



BRIEF



Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia takes part in the mega Yoga event Yog Prabha, at Safdarjung Airport runway, in New Delhi, Monday.

Stable

Lucknow: Ram temple trust chief Mahant Nriyaya Gopal Das, who is admitted to a private hospital in Lucknow, is in a stable and satisfactory condition, doctors at the medical facility said on Monday. Das (83), president of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, has chronic kidney disease and was brought to the Medanta hospital in Lucknow from Ayodhya on Sunday due to urinary tract infection and weakness.

Rescue

New Delhi: Rescue workers pulled out five labourers who were trapped for over three hours under the rubble of a house that collapsed in south Delhi's Satya Niketan area on Monday, fire officials said. The three-storey house was undergoing renovation when it collapsed, they said. Director of Delhi Fire Services Atul Garg said all the five labourers who were trapped under the debris have been rescued and rushed to a hospital for treatment.

Blocked

New Delhi: The government on Monday blocked 16 YouTube channels, including six operating from Pakistan, and a Facebook account for spreading disinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations and public order, an official statement said. The blocked YouTube channels and the Facebook account had a cumulative viewership of over 68 crore and were spreading "false, unverified information to create panic, incite communal disharmony and disturb public order in India", the Information and Broadcasting Ministry statement said.

Fire

New Delhi: More than 35 shanties were gutted after a fire broke out in a slum in southeast Delhi's Jamia Nagar on Monday, officials said. There were no human casualties in the incident, they said. A call about the fire in a slum cluster in Batla House area was received at 3:15 pm and 11 fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

Weather

High 42 Low 26

MARKET

NIFTY 16,953.95 ▲

SENSEX 56,579.89 ▲

BULLION

GOLD 51,510

SILVER 65,275

Chh'garh seeks share in revenue when airports are privatised

New Delhi, Apr 25:

Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have come out in support of Tamil Nadu's stance that whenever the Central government privatises an airport in a state, the state government should get a share in the revenue.

In a policy note issued earlier this month, Tamil Nadu said that if the state government acquires and transfers land to the Centre-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost, and if the AAI or the Centre transfers that land to a third party, the value realised or revenue accrued thereby must be proportionately shared with the state government "reflecting the huge investment in land being made by the state government". The AAI's board had in September

What is state's stand...

T S Singhdeo, Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development, Health and Family Welfare and Commercial Tax, said land is a state resource and when the state and the central government come together for developing a project, which is supposed to be an earning project, the state government's capital is present as a shareholder in terms of the land. "So long as it is in the government sector, things are moving in a particular way, the government of India would be making some revenue and there would be something spilling over to the state government and there would be benefit to the public, so that is fine," he said.

last year gave the approval to privatise 13 airports, including Trichy in Tamil Nadu and Raipur in Chhattisgarh.

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project, which is supposed to be an earning project, the state government's capital is present as a shareholder in terms of the land.

"So long as it is in the government sector, things are moving in a particular way, the government of India would be making some revenue and there would be something spilling over to the state government and there

would be benefit to the public, so that is fine," he told PTI. "Now when you are selling it to a third entity which is a private party, then you are selling the assets of the company, which include apart from the infrastructure, the land also. So, the state government should be given the value of the land," Singhdeo said.

The sale when it comes about would be by means of a valuation of the entire property which would include the sale price of the land, he noted, adding states should get their share.

"When you are in a joint venture then the investment which has been made, the government of India would put in capital in terms of infrastructure, the state government puts up its capital in terms of its land.

Govt to review SII's EUA application for TB vaccine

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

A crucial meeting of the subject expert committee (SEC) of the CDSCO will be held on Tuesday to consider granting emergency-use authorisation (EUA) to Serum Institute of India's (SII) recombinant BCG (rBCG) vaccine for the prevention of tuberculosis, according to official sources. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is the drug regulator of India. The EUA application was submitted to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on March 22 by Prakash Kumar Singh, the director of government and regulatory affairs at the SII. India's TB immunisation programme current-

ly offers BCG vaccination at birth or as early as possible till one year of age. The SII already supplies life-saving vaccines to the government under the Universal Immunisation Programme, including Pneumococcal, IPV and Rotavirus, Singh mentioned in his letter. The Pune-based firm is one of the companies that supply BCG vaccines to the government. "Our government is committed to eliminate TB. The vision of a TB-free India has been envisaged by the clarion call of the prime minister to end TB from our country by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal of ending TB," Singh mentioned in his letter.

Mevani rearrested soon after getting bail

Charges of 'assaulting' woman official

Kokrajhar, Apr 25 (PTI):

Gujarat Independent MLA Jignesh Mevani was rearrested by Assam Police on Monday for allegedly assaulting officials after a court here granted him bail in a case related to a tweet by him against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

Mevani, an MLA supported by the Congress, was booked under IPC Sections related to voluntarily causing hurt, assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty and others, police said.

Earlier in the day, a Kokrajhar court granted him bail in connection with a case related to his



tweet against Modi.

The Gujarat legislator was arrested on April 19 from Palanpur town in Gujarat after an FIR was registered against him in Kokrajhar. He was brought here two days later. Mevani, an MLA

Maoists set fire passenger bus



Konta, Apr 25:

The bus carrying passengers from Malkangiri in Orissa had left for Hyderabad, after which the armed Maoists attacked Kotur in Chintur police station area of Andhra Pradesh, about 25 km from Konta in Chhattisgarh. The bus was stopped and all the passengers got off the bus at gunpoint. After this, the Maoists set the bus on fire. In this arson, the passenger bus was completely gutted. After getting information about this Naxalite incident, the police reached the spot

and started investigation in this matter. Apart from this, security force personnel have also been sent to the area for search.

Dandakaranya bandh called on April 25 in memory of fellow Naxalite Nirmala

Hardcore female Naxalite Nirmala alias Narmada Didi, a member of Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC), had died during treatment. Nirmala died in jail in Maharashtra on April 9. The death of Nirmala has been described by fellow Naxalites as a conspiracy

Four Naxals arrested

Sukma: Four Naxals were arrested in Sukma district when they arrived to put up Maoist pamphlets, a police official said on Monday. Gango Kunjani (35), Fagnu Sodhi (40), Hadma Madkani (20) and Baman Kartami (20), militia members of the proscribed movement's Katekalyan Area Committee, were held on Sunday evening from Bengpal under Tongpal police station limits while putting up pamphlets in support of the Naxal bandh call given for Monday, Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma said. "Personnel belonging to CRPF's 227th battalion and district force led by Tongpal Station House Officer (SHO) Vijay Patel were involved in the operation.

of the administration. In this protest and in memory of Nirmala, the Naxalites have called for a Dandakaranya bandh on 25 April.

Man dead as brawl in temple leads to stampede

Surajpur, Apr 25:

A 22-year-old man was killed in a stampede in a temple in Surajpur district, some 175 kilometres from Korba, a police official said on Monday. The incident took place in Maa Kudargarhi Devi Temple in the limits of Odagi police station on Sunday after a dispute broke out among a group of devotees from Koriya district. The argument turned bloody and the group also attacked other devotees, leading to a stampede in which a man identified as Pradeep Kushwaha, a resident of Karaudaamuda village under Bhaiyathan police station limits, died. Seven people were injured and are being treated at the district hospital," he said. Odagi police station has registered a case and has detained seven persons, the ASP informed.

About the incident

The incident took place in Maa Kudargarhi Devi Temple in the limits of Odagi police station on Sunday after a dispute broke out among a group of devotees from Koriya district. The argument turned bloody and the group also attacked other devotees, leading to a stampede in which a man identified as Pradeep Kushwaha, a resident of Karaudaamuda village under Bhaiyathan police station limits, died.

RESCUE OPERATION



An injured person being rescued after an under-construction building collapsed, at Satya Niketan area in New Delhi, Monday.

RBI imposes Rs 1.12 cr penalty on Bank of Maha

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.12 crore on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with certain directions, including those related to Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. The penalty has been imposed for violation provisions related to KYC, creation of a Central Repository of Large Common Exposures - Across Banks, and guidelines on managing risks and code of conduct in outsourcing of financial services by banks. The Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE) of the public sector bank was

conducted with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2020, it said in a release on Monday.

Also, scrutinies were conducted in the matter of non-credit of customs duty to the government account by the bank, it added. In another release, RBI said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 12 lakh on Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Rajkot for non-compliance with the direction on Interest Rate on Deposits.

Separately, the central bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh on The Haryana State Co-operative Apex Bank, Chandigarh for contraventions with RBI directions on housing finance.

Cong to constitute 'Empowered Action Group-2024'

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

The Congress on Monday announced that an empowered group will be constituted to address the political challenges ahead, days after deliberating on the presentation by poll strategist Prashant Kishor over the party's plan for the 2024 elections.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi also decided to convene a 'Chintan Shivir', a brainstorming session from May 13-15 in Udaipur, where party leaders from across the country would discuss internal issues confronting it and come up with solutions to help strengthen the organisation and make it fit to take on the BJP in the next round of polls, party chief

To hold 'Chintan Shivir' in Udaipur

spokesperson Randeep Surjewala told reporters. Asked if there was any decision on Kishor's induction into the party, Surjewala did not give a direct reply, and merely said, "Whenever the group is constituted, you will know who is part of it.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of senior party leaders to chalk the Congress strategy for the next general and assembly elections, including the plan presented by Kishor.

The Congress has been struggling to evolve its strategy for upcoming elections in the wake of a

series of defeats at the hustings. "The Congress president received a report from the eight-member group on April 21. Today, she discussed the report with the group and based on the discussions, the Congress president has decided to constitute an 'Empowered Action Group-2024' in order to address the political challenges ahead," Surjewala said.

The meeting was convened at the 10, Janpath residence of Sonia Gandhi, where senior party leaders including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Ambika Soni, K C Venugopal, Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik, Digvijaya Singh, Jairam Ramesh and P Chidambaram were among those present.

'Unhappy with Guj Cong leadership, not Rahul or Priyanka'

Ahmedabad, Apr 25 (PTI):

Gujarat Congress leader Hardik Patel, who had recently praised the ruling BJP, on Monday said he is unhappy with the state party leadership and not Rahul Gandhi or Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Talking to reporters in Songadh in Tapi district, Hardik, who is working president of the state Congress, also refuted media reports claiming he will soon join the BJP.

"I have said it earlier too. I am unhappy with the state leadership, not Rahul Gandhi or Priyankaji. My only problem with the state leadership is that the party must give responsibilities to strong and com-



mitted people as state Assembly elections are approaching," Patel said.

The Congress must give opportunity and space to those who are working at the village-level in order to strengthen the party, he added. Requesting people to not read much between the lines or spread rumours about his "unhappiness", Hardik said the Congress was like a family

where members were free to raise questions and express their views.

Hardik also refuted some media reports indicating he would join the BJP before the Assembly elections, likely to be held in December this year.

"People talk about so many things. When Joe Biden was elected as US President, I praised him because the Vice President (Kamala Harris) was of Indian descent. Does that mean that I am joining Joe Biden's party? In politics, if our enemy is good and worth appreciating, we have to keep that in mind too," he said. "If they (BJP) are good at decision making, we also need to make quick decisions.

Ranas fail to get HC breather

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Monday dismissed the writ petition filed by independent MP Navneet and her MLA husband Ravi Rana, arrested in connection with the Hanuman Chalisa controversy, seeking quashing of an FIR registered against them.

The couple had approached the HC this morning seeking that the FIR registered against them by the Khar police in the city on the charge of deterring a police officer from discharging her official duties be quashed. A bench of Justices PB Varale and SM Modak,

however, said that it found no merit in the plea.

The Khar police registered two FIRs against the couple after they announced that Hanuman Chalisa will be recited outside Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's private residence in Mumbai.

On April 23, the police registered the first FIR on the charge of promoting enmity between different religions. It subsequently added the charge of sedition to this FIR.

On April 24, the Khar police registered a second FIR against the Ranas under section 353 of the IPC for obstructing a public servant from discharging duty.

Govt committed for devp and progress: Guru Rudra Kumar

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, Apr 25: The government is committed to the development and progress of the entire state. Major works are being done in the infrastructure sector in the Jamul area as well. Be it the demand of Jamul to Nandini road or drinking water facility, all the development works are being conducted as per the expectations of the common people, said PHE and Village Industries Minister Guru Rudra Kumar while addressing a gathering at Jamul.

According to the needs of the citizens, major infrastructure works have been conducted in the last three years. The works conducted during this period have laid a solid foundation for development in the Jamul area, he said after inaugurating various development works in Jamul.

On the occasion, he said that a new sub-division has been formed by merging Jamul, Kumhari and Bhilai 3. Bhilai 3 has been constituted as Tehsil and the new building of Tehsil has also been inaugurated.

The government is committed to the development of the Jamul region. On the occasion, the

Minister said that he is regularly meeting people, taking feedback from them and wherever development works are needed, those works are being done.

Guru Rudra Kumar further said that consequent to the awareness and concerns of the citizens, better works of civic development have been done in

Jamul. During the Corona period, people showed solidarity and helped the administrative staff in the fight against Corona.

PHE Minister further said that the government has initiated for distribution of leases in urban areas through schemes like Rajiv Gandhi Ashray Yojana. People have got



rights over the land from these schemes.

This initiative has also simplified the land deals and bank loans etc. The entertainment of the people in the urban area has also been taken care of. After the complete development of road infrastructure in Jamul area, the problems of the people will be completely re-

solved.

The Minister added that through the Jal Jeevan Mission, provision of clean drinking water is being ensured in rural areas. In view of the summer, the department has been specially directed that there should be no shortage of drinking water in any area.

The officials are contin-

uously monitoring the situations in every area. The Minister said that the government is determined to develop village industries. Many programs have been run for the training of Self Help Groups in the district, which has also benefited the people.

Income of the Self Help Group has also increased by providing training.

Women SHGs have been successful in developing their products as brands. Extending the Karma Jayanti greetings, the Minister said that the contributions of Bhakt Mata Karma are very important in the land of Chhattisgarh.

People are very happy with the government's move of declaring holiday on the occasion of Karma Jayanti. Now the people are able to organise Karma Jayanti celebrations with full enthusiasm.

On the demands of locals, Guru Rudra Kumar announced construction of a dome shed and public toilet at Surdung. He also announced construction of a community hall and stage at VY Cabin. On the occasion, Jamul Municipal Council President Ishwar Singh Thakur and other public representatives were present.

DAV bids farewell to Class XII students

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 25: The students, staff and management of DAV Public School Hudco bid farewell to the outgoing class 12 batch of 2021-22 on Monday. The day was a fiesta devoted to the years spent together with friends and teachers and to reminisce joyous moments.

The programme started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by bouquet presentation, welcome speech and Ganesh Vandana. The cultural presentation staged by the students of class XI had a mix of scintillating dance performances, melodious poetries and pulsating music that was enjoyed by one and all.

In the thought provoking speeches presented by the students of class XI, they recollected the mem-



ories and the time spent with their seniors in the school which left everyone teary-eyed. They bid farewell to them with heavy hearts, but with a hope that their seniors farewell in life.

The students of class XII mused fondly about their learning in school and looked forward with keenness to their future calling this juncture not an end but a bend in their journey of life. They thanked their mentors for

helping them find their purpose in life with a promise to come back to their Alma Mater.

An eventful day organized by class XI students to give a farewell to their seniors ended with the message of not being dismayed at goodbyes. The event concluded with Principal Prashant Kumar addressing the gathering and wishing the batch the best for their exams and the future ahead.

He said that the school

teaches us many lessons and gives us the guidance to excel in our future prospects. He also added that the children are the future generation so they should understand their responsibilities and make the society a better place to live in where virtues like love, patience and tolerance should only prevail. He also stressed that they should become the role models for others rather than merely becoming the followers.

The farewell party was celebrated with fervour at School campus. It was an occasion for the outgoing students to look back at the time that they spent in the lawns of DAV Campus. In nostalgia and reluctance, but with hope and aspiration, school teachers and staff bid adieu to class 12 students and wished them luck for all they set out to do.

St Thomas College commemorates Shakespeare's Day

Bhilai, Apr 25: The PG Department of English, St Thomas College organized a gala of events to commemorate Shakespeare's day. The program commenced with a warm welcome by the Head of the Department, Dr Shiny Mendonca.

Madam enumerated the importance of the day and discussed how the great dramatist has left an indelible mark in world literature. Principal of the college Dr MG Roymon addressing the gathering said that Shakespeare's day coincides with World Book Day.

He also emphasized that Shakespeare has the credit of introducing Authorism to the English language. As a gesture to commemorate the great playwright of English literature, students presented slides to share their views on the Bard of



Avon. Bipasha Sokhey, Naveen Daniel, Shruti Daniel, Aishwarya Sahu and Sanjay Deshmukh (students of MA English Sem - IV) A very informative and insightful documentary about Shakespeare's journey as a great playwright was screened for the students.

Udayasri S (Asst Professor Dept of English) sharing her view focused on the theme of the occasion i.e. "Jaunt to venture his iconic works" and said

that this day is marked for promoting reading the works of celebrated authors. Susan Ebison (Asst Professor, Dept of Eng) spoke about the universal themes of Shakespeare's Plays. Dr Sujata Koley (Asst Professor, Dept of Eng) concluded Shakespeare's Day by congratulating the students for their active participation in organizing the program successfully.

Udayasri S (Asst Professor Dept of English) sharing her view focused on the theme of the occasion i.e. "Jaunt to venture his iconic works" and said

School children excelling in sports felicitated

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 25: A felicitation programme was organised by Education Dept of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant to felicitate 145 students who have excelled in state-level and national level sports tournaments in years 2019-20 and 2020-21. As many as 15 sports coordinators and coaches were also felicitated during the programme held in MP Hall, Bhilai Niwas on April 23, 2022.

Dr AK Panda, CGM I/c Finance was the chief guest while UK Jha, CGM (Town Services) and KC Tripathi, GM (Town Services) were special guests on the oc-



casation. Welcoming the guests and all the sports persons who were to be felicitated, Shikha Dubey, GM (Education) presented a brief on the sports activities organised by Bhilai Steel Plant and the achievements of stu-

dents from different schools.

Congratulating the students who have excelled in sports tournaments, Dr Panda in his address stated that the discipline, power of concentration and team-spirit that the

students learn and inculcate in the playing fields invariably helps them as they progress and work with others in different organisations.

Today, India as a nation has been excelling in international sports events,

also making a strong presence in the Olympics, he said, expressing confidence that some among the children being felicitated here today would perhaps represent the nation in the international sports arena.

Keep practising hard and one day you will surely succeed, he said, wishing them well. Rajendra Prasad, DGM (Education & Sports), Olympian and winner of Arjun award presented the vote of thanks. The programme was conducted by Vibharani Katiyar, Jr Mgr (Education) and Manish Tiwari, Lecturer in the Education Department.

Traffic Square named after martyr to be protected

Collector Jandarshan receives 52 applications



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 25: Two days weekly Jandarshan being conducted in the district is getting very good response. Citizens are pleased with the continuous disposal of applications. In this episode, an applicant reached the Collector Jandarshan with his application. The applicant stated that his brother was a Squadron Leader of the Indian Air Force, who was martyred in 1999 while umpiring in the important mission of the Air Force, Vayu Shakti.

The applicant further stated that constant efforts were made by his family to keep the martyrdom of his brother alive. They got success in 2001 when the Mayor in Council of Municipal Corporation Bhilai announced to name Junwani Main Chowk after the martyr with unanimous consent to keep the memory of the martyr alive. The construction work of the Chowk was also duly done by the Municipal Corporation and the Traffic Square was in-

augurated on the death anniversary of Late Squadron Leader Suresh Mishra.

But in the recent past, this Shaheed Chowk has been tampered with by some people. Therefore, the applicant requested the Collector to stop the activities being done by unauthorized people so that his martyr brother gets respect. Taking cognizance of the entire matter, the Collector directed the concerned officer to take legal action.

Apart from this, an application was also received from Gram Panchayat Anjora (b), in which the applicant stated that they were not getting ration for the past several months. The applicant said that 07 ration card holders of the Gram Panchayat have not been allotted ration in the months of January, February and March due to technical problems.

When the applicant sought information from the Food Department, he was told about the closure of NIC, but proper resolution has not been provided

to him yet. As the matter is related to 07 families, the applicant appealed to the Collector for speedy action. The Collector sought information related to the matter from the Food Department and directed the concerned officer to resolve it immediately.

A resident of Katulbod also shared his problem with the Collector. He informed that he had received the lease in 1984. Later, he submitted a renewed application at the Revenue Department's office in 2019. The same procedure was followed by him as well as other lessees.

Other people of the locality got the lease with renewal, but the applicant has not yet received the lease. When he inquired in this regard from the department, the officials did not give any reply. The applicant requested that his lease should be provided at the earliest. The Collector forwarded a copy of the case to the concerned officer and directed him for speedy action. A total of 52 applications were received in Collector Jandarshan.

Students give message of environment conservation through cultural events

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 25: Students presented various cultural programs at K H Memorial School on the occasion of Earth Day. Through these programs, the students gave the message of bringing awareness towards the environment. A fancy dress competition was also organized for the children.



In the competition, the students gave their presentation on the stage wearing a poster and slogan written about environment conservation. Kids gave the message of environmental protection through posters and slogans.

Students made posters of 'Make Earth Clean and Green' and 'Save Mother Earth'. The team of Isha Foundation made children aware of the environment with a special presentation.

Principal Vibha Jha explained to the students about the importance of earth. She said that the earth is the source of life for all living beings. Earth provides us with all the natural resources that a tree, an animal or a human needs, to live.

However, with time, all the necessary natural resources are being exploited in such a way that all the resources can be exhausted soon. In such a situation, it will be difficult for humans to survive on earth.

To solve this problem, there is a need to conserve natural resources. 'Earth Day' is celebrated every year on 22nd April with the aim of making everyone aware about it. Director Nischay Jha said that environmental pollution is increasing. We all should try to save it together.

Garima Chandrakar spoke about the importance of water conservation.

Through street plays, the students drew attention towards environmental issues. Aditya, Lucky, Ritika, Rupali, Yasir, Harshika, Yakub, Jagriti, Riya, Adiba, Sheetal, Rishabh, Anmol, Preet, Simrat, Danish, Shaurya, Sohan, Ajay, Kumkum participated in this street play.

A fancy dress competition was organized for the students of class 1, 2, and 3. Vikram, Shruti, Shivam were winners

from Class One, while Seemant, Kuber, Gurvinder emerged victorious from Class 2. Anya, Aaradhya, Vedanshi were winners from class 3.

On this occasion, the discourses of Sadhguru were broadcast to the students by the Isha Foundation team. The students were overjoyed to see Sadhguru speaking on the big screen. On behalf of Isha Foundation, Rajni Kathuria, Kanika Jham, Lipika Srivastava, Shri Deshmukh and Abhishek Kumar shared many interesting information about Earth Day.

Rupesh Chaudhary, Mona Lisarai, Anjana Sharma, TG Rao, Anjana Soni, Purnima Dubey, Sujata Sahu, Rajni Pandey, Sonal Jaiswal, Sadhna, Kamaljit Kaur, Monika Srivastava, Anjali Chaudhary, Rashmi Jaisan, Ramita Yadav, Jagriti Yadav and Sanjit Paswan made remarkable contributions in organising the event.

There is a need to organize and strengthen the co-op movement: CM



Co-op banks should be enabled to meet the needs and requirements of the farmers and villagers

Food providing farmers should now be empowered into energy providers

Biggest objective of the co-op movement is to provide support price for the produce to the farmers

Institutions were awarded for their excellent work in the field of cooperatives

ther. We have incorporated the better aspects of the cooperative sector policies from various states of the country and have removed the shortcomings. Today, there is also a need to enable the cooperative sector to meet the needs and requirements of the farmers and the villagers. And for this we need to make co-operative banks as strong as the nationalized banks. Besides, loan facility should be provided at these banks for horticulture and cash crop. He said that the biggest objective of the cooperative movement of the country should be to provide fair support price to the farmers for their produce. Consistent efforts should be made to ensure that the farmers get remunerative price for their produce.

