were present.



- Directs Collector to earmark land for this purpose
- CM inaugurates new office building of District Industries and Trade Center

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: On Friday, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that a wholesale corridor similar to that in Raipur will be built in Durg as well. He made this announcement while addressing the inaugural programme of the new office building of District Trade and Industry Center in Durg. CM has directed Durg Collector to earmark the land for this purpose. Many public representatives including Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr Shivkumar Dahria and Chairman of State Warehousing Corporation Arun Vora were also present in the programme.



Baghel said that Durg is an industrial district, but Bhilai is the place recognized as the industrial center of the country. After the establishment of BSP, many industries were established in Bhilai. The industries here play a big role in the development of Durg. The demand for workers has declined as technology took over. BSP is like the backbone for industries of the state.

Chief Minister said that Durg district has also been a hub of vegetables and fruits. The farmers here are growing various crops that have demand abroad as well. "After several meetings and discussions with the industrialists, we have formulated our

Industrial Policy for the state. We have carefully handpicked the best aspects of the policies of other states as well. During the COVID crisis, I kept meeting the representatives of various industrial organizations, learning about their grievances and resolving them. We adopted the policy of industrial expansion even in those areas of the state where there were hardly any industries", said Chief Minister. He added that there will be no NPA in this policy.

Baghel further said that in the demand for industries is mostly based on its capacity to create employment, however sometimes establishment of an indus-



try is opposed by the local residents. CM added that they have explained to the localities that the establishment of industries would create more employment locally and then they would not have to migrate away from their home in search of work. He said that during COVID crisis, they spoke to people of those areas, where a large number of workers had migrated back to their native places. The state government has marked orange areas in the state so as to establish more industries at the local level. In the meeting with the Chambers of Commerce and Industries office bearers in Bastar, he advised the industrialists to con-

duct a proper survey at local level to set up industries and to focus on skill development of people as per the requirement of the industry, he informed. Employment opportunities would motivate the localities to support the establishment of the industries.

Chief Minister highlighted the work done for the millers. State Government has hiked the milling charges and there is a meagre amount of paddy left in the collection centres. The government has also converted Gauthans into rural industries and now work is going on towards developing them as Rural Industrial Park. Self Help Groups engaged in these rural indus-

Chhattisgarh witnessing changes with rapid rural development: Guru Rudra Kumar

Karm Shiromani awards given away in SMS 2

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: With rapid rural development, the picture of the state is changing rapidly. The state's economy is getting stronger with a strong rural economy, said PHE Minister Guru Rudra Kumar while addressing gatherings at villages Chikhali and Semaria. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu was also present in village Semaria. Guru Rudra Kumar announced various projects for the development of both the villages. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said that the government is taking care of all the sections in its schemes. The govern-



ment is working especially for welfare and progress of the marginalized sections of the society. He said that the foundation of solid rural development is being laid through the Narva, Garwa, Ghurva, Bari scheme. The income of the villagers has increased rapidly through this scheme. Villages are pro-

gressing rapidly due to livestock development along with agriculture.

PHE Minister said that the income of self-help groups has increased through Gauthans by developing Gauthans as livelihood oriented centres. He appreciated the SHGs working in Gauthans of Durg for their innovative

working. He said that training programs of village industries are also being run so that women could become self employed through skill development. He informed that development schemes for all sections are being run by the government.

The work that has been done in the direction of strengthening the rural economy is visible in the urban economy as well. The economy has also improved in the cities. He added that through the Jaljeevan Mission, adequate supply of pure water is being ensured for all. The Minister said that he keeps on taking feedback continuously from the people.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: Karm Shiromani awards were given away in SAIL-BSP's Steel Melting Shop-2 recently. Shri Sushil Kumar, CGM (SMS 2) was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Shri Sushil Kumar in his address said that employees of SMS 2 have set new milestones with their sincerity, hard work and dedication.

Our employees have the calibre to convert challenges into opportunities, he said. While records are being made frequently, we must reach new heights, he said, adding that we have to set new targets and achieve the same.

Shri Sudhir Kumar, GM (SMS 2) who was the Special Guest spoke about Safety and housekeeping. Shri Yogesh Shastri, GM (SMS



2), who was the Guest of Honour spoke about cleanliness, safety and health.

Shri Deepak Kumar Shah, ACT, Shri Arjun Singh Gadwal, OCT, Shri Suresh Prasad, M/Optv., Shari Narendra B Goswami, OCT, Shri Soman Singh Korpe, CCS Operation, Shri Ganesh Ram Purbhiya, CCS Operation, Shri Ram

Naresh Singh, M/Optv., Shri Chandrama Prasad, Converter Shop, Shri Onkar Singh, CCS operation were felicitated with Karm Shiromani awards for their outstanding performance.

Employees are shortlisted for this award for innovations, better resource utilisation, following safety standards etc. at the work-

place. A certificate, letter of appreciation and a sweet packet was given to the awardees.

The programme was compered by Shri Vijay Kumar, Asst. Manager (P-Steel zone 2). Shri K D Baghel, ALWO, Shri Narendra Kurrey and Ms. Kalyani Sahu helped in making the programme successful.

Transit Hostel inaugurated for government officers

Mekhala's performance captivates audience

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: On Friday, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated a Transit Hostel for government officers here at Durg. The Transit hostel has been constructed at a cost of Rs 10.41 crore. There are 54 units to accommodate people in which bedroom, drawing room, kitchen and gallery are there in each unit.



here till the permanent accommodation is allotted to them. Cabinet Ministers Tamradhwaj

Sahu, Ravindra Choubey, Dr Shiv Daharia and other dignitaries were present.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: The new year Payla Boishakh was celebrated with pomp and show by the Bengali community. On April 15, a cultural program was organized by the Bhilai Bengali Samaj in the Open Air Theatre Civic Centre to celebrate the New Year. Mayor of Bhilai Municipal Corporation Neeraj Pal, Member of Parliament Durg Vijay Baghel, Councilor of Risali Municipal Corporation Anoop Dey were present as guests.

At the beginning, a two-minute silence was observed to pay homage to the people of the Bengali community who lost their lives due to Corona and other accidents in the last two years. Bhilai Bengali Samaj President DK Dutta ex-



pressed Bengali New Year greetings to the people present. The guests also addressed the program. Subhashish Dey conducted the program. Here it needs a mention that the program was organized after three years due to Corona epidemic. People from all sections of the society were seen excited as the program was organized after a long gap. Apart from Bhilai, people from sur-

rounding areas including Bhilai-3, Charoda, Kumhari, Jamul, Utai, Durg and family participated. The audience was spell bound by the performance of upcoming arts from Kolkata, Zee Saregamapa fame Mekhala Dasgupta and her team. The team presented melodious new and old songs of Bangla and Hindi which won loud applause.

Prominent among those



present were DK Dutta Bhilai-3, Charoda, Kumhari, Jamul, Utai, Durg and family participated. The audience was spell bound by the performance of upcoming arts from Kolkata, Zee Saregamapa fame Mekhala Dasgupta and her team. The team presented melodious new and old songs of Bangla and Hindi which won loud applause.

Sarkar, Ashok Banerjee, Subhankar Roy, Akash Majhi, Deep Majhi, Rishabh Pal, Arun Sarkar, Tarunkanti Pal, Bhuvan Chakraborty, Swaraj Banerjee, Sameer Ghosal, Amol Biswas, Indranil Saha, Anjan Das, Aparna Mukherjee, Bhumi Roy, Mamoni Sengupta, Praveer Kar, Gopal Chakraborty and others. Media in-charge Subhankar Roy has given this information.

SR Hospital organises free medical camp in Khairagarh

Baba Saheb's birth anniversary celebrated

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: A free health check-up camp was organized at the Community Health Center Khairagarh on April 21. The camp organised on the instructions of the Collector of Rajnandgaon, covered all the 9 blocks under Rajnandgaon district.



the free health check-up camp. Yashoda Verma, newly elected MLA, Khairagarh was the chief guest in the program. The program was presided over by Shailesh Verma, Speaker Khairagarh Municipality. Present as special guests were SR Hospital Chairman

Sanjay Tiwari, Khairagarh Municipal Vice President Abdul Razzaq Khan, District President Leela Mandavi and Murlidhar Verma. Dr Mithilesh Chaudhary Chief Medical and Health Officer Rajnandgaon inspected the entire hospital and also gave instructions

regarding the medical camp. Detailing about the camp, Block Medical Officer Dr Vivek Bisen informed that following the instructions received from the District Collector Rajnandgaon and Chief Medical and Health Officer Rajnandgaon, this free health check-up camp was organized with the facility of free medicines, blood, urine test, X-ray and other facilities. Senior doctor of Community Health Center Khairagarh PS Parihar affirmed that the camp was a huge success. The new MLA of the area Yashoda Verma visited the hospital and congratulated all the doctors

for the successful event. Dr Mithilesh Choudhary CMHO Rajnandgaon also gave instructions to the doctors and other staff of the hospital regarding the medical camp. BMO Dr Vivek Bisen Dr PS Parihar, Dr Pankaj Vaishnav, Dr PP Vaishnav, Dr Sandeep Bhaskar, Dr Harsha Mukund rendered their services. From SR Hospital Durg Dr Sushant Kande MD Medicine, Dr Pawan Deshmukh, Critical Care Management, Dr Deepak Sinha, Orthopedist, Dr Vibhuti Lanjevar, Dr Romila Raj, Physiotherapist, Dr Heena, Physiotherapist.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: 131st Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the chief architect of Constitution of India, was celebrated with fervour at Ward 15 Ambedkar Nagar. Corporator Santosh Mourya and members of Boudh Samaj were present. Corporator Santosh Mourya unfurled the Panchsheel Flag and offered floral tributes at the portrait of Dr Ambedkar. Thereafter, a rally was taken out which concluded at Ambedkar Chowk in Power House. DO Sirsat,



Gopichand Khobragade, Madhukar Thavre, Ashok Davde, Humne, Mahesh Borkar, Jayant Meshram, Honey Ambade, Sumit Sukhdave, Sunil Wasnik, Phoolchand Khobragade, Avsar Mool, Vidya

Meshram, Rekha Wasnik, Nalini Chauhan, Sheela Ambade, Asha Khobragade, Malo Ramteke, Laxmi Wasnik, Sushila Meshram, Vinita, Beena Wasnik and others were present.

MESSAGE TO ALL



Tiny-tots dressed in different attire reflecting concern for the nature at the fancy-dress competition organized on occasion of World Earth Day here on Friday.

This festival will prove to be a milestone in the devp of tribal literature: Uikey

● Three-day National Tribal Literature Festival concludes

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 22: Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey attended the closing ceremony of the National Tribal Literature Festival organised at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, Raipur. Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh, Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam, Parliamentary Secretary, Dwarkadhish Yadav and MLA Mrs. Laxmi Dhruv were present on the occasion.

Addressing the program, the Governor said that the three-day National Tribal Literature Festival organised by the State Government to preserve and promote the rich culture, literature of the tribes is a very commendable effort. She congratulated the Tribal and Scheduled Castes Department for this. She said that the National Tribal Dance Festival was organized by the Chhattisgarh government last year also, which was discussed in the country and abroad as well.

Governor said that as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, many programs are being



conducted for the welfare of the tribals all over the country. She called upon the tribal youth to become aware and take advantage of these programmes. She said that she would make necessary efforts at the national level also for implementation of the findings which would have come during the research-discussion in this three-day festival for the betterment of the tribals.

Uikey said that it is a matter of great pride that eminent litterateurs of the country, who are interested in writing tribal literature, participated in this festival. It will certainly contribute significantly to the development of the tribal literature of Chhattisgarh. He said that it is a matter of great pride that eminent litterateurs of the country, who are interested in writing tribal literature, participated in this festival. It will certainly contribute significantly to the development of the tribal literature of Chhattisgarh.

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Uikey said that glimpses of their history are visible in the tribal literature. Their way of life can be felt closely through literature. They can be known and understood. Their lifestyle, tradition and rituals are clearly visible in the tribal arts like dance, drama, song-music and painting. She said that by staging plays based on tribal culture as well as symbols of indomitable courage like Gundadhur, Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, we would not only be able to acquaint the present generation with the glorious history of tribal society and their contribution, but it would also help in theatrical genres can also be protected. Tribal cultures can be revived through these theatrical performances.

Governor Ms. Uikey said that if she did not have predetermined programs, she would certainly have come and interacted with the eminent litterateurs and folk artists of the country. After the program, litterateurs presented their books to her. The Governor met everyone informally. Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh said that there is a need to enrich tribal art, folk culture. She said that Aadi Mahotsav is organized in different cities across the country. In this festival, tribal handicraft artists from all over the country are encouraged by providing them market.

Singh said that we are currently celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of freedom. Under this, various cultural programs are being organized across the country to protect and encourage the country's tradition, civiliza-

tion. We need to work hard to preserve this tradition and civilization. She said that the research papers read during the festival will definitely be useful for the tribal society and their development.

Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam said that the organization of tribal art-painting and dance festival provides a good opportunity to the tribal artists to showcase their talent. Such programs will definitely protect and promote tribal literature and litterateurs, as well as encourage them. During the closing ceremony of the National Tribal Literature Festival, the students of Government Visually Impaired School located at Mathpuraina, Raipur presented portrait to Governor Ms. Uikey. Visually impaired artist Kumari Soni Beed of Sukma district gave an enchanting presentation of Satyam Shivam Sundaram Bhajan. Along with this, Bastar's child artist Sahadev presented the folk song of Bastar in a very charming way.

On this occasion, Bilaspur Divisional Commissioner Sanjay Alang, Tribal and Scheduled Castes Department Secretary, D.D. Singh, Commissioner cum Director Mrs. Shammi Abidi, Vice Chancellor of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Keshri Lal Verma were present.

CM releases the book Intellectual Disability

Raipur, Apr 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the book Intellectual Disability by Dr. Meeta Mukherjee at his residence office here this evening. Dr. Meeta Mukherjee informed the Chief Minister that through this book she has shared her experiences of teaching and caring for differently-abled children. This book will be useful for parents of children with disabilities and people working in this field. Case studies of some children have also been included in the book, so that such parents



and guardians can get better guidance. Meeta informed the Chief Minister that she runs the Piyali Foundation, an organization related to the education and development of differently-abled children in Raipur.

Chief Minister Baghel congratulated Dr. Meeta Mukherjee for the publication of the book Intellectual Disability. Rajkumar Choudhary, Ms. Pronati Mukherjee and others were present on the occasion.

Union Minister visits NIT Raipur, discusses NEP 2020



Raipur, Apr 22: The Union Minister of State (MoS) for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar paid an honorary visit to National Institute of Technology, Raipur on 22nd April, 2022. The visit was conducted to interact with the faculty and management of the Institute to discuss the New Education Policy (NEP)-2020 and the actions being taken at NIT Raipur to implement it.

The Minister was greeted at the Institute by senior faculty members with a sapling. This was followed by an initial meeting with Dr. A. M. Rawani, Director of the Institute and Dr. Arif Khan, Registrar, NIT Raipur.

A meeting was further organised, which was attended by the Deans of the Institute and senior faculty members. Dr. Shrish Verma, Dean Academics, NIT Raipur presented various achievements of the Institute. He gave an overview of the Institute's infrastructural developments over the past

few years and mentioned the steady progress the Institute in NIRF ranking. He discussed the new Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) scheme for students, which was implemented in 2019 and its merits. He also showcased the placement statistics and research prowess of the Institute. He mentioned that NIT Raipur is committed to maintaining state-of-the-art laboratories for the purpose of imparting practical knowledge to the students and to facilitate research.

He elaborated the measures taken by NIT Raipur to tackle the challenges posed by COVID-19 and thereby shifting to online mode of teaching, promoting Covid-focussed research, etc. Then, he elaborated on various measures that NIT Raipur is taking to implement the National Education Policy 2020. Then, the Minister addressed the meeting, in which he laid stress on imparting holistic education as

well as the importance of developing an emotional connection between the professors, the students and the Institute. He also emphasised on strengthening Institute-Alumni relations.

He provided valuable suggestions to improve physical and mental well-being of the stakeholders with a focus on Yoga and meditation. He spoke about the implementation of the 'Indian Knowledge System' to revisit the roots of traditional wisdom and culture. He encouraged the Institute to not only enable academic and professional growth, but also cultivate empathy in students. He insisted on holistic education to build a community of growth and development. Dr. A. M. Rawani, Director of NIT Raipur delivered the vote of thanks, in which he acknowledged Dr. Sarkar's thoughtful suggestions and expressed his strong determination to act on them.

The meeting concluded with the presentation of Memento. The honorable minister then visited various labs, Data Center and computer center of the Institute and appreciated technological developments of the Institute.

Number of flights to Delhi from Raipur increased

Raipur, Apr 22: This summer, six flights are available daily from Swami Vivekananda Airport, Mana to Raipur to Delhi. This increase has been registered after the increase in the number of passengers in the summer season. Earlier, in the month of January-February, only three-four flights were available. Along with Delhi, an increase in the number of air flights has also been registered from Mumbai. There are currently four direct flights from Swami Vivekananda Airport to Mumbai. Mana Airport officials said that more than 45 aircraft are now operating from Mana

Airport, while the maximum flight is reaching is 60 in a day. In the summer season, the pressure of passengers is being seen at the airport. At present there are three direct flights to Kolkata. According to air travel experts, most of the passengers are currently getting to the tourist states. From Mana Airport to the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, etc., passengers have to catch connecting flights through Metro City. There has been a demand for direct flights from Mana Airport to these tourist states for a long time.

Chamber hands over memorandum to Food Minister

Raipur, Apr 22: State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Amar Parwani, General Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttam Golcha, Working President Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Agarwal told said that the delegation of the Chamber met Food Minister, Amarjit Singh Bhagat, to ensure adequate availability of edible oils and oilseeds at reasonable

prices by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, maximum maintainable stock limit for the period up to June 30, 2022 and in this concern submitted a memorandum. Chamber State President Amar Parwani informed that the Government of India has decided to impose stock limit on edible oil and oilseeds. The Food Ministry has issued a notification in this regard.

Parwani informed that at present the population of Chhattisgarh state is about 3 crores. A variety of edible oils and oilseeds are found in view of the wedding season and increasing business activities. Edible oil and edible oilseeds i.e. soybean, soybean oil, mustard, mustard oil, pods, podli oil, linseed, linseed oil, and other oilseeds are there and all of them come under different brands. Since the stock limit is more to

maintain the range of all these things by a wholesale shopkeeper. Parwani requested the Food Minister to fix the stock limit of 2500 quintals in edible oil to wholesalers and 1000 quintals in edible oil to retailers and 4000 quintals in edible oilseeds to wholesalers and 200 quintals in edible oilseeds to retailers, so that the availability of edible oils will be maintained in the state and it will help in supplying

according to the demands. Food Minister Amarjit Singh Bhagat after perusing the memorandum gave positive assurance. Chamber Advisor Amar Gidwani, State President Amar Parwani, Working President Ram Mandhan, Secretary Nilesh Mundhra, Dilip Israni, Jawahar Thaurani, Youth Chamber General Secretary, Kanti Patel were prominently present in the delegation.

CAIT levelled big charges on cartelisation between banks & e-commerce companies

Raipur, Apr 22: CAIT National Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Mangal Maloo, Amar Gidwani, State President Jitendra Doshi, States Working President Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, State General Secretary, Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary, Bharat Jain, State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal and state media incharge Sanjay Choubey informed the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) in a communication sent to Union Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman levelled serious charges against various Banks for colluding with several foreign funded e-commerce

companies including Amazon & Flipkart for making an unholy cartel by helping them in creating an uneven level playing field by providing cash back on usage of credit & debit cards of their respective Banks on purchase of goods from e-commerce portals whereas this facility is not available to consumers who purchase goods from the offline market even using the same cards. The CAIT termed it as an unfair practice of banks causing grave banking irregularities and gross violation of Right to equality, FDI Policy and the Competition Act. The CAIT has demanded an immediate time bound investigation of this most critical

matter which is ruining the offline trade of the country.

CAIT National Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani & State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi while calling it a major lapse on the part of the Banks involved in this sinister game of collusion with e-commerce giants like Amazon & Flipkart are State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Citi Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HSBC, Bank of Baroda, RBL Bank, Axis Bank etc. The trade leaders said that such unfair practice gives a shopping advantage to people for purchasing goods exclusively from e-commerce portals but not to people who shop from offline shops. Thus,

creating an inequality scenario between online and offline markets of the Country. How can the Banks do such a discrimination-questioned the trade leaders.

Mr. Parwani and Mr. Doshi said that it is most surprising that these Banks which claims that they earn almost 1 or 1.5% from the payment transactions are able to provide 10% cash backs and other benefits to the consumers. It is a matter of investigation that whether the Banks are providing cash backs from their funds or they are funded by someone to provide these cash backs and other benefits. The question is whether under the banking rules,

the Banks are empowered to provide such a cash back from their own fund which is a proposition of loss or whether the Banks are entitled to receive funds from an outsider to make up the loss caused by giving such hefty cash back and creating an uneven level playing field in the country. The CAIT has sent similar memorandums to Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Bhagwat Karad, MOS Finance, Shaktikana Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Ashok Gupta, Chairman, Competition Commission of India, Rohit Singh, Secretary, Consumer Affairs, Anurag Jain, Secretary, DPIIT, Secretary, Revenue and Banking etc.

Minister Tekam inspects the stalls

National Tribal Literature Festival

Raipur, Apr 22: Scheduled Castes and Tribal Welfare Minister, Chhattisgarh Government, Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam visited the stalls set up in the three-day National Tribal Literature Festival premises organised at Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium in Raipur.

He tasted the barfi at the stall of tribal cuisine and encouraged the craftsmen by playing the trumpet, a traditional musical instrument of the tribals. Minister Dr. Tekam bought the trumpet instrument and inquired about the business of the craftsmen and the availability of the market. Dr. Tekam was presented a plant of



Natural Sugar Free Stevia (Sweet Basil) in the stall of the Tribal Local Health Tradition and Medicine Plant Board.

He accepted the present with great humility and conveyed his best wishes. An exhibition of items produced by tribal craftsmen has been put up in

the three-day National Tribal Literature Festival complex. In which stalls of Kosa textiles, wood crafts, bamboo crafts, tribal dishes, traditional jewelry etc. have been set up. A large number of people are appreciating the tribal craft by visiting the exhibition.

Self-supporting Gauthans making villages self-sufficient: CM

GNV: Payment of Rs 6.59 cr to cattle rearers, villagers, Gauthan committees and women Self-Help Groups
Ch'garh's GNV is being discussed across the country

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel virtually released an amount of Rs 6.59 cr to the cattle rearers, Gauthan committees and women Self-Help Groups under Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNV) in a programme organized at his residence of

fice here late on Wednesday. The amount paid includes Rs 2.97 cr in lieu of cow dung purchased in Gouthans from March 29 to April 15 and Rs 2.43 cr to Gauthan committees, Rs 1.50 cr to women Self-Help Groups as dividend.

Expressing happiness over the Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNV) receiving the national level Elets Innovation Award, the Chief Minister congratulated the cattle rearers, livestock farmers, villagers, women Self-Help Groups and Gauthan committees and officials-employees of Agriculture Department. "This ambitious scheme of Chhattisgarh Government has become a topic of dis-

cussion across the country with other states contemplating to implement the same in their own states. Godhan Nyay Yojana is being operated in a mission mode in the state. With its successful implementation, Gouthans are rapidly becoming self-supporting. More than 3000 Gouthans across the state have become self-supporting. This is a notable achievement in the direction of making the villagers and livestock farmers self-reliant", said Chief Minister Mr. Baghel.

He added that our Gouthans have set an example of being self-sufficient, purchasing cow dung worth more than Rs 13 cr using their own funds. Addressing the pro-

gramme, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey congratulated cattle rearers, villagers, Gauthan committees and women Self-Help Groups for the successful implementation of Godhan Nyay Yojana in the state.

Agriculture Production Commissioner Dr. Kamal Preet Singh and Secretary Dr. S. Bharathidasan gave a detailed presentation on the achievements of Godhan Nyay Yojana. Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Mineral Development Corporation Dr. Girish Devangan and Advisor to Chief Minister, Mr. Pradeep Sharma along with other department officials were present on the occasion.

SUBMISSION OF ANSWER-SHEETS



Students in the College are submitting answer-sheet in their respective colleges as per fresh guidelines from the University.

CG Board of Professional Exam announces dates for exams

Chhattisgarh domicile students to get fee waiver benefits

Raipur, Apr 22: Chhattisgarh Board of Professional Examination (CBPE) on Thursday released possible dates for the various examinations to be conducted for admissions in Technical Courses. According to the information received, the CBPE would be conducting the Pre Polytechnic Test (PPT) and Pre MCA exam on May 29. Similarly, the Board would also be conducting the Pre Agriculture Test (PAT) and Pre Veterinary Test

(PVPT) on June 5 for admissions in B Sc Agriculture, B Sc Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Science. Apart from it, the Board would be conducting the Pre B. Ed and B Sc Nursing exams on June 19. M Sc Nursing and Post Basic Nursing exam would be held on July 3.

In the notification, the Board has made it clear that the students from local Domicile would not have to submit any fee for the exam as the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had made a declaration over fee waiver during the Budget presentation for the fiscal 2022-23 in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly.

Ch'garh is a leading state in the country: Choubey

In terms of helping farmers

Delegation of Cauvery River Farmers Protection Committee of Tamil Nadu State appreciated the farmer friendly policies of Chhattisgarh and said that Chhattisgarh is a model state to protect the interests of farmers.

Raipur, Apr 22: A delegation of Cauvery River Farmer Protection Committee of Tamil Nadu state had reached



Chhattisgarh to see the ground reality of implementation of farmer friendly policies and programs of Chhattisgarh Government. During the two-day stay of Chhattisgarh, this delegation visited many areas and met the farmers and viewed the status of implementation of Narva, Garuva, Ghurva and Bari

programs of Suraji Gaon Yojna and also inspected sugarcane cultivation in Kawardha district including Multi Activity Center at Chherikhedi, Raipur. Delegation to the farmers of Tamil Nadu had a courtesy meeting at the residence office of Chhattisgarh Agriculture and Water Resources Minister, Ravindra

Choubey in Raipur late evening and discussed in detail the situation of agriculture in the state of Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh. On this occasion, the delegation presented the famous Black Rice and Organic Jaggery of Tamil Nadu to Agriculture Minister, Ravindra Choubey. Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey presented shawls and shreefal to all the representatives of the farmers' delegation of Tamil Nadu and expressed happiness on their coming to Chhattisgarh.

The farmers here are getting the highest price of paddy and sugarcane. On this occasion, the Agriculture Minister gave detailed information

about Chhattisgarh Government's Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana and said that the objective of these schemes is to improve the economic condition of the villagers and farmers.

On this occasion Secretary of Agriculture Department and Managing Director of Godhan Nyay Mission Dr. Bharathidasan briefed about the state of agriculture in the state of Tamil Nadu and the efforts being made for the betterment of farmers in Chhattisgarh. The head of the farmers' delegation, Mr. Sundar Vimal Nathan, informed

that his delegation includes farmers' representatives from different districts of Tamil Nadu, who mainly cultivate paddy and sugarcane. The farmers' delegation of Tamil Nadu inspected the activities conducted by women self-help groups at the Multi Activity Center at Adarsh Gouthan Navagaon (L), Chherikhedi, located in Abhanpur development block of Raipur during their stay in Chhattisgarh. The delegation visited Kawardha district of the state and also inspected the sugarcane cultivation being done by the farmers there and Boramdev sugar factory. During this, senior officers of the Agriculture Department were also present.

Loans be provided under PMAY for solar panels: Nandini

Expresses views on COP-26' in the National Environment Youth Parliament 2022

Dantewada, Apr 22: National Environment Youth Parliament 2022 which was organized by Paryavaran Sanrakshan Gathividhi and Manav Rachna Institute at Parliament House, New Delhi. 150 participants from 83 universities across the country participated in it. In the first session, 25-25 participants presented their views on the topic of 'Environment Sustainability and Climate Change in the context of India' and another 25 participants presented their



views on and 'India's declaration of emission reduction at COP 26' in the second session.

As a young MP of the opposition Nandini Dixit got the opportunity to present her views. Nandini Dixit of Dantewada district from Chhattisgarh presented her views on behalf of the opposition. She is a student of B.Tech in Guru

Ghasidas University.

Nandini said that in COP 26 the target set by India is to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070. She suggested in Parliament to provide loan for solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and with this, in her second suggestion, she said that there are people who are working for the

environment and planting saplings on barren land and converting it into a forest. If we invest on such sustainable development models and convert them into tourist places, then people will move towards the environment and there will be an environmental revolution in the country. Nandini discussed about the solutions rather than the problems. The first session of the programme was addressed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the second session was addressed by Union Environment, Forest and Climate Minister Bhupendra Yadav. Nandini Dixit's suggestion to add solar panels to the Prime Minister's residence has got a place in the category of favorite suggestion

FIR filed against Sarpanch and Secy in Chintalnar ration scam

Konta, Apr 22: SDM Konta Bansingh Netam informed about the ration scam that took place in Chintalnar Gram Panchayat under Konta block and informed that the above disturbances were investigated and the sarpanch who messed up the ration, Gram Panchayat Chintalnar Mukka Madvi and the then secretary, an FIR has been registered against Mausam Tamaiya. Along with this, recovery of Rs 7.80 lakh has also been done expeditiously by the administration.

He told that the food stored in Chintalnar had come for POTA Cabin. During the corona transition, all educational and residential institutions were closed with immediate effect as per the instructions of the govern-

ment. Due to which food storage was stocked in PDS. The PDS was being operated by the Gram Panchayat itself. Irregularities in stock were found during physical verification by the Food Inspector. The matter was investigated by the administration taking prompt action. In which the case of misappropriation of ration by Sarpanch and Secretary came to fore. An FIR was registered by Food Inspector Vikrant Naidu on 28 July 2021 at the police station under section 3,7 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955 and while taking action, recovery of Rs 7.80 lakh was made. At present, Chintalnar Government Fair Price Shop is being operated by the nearby Gram Panchayat Morpalli.

CIP organizes pooled campus



Raipur, Apr 22: Columbia Institute of Pharmacy (CIP) organized a pooled campus for the post of Marketing Representative by Indore based TN Sys Meryl Pharma Pvt Ltd (Gyn Division) for the students of final year students of B.Pharm.

The entire process of the selection was conducted by Manmohan Dewangan and his team which was smoothly coordinated by Atanu Bhattacharya, Training & Placement Officer of the institution.

After the completion of entire process the compa-

ny selected Mr. Pawan Kumar Sahu and Suraj Banjare for Bilaspur Head Quarter, Biplav Dwivedi for Durg, Shreya Jain and Manjusha Sahu for Raipur and Indore Office as per their choice.

The committee members were of the opinion that the students of Columbia are very enthusiastic because they have experienced interview for the first time

Mr. Kishore Jadwani & Mr. Harjeet Singh Hura from the management, Principal Dr. Amit Roy congratulated the selected students and wished them a bright future.

Lakhma gives patient hearing to grievances of villagers

Additional assistance would be given to the families of the Arrabor fire victim

Konta, Apr 22: State cabinet minister Kawasi Lakhma during his one day tour to Sukma reached village Arrabor in Konta block and gave patient hearing to the problems of the villagers in person. Taking cognizance of which Minister Lakhma gave necessary directions to the officers to solve their problems. Minister Lakhma was warmly welcomed by the villagers and Congmen in village Arrabor. During this, fifteen senior BJP workers, influenced by the policies and culture of Cong party, joined Congress fold. Lakhma honoured by garlanding and said that the



Cong government is the one that takes care of farmers, laborers and all sections of the society.

It is notable here that a total of 36 people from 29 families lost their lives in the Arrabor fire incident during the Salwa Judum campaign. After this attack by the Naxalites, the

previous government had given Rs 1 lakh as compensation and a government job. But after formation of Congress govt in the state, Lakhma after discussing with the CM and as per demand of the villagers, had announced to give comfortable amount. In today's program, the fami-

lies of the victims met Minister Lakhma and expressed their gratitude, during which the names of the victims' families of the four deceased was not included in the list and to which Minister Lakhma directed the officers to add their names and provide additional assistance to

the victims.

During this, Konta SDM Bansingh Netam, CEO Kailash Kashyap, District Panchayat Vice President Boddu Raja, District President Sunnam Nagesh, Nagar Panchayat Vice President Zakir Hussain, Congress leader Waheed Khan, Congress President Smt. Maheshwari Baghel, Dornapal Nagar Panchayat President Smt. Babita Madvi, Jagargunda District Panchayat Members Adamma Markam, Sukma Nagar Panchayat Vice President Ayesha Hussain, Mahila Congress President Somay Mangamma, Sarpanch Madkam Rashmi and the Sarpanch, Mukhiya of nearby Panchayats, including district members Somay Jayaprakash, Sarpanch, Panch and other Congressmen were present.

Walking with smart shoes, parents will be able to charge mobile phones

Got patent for it from Dept of Science & Tech

Bilaspur, Apr 22: Guru Ghasidas Central University has designed smart shoes charger keeping in mind the parents. It has got a patent from the Department of Science and Technology. Dr. Rohit Raja, Head of the Department of Information Technology, Central University, has prepared it with his research team.

With the smart charger, parents will no longer have to worry about mobile charging when they are out of the house and they can charge the mobile in their pocket while walking with smart shoes on. Considering the increasing utility of mobile phones in



the present times, this patent is very important for the entire human society.

In the present era, the dependence on electricity has increased significantly in the areas of communication, transport, processed food etc.

This patent is a very important step in reducing this dependency. The purpose of this invention is to produce electrical energy



from human motion, as well as to make the society aware of more exploitation of electric energy. Expressing happiness on this achievement of the IT department of the university, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Alok Chakrawal has given congratulations and best wishes.

1670 mobile towers to be installed in State: Chouhan



- At the cost of Rs 1500 cr
- Every village of state go have mobile services

for Telecom during his Dantewada tour released a special stamp on 'Maa Danteshwari' by the Postal department and also released the post-card on cultural and geographical attractions of the district.

Devisingh Chouhan informed that the Postal department has opened 391 new branch Post Offices in the districts affected with Naxalism and LWE and they will be providing different services of Postal department in the rural areas. In last 3 years, new 3

lakh accounts have been opened under 'Sukanya Yojana' and which is best example of PM's 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' programme. In Chhattisgarh there are around 6.28 lakh account holders of Dak

Payment Bank and which promotes financial inclusion. On this occasion Union Minister for Telecom Devisingh Chouhan directed the offices to complete all the projects in the naxal and LWE affected districts

of the state speedily and ensure that the services are smoothly run, so that the citizens of state gets benefited and play important role in the social and economical development of the state.

Choubey releases poster of CPAS

Takhatpur, Apr 22: The Union Minister Ashwini Choubey released the poster of Chhattisgarh Poshan Abhiyan Samiti (CPAS) at SECL's headquarter's here on Wednesday. On this occasion the Leader of Opposition in VS Dharmal Kaushik, State convener CPAS Harshita Pandey, MLA Dr Krishnamurthy Bandhi, ex-MP Lakhanlal Sahu, BJP district president Ramdev Kumawat, member CPAS Pranav Sharma and District secy Abhijit Kumar were present. Union Minister Choubey extended greetings to members of CPAS and hoped that Chhattisgarh will play valuable contribution in fulfillment of dream project 'Mission Poshan' that of PM Narendra Modi.

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Apr 22: The Union Minister of State for Telecommunications Devisingh Chouhan reviewed projects in Aspirational Districts of Dantewada on the 2nd day here. After review in Dantewada, he conducted review meeting along with officers from the Telecom, postal department in Raipur on providing world-class telecommunication facilities in all the Aspirational Districts of state and in districts affected with LWE. In this review meeting, he took stock of progress in different projects.

Union Minister of State for Telecom Devisingh Chouhan informed that there are 14 districts which are Naxal- Left Wing Extremism affected. In order to provide best of 4G mobile services in the villages of these districts, a total of 971 mobile towers will be installed at the cost of Rs 845 cr.

He directed the officers that all the towers should be installed before 31 March 2023. In order to provide 4G mobile services in the villages of Aspirational Districts, 699 new towers should be installed. This project is expected to cost around Rs 600 cr and its target for completion is Oct 2023. In the same way, around 1670 towers would be installed at the cost of Rs 1445 cr in these projects and with this, mobile services will be available in all the villages of Chhattisgarh, he added.

Union Minister of State

Seven-day Ram Katha from April 23

Khairagarh, Apr 22: A seven-day 'Shri Ram Katha Samagam' will be organised in Gram Pandadah from April 23 and its convener Pt. Mihir Jha informed that it is in the memory of Rani Suryamukhi Devi Smriti Samaroh that 'Ram Katha' will be started from April 23 and it will be held daily from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Pt. Kuldeep Maharaj will recite Ram Katha. Along with this programme, a programme named 'Chinhari' as directed by Mamta Chandrakar will be started from Saturday at 8:00 pm. Thereafter a programme 'Anurag Dhara' will be organised by Kavita Vasnik on April 26 from 8:00 pm. Along with 'Ram Katha', a massive samelan and felicitations of farmers and labourers who benefitted from Rajiv Gandhi Kissan Nyay Yojana and Rajiv Gandhi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana will be organised. It is notable here that for 'Amrut Varsha' for Ram Katha, Pt. Kuldeep Maharaj from Thakur Jugal Kishore Dhaam Panna will be arriving.

Aspire Home Finance Corporation Limited

Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimulaha Sayani Road, Opposite ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025. CIN :- U05923MH2013PLC248741

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & 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 notices on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrowers 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 properties described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account.