Chief Minister said that our food providing farmers can be empowered into energy providers by promoting the production of ethanol from the surplus food grains. Hence, it is important that Central Government permits the production of ethanol from the paddy procured at support price. He said

that today there is a need to enable cooperative banks to meet the needs and requirements of farmers and villagers. Many measures have been taken to strengthen the cooperative movement in Chhattisgarh. Various schemes and activities like paddy procurement on support price, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, procurement of minor forest produce on support price, sale of vermi compost prepared by women's group in Gauthans have been linked with cooperative banks.

Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Bank (APEX Bank) and National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCAB) had organized this conference at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, Raipur, which was presided over by the Cooperatives Minister of Chhattisgarh, Dr. Preme Sai Singh Tekam. Senior MLA Mr. Satyanarayan Sharma, Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, Advisor to Chief Minister Vinod

Verma, Former MP and Chairman of KRIBHCO Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President of National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCAB) Mumbai Kondru Ravinder Rao, President NAFED and Delhi State Co-Operative Bank Dr. Vijender Singh, Bihar State Co-operative Marketing Union President Dr. Sunil Kumar Singh, Chhattisgarh Apex Bank President Baijnath Chandrakar, Presidents of District Co-operative Central Banks and many public representatives of the cooperative sector were present in the conference. At the conference, Chief Minister felicitated the cooperative societies across the country for their excellent work in different categories. On this occasion, he released a souvenir of Apex Bank Chhattisgarh Bank and 'Kisan Kitab' published by District Co-operative Central Bank Raipur.

While addressing the conference, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that Chhattisgarh has implemented many schemes in the interest of farmers including Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, because of which farmers are receiving good price for their produce. Farming has become a profitable occupation in Chhattisgarh. Baghel further said that the farmer friendly schemes of Chhattisgarh will pave the way to ensure that the farmers get remunerative price of their produce.

Chief Minister said that due to mechanization in the field of agriculture and closure of cattle market, animal husbandry has become uneconomical for the farmers and livestock farmers today. Chhattisgarh Government addressed this problem through Godhan Nyay Yojana. Representatives from different states of the country are coming to Chhattisgarh to understand the specifics of Godhan Nyay Yojana. Jharkhand has implemented the system of Godhan Nyay Yojana in its budget, whereas states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh are also following the footsteps of Chhattisgarh.

Welcoming the representatives of cooperative sector from all over the country in the conference, Chief Minister Baghel said that the history of cooperative movement in Chhattisgarh goes way back. In Chhattisgarh, Thakur Pyare Lal Singh started the Weavers' Co-Operative Movement in 1945 and the cooperative was started by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the country. Senior MLA Satyanarayan Sharma, KRIBHCO President Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCAB) Mumbai Chairman Kondru Ravinder Rao also addressed the program. The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Baijnath Chandrakar, Chairman, Apex Bank Chhattisgarh.

YOGA COMPETITION



CM Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated Yoga Competition here on Monday and in this Yoga experts performed variety of Yoga Asnas, reflecting importance of yoga in day-to-day life.

17 IAS officers issued fresh posting in admn reshuffle

● **Bharatidashan given responsibility of School Education**



Raipur, Apr 25: In a major administrative reshuffle, the Chhattisgarh government on Monday issued fresh posting orders of 18 Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officers.

While the senior IAS Officer and Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo has been given additional charge of Forest, the Principal Secretary Commerce & Industries Manoj Kumar Pingua has been given the responsibility of Department of Home and Jail administration. Similarly, the 2006 batch IAS Officer and Secretary at CM Secretariat S Bharatidashan has been given the additional charge of School Education Department in

the reshuffle whereas Dr Kamalpreet Singh has been entrusted with the responsibility of Agriculture Secretary and would also be ex-officio Agriculture Production Commission and would continue as Secretary General Administration Department. Dr Tamboli Ayaz Fakirbhai has been given the responsibility of flagship scheme of state government, as Nodal Officer of Narva-Garua-Ghurva-Bhadi and additional charge of Chhattisgarh Gaudhan Yojna.

Special Secretary Health & Family Welfare Dr Priyanka Shukla has been given additional charge of Director Urban Administration and

Development. Similarly, the 2012 batch IAS Officer and IG Registration Ifat Ara has been posted as Surajpur District Collector in the reshuffle whereas the present incumbent Gaurav Singh has been shifted to Mungeli as District Collector.

Further giving momentum to the formation of newly-created Districts, the state government has appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD). IAS Officer Jagdish Sonekar has been made OSD of Khairagrh-Chukhadan-Gandai whereas PS Dhruv would be OSD Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, S Jaivardhan would be OSD Mohla-Manpur-Chowki, D Rahul Venkat has been assigned duty of OSD of Sarangarh-Bhiligarh District and 2015 batch IAS Officer Nupur Sashi Panna has been appointed ODS of Shakti District.

Abhishek Pallav to be new SP Durg

● **OP Pal made IG Raipur in major reshuffle among IPS Officers**



Raipur, Apr 25: Chhattisgarh government on Monday transferred Superintendent of Police (SPs) of several Districts in the reshuffle here. 2003 batch Indian Police Services (IPS) Officer OP Pal has been given fresh posting as Inspector General of Police Raipur Range whereas Jaspur SP Vijay Agrawal has been shifted to Janjgir Champa, Ramkrishna Sahu has been transferred from Balrampur to Surajpur, Janjgir-Champa District SP Abhishek Pallav has been given major responsibility of Durg District as SP, Mohit Garg has been made

Deepanshu Kabra promoted as ADG

The state government has promoted 16 IPS officers and given them promotion along with new wages and posting. IPS Deepanshu Kabra has been promoted as ADG and at present he is working as Commissioner DPR and Commissioner Transport department. In the same way IG Surugja Range AK Yadav has been promoted as IG and given wage hike.

SP Balrampur, Surajpur SP Bhawna Gupta has been shifted to Sarguja as SP whereas Chandra Mohan Singh as SP Mungeli, Rajesh Agrawal as SP Jashpur, Anjaya Vaishnav as SP Bijapur are the key responsibilities delivered on the IPS Officers. After promotion, the Durg SP BN Meena has been given the responsi-

Mishra promoted as Special DGP

Raipur: Senior IPS Officer Rajesh Mishra has been promoted as Director General of Police (DGP) Special whereas 1997 batch IPS Officer Dipanshu Kabra has been promoted as Additional DGP but would continue to work as Commissioner Public Relations and ex-officio Chief Executive Officer of Chhattisgarh Samvad and additional charge of Commissioner Transport here.

bility of Durg IG.

Raipur IG Dr Anand Chabra would continue to hold the responsibility of IG (Intelligence) whereas BS Dhruv has been posted as DIG at Bastar Range Police Armed Forces and DK Garg as DSP Bilspur Range Armed Forces in the reshuffle.

Evaluation begins in Pt RSU, sets target to release results by June 15

Raipur, Apr 25: Pt Ravishankar Shukla University management has set a target to declare results of all subjects by June 15. To this end evaluation of answer-sheets has been started.

According to information received from university administration the admission process was delayed for the last two years due to the COVID situation. The university is preparing to complete the entire admission process on time in the upcoming session.

Keeping this in view the evaluation process is being carried out in the midst of the examination so that the results of all the subjects are released on time. The university management says that the admission process will also be started from June 16 as soon as the results are declared. Examinations of various courses are underway in the colleges. As many as 1 lakh 84 thousand students

are appearing in examinations.

Team of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is going to visit the university in July. Preparations are being made for this also. The university has got A grade at present. In such a situation, this time work is being done to remove the flaws to bring A+. Efforts is being made to improve other facilities like university campus, student facilities, WiFi, hostel, smart class room.

President of Ravishankar Shukla University Employees Association Shrawan Singh Thakur and Secretary Pradeep Kumar Mishra have demanded to make the university a central university. Work has also been started in this direction. The University is the largest and oldest in the state and has a different place in the country regarding education.

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 25: Congress is going to launch movement all over the country in protest against arrest of Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani. In Chhattisgarh too the party is going to stage demonstration in all district units to demand for release of Mevani. The party will also submit memorandum to the President of India.

Congress communication head Sushil Anand Shukla said on Monday that a decision had been taken to submit memorandum in all district headquarters of the state to the

President amid protest against three-day police custody of Jignesh Mevani.

Dalit leader and MLA Jignesh Mevani was sent to jail on the basis of a tweet. Congress has also condemned this trend as dangerous to democracy.

Earlier, Pradesh Congress Committee Chief Mohan Markam said that a tweet against Modi in social media alone became such a serious crime that the freedom of a public representative was taken away BJP and Modi have also lost the democratic character of tolerating their criticism, Mohan

Markam said and alleged that the BJP was misusing the law to weaken the opposition due to the extremist character of its majority. Congress opposes this attitude of BJP and demands release of Jignesh Mevani.

Jignesh Mevani, who started his public life as a journalist, is an independent MLA from Gujarat. He represents the Vadgam Assembly Constituency. In the last elections, both Congress and Aam Aadmi Party supported him. Jignesh Mevani is one of the key allies of the Congress. Jignesh has also been very active as a Dalit social worker and lawyer.

Action against agitating contract power workers

Raipur, Apr 25: Action is being taken against agitating contract electricity workers for causing inconvenience to the people by blocking the road. A case has now been registered against Chhattisgarh electricity contract workers. Two cases have been registered against 19 youths under 5 different IPC sections. According to City SP Tarakeswar Patel persons involved in the agitation three days ago had caused harassment to the common people by blocking the road.

Police have registered a case under IPC Sections 147, 186, 332 and 353 against Vivek Bhagat, Umesh Patel, Kamlesh Bhardwaj, Rajiv Netam, Amit Kumar Netam, Umesh Lonia, Ajay Chouhan, Ameshwar Vaishnav, Ramesh Kumar Paikra, Rajendra Kumar, Shani Kumar, Nagesh Kumar Maravi, Sahish Kumar Uharua, Shiv Charan Khairwar, Naval

Singh Parmar, Neeraj Kumar Sahu and Hemant Kashyam.

Police told that 900 youth had blocked the road in their attempt to gheraoe CM House and they had laid down on the road throughout the night. Executive Magistrate and police officials repeatedly asked them to vacate the road but the continued to sit on the road. All these persons interfered in the government work besides scuffling with the police. It has been claimed that inspector Yakub Memon and other police personnel Cloriksha Minj, Jyoti Kurre, Anirudha Nishad, Heera Singh Netam and Rupendra Kumar Nag sustained injuries in the scuffle.

The second case was registered by a shopkeeper named Sagar Padmawar against Chhattisgarh contract electricity workers. Vivek Bhagat, Umesh Patel, Kamlesh Bhardwaj

have been made accused in the case. Sagar runs a sugarcane shop near the venue of dharna. According to him two of his trucks got stuck due to the agitating employees who sat in the road jamming the road throughout night. These trucks were filled with sugarcane. The raw material got damaged due to the heat. On the complaint of the shopkeeper, the police have registered a second case under sections 147-IPC, 341-IPC.

Agitation is being run for the regularization of 2500 power contract workers working in the power company and for providing justice to the families of 25 electricity contract workers who were martyred in the accident. The contract workers working in the power company from every corner of the state were protesting after reaching Raipur for the last one month.

Ch'garh honoured for reduction in malaria cases

By Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi today on World Malaria Day

Big drop in state's API rate due to the effective implementation of Malaria-free Ch'garh campaign, 0.92 in 2021 as compared to 2.63 in 2018



mentation of Malaria-free Chhattisgarh campaign and Malaria-free Bastar campaign has resulted in huge reduction in the Annual Parasitic Incidence (A.P.I i.e. the total number of malaria patients per 1000 population per year). The state's API was 2.63 in the year 2018; which has come down to 0.92 in 2021.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo has congratulated the officers and employees of

Health Mission and Department of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Priyanka Shukla and Director, Epidemic Control Dr. Subhash Mishra received this honor on behalf of the state government in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, the first phase of malaria-free Bastar campaign was conducted in January-February-2020 by Health and Family Welfare Department and National Health Mission, Chhattisgarh in seven aspirational districts of Bastar division. In the first phase, door-to-door malaria testing of 14 lakh 06 thousand people was done. Similarly, door-to-door malaria testing of 23 lakh 75 thousand people was done in the second phase, 15 lakh 70 thousand in the third phase, 19 lakh 98 thousand in the fourth phase and 14 lakh 36 thousand in the fifth phase. As

many as 64 thousand 646 positive cases were found in the first phase, 30 thousand 076 in the second phase, 16 thousand 148 in the third phase, 11 thousand 363 in the fourth phase and 11 thousand 321 in the fifth phase. The treatment of people found malaria positive during the campaign was started immediately. The API of Bastar division which was 26.78 API in the year 2016 has dropped down to 7.07 in 2021.

Keeping in view the positive results of the campaign in Bastar division, it has been expanded to 21 districts of the state under the banner of 'Malaria-free Chhattisgarh' campaign. In the first, second, third, fourth and fifth phases of the campaign, malaria positivity rates have been recorded at 4.6 per cent, 1.27 per cent, 1.03 per cent, 0.56 and 0.79 per cent, respectively.

Ganja worth Rs 4.67 cr seized, 9 accused arrested

In three different cases in Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Apr 25:

It was on tip of an information to Anti-Narcotics Task Force Team formed under leadership of Addl. SP Archana Jha, that Girish Yadav R/o Gram Ushad and another accused, an ex-R/o MP and at present from Pendra Kudari thana are smuggling 'ganja' to both Chhattisgarh and MP. On this the police team carried out intense investigation and stopped a truck bearing No. OD 19-K-2300 coming to Bilaspur from Odisha. The accused driver Firoz Khan S/o Noor Khan R/o Rourkela (Odisha) and Girish Yadav S/o Ranjit Yadav R/o Ushad Thana Marwahi were found smuggling 'ganja' in their truck. It was stopped at Kariam RTO barrier and two were interrogated. When search was done it appeared as if cement dust is loaded in the truck, but when deeply checked it was found that 'ganja' is stored in plastic bags. The Police seized 20.30 quintal 'Ganja' from 12 wheeled truck bearing



No. OD-19-K- 2300, worth Rs 4.16 cr and action under section 20 (B) of NDPA Act was taken.

In the same way, in another case, as per tip from an informer, accused Daulat Kenwat S/o Gallu Kenwat, R/o Bhad Thana Bhalumuda District Anoopur (MP) was found transporting 'ganja' in a white coloured Honda car bearing no. CG 10 BE 0258 and 2 quintal 'ganja' worth Rs 40 lakh was seized when search was conducted excluding the cost of vehicle at Rs 5 lakh, one mobile worth Rs 5000 and total worth Rs 45.05 lakh. A case

under section 20 (B) of NDPS Act was taken against him.

In another case, the accused Ramkumar S/o Chaitram Patel, (50), R/o Konargarh, Thana Mulmula, District Jangir-Champa and Shankar Chouhan S/o Ajit Chouhan (23), R/o Konargarh, Thana Mulmula, District Jangir-Champa and Lakhani Kashya (21), S/o Badri Vishan Kashyap R/o Mulmula, Shiv Kailash Sahu S/o Ramayan Sahu (23), R/o Mulmula, Vishal Goyal, S/o Siayram Goyal (23) R/o Mulmula, Bablu

Kumar Sahu S/o Rajkumar Sahu (21), R/o Lavan district Balodabazar, were found smuggling 'ganja' in Tata Sumo vehicle bearing No. CG 10-AG-7450. When the Police stopped the vehicle at Mungrada Triangle in Danikudi, a total of 10 Kg ganja was found below the seat and they were taking it to Kotami Sakola for selling. The police seized vehicle Tata Sumo worth around Rs 4.50 lakh, 6 mobile phones worth Rs 22000, 10 Kg 'Ganja' worth around Rs 2 lakh and case under section 20 (B) of NDPS Act was filed against all.

In this way the GPM Police arrested 9 accused in three different cases of 'Ganja' smuggling worth Rs 4.67 lakh apart from vehicles and mobiles worth lakh and got a major success.

In this action, TI Gourela, Inspector Yuvraj Tiwari, TI Pendra SI Dharamnarayan Tiwari, TI Marwahi Inspector Anil Agrawal, Cyber Cell ASI Hemant Aditya, Durgesh Rathore, head constable Durgesh Rathore, Ghanshyam Adil, Rajesh Sharma, Choupal Kashyap and others played an important role in this case.

UNAWARE OF RISK



Children in order to beat the heat are taking dive near anicut and are probably unaware of risk involved taking dive at such places.

COVID-19: Two new cases in Ch'garh, no fresh fatality

Raipur, Apr 25: Chhattisgarh on Sunday reported two fresh coronavirus positive cases, taking the state's tally to 11,52,235, an official said. The death toll remained unchanged at 14,034 as no fresh fatality was reported due to the infection during the day. The state's COVID-19

positivity rate stood at 0.20 per cent, he said.

The recovery count in Chhattisgarh also remained unchanged at 11,38,183 as none of the people were discharged or completed their home isolation during the day, leaving the state with 18 active cases, he said.

"Bilaspur and Surguja districts recorded one case each. No new coronavirus cases were reported in 26 districts.

As on Sunday, no active cases were reported in 18 districts of the state," the official said. With 979 samples examined during the day, the

tally of tests carried out so far in Chhattisgarh went up to 1,76,14,802, he added. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,52,235, new cases two, death toll 14,034, recoveries 11,38,183, active cases 18, total tests 1,76,14,802.

Co-op play a pivotal role in empowerment of farmers: CM



Baghel attends NAFSCOB board meeting

Raipur, Apr 25: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Ltd. (NAFSCOB) held at a private hotel in Nava Raipur late on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said cooperatives play a pivotal role in the empowerment of farmers and the underprivileged. Soon after the formation of the government, we focused on simplification of coopera-

tive procedures so that farmers can easily get credit. Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Bank plays an important role in the implementation of various ambitious schemes of the State Government including Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, and procurement of minor forest produce on support price, and various economic activities conducted by women Self-Help Groups in Gauthans.

The Chief Minister stressed upon the need to expand the work related to cooperatives to strengthen the economic condition of the farmers and instill confidence in them. Rural industrial parks are being established in Chhattisgarh to

boost the income of the people. Besides, the work of manufacturing vermicompost, earthen lamps, and paint using cow dung are being done in the state-run Gauthans. Now the work of electricity generation from cow dung has also been started in Gauthans, through which the common people of the village will not only buy electricity but will also do the work of selling it. He said that cooperation will play an important role in conducting all these activities. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel welcomed the cooperative representatives from all over the country present at the meeting. It is worth mentioning that on April 25, the National Cooperative Conference and the National Award Distribution Ceremony will be organized in the state capital Raipur.

Cooperative Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam, Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Vikas Upadhyay, KRIBHCO Chairman Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Apex Bank Chairman Mr. Bajinath Chandrakar were among those present on the occasion.

Guru Tegh Bahadur's biography will be included in school curriculum: CM



'Garhphuljhar will be developed as a tourist destination to perpetuate memory of Guru Nanakji'

Baghel attends centenary celebrations being organized on 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Raipur, Apr 25: On the occasion of the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji, the ninth Guru of Sikh, a two-day centenary celebration was organized on behalf of the Sikh Samaj Chhattisgarh and the Station Road Gurdwara at the Science College Ground in the capi-

tal Raipur. On the second day of this function, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the function on Sunday. The Chief Minister first paid obeisance in front of Guru Granth Sahib and wished for happiness and prosperity of the people of Chhattisgarh.

The Chief Minister announced the inclusion of the biography of the great Guru Tegh Bahadur in the school curriculum for his contribution to the society. He also announced to develop Garhphuljhar (the place near Basna visited by the first Guru of the Sikh Community Guru Nanak Dev ji) as tourist destination so as to perpetuate the memory of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, related to

Chhattisgarh. Baghel, who arrived at the ceremony organized on the occasion of 400th Prakash Parv of Guru Tegh Bahadur, was accorded a warm welcome by the Sikh Samaj. On this occasion, the Chief Minister and other guests were honored with presentation of shawls, Shri Phals and Saropa on behalf of Sikh Samaj. Baghel extended his greetings and best wishes to the people of the entire state, including the Sikh community, on the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

While addressing the gathering, he said that Guru Tegh Bahadur ji was a great social reformer, warrior and scholar. The Gurus of Sikh Samaj worked to infuse courage and valor in every individual. When the circumstances were unfavourable, the gurus did the work of organizing the society. The Gurus of Sikh Samaj protected the Hindus. According to the Chief Minister there is a mention of Guru Nanak Dev ji staying at two places in Chhattisgarh during his

visit to India and one of these places is Kabir Chaura of Amarkantak, where Guru Nanak Dev Ji Maharaj and Kabir Ji met. The second place is Garhphuljhar near Basna, where Guru Nanak Dev Ji stayed for some time, Baghel. The Chief Minister said, to perpetuate the memory of Guru Nanak ji, Garhphuljhar would be developed as a tourist destination. Considering significant contribution of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji in the society, the Chief Minister announced to include his biography in the school curriculum of Chhattisgarh. Baghel said that whenever there was any kind of crisis on the society and the country, Sikh Samaj always stood in the forefront to serve the society and fight the challenges. Even during COVID situation, when people were frightened even inside their homes, then the Sikh Samaj was mobilizing in the service of providing food to the needy.

Sahaj Paath by 400 Sikh families concluded at Science College Ground,

Raipur during the event organized on the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji.

Kirtankars Shri Joginder Singh and Shri Surjit Singh Rasila (Delhi) and Shri Karamjit Singh Nimana (Patiala) who came from Ludhiana sang Shabad Kirtan in the four Diwans. The Sangat enthusiastically participated in all the Diwans.

In the centenary celebrations of Guru Tegh Bahadur, Baghel was accompanied by the Chairman of Minorities Commission Mahendra Singh Chhabra, MLA and Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Kuldeep Juneja, Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Vikas Upadhyay and MLA Brijmohan Agrawal. Convenor of Sikh Samaj Surendra Singh Chhabra, Station Road. Gurdwara President Niranjan Singh Khanuja, Patron Sikh Samaj Gurbaksh Singh Chhabra, Gurdwara Management Committee Vice President Inderjit Singh Chhabra, Secretary Tejinder Singh Hora were also present.

MOU in CU with CSHD

Bilaspur, Apr 24: At Guru Ghasidas University (a Central University) was signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University and the Center for Studies of Holistic Development (CSHD), Raipur a reputed non-governmental organization. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the university, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal has been constantly making efforts to ensure that all the departments should move towards self-reliance. On the basis of the inspiration of the Vice-



Chancellor, the MoU has been signed with CSHD, Raipur in the field of consultancy, research and innovation.

As a result of the continuous active and fruitful efforts of Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Central University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, new initiatives are being taken in the field of academics, research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the university. The university has entered into mutual agreements with various national and international institutions to upgrade the quality of academics and research. As a result of the vision and efficient management of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, the University has signed

MoUs with more than 55 eminent educational and non-educational institutions of the country and abroad. Along with this, an MoU Monitoring Committee has been constituted to assess the progress being made in the works of various MoUs being executed by the University.

The constant positive efforts and dedication of the Vice-Chancellor has put the University in the forefront of academic activities at the national and international level in a short span of time.

Former VC and Chairman of CSHD, Prof. B. K. Sthapak and Secretary, CSHD, Vivek Saxena were present on the occasion for smooth completion of the work.

Massive cow-dung scam in the name of GNY: Usendi

Kondagaon, Apr 25: The municipality is presenting a document related to selling more of cow-dung than the cow dung actually collected from the cow ranchers in Kondagaon and this is pointing fingers towards some irregularity. Holding talks with media persons, Lata Usendi informed that according to the forms filled by the cow ranchers who have only 10 cows under the municipality area, 90 kg of salable cow-dung is being generated daily, then in 21 months he would be sell cow-dung worth only Rs 1,13 lakh at the rate of Rs 2. But the document of the municipality is showing it to be one selling cow-dung worth more than Rs 10 lakhs. Rather, there are many such cow ranchers under the municipality who have less number of cattle but they have been



made millionaire just selling cow-dung cow dung.