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd., for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

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.	LKDUR00418-190070139 Dharm Bai Verma & Kalisham Ram Verma	24-08-2021 for Rs. 821679/-	21-04-2022	Kh. No - 82/B, Ph. No - 46, Rm, Near Bazar Chowk, Khairagarh, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh - 491881

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

Place : Chhattisgarh
Date : 23-04-2022

Chola

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: No.2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai- 600 001.
Branch Office: Shop No.- 416, 4th Floor National Corporate Park, Infront Of Maruti Business Park, G.E. Road, Raipur C.G-492001

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagee is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13 (2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing thereon from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needed to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

Name and Address of the Borrower/s	Loan Amount	Date of Demand Notice & Amount Outstanding	Description of the property/ Secured Asset
Loan Account No.X0HERRH00003397345 and HE02RRH00000001725. Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- 1. Jayashree Mukherjee 2. Manas Mukherjee Both Residing At, P-2, Sales Tax Colony, Khairathih, Jagannath Temple, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001. 3. S.M. Marketing, Residing At-Shop No. P-2, Sale Tax Colony, Jagannath Temple, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001.	₹ 1,00,00,000/- ₹ 15,70,000/- Totally ₹ 1,15,70,000/-	11-04-2022 & ₹ 53,84,734.79/- and ₹ 14,63,190/- totalling to ₹ 1,08,47,924.79/- as on 07-04-2022 with further interest thereon	Residential House bearing part of Plot No.P-2, Comprising Area 1800 Sq.Ft.or 0.017 Hect.Comprised In Part of Khazra No. 622/4, Situated at Mouja Khairathih, Shankar Nagar, Sale Tax Colony, Mahanadi Valmiki Ward, Ward No. 26, P.H.No.110/63, R.I.C.Raipur-I, Tahsil & District-Raipur (C.G.) Boundaries:- As Per Sale Deed: NORTH: Road, SOUTH: Others Land, EAST: Land of Sanstha, WEST: Plot No.P-1.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

Date: 22.04.2022, Place: Raipur

Centrum

Corporate & Registered Office : Unit No. 801, Centrum House, CST Road, Vidyanagar Marg, Kalina Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400098, CIN No. U05923MH2016PLC273825

POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Loan Account No./Branch	Description of secured assets (immovable property)	Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Possession Taken Date
1.	Yuvraj Gajbhiye S/O Sampat Rao Gajbhiye/ Janyanti Gajbhiye W/o Yuvraj Gajbhiye / Aaveah Gajbhiye S/o Yuvraj Gajbhiye/ RPRDU18003224/ Raipur	In the rights, place and parcel of immovable property bearing Kh.No.-128/7B, admeasuring 408 Sq.ft (plot size) situated at Ph.No.-63, RNM-Durg-1, Aamrapur, Durg, Tehsil and District Durg (Chhattisgarh) - 491001 and bounded as follows: East: 20 Ft. Road, West: House of Tiwari, North: House of Nandu, South: House of Isha	07-07-2021/ Rs. 5,23,399/- (Rupees Five Lac Twenty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine Only)	21-04-2022
2.	Membal Jayaswal / Kishor Kumar Jaiswal / RPRRP18001716/ Raipur	Mauza- Mathpura "Gokul Nagar" Chandrasekhar Aard Ward No.- 52, Part Of Kh. No.- 221/130 And 225/90, P.H.No.- 105/61, R.N.M. Raipur-1, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492013, Bounded As Below- East - House Of Pawan Siddhiqui, West - House Of Dinkesh, North - House Of Umika Chandrakar, South - Road	22-12-2021/ Rs. 12,35,396/- (Rupees Twelve Lac Thirty Five Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Six Only)	20-04-2022
3.	Ten Singh /Tami Kaushal / RPRRP19004407/ Raipur	Khazra No- 65/10, Banjari Mata Ward Ward No-05 Mauja Bhanupuri Ph No 108/39 R.N.M. Raipur, Raipur-492003, Bounded As Below- East - Seller Remaining Land, West - Chitrakul School, North - Road, South - House Of Other	22-12-2021/ Rs. 20,30,486/- (Rupees Twenty Lac Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Eight Only)	20-04-2022
4.	Khelawan Prasad/ Khelawan Prasad /Sima Bai Sahu/ RPRRP20004590/ Raipur	Mouja Kachha Ph no-43 Kh no 184/S Ward no 25, Kuchabaha Thakre Ward Kachha, Raipur-492014, (Boundaries:- East- Gali, West-Road, North- House of Josta, South-House of Faku Sahu)	31-01-2022/ Rs. 8,19,696/- (Rupees Eight Lac Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Six Only)	20-04-2022

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For Centrum Housing Finance Ltd

Place : Chhattisgarh
Date : 23.04.2022

Canara Bank

E-Auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rules 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

E-Auction Date: 23.05.2022

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) & Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the authorized officer the Canara Bank (secured creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 23.05.2022 from 12.30 Noon to 2.30 pm for recovery of bank dues to the Canara Bank (secured creditor).

Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantors	Description of Properties & Name of Property Owner	Demand Notice Dt. Possession Dt. Out Standing Amt.	Reserve Price EMD Amt. Bid Increment Amt.	Branch Name Account No. & IFSC Code
1. Mr. Suresh Sahu, S/o. Mr. Lala Prasad Sahu, House No. 161/1, Ward No. 27, Palsay Para, Durg, C.G. 491001. 2. Smt. Manju Sahu W/o. Shri Suresh Sahu, House No. 161/1, Ward No. 27, Palsay Para, Durg, C.G. 491001. (Borrower). 3. Usha Sharma W/o. Manoj Kumar Sharma, LIG-575, Padmanabpur Colony, Durg-491001, C.G. (Guarantor).	EMT of Land and Building in the name of Smt. Manju Sahu, situated at House No. 14, Ward No. 56, Atal Awas Yojna, Durg, Chhattisgarh. Grih Nirman Mandir, Durg, Tah & Dist- Durg, Area 560.90 Sqft. Boundaries: North- Road, South- House No. 23, East- House No. 13, West- House No. 15.	25.01.2019 04.05.2019 ₹ 11,52,829.80 as on 21.04.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	7,75,000/- 75,000/- 10,000/-	Mr. Abhishek Kumar Tawari (No. 9425504046) Rasmeda Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB007974 Email: cb4043@canarabank.com
1. M/s Alam Sales, C/o Lucky Agency, Farid Nagar, Supela, Bhalai, Chhattisgarh - 490023. 2. Mr. Abdul Kadir Khan, C/o Lucky Agency, Farid Nagar, Supela, Bhalai, Chhattisgarh - 490023. (PROPRIETOR). 3. Mrs. Raziya Khan: W/o Md Parwez Alam, A.K. Enterprises, Farid Nagar, Supela, Bhalai-490023 (GUARANTOR).	All that part and parcel of House PH NO-14, KH NO- 6622, KRIPAL NAGAR, KOHKA PURANI BASTI WARD NO-9, BHALAI, WARD- DURG, C.G.-490023, Area- 2684 Sq.Ft. Boundaries: North: Road, South: Land of Ojha & Rathi, East: Land of Choudhary, West: Land of Barun.	30.12.2021 11.04.2022 ₹ 84,90,640.06 as on 21.04.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	38,07,000/- 75,000/- 10,000/-	Mr. Sujay Lakra (No. 9425506061) Bhalai KPS Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB007974 Email: cb4043@canarabank.com
1. Mr. Deepak Kumar Shrivastava : S/o Mr. Rajendra Prasad, KH No. 339/K Ram Nagar, Ward No. 12, Kohka, Bhalai - 490020. 2. Mr. Nishu Shrivastava : W/o Deepak Kumar Shrivastava, KH No. 339/K Ram Nagar, Ward No. 12, Kohka, Bhalai - 490020. 3. Mr. Mukesh Kumar Sinha : S/o Sri Chandra Kumar Sinha (Guarantor).	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Open Land, Plot No. 47, Part of Kh. No. 1159/2, Aasha Developers & Colonizers Sanskar Vihar Colony, P.H. No. 14/19, Mauza- Kurud, RIC- Durg, I, Ward No. 14, Bhalai Municipal Corporation Tah. Durg (C.G.) Area - 1500 Sq.Ft. Boundaries: North: Plot No. 46, South: Plot No. 48, East: 30' Road/5' Road, Plot No. 50.	28.12.2021 23.03.2021 ₹ 30,07,927.60 as on 21.04.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	13,87,000/- 1,38,700/- 10,000/-	Mr. Rakesh Kumar (No. 9425502986) Durg Main Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB007974 Email: cb4043@canarabank.com
1. M/s Neel Steel And Metal Works, Near Isekam Temple, Talabandi, Raipur - 492001. 2. Mr. Anant Kumar Shukla : S/o Mr. Arun Kumar Shukla, 14/350, Kikrapara, Station Road, Raipur-492001 (PROPRIETOR).	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Open Land and Misc Construction at Kh. No. 303/2 (part), Ph. No. 103/54 in front of Ram Mandir, Iskon Road Veer Savarkar Nagar, Ward No. -01, Mouza - Talabandi, Raipur, Tahsil District - Raipur (C.G.) Area - 9712 Sq.Ft. Boundaries: North: Land of Smt. Sudha Shukla, South: Land of Muralidhar Suraj, East: Road, West: Land of Narendra Hirwani.	19.12.2019 04.04.2022 ₹ 33,23,742.93 as on 21.04.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	1,61,00,000/- 16,10,000/- 10,000/-	Mr. Ramesh Kumar Yadav (No. 8349246853) Raipur SWE Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB007974 Email: cb4043@canarabank.com
1. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Dewangan : S/o Mr. Bhushanlal Dewangan, Zen 37, Ward No. 52, Ganpat Vihar, Durg 491001. 2. Mrs. Niharika Dewangan W/o Mr. Sanjay Dewangan, Zen 37, Ward No. 52, Ganpat Vihar, Durg 491001.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Open Land, Plot No. 58, Part of Kh. No. 1159/2, Aasha Developers & Colonizers Sanskar Vihar Colony, P.H. No. 14/19, Mauza- Kurud, RIC- Durg, I, Ward No. 14, Bhalai Municipal Corporation Tah. Durg (C.G.) Area- 1500 Sq.Ft. Boundaries: North: Plot No. 57, South: Plot No. 59, East: Plot No. 47, West: 25 ft Road.	28.12.2021 23.03.2021 ₹ 34,91,734.88 as on 21.04.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	13,87,000/- 1,38,000/- 10,000/-	Mr. Rakesh Kumar (No. 9425502986) Durg Main Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB007974 Email: cb4043@canarabank.com
1. Mr. Jaydev Prasad S/o Shital Prasad, 433, Ward No. 09, Shanti Nagar, Ambadali Nagar, Supela, Bhalai - 490020 (BORROWER) 2. Mrs. Radha Devi W/o Mr. Jaydev Prasad, 433, Ward No. 09, Shanti Nagar, Ambadali Nagar, Supela, Bhalai-490020 (BORROWER) 3. Mr. Manoj Kumar S/o Badri Narayan, SMC- 22, Valsah Nagar, Near Shiv Mandir, Supela, Bhalai-490020 (GUARANTOR).	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Open Land, Plot No. 58, Part of Kh. No. 1159/2, Aasha Developers & Colonizers Sanskar Vihar Colony, P.H. No. 14/19, Mauza- Kurud, RIC- Durg, I, Ward No. 14, Bhalai Municipal Corporation Tah. Durg (C.G.) Area- 1500 Sq.Ft. Boundaries: North: Plot No. 57, South: Plot No. 59, East: Plot No. 47, West: 25 ft Road.	28.12.2021 23.03.2021 ₹ 26,85,768.59 as on 21.04.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	13,87,000/- 1,38,000/- 10,000/-	Mr. Rakesh Kumar (No. 9425502986) Durg Main Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB007974 Email: cb4043@canarabank.com
1) M/s Trillier Transport Corporation, Galaxy Chowk, Near Bus Stand, Bhalai 3, Bhalai - 490025, C.G. 2) Mr. Rajpal Singh Bhatia , Ward No. 12, Near Bus Stand, Bhalai 3, Bhalai - 490025 - C.G. (PROPRIETOR) 3) Mr. Harpreet Singh Bhatia, C/o Indian Sales, Shop No. 7 , Block No. 37, Harkhohj, Bhalai - 490001, C.G. (GUARANTOR).	Plot No.W58-22, Block No.14, Transport Nagar, Rawabhata, Birganj Municipal Corporation PI, Ravishanker Shukla Ward No.13, Tah. & Dist. Raipur (C.G.), Area - 2152 Sq.Ft. Boundaries: North: Plot No. AS-01, 02, South: Road, East: Plot No.W58-23, West: Plot No.W58-51	30.07.2021 18.11.2021 ₹ 92,72,690.59 as on 21.04.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	39,84,000/- 3,98,400/- 10,000/-	Mr. B.K. Sarangi (No. 8249522675) Durg Main Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB007974 Email: cb4043@canarabank.com

Terms and Conditions: a. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the security interest (enforcement) rules 2002 and to the following conditions: a. The property will be sold in "as is where is and as is what is" basis including encumbrances, if any. There is no encumbrance to the knowledge of the bank. b. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website www.indianbankseuction.com. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. c. The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorized Officer Date on 16.05.22 at 10.30am. d. The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process. e. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer of above mentioned branches respectively OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of above mentioned branches respectively on or before 21.05.2022, 4:30 pm. f. Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-mail address. For details with regard to digital signature please contact the service provider M/s Canbank Computer Service Ltd., Contact: - 9480691777/855364144, E-mail ID: - eauction@ccsl.co.in. Immediately on the same date of payment of the EMD amount the bidders shall approach the said service provider for obtaining digital signature (if not holding a valid digital signature). g. After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before 21.05.2022, 3:00 PM, to above mentioned branches respectively by hand or by email. (1) Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT, acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No. (2) Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount. (3) Bidders Name, Contact No. Address, E Mail Id. (4) Bidder's A/c details for online refund of EMD. h. The intending bidders should register their names at portal www.bankseaucs_ons.com (mention the website address of service provider) and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service M/s Canbank Computer Service Ltd., Contact: - 9480691777/855364144, E-mail ID: - eauction@ccsl.co.in. i. EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them within 2 days of finalization of sale. The EMD shall not carry any interest. j. Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Rs. 10,000. The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor. k. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring himself as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period stated above, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorized Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. l. All charges for conveyance, stamp duty and registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only. m. Authorized Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason therefor. n. In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating in the e-auction, they can approach concerned Circle office or above mentioned branches respectively who as a facilitating center shall make necessary arrangements. o. For further details contact Branch Manager of respective branches OR Authorized Officer, E-mail id - cb4043@canarabank.com OR the service provider M/s Canbank Computer Service Ltd., Help Line E-mail ID :- eauction@ccsl.co.in. p. For further details you may contact Canara Bank above mentioned Branch or M/s Canbank Computer Service Ltd., E-mail ID: -eauction@ccsl.co.in

Special Instruction/Caution: Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back-up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Date : 22.04.2022, Place: Raipur (C.G.) Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

Chola

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: No.2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai- 600 001.
Branch Office: Shop No.- 416, 4th Floor National Corporate Park, Infront Of Maruti Business Park, G.E. Road, Raipur C.G-492001

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER Rule 8 (1)

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column (B) below on dates specified in Column (C) to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column (D) below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column (E) herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column (F) in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.

The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column (E) below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in Column (D) along with interest and other charges. Under section 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower/s and Loan Account No.	Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount	Details of Property Possessed	Interest Possession Date
1.	Loan Nos. X0HERRH00001353451, X0HERRH00001718178, X0HERRH00002261968, X0HERRH00002737568 and HE02RRH0000004573 Borrower & Co-borrower 1. Legal Heir Of Akbar Ali Farooqui, Masooda Fatima, 2. Legal Heir Of Akbar Ali Farooqui, Mujahid Ali Farooqui, Both Residing At- House No 37/379 Ward No 41, Near Unani Medical College, Bainghatpara, Raipur-492001 3. Akbar Ali Farooqui Book Center, Residing At Near Duhessah Major Bainghatpara, Raipur-492001- 41, R.I.C-Raipur, Tehsil & Distt-Raipur. 22/162, New House No. 162/1 (Part), comprised under Part of abadi Khazra No. 676, area 506+506 Sq. Ft. (together with construction thereon) situated at Bainghatpara, Maulana Abdul Rauf ward No. 41, R.I.C-Raipur, Tehsil & Distt-Raipur.	16.01.2022	₹ 12,33,101.69, ₹ 72,67,525.65, ₹ 71,14,659.07, ₹ 54,87,393.31 and ₹ 25,40,939.00 totally ₹ 2,36,43,618.72 as on 18-01-2022	ITEM-1: All the piece and parcel of property bearing part of Municipal House No. 96, part of ABADI Survey No.798, Land area admeasuring - 445 Sq.ft (together with construction thereon), situated at Mouana Abdul Rauf Ward No.41, Bainghatpara, Village-Raipur Khas, P.H.No.106-A, R.I.C - Raipur-1, City, Tahsil and District - Raipur (C.G.). The Subject property is bounded by (as per Deed):-North: by Gali, South by: House of Ahmed Ali, East by: House of Mohammed Ali, West by: Gali. ITEM-2: All the piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal House No. 22/162, New House No. 162/1 (Part), comprised under Part of abadi Khazra No. 676, area 506+506 Sq. Ft. (together with construction thereon) situated at Bainghatpara, Maulana Abdul Rauf ward No. 41, R.I.C-Raipur, Tehsil & Distt-Raipur. ITEM-3: All the piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal House No. 22/162, New House No. 162/1 (Part), comprised under Part of abadi Khazra No. 676, area 506+506 Sq. Ft. (together with construction thereon) situated at Bainghatpara, Maulana Abdul Rauf ward No. 41, R.I.C-Raipur, Tehsil & Distt-Raipur.	20.04.2022
2.	Loan Nos.- X0HERDN00002007920 and HE02RDH00000004185 Borrower & Co-borrower 1. Saiyad Ali Raza, 2. Shaheesta Khan, 3. Saiyad Naliyyar Hasan, 4.Saiyyad Mohammad Haidar, 5. Khurshid Akhtar, 6. Samsunnisha Hasan, All Residing At- 292, Near Kali Mandir Bharkapara, Ward-25, Rajnandgaon - 491441, 7. Raza Body Builders, Residing At- Old Bus Stand Road Near Kotwari, Rajnandgaon - 491441.	08.02.2022	₹ 40,23,220.01/- As on 07/02/2022	In Respect Of Property - Nazul Sheet No.- 48/C, Plot No- 143 Area- 87.60sq. M., Situated At Mouza- Bharkapara, Near Kali Mandir Rong Tah & Dist. Rajnandgaon (C.G.)	21.04.2022

Date: 20.04.2022, 21.04.2022, Place: Raipur, Rajnandgaon, (C.G.) Authorized Officer Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

BRIEF

Digitises

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has digitised 1,500 layout plans covering planned areas of the national capital and made them available on a GIS platform for use by general public, the land-owning agency said. Listing the initiatives taken under the digital transformational plan, the DDA said land pooling is yet another area where the digitisation has been done effectively

Busted

Ghaziabad: A gang of online thugs has been busted with arrest of eight men who allegedly duped at least Rs 50 crore from around 10,000 people promising to double their money through online gaming, police said. The cyber cell of Ghaziabad Police, which busted the racket, said they have seized 100 ATM cards, 37 mobile phones, five laptops, two bank passbooks, 13 cheque books, and Rs 4 lakh in cash from the gang's possession at raid in Shakitkhanda area of the city.

Shot

Gurugram: A 35-year-old grocer was gunned down by two bike-borne assailants outside his store near Bilaspur Khurd village, police said. One of the accused was nabbed by public while another managed to flee. Police are at the spot and are investigating the crime scene, they said.

ATM

Pune: Two burglars triggered a blast at an ATM centre in the Chikhali area of Pimpri-Chinchwad town in Pune district using gelatin sticks, but failed to take out any cash from the machine, said police. Teams have been formed to nab the suspects, they said. Two unidentified burglars triggered a blast at an ATM centre using gelatin sticks.

Oders

Chandigarh: Amid allegation of large-scale illegal mining in Punjab, state's Mines Minister Harjot Singh Bains ordered seal and seizure of all stone-crushing units near Nangal city of the Rupnagar district. The Cabinet minister said after receiving complaints against stone crushing units involved in illegal mining and damaging the flora and fauna in the Khera Kalmot area, a team was sent by the Mining Department which videographed the illegal operations of plants.

Submits

Guwahati: All the seven panels formed by the Assam government to propose measures for the overall development of "indigenous Assamese Muslims" submitted their reports, an official release said. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma received the reports and said his government will take measures for the all-around welfare of the community. Sarma had held meeting with eminent personalities from minority community across the state after assuming office.

'Become tech-savvy to remain two steps ahead of criminals'



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Tech Expo of 48th All India Police Science Congress in CAPT Bhopal on Friday.

Bhopal, Apr 22 (PTI):

Underlining the need to modernise the police force, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday advised the police personnel to become tech-savvy in order to remain two steps ahead of criminals. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 48th All India

Police Science Congress (AIPSC) organised by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) here. "Police need to be tech-savvy to remain two steps ahead of criminals," he said. Shah added that there was a need to modernise and train the police force in order to strengthen the country's internal security.

The minister said that in the last eight years, the Narendra Modi government has almost settled the Kashmir issue, and also resolved Naxalism and narcotics problem in the North East region. "After the abrogation of Article 370, large-scale development is happening in Jammu and Kashmir," he said. The two-day event is being held at the Central Academy of Police Training (CAPT) in Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also spoke on the occasion. The main objective of the programme is to provide a common platform to various police forces, units, social scientists, forensic experts and other stakeholders to deliberate on selected themes of topical interests to the Indian police, an official said.

Hijab ban challengers return home without writing exam

Hubballi social media accused attempts exam

Udupi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Two pre-university college students from Udupi who had approached the Karnataka High Court challenging the ban on hijab, returned from the exam centre on Friday as they were not allowed to write the exam wearing hijab. The exam which began on Friday will go on till May 18. The first paper was Business Studies. Over 6.84 lakh students will write the exam at 1,076 centres across the state.

The two girls—Alia and Resham—arrived in an auto-rickshaw at the exam centre wearing burqa. They insisted that they should be allowed to write the exam wearing hijab but the college authorities citing the High Court order denied



Two students were not allowed to take exam in Udupi on Friday.

them entry. Subsequently, the girls returned home. On January 1, six girl students of a college in Udupi attended a press conference held by the Campus Front of India (CFI) in the coastal town protesting against the college authorities denying them entry into classrooms

wearing headscarves. This was four days after they requested the principal permission to wear hijab in classes which was not allowed. Till then, students used to wear the headscarf to the campus, but entered the classroom after removing it, college principal

EARTH DAY WITH MUD



Members of Isha Foundation put mud packs on their hands and faces to celebrate Earth Day, in Chikmagalur, Karnataka on Friday.

Kerala Govt to hold panel discussion on SilverLine

Amid intense protests

Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 22 (PTI): At a time when a fresh round of clashes erupted in the state after a gap over the laying of SilverLine survey stones, the Kerala government is getting ready to conduct a panel discussion involving experts who support and those who have raised technical objection and concerns regarding its flagship semi-high speed rail corridor project.

The two-hour-long discussion, scheduled tentatively on April 27 or 28 at the Mascot Hotel, will be moderated by KP Sudheer, state Principal Secretary (Science and Technology),



Route map of SilverLine project.

official sources here said.

The programme is designed in the format of three experts speaking for the project and three experts speaking against it in the presence of 25-50 invited audience, they said.

The media would reportedly be allowed to cover the debate.

Alok Kumar Verma, a retired Chief Bridge Engineer who was part of preparing the preliminary feasibility report of the SilverLine alias K-Rail project but later raised stiff objection, R V G Menon, a prominent environmental scientist, and Joseph C Mathew, social observer, were included in the panel of those speaking against the project.

Verma, who was here on Wednesday to meet Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and senior government officials to appraise the concerns regarding the mammoth infrastructure project, had told media that he did not get appointment for the meeting.

UP Cyber cops nab two of Jamtara gang



Noida, Apr 22 (PTI):

With the arrest of two men allegedly linked to Jamtara-based cyber cheats, the Uttar Pradesh police on Friday busted an online racket in which connen duped people by taking remote access of their mobile phones. The cyber cheats are using applications which give them access of mobile phones from remote location, including access to

one-time passwords (OTPs) being sent on a user's number without them realising it, they said. In the wake of the finding, the Cyber Wing of the state police has urged people not to use "toll free helpline numbers" of banks or other services published on Google under the "ad" category. Officials of the Cyber Police Station, Noida, have arrested two men, identified as Mohammed Riyaz and Liaq Ahmed, linked to the gang of thugs based in Jamtara, Jharkhand, Superintendent of Police (UP Cyber Police) Triveni Singh said. He said the accused were held as part of a probe into a Rs 5.97 lakh online fraud with daughter of a retired CISF official, who lives in Ghaziabad.



ASI carrying out survey at Bhabani Shankar temple in Odisha.

another temple next to Suka Sari temple close to Shree Lingaraj Temple in the old town area of the city. The newly found idol is believed to be a 1400-year-old idol or 7th-century BC, the ASI said. Apart from the Mahisasurmardini idol, several other inscriptions and sculptures have been found from the temple site, ASI Superintending Archaeologist

Congress protest in Assam seeking Mevani's release

Kokrajhar, Apr 22 (PTI):

A day after a court in Assam's Kokrajhar district sent Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani to police custody, the Congress on Friday staged a demonstration outside Kokrajhar Police Station, where the Dalit leader was being held.

Opposing Mevani's "illegal arrest", members of the party demanded his immediate release. They raised slogans against the BJP government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mevani, an Independent MLA supported by the Congress, was apprehended from Palanpur town in Gujarat on Wednesday night after a First Information Report (FIR) under various sections of



Congress workers meet with Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani at Kokrajhar Police Station in Assam.

the IPC and the IT Act was filed in Kokrajhar Police Station over his purported tweet against the prime minister.

According to the FIR, he had purportedly posted a tweet, claiming Prime

Minister Narendra Modi "considered Godse as God".

Mevani was flown to Guwahati from Gujarat on Thursday and then taken to Kokrajhar by road, where he was produced at the chief judicial magistrate's court, which remanded him in three days' police custody.

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) working president and MLA Jakir Hussain Sikdar, leading the protest, claimed that Mevani had been arrested to "thwart his influence" in Gujarat.

"Narendra Modi's pride is going to take a beating when the BJP loses Gujarat soon. Mevani has great influence on people there. This has been done to keep him away," Sikdar claimed.

'Climate change not limited to national boundaries'

It will affect us all: Dalai Lama on Earth Day

Dharamsala, Apr 22 (PTI): Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Friday appealed to people to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and adopt renewable sources of energy.

Talking about the climate crisis in his message on Earth Day, he said that "new challenges, like the climate crisis, that affects us all, as well as our participation in the global economy, mean that we must take the whole of humanity into account".

People need to take urgent steps to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and to adopt renewable sources of energy such as those that rely on the power of the sun and the



Dalai Lama

wind, the Dalai Lama said. "The threat of climate change is not limited by national boundaries, it affects us all," he said.

"In my own life I have witnessed the decline in snowfall, first in Tibet and later, in Dharamsala. Some scientists have told me that there is a risk of places like Tibet eventually becoming deserts," the spiritual leader said.

Historians demand radar survey report be made public

Bhubaneswar, Apr 22 (PTI):

A day after an ASI team discovered an idol of 'Mahisasurmardini' while clearing the 'garbhagriha' (sanctum sanctorum) of a partially-buried temple behind the Bhabani Shankar temple here, heritage lovers demanded that the ground penetration radar survey report of the area close to Shree Lingaraj Temple be made public.

This was the second such discovery in the state capital. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) team had in February this year, discovered an idol of Lord Vishnu while unearthing the ruins of another ancient temple buried in the premises of Suka Sari temple in the Old Town area of Bhubaneswar. The Mahisasurmardini idol was suspected to be in

the ground. Rampant excavations were carried out and many valuable carved panels were destroyed or dumped off, Dhir alleged. "Why Ground Penetration Radar survey report of the entire area, conducted by IIT Gandhinagar last year, has not been made public? Dhir asked, adding that there are many more such buried structures, broken temples and idols in the vicinity. Heritage explorer and expert Deepak Nayak, said ASI should not announce that the idol recovered from underneath the ground as 1400 years old. Stating that such a speculation is "wrong", Nayak said only the upper portion of the idol has been excavated. "The age of any Mahisasurmardini sculpture can be identified considering the iconography of the demon the goddess is slaying.

HC restrains cops from arresting Rane for two weeks in Dhule FIR

'Slap' remark against Maha CM

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Friday restrained the Maharashtra police from arresting or taking any coercive action against Union minister Narayan Rane over an FIR filed against him in Dhule district in connection with his 'slap' remark targeted at state Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

A bench of Justices PB Varale and SM Modak granted interim protection to the minister after the state government's counsel YP Yagnik said the police were not willing to make a statement that they will not arrest Rane in the case until further others from the court.



Narayan Rane

Rane, a BJP leader, had approached the high court earlier this year seeking quashing of the FIR registered against him in Dhule district of north Maharashtra over his remark against the CM. His counsel, advocate Satish Maneshinde, had sought that in the interim, Rane

be granted protection from arrest.

Maneshinde had told the high court that there was another FIR registered by the Nashik police against Rane over his remarks. The minister had approached the high court last year for quashing of the Nashik FIR and the Nashik police had undertaken to not take any coercive action against him, he said.

The high court had then asked the state government to take instructions and inform the court if a similar statement could be made in the present case.

On Friday, Yagnik said, "I have taken instructions and the police cannot make any statements.

BRIEF

Bites

Fairfield: A man allegedly bit and stabbed a police dog in Northern California in US as officers tried to take him into custody, authorities said. The man appeared to be under the influence of drugs, according to Fairfield police. The dog, named Cort, was taken to a veterinary hospital for treatment and recovering at home with its handler. Officers were initially called to an elderly victim's home on a report of a burglary. Officers found the man, 44, running around inside.

Highlights

New York: The Authors Guild is launching a Banned Books Club in US, the latest initiative from the literary world in response to the nationwide wave of censorship and restrictions over the past year. Through a partnership with the book club app Fable, the Authors Guild will each month for next year highlight a fiction or nonfiction work that has been pulled from a classroom or school library and facilitate a discussion with author: The first selection is David Levithan's novel.

Convicted

Skopje: A court in North Macedonia convicted the country's fugitive former prime minister, Nikola Gruevski, of using his conservative party's funds to enrich himself and sentenced him in absentia to seven years in prison. The Criminal Court in the capital, Skopje, ruled that Gruevski unlawfully acquired nearly 1.4 million euros from donations to the VMRO-DPMNE party from 2006 to 2012, part of the time when he was in office. Judges also found money laundering to cover tracks.

Fire

Moscow: Six people died and 27 more sustained injuries after a fire broke at a defense research facility in the north-western Russian city of Tver, authorities of the Tver regions said. The fire erupted in an administrative building of the Aerospace Defense Forces' Central Research Institute, which operates under the Russian Defense Ministry.

'US, not Russia, to be India's reliable partner post Ukrainian war'

Washington, Apr 22 (PTI):



Derek Chollet

It is the United States, and not Russia, which is and will be India's "reliable" partner post the war in Ukraine, the Biden Administration pitched, asserting that it is ready to go the extra mile to meet New Delhi's defence and national security needs.

"I think there are real doubts about Russia's ability to be a reliable partner for the foreseeable future. Because Russia is burning through a tremendous amount of its own military equipment. So, it faces urgent resupply needs of its own," US State Department Counsellor Derek Chollet told PTI in an interview.

Of the rank of Under Secretary of State and a senior policy advisor to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Chollet said the Biden administration is very much eager to work with India as it diversifies its defence capabilities and defence suppliers.

"We very much want to be part of that. We're doing much more than we've ever done in the history of our relationship together in terms of defence. And so, as India's seeking

to acquire new capabilities, the United States very much wants to be a partner with India in that effort," he said.

Chollet argued that the military equipment being supplied by Russia has shown it is lacking in capability. "The difficulty of doing business with Russia is only going to grow over time. It's become much harder given all the sanctions placed on Russia in the last 12 weeks," he said.

"Also, the export control against Russia... Russia's inability to import key technologies to be able to make certain products, including some of its military hardware, are going to mean that it's going to have a hard time even getting the capability

to replace or to produce this kind of material. So, any way you look at it in terms of actual capability, in terms of the difficulty of doing business with Russia, in terms of the reputation costs associated, Russia is just a far less attractive partner, he said.

However, Chollet evaded a direct answer to the question on the US deploying its Seventh Fleet to the Bay of Bengal in December 1971 during the India-Pakistan War, which many in India say is a symbol of the US also not being a reliable partner when needed.

"The US has shown throughout the course of this conflict, something we believe deeply, that we are a very reliable partner. If you think back...the United States made the decision to start sharing some of the most sensitive intelligence that we had about Russia's planning and intentions when it came to Ukraine, our effort to share as much information as we possibly could with our friends and allies around the world in the spirit of being a reliable partner and in trying to bring the

world and make them together and to make them aware of what we were seeing and try to create a unified effort, he said.

Chollet asserted that the India-US relationship has not been impacted by the Ukrainian war.

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine has not impacted the relationship between the US and India. The US-India relationship is deep, it's strong, he said, adding that it has bipartisan support in Washington.

"Obviously, we have talked with our Indian friends about everything from votes in the UN to the defence relationship with Russia. It was a topic of conversation at 2+2 (ministerial meeting) recently, but we fully understand the position that India is in given its long-standing defence relationship with Russia, he said.

"It's important to note that from our perspective we see that the defence relationship (between India and Russia) in a way started and flourished at a time when the United States was not available as a partner to India. Obviously, we are in a much different moment right now, he said.

US is boosting heavy arms for Ukraine



Unexploded munitions and other explosive devices near Brovary in Ukraine.

Washington, Apr 22 (AP):

Eight weeks into the war, the Biden administration's decision to dramatically ramp up delivery of artillery guns to Ukraine signals a deepening American commitment at a pivotal stage of fighting for the country's industrial heartland. It also brings into stark relief Moscow's warning that continued US mili-

tary aid to Ukraine would have unpredictable" consequences, suggesting that Russia sees the international wave of weaponry as a growing obstacle to its invasion as well as a Western provocation.

We're in a critical window of time now, President Joe Biden said that in announcing he had approved an additional 800 million in battlefield aid that includes

72 of the US Army's 155mm howitzers, along with 144,000 artillery rounds and more than 120 armed drones that will require training for Ukrainian operators.

This brings to 3.4 billion the amount of security assistance provided since Russia began its invasion Feb. 24. That is an extraordinary total of US military aid for a country to which the United States has no defense treaty obligation.

Heavy weapons such as artillery are shaping up as a key feature of the unfolding battle for Ukraine's eastern region known as the Donbas. The relatively flat terrain is suited for what the military calls maneuver warfare the movement of tanks and other ground forces backed by long-range guns like the 155mm howitzer.

UK patient had COVID-19 for 505 days straight

London, Apr 22 (AP):

A UK patient with a severely weakened immune system had COVID-19 for almost a year and a half, scientists reported, underscoring the importance of protecting vulnerable people from the coronavirus.

There's no way to know for sure whether it was the longest-lasting COVID-19 infection because not everyone gets tested, especially on a regular basis like this case.

But at 505 days, it certainly seems to be the longest reported infection," said Dr Luke Blagdon Snell, an infectious disease expert at the Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. Snell's team plans to present several persistent COVID-19 cases at an infectious diseases meeting in Portugal this weekend. Their study investigated which mutations arise — and whether variants evolve — in people with super long infections. It involved nine patients who tested positive for the virus for at least eight weeks. All had weakened immune systems from organ transplants, HIV, cancer or treatment for other illnesses. None were identified for privacy reasons. Repeated tests showed their infections lingered for an aver-

age of 73 days. Two had the virus for more than a year. Previously, researchers said, the longest-known case that was confirmed with a PCR test lasted 335 days. Persistent COVID-19 is rare and different from long Covid.

"In long Covid, it's generally assumed the virus has been cleared from your body but the symptoms persist, Snell said. With persistent infection, it represents ongoing, active replication of the virus.

Each time researchers tested patients, they analyzed the genetic code of the virus to make sure it was the same strain and that people didn't get COVID-19 more than once.

Shanghai extends COVID-19 lockdown as death toll rises

Beijing, Apr 22 (PTI):

Shanghai has extended the COVID-19 lockdown to April 26, amid reports of growing public resentment as the eastern metropolis of 26 million reported 11 more deaths, taking the toll in the current outbreak to 36.

China reported 2,119 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases, of which 1,931 were reported in Shanghai, according to the National Health Commission.

Shanghai has added 17,629 new cases in the previous 24 hours, 4.7 per cent fewer than a day earlier, according to data released on Friday, taking the city's cumulative cases since March 1 to 443,500. Symptomatic cases fell 26.7 per cent to 1,931, in the biggest one-day decline since the outbreak. Hong Kong-based South China Morning



Environmental activists wear outfits made of plastic waste marking Earth Day against climate change, along the Han River in Seoul on Friday.

Constitutional amendments will not solve Lanka's crises

Need a change in the political culture: Ex-Army chief

Colombo, Apr 22 (PTI):

Bringing in a raft of constitutional amendments and abolishing the presidential system of governance in the country since 1978, and replace it with a system that reinforces constitutional democracy. You have to take action against a school principal whenever he abuses a child in the school rather than abolishing the principal's

political culture in the island nation. Sri Lanka's principal Opposition party, Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), presented a constitutional amendment bill that among other provisions seeks to abolish the presidential system of governance, in existence in the country since 1978, and replace it with a system that reinforces constitutional democracy.

The SJB presented the draft 21st constitution amendment bill to the secretary-general of parliament with proposals including the abolition of the current executive presidential system.

post, Fonseka, now a SJB legislator, told Parliament. The move by the SJB came in the backdrop of massive protests demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his Sri Lanka Podujana (Peramuna)-led government over the country's worst economic crisis.

The SJB presented the draft 21st constitution amendment bill to the secretary-general of parliament with proposals including the abolition of the current executive presidential system. The SJB presented the draft 21st constitution amendment bill to the secretary-general of parliament with proposals including the abolition of the current executive presidential system.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the General Public That I, Reji Kalliyaa George S/o Late K.J. George Resident of LIG 292, Hudco Amda Nagar Ward no. 70, Civic Centre Bhilai Durg (C.G.) Have Changed My old Name Reji Kalliyaa George S/o Late K.J. George, So in Future I Should be Recognized by My New Name That is Reji Kalliyamaditill George S/o Late K.J. George in all Government and other Documents. DEPONENT Reji Kalliyamaditill George LIG 292, Hudco Amda Nagar Ward No. 70, Civic Centre Bhilai Durg (C.G.)