When the information was collected from the group and department formed for the Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNY), it was found that the weight of cow-dung is being manipulated for the purpose of providing personal benefits to many beneficiaries. It has been found from the documents that the number of cattle is the same in many places. But there is a huge difference in the total weight of cow dung produced. Thus this smells of scam and it is being done under the full protection of Congress workers and MLA. Lata Usendi demanded high-

level probe into the case by a high-powered committee to investigate into the cow-dung scam and exposed all those involved in this cow-dung scam.

During the press conference BJP District President Dipesh Arora, State Working Committee Member Shmanoj Jain, Law Cell State Co-Convenor Gopal Dixit, BJP District Kondagaon Office Incharge Dayaram Patel, Municipal President Hemkunwar Patel, Vice President Jasketu Usendi Mandal President Jainendra Thakur, Guppy Surana, Kulwant Chahal, along with other officials were present.

IIMCAA Chhattisgarh Alumni Meet honours Prof Mohanti



Raipur, Apr 25: IIMCAA Alumni Association Chhattisgarh Chapter conducted its annual get-together titled 'Koo Connections' on Sunday here. The meet discussed on changes that are coming to fore in the field of media and future challenges in this field. In the programme silver jubilee batch Professor Rajendra Mohanti who is presently with Khusha Bhau Thakre Journalism University was felicitated. In addition Chapter decided to grant Rs 25,000 scholarship every year to a girl student who is pursuing her studies in journalism. This

scholarship is in memory of famous player of state Late Rajendra Panigrahi.

Chapter president Sangeeta said, Chhattisgarh unit after its formation has expanded a lot. National Meet convenor Brajesh Kumar Singh said, there has been a major change in the presentation of information and scribes need to update themselves with the changing trend. Prakash Hota took charge as current president of the Chapter. Chapter Secretary Santosh Kumar said, with the exchange of information, attachment remains intact.

Meghwal reviews development works of Bastar district

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Apr 25: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Government of India, Arjun Ram Meghwal here reviewed the ongoing development works in the aspirational district of Bastar. MP Deepak Baij, Chitrakot MLA Rajman Benzam, District Panchayat President Vedavati Kashyap, Collector Rajat Bansal, Forest Divisional Officer DP Sahu, District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Rohit Vyas and district level officers were present in the meeting.

Meghwal directed to prepare proposals for the development of the aspirational districts, while reviewing them under the prescribed indices for sectors like education, health and nutrition, employment, infrastructure, etc., so that initiatives can be taken for assistance at the



central level.

During the review, Collector Shri Bansal and District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Rohit Vyas while giving information about the development works being carried out in Bastar district said that Bastar district has been ranked 19th in the list of aspirational districts released by NITI Aayog in the month of February and it has been given first place in the field of agriculture. Bastar district has

also achieved a leading position in the field of education and health and nutrition, the Collector said. Appreciating these works being done in Bastar, Minister Shri Meghwal also told the need to promote animal husbandry and fisheries. He directed the farmers to benefit from schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Fasal Bima Yojana etc., as well as to claim loans for fisheries and dairy operations

through Kisan Credit Card. He also stressed upon the progressive farmers on educational tour to other states. Along with the construction of infrastructure in rural areas, instructions were also given to arrange funds through the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund run by NABARD for the construction of additional rooms in the schools as per the requirement. He emphasized on ap-

pointing youth as bank correspondents in the villages to promote financial inclusion, as well as providing protection to the villagers through insurance schemes available at very low rates like Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.

He also reviewed the availability of better network in rural areas and explained the need to speed up the Bharat Net program. Shri Meghwal informed about the work being done by the Union Ministry of Culture and Tribal Affairs to bring out the stories of unsung heroes of independence under the Amrit Mahotsav on the 75th anniversary of independence.

He said that in this episode 15 museums are also being established across the country. For this, he also directed the officials to collect necessary facts regarding the tribal heroes of the region.

Animal lovers come forward to save birds from rising heat



Central Chronicle News

Birkoni, April 25: in view of the scorching heat, the villagers of village Saradih have started a campaign to arrange food and water for the helpless animals and birds. This campaign is being run from house to house in which aware and environment loving people are involved. A new initiative of arrangement for keeping grain water in Sakora, due to drying up of rivers and streams has also gained the attention of many and many bird lovers have started this initiative from their homes itself.

Environment lover Khorbahra Sonwani and youth organization president Deepak Chauhan have started a unique initiative, to quench the hunger and thirst of birds, therefore they are distributing water containers, locally called Sakora for keeping food and water for the animals and birds. Addressing the cause, Deepak Chauhan said that water is priceless, life is not possible without it, and due to the increasing heat day by day, the problem of grain and water has come in front of the innocent animals and birds. The yearning of hunger and thirst disturbs us humans,

and then it can be guessed that what would be the condition of the speechless animals and birds, he said. He said that if we arrange food and water for them in and around our house for four months of summer, then there will be no other work of greater virtue than this.

Environment lover Khorbahra Sonwani said that in this scorching heat the general public and the passers-by are being affected, in such a situation, silent animals and birds are worried about water, therefore like every year, this year too, water pots are tied on the trees for the birds.

Administration reaching door-to-door to solve problems of citizens: Jyotsna

Central Chronicle News

Korba April 25: Under the government's Tuhar Dwar program, a major solution camp was organized in Bhilai Bazar, Gram Panchayat of Katghora development block. In this camp, in a single day, eight thousand 213 people were addressed of their grievances. MP of Korba Lok Sabha constituency Jyotsna Mahant, Katghora MLA Purushottam Kanwar, Pali Tanakhar MLA Mohit Ram Kerketta and Collector Ranu Sahu also participated in the camp.

Jyotsna Mahant along with the public representatives involved in the camp visited the stalls of various departments and distributed cycles to school girls under Saraswati Cycle Yojana. Along with this, handicapped persons were given disability certificates, credit checks to women groups, agricultural equipment, fish nets,



Kisan credit cards, e-shramik cards etc. to the farmers. Addressing the citizens, MP Jyotsna Mahant said that under the Government Tuhar Dwar program, the district administration is reaching people door to door and solving various problems of the citizens. She said that earlier citizens had to travel far and wide for even the smallest facilities, now through the camp, all government services are being availed at one place. She

congratulated Collector Mrs. Ranu Sahu for seriously implementing the schemes of the government in the district. MLA of Pali Tanakhar area, Mohit Ram Kerketta said that earlier the problems were taken up in the camps and later they were resolved. Now, by making a strategy, the problems are being identified by the administration by visiting people from door to door and they the people are being benefited from the services through the

camp. District Panchayat President Mrs. Shivkala Kanwar, Gau Sewa Aayog member Prashant Mishra, Janpad Panchayat Katghora President Lata Kanwar, District Panchayat CEO Nutan Kanwar, and S.D.M. Katghora Kaushal Prasad Tendulkar, public representatives Surendra Pratap Jaiswal, Harish Parsai, Sarpanch Gan of nearby Panchayats, all departmental officers and a large number of citizens were present.

Sarva Adivasi Samaj to oppose CM's programme

Central Chronicle News

Konta / Sukma, Apr 25: A meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Sarva Adivasi Samaj District Sukma on Sunday, in connection with the 20-point demands of the Collector Gherao Maharally held on 22 March.

Expressing regret, Sarva Adivasi Samaj said that one month has passed and even after giving assurances by the Chief Minister and the Excise Minister, not a single demand has been fulfilled till date, Sarva Adivasi Samaj Sukma strongly condemns it. It was decided unanimously that there is a program of the Chief Minister in Sukma district, which will be strongly opposed by the entire tribal society. During this, Sarva



Adivasi Samaj District President Pooja Markam, Koya Kutma Block President Sanjay Sodi, Ganesh Madvi, Aya Mandavi, Umesh Sundam, Lachhu Nag, District President Halba Samaj Ratan Pradhan, Hariram Kashyap and all Tribal Samaj officials and people of the society were present.

What office bearer says

"20 point demands were placed in front of the Chief Minister and Excise Minister of the state, assurances were given by them, but 1 month has passed and not even one demand has been fulfilled. Sarva Adivasi Samaj Sukma strongly condemns this, if our demands are not met, then in the coming time there will be a fierce movement for which the administration will be responsible."

- Pozza Markam, District President Sarva Adivasi Samaj, Sukma

YC and father of injured submit memo to SP

Saying some other person projected as accused

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Apr 25: Members of YC along with injured father Ramesh Sahu met the SP Mungeli and submitted him a memorandum demanding action against the accused after investigation into the case. YC has charged the investigators of Kotwali Police thana of framing charges against some other accused and even produced him in the court.

It is notable here that national football player Lokesh Sahu and his wife met with an accident last



in July 2021 and in this both got seriously injured. In this matter, a case was filed against the other party as he was intoxicated and driving recklessly. But during investigation, instead of the actual driver of that vehicle, a third person was made as an accused and produced him in the court. In this regard, YC leaders and father of injured couple Ramesh Sahu met SP and

submitted him a memorandum demanding re-investigation into the case and find out actual culprit instead of projecting someone else as the accused. Failing to take action, YC has warned of intensifying their protest. In this regard SP DR Anchala said that if there is fault on part of someone, then the accused will be arrested and case will be reopened and justice will be met.

Collector inspects Nutrition Rehabilitation Center

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Apr 25: District Collector Kuldeep Sharma along with District Panchayat CEO Kunal Dudawat here made a surprise inspection of the district hospital to observe the health services.

The OPD, SNCU, Operation Ward, NRC, medicine distribution centre, duty chart of doctors, male and female wards were checked and also the collector tasted the food being prepared in the hospital kitchen.

Taking information about the stock of medi-

cines in the drug distribution center, the collector directed to make online entry of all the medicines kept in the stock. While directing the civil surgeon to improve the hospital system, he directed to improve the cleanliness in toilets, electrical system at the earliest.

The Collector also directed to issue notices to three doctors found absent without notice during the inspection. At the same time, under Janani Shishu Suraksha, instructions were given to the CS to issue notices to the kitchen in-charge and NRC feeding demonstrator for negligence in work for not providing food according to the menu.

The Collector also visited the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center in the hospital during the inspection and checked upon the status of quality of cleanliness, care, nutritional food in the NRC.

Scorching heat in April brings life to a halt

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Apr 25: Scorching heat has brought life to a halt with the temperature reaching to 42 degree Celsius in the city at 12 noon. April this year round is getting as hot as that of mid May June, with people taking aid of various means to get respite from the heat.

On Wednesday, the temperature of the city reached 42 degrees Celsius and this has stunned people of the scorching heat ahead of time. Roads are getting deserted by noon and the region is deserted and it is impossible to walk on roads without footwear or additional coverings.



Similarly, the city's Sai Temple, Chaubandha Tiraha, Mahamaya Chowk, Govardhan Chowk, Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Chowk, Shivaji Chowk, Shri Ram Chowk, Tehsil Office Chowk, Raipur Road, Subhash Chowk, Rajiv Lochan Mandir,

Pandit Shyamacharan Shukla Chowk, etc. are giving a very deserted look.

Both water shortage and power cuts are also effecting the population, with many regions reeling under power cuts. The farming community too is

dispensed in irrigating the fields as the dry winds are parching the farms before time. People are also being witnessed bathing and cooling in in Navagaon Anicut, but here too the ground water level has gone down.

Since the increase in mercury readings, the common man looks concerned over how to sustain the heat in the coming months of May and June. Meanwhile health experts have opined of maintaining the body temperature by eating seasonal fruits, fruit juice, curd, whey, cumin, buttermilk, jaljeera, lassi and other liquids and completely cover one before going out.

NAME CHANGE	NAME CHANGE	NAME CHANGE
It is informed to the general public that I, TEHAL SINGH S/O LATE ATMA SINGH BASSI resident of MIG-204, C.G.H.B. COLONY, TATIBANDH, RAIPUR (C.G.) PIN- 492099 have changed my old name TEHAL SINGH S/O LATE ATMA SINGH BASSI, so in future I should be recognised by my new name that is TAHAL SINGH BASSI S/O LATE ATMA SINGH BASSI in all government and other documents.	It is informed to the general public that I, MONIKA D/O SUBHASH PRASAD SAO resident of SHARDA KUNJ PUSHPAK NAGAR SMRITI NAGAR BHILAI DIST DURG (C.G.) have changed my old name MONIKA D/O SUBHASH PRASAD SAO, so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is MONIKA SAO GUPTA W/O RAJAN GUPTA in all government and other documents.	My old Name is Harjeet Singh Oshan S/o Malkit Singh Changed his old name to Harjeet Singh S/o Malkit Singh R/o- Talpuri, B-Block, House No 512, Juhi Apartment Bhilai, Tahsil and District Durg (Chhattigarh) finely. Now I should known and recognized by the new Name Harjeet Singh S/o Malkit Singh in all government/ semi government and all other document in future.
TAHAL SINGH BASSI MIG-204, C.G.H.B. COLONY, TATIBANDH, RAIPUR (C.G.) PIN 492099	MONIKA SAO GUPTA SHARDA KUNJ PUSHPAK NAGAR SMRITI NAGAR BHILAI DIST DURG (C.G.)	Deponent

Canara Bank Branch: Mohandi. Bhilai (C.G.)

POSSESSION NOTICE [Appendix IV under the Act-Rule-8(1)]

Whereas, The under signed being the Authorised officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice was issued on the dated in the given following table calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days of receipt of said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property, described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against the account. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the CANARA BANK (Below mentioned Branches) for the amount and interest mentioned thereon.

The Borrower's / Guarantors' / Mortgager'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.

S. No.	Borrower Name	Detail of Possessed Property	Demand Notice Amount	Demand Notice Date
1.	Mr. P Yogeshwar Rao, Mrs. P Krishnaveni and Mr. B Ganga Rao	All that part and parcel of the property and construction there on flat No. A-405, 4th floor, BK-A, Anand Vihar Phase-II, Mouza, Vill- Potiyakala Part of Kh No. 8015-6-7-8, PC No. 19/23 Ward No. 53, Potiya Chowk Teh & Dist- Durg, Bounded: North: Open to sky, South: Comidor, East: Flat No. A-404, West: Flat No. A-406, Area 706 Sq Feet (65.52 sq mtr).	₹ 20,12,891.76 with interest and applicable charges thereon.	01.02.2022 Possession Notice Date 25.04.2022

Date: 25.04.2022 Place: Bhilai (CG) Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

Canara Bank

CORRIGENDUM - SALE NOTICE

The general public is informed that in the e-auction notice published in Dainik Bhaskar newspaper Raipur dated 23.04.2022 entitled- The name of the Branch Manager in M/s NRI Steel and Metal Works was accidentally published as Harish Kumar Yadav, which should now be read as Ramesh Kumar Dhrak. 2. In M/s Trailer Transport Corporation, the branch Durg Main Branch was published by mistake, which should now be read as Bhilai SIME Branch. All other terms and conditions will remain the same. Authorized Officer: Canara Bank, Reg. Of. Raipur

BRIEF

Concealed

Amritsar: Over 100 kg of heroin, worth around Rs 700 crore in the international market, concealed in a consignment of 'mulethi' from Afghanistan was seized by the Customs department here. The heroin was hidden in a licorice root (mulethi) consignment imported from Afghanistan by a Delhi-based individual. It was detected after the goods were subjected to X-ray scanning as per the prescribed examination procedure. Customs officers started opening the bags.

Suspect

Guwahati: A suspected terrorist belonging to a Bangladesh-based outfit was arrested in Bongaigaon district of Assam, making it the 12th such arrest since March in the state, a police officer said. The man who was picked up from Bhandara village under Manikpur police station was remanded to judicial custody by a court during the day. Bongaigaon superintendent of police Swapnaneel Deka told PTI. He arrested one Syed Ahmed on Friday on the basis of the information.

Held

Gurugram: The Gurugram Police has arrested six out of seven suspects in connection with a robbery in which around Rs 1 crore was plundered from a cash van last week, officials said. The crime unit, sector 40 team, nabbed all six from Delhi and Shambhu border, Ambala. The accused were produced in court and taken on four days police remand. A special team is conducting raids to nab the seventh accused who is still at large. The van used to pick up cash from T3, T1 parking.

Arrest

Jodhpur: The Rajasthan police arrested a priest for allegedly not allowing a newlywed Dalit couple to offer prayers at a temple in Jalore, officials said. A video of the incident also went viral purportedly showing Vela Bharti stopping the couple at the gate of the temple at Neelkanth village under Ahore subdivision of the district. The video also captures the ensuing argument between them. The aggrieved family members then approached police and filed a case.

Electrocuted

Pilibhit: Two brothers died due to electric shock. They were identified as Rajendra Prasad (54) and Rameshwar Dayal (46), residents of Lalaur Gujranpur village. They had gone to irrigate their fields and after sometime, Rajendra started cleaning water drain with an iron bar near the tubewell. The iron bar accidentally touched the power wire of the tubewell, due to which Rajendra got electrocuted. When Rameshwar tried to save Rajendra, he too was electrocuted.

TN Assembly adopts bill facilitating State to appoint VCs

Chennai, Apr 25 (PTI):

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday adopted a bill empowering the state government to appoint Vice-Chancellors to various universities in the state, in an apparent bid to clip the wings of the Governor on the matter.

Chief Minister MK Stalin recalled that the Panchhi Commission on Centre-State relations had, while dealing with the subject of VC appointments, said "there would be a clash of functions and powers" if the authority to choose the top academician was wrest-



TN CM MK Stalin speaks during passage of bill regarding university VC appointment during state assembly in Chennai.

ed with the Governor. The ruling DMK's move came on a day when state Governor RN Ravi inaugu-

rated a two-day conference of VCs at Udhagamandalam, attended by among others, Zoho Corporation CEO Sridhar Vembu, whose participation in the event was questioned by the Congress party.

The governor is the Chancellor of 13 varsities in the state, Stalin pointed out, with the Higher Education Minister being the Pro-Chancellor.

On Monday, Higher Education Minister K Ponnudiyil tabled the bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Universities Laws to allow the state government to appoint VCs to the varsities.

Allow Panchen Lama to live free life: CTA to China

Dharamshala, Apr 25 (PTI):

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) on Monday asked the Chinese government to allow the 11th Panchen Lama and his family members, taken into custody by China 27 years ago and not seen in public since then, to live a free life.

The CTA's appeal comes on the 33rd birth anniversary of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, who was recognised by the Dalai Lama as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama when he was six-year-old.

In a statement issued from here, the CTA said it intends to send a strong message to Beijing that the world has not forgotten about Nyima despite China's efforts to erase him from history.

We call upon the Chinese government to rightfully



Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

allow the Panchen Lama and his family to live a free life they are entitled to under the international laws and treaties that China is obligated to, the CTA, which is unofficially known as Tibetan government-in-exile, said in a statement issued from its headquarters here. On 14 May 1995, His Holiness the Dalai Lama endorsed Nyima

as the 11th incarnation of the Panchen Lama. However, China did not recognise his reincarnation and on 11 November 1995, it announced Gyaltsen Norbu, the son of a Communist Party member as the Panchen Lama, the second-highest spiritual title in Tibetan Buddhism, the CTA said.

Kejriwal takes Mann on visit of clinic, school in Delhi

Punjab to replicate Delhi's education model

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday said his state will learn from Delhi's model of mohalla clinics that has won the national capital praise from the entire world.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal showed a mohalla clinic and government schools to Mann, who is on a two-day visit to the national capital to learn about the best practices of the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) model of governance.

At the mohalla clinic, Mann interacted with the patients, who told him that it takes them just 10 minutes to meet the doctor and



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain during their visit to a mohalla clinic, in New Delhi on Monday.

get medicines. "The mohalla clinics in Delhi have been praised by the entire world. We too will learn from this model for the betterment of Punjab," Mann said.

Punjab Health Minister Vijay Singla and senior officials are accompanying Mann on the Delhi visit.

Kejriwal said 95 per cent of the patients visiting Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics in Delhi are satisfied with the services provided there. "Anybody, be it from any state, can come and get free treatment at these health facilities," he said. "We have opened two mohalla clinics in Delhi's

most posh area, Greater Kailash, and a lot of well-off patients also come to these centres. They say they do not get such care anywhere else," Kejriwal told Mann.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said all major tests are conducted at mohalla clinics free of cost and the reports are uploaded online the next day. At a government school in Chirag Enclave, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia told Mann that after coming to power in Delhi, the AAP had called a meeting of school principals and sought their suggestions to strengthen the education system in the city.

Kejriwal told the Punjab officials that the principals of government schools were sent for training abroad and the teachers were trained at Indian Institutes of Management.

AGAINST FIRING RANGE



Members of tribal community protest in front of Raj Bhavan against the Netarhat Field Firing Range project, in Ranchi, Jharkhand on Monday.

Jharkhand Govt tells schools to suspend morning assembly, sports

Ranchi, Apr 25 (PTI):

In view of the rising COVID-19 cases in some states of the country, the Jharkhand School Education and Literacy Department has asked schools to suspend morning assembly, cultural programmes and sports activities, officials said on Monday. The School Education and Literacy department has issued a fresh COVID-19 guideline for schools in Jharkhand in the light of rising COVID-19 cases in some states.

As per the new guideline, the schools have been asked to conduct health checkups on a regular basis in coordination with nearest health centres and district administrations have been directed



COVID-19 vaccination of students continue at a school in Giridih as precautions ordered in Jharkhand.

to ensure random COVID-19 test of students and teachers. Morning assembly, cultural programmes and sports activity will remain suspended in schools, an official release

said. The School Education and Literacy Department secretary Rajesh Kumar Sharma in a letter to all deputy commissioners, district education officers and

district superintendents of education, has asked them to follow COVID-19 guidelines in a bid to restrict the spread of the disease. Expressing concern, the secretary said, An increase in the infection rate of Covid-19 is being seen in many states of the country for the past 15 days, which is worrying. At such a time, it is imperative to ensure all necessary initiatives at the priority level to prevent the infection of COVID-19 in the state-run schools.

The schools have been asked to sanitise school premises, classrooms, laboratories, library and others with 1 per cent sodium hypochlorite solution before beginning of educational activities and complete sanitization of the institution every 15 days.

'BJP striving to win 120 seats in 2024 Odisha assembly elections'

Bhubaneswar, Apr 25 (PTI):

Despite successive electoral debacles in Odisha, including in the recently concluded panchayat and civic polls, the BJP is striving to win 120 assembly seats in the 147-member House in the 2024 general elections, party state chief Samir Mohanty said.

Mohanty, while visiting a village near Bhubaneswar for a party programme, said that 'Mission 120' or aim to secure 120 assembly seats in Odisha was set by former BJP chief and Union Home Minister Amit Shah ahead of the 2019 general elections.

The BJP not only bettered its tally in Odisha assembly from 10 seats in 2014 to 23 in 2019, but also replaced Congress as the principal opposition party in the House, and secured 31 per cent of the votes. It also won eight Lok Sabha seats from the state, up from just one in 2014. In an interaction with



Odisha BJP leaders meet at a function, led by Samir Mohanty (3L) in Bhubaneswar.

PTI on Monday, Mohanty said, "People from every nook-and-corner of Odisha are saying that BJP is the only alternative to BJD which has 'overstayed' in power since 2000. We have to work hard for the next 24 months towards realising our goal with a fresh strategy. BJP workers will highlight the welfare projects implemented by the Narendra Modi government."

"Congress is no longer a pan-Odisha party, it is only confined to some pockets. The grand old party is losing vote share in every election. If the BJP manages to secure even five per cent of this vote, it will not be difficult to reach our target," he said.

Admitting that the BJP was in a weak position in Koraput and Rayagada districts, where the principal contest is between the BJD and Congress, Mohanty, however, asserted that with proper strategy, the saffron party can easily penetrate the tribal hinterland.

'BJP going to build new J&K with people's cooperation'

Jammu, Apr 25 (PTI):



Ravinder Raina

Modi had addressed a rally at Palli Panchayat in the district in his first public appearance in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

His speech was relayed to all gram panchayats across the country and during the event he inaugurated and

laid the foundation stones of several projects for the union territory that came into existence after the Centre abrogated the article which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are thankful to the people who turned up in large numbers at the rally which shows their love and respect for the prime minister who has a special place for Jammu and Kashmir in his heart," said Raina who was flanked by other BJP leaders including former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta.