आम सूचना
एकर द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जा रहा है कि मैं अपने पिताश्वर से अधिकृत होकर अपने प्रायः निदेश अनुसार यह आम सूचना प्रकाशित कर रहा हूँ कि मेरे पुराने नाम की जगह, बाबुलाल गिजा की जगह, अर्जुन सिंह धारीवाल निवासी बंगलौर नं. 5/ए, बडक 19, सेक्टर 07, गिजराह, तह. चण्डीगढ़ (उ.प्र.) के स्थान पर अर्जुन सिंह धारीवाल का नाम रखा जा रहा है। अतः भविष्य में मिलने को चाहे सम्बन्धित है। जिसकी प्रथम सूचना पिछले दिनों की सूचना नगर भाग धुलान में दिनांक 28/02/2022 को की जा चुकी है। अतः इस सूचना के माध्यम से यह जनाते कि सूचना निदेश जारी है कि उक्त सूचना पर किसी भी सूचना को प्राप्त हो इस पर पर पढ़ावने को प्राप्त करें। अतः आम सूचना प्रकाशित है। सभ्य-दुर्ग दिनांक- 22/04/2022 राकेश यादव (अधिकृत) पता- राकेश नं. 06 एम, जेम 02, नू अमरा नगर दुर्ग का. एवं गिजा दुर्ग (उ.प्र.) नं. 9827471339

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Regional Office, Dhamtari, First Floor Bank of Baroda, Indira Place, Civic Center, Bhilai, (Chhattisgarh) - 490006

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR KIND ATTENTION OF OUR MOST VALUED CUSTOMERS In our endeavor to consolidate and strengthen our services to our customers, Bank of Baroda Gunderdehi branch will be shifted and shall function at the below said address w.e.f 23rd May 2022. It shall function and cater all types of banking business from the said premises.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम विलातपुर (उ.प्र.) ई-निविदा सूचना
क्र.04/न.प.नि/जोब क्रमांक-7/2021-22 दिनांक 21/04/2022
एकीकृत प्रयोग प्रणाली अंतर्गत सभ्य सेवी में प्रोजेक्ट केवेंचर में निविदा/निविदा कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा दिनांक 13.05.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash, L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.), PH: 0771 - 4222611, 4222612 E-mail: recovery.raipur@bankofbaroda.com
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 90 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

न्यायालय जिला दण्डाधिकारी रायपुर
नोटिस
क्रमांक/204/ब-121/2020-21/469 रायपुर, दिनांक 11 अप्रैल, 2022
प्रति
1. मेसर्स शिवा पल्सेस (क्रापी/मोर्टेजजर)
2. श्री अशोक लालानी पिता श्री श्याम (पार्टनर/गारंटर)
3. श्रीमती ममता देवी लालानी (पार्टनर/गारंटर/मोर्टेजजर)
4. मेसर्स महाशक्ति पल्सेस (क्रापी/मोर्टेजजर/गारंटर)
5. मेसर्स शिव शक्ति फाल मिल (गारंटर)
6. मेसर्स शिवा फाल इंडस्ट्रीज (गारंटर)
म. नं. 212 सिंघीपावा बाई नं. 03 नेबर राहसील सिन्धु जिला रायपुर

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Date: 22.04.2022, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



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Shifting Indo-UK ties

Meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the relationship between the two countries is stronger than ever. Johnson said he hoped the UK would complete another free trade agreement with India by the end of the year. The UK imported more from India than from any other Commonwealth country. The nature of relationship between India and UK has shifted from former colony and empire to that of equal partners. The UK also released an integrated review of its foreign policy, pegged as one of its most comprehensive foreign policy reviews since the Cold War, in which it affirmed its decision to 'tilt to the Indo-Pacific', though the details have yet to be made clear. Though Britain's tilt to the Indo-Pacific has been underway for some time, that its recent commitment to the region had to do with the Chinese action in the region. Both India and the UK are founding members of the Coalition for the Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, which was launched by the Indian prime minister in 2019. Past road maps and trade ambitions look like distractions in hindsight. Perhaps, a partnership that creates an additional option on China outweighed immediate gains for India. Since the signing of the strategic partnership agreement in 2004, India and the UK have shared a cordial relationship. Decades after that, India and the UK still keep the ball rolling through the newly introduced Roadmap 2030.

Signed in early May 2021, the Roadmap charts the course of bilateral relations between India and Britain for the next 10 years and identifies key areas of cooperation ranging from climate change, education, healthcare to trade and investment. Roadmap 2030 sets forth a framework for the nations to increase their military technology cooperation through combined initiatives, mainly in air and naval combat. A portion of this effort particularly focuses on the development of new combat aircraft capabilities, such as India's locally built Light Combat Aircraft- Tejas. In Naval Technology, Britain has great prospects to work with the Indian Navy to advance electric propulsion systems for India's next-generation carriers and warships. India and the UK have a long history of shared commitment to furthering educational ties. With more than fifty thousand Indian students studying in the UK, India is a major contributor to the British Higher Education system. Though the story may not be the same for India, the advent of the Roadmap and the recently approved National Education Policy (NEP) provides a new outlook to India-UK Educational Cooperation. In this light, it is noticed that both academics and research, would get a boost because the Roadmap is conceived in the spirit of internationalization as outlined in the NEP. With the NEP in sight, it is possible that in the coming years, the Roadmap might enable several mutually beneficial academic and research collaborations between Indian and British Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and even channelize the establishment of British University campuses in India. Adding, the roadmap also aims to take the NEP's salient recommendations to a greater level by promoting digital education, vocational training, and creating international research collaborations through existing programmes like the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). More that governments, it is people for India and UK which lead the ties between these two nations.

Narrative of history

The difference between official national narratives of heroism and victimhood is not as great as it might seem. The point of history as propaganda in China and Russia and Israel, is that it legitimizes those in power. Until the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, official Chinese accounts paid little attention to the Nanjing Massacre. History under Mao was instead a heroic tale of communist victory over fascist and bourgeois oppressors. Nanjing had been the Chinese Nationalist capital at the time of the Sino-Japanese War. The massacre was thus a story of Nationalist defeat, not communist heroism. By the time of Mao's death, Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought had lost their appeal, even for many CPC members. The new party orthodoxy is a form of nationalism based on memories of collective humiliation, such as the Nanjing Massacre, whose stain only the CPC's continued hegemony can erase. A Moscow court ordered the closure of Russia's Memorial International and its sister organization, Memorial Human Rights Centre. Memorial was founded in 1989 to investigate Stalin-era crimes in the Soviet Union and to honour the victims. Like Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin wants to control the historical narrative. That means glossing over the horrors of Stalinism and highlighting the heroic victory of the Russian people against fascism in World War II.

History has of course always been political. At least since the time of the great court historian Sima Qian, born around 140 BC, official scribes in China have compiled histories to lend legitimacy to the rulers who commissioned them. Every dynasty had its own historians. Much the same was true in ancient Rome. But history in Western democracies can nonetheless be highly political. Consider the role that the history of slavery plays in US politics today. While some on the left project America's history as one of white supremacy, right-wing politicians try to have books that make this case banned from schools. Significantly, official history in Xi's China is in line with the strong tendency in the West to define collective identity in terms of victimhood. If the official narrative of Mao's China was in the heroic mould, history under Xi is a story of unrelieved degradation at the hands of foreign invaders until the communist revolution of 1949. The heroic story of the 1934-35 Long March, when Mao's Red Army evaded Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists, is now less important than the Chinese people's sufferings in Nanjing or during the nineteenth-century Opium Wars. Triumphant history has many dangers. A feeling of national superiority blinds people to their own faults and makes them oblivious to the way they treat others. It can also foster natural sense of entitlement. India shall avoid such narrative of history.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

LIGHTHOUSE



Lighthouse of Isla de Lobos, a small island located about 8 km off the coast of Punta del Este, Maldonado, 140 km east of Montevideo, Uruguay.

Underground fish species under threat due to poor water governance



TV PADMA

India's treasure-house of ancient underground Gondwana fishes, in the global biodiversity hotspot of Western Ghats, are under threat due to over-exploitation of its groundwater and poor water governance. The problem is worsened by climate change leading to droughts, which is causing almost half of the dug-out wells to run dry during summer, the crucial season for subterranean fishes, scientists from Kochi report in Trends in Ecology and Evolution. The country needs to map its aquifers and their biodiversity, as well as treat its aquifers as 'commons', the scientists suggest. Experts also need to address the ecological consequences of its groundwater depletion, they say. India's Western Ghats (WG) hotspot is home to more than 300 species of fish, 70 percent of which are endemic. India is also one of the largest users of groundwater in the world, an estimated 230 cubic km each year, for urban water supply and agriculture, the report says. This has resulted in rapid depletion of aquifers across the country. The subterranean or groundwater ecosystems of Kerala harbour unique biodiversity - ancient relics from the Gondwana supercontinent, says Rajeev Raghavan, assistant professor at the department of fisheries resource management, at Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Kochi, (KUFOS) and one of the study authors.

Examples include the Gollum snakehead, Aenigmachanna gollum, which is considered a living fossil and the blind shrimp, Eurindicus. 'Their future survival depends on how the local communities living and depending on groundwater, manage this resource, and how the policy makers

frame significant frameworks to ensure groundwaters are sustained for the future,' he says. The link between water governance and threatened freshwater biodiversity is an area that has not received conservation and policy attention in India, says Raghavan. 'This gap is particularly significant with regard to groundwater governance and biodiversity. To the best of our knowledge, there has not been any discussion in India about how unmanaged groundwater extraction and poor governance is impacting the unique subterranean biodiversity,' he adds. The water quality parameters have completely changed, with extensive groundwater contamination with fertilisers, pesticides and industrial effluents, says Arunkumar Manimekalan, professor at Bharatiyar University, Coimbatore, whose team has been reporting on the enormous fish diversity in the Western Ghats.

It is logical to expect that any subterranean fishes present 'could have been modified, both physiologically and morphologically,' he says. Manimekalan's team has studied fish using cast nets, dip nets, gill nets and drag nets, from various streams and rivers of the southern Western Ghats. They recorded a total of 64 species, of which nearly 15 species were found to be threatened in the Western Ghats. Garra periyarensis and Cirrhinus cirrhosus are known to be vulnerable and Hemibagrus punctatus is critically endangered because of various anthropogenic activities, they report. 'The study clearly indicates that certain timely measures have to be taken immediately to protect the fish fauna in the southern Western Ghats.' Barely 3 percent of the fishes have been studied for ecology, says Manimekalan, and not more than 10 percent of the world's diverse fishes have been identified. The Kochi team's findings add to previous warnings that human activities such as large-scale deforestation, building hydropower plants, and large river basin alterations are endangering the endemic fishes unique to the Western Ghats. TV Ramachandra, professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru, says that the study on Gondwana fishes provides valuable

insights to the threat of endemic biodiversity due poor governance of natural resources. 'Prudent management of natural resources entails understanding of linkages between vegetation cover, surface water, groundwater, and aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity,' he says.

Ramachandra's team of scientists had discovered two new fish species, Schistura nogodiensis and Schistura sharavathiensis, in Sharavathi river basin in the central Western Ghats of Karnataka state. He cautions that fish diversity is linked to landscape dynamics. IISc scientists had also previously discovered an unusual frog species that bypasses the tadpole stage to overcome scarcity of water, as streams and rivers become seasonal, and with land cover changes in the catchment. 'This is important from the impending changes in climate due to global warming, leading to the conversion of perennial streams and rivers to seasonal streams and rivers,' says Ramachandra. The watershed of a river too plays a vital role in sustaining the hydrologic regime, says Ramachandra. Analyses of landscape dynamics across the west flowing major rivers of the central Western Ghats in Karnataka show degradation of forests, the area of which has declined from 74.19 percent in 1973 to 48.04 percent in 2018. There has been heavy loss of evergreen forests, which have reduced from 56.07 percent to 24.85 percent during the period, mainly due to developmental activities such as construction of dams, power projects, forest-based industries such as paper mills, road expansions, urbanisation, and encroachment for horticulture and agriculture. The forests are currently confined to the Ghats and protected areas, he says. The water catchment areas are crucial, as areas with perennial rivers support rich biodiversity, with higher number of species of both flora and fauna. Ramachandra's team studied four river basins and found endemic species of plants and animals' catchments with perennial streams.

Scientists who are beginning to document the fishes in the Western Ghats are calling for more proactive, timely measures to protect the fish

there. Raghavan's team recommends treating aquifers as common heritage or 'commons' to ensure sustainable groundwater management and aquifer protection. Groundwater aquifers are natural resources, which are accessible to all members of the society, says Raghavan. Hence, 'they are commons that belong to everybody, and owned by nobody.' Surface resources such forests and surface waters can be easily partitioned into private and commons so that the commons can be managed and regulated to ensure equitable share for all the various stakeholders, Raghavan suggests. That said, since aquifers are underground and the access points, such as wells, could be in private land, their governance is tricky and has led to poor governance of aquifer. 'One of the important policies to protect aquifers is to make it explicitly clear that though the wells and other access points for aquifers could be in private land, the aquifers themselves are common,' he adds. Manimekalan suggests that fishes should be given the same importance for conservation like the big mammals such as tigers and elephants. Sadly, fishes are given importance as a food resource, and not for maintaining aquatic diversity and conservation. 'If fishes are conserved, the entire water body is conserved,' he points out. 'Some fishes are highly sensitive to the presence of contaminants and serve as indirect indicators of pollution in water bodies.' The IISc research in the Western Ghats shows that areas with perennial streams are dominated by native vegetation, unlike areas with seasonal streams, which have a high degree of human activities with monoculture plantations. Raghavan and Manimekalan also suggest raising awareness of both local communities and policy makers of the unique, ancient, and threatened biodiversity in India's groundwater systems. Also, needed are policies, including strict laws and their enforcement with the participation of ecologists and conservationists, on groundwater resource use and management.

(TV Padma writes on science and environment issues and based in Delhi.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Discovery

Gone are the days when it took several long years for scientists to identify and diagnose rare genetic diseases. Kudos to the team of researchers from Sydney and collaborators from Australia, the UK, and Israel for designing a novel DNA test that can diagnose over 50 genetic diseases caused by unusually long repetitive DNA sequences in a person's genes. Published in the journal 'Science Advances', this groundbreaking discovery helps diagnose the complex symptoms of unknown genetic diseases; that foregoes the limitations of existing genetic testing methods. Their studies indicate that the test is accurate, and allow the team to begin validations to make the test available in pathology laboratories around the world. This new test works by scanning a patient's genome using a new technology called 'Nanopore' sequencing. This new DNA test can identify a range of neurological and neuromuscular abnormalities that have a genetic background. Neurologists specializing in the field say that this new single DNA test offers a quick treatment that helps identify and diagnose the disease rapidly and accurately. This test also helps patients get early treatments and avoid unnecessary drugs. This new technology raises hopes among patients with rare genetic disorders that are inheritable in most cases.

Krishna Kumar, via email

Hindi speakers

The growth of Hindi speakers in 2011 is high because of the inclusion of languages such as Bhojpuri, is strange. Such languages were classified as a part of Hindi even in earlier censuses. The real reason is the differentials in fertility rates between Hindi-speaking and non-Hindi speaking areas. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, etc. had much lower fertility from the 1980s when compared to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana. The low level of education in the Hindi-speaking areas contributed substantially to high fertility in the Hindi-speaking areas. I would not agree with the line about Bangla having 'negative growth' as well. The number of speakers has risen by 8 percent from 8.3 crore to 9.7 crore. The decline in the percentage of speakers of most languages other than Hindi is due to the disproportionate rise of Hindi speakers, aided substantially by higher fertility.

Narayana, via email

Vindictive

Vindictive, unconstitutional and totally one-sided actions being taken by the administrative machinery in certain States make it appear as if there is a race to plumb further depths in depravity in a growing agenda of hate. Razing the property and houses of alleged rioters with following due process not only lacks any legal force but also callously disregards any notion of fairness or humane sensitivity towards families. Enforcing such collective punishment is barbaric, turns the clock back on legal and constitutional jurisprudence, and ends up disreputing India's standing among nations in claiming to have a democratic and civilised political system. One hopes that institutions and officers who swear by the Constitution are able to learn some lessons from how the London police has upheld its independence in indicting the British Prime Minister and his Cabinet Minister for having flouted the government's lockdown rules. Unless such street violence and public injustice is checked, both sane religiosity and the idea of India itself will remain under threat.

Firoz, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Shailesh@Mulki

India's ability to withstand Chinese aggression at its border, followed by aggressive foreign policy with India baiters - Earlier Malaysian government and Turkey, and now pushing back US bullying on Russian oil has given foreign policy some spine.

Vishwanath@vishy972

Am less stunned y the act of the usa govt as it is handful of elite families that together with. Lobby and trust (foundations) that is actually running this. What I get angry is the educated ordinary citizens who lack spine to question n haul their politicians.



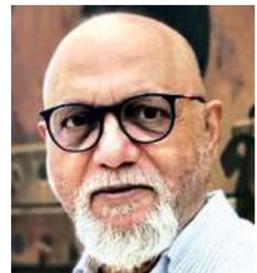
Bhaskaran@br_cse

Just by frac of pop which died, Spanish Flu (SF) was 30x more deadly. Also SF killed young people who had 40-50 years of life ahead, instead of old/comorbid like Covid. So SF was easily 200-300x more deadly. So comparison of Covid with Spanish Flu is a psy-op on an epic scale.

Chandrashekhar@cdbhage
Mumbai Trans Harbor Link. #MTHL

Ishkaran@ishkarn

Gross abuse of state power to arrest in cases of speech is becoming an unsolvable problem. All parties are guilty. Unfortunately people cheer when happens to supporters of opposite party. Endless Loop. End Result- All Politicians benefit & all citizens suffer.



Prithish@PrithishNandy

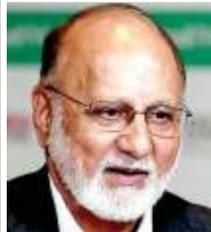
Why are so many Bombay High Court judges recusing themselves from hearing the Elgar Parishad case where so many scholars and activists remain incarcerated and a 83 year old, Parkinson's-stricken Jesuit priest died in prison repeatedly claiming his innocence? #Curiously.

Vivek@Viv_Krishnan

'Finally!'...that expression nails it. We take it as a sign that our armed forces are receptive & will walk the talk on indigenisation/home grown tech, if it's 'honest on promises'. FYI, we've failed many times in the run up to getting the product to here 'finally'.

BRIEF

Strengthen



New Delhi: Hero Electric on Friday said it has joined hands with Even Cargo, the country's first women-only delivery platform, to strengthen the last-mile delivery segment. Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill said some have chosen various talent competencies.

IPO

New Delhi: Sah Polymers Ltd has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO will be a fresh issue of 1,02,00,000 equity shares, with no offer-for-sale component, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Proceeds from the issue will be utilised for manufacturing of new Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers (FIBC) plant and expansion of production capacity; funding working capital requirements.

Elevates



Mumbai: Marriott International on Friday said it has promoted Ranju Alex as its Area Vice President for the South Asia region. Alex will take over the charge from Neeraj Govil — who was relocated to Singapore after being appointed as Senior Vice President of Operations.

Tumbles

New Delhi: Shares of agrochemicals firm Rallis India on Friday tumbled nearly 10 per cent after it reported a consolidated loss of Rs 14 crore for March quarter 2021-22. The stock tanked 9.19 per cent to Rs 255.25 on the BSE. At the NSE, it went lower by 9.61 per cent to Rs 254.40. Rallis India, a subsidiary of Tata Chemicals, reported a consolidated loss of Rs 14 crore for March quarter due to multiple challenges, including in seeds business.

Acquire



New Delhi: ITC Infotech on Friday said it will acquire a portion of PTC's product lifecycle management (PLM) implementation services. ITC Infotech MD CEO Sudip Singh said the creation of DXP Services will take our relationship to a whole new level.

FM reaffirms India's commitment to fighting money laundering

Need to address challenges relating to conflict
Washington: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said it was necessary to address the challenges of conflict and violence to achieve the twin role of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attends FATF Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC.

Washington, Apr 22 (PTI):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has reaffirmed India's political commitment to fighting money laundering and terrorist financing as she appreciated the role of FATF global network in safeguarding the global financial system. Sitharaman said this as she attended the FATF Ministerial Meeting conducted here alongside the 2022 Spring Meetings of

the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to endorse the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force's strategic priorities for the years 2022-24. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the in-

ternational financial system. During the meeting, Sitharaman reaffirmed India's commitment to fighting money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement. She also acknowledged and appreciated the FATF on their work on beneficial ownership transparency, asset recovery,

and the role of FATF Global network in safeguarding the global financial system, it said. The FATF Ministerial Meeting focused on ministers' providing strategic direction, by endorsing the FATF's strategic priorities for the years 2022-24 and reinforcing ministers' commitment to ensure suitable funding for the delivery of the strategic priorities, the ministry said.

The priorities are strengthening the FATF global network, FATF systems of mutual evaluations, enhancing international beneficial ownership transparency, increasing capabilities to more effectively recover criminal assets, leveraging digital transformation, ensuring sustainable funding for FATF strategic priorities, it said.

The priorities are strengthening the FATF global network, FATF systems of mutual evaluations, enhancing international beneficial ownership transparency, increasing capabilities to more effectively recover criminal assets, leveraging digital transformation, ensuring sustainable funding for FATF strategic priorities, it said.

Sensex tumbles over 714 pts on weak global trends

Bears return to D-Street after 2-day rally

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):



Equity markets halted their two-day rally on Friday, with the Sensex tumbling 714.53 points amid weak global equities and selling in index majors Infosys, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries. Continuous foreign fund outflows also dented sentiments. The BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 714.53 points or 1.23 per cent to settle at 57,197.15. During the day, it plummeted 776.96 points or 1.34 per cent to 57,134.72.

The NSE Nifty also declined 220.65 points or 1.27 per cent to 17,171.95. Among the 30-share Sensex pack, State Bank of India, Hindustan Unilever, IndusInd Bank, Dr Reddy's, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank and Infosys declined the most. In contrast, M&M, Bharti Airtel, Maruti, ITC, Asian

Paints and HCL Technologies were the gainers. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul settled lower, while Shanghai ended marginally higher.

Markets in Europe were trading lower in the afternoon session. Stocks in the US had ended lower.

"This excessively volatile market without any clear direction is being influenced on a daily basis by two factors - one, external and two, internal. The external factor is the erratic movement in the mother market US where the S&P 500 and Nasdaq go up by around 2 per cent one day and go down by around 2 per cent the next day. "The internal factor influencing the market is the see-saw tussle between FIIs and DIIs. Both these external and internal factors are erratic now and that's why the market is volatile without any direction," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Rupee slumps 32 paise at 76.49 against USD, gold rises

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

The rupee declined 32 paise to close at 76.49 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, in line with a sell-off in domestic equities and a firm greenback in the overseas markets. Persistent foreign capital outflows also dented investor sentiment, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened sharply lower at 76.31 against the greenback and lost further ground during the session. The domestic unit witnessed an intraday high of 76.19 and a low of 76.50.

It finally settled at 76.49, a fall of 32 paise over its previous close of 76.17. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's

strength against a basket of six currencies, increased 0.45 per cent to 101.06. Bullion prices showed mixed trend on Friday.

Gold prices on Friday rose by Rs 187 to Rs 52,600 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 187 or 0.36 per cent at Rs 52,600 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 16,617 lots.

Fresh positions built up by participants led to the rise in gold prices, analysts said. Globally, gold was trading 0.38 per cent higher at USD 1,955.60 per ounce in New York.

AEPC making efforts to promote brand India

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) on Friday said it is making efforts to promote brand India at various global platforms by showcasing its strength on sustainability, ethical sourcing and manufacturing, labour standards, and women employment. AEPC Chairman Narendra Goenka also said that availability of cotton, jute, silk and wool along with the second largest spinning and weaving capacity provides the industry an opportunity for a 95 per cent domestic value addition. The council has organised a two-day Fashion Meet Expo 2022. The expo seeks to bring together the entire textile ecosystem from fiber-to-fashion including manufacturers, accessories players, dyes, machine makers, startups, designers, buying agents, exporters, and fashion institutes.

India, UK decide to push for sealing ambitious FTA by this year

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson on Friday pushed for closing the negotiations for a free trade agreement by the end of the year, and agreed on a new and expanded bilateral defence and security partnership. In their wide-ranging talks, Modi and Johnson vowed to give fresh momentum to overall ties and reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the Roadmap 2030 that listed ambitious targets for deeper collaborations in diverse sectors. In his media statement, Modi said good progress has been made in negotiations for the India-UK free trade



Officials exchange documents after meeting of PM Narendra Modi and British PM Boris Johnson at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, Friday.

agreement. "We have decided to do our best to conclude the free trade agreement by the end of this year," Modi said in presence of Johnson. He said both sides emphasised on a

free, open, inclusive and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific while reiterating the need for respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all countries. We reiterated

our support for peaceful, stable and secure Afghanistan, he said, adding it is necessary that Afghan territory is not used to spread terrorism in other countries.

On the Ukraine crisis, Modi emphasised dialogue and diplomacy to address the problem and called for an immediate ceasefire.

In his remarks, Johnson described the ties between India and Britain as "one of defining friendships of our times". We have agreed on a new and expanded defence and security partnership, he said.

Johnson said the UK is creating India specific open general export licensing to reduce delivery times for defence procurement.

71% of polluting cos optimistic of achieving green goals

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

About seven in ten domestic companies, mostly the polluting ones spanning ten sectors, are confident of meeting their emission reduction goals, pushed by investors as also committed by the government at the last UN summit on climate change, according to a survey.

At the United Nation's 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) held in the Scottish city of Glasgow last November, the government had committed to boosting the green goals further by pushing organizations to reduce emissions.

In a report released on the Earth Day (April 22), the Boston Consulting Group said its survey covered ten sectors — auto, ce-

ment, consumer goods, financial services, oil & gas, manufacturing, metals, power & utilities, profes-



sional services, and technology, including feedback from 143 CXOs.

The survey showed that 71 per cent of them are confident of meeting their green goals.

When it comes to implementing and achieving the sustainability goals, a significant number of the companies said they face

steep challenges in the form of technology in meeting the ESG data-related issues like real-time data integration, regulatory challenges such as want of standard regulations, and financial challenges like high cost of technologies and building a competitive cost," Anirban Mukherjee, managing di-

rector and a partner at BCG India, told PTI.

Only when these roadblocks are resolved through regulatory norms and scalable innovative solutions, can organizations truly implement their sustainability efforts to bring about greater changes in the way they conduct their businesses, he added.

According to the survey, as much as 71 per cent of the respondents are confident of achieving the COP26 goals with an encouraging regulatory framework with aspects such as incentives for low carbon technologies, and carbon-pricing mechanisms.

Most respondents from cement, metals, and power and utilities industries are highly confident of achieving the sustainability goals.

Panasonic Life Solutions India inaugurates new manufacturing unit in Sri City

New Delhi, Apr 22:

Panasonic Life Solutions India, a wholly owned subsidiary of Panasonic Corporation, announced the opening of its new manufacturing facility in Sri City, Andhra Pradesh. The facility aims to strengthen the company's presence in the Southern Region and develop market synergies by providing swift material deliveries and customer delight. The company will be making a total investment of Rs 600 cr in two phases, the first phase of INR 300Cr has been made. Through this facility, the aim is to support the infrastructure development, create employment opportunities, and industrial development in Andhra



Pradesh. It will contribute to the company's larger goal of increasing capacity expansion in India and carbon neutrality by 2030 to deliver on the promise of a carbon-neutral future.

Addressing the occasion, Mr. Kawamoto, Business Unit Head - Power Component Business, Panasonic Corporation, Japan, added that, "India is on a growth trajectory and this

growth will need tremendous support from the ECM industry for people to "Live their Best". We see this as a tremendous opportunity for making human life simpler, safer, and comfortable, by enhancing the consumer experience through our technologically advanced products, with Japanese standards, which will now be manufactured at this facility in India."

Skoda Auto expands its certified pre-owned business at over 100 facilities in India

Mumbai, Apr 22:

With a slew of new product launches, continuous sales growth and rapid network expansion, Skoda Auto India has further enhanced its used car business, Certified Pre-Owned, at over 100 dealerships. With this expansion, Skoda now offers a wider reach of 360-degree, under-one-roof, car-buying, selling and exchange conveniences to its customers. Zac Hollis, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said, "Cars, more than any other machine, are likely to have you form an emotional connect. Especially a Skoda. With Certified Pre-Owned, it is our attempt to ensure all kinds of Skoda cars are easily accessible to cus-

tomers. It is a showcase of our 20+ years in India and our long-standing quality and durability. Any customer or fan of Skoda can walk in to a Certified Pre-Owned facility or log in to the site. And they will be assured of quality and surety. Be it buying a used Skoda, selling their Skoda, or exchanging for a brand new Skoda." As on date, more than 2,500 used cars have been delivered through Skoda Auto India's Certificate-Owned network. In a Certified Pre-Owned facility, customers can buy a pre-owned car, sell their existing car of any make, model and condition or exchange the same and upgrade to a brand new Skoda. Each Certified Pre-Owned facility offers de-

tailed evaluations going through 115 quality check points by Evaluation Consultants trained by Skoda Auto India. The price thus arrived at and offered to customers is the price the car deserves based on its specifications and condition. Customers wanting to upgrade to a brand new Skoda also get the benefits of a special Exchange Bonus. The cars in the fleet confirm to the stringent quality standards of Skoda Auto. In addition, certain cars are thoroughly refurbished to ensure a delightful ownership experience for potential buyers. Only select cars attain the 'Certified' badge conforming to the highest level of technical quality, clean titles and documents.

Adani acquires India's largest marine services company Ocean Sparkle

Ahmedabad, Apr 22:

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd ("APSEZ") through its subsidiary, The Adani Harbour Services Ltd ("TAHSL"), has entered into a definitive agreement for acquisition of 100% stake in Ocean Sparkle Ltd ("OSL"), India's leading third-party marine services provider. Key activities carried by the company include to wage, pilotage, and dredging. With an asset base of 94 owned vessels and 13 third-party owned vessels, OSL is a market leader. OSL is valued at an enterprise value of INR 1,700 Cr with INR 300 Cr of free cash in the company. The company was established in 1995 by a group of ma-



rine technocrats with Mr. P Jairaj Kumar as the Chairman and MD, who will continue as the Chairman of the OSL board.

"Given the synergies of OSL and Adani Harbour Services, the consolidated business is likely to double in five years with improved margins, thereby creating significant value for APSEZ's shareholders," said Mr. Karan Adani, CEO and Whole-time Director, APSEZ. "This acquisition not only provides APSEZ

a significant share of India's marine services market but also provides us a platform for building presence in other countries, thereby facilitating APSEZ's journey towards becoming the largest port operator globally by 2030 and largest integrated transport utility in India." OSL has long-standing relationships with its existing clients, with contracts ranging from 5 to 20 years (average length of contracts is ~7 years).

Further, the contracts are on Take or Pay (TOPA) basis, thereby providing robustness to OSL's business model. The Company has presence in all the major ports, 15 minor ports and all the 3 LNG terminals in India.

As G-20 chair, India has unique role in addressing global challenges

Washington, Apr 22 (PTI): As the chair of the powerful grouping of G-20 countries next year, India has a unique role to play to overcome global challenges by reaching out to different parts of the world using its long tradition of being inclusive and open to collaborate with all countries, the head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said.

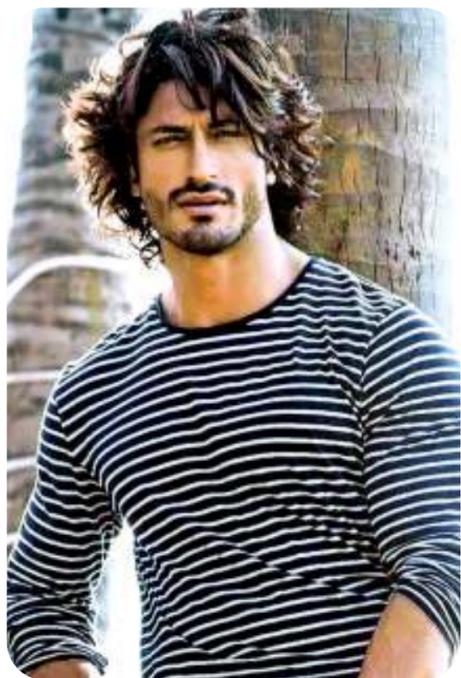
IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva made the remarks at a joint news conference with Nadia Calvi o, Chair, the International Monetary and Finance Committee of the IMF. "They (India) have a unique role to play to overcome challenges by reaching out to different parts of the world using India's long tradition of being inclusive and open to collaborate with all countries, she said.

Vidyut Jammwal-starrer 'Khuda Haafiz Chapter 2' to release on June 17

Bollywood's action star Vidyut Jammwal's upcoming film 'Khuda Haafiz Chapter 2' is all set to release on the big screen on June 17.

Vidyut took to Twitter to make the announcement and also shared a new poster of the film. Alongside the new look, the actor wrote: "Witness the #AgniPariksha of Sameer & Nargis in #KhudaHaafizChapter2! AgniPariksha. Releasing in theatres on June 17, 2022. @faruk_kabir. @ShivaleekaO. @KumarMangat. @AbhishekPathakk @ZeeStudios. @PanoramaMovies @AChowksey"

'Khuda Haafiz: Chapter 2 - Agni Pariksha' is an action-thriller film and a sequel to the 2020 film 'Khuda Haafiz'. The film is written and directed by Faruk Kabir and produced by Kumar Mangat Pathak, Abhishek Pathak, Sneha Bimal Parekh and Ram



Mirchandani under the banner of Panorama Studios. It also stars Shivaleeka Oberoi.

Arhaan Behl joins cast of 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq'

He hinted that "my character of 'DEV' is something quite different from my previous roles and the physical appearance of the character is something I has not tried before. This is what made it all the more stimulating and a challenging role for me."

Arhaan Behl also mentions that "as a 'Special Teacher' the character of 'Dev' has a unique perspective with an outlook that is beyond the ordinary."

He wishes that viewers should go in with an open mind and enjoy all the possibilities there might be to his character and that of Meera Deosthale's 'Pari', as her teacher. Arhaan Behl's character 'Dev' might help people come to terms with themselves and what they avoid acknowledging about themselves. All of this has us all intrigued and we will probably be glued to our Television screens until Arhaan's character makes his entry. It will be a few episodes in and not right off the bat. A Film Farm India production, 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq', is bound to make us believe in a lot of things and transform our living rooms into a scenic mountain range. Starring Arhaan Behl, Pankhuri Awasthy, Meera Deosthale's and many others. Their castmates include, Peelu Vidyarthi, Vishal Chaudhary, Amrapali Gupta, Ananya Khare.

Stay tuned for the premier of 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq', Monday to Friday at 7:30 PM, only on STAR Bharat!



Actress Rakul Preet

Singh, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film 'Runway 34', shared her experience on playing a pilot for the first time. She said when stepping into a uniform there is a certain sense of dignity that automatically steps in.

Speaking of her role in the film, she says: "It is one of the best scripts I heard in a long time and I jumped to bag this role."

She went through proper training and was always under the guidance of a real pilot to get into the mindset of the character and also showcase proper skills.

Learning new things for her film is one of her favourite parts of the job. Talking about her prep for her character, Rakul Preet shares:

"My experience playing a pilot was amazing because I love my job for the reason that you get to play different roles and learn so many different things. How else would I have known how a cockpit looks?"

"We had cockpit training for about 2-3 days, where there was a captain on the set who told us how the entire panel works because we shot in a real simulator, also during the entire shoot, the captain was there just to make sure that we use the right button, and use right terminology while flying a plane so it looks authentic. "And when you step into a uniform there is a certain sense of dignity that automatically steps in the way you walk, the way you talk, the way your language is, the way you react is very different from what a girl next door would. This is all that went into preparing for this role."

Produced and directed by Ajay Devgn, 'Runway 34' releases on April 29.



Rakul Preet: When you step into a uniform a sense of dignity steps in

Emraam Hashmi thrilled with response to 'Ishq Nahi Karte' video

Bollywood actor Emraam Hashmi, who is known for starring in chartbuster film and non-film music, shared that he has always been fond of music videos. Recently, his new video album 'Ishq Nahi Karte,' where he co-stars with Sahher Bamba, clocked over 100 million views on Youtube and the actor is extremely elated with the response to the video by the music lovers. Talking about the same, he said, "I've always had a special fondness for music videos, it's always paid off with immense love from the audience." During the 1990s and early 2000s, non-film music or indie pop swayed the audience with their soothing melodies and visually appealing visuals. However, this trend died down as the 2000s decade unfolded giving way to only film music. But, with the rise of the Internet, non-film music is again making in-roads. Reacting to the album's success, Emraam said, "It's incredible to see how well the song has been received. This gives me the courage and confidence to keep exciting my fans and music lovers. It's wonderful to hit 100 million in such a short period." The song, produced by Raj Jaiswal under the music label DRJ Records, has been composed by Jaani and B Praak, who double up as lyricists as well. The storyline is designed by Sunny Khanna.



Dive into the world of love, destiny, and faith with the World Television Premiere of Radhe Shyam in Hindi on Zee Cinema on 24th April at 12 noon, directly after its theatrical release. Set in the 70's, the grand love saga is a complete family entertainer that makes for a perfect Sunday afternoon watch. Touted to be India's most expensive romantic genre film, this unique story, set in the background of old Europe, is replete with lavish imagery and spectacular picturisation. All this coupled with dreamy romance, mystery, popular chartbusters, and a narrative that will make you rethink your belief in destiny. Taking us through this journey, Bahubali star Prabhas talks about his experience of his new avatar as a palmist, his thoughts on faith, astrology and soulmates, his chemistry with Pooja Hegde and more.

Radhe Shyam is more than just a love story, tell us what appealed the most to you?

Radhe Shyam is a fresh mix of emotional love saga, romance and thriller set in the retro era and presented with grand look and feel, which, to me, felt an exciting combination to work with. While the film explores varied corners of the great war between love and destiny, the part that appealed the most to me was that the villain of the story is the unfortunate fate of the protagonist. My character, Vikramaditya, a great palmist with no sign of love on his palm, falls deeply for Prerana, making them a star-crossed couple. Now, this kind of story I hadn't done in a while, so it got me engrossed. Radhe Shyam makes for a perfect Sunday afternoon watch that you can enjoy with your family and friends.

We haven't seen you in this avatar before, how was your experience?

As an artist, we try to don as many different characters as possible to push creative boundaries and test our talents. With Radhe Shyam I got to explore a character who is a genius at reading destiny, wooing women but afraid to fall in love. This layered character allowed me to peel through his personality and explore ways to express his dilemma.