Talking to reporters at the party headquarters here, Raina referred to the foundation stone laying ceremony of various developmental projects and Modi's message to the youth of Jammu and

Kashmir. Modi had assured the youth of Jammu and Kashmir that his government will make sure that they do not face problems related to basic amenities that their parents or grandparents had encountered.

"The BJP is moving ahead to build a new and beautiful Jammu and Kashmir with the cooperation of the people," Raina said. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir, whether Hindus or Muslim, Sikhs or Christians, inhabitants of city or rural areas, Paharisingh or Gujjar and Bakerwal, refugees or border residents and other reserved categories and deprived communities, stand with Modi which was evident from the public rally participants by people with

enthusiasm," he said. The BJP leader said that the party believes in 'Sabka saath, Sabka vikas and Sabka vishwas' and with efforts of all, Jammu and Kashmir will continue to tread on the path of peace, prosperity and development.

"There will be no discrimination and equitable development of both regions of Kashmir and Jammu will be ensured," Raina said.

He also talked about the three-tier Panchayati Raj System and said the BJP under Prime Minister Modi strengthened democracy at the grassroots by holding elections and also empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions unlike the past seven decades of National Conference and Congress rule.

Delhi court takes cognizance of ED charge sheet

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

A Delhi court has taken cognizance of a charge sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate against former TMC youth wing leader Vinay Mishra, the alleged kingpin of a cattle smuggling racket across the India-Bangladesh border, Mohammad Enamul Haque and others.

Special Judge Sanjay Garg issued summons against Mishra, his brother Vikas Mishra and other accused persons in the matter, and directed them to appear before the court on June 1.

I have gone through the complaint and the accompanying documents. There is sufficient material to proceed against the ac-

cused. Accordingly, the cognizance of the offence under sections of PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) is taken, the judge said in an order passed on April 19.

The charge sheet was filed through Nitesh Rana, ED's special public prosecutor, who told the court that Haque acquired huge amount of wealth from proceeds of crime generated out of cross-border activities and violated several laws.

According to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the case was lodged following an FIR by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in Kolkata against Satish Kumar, the then Commandant, Border Security Force (BSF).

BRIEF**Accepts**

Jerusalem: President Joe Biden has accepted an invitation to visit Israel in the coming months, the two countries announced. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke to Biden, discussing recent Israeli-Palestinian unrest in Jerusalem as well as their shared concerns about Iran, both of their offices said. Israel has opposed US efforts to revive international nuclear deal, saying it does not include sufficient safeguards to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

Ban

Dubai: The island kingdom of Bahrain announced it would start banning the import, distribution and sale of single-use lightweight plastic bags from mid-September, the latest move by an oil-producer to advance carbon reduction goals. It did not specify how the upcoming ban would be enforced, whether by fining distributors of the ubiquitous thin bags or charging people for their use. The ban, to come into effect September 19, is in line with the government's plans.

Attack

Bamako: A series of attacks targeted three military bases in Mali, killing at least six soldiers and injuring nearly a dozen more, the West African nation's army said. The Malian army said simultaneous attacks were underway in Sevare, Niono and Bapho, three central towns in the sprawling desert nation. While no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State has ravaged. The military junta that seized power in 2020.

Vows

Madrid: Spanish authorities are pledging full transparency as they launch inquiries into allegations that the phones of dozens of supporters of Catalan independence were hacked with powerful and controversial spyware only sold to government agencies. An internal probe by the country's intelligence agency, a special parliamentary commission to share its results, and a separate investigation by Spain's ombudsman will be arranged to show that central authorities in Madrid.

Carjack

Atlanta: Five teenagers were shot in a fight outside a diner in downtown Atlanta, US, and two of them took a vehicle at gunpoint to get to a hospital in carjack.

Loss is victory for far-right politics in French election

Paris, Apr 25 (AP):

**French Rassemblement National (RN) presidential candidate Marine Le Pen leaves after her speech in Paris.**

The far-right has gone mainstream in France. That's the headline showing by Marine Le Pen in the French presidential election. The fierce nationalist didn't win. But she edged another step closer, snatching a victory of sorts from her defeat to reelected President Emmanuel Macron.

With 41.5% of the vote, unprecedented for her, Le Pen's anti-foreigner, anti-system politics of disgruntlement are now more entrenched than ever in the psyche, thinking and political landscape of France.

Since the Le Pen dynasty first her dad, Jean-Marie, and now Marine, his daughter, first started contesting presidential elections in 1974, never have so many French voters bought into their doctrine that multicultural and multiracial France, a country with the words 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity' inscribed on its public buildings, would be richer, safer and somehow more French if it was less open to foreigners and the outside world.

Had she become France's first woman president, her plan for fighting Islamic terrorism would have included stripping part of France's population, women who are Muslims of some of their liberty. She wanted to ban them from wearing headscarves in public, hardly very equal or fraternal. Same goes for her proposals to move French citizens to the front of lines for jobs, benefits and housing. For headscarf-wearing voter Yasmina Aksas, Le Pen's defeat wasn't a celebration moment, not with such strong backing for her and ideas that 'used to be limited to militant far-right

groups' becoming increasingly acceptable in polite company. 'It's still 40% of people voting for Le Pen,' the 19-year-old law student said. 'It's not a victory.' Internationally, Le Pen wanted to start diluting France's relationships with the European Union, NATO and neighbour Germany, moves that would have been seismic for the architecture of peace in Europe, in the midst of Russia's war in Ukraine.

In short, France escaped a political, social and economic electroshock by not voting in Le Pen.

Or perhaps just delayed one, should she choose to

stand again in 2027. That's a long way off. Much could change. But Le Pen isn't done yet. 'In this defeat, I can't help but feel a form of hope,' she said. 'I will never abandon the French.'

Surpassing 40% of the vote elevates Le Pen into illustrious, mainstream company. Since Gen. Charles de Gaulle beat Francois Mitterrand by 55% to 45% in 1965, all defeated finalists lost 40-something to 50-something. With two exceptions, both named Le Pen. Jean-Marie was trounced 82% to 18% by Jacques Chirac in 2002 and Marine lost 66% to 34% to Macron in 2017. Voters used to regard it as their civic duty to keep the Le Pens' score low, seeing a ballot against them as a blow against racism and xenophobia. Fewer think that way now.

By championing cost-of-living issues, befriending the working class, changing her party's name and distancing herself from her father, Le Pen broadened her appeal and made herself less scary to growing swaths of France's electorate. Immigration isn't the top concern for all her supporters.

'Russia is failing in war aims, Ukraine succeeding'

Kyiv, Apr 25 (AP):

**US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Kyiv, Ukraine.**

American Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Monday after a secrecy-shrouded visit to Kyiv that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is committed to winning his country's fight against Russia and that the United States will help him achieve that goal.

He has the mindset that they want to win, and we have the mindset that we want to help them win, Austin told reporters in Poland, the day after the three-hour face-to-face meeting with Zelenskyy in Ukraine.

Austin said that the nature of the fight in Ukraine had changed now that Russia has

pulled away from the wooded northern regions to focus on the eastern industrial heartland of the Donbas.

Because the nature of the fight has evolved, so have Ukraine's military needs, and Zelenskyy is now focused on more tanks, artillery and other munitions. The first step in winning is

believing that you can win," Austin said.

"We believe that they can win if they have the right equipment, the right support, and we're going to do everything we can ... to ensure that gets to them. The trip by Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was the highest-level American visit to the capital since Russia invaded in late February.

They told Zelenskyy and his advisers that the US would provide more than 300 million in foreign military financing and had approved a 165 million sale of ammunition. We had an opportunity to demonstrate directly our strong ongoing support for the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian people," Blinken said.

Unvaccinated people increase COVID-19 risk

Toronto, Apr 25 (PTI):



Unvaccinated people threaten the safety of those who are vaccinated against COVID-19 even when the immunisation rates are high, according to a modelling study published on Monday.

Researchers from the University of Toronto in Canada used a simple model to explore the effect of mixing between unvaccinated and vaccinated people to understand the dynamics of an infectious disease like SARS-CoV-2.

They simulated mixing of like-with-like populations in which people have exclusive contact with others of the same vaccination status as well as random mixing between different groups.

"Many opponents of vaccine mandates have framed vaccine adoption as a matter of individual choice," said David Fisman, from Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

"However, we found that the choices made by people who forgo vaccination contribute disproportionately to risk among those who do get vaccinated," Fisman said in a statement. The study, published in Canadian Medical Association Journal, found that the risk to vaccinated people was lower when unvaccinated mixed with unvaccinated.

However, when vaccinated and unvaccinated people mixed, a substantial number of new infections would occur in vaccinated people, even in scenarios where immunisation rates were high.

The findings remained stable even when they modelled lower levels of vaccine effectiveness for prevention of infection, such as in those who have

not received a booster dose or with new SARS-CoV-2 variants.

The findings may be relevant to future waves of SARS-CoV-2 or to the behaviour of new variants, according to the researchers.

"Risk among unvaccinated people cannot be considered self-regarding. In other words, forgoing vaccination can't be considered to affect only the unvaccinated, but also those around them," the authors of the study noted. "Considerations around equity and justice for people who do choose to be vaccinated, as well as those who choose not to be, need to be considered in the formulation of vaccination policy," they said.

FOUNDATION DAY**Citizens walk past a celebrative poster displayed on occasion of 90th founding anniversary of Korean Peoples Revolutionary Army (KPRA) in Pyongyang, North Korea, Monday.**

El Salvador extends state of emergency

San Salvador, Apr 25 (AP):

**Men are detained by the police, suspects in a homicide near a market in San Salvador, El Salvador.**

El Salvador's congress voted to grant a request by President Nayib Bukele to extend an anti-gang emergency decree for another 30 days. The measure was approved with 67 votes in the 84-seat congress, where Bukele's party holds a majority. Bukele has used emergency powers to round up about 16,000 suspected gang members following a spate of killings in March. Rights groups have criticised the

measures, saying arrests are often arbitrary, based on a person's appearance or where they live.

Beijing Covid spike prompts mass testing, panic buying

**Woman leaves a supermarket after buying food and household provisions in Beijing on Monday.**

Beijing, Apr 25 (AFP):

Fears of a hard Covid lockdown sparked panic buying in Beijing on Monday, as long queues

for compulsory mass testing formed in a large central district of the Chinese capital.

China is already trying to contain a wave of in-

fections in its largest city Shanghai, which has been almost entirely locked down for weeks and reported 51 new Covid deaths on Monday.

Shanghai has struggled to provide fresh food to those confined at home, while patients have reported trouble accessing non-Covid medical care—and the rising cases in the capital triggered fears of a similar lockdown.

Downtown Beijing's most populous district of Chaoyang, home to around 3.5 million people, ordered mass testing from Monday for residents and those coming to work there. The area

hosts the headquarters of many multinational firms and embassies.

Queues snaked around malls and outside office complexes on Monday as people waited to be swabbed for samples by health workers in protective gear. "If a single case is found, this area could be affected," said office worker Yao Leiming, 25, as he headed for a testing site in Chaoyang with a group of his colleagues.

The mass testing order, and warnings of a "grim" Covid situation in the city, sparked a run on Beijing's supermarkets overnight as residents rushed to stockpile essentials.

SL Prez ready to form interim Govt, claims senior Buddhist monk

Colombo, Apr 25 (PTI):

Sri Lanka's embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has agreed to form an interim government to tackle the unprecedented economic crisis, a senior Buddhist monk claimed on Monday, as the debt-ridden country stepped up efforts to keep the economy afloat. Thousands of demonstrators have hit the streets since April 9, as the government ran out of money for vital imports; prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed and there are acute shortages in fuel, medicines and electricity supply.

Rajapaksa expressed his intention to form the interim government in a letter to the powerful Buddhist clergy. Rajapaksa had responded to a letter from the chief monks of the four Buddhist chapters dated April 4 in which they had asked Rajapaksa to dissolve the Cabinet to set up an interim government, M a d a g o d a Dhammananda, Chief Registrar of one of the chapters, said. A few days

ago high-ranking Buddhist monks, who oversee and regulate the Buddhist clergy, have urged the President, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and all MPs to take effective steps to put the country in order and also said that they will be forced to issue a Sangha Convention if they fail to do so, Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

There was no immediate reaction from the President's Office.

LANCO Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SALE OF ASH

Lanco Amarkantak Power Ltd. (LAPL) invites proposals for sale of ash to road construction projects (NH&I) to buyers of ash for filling of low lying areas (land development) and to manufacturers of ash based products such as Cement & Bricks manufacturing companies for environment friendly utilization of fly ash from the ash brick (slabs of LAPL's power station situated at Village-Pathari, Korta, Chhattisgarh on "as is where is basis". Detailed terms and conditions of sale are given in respective tender documents. This tender document is in compliance to the clause no.5.1 of Ministry of Power (MoP) notification dated 22.02.2022 stipulating procedure to be followed for disposal of Ash under competitive bidding. The various tender documents being part of this tender notifications are as below:-

1. LAPL/ASH/SALE/2022-23/01 Road Construction projects (NH&I)
2. LAPL/ASH/SALE/2022-23/02 To fill low lying areas (land development)
3. LAPL/ASH/SALE/2022-23/03 Cement Manufacturers
4. LAPL/ASH/SALE/2022-23/04 Fly Ash Brick Manufacturers

Please visit Lanco group website www.lancoenergy.com and download the tender documents for detailed information.

NOTE: Bidders have to visit the above Lanco group website at regular intervals to get update about this tender.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, ARANG

E-Procurement Tender Notice (1st Call)
SYSTEM TENDER NO: 97996 NIT NO: 116/2022 ARANG, Dated 25.04.2022
Online bids in three envelope system are invited for the following construction works/supply works up to date 17.05.2022 at 17.30 Hours

Sl. No.	Description	Cost of Tender
1	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUS STAND & COMMERCIAL COMPLEX AT NAGAR PALIKA PARISHAD ARANG (CGPWD ROAD AND BUILDING S.O.R. 01.01.2015, ELECTRICAL SOR 2020, PHE SOR 2013 APPROVED NDSR)	(1) Rs. 669.52 Lacs

The details can be downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh e-Procurement Portal <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> From 25.04.2022 at 17.30 Hours. (IST) onwards.

For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal

**CHIEF MUNICIPAL OFFICER
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ARANG (CG)**

छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य सहकारी दुग्ध महासंघ मर्यादित
ग्राम-उरला, पो - बी.एम.वाय. चरोदा, जिला-दुर्ग, छ.ग.
क्रमांक/389/प्रगदुस/क्र/2022/ दिनांक- 25/04/2022

॥ समय वृद्धि सूचना ॥

दुग्ध महासंघ द्वारा प्लोमीटर एवं फिजोमीटर स्थापना कार्य हेतु जारी निविदा सूचना क्रमांक-4182, दिनांक-21.03.2022 आमंत्रित की गई थी, जिसकी निविदा जमा करने की तिथि में वृद्धि किया जाकर - 05.05.2022 की जाती है। शेष नियम व शर्तें पूर्वानुसार रहेगी।

प्रबंध संचालक

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम विलासपुर (छ.ग.)
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना

क्र. 26/न.पा.नि./सत विभाग/2022-23 दिनांक 25/04/2022
एकीकृत पंचायत प्रणाली अंतर्गत सामग्री के निविदा सूचना के निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा दिनांक 19.05.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्रमांक	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	अंशेतर राशि (रु. लाख में)	देखभाल की कीमत
97972	Submersible Motor Pump Repairing Work for Central Zone (Zone 3, 4 and 5)	41.30	31000.00	D रु. रख

उपरोक्त निविदा की सामग्री शर्तें, परीक्षा शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा सूचना, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से दिनांक 27/04/2022 से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यालय सचिवता
नगर पालिक निगम, विलासपुर (छ.ग.)

Green City, Clean City, Dream City.

BRIEF

Concealed

Amritsar: Over 100 kg of heroin, worth around Rs 700 crore in the international market, concealed in a consignment of 'mulethi' from Afghanistan was seized by the Customs department here, the heroin was hidden in a licorice root (mulethi) consignment imported from Afghanistan by a Delhi-based individual. It was detected after the goods were subjected to X-ray scanning as per the prescribed examination procedure. Customs officers started opening the bags.

Suspect

Guwahati: A suspected terrorist belonging to a Bangladesh-based outfit was arrested in Bongaigaon district of Assam, making it the 12th such arrest since March in the state, a police officer said. The man who was picked up from Bhandara village under Manikpur police station was remanded to judicial custody by a court during the day, Bongaigaon superintendent of police Swapnaneel Deka told PTI. He arrested one Syed Ahmed on Friday on the basis of the information.

Held

Gurugram: The Gurugram Police has arrested six out of seven suspects in connection with a robbery in which around Rs 1 crore was plundered from a cash van last week, officials said. The crime unit, sector 40 team, nabbed all six from Delhi and Shambhu border, Ambala. The accused were produced in court and taken on four days police remand. A special team is conducting raids to nab the seventh accused who is still at large. The van used to pick up cash from T3, T1 parking.

Arrest

Jodhpur: The Rajasthan police arrested a priest for allegedly not allowing a newlywed Dalit couple to offer prayers at a temple in Jalore, officials said. A video of the incident also went viral purportedly showing Vela Bharti stopping the couple at the gate of the temple at Neelkanth village under Ahore subdivision of the district. The video also captures the ensuing argument between them. The aggrieved family members then approached police and filed a case.

Electrocuted

Pilibhit: Two brothers died due to electric shock. They were identified as Rajendra Prasad (54) and Rameshwar Dayal (46), residents of Lalaur Gujranpur village. They had gone to irrigate their fields and after sometime, Rajendra started cleaning water drain with an iron bar near the tubewell. The iron bar accidentally touched the power wire of the tubewell, due to which Rajendra got electrocuted. When Rameshwar tried to save Rajendra, he too was electrocuted.

TN Assembly adopts bill facilitating State to appoint VCs

Chennai, Apr 25 (PTI):

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday adopted a bill empowering the state government to appoint Vice-Chancellors to various universities in the state, in an apparent bid to clip the wings of the Governor on the matter.

Chief Minister MK Stalin recalled that the Panchhi Commission on Centre-State relations had, while dealing with the subject of VC appointments, said "there would be a clash of functions and powers" if the authority to choose the top academician was wrest-



TN CM MK Stalin speaks during passage of bill regarding university VC appointment during state assembly in Chennai.

ed with the Governor. The ruling DMK's move came on a day when state Governor RN Ravi inaugu-

rated a two-day conference of VCs at Udhagamandalam, attended by among others, Zoho Corporation CEO Sridhar Vembu, whose participation in the event was questioned by the Congress party.

The governor is the Chancellor of 13 varsities in the state, Stalin pointed out, with the Higher Education Minister being the Pro-Chancellor.

On Monday, Higher Education Minister K Ponnudiyil tabled the bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Universities Laws to allow the state government to appoint VCs to the varsities.

Allow Panchen Lama to live free life: CTA to China

Dharamshala, Apr 25 (PTI):

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) on Monday asked the Chinese government to allow the 11th Panchen Lama and his family members, taken into custody by China 27 years ago and not seen in public since then, to live a free life.

The CTA's appeal comes on the 33rd birth anniversary of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, who was recognised by the Dalai Lama as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama when he was six-year-old.

In a statement issued from here, the CTA said it intends to send a strong message to Beijing that the world has not forgotten about Nyima despite China's efforts to erase him from history.

We call upon the Chinese government to rightfully



Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

allow the Panchen Lama and his family to live a free life they are entitled to under the international laws and treaties that China is obligated to, the CTA, which is unofficially known as Tibetan government-in-exile, said in a statement issued from its headquarters here. On 14 May 1995, His Holiness the Dalai Lama endorsed Nyima

as the 11th incarnation of the Panchen Lama. However, China did not recognise his reincarnation and on 11 November 1995, it announced Gyaltsen Norbu, the son of a Communist Party member as the Panchen Lama, the second-highest spiritual title in Tibetan Buddhism, the CTA said.

Kejriwal takes Mann on visit of clinic, school in Delhi

● Punjab to replicate Delhi's education model

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday said his state will learn from Delhi's model of mohalla clinics that has won the national capital praise from the entire world.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal showed a mohalla clinic and government schools to Mann, who is on a two-day visit to the national capital to learn about the best practices of the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) model of governance.

At the mohalla clinic, Mann interacted with the patients, who told him that it takes them just 10 minutes to meet the doctor and



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain during their visit to a mohalla clinic, in New Delhi on Monday.

get medicines. "The mohalla clinics in Delhi have been praised by the entire world. We too will learn from this model for the betterment of Punjab," Mann said.

Punjab Health Minister Vijay Singla and senior officials are accompanying Mann on the Delhi visit.

Kejriwal said 95 per cent of the patients visiting Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics in Delhi are satisfied with the services provided there. "Anybody, be it from any state, can come and get free treatment at these health facilities," he said. "We have opened two mohalla clinics in Delhi's

most posh area, Greater Kailash, and a lot of well-off patients also come to these centres. They say they do not get such care anywhere else," Kejriwal told Mann.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said all major tests are conducted at mohalla clinics free of cost and the reports are uploaded online the next day. At a government school in Chirag Enclave, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia told Mann that after coming to power in Delhi, the AAP had called a meeting of school principals and sought their suggestions to strengthen the education system in the city.

Kejriwal told the Punjab officials that the principals of government schools were sent for training abroad and the teachers were trained at Indian Institutes of Management.

AGAINST FIRING RANGE



Members of tribal community protest in front of Raj Bhavan against the Netarhat Field Firing Range project, in Ranchi, Jharkhand on Monday.

Jharkhand Govt tells schools to suspend morning assembly, sports

Ranchi, Apr 25 (PTI):

In view of the rising COVID-19 cases in some states of the country, the Jharkhand School Education and Literacy Department has asked schools to suspend morning assembly, cultural programmes and sports activities, officials said on Monday. The School Education and Literacy department has issued a fresh COVID-19 guideline for schools in Jharkhand in the light of rising COVID-19 cases in some states.

As per the new guideline, the schools have been asked to conduct health checkups on a regular basis in coordination with nearest health centres and district administrations have been directed



COVID-19 vaccination of students continue at a school in Giridih as precautions ordered in Jharkhand.

to ensure random COVID-19 test of students and teachers. Morning assembly, cultural programmes and sports activities will remain suspended in schools, an official release

said. The School Education and Literacy Department secretary Rajesh Kumar Sharma in a letter to all deputy commissioners, district education officers and

district superintendents of education, has asked them to follow COVID-19 guidelines in a bid to restrict the spread of the disease. Expressing concern, the secretary said, An increase in the infection rate of Covid-19 is being seen in many states of the country for the past 15 days, which is worrying. At such a time, it is imperative to ensure all necessary initiatives at the priority level to prevent the infection of COVID-19 in the state-run schools.

The schools have been asked to sanitise school premises, classrooms, laboratories, library and others with 1 per cent sodium hypochlorite solution before beginning of educational activities and complete sanitization of the institution every 15 days.

'BJP striving to win 120 seats in 2024 Odisha assembly elections'

Bhubaneswar, Apr 25 (PTI):

Despite successive electoral debacles in Odisha, including in the recently concluded panchayat and civic polls, the BJP is striving to win 120 assembly seats in the 147-member House in the 2024 general elections, party state chief Samir Mohanty said.

Mohanty, while visiting a village near Bhubaneswar for a party programme, said that 'Mission 120' or aim to secure 120 assembly seats in Odisha was set by former BJP chief and Union Home Minister Amit Shah ahead of the 2019 general elections.

The BJP not only bettered its tally in Odisha assembly from 10 seats in 2014 to 23 in 2019, but also replaced Congress as the principal opposition party in the House, and secured 31 per cent of the votes. It also won eight Lok Sabha seats from the state, up from just one in 2014. In an interaction with



Odisha BJP leaders meet at a function, led by Samir Mohanty (3L) in Bhubaneswar.

PTI on Monday, Mohanty said, "People from every nook-and-corner of Odisha are saying that BJP is the only alternative to BJD which has 'overstayed' in power since 2000. We have to work hard for the next 24 months towards realising our goal with a fresh strategy. BJP workers will highlight the welfare projects implemented by the Narendra Modi government."

"Congress is no longer a pan-Odisha party, it is only confined to some pockets. The grand old party is losing vote share in every election. If the BJP manages to secure even five per cent of this vote, it will not be difficult to reach our target," he said.

Admitting that the BJP was in a weak position in Koraput and Rayagada districts, where the principal contest is between the BJD and Congress, Mohanty, however, asserted that with proper strategy, the saffron party can easily penetrate the tribal hinterland.

'BJP going to build new J&K with people's cooperation'

Jammu, Apr 25 (PTI):



Ravinder Raina

Modi had addressed a rally at Palli Panchayat in the district in his first public appearance in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

His speech was relayed to all gram panchayats across the country and during the event he inaugurated and

laid the foundation stones of several projects for the union territory that came into existence after the Centre abrogated the article which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are thankful to the people who turned up in large numbers at the rally which shows their love and respect for the prime minister who has a special place for Jammu and Kashmir in his heart," said Raina who was flanked by other BJP leaders including former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta.

Talking to reporters at the party headquarters here, Raina referred to the foundation stone laying ceremony of various developmental projects and Modi's message to the youth of Jammu and

Kashmir. Modi had assured the youth of Jammu and Kashmir that his government will make sure that they do not face problems related to basic amenities that their parents or grandparents had encountered.

"The BJP is moving ahead to build a new and beautiful Jammu and Kashmir with the cooperation of the people," Raina said. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir, whether Hindus or Muslim, Sikhs or Christians, inhabitants of city or rural areas, Paharisingh or Gujjar and Bakerwal, refugees or border residents and other reserved categories and deprived communities, stand with Modi which was evident from the public rally participants by people with

enthusiasm," he said. The BJP leader said that the party believes in 'Sabka saath, Sabka vikas and Sabka vishwas' and with efforts of all, Jammu and Kashmir will continue to tread on the path of peace, prosperity and development.

"There will be no discrimination and equitable development of both regions of Kashmir and Jammu will be ensured," Raina said.

He also talked about the three-tier Panchayati Raj System and said the BJP under Prime Minister Modi strengthened democracy at the grassroots by holding elections and also empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions unlike the past seven decades of National Conference and Congress rule.

Delhi court takes cognizance of ED charge sheet

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

A Delhi court has taken cognizance of a charge sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate against former TMC youth wing leader Vinay Mishra, the alleged kingpin of a cattle smuggling racket across the India-Bangladesh border, Mohammad Enamul Haque and others.

Special Judge Sanjay Garg issued summons against Mishra, his brother Vikas Mishra and other accused persons in the matter, and directed them to appear before the court on June 1.

I have gone through the complaint and the accompanying documents. There is sufficient material to proceed against the ac-

cused. Accordingly, the cognizance of the offence under sections of PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) is taken, the judge said in an order passed on April 19.

The charge sheet was filed through Nitesh Rana, ED's special public prosecutor, who told the court that Haque acquired huge amount of wealth from proceeds of crime generated out of cross-border activities and violated several laws.

According to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the case was lodged following an FIR by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in Kolkata against Satish Kumar, the then Commandant, Border Security Force (BSF).

Meghwal reviews development works of Bastar district

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Apr 25: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Government of India, Arjun Ram Meghwal here reviewed the ongoing development works in the aspirational district of Bastar. MP Deepak Baij, Chitrakot MLA Rajman Benzam, District Panchayat President Vedavati Kashyap, Collector Rajat Bansal, Forest Divisional Officer DP Sahu, District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Rohit Vyas and district level officers were present in the meeting.

Meghwal directed to prepare proposals for the development of the aspirational districts, while reviewing them under the prescribed indices for sectors like education, health and nutrition, employment, infrastructure, etc., so that initiatives can be taken for assistance at the



central level.

During the review, Collector Shri Bansal and District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Rohit Vyas while giving information about the development works being carried out in Bastar district said that Bastar district has been ranked 19th in the list of aspirational districts released by NITI Aayog in the month of February and it has been given first place in the field of agriculture. Bastar district has

also achieved a leading position in the field of education and health and nutrition, the Collector said.

Appreciating these works being done in Bastar, Minister Shri Meghwal also told the need to promote animal husbandry and fisheries. He directed the farmers to benefit from schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Fasal Bima Yojana etc., as well as to claim loans for fisheries and dairy operations

through Kisan Credit Card. He also stressed upon the progressive farmers on educational tour to other states.

Along with the construction of infrastructure in rural areas, instructions were also given to arrange funds through the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund run by NABARD for the construction of additional rooms in the schools as per the requirement.

He emphasized on ap-

pointing youth as bank correspondents in the villages to promote financial inclusion, as well as providing protection to the villagers through insurance schemes available at very low rates like Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.

He also reviewed the availability of better network in rural areas and explained the need to speed up the Bharat Net program. Shri Meghwal informed about the work being done by the Union Ministry of Culture and Tribal Affairs to bring out the stories of unsung heroes of independence under the Amrit Mahotsav on the 75th anniversary of independence.

He said that in this episode 15 museums are also being established across the country. For this, he also directed the officials to collect necessary facts regarding the tribal heroes of the region.

Animal lovers come forward to save birds from rising heat

**Central Chronicle News****Birkoni, April 25:**

In view of the scorching heat, the villagers of village Saradih have started a campaign to arrange food and water for the helpless animals and birds. This campaign is being run from house to house in which aware and environment loving people are involved.

A new initiative of arrangement for keeping grain water in Sakora, due to drying up of rivers and streams has also gained the attention of many and many bird lovers have started this initiative from their homes itself.

Environment lover Khorbakra Sonwani and youth organization president Deepak Chauhan have started a unique initiative, to quench the hunger and thirst of birds, therefore they are distributing water containers, locally called Sakora for keeping food and water for the animals and birds.

Addressing the cause, Deepak Chauhan said that water is priceless, life is not possible without it, and due to the increasing heat day by day, the problem of grain and water has come in front of the innocent animals and birds. The yearning of hunger and thirst disturbs us humans,

and then it can be guessed that what would be the condition of the speechless animals and birds, he said.

He said that if we arrange food and water for them in and around our house for four months of summer, then there will be no other work of greater virtue than this.

Environment lover Khorbakra Sonwani said that in this scorching heat the general public and the passers-by are being affected, in such a situation, silent animals and birds are worried about water, therefore like every year, this year too, water pots are tied on the trees for the birds.

Sarva Adivasi Samaj to oppose CM's programme

Central Chronicle News

Konta / Sukma, Apr 25: A meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Sarva Adivasi Samaj District Sukma on Sunday, in connection with the 20-point demands of the Collector Gherao Maharally held on 22 March.

Expressing regret, Sarva Adivasi Samaj said that one month has passed and even after giving assurances by the Chief Minister and the Excise Minister, not a single de-



mand has been fulfilled till date, Sarva Adivasi Samaj Sukma strongly condemns it. It was decided unanimously that there is a program of the Chief Minister in Sukma district, which

will be strongly opposed by the entire tribal society. During this, Sarva Adivasi Samaj District President Pojja Markam, Koya Kutma Block President Sanjay Sodi, Ganesh Madvi, Aya

Mandavi, Umesh Sundam, Lachhu Nag, District President Halba Samaj Ratan Pradhan, Hariram Kashyap and all Tribal Samaj officials and people of the society were present.

What office bearer says

"20 point demands were placed in front of the Chief Minister and Excise Minister of the state, assurances were given by them, but 1 month has passed and not even one demand has been fulfilled. Sarva Adivasi Samaj Sukma strongly condemns this, if our demands are not met, then in the coming time there will be a fierce movement for which the administration will be responsible."

- **Pozza Markam,**
District President Sarva Adivasi Samaj, Sukma

Collector inspects Nutrition Rehabilitation Center

Koriya, Apr 25:

District Collector Kuldeep Sharma along with District Panchayat CEO Kunal Dudawat here made a surprise inspection of the district hospital to observe the health services. The OPD, SNCU, Operation Ward, NRC, medicine distribution centre, duty chart of doctors, male and female wards were checked and also the collector tasted the food being prepared in the hospital kitchen. Taking information about the stock of medicines in the drug distribution center, the collector directed to make online entry of all the medicines kept in the stock.

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR 797/2,
Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001

By Regd. A/D, Delhi falling within the jurisdiction of this Tribunal.

NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION UNDER RULE 53 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1995, 21-04-2022

RC/419/2020 BANK OF BARODA Versus M/S INDIAN EGG CENTRE

To: (1) SHRI ABDUL HANNAN KHAN HNO-4 SHANKAR WARD, MALHAPARA, MUNGELI, CG-492001
(2) SHRI ABDUL HALIM KHAN HNO-4 SHANKAR WARD, MALHAPARA, MUNGELI, CG-492001

Whereas you the undersigned by the Presiding Officer of DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, JABALPUR who had issued the Recovery Certificate dated 20/05/2020 in O.A./566/2019 to pay to the Applicant Bank (Financial Institution) Name of applicant, the sum of Rs. 1767442.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Forty Two Only) along with penal interest and future interest @ 11.00% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 18/04/2019 till realization and cost of Rs. 20000 (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only), and whereas the said has not been paid, the undersigned has ordered the sale of undermentioned immovable/immovable property:

2. You are hereby informed that the 15/06/2022 at 10.30 A.M. has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attached to the said properties or any portion thereof.

Specification of property
Land & Building Situated at Nagai Plot No. 170/2, Sheet No. 39 A, P.H. No.02/29, BINA Mungeli, Shankar Nagar Ward, Ward No. 05, Mungeli, Tehsil & Distt. Mungeli (C.G.). Area measuring 624 Sq. Ft. in the name of Abdul Halim Khan & Abdul Hannan Khan Both S/o Late Abdul Halim Khan
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this date: 21/04/2022
Recovery Officer DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR

Administration reaching door-to-door to solve problems of citizens: Jyotsna

Central Chronicle News**Central Chronicle News**

Korba April 25: Under the government's Tuhar Dwar program, a major solution camp was organized in Bhalai Bazar, Gram Panchayat of Katghora development block. In this camp, in a single day, eight thousand 213 people were addressed of their grievances. MP of Korba Lok Sabha constituency Jyotsna Mahant, Katghora MLA Purushottam Kanwar, Pali Tanakhar MLA Mohit Ram Kerketta and Collector Ranu Sahu also participated in the camp.

Jyotsna Mahant along with the public representatives involved in the camp visited the stalls of various departments and distributed cycles to school girls under Saraswati Cycle Yojana. Along with this, handicapped persons were given disability certificates, credit checks to women groups, agricultural equipment, fish nets, Kisan credit cards, e-shramik cards etc. to the farmers.

Addressing the citizens, MP Jyotsna Mahant said that under the Government Tuhar Dwar program, the district administration is reaching people door to door and

solving various problems of the citizens. She said that earlier citizens had to travel far and wide for even the smallest facilities, now through the camp, all government services are being availed at one place. She congratulated Collector Mrs. Ranu Sahu for seriously implementing the schemes of the government in the district. MLA of Pali Tanakhar area, Mohit Ram Kerketta said that earlier the problems were taken up in the camps and later they were resolved.

Now, by making a strategy, the problems are being identified by the administration by visiting people from door to door and they the people are being benefited from the services through the camp.

District Panchayat President Mrs. Shivkala Kanwar, Gau Sewa Aayog member Prashant Mishra, Janpad Panchayat Katghora President Lata Kanwar, District Panchayat CEO Nutan Kanwar, and S.D.M. Katghora Kaushal Prasad Tendulkar, public representatives Surendra Pratap Jaiswal, Harish Parsai, Sarpanch Gan of nearby Panchayats, all departmental officers and a large number of citizens were present.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division), 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur 482001 (M.P.)
Case No.: OAEX/304/2013 in O.A. No. 271/2012
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK (ERSTWHILE ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE) Vs SHRI VISHWANATH GUPTA
E-Auction No. 71/2022

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website <https://www.bankauctions.com> for recovery of a sum of Rs. 10,32,951.00 (Rupees Ten Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty One Only) payable by you/you in respect of Recovery Certificate in O.A. No. 271/2012 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur with interest at 12.25% p.a. with simple interest from 18-09-2012 and costs payable as per recovery certificate till realization.

Date and Time of E-auction : 01.06.2022 Between 12.00 Hours and 13.00 hours
SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPERTIES PUT FOR SALE
At Flat No. 204, "Raghavendra Enclave", Patwari Halka No. 26/45, Ward No. 03, Nehru Nagar Ward, Mouza- Amerit, R.N.M. - Sakri, Block- Takhatpur, Tehsil, Takhatpur, District- Bilaspur (C.G.) Build up Area of Flat 758.87 Sq. Ft. in the name of Shri Vishwanath Gupta S/o. Shri Jagannath Gupta and Smt. Kanchan Gupta W/o. Shri Vishwanath Gupta
Upset Price: Rs. 25,58,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)

Conditions of Sale:

- Intending bidders must hold a valid digital signature certificate. For details contact M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: <https://www.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Danish Khan on Mob. No. 9826804343, 9111444797; E-mail id: mpcg@ctindia.com or 8319822113, E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com.
- Intending bidders are advised to go through website: <https://www.bankauctions.com> for auction bid form and details, terms and conditions of sale before submitting their bids.
- Bids should be submitted only online in the prescribed form along with a copy of identity document as an attachment to the bid form (refer detailed terms and conditions). Bidder satisfy their self with regard to correctness, measurement, encumbrances etc by their own sources (Govt. Office) also later on DRT will not be responsible for this.
- 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price Rs. 2,55,800.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Only) must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the credit of Account no. 07170200000421 in the name of Recovery Officer, E-auction account, DRT, Jabalpur with BANK OF BARODA, NAPIER TOWN BRANCH, JABALPUR, (IFSC Code: BARBONAPIER) and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form.
- Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 hours on 27-05-2022 online.
- A copy of the bid form along with its enclosure submitted online should be sent to Recovery Officer, DRT, Jabalpur, 797-II Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur so as to reach at the earliest.
- Online bidding will commence from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be Rs. 25,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only). In case of bid received before closure of Auction window, there shall be an automatic extension of 5 minutes in Auction time by the system.
- The refund of EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to the same account from which the payment has been made and no inquiry in this regard will be entertained. After deposit of EMD by intending bidder they cannot withdraw the EMD amount until they are declared as "Unsuccessful bidder" otherwise the amount will be forfeited.
- In the case of immovable property listed in the schedule below, the successful bidder shall remit 25% of the bid amount (less EMD) on the next day on declaration, if the sale is knocked down in his/her favour, through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Account no. 07170200000431 mentioned in SL. no. 4 and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold and amount deposited as EMD will be forfeited.
- The successful bidder shall remit balance 75% of the sale amount along with 1% of sale amount plus Rs.10/- for each property separately within 15 days of auction, to the Account no. 07170200000431 mentioned at SL. no. 4 through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after 15th day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after the issue of a fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit will be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
- Property will be sold "As is Where is and No Complaint basis".
- The properties can be inspected on 20-05-2022 between 12.00 hours and 16.00 hours.
- Properties will not be sold below the upset price.
- Recovery Officer have the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason.
- Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the Shri Rajesh Kumar, Chief Manager, Mobile No. 9993081411 and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc. from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc.
- Details regarding e-Auction shall be obtained from M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: <https://www.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Danish Khan on Mob. No. 9826804343, 9111444797; E-mail id: mpcg@ctindia.com or 8319822113, E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com.
- Further property details if any required shall be obtained from Shri Rajesh Kumar, Chief Manager, Mobile No. 9993081411.
- The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting / bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself. DRT/ Bank / Service Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, Power failure etc.

Place : Jabalpur (Satish Solanki)
Date : 19.04.2022 RECOVERY OFFICER

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division), 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur 482001 (M.P.)
Case No.: RC/222/2016 in O.A. No. 88/2015
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK Vs M/s. Romi Traders
E-Auction No. 70/2022

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website <https://www.bankauctions.com> for recovery of a sum of Rs. 25,58,012.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Twelve Only) payable by you/you in respect of Recovery Certificate in O.A. No. 88/2015 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur with interest at 7.00% p.a. with simple interest from 11-03-2015 and costs payable as per recovery certificate till realization.

Date and Time of E-auction : 01.06.2022 Between 12.00 Hours and 13.00 hours
SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPERTIES PUT FOR SALE
Open Plot At Khasra No. 426/7, Plot No. 07, Sheet No. 18, Patwari Halka No. 23, Ward No. 01, Maharana Pratap Nagar Ward, Shikam Park Colony, Mouza-Titra, R.N.M. - Bilapur, Block-Belta, Tehsil & District - Bilaspur (C.G.) Area Admeasuring 6540.00 Sq.ft. in the name of Shri Syed Faishal Ali S/o Late Shri Syed Abrar Ali.
Upset Price: Rs. 50,68,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Lakh Sixty Eight Only)

Conditions of Sale:

- Intending bidders must hold a valid digital signature certificate. For details contact M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: <https://www.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Danish Khan on Mob. No. 9826804343, 9111444797; E-mail id: mpcg@ctindia.com or 8319822113, E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com.
- Intending bidders are advised to go through website: <https://www.bankauctions.com> for auction bid form and details, terms and conditions of sale before submitting their bids.
- Bids should be submitted only online in the prescribed form along with a copy of identity document as an attachment to the bid form (refer detailed terms and conditions). Bidder satisfy their self with regard to correctness, measurement, encumbrances etc by their own sources (Govt. Office) also later on DRT will not be responsible for this.
- 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price Rs. 5,06,800.00 (Rupees Five Lakh Sixty Eight Hundred Only) must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the credit of Account no. 07170200000431 in the name of Recovery Officer, E-auction account, DRT, Jabalpur with BANK OF BARODA, NAPIER TOWN BRANCH, JABALPUR, (IFSC Code: BARBONAPIER) and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form.
- Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 hours on 27-05-2022 online.
- A copy of the bid form along with its enclosure submitted online should be sent to Recovery Officer, DRT, Jabalpur, 797-II Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur so as to reach at the earliest.
- Online bidding will commence from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be Rs. 50,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only). In case of bid received before closure of Auction window, there shall be an automatic extension of 5 minutes in Auction time by the system.
- The refund of EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to the same account from which the payment has been made and no inquiry in this regard will be entertained. After deposit of EMD by intending bidder they cannot withdraw the EMD amount until they are declared as "Unsuccessful bidder" otherwise the amount will be forfeited.
- In the case of immovable property listed in the schedule below, the successful bidder shall remit 25% of the bid amount (less EMD) on the next day on declaration, if the sale is knocked down in his/her favour, through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Account no. 07170200000431 mentioned in SL. no. 4 and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold and amount deposited as EMD will be forfeited.
- The successful bidder shall remit balance 75% of the sale amount along with 1% of sale amount plus Rs.10/- for each property separately within 15 days of auction, to the Account no. 07170200000431 mentioned at SL. no. 4 through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after 15th day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after the issue of a fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit will be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
- Property will be sold "As is Where is and No Complaint basis".
- The properties can be inspected on 20-05-2022 between 12.00 hours and 16.00 hours.
- Properties will not be sold below the upset price.
- Recovery Officer have the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason.
- Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the Shri Rajesh Kumar, Chief Manager, Mobile No. 9993081411 and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc. from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc.
- Details regarding e-Auction shall be obtained from M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: <https://www.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Danish Khan on Mob. No. 9826804343, 9111444797; E-mail id: mpcg@ctindia.com or 8319822113, E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com.
- Further property details if any required shall be obtained from Shri Rajesh Kumar, Chief Manager, Mobile No. 9993081411.
- The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting / bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself. DRT/ Bank / Service Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, Power failure etc.

Place : Jabalpur (Satish Solanki)
Date : 19.04.2022 RECOVERY OFFICER

Ganja worth Rs 4.67 cr seized, 9 accused arrested

In three different cases in Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Apr 25:

It was on tip of an information to Anti-Narcotics Task Force Team formed under leadership of Addl. SP Archana Jha, that Girish Yadav R/o Gram Ushad and another accused, an ex-R/o MP and at present from Pendra Kudari thana are smuggling 'ganja' to both Chhattisgarh and MP. On this the police team carried out intense investigation and stopped a truck bearing No. OD 19-K-2300 coming to Bilaspur from Odisha. The accused driver Firoz Khan S/o Noor Khan R/o Rourkela (Odisha) and Girish Yadav S/o Ranjit Yadav R/o Ushad Thana Marwahi were found smuggling 'ganja' in their truck. It was stopped at Kariam RTO barrier and two were interrogated. When search was done it appeared as if cement dust is loaded in the truck, but when deeply checked it was found that 'ganja' is stored in plastic bags. The Police seized 20.30 quintal 'Ganja' from 12 wheeled truck bearing



No. OD-19-K- 2300, worth Rs 4.16 cr and action under section 20 (B) of NDPA Act was taken.

In the same way, in another case, as per tip from an informer, accused Daulat Kenwat S/o Gallu Kenwat, R/o Bhad Thana Bhalumuda District Anoopur (MP) was found transporting 'ganja' in a white coloured Honda car bearing no. CG 10 BE 0258 and 2 quintal 'ganja' worth Rs 40 lakh was seized when search was conducted excluding the cost of vehicle at Rs 5 lakh, one mobile worth Rs 5000 and total worth Rs 45.05 lakh. A case

under section 20 (B) of NDPS Act was taken against him.

In another case, the accused Ramkumar S/o Chaitram Patel, (50), R/o Konargarh, Thana Mulmula, District Janjgir-Champa and Shankar Chouhan S/o Ajit Chouhan (23), R/o Konargarh, Thana Mulmula, District Janjgir-Champa and Lakhani Kashya (21), S/o Badri Vishan Kashyap R/o Mulmula, Shiv Kailash Sahu S/o Ramayan Sahu (23), R/o Mulmula, Vishal Goyal, S/o Siyaram Goyal (23) R/o Mulmula, Bablu

Kumar Sahu S/o Rajkumar Sahu (21), R/o Lavan district Balodabazar, were found smuggling 'ganja' in Tata Sumo vehicle bearing No. CG 10-AG-7450. When the Police stopped the vehicle at Mungrada Triangle in Danikudi, a total of 10 Kg ganja was found below the seat and they were taking it to Kotami Sakola for selling. The police seized vehicle Tata Sumo worth around Rs 4.50 lakh, 6 mobile phones worth Rs 22000, 10 Kg 'Ganja' worth around Rs 2 lakh and case under section 20 (B) of NDPS Act was filed against all.

In this way the GPM Police arrested 9 accused in three different cases of 'Ganja' smuggling worth Rs 4.67 lakh apart from vehicles and mobiles worth lakh and got a major success.

In this action, TI Gourela, Inspector Yuvraj Tiwari, TI Pendra SI Dharamnarayan Tiwari, TI Marwahi Inspector Anil Agrawal, Cyber Cell ASI Hemant Aditya, Durgesh Rathore, head constable Durgesh Rathore, Ghanshyam Adil, Rajesh Sharma, Choupal Kashyap and others played an important role in this case.

UNAWARE OF RISK



Children in order to beat the heat are taking dive near anicut and are probably unaware of risk involved taking dive at such places.

COVID-19: Two new cases in Ch'garh, no fresh fatality

Raipur, Apr 25: Chhattisgarh on Sunday reported two fresh coronavirus positive cases, taking the state's tally to 11,52,235, an official said. The death toll remained unchanged at 14,034 as no fresh fatality was reported due to the infection during the day. The state's COVID-19

positivity rate stood at 0.20 per cent, he said.

The recovery count in Chhattisgarh also remained unchanged at 11,38,183 as none of the people were discharged or completed their home isolation during the day, leaving the state with 18 active cases, he said.

"Bilaspur and Surguja districts recorded one case each. No new coronavirus cases were reported in 26 districts.

As on Sunday, no active cases were reported in 18 districts of the state," the official said. With 979 samples examined during the day, the

tally of tests carried out so far in Chhattisgarh went up to 1,76,14,802, he added. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,52,235, new cases two, death toll 14,034, recoveries 11,38,183, active cases 18, total tests 1,76,14,802.