'Radhe Shyam is more than a love story'

HOROSCOPE SATURDAY APRIL 23

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Love is very much in the air today, Aquarius, so take advantage of this auspicious environment! Invite your loved one over to play hide and seek under the bedcovers! Or, if you don't have a playmate in your life at the moment, find other ways to fulfill the passion you feel.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

This is a day to stay close to home and organize the house. You might be thinking how you can best utilize your living space. It's clear that some improvements are in order, Pisces. Perhaps you could begin by tackling all those minor repairs that you've been putting off. Once those are done, a fresh coat of paint will do wonders to brighten both your home and your outlook.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

You need rest, Aries. Even though you have a long list of tasks, see if you can leave some for later. All signs indicate that you shouldn't stray too far from home today if you can help it. You're easily distracted, which makes you prone to accidents. Being behind the wheel of a car isn't the place for you right now.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

You're on your own when it comes to financial matters, Taurus. This may not be what you want to hear, but it's how things are. Trust that your business acumen will pull you through. Don't take anything at face value. Pay attention, write down the information, but make no commitments and sign no contracts.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Today would be best spent alone behind closed doors, if possible. There's a lot of tension in your household for some reason, Gemini. Since there isn't much you can do about it, try to avoid it altogether. Let your family members fight it out among themselves. You have better ways to spend your time.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Today would be best spent alone behind closed doors, if possible. There's a lot of tension in your household for some reason, Gemini. Since there isn't much you can do about it, try to avoid it altogether. Let your family members fight it out among themselves. You have better ways to spend your time.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

You feel that life would run more smoothly if money didn't exist! The amount of time and energy you spend sorting out your financial affairs is frustrating. Unfortunately, Leo, today will be a frustrating day. Today you need to sit down and sort out some neglected bills.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

You feel invincible, Virgo, as though you can do anything. Enjoy this abundance of energy, for it's certainly unusual. Take care not to overdo it. If you haven't jogged in a while, running five miles today will leave you pretty sore tomorrow. Similarly, don't try to finish all your household repairs in one day.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

This would be a good day to putter about the house, Libra. It isn't a good day to travel or begin any major projects. This could be just the excuse you've needed for taking a day off from your life! You need not answer the phone or fulfill any obligations whatsoever.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

This isn't the best day for get-togethers, Scorpio. What starts as a friendly lunch could wind up a gossip-fest. No one wins in that situation. You could fear leaving the table because of what they'd say about you. There's no upside to the situation, so your best strategy might be to stay home and work on chores.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

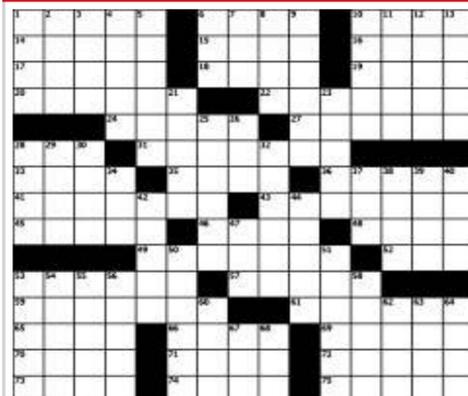
Don't take anything you hear today at face value, Sagittarius, especially where money is concerned. A well-meaning friend could approach you with an opportunity not to be missed. Listen to the pitch and take down all the information, but don't make any kind of commitment. You'll likely see several flaws when you review the information later.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

This would be a good day to stay home and spend much of the day in bed, Capricorn! You've been working especially hard lately, juggling both home and work with your usual aplomb. But today you could feel a bit worn out and overwhelmed by everything that remains to be done. Give yourself a day of rest. Spend the day with a good book or some movies.

CROSSWORD

278



ACROSS

1. Sheikh's wives
6. Highway vehicle
10. Kind of carpet
14. Banish
15. OPEC member
16. Work for
17. Tears apart
18. Bubble
19. Met solo
20. Most unusual

DOWN

22. Serious
24. Gathers crops
27. Girls
28. RI time zone
31. Dozing one
33. Poor me!
35. Vocal
36. Clapton and Roberts
41. Big drums
43. Peach's kin
45. Water vapor
46. Middling (hyph.)

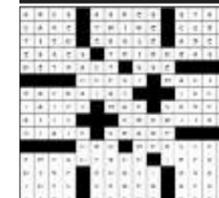
48. Waiter's handout
49. Humiliated
52. Primary color
53. Most competent
57. Appraised
59. Enduring novel
61. Skunk feature
65. Bonnets
66. For fear that
69. Soothed
70. Buffalo's waterfront
71. Otherwise
72. Use money
73. Bears' lairs
74. Snow coaster
75. Quite small

DOWN

1. Superman, e.g.
2. Fired
3. Orange skin
4. Church leader
5. Untidy conditions
6. Bro or sis
7. Distinctive time
8. Counterpart
9. Take a breath
10. Penn and Connery
11. Rabbits' kin
12. Ascend
13. Tiny insects
21. Culture's claw
23. More unusual
25. Expire
26. Baltic, e.g.
28. Devours

29. Skirt opening
30. Docile
32. Blood part
34. Watering place
37. Border
38. Bakery employee
39. Pine
40. Small earring
42. Stockpile
44. Verse makers
47. Rowing device
50. Actress Julia
51. Despise
53. Hurt
54. Trumpet's sound
55. Old Roman language
56. Road bends
58. Curtain
60. _____ phone
62. Enlightened one's words (2 wds.)
63. Actor Sean
64. Circular current
67. Wind dir.
68. Koppel or Williams

SOLUTION 277



Struggling KKR face stern Gujarat Titans test

Navi Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

Former champions Kolkata Knight Riders will be desperate to bring their flagging campaign back on track when they face leaders Gujarat Titans in the IPL here on Saturday.

Having suffered three defeats in a row, the Shreyas Iyer-led outfit has slipped to seventh in the table and the task gets tougher against the Titans, who have been a revelation in their maiden season.

The Hardik Pandya-led Gujarat Titans have been firing on all cylinders, with their batting prowess and bowling might.

Pandya pulled out of their last match against Chennai Super Kings owing to a groin injury but it was business as usual for the Titans as stand-in skipper Rashid Khan led the team to a three-wicket win over the four-time champions. The biggest plus in their win against CSK was Rashid's sensational form with the bat as he smashed a 21-ball 40 to help his team chase down the target with a ball spare.

GT's opening combination may not have given them the desired start and most of the times the middle-order has rescued the Titans. It was David Miller (94 not out from 51 balls)



who anchored the show against Chennai after half the side were back in the pavilion with 87 runs inside 13 overs.

According to Rashid, Pandya's injury was "not serious and there's nothing to be worried about."

Pandya has been in superlative form with 228

runs from five innings at an average of 76.00.

The onus would be on Kolkata's bowlers to seize the momentum and stop the Titans' three-match winning run.

KKR's pace attack led by Pat Cummins and Umesh Yadav and spinner Varun Chakravarthy (30 runs

from two overs) were taken to cleaners by the Rajasthan Royals batters in their last match.

It remains to be seen if the team think-tank would bring back Tim Southee in the XI as the key lies in getting early breakthroughs and giving Sunil Narine a perfect stage to restrict the

flow of runs.

Narine, a vital cog in KKR's wheel for long, has once again been their go-to man and boasts of the best economy rate of 5.03 after seven matches.

The batters have stopped taking risks against the Trinidadian and he would hope that their pace battery gives some early breakthroughs to make the task easier for the wrist spinner.

The game also throws an interesting match-up between former KKR batter Shubman Gill and Narine.

Gill had a fine start to the tournament and scored 84 (vs Delhi) and 96 (vs Punjab) but has gone quiet since then.

As for KKR batting, captain Iyer is fresh from a fine 85 against Rajasthan Royals, but he would hope their opening issue is resolved. KKR's investment in India Test batter Ajinkya Rahane (80 runs from five matches; average 16.00, strike-rate 100.00) as an opener has been a big letdown, forcing the think-tank to try out different combinations in the last two matches.

In such a scenario, the Titans bowling attack in Mohammed Shami, Lockie Ferguson, Rashid Khan and Pandya would look to capitalise.

Upbeat Sunrisers square up against RCB

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

Umran Malik's raw pace and Bhuvneshwar Kumar's consistency will be put to test against Dinesh Karthik's explosive batting and the finesse of Faf du Plessis when Sunrisers Hyderabad clash with Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, here on Saturday.

Malik has caught everyone's attention with his fiery deliveries this season. His tearway pace has even troubled established batters such as Shreyas Iyer.

Alongside senior teammate Bhuvneshwar, the 22-year-old formed a match-winning partnership to defeat Punjab Kings by seven-wickets in their previous outing.

Sunrisers, who are targeting a top-4 position, also have yorker-specialist T Natarajan and South African Marco Jansen in their ranks. Jansen has also been able to tease batters with his angles and variations.

But the seasoned Du Plessis and Karthik have pummelled the best in the business.

The new RCB skipper roared back to form with a fine 96 as he anchored his team's innings after the top order once again collapsed against Lucknow Super Giants.

However, the veteran



South African batter missed out on a much deserved maiden IPL hundred in the 18-run win on Tuesday.

On the other hand, Karthik is enjoying one of his best seasons in the league. The wicketkeeper batter has taken the centre stage with his heroics for RCB.

With scores of 32 not out, 14 not out, 44 not out, 7 not out, 34, 66 not out and

13 not out in seven innings, Karthik has seemingly been the best finisher this season.

But apart from the duo, the RCB batters will have their task cut out against Sunrisers, who have momentum on their side after winning four games on the trot.

All eyes will once again be on Virat Kohli, who would be eager to get out of the rut of low scores.

Sikki Reddy, Ashwini Ponappa withdraw from Uber Cup due to injury

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The Indian women's doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponappa on Friday withdrew from the forthcoming Uber Cup tournament due to the former's injury, Badminton Association of India (BAI) said.

The tournament is scheduled to be held in Bangkok from May 8 to 15.

"Sikki Reddy has suffered a Grade 2 Tear of the Abdomen (abdominus rectus) as confirmed by an MRI and has been advised 4-6 week rest by the doctor," the BAI said in a statement. "Under the circumstances the said pair has withdrawn from the Uber Cup as well as the upcoming BATC and the selectors have decided to include Simran Singh and



Ritika Thakkar in their place as they were fourth in the ranking during the selection trials," said BAI general secretary Sanjay Mishra. The development comes a day after the BAI announced Indian teams for the upcoming Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Thomas and Uber Cup. The teams were named by BAI following six days of selection trials

at the Indira Gandhi Stadium here. Besides Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponappa, the 10-member women's team for the Asian Games and Uber Cup comprised PV Sindhu, Parupalli Kashyap, Ashmita Chaliha, Hooda, alongside the other two doubles pairs from the trials - Treesa Jolly-Gayatri P and Tanisha Crasto-Shruti Mishra.

T20 is a cruel format, MI need to grab crunch moments: Tendulkar

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

Mumbai Indians team mentor Sachin Tendulkar has called T20 a "cruel" format where small margins are crucial and suggested that the struggling five-time IPL champions go out and win the crunch moments to arrest their slide. Mumbai Indians have had a disastrous campaign this season. The Rohit Sharma-led side remains winless, having lost all its seven matches so far.

"Let's first understand that in this format there isn't a team who has not experienced what Mumbai Indians have experienced this season," Tendulkar told Matthew Hayden during a chat on 'Star Sports'. "This format can be cruel. And those crucial moments in a match which don't go in your favour then literally the margin is like you lose a game by two or three runs or sometimes even the last ball. "And



those smaller margins, we need to go out and conquer those moments, those crunch moments in the match are what we have to win. And they haven't gone our way," he said. The cricket icon said the players especially the youngsters will take some time to settle in.

Djokovic digs deep again to reach Serbia Open semifinals

Belgrade, Apr 22 (AP):

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic dug deep for the second match in a row to reach the semifinals of the Serbia Open with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 win over Miomir Kecmanovic.

Kecmanovic won the opening set without facing a break point, but Djokovic finally showed signs of getting back to his best in the second and then won the final four games of the decider in what was just his sixth match of the year.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion stretched his winning streak against compatriots to 10 matches going back to a loss to Janko Tipsarevic in Madrid in 2012.

Djokovic next plays third-seeded Karen Khachanov, who defeated Brazilian



qualifier Thiago Monteiro 7-5, 6-4.

Djokovic also endured a tough game Wednesday when he rallied from a set down to beat compatriot Laslo Djere 2-6, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4).

He joked that he's happy

he would not have to face another Serb in the semifinals. Djokovic opened his clay-court season with a surprising loss to Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Monte Carlo Masters last week, his first match since being eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Dubai Tennis Championships in February.

Dubai was his first tournament of the year after he was barred from playing at the Australian Open because of his unvaccinated status, which also prevented him from playing tournaments in the United States last month.

Earlier Thursday, second-seeded Andrey Rublev defeated Jiri Lehecka 4-6, 7-6 (1), 6-2 and Fabio Fognini enjoyed a 6-2, 6-3 win over Aljaz Bedene to reach the quarterfinals.

It's very good that he is still hungry: Jadeja on Dhoni's latest Houdini act



And looking at it, all of us remain calm, that if he is in the middle and stays till the final over, he will win the game," added Jadeja.

"We were tense but had a belief that he (Dhoni) was out there, he would finish the game and come. He has won so many games for India, in the IPL, we knew that he would finish the game."

Dhoni (28 not out off 13) batted like the finisher of his hey days to help CSK get the required 17 runs off the final over to win their second game of the season and extend Mumbai Indians' winless streak to seven games.

He smashed a six and four off third and fourth ball off Jaydev Unadkat before maintaining his calm to put one past short-fine leg for the match-winning boundary, leaving the bowler and the rest of his Mumbai teammates shattered.

"Look we were in pressure and the way the match was going, I believe there was pressure in both the dugouts... As the world's best finisher (Dhoni) was out in the middle.

Raducanu reaches Stuttgart quarterfinals, Swiatek awaits



Stuttgart, Apr 22 (AP):

U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu defeated Germany's Tamara Korpatsch 6-0, 2-6, 6-1 at the Stuttgart Open to set up a quarterfinal match against top-ranked Iga Swiatek. It will be the 19-year-old Raducanu's first match against a top 10 opponent. Raducanu, who won at Flushing Meadows as a 150th-ranked qualifier last year, could break into the top 10 herself if she wins the Stuttgart title in what is her first professional tournament on clay. She's currently ranked

12th. Earlier, second-seeded Paula Badosa defeated Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (4) and will face Ons Jabeur in the quarterfinals. Jabeur defeated Daria Kasatkina 6-3, 6-3. Third-seeded Aryna Sabalenka defeated Canada's Bianca Andreescu 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 and will face Anett Kontaveit or Ekaterina Alexandrova. Fourth-seeded Maria Sakkari retired against Laura Siegemund as the German was leading 6-4, 3-1. Siegemund next plays Russian player Liudmila Samsonova, who defeated Karolina Pliskova 6-4, 6-4.

We all know how calm MS Dhoni can be: Rohit Sharma

Navi Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

A dejected Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma rued his side's top-order woes in the ongoing IPL but could only admire veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni for his match-winning knock in the IPL here on Thursday.

MI slumped to their seventh loss in this IPL with Dhoni showing his finishing prowess with a 13-ball 28 not out to guide Chennai Super Kings to a three-wicket win in a last-ball finish.

"It was a great fight from us. We were right in the game. After batting not so well, our bowlers kept us in the game all through. But in the end, we all know how calming MS Dhoni can be and he took them home," Rohit said at the post-match presentation.

"It's hard to put a finger on that (top order problems). If you lose three or a couple of wickets up front, it's always going to be tough. You're always playing that catching (up) game."

After a disastrous start, Tilak Varma's 51 not out helped MI to reach a de-



cent total of 155 for 7, but in the end it turned out to be not enough as CSK chased down the target of 156 in the final ball.

"We got to a very reasonable target where we thought with the ball we could put them under pressure. I thought till the last over, we had them under pressure. "But in the end, MS and

Pretorius, they were quite calm and got them home."

Rohit said the pitch was good and his side could have got more runs after being invited to bat.

CSK captain Ravindra Jadeja was all praise for Dhoni.

"Actually we were very tense, the way the game was going, but at some stage we knew that the great finisher of the game was there and if he played to the last ball, he can definitely finish the match."

"He (Dhoni) showed the world that he's still here and he can finish the game."

On Ambati Rayudu and Dwayne Bravo, he said, "We have plenty of experience in our team so they know when to perform and what to do. So if we're not winning the game, still we look to be calm and relax."

"I don't take fielding for granted and still work on it. We need to do some work on our fielding and take catches because we can't keep dropping catches in every game," Jadeja said about his side's below-par fielding show in the match.

EARTH DAY FACES



Students paint their faces and write the message Save Trees during a programme organised on the occasion of Earth Day, at a school in Moradabad, Friday.

'India has no option but to make itself stronger amid changing world order'

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

India has no option but to make itself stronger to ensure its defence, peace and stability as the world order is changing rapidly, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday in the context of the Ukraine-Russia war. A lot of things are happening in the world that are affecting India, Singh said at the inauguration of DefConnect 2.0. DefConnect 2.0 is a one-day event to bring together start-ups, big companies and armed forces personnel to boost indigenous innovation in the defence sector.

"When we met at Aero India 2021 (February 21), from then to now, the world has changed so much that it cannot be accounted for or measured. Every new danger is looking more

complex and challenging than the previous one," Singh told the gathering. "We did not even recover fully from the Covid-induced crisis but the world is now facing the issue of the Ukrainian conflict," he said. "The way the world order is changing with time, we do not have any other option but to make ourselves stronger," he said.

Even before this, the minister said, the world has seen instability in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan. "Apart from this, there are a lot of things happening in the



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inspects an electric two-wheeler during a display of electric vehicles before their induction into the Indian Army, in New Delhi.

world that are affecting India for sure. Therefore, it is important that we become strong to ensure our defence, peace and stability," he said. "We need to develop many of our se-

tors in order to strengthen ourselves. Disruptive technology is an important sector in this regard," he noted. Singh underlined the utility and uniqueness of a defence technology matter equally.

"How useful a defence technology is to us is definitely important but it is also important that the defence technology should be with us only," he said, adding as a defence technology reaches other countries, its utility is nullified. DefConnect 2.0 provides an opportunity to innovators to showcase their capabilities, products and state-of-the-art technologies to the industry leaders. The start-ups get to leverage this opportunity to generate investments and leads for future operations.

Naqvi to Labour MP

'Don't convert your prejudiced agenda of 'India phobia' into Islamophobia'

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday hit out at a Pakistani-origin MP of the UK's Labour party who urged British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to raise the issue of "Islamophobia" during his visit here, saying "don't convert your prejudiced agenda of 'India phobia' into Islamophobia".

Naz Shah, Labour Party MP from Bradford West and shadow minister for crime reduction, took to Twitter on Thursday to convey to Johnson that the UK's foreign relations must not just

be based on trade and internationalism but also on human rights. "My plea to the @10DowningStreet is to raise the growing issue of Islamophobia with the Modi Government," she said. In a long series of tweets, Shah said the rising tide of "everyday hate and mob lynching" against Muslims in India is becoming worrying. "I urge @BorisJohnson to read my thread, to stand up for human rights and stop embarrassing us on the international front with his ignorance. Bulldozing homes of minority Muslims in India, amid rising tensions is serious!" she said.

HC grants bail to RJD Supremo Lalu Prasad in Doranda treasury case

Ranchi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Jharkhand High Court on Friday granted bail to Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad in the Doranda Treasury Case in which a CBI special court had sentenced him to five years in prison.

73-year-old Prasad is in custody following his conviction and sentencing by a CBI court in February in a fodder scam case involving embezzlement of over Rs 139 crore from Doranda treasury.

"The Jharkhand High court has accepted our petition for suspension of the sentence and has granted bail. We had

pleaded that he has served more than half of his five-year sentence in this case. Prasad has already served 41 months in jail... We had submitted the trial court's certified copy in this regard. The court has granted bail," Prabhat Kumar, counsel of Lalu Prasad told PTI.

Kumar said they had also pleaded for bail in view of his ill-health also as Prasad is suffering from various ailments.

Prasad will be released soon. He will have to deposit Rs 10 lakh fine and two surety amounts of Rs 1 lakh each, Kumar said.

Justice Apresh Kumar Singh gave verdict on Lalu Prasad's bail after Lalu's

lawyers and CBI counsel presented their arguments in the court.

The court rejected the argument of the Central Bureau of Investigation opposing Lalu Prasad's bail in the Doranda Treasury case.

RJD leaders on being told of the bail order said they "had full faith in the judiciary".

Jharkhand High Court on April 8 had deferred the hearing into a petition filed by the incarcerated leader challenging his conviction in a fodder scam case.

The former Bihar Chief Minister was sentenced to five years in prison and slapped a fine of Rs 60 lakh

by a special CBI court in Ranchi in connection with the fifth fodder scam case involving embezzlement of over Rs 139 crore by Doranda treasury.

Justice Apresh Kumar Singh was on April 8 informed by CBI, which is investigating the scam that the earlier order of the court to file a counter affidavit in the matter could not be complied with by the agency and pleaded for more time.

Prasad's counsel Kapil Sibbal had told the court that his client has already served more than half of the sentence of five years in prison in the case and deserves to be released from custody.

Postal ballot facility for overseas voters being contemplated: CEC Chandra

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Lamenting that the number of registered overseas voters is "abysmally low", Chief Election

Commissioner Sushil Chandra has told members of the Indian community in South Africa and Mauritius that the facility to extend postal ballot facility for NRI electors is being contemplated. According to an official statement issued by the Election Commission, Chandra interacted members of the Indian community during his official visit to the two countries and urged them to register as overseas voters as the present numbers are "abysmally low". He also told members of the Indian community that extension of Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) facility to overseas voters is being contemplated.

primarily micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) as defined in the MSME Act, 2006, and individual innovators. The policy also encourages research and development institutions to apply for the grant. The innovators can apply through a dedicated portal, which will be launched later this month, and once chosen for the grant, its disbursement shall be linked to pre-decided milestones. The funding scheme has been fixed on a cost-sharing basis in equal proportions - 50:50 by the Indian Railways and the innovator. The maximum amount of grant will be Rs 1.5 crore per innovator, even in cases where the total project cost exceeds Rs 3 crore, the officials said.

Railways to invest in startups; policy promises up to Rs 1.5 Cr seed money for innovations

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The railways will invest in startups to get a head-start in procuring innovations directly from them with a promise of up to Rs 1.5 crore of seed money for innovative technological solutions for the national transporter, according to a policy paper. The Indian Railway Innovation Policy will identify and enable Indian innovators to engage with the railways for developing cost-effective, implementable, scalable solutions and functional prototypes for the national transporter, officials said.

"Since there is a major constraint of capital inadequacy in the startup ecosystem, particularly in the seed and 'Proof of Concept' developmental

stage, this policy aims at providing the necessary seed fund support of up to Rs 1.5 crore (on matching contribution basis) to the startups that show the capability, intent and promise to produce functional prototypes, based on new innovative concepts, for potential use of the Indian Railways," a senior official said.

One of the major objectives of the policy would be to leverage new innovative technologies, developed by entrepreneurs and startups, for improving operational efficiency and safety on the railway system, the officials said. The eligible organisations or beneficiaries of the support will include any Indian company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/2013,

Lenin lives on in Kolkata

By Jayanta Roy Chowdhury

Kolkata, Apr 22 (PTI): Lenin still lives on in the heart of Kolkata, albeit in the northeast corner of Curzon Park, overlooking the Nakhoda Masjid on its left and the Oberoi Grand Hotel, one of the last bastions of the city's fading mercantile capitalism, on its right.

At a time when the legacy of the Marxist idol and founder of Soviet Union, Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov Lenin, is being wiped out of his motherland, this corner of Kolkata's Esplanade still remains his home. A towering statue of the man, who dragged Russia out of a feudal order into what he believed would be a socialist century, stands in solitary

loneliness here. A bunch of sexagenarian and septuagenarian leaders of Leftist parties and a handful of enthusiastic student activists, led by CPI(M)'s veteran parliamentarian and leader Mohd Salim, were the only ones to lay floral wreaths at Lenin's statue on Friday and to give the iconic leader the 'Lal salam' (Red Salute) on his 153rd birth anniversary.

Leninbadider eta ekta smaran korar din (It's a remembrance day for all those who believe in Leninism)," Salim, charged with revitalising the CPI(M) in West Bengal as its state secretary, told PTI. "We are here to preserve and protect his memory," he added.

Lenin, born in 1870, became a communist revolutionary at the early age of 17 after his brother's execution by the Tsarist regime. In 1917, a successful revolution by the Bolshevik faction of Russian communists which he led saw him coming back from exile in Europe to seize power in his country.

Indian communists were among the first to come under his spell. Though the Communist Party of India was formed in 1925, individuals from India had already travelled to the Soviet Union to learn from the "October revolution". The first time communists won an election in India was in 1957, when the CPI catapulted to power in Kerala. However, the com-

munist's real coming of age was when after an aborted Naxalite insurgency by ultra-Leftists died out in the 1970s, the CPI(M), a faction of the original CPI, won elections to the West Bengal assembly in 1977.

A Leftist alliance, led by the CPI(M), ruled the state for 34 long years till 2011, when the state rejecting the Left voted in favour of left of centre Trinamool Congress. Since then, it has been a downhill journey for the Leninists. Not only had the combined Left parties drawn a blank in polls to West Bengal assembly held last year; their vote share dwindled to a mere 5.47 per cent in 2021, down from 30.1 per cent in 2011, when they lost the elections for the first time to the TMC.

HOT SUMMER DAY



A woman constable fans herself to get respite from the heat, on a hot summer day, in Navi Mumbai, Friday.

HC seeks Centre's stand on ex WB chief secy review plea concerning CAT proceedings

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought the Centre's stand on a plea by former West Bengal chief secretary

Alapan Bandyopadhyay seeking a review of the order dismissing his challenge to the transfer of his application concerning proceedings against him from Kolkata to New Delhi by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

A bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher and Jyoti Singh issued notice on the review petition and asked the central government to file its response to Bandyopadhyay's stand

that he did not receive a fair opportunity to present his case before it was reserved for orders. The matter would be heard next on May 20.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the former chief secretary of West Bengal, argued that he did not get a full crack of the whip as their request to the court to grant a 'passover' i.e. to take up the case after some time on the same day due to unavailability of the senior counsel was denied and consequently, a junior lawyer had to make submissions and oppose the senior law officers who appeared for the Centre.

Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee said that he was opposing the review petition and informed the court that the matter was argued at length by the lawyer appearing on behalf of the petitioner.

Justice Shaktidher observed it was a practice of the court to grant the first request for a passover and told the senior lawyer that he expects him to give fair counsel in the matter.

On March 7, a bench of then Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Singh dismissed Bandyopadhyay's challenge to the transfer of his application concerning proceedings against him

from Kolkata to New Delhi and said that the transfer order was passed within the four corners of the law.

The high court had said that the cause of action arose in New Delhi as the disciplinary proceedings, as well as the inquiry proceedings, were initiated and going on here.

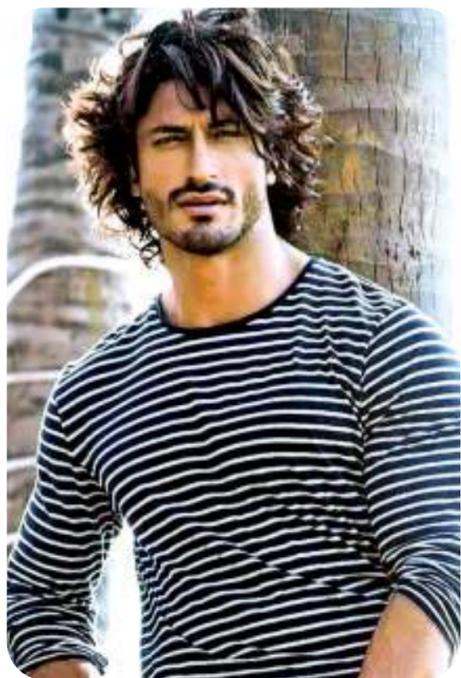
Bandyopadhyay had first moved the Kolkata bench of the CAT to challenge the proceedings initiated against him in a matter related to not attending a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the effects of cyclone 'Yaas' at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station on May 28 last year.

Vidyut Jammwal-starrer 'Khuda Haafiz Chapter 2' to release on June 17

Bollywood's action star Vidyut Jammwal's upcoming film 'Khuda Haafiz Chapter 2' is all set to release on the big screen on June 17.

Vidyut took to Twitter to make the announcement and also shared a new poster of the film. Alongside the new look, the actor wrote: "Witness the #AgniPariksha of Sameer & Nargis in #KhudaHaafizChapter2! AgniPariksha. Releasing in theatres on June 17, 2022. @faruk_kabir. @ShivaleekaO. @KumarMangat. @AbhishekPathakk @ZeeStudios. @PanoramaMovies @AChowksey."

'Khuda Haafiz: Chapter 2 - Agni Pariksha' is an action-thriller film and a sequel to the 2020 film 'Khuda Haafiz'. The film is written and directed by Faruk Kabir and produced by Kumar Mangat Pathak, Abhishek Pathak, Sneha Bimal Parekh and Ram



Mirchandani under the banner of Panorama Studios. It also stars Shivaleeka Oberoi.

Arhaan Behl joins cast of 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq'

He hinted that "my character of 'DEV' is something quite different from my previous roles and the physical appearance of the character is something I has not tried before. This is what made it all the more stimulating and a challenging role for me."

Arhaan Behl also mentions that "as a 'Special Teacher' the character of 'Dev' has a unique perspective with an outlook that is beyond the ordinary."

He wishes that viewers should go in with an open mind and enjoy all the possibilities there might be to his character and that of Meera Deosthale's 'Pari', as her teacher. Arhaan Behl's character 'Dev' might help people come to terms with themselves and what they avoid acknowledging about themselves. All of this has us all intrigued and we will probably be glued to our Television screens until Arhaan's character makes his entry. It will be a few episodes in and not right off the bat. A Film Farm India production, 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq', is bound to make us believe in a lot of things and transform our living rooms into a scenic mountain range. Starring Arhaan Behl, Pankhuri Awasthy, Meera Deosthale's and many others. Their castmates include, Peelu Vidyarthi, Vishal Chaudhary, Amrapali Gupta, Ananya Khare.

Stay tuned for the premier of 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq', Monday to Friday at 7:30 PM, only on STAR Bharat!



Actress Rakul Preet

Singh, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film 'Runway 34', shared her experience on playing a pilot for the first time. She said when stepping into a uniform there is a certain sense of dignity that automatically steps in.

Speaking of her role in the film, she says: "It is one of the best scripts I heard in a long time and I jumped to bag this role."

She went through proper training and was always under the guidance of a real pilot to get into the mindset of the character and also showcase proper skills.

Learning new things for her film is one of her favourite parts of the job. Talking about her prep for her character, Rakul Preet shares:

"My experience playing a pilot was amazing because I love my job for the reason that you get to play different roles and learn so many different things. How else would I have known how a cockpit looks?"

"We had cockpit training for about 2-3 days, where there was a captain on the set who told us how the entire panel works because we shot in a real simulator, also during the entire shoot, the captain was there just to make sure that we use the right button, and use right terminology while flying a plane so it looks authentic. "And when you step into a uniform there is a certain sense of dignity that automatically steps in the way you walk, the way you talk, the way your language is, the way you react is very different from what a girl next door would. This is all that went into preparing for this role."

Produced and directed by Ajay Devgn, 'Runway 34' releases on April 29.



Rakul Preet: When you step into a uniform a sense of dignity steps in

Emraam Hashmi thrilled with response to 'Ishq Nahi Karte' video

Bollywood actor Emraam Hashmi, who is known for starring in chartbuster film and non-film music, shared that he has always been fond of music videos. Recently, his new video album 'Ishq Nahi Karte,' where he co-stars with Sahher Bamba, clocked over 100 million views on Youtube and the actor is extremely elated with the response to the video by the music lovers. Talking about the same, he said, "I've always had a special fondness for music videos, it's always paid off with immense love from the audience." During the 1990s and early 2000s, non-film music or indie pop swayed the audience with their soothing melodies and visually appealing visuals. However, this trend died down as the 2000s decade unfolded giving way to only film music. But, with the rise of the Internet, non-film music is again making in-roads. Reacting to the album's success, Emraam said, "It's incredible to see how well the song has been received. This gives me the courage and confidence to keep exciting my fans and music lovers. It's wonderful to hit 100 million in such a short period." The song, produced by Raj Jaiswal under the music label DRJ Records, has been composed by Jaani and B Praak, who double up as lyricists as well. The storyline is designed by Sunny Khanna.



Dive into the world of love, destiny, and faith with the World Television Premiere of Radhe Shyam in Hindi on Zee Cinema on 24th April at 12 noon, directly after its theatrical release. Set in the 70's, the grand love saga is a complete family entertainer that makes for a perfect Sunday afternoon watch. Touted to be India's most expensive romantic genre film, this unique story, set in the background of old Europe, is replete with lavish imagery and spectacular picturisation. All this coupled with dreamy romance, mystery, popular chartbusters, and a narrative that will make you rethink your belief in destiny. Taking us through this journey, Bahubali star Prabhas talks about his experience of his new avatar as a palmist, his thoughts on faith, astrology and soulmates, his chemistry with Pooja Hegde and more.

Radhe Shyam is more than just a love story, tell us what appealed the most to you?

Radhe Shyam is a fresh mix of emotional love saga, romance and thriller set in the retro era and presented with grand look and feel, which, to me, felt an exciting combination to work with. While the film explores varied corners of the great war between love and destiny, the part that appealed the most to me was that the villain of the story is the unfortunate fate of the protagonist. My character, Vikramaditya, a great palmist with no sign of love on his palm, falls deeply for Prerana, making them a star-crossed couple. Now, this kind of story I hadn't done in a while, so it got me engrossed. Radhe Shyam makes for a perfect Sunday afternoon watch that you can enjoy with your family and friends.

We haven't seen you in this avatar before, how was your experience?

As an artist, we try to don as many different characters as possible to push creative boundaries and test our talents. With Radhe Shyam I got to explore a character who is a genius at reading destiny, wooing women but afraid to fall in love. This layered character allowed me to peel through his personality and explore ways to express his dilemma.

'Radhe Shyam is more than a love story'

HOROSCOPE SATURDAY APRIL 23

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Love is very much in the air today, Aquarius, so take advantage of this auspicious environment! Invite your loved one over to play hide and seek under the bedcovers! Or, if you don't have a playmate in your life at the moment, find other ways to fulfill the passion you feel.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

This is a day to stay close to home and organize the house. You might be thinking how you can best utilize your living space. It's clear that some improvements are in order, Pisces. Perhaps you could begin by tackling all those minor repairs that you've been putting off. Once those are done, a fresh coat of paint will do wonders to brighten both your home and your outlook.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

You need rest, Aries. Even though you have a long list of tasks, see if you can leave some for later. All signs indicate that you shouldn't stray too far from home today if you can help it. You're easily distracted, which makes you prone to accidents. Being behind the wheel of a car isn't the place for you right now.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

You're on your own when it comes to financial matters, Taurus. This may not be what you want to hear, but it's how things are. Trust that your business acumen will pull you through. Don't take anything at face value. Pay attention, write down the information, but make no commitments and sign no contracts.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Today would be best spent alone behind closed doors, if possible. There's a lot of tension in your household for some reason, Gemini. Since there isn't much you can do about it, try to avoid it altogether. Let your family members fight it out among themselves. You have better ways to spend your time.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Today would be best spent alone behind closed doors, if possible. There's a lot of tension in your household for some reason, Gemini. Since there isn't much you can do about it, try to avoid it altogether. Let your family members fight it out among themselves. You have better ways to spend your time.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

You feel that life would run more smoothly if money didn't exist! The amount of time and energy you spend sorting out your financial affairs is frustrating. Unfortunately, Leo, today will be a frustrating day. Today you need to sit down and sort out some neglected bills.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

You feel invincible, Virgo, as though you can do anything. Enjoy this abundance of energy, for it's certainly unusual. Take care not to overdo it. If you haven't jogged in a while, running five miles today will leave you pretty sore tomorrow. Similarly, don't try to finish all your household repairs in one day.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

This would be a good day to putter about the house, Libra. It isn't a good day to travel or begin any major projects. This could be just the excuse you've needed for taking a day off from your life! You need not answer the phone or fulfill any obligations whatsoever.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

This isn't the best day for get-togethers, Scorpio. What starts as a friendly lunch could wind up a gossip-fest. No one wins in that situation. You could fear leaving the table because of what they'd say about you. There's no upside to the situation, so your best strategy might be to stay home and work on chores.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

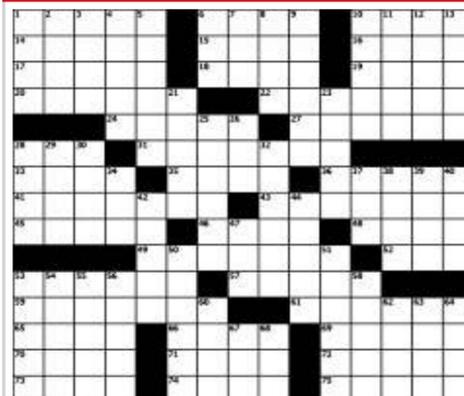
Don't take anything you hear today at face value, Sagittarius, especially where money is concerned. A well-meaning friend could approach you with an opportunity not to be missed. Listen to the pitch and take down all the information, but don't make any kind of commitment. You'll likely see several flaws when you review the information later.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

This would be a good day to stay home and spend much of the day in bed, Capricorn! You've been working especially hard lately, juggling both home and work with your usual aplomb. But today you could feel a bit worn out and overwhelmed by everything that remains to be done. Give yourself a day of rest. Spend the day with a good book or some movies.

CROSSWORD

278



ACROSS

1. Sheikh's wives
6. Highway vehicle
10. Kind of carpet
14. Banish
15. OPEC member
16. Work for
17. Tears apart
18. Bubble
19. Met solo
20. Most unusual

22. Serious
24. Gathers crops
27. Girls
28. RI time zone
31. Dozing one
33. Poor me!
35. Vocal
36. Clapton and Roberts
41. Big drums
43. Peach's kin
45. Water vapor
46. Middling (hyph.)

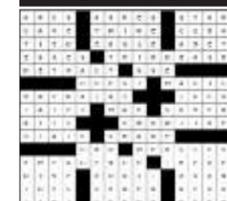
48. Waiter's handout
49. Humiliated
52. Primary color
53. Most competent
57. Appraised
59. Enduring novel
61. Skunk feature
65. Bonnets
66. For fear that
69. Soothed
70. Buffalo's waterfront
71. Otherwise
72. Use money
73. Bears' lairs
74. Snow coaster
75. Quite small

DOWN

1. Superman, e.g.
2. Fired
3. Orange skin
4. Church leader
5. Untidy conditions
6. Bro or sis
7. Distinctive time
8. Counterpart
9. Take a breath
10. Penn and Connery
11. Rabbits' kin
12. Ascend
13. Tiny insects
21. Culture's claw
23. More unusual
25. Expire
26. Baltic, e.g.
28. Devours

29. Skirt opening
30. Docile
32. Blood part
34. Watering place
37. Border
38. Bakery employee
39. Pine
40. Small earring
44. Verse makers
47. Rowing device
50. Actress Julia
51. Despise
53. Hurt
54. Trumpet's sound
55. Old Roman language
56. Road bends
58. Curtain
60. _____ phone
62. Enlightened one's words (2 wds.)
63. Actor Sean
64. Circular current
67. Wind dir.
68. Koppel or Williams

SOLUTION 277



Struggling KKR face stern Gujarat Titans test

Navi Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

Former champions Kolkata Knight Riders will be desperate to bring their flagging campaign back on track when they face leaders Gujarat Titans in the IPL here on Saturday.

Having suffered three defeats in a row, the Shreyas Iyer-led outfit has slipped to seventh in the table and the task gets tougher against the Titans, who have been a revelation in their maiden season.

The Hardik Pandya-led Gujarat Titans have been firing on all cylinders, with their batting prowess and bowling might.