Co-op play a pivotal role in empowerment of farmers: CM



Baghel attends NAFSCOB board meeting

Raipur, Apr 25: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Ltd. (NAFSCOB) held at a private hotel in Nava Raipur late on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said cooperatives play a pivotal role in the empowerment of farmers and the underprivileged. Soon after the formation of the government, we focused on simplification of coopera-

tive procedures so that farmers can easily get credit. Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Bank plays an important role in the implementation of various ambitious schemes of the State Government including Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, and procurement of minor forest produce on support price, and various economic activities conducted by women Self-Help Groups in Gauthans.

The Chief Minister stressed upon the need to expand the work related to cooperatives to strengthen the economic condition of the farmers and instill confidence in them. Rural industrial parks are being established in Chhattisgarh to

boost the income of the people. Besides, the work of manufacturing vermicompost, earthen lamps, and paint using cow dung are being done in the state-run Gauthans. Now the work of electricity generation from cow dung has also been started in Gauthans, through which the common people of the village will not only buy electricity but will also do the work of selling it. He said that cooperation will play an important role in conducting all these activities. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel welcomed the cooperative representatives from all over the country present at the meeting. It is worth mentioning that on April 25, the National Cooperative Conference and the National Award Distribution Ceremony will be organized in the state capital Raipur.

Cooperative Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam, Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Vikas Upadhyay, KRIBHCO Chairman Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Apex Bank Chairman Mr. Bajinath Chandrakar were among those present on the occasion.

Guru Tegh Bahadur's biography will be included in school curriculum: CM



'Garhphuljhar will be developed as a tourist destination to perpetuate memory of Guru Nanakji'

Baghel attends centenary celebrations being organized on 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Raipur, Apr 25: On the occasion of the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji, the ninth Guru of Sikh, a two-day centenary celebration was organized on behalf of the Sikh Samaj Chhattisgarh and the Station Road Gurdwara at the Science College Ground in the capi-

tal Raipur. On the second day of this function, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the function on Sunday. The Chief Minister first paid obeisance in front of Guru Granth Sahib and wished for happiness and prosperity of the people of Chhattisgarh.

The Chief Minister announced the inclusion of the biography of the great Guru Tegh Bahadur in the school curriculum for his contribution to the society. He also announced to develop Garhphuljhar (the place near Basna visited by the first Guru of the Sikh Community Guru Nanak Dev ji) as tourist destination so as to perpetuate the memory of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, related to

Chhattisgarh. Baghel, who arrived at the ceremony organized on the occasion of 400th Prakash Parv of Guru Tegh Bahadur, was accorded a warm welcome by the Sikh Samaj. On this occasion, the Chief Minister and other guests were honored with presentation of shawls, Shri Phals and Saropa on behalf of Sikh Samaj. Baghel extended his greetings and best wishes to the people of the entire state, including the Sikh community, on the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

While addressing the gathering, he said that Guru Tegh Bahadur ji was a great social reformer, warrior and scholar. The Gurus of Sikh Samaj worked to infuse courage and valor in every individual. When the circumstances were unfavourable, the gurus did the work of organizing the society. The Gurus of Sikh Samaj protected the Hindus. According to the Chief Minister there is a mention of Guru Nanak Dev ji staying at two places in Chhattisgarh during his

visit to India and one of these places is Kabir Chaura of Amarkantak, where Guru Nanak Dev Ji Maharaj and Kabir Ji met. The second place is Garhphuljhar near Basna, where Guru Nanak Dev Ji stayed for some time, Baghel. The Chief Minister said, to perpetuate the memory of Guru Nanak ji, Garhphuljhar would be developed as a tourist destination. Considering significant contribution of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji in the society, the Chief Minister announced to include his biography in the school curriculum of Chhattisgarh.

Baghel said that whenever there was any kind of crisis on the society and the country, Sikh Samaj always stood in the forefront to serve the society and fight the challenges. Even during COVID situation, when people were frightened even inside their homes, then the Sikh Samaj was mobilizing in the service of providing food to the needy.

Sahaj Paath by 400 Sikh families concluded at Science College Ground,

Raipur during the event organized on the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji. Kirtankars Shri Joginder Singh and Shri Surjit Singh Rasila (Delhi) and Shri Karamjit Singh Nimana (Patiala) who came from Ludhiana sang Shabad Kirtan in the four Diwans. The Sangat enthusiastically participated in all the Diwans.

In the centenary celebrations of Guru Tegh Bahadur, Baghel was accompanied by the Chairman of Minorities Commission Mahendra Singh Chhabra, MLA and Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Kuldeep Juneja, Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Vikas Upadhyay and MLA Brijmohan Agrawal. Convenor of Sikh Samaj Surendra Singh Chhabra, Station Road. Gurdwara President Niranjan Singh Khanuja, Patron Sikh Samaj Gurbaksh Singh Chhabra, Gurdwara Management Committee Vice President Inderjit Singh Chhabra, Secretary Tejinder Singh Hora were also present.

MOU in CU with CSHD

Bilaspur, Apr 24: At Guru Ghasidas University (a Central University) was signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University and the Center for Studies of Holistic Development (CSHD), Raipur a reputed non-governmental organization. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the university, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal has been constantly making efforts to ensure that all the departments should move towards self-reliance. On the basis of the inspiration of the Vice-



Chancellor, the MoU has been signed with CSHD, Raipur in the field of consultancy, research and innovation.

As a result of the continuous active and fruitful efforts of Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Central University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, new initiatives are being taken in the field of academics, research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the university. The university has entered into mutual agreements with various national and international institutions to upgrade the quality of academics and research. As a result of the vision and efficient management of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, the University has signed

MoUs with more than 55 eminent educational and non-educational institutions of the country and abroad. Along with this, an MoU Monitoring Committee has been constituted to assess the progress being made in the works of various MoUs being executed by the University.

The constant positive efforts and dedication of the Vice-Chancellor has put the University in the forefront of academic activities at the national and international level in a short span of time. Former VC and Chairman of CSHD, Prof. B. K. Sthapak and Secretary, CSHD, Vivek Saxena were present on the occasion for smooth completion of the work.

Massive cow-dung scam in the name of GNY: Usendi

Kondagaon, Apr 25: The municipality is presenting a document related to selling more of cow-dung than the cow dung actually collected from the cow ranchers in Kondagaon and this is pointing fingers towards some irregularity. Holding talks with media persons, Lata Usendi informed that according to the forms filled by the cow ranchers who have only 10 cows under the municipality area, 90 kg of salable cow-dung is being generated daily, then in 21 months he would be sell cow-dung worth only Rs 1,13 lakh at the rate of Rs 2. But the document of the municipality is showing it to be one selling cow-dung worth more than Rs 10 lakhs. Rather, there are many such cow ranchers under the municipality who have less number of cattle but they have been



made millionaire just selling cow-dung cow dung.

When the information was collected from the group and department formed for the Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNY), it was found that the weight of cow-dung is being manipulated for the purpose of providing personal benefits to many beneficiaries. It has been found from the documents that the number of cattle is the same in many places. But there is a huge difference in the total weight of cow dung produced. Thus this smells of scam and it is being done under the full protection of Congress workers and MLA. Lata Usendi demanded high-

level probe into the case by a high-powered committee to investigate into the cow-dung scam and exposed all those involved in this cow-dung scam.

During the press conference BJP District President Dipesh Arora, State Working Committee Member Shmanoj Jain, Law Cell State Co-Convenor Gopal Dixit, BJP District Kondagaon Office Incharge Dayaram Patel, Municipal President Hemkunwar Patel, Vice President Jasketu Usendi Mandal President Jainendra Thakur, Guppy Surana, Kulwant Chahal, along with other officials were present.

IIMCAA Chhattisgarh Alumni Meet honours Prof Mohanti



Raipur, Apr 25: IIM Alumni Association Chhattisgarh Chapter conducted its annual get-together titled 'Koo Connections' on Sunday here. The meet discussed on changes that are coming to fore in the field of media and future challenges in this field. In the programme silver jubilee batch Professor Rajendra Mohanty who is presently with Khusha Bhau Thakre Journalism University was felicitated. In addition Chapter decided to grant Rs 25,000 scholarship every year to a girl student who is pursuing her studies in journalism. This

scholarship is in memory of famous player of state Late Rajendra Panigrahi.

Chapter president Sangeeta said, Chhattisgarh unit after its formation has expanded a lot. National Meet convenor Brajesh Kumar Singh said, there has been a major change in the presentation of information and scribes need to update themselves with the changing trend. Prakash Hota took charge as current president of the Chapter. Chapter Secretary Santosh Kumar said, with the exchange of information, attachment remains intact.

OBITUARY

Geeta Devi Agrawal

Raipur: Geeta Devi Agrawal, R/o Bhanpuri, breathed her last here on Friday. She was 77. She was wife of Late Govardhan Das Agrawal and mother of Suresh and Manoj and grand-mother of Aman and Anuj. The final rites were performed at Marwari crematorium.

There is a need to organize and strengthen the co-op movement: CM



Co-op banks should be enabled to meet the needs and requirements of the farmers and villagers

Food providing farmers should now be empowered into energy providers

Biggest objective of the co-op movement is to provide support price for the produce to the farmers

Institutions were awarded for their excellent work in the field of cooperatives

Raipur, Apr 25: In his address to National Cooperatives Conference and National Award Ceremony held in Raipur today, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that there is a need to organize the cooperatives movement to strengthen it fur-

ther. We have incorporated the better aspects of the cooperative sector policies from various states of the country and have removed the shortcomings. Today, there is also a need to enable the cooperative sector to meet the needs and requirements of the farmers and the villagers. And for this we need to make co-operative banks as strong as the nationalized banks. Besides, loan facility should be provided at these banks for horticulture and cash crop. He said that the biggest objective of the cooperative movement of the country should be to provide fair support price to the farmers for their produce. Consistent efforts should be made to ensure that the farmers get remunerative price for their produce.

Chief Minister said that our food providing farmers can be empowered into energy providers by promoting the production of ethanol from the surplus food grains. Hence, it is important that Central Government permits the production of ethanol from the paddy procured at support price. He said

that today there is a need to enable cooperative banks to meet the needs and requirements of farmers and villagers. Many measures have been taken to strengthen the cooperative movement in Chhattisgarh. Various schemes and activities like paddy procurement on support price, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, procurement of minor forest produce on support price, sale of vermi compost prepared by women's group in Gauthans have been linked with cooperative banks.

Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Bank (APEX Bank) and National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCAB) had organized this conference at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, Raipur, which was presided over by the Cooperatives Minister of Chhattisgarh, Dr. Preme Sai Singh Tekam. Senior MLA Mr. Satyanarayan Sharma, Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, Advisor to Chief Minister Vinod

Verma, Former MP and Chairman of KRIBHCO Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President of National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCAB) Mumbai Kondru Ravinder Rao, President NAFED and Delhi State Co-Operative Bank Dr. Vijender Singh, Bihar State Co-operative Marketing Union President Dr. Sunil Kumar Singh, Chhattisgarh Apex Bank President Baijnath Chandrakar, Presidents of District Co-operative Central Banks and many public representatives of the cooperative sector were present in the conference. At the conference, Chief Minister felicitated the cooperative societies across the country for their excellent work in different categories. On this occasion, he released a souvenir of Apex Bank Chhattisgarh Bank and 'Kisan Kitab' published by District Co-operative Central Bank Raipur.

While addressing the conference, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that Chhattisgarh has implemented many schemes in the interest of farmers including Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, because of which farmers are receiving good price for their produce. Farming has become a profitable occupation in Chhattisgarh. Baghel further said that the farmer friendly schemes of Chhattisgarh will pave the way to ensure that the farmers get remunerative price of their produce.

Chief Minister said that due to mechanization in the field of agriculture and closure of cattle market, animal husbandry has become uneconomical for the farmers and livestock farmers today. Chhattisgarh Government addressed this problem through Godhan Nyay Yojana. Representatives from different states of the country are coming to Chhattisgarh to understand the specifics of Godhan Nyay Yojana. Jharkhand has implemented the system of Godhan Nyay Yojana in its budget, whereas states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh are also following the footsteps of Chhattisgarh.

Welcoming the representatives of cooperative sector from all over the country in the conference, Chief Minister Baghel said that the history of cooperative movement in Chhattisgarh goes way back. In Chhattisgarh, Thakur Pyare Lal Singh started the Weavers' Co-Operative Movement in 1945 and the cooperative was started by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the country. Senior MLA Satyanarayan Sharma, KRIBHCO President Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCAB) Mumbai Chairman Kondru Ravinder Rao also addressed the program. The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Baijnath Chandrakar, Chairman, Apex Bank Chhattisgarh.

YOGA COMPETITION



CM Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated Yoga Competition here on Monday and in this Yoga experts performed variety of Yoga Asnas, reflecting importance of yoga in day-to-day life.

17 IAS officers issued fresh posting in admn reshuffle

● Bharatidashan given responsibility of School Education



Raipur, Apr 25: In a major administrative reshuffle, the Chhattisgarh government on Monday issued fresh posting orders of 18 Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officers.

While the senior IAS Officer and Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo has been given additional charge of Forest, the Principal Secretary Commerce & Industries Manoj Kumar Pingua has been given the responsibility of Department of Home and Jail administration. Similarly, the 2006 batch IAS Officer and Secretary at CM Secretariat S Bharatidashan has been given the additional charge of School Education Department in

the reshuffle whereas Dr Kamalpreet Singh has been entrusted with the responsibility of Agriculture Secretary and would also be ex-officio Agriculture Production Commission and would continue as Secretary General Administration Department. Dr Tamboli Ayaz Fakirbhai has been given the responsibility of flagship scheme of state government, as Nodal Officer of Narva-Garua-Ghurva-Bhadi and additional charge of Chhattisgarh Gaudhan Yojna.

Special Secretary Health & Family Welfare Dr Priyanka Shukla has been given additional charge of Director Urban Administration and

Development. Similarly, the 2012 batch IAS Officer and IG Registration Iffat Ara has been posted as Surajpur District Collector in the reshuffle whereas the present incumbent Gaurav Singh has been shifted to Mungeli as District Collector.

Further giving momentum to the formation of newly-created Districts, the state government has appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD). IAS Officer Jagdish Sonekar has been made OSD of Khairagrh-Chukhadan-Gandai whereas PS Dhruv would be OSD Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, S Jaivardhan would be OSD Mohla-Manpur-Chowki, D Rahul Venkat has been assigned duty of OSD of Sarangarh-Bhiligarh District and 2015 batch IAS Officer Nupur Sashi Panna has been appointed ODS of Shakti District.

Abhishek Pallav to be new SP Durg

● OP Pal made IG Raipur in major reshuffle among IPS Officers



Raipur, Apr 25: Chhattisgarh government on Monday transferred Superintendent of Police (SPs) of several Districts in the reshuffle here. 2003 batch Indian Police Services (IPS) Officer OP Pal has been given fresh posting as Inspector General of Police Raipur Range whereas Jaspur SP Vijay Agrawal has been shifted to Janjgir Champa, Ramkrishna Sahu has been transferred from Balrampur to Surajpur, Janjgir-Champa District SP Abhishek Pallav has been given major responsibility of Durg District as SP, Mohit Garg has been made

Deepanshu Kabra promoted as ADG

The state government has promoted 16 IPS officers and given them promotion along with new wages and posting. IPS Deepanshu Kabra has been promoted as ADG and at present he is working as Commissioner DPR and Commissioner Transport department. In the same way IG Surugja Range AK Yadav has been promoted as IG and given wage hike.

SP Balrampur, Surajpur SP Bhawna Gupta has been shifted to Sarguja as SP whereas Chandra Mohan Singh as SP Mungeli, Rajesh Agrawal as SP Jashpur, Anjaya Vaishnav as SP Bijapur are the key responsibilities delivered on the IPS Officers. After promotion, the Durg SP BN Meena has been given the responsi-

Mishra promoted as Special DGP

Raipur: Senior IPS Officer Rajesh Mishra has been promoted as Director General of Police (DGP) Special whereas 1997 batch IPS Officer Dipanshu Kabra has been promoted as Additional DGP but would continue to work as Commissioner Public Relations and ex-officio Chief Executive Officer of Chhattisgarh Samvad and additional charge of Commissioner Transport here.

bility of Durg IG.

Raipur IG Dr Anand Chabra would continue to hold the responsibility of IG (Intelligence) whereas BS Dhruv has been posted as DIG at Bastar Range Police Armed Forces and DK Garg as DSP Bilspur Range Armed Forces in the reshuffle.

Evaluation begins in Pt RSU, sets target to release results by June 15

Raipur, Apr 25: Pt Ravishankar Shukla University management has set a target to declare results of all subjects by June 15. To this end evaluation of answer-sheets has been started.

According to information received from university administration the admission process was delayed for the last two years due to the COVID situation. The university is preparing to complete the entire admission process on time in the upcoming session.

Keeping this in view the evaluation process is being carried out in the midst of the examination so that the results of all the subjects are released on time. The university management says that the admission process will also be started from June 16 as soon as the results are declared. Examinations of various courses are underway in the colleges. As many as 1 lakh 84 thousand students

are appearing in examinations.

Team of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is going to visit the university in July. Preparations are being made for this also. The university has got A grade at present. In such a situation, this time work is being done to remove the flaws to bring A+. Efforts is being made to improve other facilities like university campus, student facilities, WiFi, hostel, smart class room.

President of Ravishankar Shukla University Employees Association Shrawan Singh Thakur and Secretary Pradeep Kumar Mishra have demanded to make the university a central university. Work has also been started in this direction. The University is the largest and oldest in the state and has a different place in the country regarding education.

Cong to launch movement against arrest of Jignesh Mewani

Raipur, Apr 25: Congress is going to launch movement all over the country in protest against arrest of Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mewani. In Chhattisgarh too the party is going to stage demonstration in all district units to demand for release of Mewani. The party will also submit memorandum to the President of India.

Congress communication head Sushil Anand Shukla said on Monday that a decision had been taken to submit memorandum in all district headquarters of the state to the

President amid protest against three-day police custody of Jignesh Mewani.

Dalit leader and MLA Jignesh Mewani was sent to jail on the basis of a tweet. Congress has also condemned this trend as dangerous to democracy.

Earlier, Pradesh Congress Committee Chief Mohan Markam said that a tweet against Modi in social media alone became such a serious crime that the freedom of a public representative was taken away BJP and Modi have also lost the democratic character of tolerating their criticism, Mohan

Markam said and alleged that the BJP was misusing the law to weaken the opposition due to the extremist character of its majority. Congress opposes this attitude of BJP and demands release of Jignesh Mewani.

Jignesh Mewani, who started his public life as a journalist, is an independent MLA from Gujarat. He represents the Vadgam Assembly Constituency. In the last elections, both Congress and Aam Aadmi Party supported him. Jignesh Mewani is one of the key allies of the Congress. Jignesh has also been very active as a Dalit social worker and lawyer.

Action against agitating contract power workers

Raipur, Apr 25: Action is being taken against agitating contract electricity workers for causing inconvenience to the people by blocking the road. A case has now been registered against Chhattisgarh electricity contract workers. Two cases have been registered against 19 youths under 5 different IPC sections. According to City SP Tarakeswar Patel persons involved in the agitation three days ago had caused harassment to the common people by blocking the road.

Police have registered a case under IPC Sections 147, 186, 332 and 353 against Vivek Bhagat, Umesh Patel, Kamlesh Bhardwaj, Rajiv Netam, Amit Kumar Netam, Umesh Lonia, Ajay Chouhan, Ameshwar Vaishnav, Ramesh Kumar Paikra, Rajendra Kumar, Shani Kumar, Nagesh Kumar Maravi, Sahish Kumar Uharua, Shiv Charan Khairwar, Naval

Singh Parmar, Neeraj Kumar Sahu and Hemant Kashyam.

Police told that 900 youth had blocked the road in their attempt to gheraoe CM House and they had laid down on the road throughout the night. Executive Magistrate and police officials repeatedly asked them to vacate the road but the continued to sit on the road. All these persons interfered in the government work besides scuffling with the police. It has been claimed that inspector Yakub Memon and other police personnel Cloriksha Minj, Jyoti Kurre, Anirudha Nishad, Heera Singh Netam and Rupendra Kumar Nag sustained injuries in the scuffle.

The second case was registered by a shopkeeper named Sagar Padmawar against Chhattisgarh contract electricity workers. Vivek Bhagat, Umesh Patel, Kamlesh Bhardwaj

have been made accused in the case. Sagar runs a sugarcane shop near the venue of dharna. According to him two of his trucks got stuck due to the agitating employees who sat in the road jamming the road throughout night. These trucks were filled with sugarcane. The raw material got damaged due to the heat. On the complaint of the shopkeeper, the police have registered a second case under sections 147-IPC, 341-IPC.

Agitation is being run for the regularization of 2500 power contract workers working in the power company and for providing justice to the families of 25 electricity contract workers who were martyred in the accident. The contract workers working in the power company from every corner of the state were protesting after reaching Raipur for the last one month.

Ch'garh honoured for reduction in malaria cases

By Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi today on World Malaria Day

Big drop in state's API rate due to the effective implementation of Malaria-free Ch'garh campaign, 0.92 in 2021 as compared to 2.63 in 2018



Raipur, Apr 25: Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya honored Chhattisgarh for the decline in malaria cases in New Delhi today, on the occasion of World Malaria Day. Chhattisgarh is among the best performing states in the country in terms of malaria eradication. The effective imple-

mentation of Malaria-free Chhattisgarh campaign and Malaria-free Bastar campaign has resulted in huge reduction in the Annual Parasitic Incidence (A.PI i.e. the total number of malaria patients per 1000 population per year). The state's API was 2.63 in the year 2018; which has come down to 0.92 in 2021.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo has congratulated the officers and employees of

Health Mission and Department of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Priyanka Shukla and Director, Epidemic Control Dr. Subhash Mishra received this honor on behalf of the state government in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, the first phase of malaria-free Bastar campaign was conducted in January-February-2020 by Health and Family Welfare Department and National Health Mission, Chhattisgarh in seven aspirational districts of Bastar division. In the first phase, door-to-door malaria testing of 14 lakh 06 thousand people was done. Similarly, door-to-door malaria testing of 23 lakh 75 thousand people was done in the second phase, 15 lakh 70 thousand in the third phase, 19 lakh 98 thousand in the fourth phase and 14 lakh 36 thousand in the fifth phase. As

many as 64 thousand 646 positive cases were found in the first phase, 30 thousand 076 in the second phase, 16 thousand 148 in the third phase, 11 thousand 363 in the fourth phase and 11 thousand 321 in the fifth phase. The treatment of people found malaria positive during the campaign was started immediately. The API of Bastar division which was 26.78 API in the year 2016 has dropped down to 7.07 in 2021.

Keeping in view the positive results of the campaign in Bastar division, it has been expanded to 21 districts of the state under the banner of 'Malaria-free Chhattisgarh' campaign. In the first, second, third, fourth and fifth phases of the campaign, malaria positivity rates have been recorded at 4.6 per cent, 1.27 per cent, 1.03 per cent, 0.56 and 0.79 per cent, respectively.

Govt committed for devp and progress: Guru Rudra Kumar

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 25: The government is committed to the development and progress of the entire state. Major works are being done in the infrastructure sector in the Jamul area as well. Be it the demand of Jamul to Nandini road or drinking water facility, all the development works are being conducted as per the expectations of the common people, said PHE and Village Industries Minister Guru Rudra Kumar while addressing a gathering at Jamul.

According to the needs of the citizens, major infrastructure works have been conducted in the last three years. The works conducted during this period have laid a solid foundation for development in the Jamul area, he said after inaugurating various development works in Jamul.



On the occasion, he said that a new sub-division has been formed by merging Jamul, Kumhari and Bhilai 3. Bhilai 3 has been constituted as Tehsil and the new building of Tehsil has also been inaugurated.

The government is committed to the development of the Jamul region. On the occasion, the

Minister said that he is regularly meeting people, taking feedback from them and wherever development works are needed, those works are being done.

Guru Rudra Kumar further said that consequent to the awareness and concerns of the citizens, better works of civic development have been done in

Jamul. During the Corona period, people showed solidarity and helped the administrative staff in the fight against Corona.

PHE Minister further said that the government has initiated for distribution of leases in urban areas through schemes like Rajiv Gandhi Ashray Yojana. People have got



rights over the land from these schemes.

This initiative has also simplified the land deals and bank loans etc. The entertainment of the people in the urban area has also been taken care of. After the complete development of road infrastructure in Jamul area, the problems of the people will be completely re-

solved.

The Minister added that through the Jal Jeevan Mission, provision of clean drinking water is being ensured in rural areas. In view of the summer, the department has been specially directed that there should be no shortage of drinking water in any area.

The officials are contin-

uously monitoring the situations in every area. The Minister said that the government is determined to develop village industries. Many programs have been run for the training of Self Help Groups in the district, which has also benefited the people.

Income of the Self Help Group has also increased by providing training.

Women SHGs have been successful in developing their products as brands. Extending the Karma Jayanti greetings, the Minister said that the contributions of Bhakt Mata Karma are very important in the land of Chhattisgarh.

People are very happy with the government's move of declaring holiday on the occasion of Karma Jayanti. Now the people are able to organise Karma Jayanti celebrations with full enthusiasm.

On the demands of locals, Guru Rudra Kumar announced construction of a dome shed and public toilet at Surdung. He also announced construction of a community hall and stage at VY Cabin. On the occasion, Jamul Municipal Council President Ishwar Singh Thakur and other public representatives were present.

DAV bids farewell to Class XII students

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 25: The students, staff and management of DAV Public School Hudco bid farewell to the outgoing class 12 batch of 2021-22 on Monday. The day was a fiesta devoted to the years spent together with friends and teachers and to reminisce joyous moments.

The programme started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by bouquet presentation, welcome speech and Ganesh Vandana. The cultural presentation staged by the students of class XI had a mix of scintillating dance performances, melodious poetries and pulsating music that was enjoyed by one and all.

In the thought provoking speeches presented by the students of class XI, they recollected the mem-



ories and the time spent with their seniors in the school which left everyone teary-eyed. They bid farewell to them with heavy hearts, but with a hope that their seniors farewell in life.

The students of class XII mused fondly about their learning in school and looked forward with keenness to their future calling this juncture not an end but a bend in their journey of life. They thanked their mentors for

helping them find their purpose in life with a promise to come back to their Alma Mater.

An eventful day organized by class XI students to give a farewell to their seniors ended with the message of not being dismayed at goodbyes. The event concluded with Principal Prashant Kumar addressing the gathering and wishing the batch the best for their exams and the future ahead.

He said that the school

teaches us many lessons and gives us the guidance to excel in our future prospects. He also added that the children are the future generation so they should understand their responsibilities and make the society a better place to live in where virtues like love, patience and tolerance should only prevail. He also stressed that they should become the role models for others rather than merely becoming the followers.

The farewell party was celebrated with fervour at School campus. It was an occasion for the outgoing students to look back at the time that they spent in the lawns of DAV Campus. In nostalgia and reluctance, but with hope and aspiration, school teachers and staff bid adieu to class 12 students and wished them luck for all they set out to do.

St Thomas College commemorates Shakespeare's Day

Bhilai, Apr 25: The PG Department of English, St Thomas College organized a gala of events to commemorate Shakespeare's day. The program commenced with a warm welcome by the Head of the Department, Dr Shiny Mendonca.

Madam enumerated the importance of the day and discussed how the great dramatist has left an indelible mark in world literature. Principal of the college Dr MG Roymon addressing the gathering said that Shakespeare's day coincides with World Book Day.

He also emphasized that Shakespeare has the credit of introducing Authorism to the English language. As a gesture to commemorate the great playwright of English literature, students presented slides to share their views on the Bard of



Avon. Bipasha Sokhey, Naveen Daniel, Shruti Daniel, Aishwarya Sahu and Sanjay Deshmukh (students of MA English Sem - IV) A very informative and insightful documentary about Shakespeare's journey as a great playwright was screened for the students.

Udayasri S (Asst Professor Dept of English) sharing her view focused on the theme of the occasion i.e. "Jaunt to venture his iconic works" and said

that this day is marked for promoting reading the works of celebrated authors. Susan Ebison (Asst Professor, Dept of Eng) spoke about the universal themes of Shakespeare's Plays. Dr Sujata Koley (Asst Professor, Dept of Eng) concluded Shakespeare's Day by congratulating the students for their active participation in organizing the program successfully.

School children excelling in sports felicitated

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 25: A felicitation programme was organised by Education Dept of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant to felicitate 145 students who have excelled in state-level and national level sports tournaments in years 2019-20 and 2020-21. As many as 15 sports coordinators and coaches were also felicitated during the programme held in MP Hall, Bhilai Niwas on April 23, 2022.

Dr AK Panda, CGM I/c Finance was the chief guest while UK Jha, CGM (Town Services) and KC Tripathi, GM (Town Services) were special guests on the oc-



casation. Welcoming the guests and all the sports persons who were to be felicitated, Shikha Dubey, GM (Education) presented a brief on the sports activities organised by Bhilai Steel Plant and the achievements of stu-

dents from different schools.

Congratulating the students who have excelled in sports tournaments, Dr Panda in his address stated that the discipline, power of concentration and team-spirit that the

students learn and inculcate in the playing fields invariably helps them as they progress and work with others in different organisations.

Today, India as a nation has been excelling in international sports events,

also making a strong presence in the Olympics, he said, expressing confidence that some among the children being felicitated here today would perhaps represent the nation in the international sports arena.

Keep practising hard and one day you will surely succeed, he said, wishing them well. Rajendra Prasad, DGM (Education & Sports), Olympian and winner of Arjun award presented the vote of thanks. The programme was conducted by Vibharani Katiyar, Jr Mgr (Education) and Manish Tiwari, Lecturer in the Education Department.

Traffic Square named after martyr to be protected

Collector Jandarshan receives 52 applications



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 25: Two days weekly Jandarshan being conducted in the district is getting very good response. Citizens are pleased with the continuous disposal of applications. In this episode, an applicant reached the Collector Jandarshan with his application. The applicant stated that his brother was a Squadron Leader of the Indian Air Force, who was martyred in 1999 while un-der the mission of the Air Force, Vayu Shakti.

The applicant further stated that constant efforts were made by his family to keep the martyrdom of his brother alive. They got success in 2001 when the Mayor in Council of Municipal Corporation Bhilai announced to name Junwani Main Chowk after the martyr with unanimous consent to keep the memory of the martyr alive. The construction work of the Chowk was also duly done by the Municipal Corporation and the Traffic Square was in-

augurated on the death anniversary of Late Squadron Leader Suresh Mishra.

But in the recent past, this Shaheed Chowk has been tampered with by some people. Therefore, the applicant requested the Collector to stop the activities being done by unauthorized people so that his martyr brother gets respect. Taking cognizance of the entire matter, the Collector directed the concerned officer to take legal action.

Apart from this, an application was also received from Gram Panchayat Anjora (b), in which the applicant stated that they were not getting ration for the past several months. The applicant said that 07 ration card holders of the Gram Panchayat have not been allotted ration in the months of January, February and March due to technical problems.

When the applicant sought information from the Food Department, he was told about the closure of NIC, but proper resolution has not been provided

to him yet. As the matter is related to 07 families, the applicant appealed to the Collector for speedy action. The Collector sought information related to the matter from the Food Department and directed the concerned officer to resolve it immediately.

A resident of Katulbod also shared his problem with the Collector. He informed that he had received the lease in 1984. Later, he submitted a renewed application at the Revenue Department's office in 2019. The same procedure was followed by him as well as other lessees.

Other people of the locality got the lease with renewal, but the applicant has not yet received the lease. When he inquired in this regard from the department, the officials did not give any reply. The applicant requested that his lease should be provided at the earliest. The Collector forwarded a copy of the case to the concerned officer and directed him for speedy action. A total of 52 applications were received in Collector Jandarshan.

Students give message of environment conservation through cultural events

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 25: Students presented various cultural programs at K H Memorial School on the occasion of Earth Day. Through these programs, the students gave the message of bringing awareness towards the environment. A fancy dress competition was also organized for the children.

In the competition, the students gave their presentation on the stage wearing a poster and slogan written about environment conservation. Kids gave the message of environmental protection through posters and slogans.

Students made posters of 'Make Earth Clean and Green' and 'Save Mother Earth'. The team of Isha Foundation made children aware of the environment with a special presentation.

Principal Vibha Jha explained



to the students about the importance of earth. She said that the earth is the source of life for all living beings. Earth provides us with all the natural resources that a tree, an animal or a human needs, to live.

However, with time, all the necessary natural resources are being exploited in such a way that all the resources can be exhausted soon. In such a situation, it will be difficult for humans to survive on earth.

To solve this problem, there is a need to conserve natural re-

sources. 'Earth Day' is celebrated every year on 22nd April with the aim of making everyone aware about it. Director Nischay Jha said that environmental pollution is increasing. We all should try to save it together.

The cultural programs started with a short speech by Varsha Sahu. Pallavi Sahu recited a very beautiful poem. After that a group dance based on the environment was presented by Riddhi, Siddhi, Shravani, Saumya, Prachi, Arshi, Disha,

Garima Chandrakar spoke about the importance of water conservation.

Through street plays, the students drew attention towards environmental issues. Aditya, Lucky, Ritika, Rupali, Yasir, Harshika, Yakub, Jagriti, Riya, Adiba, Sheetal, Rishabh, Anmol, Preet, Simrat, Danish, Shaurya, Sohan, Ajay, Kumkum participated in this street play.

A fancy dress competition was organized for the students of class 1, 2, and 3. Vikram, Shruti, Shivam were winners

from Class One, while Seemant, Kuber, Gurbinder emerged victorious from Class 2. Anya, Aaradhya, Vedanshi were winners from class 3.

On this occasion, the discourses of Sadhguru were broadcast to the students by the Isha Foundation team. The students were overjoyed to see Sadhguru speaking on the big screen. On behalf of Isha Foundation, Rajni Kathuria, Kanika Jham, Lipika Srivastava, Shri Deshmukh and Abhishek Kumar shared many interesting information about Earth Day.

Rupesh Chaudhary, Mona Lisarai, Anjana Sharma, TG Rao, Anjana Soni, Purnima Dubey, Sujata Sahu, Rajni Pandey, Sonal Jaiswal, Sadhna, Kamaljit Kaur, Monika Srivastava, Anjali Chaudhary, Rashmi Jaisan, Ramita Yadav, Jagriti Yadav and Sanjit Paswan made remarkable contributions in organising the event.



BRIEF



Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia takes part in the mega Yoga event Yog Prabha, at Safdarjung Airport runway, in New Delhi, Monday.

Stable

Lucknow: Ram temple trust chief Mahant Nriyaya Gopal Das, who is admitted to a private hospital in Lucknow, is in a stable and satisfactory condition, doctors at the medical facility said on Monday. Das (83), president of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, has chronic kidney disease and was brought to the Medanta hospital in Lucknow from Ayodhya on Sunday due to urinary tract infection and weakness.

Rescue

New Delhi: Rescue workers pulled out five labourers who were trapped for over three hours under the rubble of a house that collapsed in south Delhi's Satya Niketan area on Monday, fire officials said. The three-storey house was undergoing renovation when it collapsed, they said. Director of Delhi Fire Services Atul Garg said all the five labourers who were trapped under the debris have been rescued and rushed to a hospital for treatment.

Blocked

New Delhi: The government on Monday blocked 16 YouTube channels, including six operating from Pakistan, and a Facebook account for spreading disinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations and public order, an official statement said. The blocked YouTube channels and the Facebook account had a cumulative viewership of over 68 crore and were spreading "false, unverified information to create panic, incite communal disharmony and disturb public order in India", the Information and Broadcasting Ministry statement said.

Fire

New Delhi: More than 35 shanties were gutted after a fire broke out in a slum in southeast Delhi's Jamia Nagar on Monday, officials said. There were no human casualties in the incident, they said. A call about the fire in a slum cluster in Batla House area was received at 3:15 pm and 11 fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

Weather
High 42 Low 26

MARKET
NIFTY 16,953.95
SENSEX 56,579.89

BULLION
GOLD 51,510
SILVER 65,275

Chh'garh seeks share in revenue when airports are privatised

New Delhi, Apr 25:

Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have come out in support of Tamil Nadu's stance that whenever the Central government privatises an airport in a state, the state government should get a share in the revenue. In a policy note issued earlier this month, Tamil Nadu said that if the state government acquires and transfers land to the Centre-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost, and if the AAI or the Centre transfers that land to a third party, the value realised or revenue accrued thereby must be proportionately shared with the state government "reflecting the huge investment in land being made by the state government". The AAI's board had in September

What is state's stand...

T S Singhdeo, Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development, Health and Family Welfare and Commercial Tax, said land is a state resource and when the state and the central government come together for developing a project, which is supposed to be an earning project, the state government's capital is present as a shareholder in terms of the land. "So long as it is in the government sector, things are moving in a particular way, the government of India would be making some revenue and there would be something spilling over to the state government and there would be benefit to the public, so that is fine," he said.

last year gave the approval to privatise 13 airports, including Trichy in Tamil Nadu and Raipur in Chhattisgarh. T S Singhdeo, Chhattisgarh's Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development, Health and Family Welfare and Commercial Tax, said land is a state resource and when the state and the central government come together for developing a

would be benefit to the public, so that is fine," he told PTI. "Now when you are selling it to a third entity which is a private party, then you are selling the assets of the company, which include apart from the infrastructure, the land also. So, the state government should be given the value of the land," Singhdeo said.

The sale when it comes about would be by means of a valuation of the entire property which would include the sale price of the land, he noted, adding states should get their share. "When you are in a joint venture then the investment which has been made, the government of India would put in capital in terms of infrastructure, the state government puts up its capital in terms of its land.

Govt to review SII's EUA application for TB vaccine

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI): A crucial meeting of the subject expert committee (SEC) of the CDSCO will be held on Tuesday to consider granting emergency-use authorisation (EUA) to Serum Institute of India's (SII) recombinant BCG (rBCG) vaccine for the prevention of tuberculosis, according to official sources. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is the drug regulator of India. The EUA application was submitted to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on March 22 by Prakash Kumar Singh, the director of government and regulatory affairs at the SII. India's TB immunisation programme current-

ly offers BCG vaccination at birth or as early as possible till one year of age. The SII already supplies life-saving vaccines to the government under the Universal Immunisation Programme, including Pneumococcal, IPV and Rotavirus, Singh mentioned in his letter. The Pune-based firm is one of the companies that supply BCG vaccines to the government. "Our government is committed to eliminate TB. The vision of a TB-free India has been envisaged by the clarion call of the prime minister to end TB from our country by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal of ending TB," Singh mentioned in his letter.

Mevani rearrested soon after getting bail

Charges of 'assaulting' woman official

Kokrajhar, Apr 25 (PTI):

Gujarat Independent MLA Jignesh Mevani was rearrested by Assam Police on Monday for allegedly assaulting officials after a court here granted him bail in a case related to a tweet by him against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. Mevani, an MLA supported by the Congress, was booked under IPC Sections related to voluntarily causing hurt, assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty and others, police said. Earlier in the day, a Kokrajhar court granted him bail in connection with a case related to his



tweet against Modi. The Gujarat legislator was arrested on April 19 from Palanpur town in Gujarat after an FIR was registered against him in Kokrajhar. He was brought here two days later. Mevani, an MLA

Maoists set fire passenger bus



Konta, Apr 25:

The bus carrying passengers from Malkangiri in Orissa had left for Hyderabad, after which the armed Maoists attacked Kotur in Chintur police station area of Andhra Pradesh, about 25 km from Konta in Chhattisgarh. The bus was stopped and all the passengers got off the bus at gunpoint. After this, the Maoists set the bus on fire. In this arson, the passenger bus was completely gutted. After getting information about this Naxalite incident, the police reached the spot

and started investigation in this matter. Apart from this, security force personnel have also been sent to the area for search. **Dandakaranya bandh called on April 25 in memory of fellow Naxalite Nirmala** Hardcore female Naxalite Nirmala alias Narmada Didi, a member of Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC), had died during treatment. Nirmala died in jail in Maharashtra on April 9. The death of Nirmala has been described by fellow Naxalites as a conspiracy

Four Naxals arrested

Sukma: Four Naxals were arrested in Sukma district when they arrived to put up Maoist pamphlets, a police official said on Monday. Gango Kunjani (35), Fagnu Sodhi (40), Hadma Madkani (20) and Baman Kartami (20), militia members of the proscribed movement's Katekalyan Area Committee, were held on Sunday evening from Bengpal under Tongpal police station limits while putting up pamphlets in support of the Naxal bandh call given for Monday, Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma said. "Personnel belonging to CRPF's 227th battalion and district force led by Tongpal Station House Officer (SHO) Vijay Patel were involved in the operation.

of the administration. In this protest and in memory of Nirmala, the Naxalites have called for a Dandakaranya bandh on 25 April.

Man dead as brawl in temple leads to stampede

Surajpur, Apr 25: A 22-year-old man was killed in a stampede in a temple in Surajpur district, some 175 kilometres from Korba, a police official said on Monday. The incident took place in Maa Kudargarhi Devi Temple in the limits of Odagi police station on Sunday after a dispute broke out among a group of devotees from Koriya district. The argument turned bloody and the group also attacked other devotees, leading to a stampede in which a man identified as Pradeep Kushwaha, a resident of Karaudaamuda village under Bhaiyathan police station limits, died. Seven people were injured and are being treated at the district hospital," he said. Odagi police station has registered a case and has detained seven persons, the ASP informed.

About the incident

The incident took place in Maa Kudargarhi Devi Temple in the limits of Odagi police station on Sunday after a dispute broke out among a group of devotees from Koriya district. The argument turned bloody and the group also attacked other devotees, leading to a stampede in which a man identified as Pradeep Kushwaha, a resident of Karaudaamuda village under Bhaiyathan police station limits, died.

RESCUE OPERATION



An injured person being rescued after an under-construction building collapsed, at Satya Niketan area in New Delhi, Monday.

'Unhappy with Guj Cong leadership, not Rahul or Priyanka'

Ahmedabad, Apr 25 (PTI):

Gujarat Congress leader Hardik Patel, who had recently praised the ruling BJP, on Monday said he is unhappy with the state party leadership and not Rahul Gandhi or Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Talking to reporters in Songadh in Tapi district, Hardik, who is working president of the state Congress, also refuted media reports claiming he will soon join the BJP. "I have said it earlier too. I am unhappy with the state leadership, not Rahul Gandhi or Priyankaji. My only problem with the state leadership is that the party must give responsibilities to strong and com-



mitted people as state Assembly elections are approaching," Patel said. The Congress must give opportunity and space to those who are working at the village-level in order to strengthen the party, he added. Requesting people to not read much between the lines or spread rumours about his "unhappiness", Hardik said the Congress was like a family

where members were free to raise questions and express their views. Hardik also refuted some media reports indicating he would join the BJP before the Assembly elections, likely to be held in December this year. "People talk about so many things. When Joe Biden was elected as US President, I praised him because the Vice President (Kamala Harris) was of Indian descent. Does that mean that I am joining Joe Biden's party? In politics, if our enemy is good and worth appreciating, we have to keep that in mind too," he said. "If they (BJP) are good at decision making, we also need to make quick decisions.

RBI imposes Rs 1.12 cr penalty on Bank of Maha

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.12 crore on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with certain directions, including those related to Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. The penalty has been imposed for violation provisions related to KYC, creation of a Central Repository of Large Common Exposures - Across Banks, and guidelines on managing risks and code of conduct in outsourcing of financial services by banks. The Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE) of the public sector bank was

conducted with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2020, it said in a release on Monday. Also, scrutinies were conducted in the matter of non-credit of customs duty to the government account by the bank, it added. In another release, RBI said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 12 lakh on Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Rajkot for non-compliance with the direction on Interest Rate on Deposits'. Separately, the central bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh on The Haryana State Co-operative Apex Bank, Chandigarh for contraventions with RBI directions on housing finance.

Cong to constitute 'Empowered Action Group-2024'

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

The Congress on Monday announced that an empowered group will be constituted to address the political challenges ahead, days after deliberating on the presentation by poll strategist Prashant Kishor over the party's plan for the 2024 elections. Congress President Sonia Gandhi also decided to convene a 'Chintan Shivir', a brainstorming session from May 13-15 in Udaipur, where party leaders from across the country would discuss internal issues confronting it and come up with solutions to help strengthen the organisation and make it fit to take on the BJP in the next round of polls, party chief

To hold 'Chintan Shivir' in Udaipur

spokesperson Randeep Surjewala told reporters. Asked if there was any decision on Kishor's induction into the party, Surjewala did not give a direct reply, and merely said, "Whenever the group is constituted, you will know who is part of it. The decisions were taken at a meeting of senior party leaders to chalk the Congress strategy for the next general and assembly elections, including the plan presented by Kishor. The Congress has been struggling to evolve its strategy for upcoming elections in the wake of a

series of defeats at the hustings. "The Congress president received a report from the eight-member group on April 21. Today, she discussed the report with the group and based on the discussions, the Congress president has decided to constitute an 'Empowered Action Group-2024' in order to address the political challenges ahead," Surjewala said. The meeting was convened at the 10, Janpath residence of Sonia Gandhi, where senior party leaders including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Ambika Soni, K C Venugopal, Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik, Digvijaya Singh, Jairam Ramesh and P Chidambaram were among those present.

Ranas fail to get HC breather

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Monday dismissed the writ petition filed by independent MP Navneet and her MLA husband Ravi Rana, arrested in connection with the Hanuman Chalisa controversy, seeking quashing of an FIR registered against them. The couple had approached the HC this morning seeking that the FIR registered against them by the Khar police in the city on the charge of deterring a police officer from discharging her official duties be quashed. A bench of Justices PB Varale and SM Modak,

however, said that it found no merit in the plea. The Khar police registered two FIRs against the couple after they announced that Hanuman Chalisa will be recited outside Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's private residence in Mumbai. On April 23, the police registered the first FIR on the charge of promoting enmity between different religions. It subsequently added the charge of sedition to this FIR. On April 24, the Khar police registered a second FIR against the Ranas under section 353 of the IPC for obstructing a public servant from discharging duty.

Hanuman Chalisa row

BEATING THE HEAT



Men cool themselves with water on a hot summer day, at the Dussehra Ghat behind the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Monday.

RUN-UP TO 2024 POLLS

BJP identifies 73,000 'weak' booths

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

With an eye on 2024 general elections, the BJP has identified 73,000 polling booths where it is weak and has constituted a committee to strengthen the party's position on them, sources said on Monday.

Majority of these booths are in southern and eastern states, the sources said, adding that the party is also contemplating to draw a blue print for strengthening its position in 150 Lok Sabha constituencies where it has not done well in previous several polls.

Chaired by BJP's vice president Bajajant Panda, the committee has party general secretaries CT Ravi and Dilip Ghosh, and party's SC cell head Lal Singh Arya as its mem-

bers, they said. The committee has drafted a report suggesting the strategy for strengthening the BJP on these booths, the sources said. The report is likely to be placed in the meeting of BJP's general secretaries on Monday and then a strategy will be finalised which will be communicated to the respective state units, they said.

These booths have been identified on the basis of 2014 and 2019 general elections, the sources said, adding that the broader idea is to substantially increase the party's vote share on these booths in 2024 general elections. The booths have been divided into various categories on the basis of demography, organisational strength and other aspects, they said.

'No load-shedding in Maha for last 3 to 4 days'

Nagpur, Apr 25 (PTI):

Maharashtra has not faced load-shedding in the last 3 to 4 days and the state government is focused on addressing coal shortage and is also in touch with the Centre over the issue, Energy Minister Nitin Raut said on Monday. Several parts of the state had been facing load-shedding (power outages) due to an increase in electricity demand and a shortage of coal to run power plants. The state government has blamed the Centre for poor management of coal supply.

Speaking to reporters in Nagpur, Raut said due to a shortage of coal over two dozen states have resorted to load-shedding. However,



Nitin Raut

there has been no power cuts in Maharashtra in the last 3 to 4 days, he said, adding "Today, the demand of electricity has exceeded 27,000 MW and Mahagenco (power generating company) has provided 8,000 MW to Mahavitrans (distribution utility)." "However, there is question of a shortage of coal at some power stations. But, we have done a micro-level planning and are also

in touch with the Union coal ministry on the situation," the minister said. He said coal companies and the central government are working on filling up the gap between coal demand and supply.