Pandya pulled out of their last match against Chennai Super Kings owing to a groin injury but it was business as usual for the Titans as stand-in skipper Rashid Khan led the team to a three-wicket win over the four-time champions. The biggest plus in their win against CSK was Rashid's sensational form with the bat as he smashed a 21-ball 40 to help his team chase down the target with a ball spare.

GT's opening combination may not have given them the desired start and most of the times the middle-order has rescued the Titans. It was David Miller (94 not out from 51 balls)



who anchored the show against Chennai after half the side were back in the pavilion with 87 runs inside 13 overs.

According to Rashid, Pandya's injury was "not serious and there's nothing to be worried about."

Pandya has been in superlative form with 228

runs from five innings at an average of 76.00.

The onus would be on Kolkata's bowlers to seize the momentum and stop the Titans' three-match winning run.

KKR's pace attack led by Pat Cummins and Umesh Yadav and spinner Varun Chakravarthy (30 runs

from two overs) were taken to cleaners by the Rajasthan Royals batters in their last match.

It remains to be seen if the team think-tank would bring back Tim Southee in the XI as the key lies in getting early breakthroughs and giving Sunil Narine a perfect stage to restrict the

flow of runs.

Narine, a vital cog in KKR's wheel for long, has once again been their go-to man and boasts of the best economy rate of 5.03 after seven matches.

The batters have stopped taking risks against the Trinidadian and he would hope that their pace battery gives some early breakthroughs to make the task easier for the wrist spinner.

The game also throws an interesting match-up between former KKR batter Shubman Gill and Narine.

Gill had a fine start to the tournament and scored 84 (vs Delhi) and 96 (vs Punjab) but has gone quiet since then.

As for KKR batting, captain Iyer is fresh from a fine 85 against Rajasthan Royals, but he would hope their opening issue is resolved. KKR's investment in India Test batter Ajinkya Rahane (80 runs from five matches; average 16.00, strike-rate 100.00) as an opener has been a big letdown, forcing the think-tank to try out different combinations in the last two matches.

In such a scenario, the Titans bowling attack in Mohammed Shami, Lockie Ferguson, Rashid Khan and Pandya would look to capitalise.

Upbeat Sunrisers square up against RCB

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

Umran Malik's raw pace and Bhuvneshwar Kumar's consistency will be put to test against Dinesh Karthik's explosive batting and the finesse of Faf du Plessis when Sunrisers Hyderabad clash with Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, here on Saturday.

Malik has caught everyone's attention with his fiery deliveries this season. His tearway pace has even troubled established batters such as Shreyas Iyer.

Alongside senior teammate Bhuvneshwar, the 22-year-old formed a match-winning partnership to defeat Punjab Kings by seven-wickets in their previous outing.

Sunrisers, who are targeting a top-4 position, also have yorker-specialist T Natarajan and South African Marco Jansen in their ranks. Jansen has also been able to tease batters with his angles and variations.

But the seasoned Du Plessis and Karthik have pummelled the best in the business.

The new RCB skipper roared back to form with a fine 96 as he anchored his team's innings after the top order once again collapsed against Lucknow Super Giants.

However, the veteran



South African batter missed out on a much deserved maiden IPL hundred in the 18-run win on Tuesday.

On the other hand, Karthik is enjoying one of his best seasons in the league. The wicketkeeper batter has taken the centre stage with his heroics for RCB.

With scores of 32 not out, 14 not out, 44 not out, 7 not out, 34, 66 not out and

13 not out in seven innings, Karthik has seemingly been the best finisher this season.

But apart from the duo, the RCB batters will have their task cut out against Sunrisers, who have momentum on their side after winning four games on the trot.

All eyes will once again be on Virat Kohli, who would be eager to get out of the rut of low scores.

Sikki Reddy, Ashwini Ponappa withdraw from Uber Cup due to injury

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The Indian women's doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponappa on Friday withdrew from the forthcoming Uber Cup tournament due to the former's injury. Badminton Association of India (BAI) said.

The tournament is scheduled to be held in Bangkok from May 8 to 15.

"Sikki Reddy has suffered a Grade 2 Tear of the Abdomen (abdominus rectus) as confirmed by an MRI and has been advised 4-6 week rest by the doctor," the BAI said in a statement. "Under the circumstances the said pair has withdrawn from the Uber Cup as well as the upcoming BATC and the selectors have decided to include Simran Singh and



Ritika Thakkar in their place as they were fourth in the ranking during the selection trials," said BAI general secretary Sanjay Mishra. The development comes a day after the BAI announced Indian teams for the upcoming Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Thomas and Uber Cup. The teams were named by BAI following six days of selection trials

at the Indira Gandhi Stadium here. Besides Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponappa, the 10-member women's team for the Asian Games and Uber Cup comprised PV Sindhu, Parupalli Kashyap, Ashmita Chaliha, Hooda, alongside the other two doubles pairs from the trials - Treesa Jolly-Gayatri P and Tanisha Crasto-Shruti Mishra.

T20 is a cruel format, MI need to grab crunch moments: Tendulkar

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

Mumbai Indians team mentor Sachin Tendulkar has called T20 a "cruel" format where small margins are crucial and suggested that the struggling five-time IPL champions go out and win the crunch moments to arrest their slide. Mumbai Indians have had a disastrous campaign this season. The Rohit Sharma-led side remains winless, having lost all its seven matches so far.

"Let's first understand that in this format there isn't a team who has not experienced what Mumbai Indians have experienced this season," Tendulkar told Matthew Hayden during a chat on 'Star Sports'. "This format can be cruel. And those crucial moments in a match which don't go in your favour then literally the margin is like you lose a game by two or three runs or sometimes even the last ball. "And



those smaller margins, we need to go out and conquer those moments, those crunch moments in the match are what we have to win. And they haven't gone our way," he said. The cricket icon said the players especially the youngsters will take some time to settle in.

Djokovic digs deep again to reach Serbia Open semifinals

Belgrade, Apr 22 (AP):

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic dug deep for the second match in a row to reach the semifinals of the Serbia Open with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 win over Miomir Kecmanovic.

Kecmanovic won the opening set without facing a break point, but Djokovic finally showed signs of getting back to his best in the second and then won the final four games of the decider in what was just his sixth match of the year.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion stretched his winning streak against compatriots to 10 matches going back to a loss to Janko Tipsarevic in Madrid in 2012.

Djokovic next plays third-seeded Karen Khachanov, who defeated Brazilian



qualifier Thiago Monteiro 7-5, 6-4.

Djokovic also endured a tough game Wednesday when he rallied from a set down to beat compatriot Laslo Djere 2-6, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4).

He joked that he's happy

he would not have to face another Serb in the semifinals. Djokovic opened his clay-court season with a surprising loss to Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Monte Carlo Masters last week, his first match since being eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Dubai Tennis Championships in February.

Dubai was his first tournament of the year after he was barred from playing at the Australian Open because of his unvaccinated status, which also prevented him from playing tournaments in the United States last month.

Earlier Thursday, second-seeded Andrey Rublev defeated Jiri Lehecka 4-6, 7-6 (1), 6-2 and Fabio Fognini enjoyed a 6-2, 6-3 win over Aljaz Bedene to reach the quarterfinals.

It's very good that he is still hungry: Jadeja on Dhoni's latest Houdini act



And looking at it, all of us remain calm, that if he is in the middle and stays till the final over, he will win the game," added Jadeja.

"We were tense but had a belief that he (Dhoni) was out there, he would finish the game and come. He has won so many games for India, in the IPL, we knew that he would finish the game."

Dhoni (28 not out off 13) batted like the finisher in his hey days to help CSK get the required 17 runs off the final over to win their second game of the season and extend Mumbai Indians' winless streak to seven games.

He smashed a six and four off third and fourth ball off Jaydev Unadkat before maintaining his calm to put one past short-fine leg for the match-winning boundary, leaving the bowler and the rest of his Mumbai teammates shattered.

"Look we were in pressure and the way the match was going, I believe there was pressure in both the dugouts... As the world's best finisher (Dhoni) was out in the middle.

Raducanu reaches Stuttgart quarterfinals, Swiatek awaits



Stuttgart, Apr 22 (AP):

U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu defeated Germany's Tamara Korpatsch 6-0, 2-6, 6-1 at the Stuttgart Open to set up a quarterfinal match against top-ranked Iga Swiatek. It will be the 19-year-old Raducanu's first match against a top 10 opponent. Raducanu, who won at Flushing Meadows as a 150th-ranked qualifier last year, could break into the top 10 herself if she wins the Stuttgart title in what is her first professional tournament on clay. She's currently ranked

12th. Earlier, second-seeded Paula Badosa defeated Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (4) and will face Ons Jabeur in the quarterfinals. Jabeur defeated Daria Kasatkina 6-3, 6-3. Third-seeded Aryna Sabalenka defeated Canada's Bianca Andreescu 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 and will face Anett Kontaveit or Ekaterina Alexandrova. Fourth-seeded Maria Sakkari retired against Laura Siegemund as the German was leading 6-4, 3-1. Siegemund next plays Russian player Liudmila Samsonova, who defeated Karolina Pliskova 6-4, 6-4.

We all know how calm MS Dhoni can be: Rohit Sharma

Navi Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

A dejected Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma rued his side's top-order woes in the ongoing IPL but could only admire veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni for his match-winning knock in the IPL here on Thursday.

MI slumped to their seventh loss in this IPL with Dhoni showing his finishing prowess with a 13-ball 28 not out to guide Chennai Super Kings to a three-wicket win in a last-ball finish.

"It was a great fight from us. We were right in the game. After batting not so well, our bowlers kept us in the game all through. But in the end, we all know how calming MS Dhoni can be and he took them home," Rohit said at the post-match presentation.

"It's hard to put a finger on that (top order problems). If you lose three or a couple of wickets up front, it's always going to be tough. You're always playing that catching (up) game."

After a disastrous start, Tilak Varma's 51 not out helped MI to reach a de-



cent total of 155 for 7, but in the end it turned out to be not enough as CSK chased down the target of 156 in the final ball.

"We got to a very reasonable target where we thought with the ball we could put them under pressure. I thought till the last over, we had them under pressure. "But in the end, MS and

Pretorius, they were quite calm and got them home."

Rohit said the pitch was good and his side could have got more runs after being invited to bat.

CSK captain Ravindra Jadeja was all praise for Dhoni.

"Actually we were very tense, the way the game was going, but at some stage we knew that the great finisher of the game was there and if he played to the last ball, he can definitely finish the match.

"He (Dhoni) showed the world that he's still here and he can finish the game."

On Ambati Rayudu and Dwayne Bravo, he said, "We have plenty of experience in our team so they know when to perform and what to do. So if we're not winning the game, still we look to be calm and relax."

"I don't take fielding for granted and still work on it. We need to do some work on our fielding and take catches because we can't keep dropping catches in every game," Jadeja said about his side's below-par fielding show in the match.

EARTH DAY FACES



Students paint their faces and write the message Save Trees during a programme organised on the occasion of Earth Day, at a school in Moradabad, Friday.

'India has no option but to make itself stronger amid changing world order'

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

India has no option but to make itself stronger to ensure its defence, peace and stability as the world order is changing rapidly, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday in the context of the Ukraine-Russia war. A lot of things are happening in the world that are affecting India, Singh said at the inauguration of DefConnect 2.0. DefConnect 2.0 is a one-day event to bring together start-ups, big companies and armed forces personnel to boost indigenous innovation in the defence sector.

"When we met at Aero India 2021 (February 21), from then to now, the world has changed so much that it cannot be accounted for or measured. Every new danger is looking more

complex and challenging than the previous one," Singh told the gathering. "We did not even recover fully from the Covid-induced crisis but the world is now facing the issue of the Ukrainian conflict," he said. "The way the world order is changing with time, we do not have any other option but to make ourselves stronger," he said.

Even before this, the minister said, the world has seen instability in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan. "Apart from this, there are a lot of things happening in the



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inspects an electric two-wheeler during a display of electric vehicles before their induction into the Indian Army, in New Delhi.

world that are affecting India for sure. Therefore, it is important that we become strong to ensure our defence, peace and stability," he said. "We need to develop many of our se-

tors in order to strengthen ourselves. Disruptive technology is an important sector in this regard," he noted. Singh underlined the utility and uniqueness of a defence technology matter equally.

"How useful a defence technology is to us is definitely important but it is also important that the defence technology should be with us only," he said, adding as a defence technology reaches other countries, its utility is nullified. DefConnect 2.0 provides an opportunity to innovators to showcase their capabilities, products and state-of-the-art technologies to the industry leaders. The start-ups get to leverage this opportunity to generate investments and leads for future operations.

ISRO chairman, Maha MP given VIP security cover by Centre

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Maharashtra MP Navneet Rana and ISRO chairman S Somanath have been provided a central armed VIP security cover by the Union government, officials said on Friday. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) accorded the security cover last week to the two after accepting separate recommendations of central intelligence agencies that favoured armed security of paramilitary commandos to them in view of possible security threats to them.

Navneet Rana, a member of Lok Sabha from the Maharashtra, has been accorded 'Y' category central

cover that would entail about three to four armed commandos of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to move with her, they said.

On Friday, the Mumbai police issued a notice to her and her MLA husband Ravi Rana, asking them not to disrupt the law and order situation as they plan to recite 'Hanuman Chalisa' outside Maharashtra Chief Minister

Uddhav Thackeray's residence here on April 23. The lawmaker couple is known to have an unofficial understanding with the BJP. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman S Somanath has also been accorded a 'Y+' category security cover.

HC grants bail to RJD Supremo Lalu Prasad in Doranda treasury case

Ranchi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Jharkhand High Court on Friday granted bail to Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad in the Doranda Treasury Case in which a CBI special court had sentenced him to five years in prison.

73-year-old Prasad is in custody following his conviction and sentencing by a CBI court in February in a fodder scam case involving embezzlement of over Rs 139 crore from Doranda treasury.

"The Jharkhand High court has accepted our petition for suspension of the sentence and has granted bail. We had

pleaded that he has served more than half of his five-year sentence in this case. Prasad has already served 41 months in jail... We had submitted the trial court's certified copy in this regard. The court has granted bail," Prabhakar Kumar, counsel of Lalu Prasad told PTI.

Kumar said they had also pleaded for bail in view of his ill-health also as Prasad is suffering from various ailments.

Prasad will be released soon. He will have to deposit Rs 10 lakh fine and two surety amounts of Rs 1 lakh each, Kumar said.

Justice Apareesh Kumar Singh gave verdict on Lalu Prasad's bail after Lalu's

lawyers and CBI counsel presented their arguments in the court.

The court rejected the argument of the Central Bureau of Investigation opposing Lalu Prasad's bail in the Doranda Treasury case.

RJD leaders on being told of the bail order said they "had full faith in the judiciary".

Jharkhand High Court on April 8 had deferred the hearing into a petition filed by the incarcerated leader challenging his conviction in a fodder scam case.

The former Bihar Chief Minister was sentenced to five years in prison and slapped a fine of Rs 60 lakh

by a special CBI court in Ranchi in connection with the fifth fodder scam case involving embezzlement of over Rs 139 crore by Doranda treasury.

Justice Apareesh Kumar Singh was on April 8 informed by CBI, which is investigating the scam that the earlier order of the court to file a counter affidavit in the matter could not be complied with by the agency and pleaded for more time.

Prasad's counsel Kapil Sibbal had told the court that his client has already served more than half of the sentence of five years in prison in the case and deserves to be released from custody.

Naqvi to Labour MP

'Don't convert your prejudiced agenda of 'India phobia' into Islamophobia'

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday hit out at a Pakistani-origin MP of the UK's Labour party who urged British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to raise the issue of "Islamophobia" during his visit here, saying "don't convert your prejudiced agenda of 'India phobia' into Islamophobia".

Naz Shah, Labour Party MP from Bradford West and shadow minister for crime reduction, took to Twitter on Thursday to convey to Johnson that the UK's foreign relations must not just

be based on trade and internationalism but also on human rights. "My plea to the @10DowningStreet is to raise the growing issue of Islamophobia with the Modi Government," she said. In a long series of tweets, Shah said the rising tide of "everyday hate and mob lynching" against Muslims in India is becoming worrying. "I urge @BorisJohnson to read my thread, to stand up for human rights and stop embarrassing us on the international front with his ignorance. Bulldozing homes of minority Muslims in India, amid rising tensions is serious!" she said.

Railways to invest in startups; policy promises up to Rs 1.5 Cr seed money for innovations

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The railways will invest in startups to get a head-start in procuring innovations directly from them with a promise of up to Rs 1.5 crore of seed money for innovative technological solutions for the national transporter, according to a policy paper. The Indian Railway Innovation Policy will identify and enable Indian innovators to engage with the railways for developing cost-effective, implementable, scalable solutions and functional prototypes for the national transporter, officials said.

"Since there is a major constraint of capital inadequacy in the startup ecosystem, particularly in the seed and 'Proof of Concept' developmental

stage, this policy aims at providing the necessary seed fund support of up to Rs 1.5 crore (on matching contribution basis) to the startups that show the capability, intent and promise to produce functional prototypes, based on new innovative concepts, for potential use of the Indian Railways," a senior official said.

One of the major objectives of the policy would be to leverage new innovative technologies, developed by entrepreneurs and startups, for improving operational efficiency and safety on the railway system, the officials said. The eligible organisations or beneficiaries of the support will include any Indian company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/2013,

primarily micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) as defined in the MSME Act, 2006, and individual innovators. The policy also encourages research and development institutions to apply for the grant.

The innovators can apply through a dedicated portal, which will be launched later this month, and once chosen for the grant, its disbursement shall be linked to pre-decided milestones. The funding scheme has been fixed on a cost-sharing basis in equal proportions - 50:50 by the Indian Railways and the innovator. The maximum amount of grant will be Rs 1.5 crore per innovator, even in cases where the total project cost exceeds Rs 3 crore, the officials said.

Postal ballot facility for overseas voters being contemplated: CEC Chandra

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Lamenting that the number of registered overseas voters is "abysmally low", Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra has told members of the Indian community in South Africa and Mauritius that the facility to extend postal ballot facility for NRI electors is being contemplated. According to an official statement issued by the Election Commission, Chandra interacted members of the Indian community during his official visit to the two countries and urged them to register as overseas voters as the present numbers are "abysmally low". He also told members of the Indian community that extension of Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) facility to overseas voters is being contemplated.

HOT SUMMER DAY



A woman constable fans herself to get respite from the heat, on a hot summer day, in Navi Mumbai, Friday.

Lenin lives on in Kolkata

By Jayanta Roy Chowdhury

Kolkata, Apr 22 (PTI): Lenin still lives on in the heart of Kolkata, albeit in the northeast corner of Curzon Park, overlooking the Nakhoda Masjid on its left and the Oberoi Grand Hotel, one of the last bastions of the city's fading mercantile capitalism, on its right.

At a time when the legacy of the Marxist idol and founder of Soviet Union, Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov Lenin, is being wiped out of his motherland, this corner of Kolkata's Esplanade still remains his home. A towering statue of the man, who dragged Russia out of a feudal order into what he believed would be a socialist century, stands in solitary

loneliness here. A bunch of sexagenarian and septuagenarian leaders of Leftist parties and a handful of enthusiastic student activists, led by CPI(M)'s veteran parliamentarian and leader Mohd Salim, were the only ones to lay floral wreaths at Lenin's statue on Friday and to give the iconic leader the 'Lal salam' (Red Salute) on his 153rd birth anniversary.

Leninbadider eta ekta smaran korar din (It's a remembrance day for all those who believe in Leninism)," Salim, charged with revitalising the CPI(M) in West Bengal as its state secretary, told PTI. "We are here to preserve and protect his memory," he added.

Lenin, born in 1870, became a communist revolutionary at the early age of 17 after his brother's execution by the Tsarist regime. In 1917, a successful revolution of the Bolshevik faction of Russian communists which he led saw him coming back from exile in Europe to seize power in his country.

Indian communists were among the first to come under his spell. Though the Communist Party of India was formed in 1925, individuals from India had already travelled to the Soviet Union to learn from the "October revolution". The first time communists won an election in India was in 1957, when the CPI catapulted to power in Kerala. However, the com-

munist's real coming of age was when after an aborted Naxalite insurgency by ultra-Leftists died out in the 1970s, the CPI(M), a faction of the original CPI, won elections to the West Bengal assembly in 1977.

A Leftist alliance, led by the CPI(M), ruled the state for 34 long years till 2011, when the state rejecting the Left voted in favour of left of centre Trinamool Congress. Since then, it has been a downhill journey for the Leninists. Not only had the combined Left parties drawn a blank in polls to West Bengal assembly held last year; their vote share dwindled to a mere 5.47 per cent in 2021, down from 30.1 per cent in 2011, when they lost the elections for the first time to the TMC.

HC seeks Centre's stand on ex WB chief secy review plea concerning CAT proceedings

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought the Centre's stand on a plea by former West Bengal chief secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay seeking a review of the order dismissing his challenge to the transfer of his application concerning proceedings against him from Kolkata to New Delhi by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

A bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher and Jyoti Singh issued notice on the review petition and asked the central government to file its response to Bandyopadhyay's stand

that he did not receive a fair opportunity to present his case before it was reserved for orders. The matter would be heard next on May 20.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the former chief secretary of West Bengal, argued that he did not get a full crack of the whip as their request to the court to grant a 'passover' i.e. to take up the case after some time on the same day due to unavailability of the senior counsel was denied and consequently, a junior lawyer had to make submissions and oppose the senior law officers who appeared for the Centre.

Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee said that he was opposing the review petition and informed the court that the matter was argued at length by the lawyer appearing on behalf of the petitioner.

Justice Shaktidher observed it was a practice of the court to grant the first request for a passover and told the senior lawyer that he expects him to give fair counsel in the matter.

On March 7, a bench of then Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Singh dismissed Bandyopadhyay's challenge to the transfer of his application concerning proceedings against him

from Kolkata to New Delhi and said that the transfer order was passed within the four corners of the law.

The high court had said that the cause of action arose in New Delhi as the disciplinary proceedings, as well as the inquiry proceedings, were initiated and going on here.

Bandyopadhyay had first moved the Kolkata bench of the CAT to challenge the proceedings initiated against him in a matter related to not attending a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the effects of cyclone 'Yaas' at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station on May 28 last year.

BRIEF



An activist wearing a costume holds a placard during a rally to mark the World Earth Day in Bengaluru, Friday.

Foreigners detained

Karimganj: Two nationals, suspected to be Ukrainian nationals, have been detained by the police at Badarpur railway station in Assam after they were disembarked from a Punjab-bound train for travelling without valid documents, a police officer said on Friday.

Celebratory firing

Sultanpur (UP): A man was killed in celebratory firing during a marriage ceremony in Pipri Bhawanipur village here, police said on Friday. Sheshmani Pandey (59) died in the incident that happened on Thursday night, they said. He got injured during the celebratory firing when he along with other family members was going to the village to attend Shaileendra Pandey's tilak ceremony, police said.

Judicial custody

Mumbai: A special court here on Friday extended till May 6 the judicial custody of Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik in a money laundering probe linked to the activities of fugitive don Dawood Ibrahim and his aides. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had arrested Malik (62), a senior NCP leader, on February 23 in the case registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Tihar prisoners

New Delhi: Fifteen prisoners of Tihar jail injured themselves with sharp cutlery, officials said on Friday. The incident took place on Wednesday. Four of the injured inmates were sent to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital for treatment and later brought back to the prison. The 11 others sustained minor injuries and they were administered first aid in-house, the officials said. They, however, did not specify the reason why the prisoners injured themselves.

Weather	
High	39
Low	27
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,171.95
SENSEX	57,197.15
BULLION	
GOLD	52,276
SILVER	66,500

2 Jaish suicide bombers, CISF officer killed in encounter

Jammu, Apr 22 (PTI):

An attempt by banned terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) to carry out a suicide attack ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit was foiled after two suspected Pakistani terrorists were killed here in an encounter on Friday in which a CISF officer also died, officials said.

Nine security personnel were also injured in the pre-dawn gunfight near an Army camp in Sunjwan area on the outskirts of Jammu.

Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh, who visited the encounter



A security person inspects a bus after an encounter between security forces and militants, at Sunjawan area in Jammu district, Friday.

site, said the two terrorists were part of a suicide squad of Pakistan-based JeM and their infiltration

could be a "big conspiracy" to sabotage the prime minister's visit to Jammu and Kashmir: According to ini-

tial investigation, the two terrorists entered the outskirts of Jammu city on Thursday after infiltrating from the international border in R S Pura sector and were staying in a locality close to the Sunjwan Army camp.

"Last night, police and other forces were involved in an operation which culminated... As per reports, the two terrorists were part of JeM's suicide squad, launched from Pakistan and tasked with targeting a camp of the security forces or engaging... to inflict a lot of casualties," the DGP told reporters near the scene of the encounter.

Johnson felt like Sachin Tendulkar, Amitabh Bachchan

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):



Britain Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks at a press conference in Delhi, on the last day of his two day trip to India, Friday.

The bonhomie between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Prime Minister Boris Johnson was palpable at a media event here on Friday with the UK PM referring to Modi as "khaas dost (special friend)" and calling him by his first name multiple times.

Johnson also appreciated the welcome he received in India, especially in Gujarat, saying he felt a bit like Sachin Tendulkar and his face was ubiquitous like Amitabh Bachchan. Addressing a joint press event with Modi, "Thank you my friend Narendra, my Khaas dost is the phrase I would (like to) use in

Hindi. We have had a fantastic two days here in India." "Yesterday I became the first conservative prime minister to visit Gujarat, which is your birth place of course Narendra, but as you just said the ancestral home of about half of all the

British Indians and I had an amazing reception, absolutely amazing, I felt a bit like Sachin Tendulkar and my face was ubiquitous everywhere as Amitabh Bachchan. I was everywhere to be seen and it was fantastic," Johnson said.

NIA files charge sheet against 2 persons in espionage case

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The National Investigation Agency on Friday filed a charge sheet against two persons in connection with their alleged involvement in conspiracy and espionage activities with an intention to wage war against India, an agency spokesperson said. The charge sheet was filed before a competent court in Hyderabad against Altaf Husen Ganchibhai alias Shakil, who hails from Gujarat, and Waseem, a Pakistani national under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, IT Act and the stringent

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The case, pertaining to a criminal conspiracy to carry out anti-national activities by Pakistani agents, was originally registered with the Andhra Pradesh police and re-registered by the NIA on December 23 last year, the spokesperson said in a statement. The agents, in a bid to obtain "crucial and sensitive information pertaining to Defence establishments" from Indian Armed Forces personnel, used to engage civilians using social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, the spokesperson said.

Couple, three daughters charred to death in car

Rajnandgaon, Apr 22 (PTI):



Police personnel and locals gather near the charred remains of a car after a fire broke out in the car due to an accident, in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh, Friday morning.

A businessman, his wife and the couple's three daughters in their twenties were burnt to death when their car caught fire after hitting the railing of a culvert in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district on Friday, police said.

The victims, natives of Khairagarh town in the district, were returning home after attending a wedding in neighbouring Balod district, they said. The accident took place around 2 am near Singarpur village under Thekadih police station limits, a police official said. "According to an eyewitness,

the car overturned after hitting the railing of a culvert and skidded off the road. Subsequently, fire broke out in the vehicle leaving all five occupants dead on the spot," he said. The deceased were

identified as Subhash Kochar, his wife Kanti Devi and their three daughters - Bhavna, Kumari Vriddhi and Puja, he said, adding that their daughters were aged between 20 to 25 years.

Police chief writes to ED to probe money laundering charges against prime accused

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana has written to the Enforcement Directorate to investigate the money laundering charges against the prime accused in the Jahangirpuri violence case, a senior officer said on Friday. Anwar, 35, a resident of B-Block of Jahangirpuri, is alleged to be the "main conspirator" behind the violence that took place on



Security forces personnel stand guard in the violence-hit Jahangirpuri area, in New Delhi, Friday.

April 16 during a procession on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, police said. "A letter has been written to the director of

the Enforcement Directorate to probe Anwar under PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) charges," the senior police officer told PTI. Asthana has written to Director, Enforcement Directorate (ED), Sanjay Kumar Mishra. During preliminary investigation, it has emerged that Anwar has money in many of bank accounts and is also in possession of several properties which allegedly were purchased through gambling money, police said.

Delhi, Bihar to reimburse Centre for using Covid jabs as free precaution dose

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Delhi and Bihar, which have started administering free Covid precaution doses for the 18-59 year age group, have to reimburse the National Health Authority for using the available stock of jabs provided by the Union government for the purpose, official sources said Friday. Following requests from these two states, the Union Health Ministry has made a provision on the CoWIN portal for creating sessions to administer the precaution doses at

government Covid vaccination centres, they said.

They had sought permission from the ministry to use the available stock of Covid vaccine as precaution dose in government vaccination centres free of cost, saying they would reimburse or replenish the stock upon procurement.

"The Union Health Ministry has agreed to their proposal... But they shall reimburse the cost of the vaccine used for the purpose to the National Health Authority," an official source said.

Citizens send postcards to CPCB demanding revision of air quality standards

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI)

Over 10,000 citizens sent a petition and postcards to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Friday, demanding a speedy revision of India's air quality standards, environmental group Greenpeace India said. The postcards have been mounted on an eight-foot-high metallic tree installed outside the CPCB office here, evoking the multi-cultural symbolism of the Tree of Life, it said.

"Citizens, especially from vulnerable groups, including mothers, children, senior citizens, urban poor and other marginalised communities, are amplifying this message.

Court has power to review govt's decision on remission: SC

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The convict sought the issuance of a writ directing the Chhattisgarh government to grant him pre-mature release.

It said the prerogative of the executive is subject to the rule of law and fairness in state action embodied in Article 14 of the Constitution.

The Court has the power to review the decision of the government regarding the acceptance or rejection of an application for remission under Section 432 of the CrPC to determine whether the decision is arbitrary in nature, the

bench said. The observations of the top court came on a plea filed by a convict Ram Chander who is undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for life upon being convicted for the commission of offences punishable under Section 302 (murder) read with Section 149 (unlawful assembly) of the Indian Penal Code.

The top court said though the court can re-

view the decision of the government to determine whether it was arbitrary, it cannot usurp the power of the government and grant remission itself. On the issue of the opinion of the presiding judge of the court for deciding remission, the apex court said that the appropriate government should not mechanically follow the opinion of the presiding judge.

In the present case, there is nothing to indicate that the presiding judge took into account the factors which have been laid down.

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Durg to have a wholesale corridor like Raipur, announces CM

Baghel inaugurates Amrut Mission Scheme



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched Phase-I of Amrut Mission Scheme in Durg. This scheme has been completed with an investment of about Rs 140 crore in Durg Municipal Corporation. The scheme is aimed to provide pure drinking water to 32000 families. Under this scheme, along with the

renovation of the water treatment plant, pipeline expansion and construction of 5 high capacity tanks have been done. On this occasion, Urban Administration Minister Dr Shivkumar Dahria, State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Arun Vora and Municipal Corporation Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and other public representatives were present.

CM inaugurates Working Women Hostel; interacts with DMC Corporators

Bhilai, Apr 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated a Working Women Hostel in Durg on Friday. This hostel has been constructed for the convenience of working women. 100 working women will get accommodation in this hostel which has been built at a cost of Rs 3.55 crore. This hostel has 42 rooms with attached bathrooms. On the occasion, CM interacted with the Corporators of Durg Municipal Corporation. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Urban Administration Minister Dr Shiv Daharia, State Ware Housing Corporation President Arun Vora and other public representatives were present.



trial parks are ready to supply their products as per the requirement of businesses and industries, which can turn out to be a great help to the industries. Baghel assured the industrialists of extending every possible support from the State Government, while they strive to improve the industrial scenario of the state tremendously.

Chief Minister also mentioned about his discussion with the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari. He said that there is a lot of potential in the energy sector of the state. Receiving permits to manufacture ethanol from paddy can be a big leap for this industry. The market has benefited from farmer-oriented policies and the urban economy has also benefited from the same. We aim to create opportunities for all in both the core sector and beyond. Our industrialists are the brand ambassadors of our industry, he said. Chief Minister also conducted personal interaction with the industrialists during the program.

- Directs Collector to earmark land for this purpose
- CM inaugurates new office building of District Industries and Trade Center

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: On Friday, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that a wholesale corridor similar to that in Raipur will be built in Durg as well. He made this announcement while addressing the inaugural programme of the new office building of District Trade and Industry Center in Durg. CM has directed Durg Collector to earmark the land for this purpose. Many public representatives including Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr Shivkumar Dahria and Chairman of State Warehousing Corporation Arun Vora were also present in the programme.



Baghel said that Durg is an industrial district, but Bhilai is the place recognized as the industrial center of the country. After the establishment of BSP, many industries were established in Bhilai. The industries here play a big role in the development of Durg. The demand for workers has declined as technology took over. BSP is like the backbone for industries of the state.

Chief Minister said that Durg district has also been a hub of vegetables and fruits. The farmers here are growing various crops that have demand abroad as well. "After several meetings and discussions with the industrialists, we have formulated our

Industrial Policy for the state. We have carefully handpicked the best aspects of the policies of other states as well. During the COVID crisis, I kept meeting the representatives of various industrial organizations, learning about their grievances and resolving them. We adopted the policy of industrial expansion even in those areas of the state where there were hardly any industries", said Chief Minister. He added that there will be no NPA in this policy.

Baghel further said that in the demand for industries is mostly based on its capacity to create employment, however sometimes establishment of an indus-



try is opposed by the local residents. CM added that they have explained to the localities that the establishment of industries would create more employment locally and then they would not have to migrate away from their home in search of work. He said that during COVID crisis, they spoke to people of those areas, where a large number of workers had migrated back to their native places. The state government has marked orange areas in the state so as to establish more industries at the local level. In the meeting with the Chambers of Commerce and Industries office bearers in Bastar, he advised the industrialists to con-

duct a proper survey at local level to set up industries and to focus on skill development of people as per the requirement of the industry, he informed. Employment opportunities would motivate the localities to support the establishment of the industries. Chief Minister highlighted the work done for the millers. State Government has hiked the milling charges and there is a meagre amount of paddy left in the collection centres. The government has also converted Gauthans into rural industries and now work is going on towards developing them as Rural Industrial Park. Self Help Groups engaged in these rural indus-

Chhattisgarh witnessing changes with rapid rural development: Guru Rudra Kumar

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: With rapid rural development, the picture of the state is changing rapidly. The state's economy is getting stronger with a strong rural economy, said PHE Minister Guru Rudra Kumar while addressing gatherings at villages Chikhali and Semaria. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu was also present in village Semaria. Guru Rudra Kumar announced various projects for the development of both the villages. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said that the government is taking care of all the sections in its schemes. The govern-



ment is working especially for welfare and progress of the marginalized sections of the society. He said that the foundation of solid rural development is being laid through the Narva, Garwa, Ghurva, Bari scheme. The income of the villagers has increased rapidly through this scheme. Villages are pro-

gressing rapidly due to livestock development along with agriculture.

PHE Minister said that the income of self-help groups has increased through Gauthans by developing Gauthans as livelihood oriented centres. He appreciated the SHGs working in Gauthans of Durg for their innovative

working. He said that training programs of village industries are also being run so that women could become self employed through skill development. He informed that development schemes for all sections are being run by the government.

The work that has been done in the direction of strengthening the rural economy is visible in the urban economy as well. The economy has also improved in the cities. He added that through the Jaljeevan Mission, adequate supply of pure water is being ensured for all. The Minister said that he keeps on taking feedback continuously from the people.

Karm Shiromani awards given away in SMS 2

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: Karm Shiromani awards were given away in SAIL-BSP's Steel Melting Shop-2 recently. Shri Sushil Kumar, CGM (SMS 2) was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Shri Sushil Kumar in his address said that employees of SMS 2 have set new milestones with their sincerity, hard work and dedication.

Our employees have the calibre to convert challenges into opportunities, he said. While records are being made frequently, we must reach new heights, he said, adding that we have to set new targets and achieve the same.

Shri Sudhir Kumar, GM (SMS 2) who was the Special Guest spoke about Safety and housekeeping. Shri Yogesh Shastri, GM (SMS



2), who was the Guest of Honour spoke about cleanliness, safety and health.

Shri Deepak Kumar Shah, ACT, Shri Arjun Singh Gadwal, OCT, Shri Suresh Prasad, M/Optv., Shri Narendra B Goswami, OCT, Shri Soman Singh Korpe, CCS Operation, Shri Ganesh Ram Purbhiya, CCS Operation, Shri Ram

Nareish Singh, M/Optv., Shri Chandrama Prasad, Converter Shop, Shri Onkar Singh, CCS operation were felicitated with Karm Shiromani awards for their outstanding performance.

Employees are shortlisted for this award for innovations, better resource utilisation, following safety standards etc. at the work-

place. A certificate, letter of appreciation and a sweet packet was given to the awardees.

The programme was compered by Shri Vijay Kumar, Asst. Manager (P-Steel zone 2). Shri K D Baghel, ALWO, Shri Narendra Kurrey and Ms. Kalyani Sahu helped in making the programme successful.

Transit Hostel inaugurated for government officers

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: On Friday, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated a Transit Hostel for government officers here at Durg. The Transit hostel has been constructed at a cost of Rs 10.41 crore. There are 54 units to accommodate people in which bedroom, drawing room, kitchen and gallery are there in each unit.

Six staff quarters have also been constructed. This facility will be available for the officers transferred and posted here from other cities and districts so that they can stay



here till the permanent accommodation is allotted to them. Cabinet Ministers Tamradhwaj

Sahu, Ravindra Choubey, Dr Shiv Daharia and other dignitaries were present.

Mekhala's performance captivates audience

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: The new year Payla Boishakh was celebrated with pomp and show by the Bengali community. On April 15, a cultural program was organized by the Bhilai Bengali Samaj in the Open Air Theatre Civic Centre to celebrate the New Year. Mayor of Bhilai Municipal Corporation Neeraj Pal, Member of Parliament Durg Vijay Baghel, Councilor of Risali Municipal Corporation Anoop Dey were present as guests.

At the beginning, a two-minute silence was observed to pay homage to the people of the Bengali community who lost their lives due to Corona and other accidents in the last two years. Bhilai Bengali Samaj President DK Dutta ex-



tended Bengali New Year greetings to the people present. The guests also addressed the program. Subhashish Dey conducted the program. Here it needs a mention that the program was organized after three years due to Corona epidemic. People from all sections of the society were seen excited as the program was organized after a long gap. Apart from Bhilai, people from sur-

rounding areas including Bhilai-3, Charoda, Kumhari, Jamul, Utai, Durg and family participated. The audience was spell bound by the performance of upcoming arts from Kolkata, Zee Saregamapa fame Mekhala Dasgupta and her team. The team presented melodious new and old songs of Bangla and Hindi which won loud applause.

Prominent among those



present were DK Dutta Bhilai-3, Charoda, Kumhari, Jamul, Utai, Durg and family participated. The audience was spell bound by the performance of upcoming arts from Kolkata, Zee Saregamapa fame Mekhala Dasgupta and her team. The team presented melodious new and old songs of Bangla and Hindi which won loud applause.

Sarkar, Ashok Banerjee, Subhankar Roy, Akash Majhi, Deep Majhi, Rishabh Pal, Arun Sarkar, Tarunkanti Pal, Bhuvan Chakraborty, Swaraj Banerjee, Sameer Ghosal, Amol Biswas, Indranil Saha, Anjan Das, Aparna Mukherjee, Bhumi Roy, Mamoni Sengupta, Praveer Kar, Gopal Chakraborty and others. Media in-charge Subhankar Roy has given this information.

SR Hospital organises free medical camp in Khairagarh

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: A free health check-up camp was organized at the Community Health Center Khairagarh on April 21. The camp organised on the instructions of the Collector of Rajnandgaon, covered all the 9 blocks under Rajnandgaon district.

On the last day the free health check-up camp was organized at the Community Health Center Khairagarh where the team of doctors and paramedics from SR Hospital and Research Centre Chikhali participated. Around 400 patients got health benefits in



the free health check-up camp. Yashoda Verma, newly elected MLA, Khairagarh was the chief guest in the program. The program was presided over by Shailesh Verma, Speaker Khairagarh Municipality. Present as special guests were SR Hospital Chairman

Sanjay Tiwari, Khairagarh Municipal Vice President Abdul Razzaq Khan, District President Leela Mandavi and Murla Verma. Dr Mithilesh Chaudhary Chief Medical and Health Officer Rajnandgaon inspected the entire hospital and also gave instructions

regarding the medical camp. Detailing about the camp, Block Medical Officer Dr Vivek Bisen informed that following the instructions received from the District Collector Rajnandgaon and Chief Medical and Health Officer Rajnandgaon, this free health check-up camp was organized with the facility of free medicines, blood, urine test, X-ray and other facilities. Senior doctor of Community Health Center Khairagarh PS Parihar affirmed that the camp was a huge success. The new MLA of the area Yashoda Verma visited the hospital and congratulated all the doctors

for the successful event.

Dr Mithilesh Choudhary CMHO Rajnandgaon also gave instructions to the doctors and other staff of the hospital regarding the medical camp. BMO Dr Vivek Bisen Dr PS Parihar, Dr Pankaj Vaishnav, Dr PP Vaishnav, Dr Sandeep Bhaskar, Dr Harsha Mukund rendered their services. From SR Hospital Durg Dr Sushant Kande MD Medicine, Dr Pawan Deshmukh, Critical Care Management, Dr Deepak Sinha, Orthopedist, Dr Vibhuti Lanjevar, Dr Romila Raj, Physiotherapist, Dr Heena, Physiotherapist.

Baba Saheb's birth anniversary celebrated

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 22: 131st Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the chief architect of Constitution of India, was celebrated with fervour at Ward 15 Ambedkar Nagar. Corporator Santosh Mourya and members of Boudh Samaj were present. Corporator Santosh Mourya unfurled the Panchsheel Flag and offered floral tributes at the portrait of Dr Ambedkar. Thereafter, a rally was taken out which concluded at Ambedkar Chowk in Power House. DO Sirsat,



Gopichand Khobragade, Madhukar Thavre, Ashok Davde, Humne, Mahesh Borkar, Jayant Meshram, Honey Ambade, Sumit Sukhdave, Sunil Wasnik, Phoolchand Khobragade, Avsar Mool, Vidya

Meshram, Rekha Wasnik, Nalini Chauhan, Sheela Ambade, Asha Khobragade, Malo Ramteke, Laxmi Wasnik, Sushila Meshram, Vinita, Beena Wasnik and others were present.

MESSAGE TO ALL



Tiny-tots dressed in different attire reflecting concern for the nature at the fancy-dress competition organized on occasion of World Earth Day here on Friday.

This festival will prove to be a milestone in the devp of tribal literature: Uikey

● Three-day National Tribal Literature Festival concludes

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 22: Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey attended the closing ceremony of the National Tribal Literature Festival organised at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, Raipur. Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh, Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam, Parliamentary Secretary, Dwarkadhish Yadav and MLA Mrs. Laxmi Dhruv were present on the occasion.

Addressing the program, the Governor said that the three-day National Tribal Literature Festival organised by the State Government to preserve and promote the rich culture, literature of the tribes is a very commendable effort. She congratulated the Tribal and Scheduled Castes Department for this. She said that the National Tribal Dance Festival was organized by the Chhattisgarh government last year also, which was discussed in the country and abroad as well.

Governor said that as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, many programs are being



conducted for the welfare of the tribals all over the country. She called upon the tribal youth to become aware and take advantage of these programmes. She said that she would make necessary efforts at the national level also for implementation of the findings which would have come during the research-discussion in this three-day festival for the betterment of the tribals.

Uikey said that it is a matter of great pride that eminent litterateurs of the country, who are interested in writing tribal literature, participated in this festival. It will certainly contribute significantly to the development of the tribal literature of Chhattisgarh. He said that it is a matter of great pride that eminent litterateurs of the country, who are interested in writing tribal literature, participated in this festival. It will cer-

tainly contribute significantly to the development of the tribal literature of Chhattisgarh.

Uikey said that glimpses of their history are visible in the tribal literature. Their way of life can be felt closely through literature. They can be known and understood. Their lifestyle, tradition and rituals are clearly visible in the tribal arts like dance, drama, song-music and painting. She said that by staging plays based on tribal culture as well as symbols of indomitable courage like Gundadhur, Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, we would not only be able to acquaint the present generation with the glorious history of tribal society and their contribution, but it would also help in theatrical genres can also be protected. Tribal cultures can be revived through these theatrical performances.

Governor Ms. Uikey said that if she did not have predetermined programs, she would certainly have come and interacted with the eminent litterateurs and folk artists of the country. After the program, litterateurs presented their books to her. The Governor met everyone informally. Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh said that there is a need to enrich tribal art, folk culture. She said that Aadi Mahotsav is organized in different cities across the country. In this festival, tribal handicraft artists from all over the country are encouraged by providing them market.

Singh said that we are currently celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of freedom. Under this, various cultural programs are being organized across the country to protect and encourage the country's tradition, civiliza-

tion. We need to work hard to preserve this tradition and civilization. She said that the research papers read during the festival will definitely be useful for the tribal society and their development.

Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam said that the organization of tribal art-painting and dance festival provides a good opportunity to the tribal artists to showcase their talent. Such programs will definitely protect and promote tribal literature and litterateurs, as well as encourage them. During the closing ceremony of the National Tribal Literature Festival, the students of Government Visually Impaired School located at Mathpuraina, Raipur presented portrait to Governor Ms. Uikey. Visually impaired artist Kumari Soni Beed of Sukma district gave an enchanting presentation of Satyam Shivam Sundaram Bhajan. Along with this, Bastar's child artist Sahadev presented the folk song of Bastar in a very charming way.

On this occasion, Bilaspur Divisional Commissioner Sanjay Alang, Tribal and Scheduled Castes Department Secretary, D.D. Singh, Commissioner cum Director Mrs. Shammi Abidi, Vice Chancellor of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Keshri Lal Verma were present.

CM releases the book Intellectual Disability

Raipur, Apr 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the book Intellectual Disability by Dr. Meeta Mukherjee at his residence office here this evening. Dr. Meeta Mukherjee informed the Chief Minister that through this book she has shared her experiences of teaching and caring for differently-abled children. This book will be useful for parents of children with disabilities and people working in this field. Case studies of some children have also been included in the book, so that such parents



and guardians can get better guidance. Meeta informed the Chief Minister that she runs the Piyali Foundation, an organization related to the education and development of differently-abled children in Raipur.

Chief Minister Baghel congratulated Dr. Meeta Mukherjee for the publication of the book Intellectual Disability. Rajkumar Choudhary, Ms. Pronati Mukherjee and others were present on the occasion.

Union Minister visits NIT Raipur, discusses NEP 2020



Raipur, Apr 22: The Union Minister of State (MoS) for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar paid an honorary visit to National Institute of Technology, Raipur on 22nd April, 2022. The visit was conducted to interact with the faculty and management of the Institute to discuss the New Education Policy (NEP)-2020 and the actions being taken at NIT Raipur to implement it.

The Minister was greeted at the Institute by senior faculty members with a sapling. This was followed by an initial meeting with Dr. A. M. Rawani, Director of the Institute and Dr. Arif Khan, Registrar, NIT Raipur.

A meeting was further organised, which was attended by the Deans of the Institute and senior faculty members. Dr. Shrish Verma, Dean Academics, NIT Raipur presented various achievements of the Institute. He gave an overview of the Institute's infrastructural developments over the past

few years and mentioned the steady progress the Institute in NIRF ranking. He discussed the new Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) scheme for students, which was implemented in 2019 and its merits. He also showcased the placement statistics and research prowess of the Institute. He mentioned that NIT Raipur is committed to maintaining state-of-the-art laboratories for the purpose of imparting practical knowledge to the students and to facilitate research.

He elaborated the measures taken by NIT Raipur to tackle the challenges posed by COVID-19 and thereby shifting to online mode of teaching, promoting Covid-focussed research, etc. Then, he elaborated on various measures that NIT Raipur is taking to implement the National Education Policy 2020. Then, the Minister addressed the meeting, in which he laid stress on imparting holistic education as

well as the importance of developing an emotional connection between the professors, the students and the Institute. He also emphasised on strengthening Institute-Alumni relations.

He provided valuable suggestions to improve physical and mental well-being of the stakeholders with a focus on Yoga and meditation. He spoke about the implementation of the 'Indian Knowledge System' to revisit the roots of traditional wisdom and culture. He encouraged the Institute to not only enable academic and professional growth, but also cultivate empathy in students. He insisted on holistic education to build a community of growth and development. Dr. A. M. Rawani, Director of NIT Raipur delivered the vote of thanks, in which he acknowledged Dr. Sarkar's thoughtful suggestions and expressed his strong determination to act on them.

The meeting concluded with the presentation of Memento. The honorable minister then visited various labs, Data Center and computer center of the Institute and appreciated technological developments of the Institute.

Number of flights to Delhi from Raipur increased

Raipur, Apr 22: This summer, six flights are available daily from Swami Vivekananda Airport, Mana to Raipur to Delhi. This increase has been registered after the increase in the number of passengers in the summer season. Earlier, in the month of January-February, only three-four flights were available. Along with Delhi, an increase in the number of air flights has also been registered from Mumbai. There are currently four direct flights from Swami Vivekananda Airport to Mumbai. Mana Airport officials said that more than 45 aircraft are now operating from Mana

Airport, while the maximum flight is reaching is 60 in a day. In the summer season, the pressure of passengers is being seen at the airport. At present there are three direct flights to Kolkata. According to air travel experts, most of the passengers are currently getting to the tourist states. From Mana Airport to the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, etc., passengers have to catch connecting flights through Metro City. There has been a demand for direct flights from Mana Airport to these tourist states for a long time.

Chamber hands over memorandum to Food Minister

Raipur, Apr 22: State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Amar Parwani, General Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttam Golcha, Working President Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Agarwal told said that the delegation of the Chamber met Food Minister, Amarjit Singh Bhagat, to ensure adequate availability of edible oils and oilseeds at reasonable

prices by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, maximum maintainable stock limit for the period up to June 30, 2022 and in this concern submitted a memorandum. Chamber State President Amar Parwani informed that the Government of India has decided to impose stock limit on edible oil and oilseeds. The Food Ministry has issued a notification in this regard.

Parwani informed that at present the population of Chhattisgarh state is about 3 crores. A variety of edible oils and oilseeds are found in view of the wedding season and increasing business activities. Edible oil and edible oilseeds i.e. soybean, soybean oil, mustard, mustard oil, pods, podli oil, linseed, linseed oil, and other oilseeds are there and all of them come under different brands. Since the stock limit is more to

maintain the range of all these things by a wholesale shopkeeper. Parwani requested the Food Minister to fix the stock limit of 2500 quintals in edible oil to wholesalers and 1000 quintals in edible oil to retailers and 4000 quintals in edible oilseeds to wholesalers and 200 quintals in edible oilseeds to retailers, so that the availability of edible oils will be maintained in the state and it will help in supplying

according to the demands. Food Minister Amarjit Singh Bhagat after perusing the memorandum gave positive assurance. Chamber Advisor Amar Gidwani, State President Amar Parwani, Working President Ram Mandhan, Secretary Nilesh Mundhra, Dilip Israni, Jawahar Thaurani, Youth Chamber General Secretary, Kanti Patel were prominently present in the delegation.

CAIT levelled big charges on cartelisation between banks & e-commerce companies

Raipur, Apr 22: CAIT National Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Mangal Maloo, Amar Gidwani, State President Jitendra Doshi, States Working President Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, State General Secretary, Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary, Bharat Jain, State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal and state media incharge Sanjay Choubey informed the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) in a communication sent to Union Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman levelled serious charges against various Banks for colluding with several foreign funded e-commerce

companies including Amazon & Flipkart for making an unholy cartel by helping them in creating an uneven level playing field by providing cash back on usage of credit & debit cards of their respective Banks on purchase of goods from e-commerce portals whereas this facility is not available to consumers who purchase goods from the offline market even using the same cards. The CAIT termed it as an unfair practice of banks causing grave banking irregularities and gross violation of Right to equality, FDI Policy and the Competition Act. The CAIT has demanded an immediate time bound investigation of this most critical

matter which is ruining the offline trade of the country.

CAIT National Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani & State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi while calling it a major lapse on the part of the Banks involved in this sinister game of collusion with e-commerce giants like Amazon & Flipkart are State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Citi Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HSBC, Bank of Baroda, RBL Bank, Axis Bank etc. The trade leaders said that such unfair practice gives a shopping advantage to people for purchasing goods exclusively from e-commerce portals but not to people who shop from offline shops. Thus,

creating an inequality scenario between online and offline markets of the Country. How can the Banks do such a discrimination-questioned the trade leaders.

Mr. Parwani and Mr. Doshi said that it is most surprising that these Banks which claims that they earn almost 1 or 1.5% from the payment transactions are able to provide 10% cash backs and other benefits to the consumers. It is a matter of investigation that whether the Banks are providing cash backs from their funds or they are funded by someone to provide these cash backs and other benefits. The question is whether under the banking rules,

the Banks are empowered to provide such a cash back from their own fund which is a proposition of loss or whether the Banks are entitled to receive funds from an outsider to make up the loss caused by giving such hefty cash back and creating an uneven level playing field in the country. The CAIT has sent similar memorandums to Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Bhagwat Karad, MOS Finance, Shaktikana Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Ashok Gupta, Chairman, Competition Commission of India, Rohit Singh, Secretary, Consumer Affairs, Anurag Jain, Secretary, DPIIT, Secretary, Revenue and Banking etc.

Minister Tekam inspects the stalls

National Tribal Literature Festival

Raipur, Apr 22: Scheduled Castes and Tribal Welfare Minister, Chhattisgarh Government, Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam visited the stalls set up in the three-day National Tribal Literature Festival premises organised at Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium in Raipur.

He tasted the barfi at the stall of tribal cuisine and encouraged the craftsmen by playing the trumpet, a traditional musical instrument of the tribals. Minister Dr. Tekam bought the trumpet instrument and inquired about the business of the craftsmen and the availability of the market. Dr. Tekam was presented a plant of



Natural Sugar Free Stevia (Sweet Basil) in the stall of the Tribal Local Health Tradition and Medicine Plant Board.

He accepted the present with great humility and conveyed his best wishes. An exhibition of items produced by tribal craftsmen has been put up in

the three-day National Tribal Literature Festival complex. In which stalls of Kosa textiles, wood crafts, bamboo crafts, tribal dishes, traditional jewelry etc. have been set up. A large number of people are appreciating the tribal craft by visiting the exhibition.

Self-supporting Gauthans making villages self-sufficient: CM

GNV: Payment of Rs 6.59 cr to cattle rearers, villagers, Gauthan committees and women Self-Help Groups
Ch'garh's GNV is being discussed across the country

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel virtually released an amount of Rs 6.59 cr to the cattle rearers, Gauthan committees and women Self-Help Groups under Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNV) in a programme organized at his residence of

fice here late on Wednesday. The amount paid includes Rs 2.97 cr in lieu of cow dung purchased in Gouthans from March 29 to April 15 and Rs 2.43 cr to Gauthan committees, Rs 1.50 cr to women Self-Help Groups as dividend.

Expressing happiness over the Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNV) receiving the national level Elets Innovation Award, the Chief Minister congratulated the cattle rearers, livestock farmers, villagers, women Self-Help Groups and Gauthan committees and officials-employees of Agriculture Department. "This ambitious scheme of Chhattisgarh Government has become a topic of dis-

cussion across the country with other states contemplating to implement the same in their own states. Godhan Nyay Yojana is being operated in a mission mode in the state. With its successful implementation, Gouthans are rapidly becoming self-supporting. More than 3000 Gouthans across the state have become self-supporting. This is a notable achievement in the direction of making the villagers and livestock farmers self-reliant", said Chief Minister Mr. Baghel.

He added that our Gouthans have set an example of being self-sufficient, purchasing cow dung worth more than Rs 13 cr using their own funds. Addressing the pro-

gramme, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey congratulated cattle rearers, villagers, Gouthan committees and women Self-Help Groups for the successful implementation of Godhan Nyay Yojana in the state.

Agriculture Production Commissioner Dr. Kamal Preet Singh and Secretary Dr. S. Bharathidasan gave a detailed presentation on the achievements of Godhan Nyay Yojana. Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Mineral Development Corporation Dr. Girish Devangan and Advisor to Chief Minister, Mr. Pradeep Sharma along with other department officials were present on the occasion.

SUBMISSION OF ANSWER-SHEETS



Students in the College are submitting answer-sheet in their respective colleges as per fresh guidelines from the University.

CG Board of Professional Exam announces dates for exams

Chhattisgarh domicile students to get fee waiver benefits

Raipur, Apr 22: Chhattisgarh Board of Professional Examination (CBPE) on Thursday released possible dates for the various examinations to be conducted for admissions in Technical Courses. According to the information received, the CBPE would be conducting the Pre Polytechnic Test (PPT) and Pre MCA exam on May 29. Similarly, the Board would also be conducting the Pre Agriculture Test (PAT) and Pre Veterinary Test

(PVPT) on June 5 for admissions in B Sc Agriculture, B Sc Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Science. Apart from it, the Board would be conducting the Pre B. Ed and B Sc Nursing exams on June 19. M Sc Nursing and Post Basic Nursing exam would be held on July 3.

In the notification, the Board has made it clear that the students from local Domicile would not have to submit any fee for the exam as the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had made a declaration over fee waiver during the Budget presentation for the fiscal 2022-23 in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly.

Ch'garh is a leading state in the country: Choubey

In terms of helping farmers

Delegation of Cauvery River Farmers Protection Committee of Tamil Nadu State appreciated the farmer friendly policies of Chhattisgarh and said that Chhattisgarh is a model state to protect the interests of farmers.

Raipur, Apr 22: A delegation of Cauvery River Farmer Protection Committee of Tamil Nadu state had reached



Chhattisgarh to see the ground reality of implementation of farmer friendly policies and programs of Chhattisgarh Government. During the two-day stay of Chhattisgarh, this delegation visited many areas and met the farmers and viewed the status of implementation of Narva, Garuva, Ghurva and Bari

programs of Suraji Gaon Yojna and also inspected sugarcane cultivation in Kawardha district including Multi Activity Center at Chherikhedi, Raipur. Delegation to the farmers of Tamil Nadu had a courtesy meeting at the residence office of Chhattisgarh Agriculture and Water Resources Minister, Ravindra

Choubey in Raipur late evening and discussed in detail the situation of agriculture in the state of Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh. On this occasion, the delegation presented the famous Black Rice and Organic Jaggery of Tamil Nadu to Agriculture Minister, Ravindra Choubey. Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey presented shawls and shreefal to all the representatives of the farmers' delegation of Tamil Nadu and expressed happiness on their coming to Chhattisgarh.

The farmers here are getting the highest price of paddy and sugarcane. On this occasion, the Agriculture Minister gave detailed information

about Chhattisgarh Government's Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana and said that the objective of these schemes is to improve the economic condition of the villagers and farmers.

On this occasion Secretary of Agriculture Department and Managing Director of Godhan Nyay Mission Dr. Bharathidasan briefed about the state of agriculture in the state of Tamil Nadu and the efforts being made for the betterment of farmers in Chhattisgarh. The head of the farmers' delegation, Mr. Sundar Vimal Nathan, informed

that his delegation includes farmers' representatives from different districts of Tamil Nadu, who mainly cultivate paddy and sugarcane. The farmers' delegation of Tamil Nadu inspected the activities conducted by women self-help groups at the Multi Activity Center at Adarsh Gouthan Navagaon (L), Chherikhedi, located in Abhanpur development block of Raipur during their stay in Chhattisgarh. The delegation visited Kawardha district of the state and also inspected the sugarcane cultivation being done by the farmers there and Boramdev sugar factory. During this, senior officers of the Agriculture Department were also present.

Loans be provided under PMAY for solar panels: Nandini

Expresses views on COP-26' in the National Environment Youth Parliament 2022

Dantewada, Apr 22: National Environment Youth Parliament 2022 which was organized by Paryavaran Sanrakshan Gathividhi and Manav Rachna Institute at Parliament House, New Delhi. 150 participants from 83 universities across the country participated in it. In the first session, 25-25 participants presented their views on the topic of 'Environment Sustainability and Climate Change in the context of India' and another 25 participants presented their



views on and 'India's declaration of emission reduction at COP 26' in the second session.

As a young MP of the opposition Nandini Dixit got the opportunity to present her views. Nandini Dixit of Dantewada district from Chhattisgarh presented her views on behalf of the opposition. She is a student of B.Tech in Guru

Ghasidas University. Nandini said that in COP 26 the target set by India is to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070. She suggested in Parliament to provide loan for solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and with this, in her second suggestion, she said that there are people who are working for the

environment and planting saplings on barren land and converting it into a forest. If we invest on such sustainable development models and convert them into tourist places, then people will move towards the environment and there will be an environmental revolution in the country. Nandini discussed about the solutions rather than the problems. The first session of the programme was addressed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the second session was addressed by Union Environment, Forest and Climate Minister Bhupendra Yadav. Nandini Dixit's suggestion to add solar panels to the Prime Minister's residence has got a place in the category of favorite suggestion

FIR filed against Sarpanch and Secy in Chintalnar ration scam

Konta, Apr 22: SDM Konta Bansingh Netam informed about the ration scam that took place in Chintalnar Gram Panchayat under Konta block and informed that the above disturbances were investigated and the sarpanch who messed up the ration, Gram Panchayat Chintalnar Mukka Madvi and the then secretary, an FIR has been registered against Mausam Tamaiya. Along with this, recovery of Rs 7.80 lakh has also been done expeditiously by the administration.

He told that the food stored in Chintalnar had come for POTA Cabin. During the corona transition, all educational and residential institutions were closed with immediate effect as per the instructions of the govern-

ment. Due to which food storage was stocked in PDS. The PDS was being operated by the Gram Panchayat itself. Irregularities in stock were found during physical verification by the Food Inspector. The matter was investigated by the administration taking prompt action. In which the case of misappropriation of ration by Sarpanch and Secretary came to fore. An FIR was registered by Food Inspector Vikrant Naidu on 28 July 2021 at the police station under section 3,7 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955 and while taking action, recovery of Rs 7.80 lakh was made. At present, Chintalnar Government Fair Price Shop is being operated by the nearby Gram Panchayat Morpalli.

CIP organizes pooled campus



Raipur, Apr 22: Columbia Institute of Pharmacy (CIP) organized a pooled campus for the post of Marketing Representative by Indore based TN Sys Meryl Pharma Pvt Ltd (Gyn Division) for the students of final year students of B.Pharm.

The entire process of the selection was conducted by Manmohan Dewangan and his team which was smoothly coordinated by Atanu Bhattacharya, Training & Placement Officer of the institution.

After the completion of entire process the compa-

ny selected Mr. Pawan Kumar Sahu and Suraj Banjare for Bilaspur Head Quarter, Biplav Dwivedi for Durg, Shreya Jain and Manjusha Sahu for Raipur and Indore Office as per their choice.

The committee members were of the opinion that the students of Columbia are very enthusiastic because they have experienced interview for the first time

Mr. Kishore Jadwani & Mr. Harjeet Singh Hura from the management, Principal Dr. Amit Roy congratulated the selected students and wished them a bright future.

Lakhma gives patient hearing to grievances of villagers

Additional assistance would be given to the families of the Arrabor fire victim

Konta, Apr 22: State cabinet minister Kawasi Lakhma during his one day tour to Sukma reached village Arrabor in Konta block and gave patient hearing to the problems of the villagers in person. Taking cognizance of which Minister Lakhma gave necessary directions to the officers to solve their problems. Minister Lakhma was warmly welcomed by the villagers and Congmen in village Arrabor. During this, fifteen senior BJP workers, influenced by the policies and culture of Cong party, joined Congress fold. Lakhma honoured by garlanding and said that the



Cong government is the one that takes care of farmers, laborers and all sections of the society.

It is notable here that a total of 36 people from 29 families lost their lives in the Arrabor fire incident during the Salwa Judum campaign. After this attack by the Naxalites, the

previous government had given Rs 1 lakh as compensation and a government job. But after formation of Congress govt in the state, Lakhma after discussing with the CM and as per demand of the villagers, had announced to give comfortable amount. In today's program, the fami-

lies of the victims met Minister Lakhma and expressed their gratitude, during which the names of the victims' families of the four deceased was not included in the list and to which Minister Lakhma directed the officers to add their names and provide additional assistance to

the victims. During this, Konta SDM Bansingh Netam, CEO Kailash Kashyap, District Panchayat Vice President Boddu Raja, District President Sunnam Nagesh, Nagar Panchayat Vice President Zakir Hussain, Congress leader Waheed Khan, Congress President Smt. Maheshwari Baghel, Dornapal Nagar Panchayat President Smt. Babita Madvi, Jagargunda District Panchayat Members Adamma Markam, Sukma Nagar Panchayat Vice President Ayesha Hussain, Mahila Congress President Somay Mangamma, Sarpanch Madkam Rashmi and the Sarpanch, Mukhiya of nearby Panchayats, including district members Somay Jayaprakash, Sarpanch, Panch and other Congressmen were present.

Walking with smart shoes, parents will be able to charge mobile phones

Got patent for it from Dept of Science & Tech

Bilaspur, Apr 22: Guru Ghasidas Central University has designed smart shoes charger keeping in mind the parents. It has got a patent from the Department of Science and Technology. Dr. Rohit Raja, Head of the Department of Information Technology, Central University, has prepared it with his research team. With the smart charger, parents will no longer have to worry about mobile charging when they are out of the house and they can charge the mobile in their pocket while walking with smart shoes on. Considering the increasing utility of mobile phones in



the present times, this patent is very important for the entire human society.

In the present era, the dependence on electricity has increased significantly in the areas of communication, transport, processed food etc.

This patent is a very important step in reducing this dependency. The purpose of this invention is to produce electrical energy



from human motion, as well as to make the society aware of more exploitation of electric energy. Expressing happiness on this achievement of the IT department of the university, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Alok Chakrawal has given congratulations and best wishes.

1670 mobile towers to be installed in State: Chouhan

- At the cost of Rs 1500 cr
- Every village of state go have mobile services

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Apr 22: The Union Minister of State for Telecommunications Devisingh Chouhan reviewed projects in Aspirational Districts of Dantewada on the 2nd day here. After review in Dantewada, he conducted review meeting along with officers from the Telecom, postal department in Raipur on providing world-class telecommunication facilities in all the Aspirational Districts of

state and in districts affected with LWE. In this review meeting, he took stock of progress in different projects.

Union Minister of State for Telecom Devisingh Chouhan informed that there are 14 districts which are Naxal- Left Wing Extremism affected. In order to provide best of 4G mobile services in the villages of these districts, a total of 971 mobile towers will be installed at the cost of Rs 845 cr.

He directed the officers that all the towers should be installed before 31 March 2023. In order to provide 4G mobile services in the villages of Aspirational Districts, 699 new towers should be installed. This project is expected to cost around Rs 600 cr and its tar-



get for completion is Oct 2023. In the same way, around 1670 towers would be installed at the cost of Rs 1445 cr in these projects and with this, mobile services will be available in all the villages of Chhattisgarh, he added.

Union Minister of State for Telecom during his Dantewada tour released a special stamp on 'Maadanteshwari' by the Postal department and also released the post-card on cultural and geographical attractions of the district.

Devisingh Chouhan informed that the Postal department has opened 391 new branch Post Offices in the districts affected with Naxalism and LWE and they will be providing different services of Postal department in the rural areas.

In last 3 years, new 3 lakh accounts have been opened under 'Sukanya Yojana' and which is best example of PM's 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' programme. In Chhattisgarh there are around 6.28 lakh account holders of Dak Payment Bank and which promotes financial inclusion.

On this occasion Union Minister for Telecom Devisingh Chouhan directed the offices to complete all the projects in the naxal and LWE affected districts of the state speedily and ensure that the services are smoothly run, so that the citizens of state gets benefited and play important role in the social and economic development of the state.

Variety of prog marks Fire-Safety week

Awareness rally taken out, mock-drill performed

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Apr 22: The Home Guards department organised variety of programme on Fire Safety Week from April 14 to 19 in the district as per instructions from the Addl. Director General GoI and Director Fire-Brigade and Emergency services Hq's Raipur.

Under this an awareness rally was taken out to create awareness among people about fire-incidents and were given information about safety and prevention of fire in shops, industries, hospital, school and houses with help of banners, posters and announcement on mike and they

were urged to keep fire-extinguishers and domestic resources to avoid fire related incidents.

In the same way in the next session, the fire-extinguishers were checked in hospitals, schools, cinema halls, hotels, lodges, petrol pump and buses and it was found that none had installed it and they were directed to install the same at the site and take NoC from the headquarters.

In the third series, essay competition was organised among 44 students of 10 schools on 'Fire-Safety' and in this the students coming in top three were presented with prizes and certi-

ificates. In the essay competition, Priyank Podiyami came first, Hildhar Shori second and both are students of Class 11th from PRAYAS Vidyalaya Jagdalpur and Gharghuda. The third prize went to Class 9th student Ashika Upadhyay of Gyanodaya High School.

It was on April 19, a mock-drill was performed along with children and were given information about the fire-incident, prevention and safety in Prayas Vidyalaya, Jagdalpur premises in the presence of Director, Teacher and around 200 students and later they were presented with awards.

Six vehicles seized in illegal excavation of minerals

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Apr 22: As per instructions from the Collector Rajat Bansal the Mineral Department is taking firm action against illegal excavation, transportation and storage of minerals viz. sand, lime stone and 'murrum' and other minerals.

The mining officer in-charge Hemant Chherpa informed that on April 20 and 21, surprise checking was done in Gram Banjawand, Tarapur, Baniyagaon, Belgaon, Bhanpuri and Markel and six vehicles were seized being involved in illegal transportation of minerals.

In one of the vehicle's

limestone was found and in other five it was illegal transportation of sand. Along with this a Pokelane was also seized for carrying out illegal excavation of 'murrum' from Markale.

Mining officer informed that during this one tapper bearing No. CG 17 H 2718 was found with Limestone; CG 28 C 0130, CG 26 H 1171 and CG 18 H 1587 and Hywa bearing No. CG 17KW 2590 and CG 17 H 3491 was found loaded with sand.

All these vehicles were taken to police station. During the action taken, Mining Inspector Devendra Sahu, Mining inspector Dikeshwar Khare and Lokesh Kashyap were present.

MGNREGA employees strike enters 17th day

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Apr 22: It was amidst scorching heat, the MGNREGA employees entered 16th day of their ongoing strike here on Tuesday. Charging state government of not fulfilling the promise made, MGNREGA employees took out a massive bike rally and staged massive protest and demonstration raising slogans in protest.

On the 17th day, District Panchayat 'sabhapati' Viplav Sahu reached the venue of ongoing strike by MGNREGA employees and extended whole-hearted support. He said that in the present day time of inflation at its peak, in such conditions, the MGNREGA scheme which provide food to the poor is being looked upon with less of



importance.

It is notable here that MGNREGA employees from 15 Panchayats of the block Hq's in support of their 2-point demand are on strike for last 17 days. In this MGNREGA employees from Madrakuhi, Saloni, Karamtara, Pawantara, Jalbandha, Shergarh, Bafra, Junwani, Kukurmuda, Ataria, Sandi were present.

After taking out the bike-rally, the employees once again reached Block Hq's. Shekha Dixit of MGNREGA Karamchari Mahasangh (MKS), secretary ALN Sonoi informed that in the coming days, the MGNREGA employees would be staging protest adopting novelty in the form of 'Jal Satyagrah', 'Shavyatra', 'Mundan work', 'Sadbuddhi Yanga',

and other types of protest in different forms each day.

It is worthwhile to mention here that a total of 133 MGNREGA employees are on indefinite strike for last 16 days and due to which all works related to MGNREGA have come to a standstill and due to which the general citizens are made to face all sorts of problems.

1570 persons benefitted in 'Health Mela'

- Organised in Takathpur under Ayushman Yojana

Central Chronicle News

Takathpur, Apr 22: In the block-level Health Mela in Takathpur under Ayushman Yojana, District Medical officer (DMO) Dr Pramod Mahajan, District Panchayat member Jitendra Pandey, Nagar Palika Munnna Sriwas, corporator Mukeem Ansari, BMO Dr Sunil Hansraj, Dr Vaishnav, district nodal and District prog manager Mazumdar Madam, Malaria consultant Krishna madam that the 'health mela' as inaugurated.

As per instructions from the state government, in this 'health mela' it is through Ayushman Card that medical and health facilities to patients in the field of

Orthopaedic, Paediatrics, ENT, Dental, Ayuveda Yoga, Homeopathy, cancer, diabetes, blood pressure, eye diseases, skin, HIV, malaria and others will be provided by expert doctors and medical staff and proper treatment will be offered. In this health mela, a total of 1570 persons benefitted and got proper treatment for their diseases. District Panchayat 'sabhapati' Jitendra Pandey said that the government is very much aware and sensitive towards health and therefore free of cost health facilities are being provided to poor beneficiaries. In this programme, Keshu Singh, Dr Sharad Kurre, Dr Nisha Broker, Dr Sharad Karnewar, Ankit Sriwas, Ripika Daniel, Manisha Amoli, Lalita Singh, Khushboo George, Majid Ali, Prabha Patel, Yugal Kishore Kashyap, Rahul, Mukesh, Vrinda, Pawan, Satish and others were present.

Choubey releases poster of CPAS

Takathpur, Apr 22: The Union Minister Ashwini Choubey released the poster of Chhattisgarh Poshan Abhiyan Samiti (CPAS) at SECL's head-quarter's here on Wednesday.

On this occasion the Leader of Opposition in VS Dharmalal Kaushik, State convener CPAS Harshita Pandey, MLA Dr Krishnamurthy Bandhi, ex-MP Lakhanlal Sahu, BJP district president Ramdev Kumawat, member CPAS Pranav Sharma and District secy Abhijit Kumar were present.

Union Minister Choubey extended greetings to members of CPAS and hoped that Chhattisgarh will play valuable contribution in fulfillment of dream project 'Mission Poshan' that of PM Narendra Modi.

Jaisingh holds discussions with administrative staff

Central Chronicle News

Gourella-Pendra-Marwahi, Apr 22: Minister in-charge of the district and Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management, Rehabilitation and Commercial Tax (Registrar and Stamp) Mr. Jaisingh Agrawal here, held discussions with the administrative officers and public representatives at the rest house during his stay in the district. He inquired about the administrative work and law and order going on in the district in the presence of MLA Dr. K. Dhruv.

Collector Ms. Richa Prakash Choudhary, Superintendent of Police



Mr. Trilok Bansal, Forest Divisional Officer Dinesh Patel, who apprised him about the departmental activities. Chairman of Nagar Panchayat Pendra, Mr. Rakesh Jalan was also present on the occasion.

The common citizens

also submitted a memorandum related to their problems-demands etc. to the minister in-charge of the district. The minister sent their memorandums to the concerned officers and directed them to be resolved at the earliest.

Admn assures to take firm action against criminals

IPS holds meeting with public reps, senior citizens

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Apr 22: The newly appointed IPS convened meeting with senior citizens and important public representatives in the Police Thana here on Wednesday. The senior citizens apprised him about the increasing crime incidents and social evils in city and held discussions in this regard.

TI Dongargaon Thana Mayank Gurjar adopting a firm stand said that the criminals will not be spared and to put a check on crime and improving upon the system, he sought due assistance from the public representatives as well.

In this meeting discussions were held about



'satta', gambling, sale of illicit liquor, thefts and worsening traffic system, installation of CCTV cameras, fixing up place and timing for loading and unloading in city; driving of vehicles by young children; re-starting of MEMU for hospital and others.

On all these issues, TI Mayank Gurjar said that son his team will be making marking to streamline the traffic system and for the school children driving two-wheelers, the vehi-

cles will be seized and parents will be issued strict warning. After this if the mistake is repeated then the Police will be forced to take firm action. After this TI urged the SDM Hitesh Pisdar to issue letter to all the Koatwars to register 'musafir' in all villages and urban areas. On installation of CCTV cameras to put a check on crime, TI mentioned about due cooperation from Nagar Panchayat and traders.

Majority of public reps absent:

In this important meeting to introduce new policing system in city, the Nagar Palika's President, VP and other corporators were absent. In the beginning of the meeting, TI Mayank Gurjar took information about number of corporators present. In this meeting, only selected few corporators viz. Kishore Bohara, Siddiq Badgujar, Priyank Jain were present and among other public reps only Janapd V.P. Suyash Nahata ensured his presence. In addition to this Dinesh Gandhi, Dinesh Narwat, Virendra Borkar, Navindra Yadu, Manbodhi Patel, Loksewa Director Dharmendra Sahu and other office bearers of Muslim Samaj and journalists were present.

Birth anniv of Dr Ambedkar celebrated

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Apr 22: The 131 birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was celebrated here by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar educational institute, in a program marked by three segments. Prize distribution ceremony for annual academic year was done under the guidance of chief guest HR Bhaskar and presided over by President Rajendra Diwakar.

A detail address on the life and times and philosophies of Dr Ambedkar was done under the guidance of MLA Punulala Mohale. Also present as guest were Ratnawali Kaushal, Mohan Mallah, Chandrabhan Barmate, Ramkumar Sahu, Sanjay Thakur, Rahul Kuree and many others.

Addressing the gathering MLA Mohale said that, Dr Ambedkar was a true vi-



congratulated the audience on the birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. Ambedkar and declared land proposal for school building construction. A general body meeting was also concluded in the end of the program under the guidance of Principal Asha Diwakar and President HR Bhaskar.

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All should work jointly: Choubey

For an all round development of the district

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Apr 22: Under the chairmanship of Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, a district review meeting was held in the presence of officials and public representatives. The Minister of State reviewed the progress of various development works and government schemes in Korba district under the Aspirational District Program in the review meeting.

He inquired about the progress of the district in the field of education and employment and the departmental officers presented the information of various development works

in the district to the Minister of State through power point as per the criteria set for the aspiring district. Minister of State Choubey said that the administration and public representatives should work in coordination for the development of the district.

He said that the responsibility of the development of the district lies with the administration as well as the people's representatives; therefore the welfare of the people is the aim of all of us. He said that everyone should work together in the field of public service by rising above the party ideology to benefit the people from the public welfare schemes of the government.

He instructed the officers of the Agriculture Department to work on the



action plan to promote two crops in addition to traditional farming to make the farmers financially strong and also directed to disseminate information about free treatment through Ayushman card to all the people through display boards outside all private and government hospitals.

He asked to work on a plan to develop the local people by making a plan based on the development of the tribes and by using the local resources in a planned manner. It was told in the meeting that

through the Gothan established by the government in the villages, economic activities have increased on the rural front. Choubey also inquired about the progress being made in the district in the field of education during the meeting.

Giving information to Minister of State Mr. Choubey, Collector Mrs. Sahu informed that six Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools have been established in the district, children of poor families are being given free

English medium education in these schools. The Minister also interacted with the media, and discussed various suggestions for the all-round development of the district.

During the review meeting, Mrs. Jyotsna Mahant, MP of Korba Lok Sabha constituency, District Panchayat President Mrs. Shivkala Kanwar, MLA of Rampur Assembly Constituency Mr. Nanki Ram Kanwar, Collector Smt. Ranu Sahu, Superintendent of Police Shri Bhojram Patel, D.F.O. Korba Mrs. Priyanka Pandey, D.F.O. Katghora Smt. Premalata Yadav, District Panchayat CEO, Shri Nutan Kanwar, Joint Collector Smt. Mamta Yadav along with public representatives of the district and other officers and employees were present.

BRIEF

Digitises

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has digitised 1,500 layout plans covering planned areas of the national capital and made them available on a GIS platform for use by general public, the land-owning agency said. Listing the initiatives taken under the digital transformational plan, the DDA said land pooling is yet another area where the digitisation has been done effectively

Busted

Ghaziabad: A gang of online thugs has been busted with arrest of eight men who allegedly duped at least Rs 50 crore from around 10,000 people promising to double their money through online gaming, police said. The cyber cell of Ghaziabad Police, which busted the racket, said they have seized 100 ATM cards, 37 mobile phones, five laptops, two bank passbooks, 13 cheque books, and Rs 4 lakh in cash from the gang's possession at raid in Shakitkhanda area of the city.

Shot

Gurugram: A 35-year-old grocer was gunned down by two bike-borne assailants outside his store near Bilaspur Khurd village, police said. One of the accused was nabbed by public while another managed to flee. Police are at the spot and are investigating the crime scene, they said.

ATM

Pune: Two burglars triggered a blast at an ATM centre in the Chikhali area of Pimpri-Chinchwad town in Pune district using gelatin sticks, but failed to take out any cash from the machine, said police. Teams have been formed to nab the suspects, they said. Two unidentified burglars triggered a blast at an ATM centre using gelatin sticks.

Oders

Chandigarh: Amid allegation of large-scale illegal mining in Punjab, state's Mines Minister Harjot Singh Bains ordered seal and seizure of all stone-crushing units near Nangal city of the Rupnagar district. The Cabinet minister said after receiving complaints against stone crushing units involved in illegal mining and damaging the flora and fauna in the Khera Kalmot area, a team was sent by the Mining Department which videographed the illegal operations of plants.

Submits

Guwahati: All the seven panels formed by the Assam government to propose measures for the overall development of "indigenous Assamese Muslims" submitted their reports, an official release said. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma received the reports and said his government will take measures for the all-around welfare of the community. Sarma had held meeting with eminent personalities from minority community across the state after assuming office.

'Become tech-savvy to remain two steps ahead of criminals'



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Tech Expo of 48th All India Police Science Congress in CAPT Bhopal on Friday.

Bhopal, Apr 22 (PTI):

Underlining the need to modernise the police force, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday advised the police personnel to become tech-savvy in order to remain two steps ahead of criminals. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 48th All India

Police Science Congress (AIPSC) organised by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) here. "Police need to be tech-savvy to remain two steps ahead of criminals," he said. Shah added that there was a need to modernise and train the police force in order to strengthen the country's internal security.

The minister said that in the last eight years, the Narendra Modi government has almost settled the Kashmir issue, and also resolved Naxalism and narcotics problem in the North East region. "After the abrogation of Article 370, large-scale development is happening in Jammu and Kashmir," he said. The two-day event is being held at the Central Academy of Police Training (CAPT) in Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also spoke on the occasion. The main objective of the programme is to provide a common platform to various police forces, units, social scientists, forensic experts and other stakeholders to deliberate on selected themes of topical interests to the Indian police, an official said.

Hijab ban challengers return home without writing exam

Hubballi social media accused attempts exam

Udupi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Two pre-university college students from Udupi who had approached the Karnataka High Court challenging the ban on hijab, returned from the exam centre on Friday as they were not allowed to write the exam wearing hijab. The exam which began on Friday will go on till May 18. The first paper was Business Studies. Over 6.84 lakh students will write the exam at 1,076 centres across the state.

The two girls—Alia and Resham—arrived in an auto-rickshaw at the exam centre wearing burqa. They insisted that they should be allowed to write the exam wearing hijab but the college authorities citing the High Court order denied



Two students were not allowed to take exam in Udupi on Friday.

them entry. Subsequently, the girls returned home. On January 1, six girl students of a college in Udupi attended a press conference held by the Campus Front of India (CFI) in the coastal town protesting against the college authorities denying them entry into classrooms

wearing headscarves. This was four days after they requested the principal permission to wear hijab in classes which was not allowed. Till then, students used to wear the headscarf to the campus, but entered the classroom after removing it, college principal

EARTH DAY WITH MUD



Members of Isha Foundation put mud packs on their hands and faces to celebrate Earth Day, in Chikmagalur, Karnataka on Friday.

Kerala Govt to hold panel discussion on SilverLine

Amid intense protests

Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 22 (PTI): At a time when a fresh round of clashes erupted in the state after a gap over the laying of SilverLine survey stones, the Kerala government is getting ready to conduct a panel discussion involving experts who support and those who have raised technical objection and concerns regarding its flagship semi-high speed rail corridor project.

The two-hour-long discussion, scheduled tentatively on April 27 or 28 at the Mascot Hotel, will be moderated by KP Sudheer, state Principal Secretary (Science and Technology),



Route map of SilverLine project.

official sources here said.

The programme is designed in the format of three experts speaking for the project and three experts speaking against it in the presence of 25-50 invited audience, they said.

The media would reportedly be allowed to cover the debate.

Alok Kumar Verma, a retired Chief Bridge Engineer who was part of preparing the preliminary feasibility report of the SilverLine alias K-Rail project but later raised stiff objection, R V G Menon, a prominent environmental scientist, and Joseph C Mathew, social observer, were included in the panel of those speaking against the project.

Verma, who was here on Wednesday to meet Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and senior government officials to appraise the concerns regarding the mammoth infrastructure project, had told media that he did not get appointment for the meeting.

UP Cyber cops nab two of Jamtara gang



Noida, Apr 22 (PTI):

With the arrest of two men allegedly linked to Jamtara-based cyber cheats, the Uttar Pradesh police on Friday busted an online racket in which connen duped people by taking remote access of their mobile phones. The cyber cheats are using applications which give them access of mobile phones from remote location, including access to

one-time passwords (OTPs) being sent on a user's number without them realising it, they said. In the wake of the finding, the Cyber Wing of the state police has urged people not to use "toll free helpline numbers" of banks or other services published on Google under the "ad" category. Officials of the Cyber Police Station, Noida, have arrested two men, identified as Mohammed Riyaz and Liaq Ahmed, linked to the gang of thugs based in Jamtara, Jharkhand, Superintendent of Police (UP Cyber Police) Triveni Singh said. He said the accused were held as part of a probe into a Rs 5.97 lakh online fraud with daughter of a retired CISF official, who lives in Ghaziabad.

another temple next to Suka Sari temple close to Shree Lingaraj Temple in the old town area of the city. The newly found idol is believed to be a 1400-year-old idol or 7th-century BC, the ASI said. Apart from the Mahisasurmardini idol, several other inscriptions and sculptures have been found from the temple site, ASI Superintending Archaeologist

Congress protest in Assam seeking Mevani's release

Kokrajhar, Apr 22 (PTI):

A day after a court in Assam's Kokrajhar district sent Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani to police custody, the Congress on Friday staged a demonstration outside Kokrajhar Police Station, where the Dalit leader was being held.

Opposing Mevani's "illegal arrest", members of the party demanded his immediate release. They raised slogans against the BJP government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mevani, an Independent MLA supported by the Congress, was apprehended from Palanpur town in Gujarat on Wednesday night after a First Information Report (FIR) under various sections of



Congress workers meet with Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani at Kokrajhar Police Station in Assam.

the IPC and the IT Act was filed in Kokrajhar Police Station over his purported tweet against the prime minister.

According to the FIR, he had purportedly posted a tweet, claiming Prime

Minister Narendra Modi "considered Godse as God".

Mevani was flown to Guwahati from Gujarat on Thursday and then taken to Kokrajhar by road, where he was produced at the chief judicial magistrate's court, which remanded him in three days' police custody.

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) working president and MLA Jakir Hussain Sikdar, leading the protest, claimed that Mevani had been arrested to "thwart his influence" in Gujarat.

"Narendra Modi's pride is going to take a beating when the BJP loses Gujarat soon. Mevani has great influence on people there. This has been done to keep him away," Sikdar claimed.

'Climate change not limited to national boundaries'

It will affect us all: Dalai Lama on Earth Day

Dharamsala, Apr 22 (PTI): Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Friday appealed to people to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and adopt renewable sources of energy.

Talking about the climate crisis in his message on Earth Day, he said that "new challenges, like the climate crisis, that affects us all, as well as our participation in the global economy, mean that we must take the whole of humanity into account".

People need to take urgent steps to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and to adopt renewable sources of energy such as those that rely on the power of the sun and the



Dalai Lama

wind, the Dalai Lama said. "The threat of climate change is not limited by national boundaries, it affects us all," he said.

"In my own life I have witnessed the decline in snowfall, first in Tibet and later, in Dharamsala. Some scientists have told me that there is a risk of places like Tibet eventually becoming deserts," the spiritual leader said.

Historians demand radar survey report be made public

Bhubaneswar, Apr 22 (PTI):

A day after an ASI team discovered an idol of 'Mahisasurmardini' while clearing the 'garbhagriha' (sanctum sanctorum) of a partially-buried temple behind the Bhabani Shankar temple here, heritage lovers demanded that the ground penetration radar survey report of the area close to Shree Lingaraj Temple be made public.

This was the second such discovery in the state capital. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) team had in February this year, discovered an idol of Lord Vishnu while unearthing the ruins of another ancient temple buried in the premises of Suka Sari temple in the Old Town area of Bhubaneswar. The Mahisasurmardini idol was suspected to be in



ASI carrying out survey at Bhabani Shankar temple in Odisha.

(Bhubaneswar circle) Arun Malik said. Historian Anil Dhir, who has been at loggerheads with the government on the ongoing beautification project in the city, said there are many such sites in the areas cleared by the authorities. Dhir claimed that both the ASI and the state government were appraised that the area close to Sukasari temple housed many such temples under

the ground. Rampant excavations were carried out and many valuable carved panels were destroyed or dumped off, Dhir alleged. "Why Ground Penetration Radar survey report of the entire area, conducted by IIT Gandhinagar last year, has not been made public? Dhir asked, adding that there are many more such buried structures, broken temples and idols in the vicinity. Heritage explorer and expert Deepak Nayak, said ASI should not announce that the idol recovered from underneath the ground as 1400 years old. Stating that such a speculation is "wrong", Nayak said only the upper portion of the idol has been excavated. "The age of any Mahisasurmardini sculpture can be identified considering the iconography of the demon the goddess is slaying.

HC restrains cops from arresting Rane for two weeks in Dhule FIR

'Slap' remark against Maha CM

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Friday restrained the Maharashtra police from arresting or taking any coercive action against Union minister Narayan Rane over an FIR filed against him in Dhule district in connection with his 'slap' remark targeted at state Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

A bench of Justices PB Varale and SM Modak granted interim protection to the minister after the state government's counsel YP Yagnik said the police were not willing to make a statement that they will not arrest Rane in the case until further others from the court.



Narayan Rane

Rane, a BJP leader, had approached the high court earlier this year seeking quashing of the FIR registered against him in Dhule district of north Maharashtra over his remark against the CM. His counsel, advocate Satish Maneshinde, had sought that in the interim, Rane

be granted protection from arrest.

Maneshinde had told the high court that there was another FIR registered by the Nashik police against Rane over his remarks. The minister had approached the high court last year for quashing of the Nashik FIR and the Nashik police had undertaken to not take any coercive action against him, he said.

The high court had then asked the state government to take instructions and inform the court if a similar statement could be made in the present case.

On Friday, Yagnik said, "I have taken instructions and the police cannot make any statements.

BRIEF

Bites

Fairfield: A man allegedly bit and stabbed a police dog in Northern California in US as officers tried to take him into custody, authorities said. The man appeared to be under the influence of drugs, according to Fairfield police. The dog, named Cort, was taken to a veterinary hospital for treatment and recovering at home with its handler. Officers were initially called to an elderly victim's home on a report of a burglary. Officers found the man, 44, running around inside.

Highlights

New York: The Authors Guild is launching a Banned Books Club in US, the latest initiative from the literary world in response to the nationwide wave of censorship and restrictions over the past year. Through a partnership with the book club app Fable, the Authors Guild will each month for next year highlight a fiction or nonfiction work that has been pulled from a classroom or school library and facilitate a discussion with author. The first selection is David Levithan's novel.

Convicted

Skopje: A court in North Macedonia convicted the country's fugitive former prime minister, Nikola Gruevski, of using his conservative party's funds to enrich himself and sentenced him in absentia to seven years in prison. The Criminal Court in the capital, Skopje, ruled that Gruevski unlawfully acquired nearly 1.4 million euros from donations to the VMRO-DPMNE party from 2006 to 2012, part of the time when he was in office. Judges also found money laundering to cover tracks.

Fire

Moscow: Six people died and 27 more sustained injuries after a fire broke at a defense research facility in the northwestern Russian city of Tver, authorities of the Tver regions said. The fire erupted in an administrative building of the Aerospace Defense Forces' Central Research Institute, which operates under the Russian Defense Ministry. It quickly engulfed the building's upper three floors, forcing those inside to jump from windows and causing the roof to cave in.

Prison

New York: A Chinese man was sentenced to more than four years in prison after admitting that he fraudulently tried to get 20 million in federal coronavirus-relief funds meant to rescue distressed businesses. US District Judge Richard M Berman announced the four-year, four-month prison term for Muge Ma at a sentencing hearing in Manhattan. The judge said the prison term was necessary because of the seriousness of the crimes and the need for others to be warned.

'US, not Russia, to be India's reliable partner post Ukrainian war'

Washington, Apr 22 (PTI):

It is the United States, and not Russia, which is and will be India's "reliable" partner post the war in Ukraine, the Biden Administration pitched, asserting that it is ready to go the extra mile to meet New Delhi's defence and national security needs.

"I think there are real doubts about Russia's ability to be a reliable partner for the foreseeable future. Because Russia is burning through a tremendous amount of its own military equipment. So, it faces urgent resupply needs of its own," US State Department Counsellor Derek Chollet told PTI in an interview.

Of the rank of Under Secretary of State and a senior policy advisor to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Chollet said the Biden administration is very much eager to work with India as it diversifies its defence capabilities and defence suppliers.

"We very much want to be part of that. We're doing much more than we've ever done in the history of our relationship together in terms of defence. And so, as India's seeking



Derek Chollet

to acquire new capabilities, the United States very much wants to be a partner with India in that effort," he said.

Chollet argued that the military equipment being supplied by Russia has shown it is lacking in capability. "The difficulty of doing business with Russia is only going to grow over time. It's become much harder given all the sanctions placed on Russia in the last 12 weeks," he said.

"Also, the export control against Russia... Russia's inability to import key technologies to be able to make certain products, including some of its military hardware, are going to mean that it's going to have a hard time even getting the capabili-

ty to replace or to produce this kind of material. So, any way you look at it in terms of actual capability, in terms of the difficulty of doing business with Russia, in terms of the reputation costs associated, Russia is just a far less attractive partner, he said.

However, Chollet evaded a direct answer to the question on the US deploying its Seventh Fleet to the Bay of Bengal in December 1971 during the India-Pakistan War, which many in India say is a symbol of the US also not being a reliable partner when needed.

"The US has shown throughout the course of this conflict, something we believe deeply, that we are a very reliable partner. If you think back...the United States made the decision to start sharing some of the most sensitive intelligence that we had about Russia's planning and intentions when it came to Ukraine, our effort to share as much information as we possibly could with our friends and allies around the world in the spirit of being a reliable partner and in trying to bring the

world and make them together and to make them aware of what we were seeing and try to create a unified effort, he said.

Chollet asserted that the India-US relationship has not been impacted by the Ukrainian war.

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine has not impacted the relationship between the US and India. The US-India relationship is deep, it's strong, he said, adding that it has bipartisan support in Washington.

"Obviously, we have talked with our Indian friends about everything from votes in the UN to the defence relationship with Russia. It was a topic of conversation at 2+2 (ministerial meeting) recently, but we fully understand the position that India is in given its longstanding defence relationship with Russia, he said.

"It's important to note that from our perspective we see that the defence relationship (between India and Russia) in a way started and flourished at a time when the United States was not available as a partner to India. Obviously, we are in a much different moment right now, he said.

US is boosting heavy arms for Ukraine



Unexploded munitions and other explosive devices near brovary in Ukraine.

Washington, Apr 22 (AP):

Eight weeks into the war, the Biden administration's decision to dramatically ramp up delivery of artillery guns to Ukraine signals a deepening American commitment at a pivotal stage of fighting for the country's industrial heartland. It also brings into stark relief Moscow's warning that continued US mili-

tary aid to Ukraine would have unpredictable" consequences, suggesting that Russia sees the international wave of weaponry as a growing obstacle to its invasion as well as a Western provocation.

We're in a critical window of time now, President Joe Biden said that in announcing he had approved an additional 800 million in battlefield aid that includes

72 of the US Army's 155mm howitzers, along with 144,000 artillery rounds and more than 120 armed drones that will require training for Ukrainian operators.

This brings to 3.4 billion the amount of security assistance provided since Russia began its invasion Feb. 24. That is an extraordinary total of US military aid for a country to which the United States has no defense treaty obligation.

Heavy weapons such as artillery are shaping up as a key feature of the unfolding battle for Ukraine's eastern region known as the Donbas. The relatively flat terrain is suited for what the military calls maneuver warfare the movement of tanks and other ground forces backed by long-range guns like the 155mm howitzer.

Shanghai extends COVID-19 lockdown as death toll rises

Beijing, Apr 22 (PTI):

Shanghai has extended the COVID-19 lockdown to April 26, amid reports of growing public resentment as the eastern metropolis of 26 million reported 11 more deaths, taking the toll in the current outbreak to 36.

China reported 2,119 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases, of which 1,931 were reported in Shanghai, according to the National Health Commission.

Shanghai has added 17,629 new cases in the previous 24 hours, 4.7 per cent fewer than a day earlier, according to data released on Friday, taking the city's cumulative cases since March 1 to 443,500. Symptomatic cases fell 26.7 per cent to 1,931, in the biggest one-day decline since the outbreak, Hong Kong-based South



Environmental activists wear outfits made of plastic waste marking Earth Day against climate change, along the Han River in Seoul on Friday.

Constitutional amendments will not solve Lanka's crises

Need a change in the political culture: Ex-Army chief

Colombo, Apr 22 (PTI):

Bringing in a raft of constitutional amendments and abolishing the presidential system of governance in the country since 1978, and replace it with a system that reinforces constitutional democracy.

You have to take action against a school principal whenever he abuses a child in the school rather than abolishing the principal's

political culture in the island nation. Sri Lanka's principal Opposition party, Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), presented a constitutional amendment bill that among other provisions seeks to abolish the presidential system of governance, in existence in the country since 1978, and replace it with a system that reinforces constitutional democracy.

post, Fonseka, now a SJB legislator, told Parliament. The move by the SJB came in the backdrop of massive protests demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his Sri Lanka Podujana (Peramuna)-led government over the country's worst economic crisis.

The SJB presented the draft 21st constitution amendment bill to the secretary-general of parliament with proposals including the abolition of the current executive presidential system.

Bodyguards status symbol amid Venezuela's crime and poverty

Caracas, Apr 22 (AFP):

In a rich neighborhood east of Caracas, a bodyguard flashes his rifle as a private armored car with dark tinted windows speeds away under his intimidating watch.

In Venezuela, one of the most violent countries in the world, having an armed escort has long been a shield against kidnapping, and worse. Today, it is increasingly also a display of status.

In the well-to-do neighborhoods of the capital,



A bodyguard escorts a man as he gets out of his vehicle outside a shopping centre in Caracas.

two-car convoys of armored 4x4s without num-

ber plates are a common sight, disregarding speed

limits and red traffic lights.

They zigzag through traffic with blaring sirens and flashing red and blue lights, almost like police fleet. Some are accompanied by a motorcycle for a quick getaway, if needed. Who is the precious cargo?

Members of Venezuela's moneyed class — public officials or entrepreneurs, especially those colloquially referred to as the "enchufados" (plugged-ins) for their profitable business dealings, often illicit, with the government.

UK patient had COVID-19 for 505 days straight

London, Apr 22 (AP):

A UK patient with a severely weakened immune system had COVID-19 for almost a year and a half, scientists reported, underscoring the importance of protecting vulnerable people from the coronavirus.

There's no way to know for sure whether it was the longest-lasting COVID-19 infection because not everyone gets tested, especially on a regular basis like this case.

But at 505 days, it certainly seems to be the longest reported infection," said Dr Luke Blagdon Snell, an infectious disease expert at the Guy's and St Thomas'

NHS Foundation Trust. Snell's team plans to present several persistent COVID-19 cases at an infectious diseases meeting in Portugal this weekend. Their study investigated which mutations arise — and whether variants evolve — in people with super long infections. It involved nine patients who tested positive for the virus for at least eight weeks. All had weakened immune systems from organ transplants, HIV, cancer or treatment for other illnesses. None were identified for privacy reasons. Repeated tests showed their infections lingered for an average of 73 days.

Two had the virus for more than a year. Previously, researchers said, the longest-known case that was confirmed with a PCR test lasted 335 days. Persistent COVID-19 is rare and different from long Covid.

"In long Covid, it's generally assumed the virus has been cleared from your body but the symptoms persist, Snell said. With persistent infection, it represents ongoing, active replication of the virus.

Each time researchers tested patients, they analyzed the genetic code of the virus to make sure it was the same strain and that people didn't get COVID-19 more than once.

Revitalised Angkor Wat brings hope for Cambodian tourism

Siem Reap, Apr 22 (AFP):

As dawn breaks, foreign tourists gather by the ancient towers of Cambodia's Angkor Wat, some of the lucky few to see the World Heritage Site with the crowds thin as the country recovers from the coronavirus.

Hopes are high that the temple complex, recently revitalised from repair work, will spearhead a recovery in tourism after the Southeast Asian nation began re-opening to travellers last November.

A handful of overseas visitors are once again roaming the sacred site, with many calling it a



Apsara Authority spokesman Long Kosal (R) talking to a guard at the Angkor Wat temple complex.

unique opportunity.

"I think it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience to really see it with such few

tourists," Belgian holiday-maker Marjan Colombe told AFP. "It's so different." On previous visits to

the 12th-century ruins she had been forced to jostle with others and endure long queues, she said. Despite the huge economic cost for Cambodia, the pandemic has been a boon for renovations and conservation work at Angkor Wat. The government agency that manages the UNESCO site says the shutdown allowed extra time and space for repair work, maintenance and gardening.

"Our temples could rest too," APSARA Authority spokesman Long Kosal said.

Workers fixed crumbling towers and installed

a water system to keep the grass green during the dry season. Local businesses in Siem Reap are now seeing an uptick in bookings after Covid-19 decimated tourism. Chea Sokhon, general manager of Sarai Resort and Spa — which closed in April 2020 and laid off its 100 employees — is rehiring as foreign tourists return. "It's like we are starting from zero," he said, laying out the challenges he faces. The businessman, who also sits on the tourism board for Siem Reap, said about 20 percent of hotels in the city have re-opened this year and about 30 percent are preparing.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम विलासपुर (उ.प्र.)				
ई-निविदा सूचना				
क्र.सं.	SYSTEM TENDER No.	कार्य का नाम	प्रामाणिक राशि (लाख में)	निविदा सलनामे/समिति करने की तिथि
1	97716	Construction of CC Road Utam Majumdar House to Tapan Dhanani House at Ward No.48	26.74	13-05-2022
2	97717	Construction of CC Road Sajag Prasad to Berjarpur at Ward No. 48	29.72	13-05-2022
3	97718	Construction of CC Road Mahaveer City to Kalyan Baag at Ward No. 51.	69.48	13-05-2022
4	97719	Construction of CC Road Main Road FCI to Mohan Kashyap House at Ward No. 52	47.43	13-05-2022
5	97720	Construction of BT Road Bajrang Chowk to Apollo Chowk at Ward No. 52.	32.08	13-05-2022
6	97721	Construction of BT Road Seepat Main Road to DLS College at Ward No. 57.	82.18	13-05-2022
7	97740	Providing, Laying & Jointing Different Dia of Pipe Line for Water Supply at Ward No.52.	30.38	13-05-2022

अन्य जानकारी ई प्रोक्वायरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से दिनांक 22.04.2022 के बाद प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

जोन नगरपालिका, जेन क्रमांक-7
Green City, Clean City, Dream City. नगर पालिक निगम विलासपुर (उ.प्र.)



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 23

Shifting Indo-UK ties

Meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the relationship between the two countries is stronger than ever. Johnson said he hoped the UK would complete another free trade agreement with India by the end of the year. The UK imported more from India than from any other Commonwealth country. The nature of relationship between India and UK has shifted from former colony and empire to that of equal partners. The UK also released an integrated review of its foreign policy, pegged as one of its most comprehensive foreign policy reviews since the Cold War, in which it affirmed its decision to 'tilt to the Indo-Pacific', though the details have yet to be made clear. Though Britain's tilt to the Indo-Pacific has been underway for some time, that its recent commitment to the region had to do with the Chinese action in the region. Both India and the UK are founding members of the Coalition for the Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, which was launched by the Indian prime minister in 2019. Past road maps and trade ambitions look like distractions in hindsight. Perhaps, a partnership that creates an additional option on China outweighed immediate gains for India. Since the signing of the strategic partnership agreement in 2004, India and the UK have shared a cordial relationship. Decades after that, India and the UK still keep the ball rolling through the newly introduced Roadmap 2030.

Signed in early May 2021, the Roadmap charts the course of bilateral relations between India and Britain for the next 10 years and identifies key areas of cooperation ranging from climate change, education, healthcare to trade and investment. Roadmap 2030 sets forth a framework for the nations to increase their military technology cooperation through combined initiatives, mainly in air and naval combat. A portion of this effort particularly focuses on the development of new combat aircraft capabilities, such as India's locally built Light Combat Aircraft- Tejas. In Naval Technology, Britain has great prospects to work with the Indian Navy to advance electric propulsion systems for India's next-generation carriers and warships. India and the UK have a long history of shared commitment to furthering educational ties. With more than fifty thousand Indian students studying in the UK, India is a major contributor to the British Higher Education system. Though the story may not be the same for India, the advent of the Roadmap and the recently approved National Education Policy (NEP) provides a new outlook to India-UK Educational Cooperation. In this light, it is noticed that both academics and research, would get a boost because the Roadmap is conceived in the spirit of internationalization as outlined in the NEP. With the NEP in sight, it is possible that in the coming years, the Roadmap might enable several mutually beneficial academic and research collaborations between Indian and British Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and even channelize the establishment of British University campuses in India. Adding, the roadmap also aims to take the NEP's salient recommendations to a greater level by promoting digital education, vocational training, and creating international research collaborations through existing programmes like the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). More that governments, it is people for India and UK which lead the ties between these two nations.

Narrative of history

The difference between official national narratives of heroism and victimhood is not as great as it might seem. The point of history as propaganda in China and Russia and Israel, is that it legitimizes those in power. Until the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, official Chinese accounts paid little attention to the Nanjing Massacre. History under Mao was instead a heroic tale of communist victory over fascist and bourgeois oppressors. Nanjing had been the Chinese Nationalist capital at the time of the Sino-Japanese War. The massacre was thus a story of Nationalist defeat, not communist heroism. By the time of Mao's death, Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought had lost their appeal, even for many CPC members. The new party orthodoxy is a form of nationalism based on memories of collective humiliation, such as the Nanjing Massacre, whose stain only the CPC's continued hegemony can erase. A Moscow court ordered the closure of Russia's Memorial International and its sister organization, Memorial Human Rights Centre. Memorial was founded in 1989 to investigate Stalin-era crimes in the Soviet Union and to honour the victims. Like Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin wants to control the historical narrative. That means glossing over the horrors of Stalinism and highlighting the heroic victory of the Russian people against fascism in World War II.

History has of course always been political. At least since the time of the great court historian Sima Qian, born around 140 BC, official scribes in China have compiled histories to lend legitimacy to the rulers who commissioned them. Every dynasty had its own historians. Much the same was true in ancient Rome. But history in Western democracies can nonetheless be highly political. Consider the role that the history of slavery plays in US politics today. While some on the left project America's history as one of white supremacy, right-wing politicians try to have books that make this case banned from schools. Significantly, official history in Xi's China is in line with the strong tendency in the West to define collective identity in terms of victimhood. If the official narrative of Mao's China was in the heroic mould, history under Xi is a story of unrelieved degradation at the hands of foreign invaders until the communist revolution of 1949. The heroic story of the 1934-35 Long March, when Mao's Red Army evaded Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists, is now less important than the Chinese people's sufferings in Nanjing or during the nineteenth-century Opium Wars. Triumphant history has many dangers. A feeling of national superiority blinds people to their own faults and makes them oblivious to the way they treat others. It can also foster natural sense of entitlement. India shall avoid such narrative of history.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

LIGHTHOUSE



Lighthouse of Isla de Lobos, a small island located about 8 km off the coast of Punta del Este, Maldonado, 140 km east of Montevideo, Uruguay.

Underground fish species under threat due to poor water governance



TV PADMA

India's treasure-house of ancient underground Gondwana fishes, in the global biodiversity hotspot of Western Ghats, are under threat due to over-exploitation of its groundwater and poor water governance. The problem is worsened by climate change leading to droughts, which is causing almost half of the dug-out wells to run dry during summer, the crucial season for subterranean fishes, scientists from Kochi report in Trends in Ecology and Evolution. The country needs to map its aquifers and their biodiversity, as well as treat its aquifers as 'commons', the scientists suggest. Experts also need to address the ecological consequences of its groundwater depletion, they say. India's Western Ghats (WG) hotspot is home to more than 300 species of fish, 70 percent of which are endemic. India is also one of the largest users of groundwater in the world, an estimated 230 cubic km each year, for urban water supply and agriculture, the report says. This has resulted in rapid depletion of aquifers across the country. The subterranean or groundwater ecosystems of Kerala harbour unique biodiversity - ancient relics from the Gondwana supercontinent, says Rajeev Raghavan, assistant professor at the department of fisheries resource management, at Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Kochi, (KUFOS) and one of the study authors.

Examples include the Gollum snakehead, Aenigmachanna gollum, which is considered a living fossil and the blind shrimp, Eurindicus. 'Their future survival depends on how the local communities living and depending on groundwater, manage this resource, and how the policy makers

frame significant frameworks to ensure groundwaters are sustained for the future,' he says. The link between water governance and threatened freshwater biodiversity is an area that has not received conservation and policy attention in India, says Raghavan. 'This gap is particularly significant with regard to groundwater governance and biodiversity. To the best of our knowledge, there has not been any discussion in India about how unmanaged groundwater extraction and poor governance is impacting the unique subterranean biodiversity,' he adds. The water quality parameters have completely changed, with extensive groundwater contamination with fertilisers, pesticides and industrial effluents, says Arunkumar Manimekalan, professor at Bharatiyar University, Coimbatore, whose team has been reporting on the enormous fish diversity in the Western Ghats.

It is logical to expect that any subterranean fishes present 'could have been modified, both physiologically and morphologically,' he says. Manimekalan's team has studied fish using cast nets, dip nets, gill nets and drag nets, from various streams and rivers of the southern Western Ghats. They recorded a total of 64 species, of which nearly 15 species were found to be threatened in the Western Ghats. Garra periyarensis and Cirrhinus cirrhosus are known to be vulnerable and Hemibagrus punctatus is critically endangered because of various anthropogenic activities, they report. 'The study clearly indicates that certain timely measures have to be taken immediately to protect the fish fauna in the southern Western Ghats.' Barely 3 percent of the fishes have been studied for ecology, says Manimekalan, and not more than 10 percent of the world's diverse fishes have been identified. The Kochi team's findings add to previous warnings that human activities such as large-scale deforestation, building hydropower plants, and large river basin alterations are endangering the endemic fishes unique to the Western Ghats. TV Ramachandra, professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru, says that the study on Gondwana fishes provides valuable

insights to the threat of endemic biodiversity due poor governance of natural resources. 'Prudent management of natural resources entails understanding of linkages between vegetation cover, surface water, groundwater, and aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity,' he says.

Ramachandra's team of scientists had discovered two new fish species, Schistura nogodiensis and Schistura sharavathiensis, in Sharavathi river basin in the central Western Ghats of Karnataka state. He cautions that fish diversity is linked to landscape dynamics. IISc scientists had also previously discovered an unusual frog species that bypasses the tadpole stage to overcome scarcity of water, as streams and rivers become seasonal, and with land cover changes in the catchment. 'This is important from the impending changes in climate due to global warming, leading to the conversion of perennial streams and rivers to seasonal streams and rivers,' says Ramachandra. The watershed of a river too plays a vital role in sustaining the hydrologic regime, says Ramachandra. Analyses of landscape dynamics across the west flowing major rivers of the central Western Ghats in Karnataka show degradation of forests, the area of which has declined from 74.19 percent in 1973 to 48.04 percent in 2018. There has been heavy loss of evergreen forests, which have reduced from 56.07 percent to 24.85 percent during the period, mainly due to developmental activities such as construction of dams, power projects, forest-based industries such as paper mills, road expansions, urbanisation, and encroachment for horticulture and agriculture. The forests are currently confined to the Ghats and protected areas, he says. The water catchment areas are crucial, as areas with perennial rivers support rich biodiversity, with higher number of species of both flora and fauna. Ramachandra's team studied four river basins and found endemic species of plants and animals' catchments with perennial streams.

Scientists who are beginning to document the fishes in the Western Ghats are calling for more proactive, timely measures to protect the fish

there. Raghavan's team recommends treating aquifers as common heritage or 'commons' to ensure sustainable groundwater management and aquifer protection. Groundwater aquifers are natural resources, which are accessible to all members of the society, says Raghavan. Hence, 'they are commons that belong to everybody, and owned by nobody.' Surface resources such forests and surface waters can be easily partitioned into private and commons so that the commons can be managed and regulated to ensure equitable share for all the various stakeholders, Raghavan suggests. That said, since aquifers are underground and the access points, such as wells, could be in private land, their governance is tricky and has led to poor governance of aquifer. 'One of the important policies to protect aquifers is to make it explicitly clear that though the wells and other access points for aquifers could be in private land, the aquifers themselves are common,' he adds. Manimekalan suggests that fishes should be given the same importance for conservation like the big mammals such as tigers and elephants. Sadly, fishes are given importance as a food resource, and not for maintaining aquatic diversity and conservation. 'If fishes are conserved, the entire water body is conserved,' he points out. 'Some fishes are highly sensitive to the presence of contaminants and serve as indirect indicators of pollution in water bodies.' The IISc research in the Western Ghats shows that areas with perennial streams are dominated by native vegetation, unlike areas with seasonal streams, which have a high degree of human activities with monoculture plantations. Raghavan and Manimekalan also suggest raising awareness of both local communities and policy makers of the unique, ancient, and threatened biodiversity in India's groundwater systems. Also, needed are policies, including strict laws and their enforcement with the participation of ecologists and conservationists, on groundwater resource use and management.

(TV Padma writes on science and environment issues and based in Delhi.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Discovery

Gone are the days when it took several long years for scientists to identify and diagnose rare genetic diseases. Kudos to the team of researchers from Sydney and collaborators from Australia, the UK, and Israel for designing a novel DNA test that can diagnose over 50 genetic diseases caused by unusually long repetitive DNA sequences in a person's genes. Published in the journal 'Science Advances', this groundbreaking discovery helps diagnose the complex symptoms of unknown genetic diseases; that foregoes the limitations of existing genetic testing methods. Their studies indicate that the test is accurate, and allow the team to begin validations to make the test available in pathology laboratories around the world. This new test works by scanning a patient's genome using a new technology called 'Nanopore' sequencing. This new DNA test can identify a range of neurological and neuromuscular abnormalities that have a genetic background. Neurologists specializing in the field say that this new single DNA test offers a quick treatment that helps identify and diagnose the disease rapidly and accurately. This test also helps patients get early treatments and avoid unnecessary drugs. This new technology raises hopes among patients with rare genetic disorders that are inheritable in most cases.

Krishna Kumar, via email

Hindi speakers

The growth of Hindi speakers in 2011 is high because of the inclusion of languages such as Bhojpuri, is strange. Such languages were classified as a part of Hindi even in earlier censuses. The real reason is the differentials in fertility rates between Hindi-speaking and non-Hindi speaking areas. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, etc. had much lower fertility from the 1980s when compared to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana. The low level of education in the Hindi-speaking areas contributed substantially to high fertility in the Hindi-speaking areas. I would not agree with the line about Bangla having 'negative growth' as well. The number of speakers has risen by 8 percent from 8.3 crore to 9.7 crore. The decline in the percentage of speakers of most languages other than Hindi is due to the disproportionate rise of Hindi speakers, aided substantially by higher fertility.

Narayana, via email

Vindictive

Vindictive, unconstitutional and totally one-sided actions being taken by the administrative machinery in certain States make it appear as if there is a race to plumb further depths in depravity in a growing agenda of hate. Razing the property and houses of alleged rioters without following due process not only lacks any legal force but also callously disregards any notion of fairness or humane sensitivity towards families. Enforcing such collective punishment is barbaric, turns the clock back on legal and constitutional jurisprudence, and ends up disreputing India's standing among nations in claiming to have a democratic and civilised political system. One hopes that institutions and officers who swear by the Constitution are able to learn some lessons from the how the London police has upheld its independence in indicting the British Prime Minister and his Cabinet Minister for having flouted the government's lockdown rules. Unless such street violence and public injustice is checked, both sane religiosity and the idea of India itself will remain under threat.

Firoz, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Shailesh@Mulki

India's ability to withstand Chinese aggression at its border, followed by aggressive foreign policy with India baiters - Earlier Malaysian government and Turkey, and now pushing back US bullying on Russian oil has given foreign policy some spine.

Vishwanath@vishy972

Am less stunned y the act of the usa govt as it is handful of elite families that together with. Lobby and trust (foundations) that is actually running this. What I get angry is the educated ordinary citizens who lack spine to question n haul their politicians.



Bhaskaran@br_cse

Just by frac of pop which died, Spanish Flu (SF) was 30x more deadly. Also SF killed young people who had 40-50 years of life ahead, instead of old/comorbid like Covid. So SF was easily 200-300x more deadly. So comparison of Covid with Spanish Flu is a psy-op on an epic scale.

Chandrashekhar@cdbhage

Mumbai Trans Harbor Link. #MTHL



Ishkaran@ishkarn

Gross abuse of state power to arrest in cases of speech is becoming an unsolvable problem. All parties are guilty. Unfortunately people cheer when happens to supporters of opposite party. Endless Loop. End Result- All Politicians benefit & all citizens suffer.



Prithish@PrithishNandy

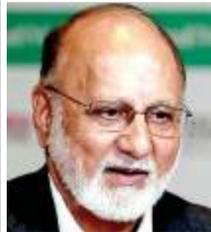
Why are so many Bombay High Court judges recusing themselves from hearing the Elgar Parishad case where so many scholars and activists remain incarcerated and a 83 year old, Parkinson's-stricken Jesuit priest died in prison repeatedly claiming his innocence? #Curiously.

Vivek@Viv_Krishnan

'Finally!'...that expression nails it. We take it as a sign that our armed forces are receptive & will walk the talk on indigenisation/home grown tech, if it's 'honest on promises'. FYI, we've failed many times in the run up to getting the product to here 'finally'.

BRIEF

Strengthen



New Delhi: Hero Electric on Friday said it has joined hands with Even Cargo, the country's first women-only delivery platform, to strengthen the last-mile delivery segment. Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill said some have chosen various talent competencies.

IPO

New Delhi: Sah Polymers Ltd has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO will be a fresh issue of 1,02,00,000 equity shares, with no offer-for-sale component, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Proceeds from the issue will be utilised for manufacturing of new Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers (FIBC) plant and expansion of production capacity; funding working capital requirements.

Elevates



Mumbai: Marriott International on Friday said it has promoted Ranju Alex as its Area Vice President for the South Asia region. Alex will take over the charge from Neeraj Govil — who was relocated to Singapore after being appointed as Senior Vice President of Operations.

Tumbles

New Delhi: Shares of agrochemicals firm Rallis India on Friday tumbled nearly 10 per cent after it reported a consolidated loss of Rs 14 crore for March quarter 2021-22. The stock tanked 9.19 per cent to Rs 255.25 on the BSE. At the NSE, it went lower by 9.61 per cent to Rs 254.40. Rallis India, a subsidiary of Tata Chemicals, reported a consolidated loss of Rs 14 crore for March quarter due to multiple challenges, including in seeds business.

Acquire



New Delhi: ITC Infotech on Friday said it will acquire a portion of PTC's product lifecycle management (PLM) implementation services. ITC Infotech MD CEO Sudip Singh said the creation of DXP Services will take our relationship to a whole new level.

FM reaffirms India's commitment to fighting money laundering

Need to address challenges relating to conflict
Washington: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said it was necessary to address the challenges of conflict and violence to achieve the twin role of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attends FATF Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC.

Washington, Apr 22 (PTI):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has reaffirmed India's political commitment to fighting money laundering and terrorist financing as she appreciated the role of FATF global network in safeguarding the global financial system. Sitharaman said this as she attended the FATF Ministerial Meeting conducted here alongside the 2022 Spring Meetings of

the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to endorse the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force's strategic priorities for the years 2022-24. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the in-

ternational financial system. During the meeting, Sitharaman reaffirmed India's commitment to fighting money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement. She also acknowledged and appreciated the FATF on their work on beneficial ownership transparency, asset recovery,

and the role of FATF Global network in safeguarding the global financial system, it said. The FATF Ministerial Meeting focused on ministers' providing strategic direction, by endorsing the FATF's strategic priorities for the years 2022-24 and reinforcing ministers' commitment to ensure suitable funding for the delivery of the strategic priorities, the ministry said.

The priorities are strengthening the FATF global network, FATF systems of mutual evaluations, enhancing international beneficial ownership transparency, increasing capabilities to more effectively recover criminal assets, leveraging digital transformation, ensuring sustainable funding for FATF strategic priorities, it said.

The priorities are strengthening the FATF global network, FATF systems of mutual evaluations, enhancing international beneficial ownership transparency, increasing capabilities to more effectively recover criminal assets, leveraging digital transformation, ensuring sustainable funding for FATF strategic priorities, it said.

Sensex tumbles over 714 pts on weak global trends

Bears return to D-Street after 2-day rally

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):



Equity markets halted their two-day rally on Friday, with the Sensex tumbling 714.53 points amid weak global equities and selling in index majors Infosys, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries. Continuous foreign fund outflows also dented sentiments. The BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 714.53 points or 1.23 per cent to settle at 57,197.15. During the day, it plummeted 776.96 points or 1.34 per cent to 57,134.72.

The NSE Nifty also declined 220.65 points or 1.27 per cent to 17,171.95. Among the 30-share Sensex pack, State Bank of India, Hindustan Unilever, IndusInd Bank, Dr Reddy's, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank and Infosys declined the most. In contrast, M&M, Bharti Airtel, Maruti, ITC, Asian

Paints and HCL Technologies were the gainers. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul settled lower, while Shanghai ended marginally higher.

Markets in Europe were trading lower in the afternoon session. Stocks in the US had ended lower.

"This excessively volatile market without any clear direction is being influenced on a daily basis by two factors - one, external and two, internal. The external factor is the erratic movement in the mother market US where the S&P 500 and Nasdaq go up by around 2 per cent one day and go down by around 2 per cent the next day. "The internal factor influencing the market is the see-saw tussle between FIIs and DIIs. Both these external and internal factors are erratic now and that's why the market is volatile without any direction," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Rupee slumps 32 paise at 76.49 against USD, gold rises

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

The rupee declined 32 paise to close at 76.49 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, in line with a sell-off in domestic equities and a firm greenback in the overseas markets. Persistent foreign capital outflows also dented investor sentiment, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened sharply lower at 76.31 against the greenback and lost further ground during the session. The domestic unit witnessed an intraday high of 76.19 and a low of 76.50.

It finally settled at 76.49, a fall of 32 paise over its previous close of 76.17. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's

strength against a basket of six currencies, increased 0.45 per cent to 101.06. Bullion prices showed mixed trend on Friday.

Gold prices on Friday rose by Rs 187 to Rs 52,600 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 187 or 0.36 per cent at Rs 52,600 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 16,617 lots.

Fresh positions built up by participants led to the rise in gold prices, analysts said. Globally, gold was trading 0.38 per cent higher at USD 1,955.60 per ounce in New York.

AEPC making efforts to promote brand India

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) on Friday said it is making efforts to promote brand India at various global platforms by showcasing its strength on sustainability, ethical sourcing and manufacturing, labour standards, and women employment. AEPC Chairman Narendra Goenka also said that availability of cotton, jute, silk and wool along with the second largest spinning and weaving capacity provides the industry an opportunity for a 95 per cent domestic value addition. The council has organised a two-day Fashion Meet Expo 2022. The expo seeks to bring together the entire textile ecosystem from fiber-to-fashion including manufacturers, accessories players, dyes, machine makers, startups, designers, buying agents, exporters, and fashion institutes.

India, UK decide to push for sealing ambitious FTA by this year

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson on Friday pushed for closing the negotiations for a free trade agreement by the end of the year, and agreed on a new and expanded bilateral defence and security partnership. In their wide-ranging talks, Modi and Johnson vowed to give fresh momentum to overall ties and reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the Roadmap 2030 that listed ambitious targets for deeper collaborations in diverse sectors. In his media statement, Modi said good progress has been made in negotiations for the India-UK free trade



Officials exchange documents after meeting of PM Narendra Modi and British PM Boris Johnson at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, Friday.

agreement. "We have decided to do our best to conclude the free trade agreement by the end of this year," Modi said in presence of Johnson. He said both sides emphasised on a

free, open, inclusive and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific while reiterating the need for respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all countries. We reiterated

our support for peaceful, stable and secure Afghanistan, he said, adding it is necessary that Afghan territory is not used to spread terrorism in other countries.

On the Ukraine crisis, Modi emphasised dialogue and diplomacy to address the problem and called for an immediate ceasefire.

In his remarks, Johnson described the ties between India and Britain as "one of defining friendships of our times". We have agreed on a new and expanded defence and security partnership, he said.

Johnson said the UK is creating India specific open general export licensing to reduce delivery times for defence procurement.

71% of polluting cos optimistic of achieving green goals

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

About seven in ten domestic companies, mostly the polluting ones spanning ten sectors, are confident of meeting their emission reduction goals, pushed by investors as also committed by the government at the last UN summit on climate change, according to a survey.

At the United Nation's 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) held in the Scottish city of Glasgow last November, the government had committed to boosting the green goals further by pushing organizations to reduce emissions.

In a report released on the Earth Day (April 22), the Boston Consulting Group said its survey covered ten sectors — auto, ce-

ment, consumer goods, financial services, oil & gas, manufacturing, metals, power & utilities, profes-



sional services, and technology, including feedback from 143 CXOs.

The survey showed that 71 per cent of them are confident of meeting their green goals.

When it comes to implementing and achieving the sustainability goals, a significant number of the companies said they face

steep challenges in the form of technology in meeting the ESG data-related issues like real-time data integration, regulatory challenges such as want of standard regulations, and financial challenges like high cost of technologies and building a competitive cost," Anirban Mukherjee, managing di-

rector and a partner at BCG India, told PTI.

Only when these roadblocks are resolved through regulatory norms and scalable innovative solutions, can organizations truly implement their sustainability efforts to bring about greater changes in the way they conduct their businesses, he added.

According to the survey, as much as 71 per cent of the respondents are confident of achieving the COP26 goals with an encouraging regulatory framework with aspects such as incentives for low carbon technologies, and carbon-pricing mechanisms.

Most respondents from cement, metals, and power and utilities industries are highly confident of achieving the sustainability goals.

Panasonic Life Solutions India inaugurates new manufacturing unit in Sri City

New Delhi, Apr 22:

Panasonic Life Solutions India, a wholly owned subsidiary of Panasonic Corporation, announced the opening of its new manufacturing facility in Sri City, Andhra Pradesh. The facility aims to strengthen the company's presence in the Southern Region and develop market synergies by providing swift material deliveries and customer delight. The company will be making a total investment of Rs 600 cr in two phases, the first phase of INR 300Cr has been made. Through this facility, the aim is to support the infrastructure development, create employment opportunities, and industrial development in Andhra



Pradesh. It will contribute to the company's larger goal of increasing capacity expansion in India and carbon neutrality by 2030 to deliver on the promise of a carbon-neutral future.

Addressing the occasion, Mr. Kawamoto, Business Unit Head - Power Component Business, Panasonic Corporation, Japan, added that, "India is on a growth trajectory and this

growth will need tremendous support from the ECM industry for people to "Live their Best". We see this as a tremendous opportunity for making human life simpler, safer, and comfortable, by enhancing the consumer experience through our technologically advanced products, with Japanese standards, which will now be manufactured at this facility in India."

Skoda Auto expands its certified pre-owned business at over 100 facilities in India

Mumbai, Apr 22:

With a slew of new product launches, continuous sales growth and rapid network expansion, Skoda Auto India has further enhanced its used car business, Certified Pre-Owned, at over 100 dealerships. With this expansion, Skoda now offers a wider reach of 360-degree, under-one-roof, car-buying, selling and exchange conveniences to its customers. Zac Hollis, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said, "Cars, more than any other machine, are likely to have you form an emotional connect. Especially a Skoda. With Certified Pre-Owned, it is our attempt to ensure all kinds of Skoda cars are easily accessible to cus-

tomers. It is a showcase of our 20+ years in India and our long-standing quality and durability. Any customer or fan of Skoda can walk in to a Certified Pre-Owned facility or log in to the site. And they will be assured of quality and surety. Be it buying a used Skoda, selling their Skoda, or exchanging for a brand new Skoda." As on date, more than 2,500 used cars have been delivered through Skoda Auto India's Certificate-Owned network. In a Certified Pre-Owned facility, customers can buy a pre-owned car, sell their existing car of any make, model and condition or exchange the same and upgrade to a brand new Skoda. Each Certified Pre-Owned facility offers de-

tailed evaluations going through 115 quality check points by Evaluation Consultants trained by Skoda Auto India. The price thus arrived at and offered to customers is the price the car deserves based on its specifications and condition. Customers wanting to upgrade to a brand new Skoda also get the benefits of a special Exchange Bonus. The cars in the fleet confirm to the stringent quality standards of Skoda Auto. In addition, certain cars are thoroughly refurbished to ensure a delightful ownership experience for potential buyers. Only select cars attain the 'Certified' badge conforming to the highest level of technical quality, clean titles and documents.

Adani acquires India's largest marine services company Ocean Sparkle

Ahmedabad, Apr 22:

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd ("APSEZ") through its subsidiary, The Adani Harbour Services Ltd ("TAHSL"), has entered into a definitive agreement for acquisition of 100% stake in Ocean Sparkle Ltd ("OSL"), India's leading third-party marine services provider. Key activities carried by the company include wage, pilotage, and dredging. With an asset base of 94 owned vessels and 13 third-party owned vessels, OSL is a market leader. OSL is valued at an enterprise value of INR 1,700 Cr with INR 300 Cr of free cash in the company. The company was established in 1995 by a group of ma-



rine technocrats with Mr. P Jairaj Kumar as the Chairman and MD, who will continue as the Chairman of the OSL board.

"Given the synergies of OSL and Adani Harbour Services, the consolidated business is likely to double in five years with improved margins, thereby creating significant value for APSEZ's shareholders," said Mr. Karan Adani, CEO and Whole-time Director, APSEZ. "This acquisition not only provides APSEZ

a significant share of India's marine services market but also provides us a platform for building presence in other countries, thereby facilitating APSEZ's journey towards becoming the largest port operator globally by 2030 and largest integrated transport utility in India." OSL has long-standing relationships with its existing clients, with contracts ranging from 5 to 20 years (average length of contracts is ~7 years).

Further, the contracts are on Take or Pay (TOPA) basis, thereby providing robustness to OSL's business model. The Company has presence in all the major ports, 15 minor ports and all the 3 LNG terminals in India.

As G-20 chair, India has unique role in addressing global challenges

Washington, Apr 22 (PTI): As the chair of the powerful grouping of G-20 countries next year, India has a unique role to play to overcome global challenges by reaching out to different parts of the world using its long tradition of being inclusive and open to collaborate with all countries, the head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva made the remarks at a joint news conference with Nadia Calvi o, Chair, the International Monetary and Finance Committee of the IMF. "They (India) have a unique role to play to overcome challenges by reaching out to different parts of the world using India's long tradition of being inclusive and open to collaborate with all countries, she said.

Struggling KKR face stern Gujarat Titans test

Navi Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

Former champions Kolkata Knight Riders will be desperate to bring their flagging campaign back on track when they face leaders Gujarat Titans in the IPL here on Saturday.

Having suffered three defeats in a row, the Shreyas Iyer-led outfit has slipped to seventh in the table and the task gets tougher against the Titans, who have been a revelation in their maiden season.

The Hardik Pandya-led Gujarat Titans have been firing on all cylinders, with their batting prowess and bowling might.

Pandya pulled out of their last match against Chennai Super Kings owing to a groin injury but it was business as usual for the Titans as stand-in skipper Rashid Khan led the team to a three-wicket win over the four-time champions. The biggest plus in their win against CSK was Rashid's sensational form with the bat as he smashed a 21-ball 40 to help his team chase down the target with a ball spare.

GT's opening combination may not have given them the desired start and most of the times the middle-order has rescued the Titans. It was David Miller (94 not out from 51 balls)



who anchored the show against Chennai after half the side were back in the pavilion with 87 runs inside 13 overs.

According to Rashid, Pandya's injury was "not serious and there's nothing to be worried about."

Pandya has been in superlative form with 228

runs from five innings at an average of 76.00.

The onus would be on Kolkata's bowlers to seize the momentum and stop the Titans' three-match winning run.

KKR's pace attack led by Pat Cummins and Umesh Yadav and spinner Varun Chakravarthy (30 runs

from two overs) were taken to cleaners by the Rajasthan Royals batters in their last match.

It remains to be seen if the team think-tank would bring back Tim Southee in the XI as the key lies in getting early breakthroughs and giving Sunil Narine a perfect stage to restrict the

flow of runs.

Narine, a vital cog in KKR's wheel for long, has once again been their go-to man and boasts of the best economy rate of 5.03 after seven matches.

The batters have stopped taking risks against the Trinidadian and he would hope that their pace battery gives some early breakthroughs to make the task easier for the wrist spinner.

The game also throws an interesting match-up between former KKR batter Shubman Gill and Narine.

Gill had a fine start to the tournament and scored 84 (vs Delhi) and 96 (vs Punjab) but has gone quiet since then.

As for KKR batting, captain Iyer is fresh from a fine 85 against Rajasthan Royals, but he would hope their opening issue is resolved. KKR's investment in India Test batter Ajinkya Rahane (80 runs from five matches; average 16.00, strike-rate 100.00) as an opener has been a big letdown, forcing the think-tank to try out different combinations in the last two matches.

In such a scenario, the Titans bowling attack in Mohammed Shami, Lockie Ferguson, Rashid Khan and Pandya would look to capitalise.

Upbeat Sunrisers square up against RCB

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

Umran Malik's raw pace and Bhuvneshwar Kumar's consistency will be put to test against Dinesh Karthik's explosive batting and the finesse of Faf du Plessis when Sunrisers Hyderabad clash with Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, here on Saturday.

Malik has caught everyone's attention with his fiery deliveries this season. His tearway pace has even troubled established batters such as Shreyas Iyer.

Alongside senior teammate Bhuvneshwar, the 22-year-old formed a match-winning partnership to defeat Punjab Kings by seven-wickets in their previous outing.

Sunrisers, who are targeting a top-4 position, also have yorker-specialist T Natarajan and South African Marco Jansen in their ranks. Jansen has also been able to tease batters with his angles and variations.

But the seasoned Du Plessis and Karthik have pummelled the best in the business.

The new RCB skipper roared back to form with a fine 96 as he anchored his team's innings after the top order once again collapsed against Lucknow Super Giants.

However, the veteran



South African batter missed out on a much deserved maiden IPL hundred in the 18-run win on Tuesday.

On the other hand, Karthik is enjoying one of his best seasons in the league. The wicketkeeper batter has taken the centre stage with his heroics for RCB.

With scores of 32 not out, 14 not out, 44 not out, 7 not out, 34, 66 not out and

13 not out in seven innings, Karthik has seemingly been the best finisher this season.

But apart from the duo, the RCB batters will have their task cut out against Sunrisers, who have momentum on their side after winning four games on the trot.

All eyes will once again be on Virat Kohli, who would be eager to get out of the rut of low scores.

Sikki Reddy, Ashwini Ponappa withdraw from Uber Cup due to injury

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The Indian women's doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponappa on Friday withdrew from the forthcoming Uber Cup tournament due to the former's injury. Badminton Association of India (BAI) said.

The tournament is scheduled to be held in Bangkok from May 8 to 15.

"Sikki Reddy has suffered a Grade 2 Tear of the Abdomen (abdominus rectus) as confirmed by an MRI and has been advised 4-6 week rest by the doctor," the BAI said in a statement. "Under the circumstances the said pair has withdrawn from the Uber Cup as well as the upcoming BATC and the selectors have decided to include Simran Singh and



Ritika Thakkar in their place as they were fourth in the ranking during the selection trials," said BAI general secretary Sanjay Mishra. The development comes a day after the BAI announced Indian teams for the upcoming Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Thomas and Uber Cup. The teams were named by BAI following six days of selection trials

at the Indira Gandhi Stadium here. Besides Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponappa, the 10-member women's team for the Asian Games and Uber Cup comprised PV Sindhu, Parupalli Kashyap, Ashmita Chaliha, Hooda, alongside the other two doubles pairs from the trials - Treesa Jolly-Gayatri P and Tanisha Crasto-Shruti Mishra.

T20 is a cruel format, MI need to grab crunch moments: Tendulkar

Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

Mumbai Indians team mentor Sachin Tendulkar has called T20 a "cruel" format where small margins are crucial and suggested that the struggling five-time IPL champions go out and win the crunch moments to arrest their slide. Mumbai Indians have had a disastrous campaign this season. The Rohit Sharma-led side remains winless, having lost all its seven matches so far.

"Let's first understand that in this format there isn't a team who has not experienced what Mumbai Indians have experienced this season," Tendulkar told Matthew Hayden during a chat on 'Star Sports'. "This format can be cruel. And those crucial moments in a match which don't go in your favour then literally the margin is like you lose a game by two or three runs or sometimes even the last ball. "And



those smaller margins, we need to go out and conquer those moments, those crunch moments in the match are what we have to win. And they haven't gone our way," he said. The cricket icon said the players especially the youngsters will take some time to settle in.

Djokovic digs deep again to reach Serbia Open semifinals

Belgrade, Apr 22 (AP):

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic dug deep for the second match in a row to reach the semifinals of the Serbia Open with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 win over Miomir Kecmanovic.

Kecmanovic won the opening set without facing a break point, but Djokovic finally showed signs of getting back to his best in the second and then won the final four games of the decider in what was just his sixth match of the year.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion stretched his winning streak against compatriots to 10 matches going back to a loss to Janko Tipsarevic in Madrid in 2012.

Djokovic next plays third-seeded Karen Khachanov, who defeated Brazilian



qualifier Thiago Monteiro 7-5, 6-4.

Djokovic also endured a tough game Wednesday when he rallied from a set down to beat compatriot Laslo Djere 2-6, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4).

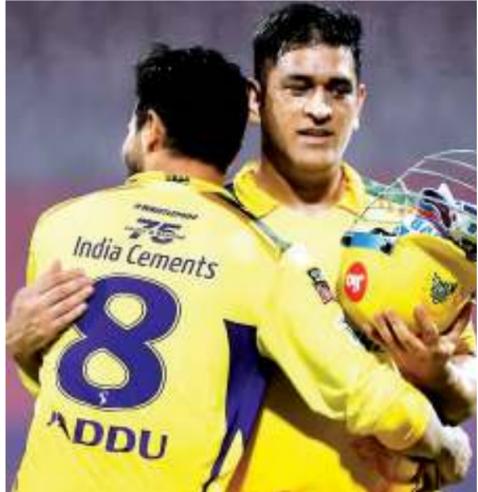
He joked that he's happy

he would not have to face another Serb in the semifinals. Djokovic opened his clay-court season with a surprising loss to Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Monte Carlo Masters last week, his first match since being eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Dubai Tennis Championships in February.

Dubai was his first tournament of the year after he was barred from playing at the Australian Open because of his unvaccinated status, which also prevented him from playing tournaments in the United States last month.

Earlier Thursday, second-seeded Andrey Rublev defeated Jiri Lehecka 4-6, 7-6 (1), 6-2 and Fabio Fognini enjoyed a 6-2, 6-3 win over Aljaz Bedene to reach the quarterfinals.

It's very good that he is still hungry: Jadeja on Dhoni's latest Houdini act



And looking at it, all of us remain calm, that if he is in the middle and stays till the final over, he will win the game," added Jadeja.

"We were tense but had a belief that he (Dhoni) was out there, he would finish the game and come. He has won so many games for India, in the IPL, we knew that he would finish the game."

Dhoni (28 not out off 13) batted like the finisher in his hey days to help CSK get the required 17 runs off the final over to win their second game of the season and extend Mumbai Indians' winless streak to seven games.

He smashed a six and four off third and fourth ball off Jaydev Unadkat before maintaining his calm to put one past short-fine leg for the match-winning boundary, leaving the bowler and the rest of his Mumbai teammates shattered.

"Look we were in pressure and the way the match was going, I believe there was pressure in both the dugouts... As the world's best finisher (Dhoni) was out in the middle.

Raducanu reaches Stuttgart quarterfinals, Swiatek awaits



Stuttgart, Apr 22 (AP):

U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu defeated Germany's Tamara Korpatsch 6-0, 2-6, 6-1 at the Stuttgart Open to set up a quarterfinal match against top-ranked Iga Swiatek. It will be the 19-year-old Raducanu's first match against a top 10 opponent. Raducanu, who won at Flushing Meadows as a 150th-ranked qualifier last year, could break into the top 10 herself if she wins the Stuttgart title in what is her first professional tournament on clay. She's currently ranked

12th. Earlier, second-seeded Paula Badosa defeated Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (4) and will face Ons Jabeur in the quarterfinals. Jabeur defeated Daria Kasatkina 6-3, 6-3. Third-seeded Aryna Sabalenka defeated Canada's Bianca Andreescu 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 and will face Anett Kontaveit or Ekaterina Alexandrova. Fourth-seeded Maria Sakkari retired against Laura Siegemund as the German was leading 6-4, 3-1. Siegemund next plays Russian player Liudmila Samsonova, who defeated Karolina Pliskova 6-4, 6-4.

We all know how calm MS Dhoni can be: Rohit Sharma

Navi Mumbai, Apr 22 (PTI):

A dejected Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma rued his side's top-order woes in the ongoing IPL but could only admire veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni for his match-winning knock in the IPL here on Thursday.

MI slumped to their seventh loss in this IPL with Dhoni showing his finishing prowess with a 13-ball 28 not out to guide Chennai Super Kings to a three-wicket win in a last-ball finish.

"It was a great fight from us. We were right in the game. After batting not so well, our bowlers kept us in the game all through. But in the end, we all know how calming MS Dhoni can be and he took them home," Rohit said at the post-match presentation.

"It's hard to put a finger on that (top order problems). If you lose three or a couple of wickets up front, it's always going to be tough. You're always playing that catching (up) game."

After a disastrous start, Tilak Varma's 51 not out helped MI to reach a de-



cent total of 155 for 7, but in the end it turned out to be not enough as CSK chased down the target of 156 in the final ball.

"We got to a very reasonable target where we thought with the ball we could put them under pressure. I thought till the last over, we had them under pressure. "But in the end, MS and

Pretorius, they were quite calm and got them home."

Rohit said the pitch was good and his side could have got more runs after being invited to bat.

CSK captain Ravindra Jadeja was all praise for Dhoni.

"Actually we were very tense, the way the game was going, but at some stage we knew that the great finisher of the game was there and if he played to the last ball, he can definitely finish the match.

"He (Dhoni) showed the world that he's still here and he can finish the game."

On Ambati Rayudu and Dwayne Bravo, he said, "We have plenty of experience in our team so they know when to perform and what to do. So if we're not winning the game, still we look to be calm and relax."

"I don't take fielding for granted and still work on it. We need to do some work on our fielding and take catches because we can't keep dropping catches in every game," Jadeja said about his side's below-par fielding show in the match.

EARTH DAY FACES



Students paint their faces and write the message Save Trees during a programme organised on the occasion of Earth Day, at a school in Moradabad, Friday.

'India has no option but to make itself stronger amid changing world order'

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

India has no option but to make itself stronger to ensure its defence, peace and stability as the world order is changing rapidly, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday in the context of the Ukraine-Russia war. A lot of things are happening in the world that are affecting India, Singh said at the inauguration of DefConnect 2.0. DefConnect 2.0 is a one-day event to bring together start-ups, big companies and armed forces personnel to boost indigenous innovation in the defence sector.

"When we met at Aero India 2021 (February 21), from then to now, the world has changed so much that it cannot be accounted for or measured. Every new danger is looking more

complex and challenging than the previous one," Singh told the gathering. "We did not even recover fully from the Covid-induced crisis but the world is now facing the issue of the Ukrainian conflict," he said. "The way the world order is changing with time, we do not have any other option but to make ourselves stronger," he said.

Even before this, the minister said, the world has seen instability in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan. "Apart from this, there are a lot of things happening in the



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inspects an electric two-wheeler during a display of electric vehicles before their induction into the Indian Army, in New Delhi.

world that are affecting India for sure. Therefore, it is important that we become strong to ensure our defence, peace and stability," he said. "We need to develop many of our se-

tors in order to strengthen ourselves. Disruptive technology is an important sector in this regard," he noted. Singh underlined the utility and uniqueness of a defence technology matter equally.

"How useful a defence technology is to us is definitely important but it is also important that the defence technology should be with us only," he said, adding as a defence technology reaches other countries, its utility is nullified. DefConnect 2.0 provides an opportunity to innovators to showcase their capabilities, products and state-of-the-art technologies to the industry leaders. The start-ups get to leverage this opportunity to generate investments and leads for future operations.

Naqvi to Labour MP

'Don't convert your prejudiced agenda of 'India phobia' into Islamophobia'

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday hit out at a Pakistani-origin MP of the UK's Labour party who urged British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to raise the issue of "Islamophobia" during his visit here, saying "don't convert your prejudiced agenda of 'India phobia' into Islamophobia".

Naz Shah, Labour Party MP from Bradford West and shadow minister for crime reduction, took to Twitter on Thursday to convey to Johnson that the UK's foreign relations must not just

be based on trade and internationalism but also on human rights. "My plea to the @10DowningStreet is to raise the growing issue of Islamophobia with the Modi Government," she said. In a long series of tweets, Shah said the rising tide of "everyday hate and mob lynching" against Muslims in India is becoming worrying. "I urge @BorisJohnson to read my thread, to stand up for human rights and stop embarrassing us on the international front with his ignorance. Bulldozing homes of minority Muslims in India, amid rising tensions is serious!" she said.

HC grants bail to RJD Supremo Lalu Prasad in Doranda treasury case

Ranchi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Jharkhand High Court on Friday granted bail to Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad in the Doranda Treasury Case in which a CBI special court had sentenced him to five years in prison.

73-year-old Prasad is in custody following his conviction and sentencing by a CBI court in February in a fodder scam case involving embezzlement of over Rs 139 crore from Doranda treasury.

"The Jharkhand High court has accepted our petition for suspension of the sentence and has granted bail. We had

pleaded that he has served more than half of his five-year sentence in this case. Prasad has already served 41 months in jail... We had submitted the trial court's certified copy in this regard. The court has granted bail," Prabhakar Kumar, counsel of Lalu Prasad told PTI.

Kumar said they had also pleaded for bail in view of his ill-health also as Prasad is suffering from various ailments.

Prasad will be released soon. He will have to deposit Rs 10 lakh fine and two surety amounts of Rs 1 lakh each, Kumar said.

Justice Apareesh Kumar Singh gave verdict on Lalu Prasad's bail after Lalu's

lawyers and CBI counsel presented their arguments in the court.

The court rejected the argument of the Central Bureau of Investigation opposing Lalu Prasad's bail in the Doranda Treasury case.

RJD leaders on being told of the bail order said they "had full faith in the judiciary".

Jharkhand High Court on April 8 had deferred the hearing into a petition filed by the incarcerated leader challenging his conviction in a fodder scam case.

The former Bihar Chief Minister was sentenced to five years in prison and slapped a fine of Rs 60 lakh

by a special CBI court in Ranchi in connection with the fifth fodder scam case involving embezzlement of over Rs 139 crore by Doranda treasury.

Justice Apareesh Kumar Singh was on April 8 informed by CBI, which is investigating the scam that the earlier order of the court to file a counter affidavit in the matter could not be complied with by the agency and pleaded for more time.

Prasad's counsel Kapil Sibbal had told the court that his client has already served more than half of the sentence of five years in prison in the case and deserves to be released from custody.

Postal ballot facility for overseas voters being contemplated: CEC Chandra

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

Lamenting that the number of registered overseas voters is "abysmally low", Chief Election

Commissioner Sushil Chandra has told members of the Indian community in South Africa and Mauritius that the facility to extend postal ballot facility for NRI electors is being contemplated. According to an official statement issued by the Election Commission, Chandra interacted members of the Indian community during his official visit to the two countries and urged them to register as overseas voters as the present numbers are "abysmally low". He also told members of the Indian community that extension of Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) facility to overseas voters is being contemplated.

The innovators can apply through a dedicated portal, which will be launched later this month, and once chosen for the grant, its disbursement shall be linked to pre-decided milestones. The funding scheme has been fixed on a cost-sharing basis in equal proportions - 50:50 by the Indian Railways and the innovator. The maximum amount of grant will be Rs 1.5 crore per innovator, even in cases where the total project cost exceeds Rs 3 crore, the officials said.

Railways to invest in startups; policy promises up to Rs 1.5 Cr seed money for innovations

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The railways will invest in startups to get a head-start in procuring innovations directly from them with a promise of up to Rs 1.5 crore of seed money for innovative technological solutions for the national transporter, according to a policy paper. The Indian Railway Innovation Policy will identify and enable Indian innovators to engage with the railways for developing cost-effective, implementable, scalable solutions and functional prototypes for the national transporter, officials said.

"Since there is a major constraint of capital inadequacy in the startup ecosystem, particularly in the seed and 'Proof of Concept' developmental

stage, this policy aims at providing the necessary seed fund support of up to Rs 1.5 crore (on matching contribution basis) to the startups that show the capability, intent and promise to produce functional prototypes, based on new innovative concepts, for potential use of the Indian Railways," a senior official said.

One of the major objectives of the policy would be to leverage new innovative technologies, developed by entrepreneurs and startups, for improving operational efficiency and safety on the railway system, the officials said. The eligible organisations or beneficiaries of the support will include any Indian company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/2013,

primarily micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) as defined in the MSME Act, 2006, and individual innovators. The policy also encourages research and development institutions to apply for the grant.

The innovators can apply through a dedicated portal, which will be launched later this month, and once chosen for the grant, its disbursement shall be linked to pre-decided milestones. The funding scheme has been fixed on a cost-sharing basis in equal proportions - 50:50 by the Indian Railways and the innovator. The maximum amount of grant will be Rs 1.5 crore per innovator, even in cases where the total project cost exceeds Rs 3 crore, the officials said.

Lenin lives on in Kolkata

By Jayanta Roy Chowdhury

Kolkata, Apr 22 (PTI): Lenin still lives on in the heart of Kolkata, albeit in the northeast corner of Curzon Park, overlooking the Nakhoda Masjid on its left and the Oberoi Grand Hotel, one of the last bastions of the city's fading mercantile capitalism, on its right.

At a time when the legacy of the Marxist idol and founder of Soviet Union, Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov Lenin, is being wiped out of his motherland, this corner of Kolkata's Esplanade still remains his home. A towering statue of the man, who dragged Russia out of a feudal order into what he believed would be a socialist century, stands in solitary

loneliness here. A bunch of sexagenarian and septuagenarian leaders of Leftist parties and a handful of enthusiastic student activists, led by CPI(M)'s veteran parliamentarian and leader Mohd Salim, were the only ones to lay floral wreaths at Lenin's statue on Friday and to give the iconic leader the 'Lal salam' (Red Salute) on his 153rd birth anniversary.

Leninbadider eta ekta smaran korar din (It's a remembrance day for all those who believe in Leninism)," Salim, charged with revitalising the CPI(M) in West Bengal as its state secretary, told PTI. "We are here to preserve and protect his memory," he added.

Lenin, born in 1870, became a communist revolutionary at the early age of 17 after his brother's execution by the Tsarist regime. In 1917, a successful revolution of the Bolshevik faction of Russian communists which he led saw him coming back from exile in Europe to seize power in his country.

Indian communists were among the first to come under his spell. Though the Communist Party of India was formed in 1925, individuals from India had already travelled to the Soviet Union to learn from the "October revolution". The first time communists won an election in India was in 1957, when the CPI catapulted to power in Kerala. However, the com-

munist's real coming of age was when after an aborted Naxalite insurgency by ultra-Leftists died out in the 1970s, the CPI(M), a faction of the original CPI, won elections to the West Bengal assembly in 1977.

A Leftist alliance, led by the CPI(M), ruled the state for 34 long years till 2011, when the state rejecting the Left voted in favour of left of centre Trinamool Congress. Since then, it has been a downhill journey for the Leninists. Not only had the combined Left parties drawn a blank in polls to West Bengal assembly held last year, their vote share dwindled to a mere 5.47 per cent in 2021, down from 30.1 per cent in 2011, when they lost the elections for the first time to the TMC.

HC seeks Centre's stand on ex WB chief secy review plea concerning CAT proceedings

New Delhi, Apr 22 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought the Centre's stand on a plea by former West Bengal chief secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay seeking a review of the order dismissing his challenge to the transfer of his application concerning proceedings against him from Kolkata to New Delhi by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

A bench of Justices Rajiv Shukdher and Jyoti Singh issued notice on the review petition and asked the central government to file its response to Bandyopadhyay's stand

that he did not receive a fair opportunity to present his case before it was reserved for orders. The matter would be heard next on May 20.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the former chief secretary of West Bengal, argued that he did not get a full crack of the whip as their request to the court to grant a 'passover' i.e. to take up the case after some time on the same day due to unavailability of the senior counsel was denied and consequently, a junior lawyer had to make submissions and oppose the senior law officers who appeared for the Centre.

Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee said that he was opposing the review petition and informed the court that the matter was argued at length by the lawyer appearing on behalf of the petitioner.

Justice Shukdher observed it was a practice of the court to grant the first request for a passover and told the senior lawyer that he expects him to give fair counsel in the matter.

On March 7, a bench of then Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Singh dismissed Bandyopadhyay's challenge to the transfer of his application concerning proceedings against him

from Kolkata to New Delhi and said that the transfer order was passed within the four corners of the law.

The high court had said that the cause of action arose in New Delhi as the disciplinary proceedings, as well as the inquiry proceedings, were initiated and going on here.

Bandyopadhyay had first moved the Kolkata bench of the CAT to challenge the proceedings initiated against him in a matter related to not attending a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the effects of cyclone 'Yaas' at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station on May 28 last year.

HOT SUMMER DAY



A woman constable fans herself to get respite from the heat, on a hot summer day, in Navi Mumbai, Friday.