Raut said in the coming days, he will meet his central government counterpart, the Union coal minister and also the Railway minister to discuss the supply issue. The minister said Mahagenco has been allotted a coal mine by the Union coal ministry at Gare Palma in adjoining Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district. The mine will be a source of dedicated coal supply for power generation in the state and cut down dependence on existing coal companies, he said.

SC not to interfere with K'taka vaccine mandate

To attend colleges

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to interfere with a vaccine mandate of the Karnataka government for attending the colleges saying in the wider national interest there are some matters which we should not be entertaining.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant dismissed the plea challenging the Karnataka High Court order upholding the state government's July 16, 2021 notification which said that students' teachers and non-teaching staff who have received one dose of vaccine can at-

tend the colleges. The bench said, We will not entertain this. Take your vaccines. In the wider national interest there are some matters which we should not be entertaining.

It told advocate Anas Tanvir, appearing for petitioner Sushma S Aradhya, that the High Court order was passed on December 4, 2021, and what was the difficulty in getting vaccinated. The advocate said that his belief is in Ayurvedic and not allopathic and he wears a mask and observes all the COVID appropriate behaviour. There cannot be a vaccine mandate for attending the college, he said.

COVID 4th wave concerns K'taka makes masks, social distancing mandatory

Bengaluru, Apr 25 (PTI):

Amid fresh COVID-19 concerns in different parts of the country and apprehensions about a possible fourth wave of the pandemic, the Karnataka government on Monday decided to issue guidelines making wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing compulsory.

The decision was taken at a meeting headed by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with senior ministers, officials and the COVID-19 technical advisory committee consisting of experts here, to review the situation in the state amid concerns over a possible fourth wave.

"Masks should be worn

compulsorily, especially at places where there is a crowd and in indoor places, social distancing has to be maintained. Guidelines will be issued today to this effect. We have not taken any decision regarding imposing any penalty immediately," Health Minister K Sudhakar said.

Speaking to reporters after taking part in the meeting, the minister said the number of positive cases have slightly increased in Bengaluru, where the positivity rate is 1.9 per cent, and the situation will be monitored and supervised with guidelines about the treatment if required.

"On April 27, the Prime Minister will be holding a

video conference with Chief Ministers and Health Ministers of all states, where more guidance and information may be shared. After that, we will hold another round of meeting here and further measures, if required, will be taken," he added.

Pointing out that according to the World Health Organisation, health issues like hospitalisation and ICU care are required more among unvaccinated people, the minister said the number of people who have taken preventive dose (third dose) is low, and more people will have to get the booster jabs.

"People above 60 years are being given the preventive or third dose for free.

Don't wait for the next wave, take the preventive dose and protect yourselves," he advised.

Noting that countries like South Korea, Thailand and Japan have been reporting a spike in cases, Sudhakar said the passengers travelling directly to the state from these countries will be specially monitored at the airports and their details and contact numbers will be collected, and they will be telemonitored at home.

In response to a question, the minister said Omicron BA.2 sub-lineages are emerging, but until an official report comes from the INSACOG lab, it will be difficult to say which variant is prevalent.

Akhilesh warns of panic in UP if fourth Covid wave hits state

Lucknow, Apr 25 (PTI):

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said active Covid cases are rising in Uttar Pradesh and warned that there could be a panic if fourth wave hits the state, asserting that the medical facilities are crumbling under the BJP government.

"The active cases of coronavirus are once again rising in the state. Experts are expecting the possibility of a fourth wave. The peak of infection can come in June-July.

The BJP-led state government seems to have learned no lesson from the horrors of the last Covid wave. In view of

the plight of health services in the state, there is a possibility of panic," Yadav said in a statement issued here.

"The people were orphaned during the last wave of the Covid pandemic. There had been reports of lakhs of deaths then. The public had to see very bad days during the lockdown period. The memory of those days still haunts us," he said.

Alleging that the BJP government is doing a gimmick of reviewing the situation, Yadav said "it (government) is pretending as if it has just come to power" and added that the chief minister's meetings have no effect on the ground. "So the minis-

ters are facing embarrassment.

The new health minister of the state is upset with his own department due to the disorder. The reality of health services in UP is very disappointing," he said.

"There are not enough doctors in the hospitals. There are long queues of patients in the government hospitals and medicines are also not available," he added.

Yadav alleged that the BJP government is proving to be more failure than ever on fronts of health, education, and law and order. "The mismanagement of health sector seems to be waiting for the situation to get worse," he said.

Apparel unit in tribal area to boost women employment

Sambalpur, Apr 25 (PTI):

An apparel manufacturing unit will be set up in the tribal-dominated Kuchinda sub-division of Odisha's Sambalpur district to provide employment to women throughout the year and also to augment their livelihood, an official said. The clothing plant will come up at Ardabahal under the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). It will be the first apparel industry under the scheme in the state and Rs 2.79 crore will be spent on the project. The Union government will bear 90 per cent of the cost and the rest will be provided by the state government. An agreement will be signed on Wednesday between the Khadi and Village Industry Commission and the Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS).

DEMOLITION DRIVE



Residents look on their during a demolition drive by the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) at Banjara Market, in Gurugram, Monday.

Healthcare becoming affordable, accessible: Mandaviya 'No law for govt to install/remove loudspeakers'

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

Healthcare is becoming accessible and affordable in the country with the government taking steps to enhance the overall infrastructure, including doubling of MBBS seats, Union Health Minister Mansukh L Mandaviya said on Monday.

The minister, who also holds Chemicals and Fertilisers portfolio, noted that the country is witnessing the rise of a new India and all the stakeholders have to ensure that the pharma sector also becomes part of this growth.

The government is working on a roadmap for healthcare ecosystem 'Heal by India' and 'Heal in India', which would pave the way for providing manpower for treatment

to the world along with promoting affordable healthcare in India, Mandaviya noted. He added that the government does not see health sector from the commercial aspect but as a service initiative for all.

"So we need to take care of our needs and that of the world as well," Mandaviya said while speaking at the 7th edition of India Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Conference 2022. The three day event, from April 25-27, will see government, industry and academia come together to brainstorm for a roadmap for the sector for the next 25 years.

Mandaviya noted that the government has been taking steps to make healthcare both affordable

and accessible.

"Medical colleges have doubled, MBBS seats which used to be in the range of 55,000 seats will go up to 1 lakh this year...similarly 1.17 lakh health and wellness centres have been established across the country...district hospitals are being strengthened besides there are AIIMS coming up for tertiary needs," the minister said.

Conferences like India Pharma and India Medical Device 2022 provide a platform for the industry, academia and policy makers to brainstorm and draft a plan for the next 25 years for the sector, he added.

Mandaviya further said the country has the capability to sell pharma products all over the globe and also to treat people from all

across the world at healthcare facilities spread across the nation.

"We can take care of it in a holistic and comprehensive manner. we are brainstorming for that," he added. He said Modi government has been able to provide health security to about 50 crore people in the country.

Mandaviya noted that the government supports industry while staying pro-poor and pro-farmers. "We just don't make policies in the paper or just give lectures but we make efforts to implement the policy," he said.

Mandaviya, while praising the pharma industry for steps taken during COVID-19 pandemic, said there were apprehensions across the globe as how India will manage the cri-

sis. "We showed the world how it can be done. We also proved it again by having a successful vaccination programme," he added. The minister said the way India has managed COVID-19 pandemic is a global case study.

"Today the entire world community is praising India's efforts in carrying out the world's largest vaccination drive. We have administered more than 187 crore doses in the country so far which is a commendable feat. When it comes to providing healthcare services, one should not think just for the nation but for the whole world," he added. The Union minister exhorted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, energy of the youth has been channelised.

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

There is no provision for the state government to either install or remove loudspeakers, Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil said on Monday after an all-party meeting on the issue. The BJP boycotted the meet, Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly Devendra Fadnis said.

Some political parties have been demanding regulations on the use of loudspeakers and had set a deadline on it, Walse-Patil said without naming the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena or its chief Raj Thackeray who has given an ultimatum to the state



Dilip Walse Patil

government to remove loudspeakers atop mosques by May 3. He said that in the all-party meeting it was decided that the government should take all steps to maintain law and order in the state and work accordingly. The Supreme Court had given

a decision on the use (regulations) of loudspeakers in 2005. Subsequently, other courts have also given decisions in this regard.

Accordingly, the Maharashtra government between 2015-17 came out with some GRs (government resolutions) and circulars on the use of loudspeakers and the permission on its usage including the timings and decibel limits. Based on it, loudspeakers are used in the state. "There is no provision that the government cannot decide on installing or removing loudspeakers. Those who have installed loudspeakers, those who use it, will have to take care of the regulation, he said.

RCB aim to stop Jos Buttler juggernaut against Rajasthan

Pune, Apr 25 (PTI):

Royal Challengers Bangalore will be aiming to halt the Jos Buttler juggernaut when they take on Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Attention will be on Virat Kohli as well following his second consecutive first ball duck in the competition. RCB would be hoping their star batter to be back among the runs besides a much improved performance by the batting unit after a shocker in the previous game.

While the Challengers come into the match on the back of a demoralising nine-wicket loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan have had two successive wins and are one of the in-form teams this season. While the focus would be on Kohli, RCB have also power-hitters in captain Faf Du Plessis, Glenn Maxwell,



Dinesh Karthik and Shahbaaz Ahmed, who can be destructive on their day and if they fire in unison, the RR attack would have a tough time.

Du Plessis, the highest run-scorer for his team, has been hot and cold with the willow but remains a vital cog for the team. Karthik too with his

hitting abilities is playing the finisher's role to near perfection.

They are up against Rajasthan's varied attack, led by Trent Boult, who has troubled Kohli in the past with the delivery that comes in. Prasidh Krishna and the spin duo of wily Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal can

also pose problems for the RCB batters. Chahal, with 18 wickets so far, can turn the game on his head.

And ditto for Ashwin, who can be the opposition's nemesis on his day. Add to it the four overs by Obed McCoy; Rajasthan have a decent attack. For Rajasthan, opener Jos Buttler has been in sub-

lime form, having already hammered three hundreds this season. Opener Devdutt Padikkal and skipper Sanju Samson have also been toying with opposition attacks and are among the runs. And so is Shimon Hetymar, who can compound the bowling team's woes with his brutal onslaught.

RR would be hoping that the top order delivers once again at the MCA Stadium, which has witnessed high-scoring games. The weak links in Rajasthan's batting are Karun Nair and Riyan Parag and the duo would need to step up and deliver.

For RCB, they have the best death bowler in Harshal Patel, but he would need support from Mohammed Siraj and Josh Hazlewood. The four overs by Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who has eleven wickets, could also change the match's fate.

Rublev wins Serbia Open, denies Djokovic 1st title of 2022

Belgrade, Apr 25 (AP):

Andrey Rublev defeated Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-0 to win the Serbia Open for his third title of the season.

The second-seeded Russian player dug deep to stop Djokovic from mounting another comeback as he prevented the top-ranked Serb from claiming his first title of 2022.

The 24-year-old Rublev looked fitter in their third set as he closed out the win in 2 hours, 24 minutes. Djokovic who is 10 years older than Rublev appeared affected by the effort he put in to level the match in the second-set tiebreaker. Djokovic had already come back from a set down in each of his three matches at his hometown tournament, defeating Laslo Djere,



Miomir Kecmanovic and Karen Khachanov on his way to the final in what were only his fifth, sixth and seventh matches of the year.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion opened his clay-court season

with a surprising loss to Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Monte Carlo Masters the previous week, his first match since being eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Dubai 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. Rublev, who dropped only one set as he eliminated Jiri Lehecka, Taro Daniel and Fabio Fognini on his way to the final, has now equaled Rafael Nadal's mark of three tour-level titles in 2022, after wins in Marseille and Dubai in February.

If we need to make changes, we will do that: Jayawardene

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

Mumbai Indians coach Mahela Jayawardene has hinted at a few changes after repeated failures of the star-studded batting-line up and is also concerned about the drastic drop in form of star opener Ishan Kishan.

Record five-time champions Mumbai Indians are enduring their worst run in IPL history having lost their first eight games including the one against Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday night.

"Good question. I need to review this and have a chat with the rest of the coaches as well and make some plans," said Jayawardene when asked about potential changes in the batting line up going forward in the competition.



"Batting has been a concern for us especially on good wickets where we have batted under par. This is a senior group who understands the conditions and performed in the past. We

need to keep pushing and if we need to make those changes we will do that.

"We had few changes (uptill now) but not a lot. We wanted to keep the batting consistent.

Obviously there are concerns as we have not been consistent whether we are batting first or chasing totals down," said the Sri Lankan legend.

Jayawardene also plans to sit down with Kishan whose performance graph has dipped drastically after fifties in the first two games.

"He has struggled a bit, we have given him the freedom to play his natural game. I haven't yet spoken to him today but I will have a conversation with him soon, he said.

Mumbai had bought back Kishan for Rs 15.25 crore at the IPL auction earlier this year.

Skipper Rohit Sharma has also not been at his best while veteran Kieron Pollard has also underdelivered.

We haven't batted well enough in tournament: Rohit Sharma

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

Skipper Rohit Sharma ran out of reasons for Mumbai Indians' losing streak which extended to eight games, accepting that shoddy batting has hurt the team and led to the disaster which the 2022 season has been for the five-time champions.

Lucknow Super Giants beat MI by 36 runs with skipper KL Rahul scoring another hundred against his favourite side while Rohit's 39 was the top score for the home team.

"We haven't batted well enough in this tournament. Whoever plays in the middle needs to take that responsibility and go on to play long innings. Some of the opposition players have done that and that is what is hurting us. One guy needs to ensure that he bats as long as possible," Rohit said after the



match. Rohit accepted that some shots were irresponsible. "I thought we bowled pretty okay. It wasn't easy. It was a good pitch to bat on. I thought that score should have been chased down, but we didn't bat

well enough. When you have a target like that, it is important to string partnerships. But some irresponsible shots in the middle, including mine," he added. Rohit feels that the manner in which they are

losing games, everyone in the bench is in contention. "Everyone has come into discussion given how our tournament has gone. We need to ensure that we have a settled team and give players in the middle a fair chance," he said when asked if there is a chance for Tim David to come into equation.

"Their roles are different when they play for their countries and here we expect something else from them. We tried not making too many changes, and we have tried to play the best combination possible. 'But when you lose games, you always have such discussions. As far as I am concerned, I want to give people enough chances to prove themselves. The season hasn't gone the way we would have wanted it to, but such things happen," he concluded.

Alcaraz youngest since Nadal in top 10 after Barcelona win



Barcelona, Apr 25 (AP):

Exactly 17 years ago, an 18-year-old Rafael Nadal was starting to attract the attention of the tennis world by winning the Barcelona Open and making it to the top 10 for the first time.

Carlos Alcaraz followed in the footsteps of his hero on Sunday, also winning his first Barcelona title and cracking the top 10 men's rankings for the first time at the same age.

Alcaraz continued his impressive run by beating Pablo Carreno Busta in straight sets for his third title of the season, winning the all-Spanish

match 6-3, 6-2 after having made it to the final a few hours earlier in a semifinal game postponed from Saturday because of rain.

It means a lot," Alcaraz said.

I've watched this tournament since I was a kid. I always wished to play in this tournament and of course to be able to win this tournament. I'm really, really happy to be part of the Spanish history list.

Alcaraz was guaranteed to move into the top 10 after reaching the semifinals. He will be No. 9 when the new rankings come out on Monday, making him the youngest player in the top 10 since Nadal made it after lifting his first Barcelona trophy in 2005.

Like Nadal then, Alcaraz came into the tournament as the 11th-ranked player in the world. A record 21-time Grand Slam winner, Nadal never dropped out of the top 10 since then.

The victory at the Rafa Nadal center court in Barcelona capped a long day for Alcaraz, who needed 3 hours, 39 minutes to rally past Alex de Minaur 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4), 6-4 in their semifinal match in the morning.

Liverpool wins derby, dumps Everton into EPL relegation zone

Manchester, Apr 25 (AP):

Staying in the slipstream of Manchester City in the Premier League title race wasn't Liverpool's only cause for celebration following victory in another fast and furious Merseyside derby.

Liverpool's 2-0 win at Anfield on Sunday also dumped Everton into the relegation zone, leaving its neighbor's 68-year stay in England's top flight in major doubt with a month left of the season.

Second-half goals by Andrew Robertson and Divock Origi were enough for Liverpool in a match that ended with the jubilant home fans singing Going down, going down to their rivals from across Stanley Park.

Completing a dismal day for Everton was relegation rival Burnley winning a second straight



game since firing its long-serving manager Sean Dyche, 1-0 at home to Wolverhampton.

It left Everton in third-to-last place and two points below Burnley, which finally climbed out of the relegation zone.

Everton, which has been in the top division

every year since the 1954-55 season, has played one game less than Burnley but has a tough run-in featuring games against Chelsea, Arsenal and in-form Brentford.

More importantly for Liverpool, the team returned to being a point behind City with five

games left in a title race that seems destined to go to the final weekend. In other games, Chelsea scored in the 90th minute through Christian Pulisic to beat West Ham 1-0 and cement third place, five points clear of Arsenal in fourth. Brighton drew 2-2 at home to Southampton.

Rahul fined Rs 24 lakh for second over rate offence

Wankhede, Apr 25 (PTI): Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul has been fined Rs 24 lakh for maintaining a slow over rate in their IPL game against Mumbai Indians. It was Rahul's second over rate offence of the season. He was

fined Rs 12 lakh for the first offence. "KL Rahul was fined Rs 24 lakhs and the rest of the members in the playing eleven were fined Rs 6 lakhs or 25 percent of their match fee, whichever is lower," said the IPL in a statement. "This was the

team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences."

Lucknow Super Giants registered a comfortable 36-run win over Mumbai Indians, as they rode on Rahul's hundred.

Former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith cleared of racism allegations

Johannesburg, Apr 25 (PTI):

Former Cricket South Africa (CSA) Director of Cricket and captain Graeme Smith has been cleared of racism allegations against him following the outcome of the board's Social Justice and Nation-Building (SJNI) commission's report.

In December last year, a 235-page report submitted by the SJNI Commission head Dumisa Ntsebeza had accused Smith, current head coach Mark Boucher and former skipper AB de Villiers, among others of engaging in racial discrimination.

The Ombudsman's SJNI report had made various "tentative findings" regarding allegations of discrimination and racism.

However, the Ombudsman had indicated that he was not in a position to make definite findings and had recommended that a further process be undertaken, following which CSA launched a formal inquiry.

The report had alleged that Smith had discriminated against the black players by not selecting them in the national team. After a full arbitration process, advocates Ngwako Maenetje SC and Michael Bishop cleared the former skipper of all the three account he was charged for.



"There was no evidentiary basis to conclude that Mr Smith engaged in racial discrimination against Mr Thami Tsolekile during the period 2012-2014," the CSA statement read.

"2. There was no evidentiary basis to conclude that Mr Smith was racially biased against black leadership at CSA; and

"3. There was no evidentiary basis to conclude Mr Smith's appointment of Mr Mark Boucher, rather than Mr Enoch Nkwe, as coach of the men's Proteas team in 2019 amounted to unfair racial discrimination," it added.

Lawson Naidoo, Chair of the CSA Board, commented: The manner in which these issues have been dealt with and resolved by the arbitration proceedings confirms CSA's commitment to deal with the SJNI issues in a manner that treats them with utmost seriousness but also ensures fairness, due process and finality.



Actress Kasthuri hits back at those trolling her for tweeting on power cuts

Actress Kasthuri Shankar on Sunday hit back at twitterati who trolled her posts about power cuts occurring often in Chennai.

It all started on Saturday night when the actress tweeted, "Power cut. Again. Midnight. Unannounced. Unacknowledged. Chennai vaasis are really stuck. When the government machinery is stoutly denying that power cuts happen at all, then how to expect any relief?"

An hour-and-a-half later, the actress again tweeted, "Yay!!! Power is back !! 100 minutes of mosquito bite and humid night later, power is back, so goodnight y'all!"

But by then, she was trolled by some of those who mockingly kept asking her if she didn't have an UPS or inverter at home.

Responding to their tweets, Kasthuri said, "Stupid Sheeple. Yes, I don't have inverter in my home. In USA also I never had. Is it because I'm poor? Chennai, I pay tax and bill but no metrowater. Instead of questioning government failure to supply water, electricity, you troll people to buy can water and UPS. Vaazhga paguththarivu(Long live common sense)."

It is all about challenges in &TV this week

It is all about various challenges and road-blocks faced by the characters across shows, this week on &TV, coupled with high-voltage drama.

About &TV's *Baal Shiv* track, *Devi Parvati* shares, "Totasur and Dandapani attempt to enter the house of Mahasati Anusuya and *Devi Parvati* to disrupt their pooja but fail because of the defensive shield *Devi Parvati* has constructed around her and Mahasati Anusuya's house."

Devi Parvati is overjoyed because she is about to finish her pooja, which will transform Baal Shiv (Aan Tiwari) into Mahadev (Siddharth Arora). On the other hand, Mahasati Anusuya rejoices because her pooja will keep Baal Shiv as Balashiv. Tarkasur (Kapil Nirmal), Varangi, and Ajamukhi (Shrashi Maheshwari) travel to



Darukavan to track down Daruka (Ambika Soni). Tarkasur finds Daruka facing difficulties and asks her to seek help from *Devi Parvati*. Daruka summons *Devi Parvati*, but she is in Puja and does not want her pooja to get spoiled, so she asks Laxmi and Saraswati to assist Daruka. Daruka adamantly refuses to accept Laxmi and Saraswati's assistance, as *Devi Parvati* promised her to help whenever she needs it. *Devi Parvati* later recalls how Mahadev taught her about God's responsibili-

ties to their worshipers. How will *Devi Parvati* complete her pooja and fulfill the promise made to Daruka? About &TV's *Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?* track, Sakina Mirza shares, "Mishra and Mirza accept Bittu's cricket match challenge between Haveli members and everyone in Mohalla lead by Bittu. However, the side which loses the match will have to give up on their house. Mishras and Mirzas are worried about their haveli which is at stake. To save the haveli, both the families try to find their unique cricketing skills. Mirza

(Pawan Singh) and Mishra (Ambrish Bobby) regret not selecting Majnu and Aashiq for their team after learning about their cricket proficiencies. Finally, the day arrives, and Ammi Jaan is selected as the umpire. Bittu's team puts up a tough fight. Will Mishra and Mirza's team win the match and save their haveli?"

Watch *Baal Shiv, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?, Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai* from 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Ahead of the release of Chiranjeevi-starrer 'Acharya' which is set to hit the theatres on April 29, actor Ram Charan on Sunday spoke to media about the flick and expressed his delight that South Indian films are gaining popularity across the country. Ram Charan, who is said to have played a significant role in the film, said: "At first, I became a part of 'Acharya' as a producer-only but later I joined the cast to play Siddha." "My character's initial length is only 15 minutes. It was eventually extended to 45 minutes. Siddha's character is one of the most unique roles I've ever played. You'll enjoy my scenes, especially those with my father, Chiranjeevi". When asked about his role in 'Acharya', Ram Charan explained that his character is named Siddha, and he is a person who is obligated to follow non-violence, but a conflict with the antagonist Sonu Sood forces him to take a different path. On South Indian films gaining popularity across the country, Ram Charan expressed his delight and said: "It's wonderful to see the popularity of South Indian films in the country. My father used to say that back then, people only talked about super actors in Bollywood. Our films, such as ' KGF 2', 'RRR', and



Ram Charan: It's great to see South Indian films getting popular across the country

others, are now being discussed throughout the country. I'm also proud to have been a part of it." 'Acharya' is directed by Koratala Siva. Ram Charan will be next seen in a big-ticket movie, which is currently being directed by Shankar Shanmugham.



Sayli Kamble of 'Indian Idol 12' fame ties the knot with boyfriend Dhawal

'Superstar Singer 2' captain Sayli Kamble tied the knot with boyfriend Dhawal on Sunday at Royal Garden in Kalyan, Mumbai. The singer has shared a reel on her social media handle from the venue where the wedding ceremony took place.

Many of her wedding pictures and videos are going viral on social media.

The couple got engaged last year. They got married in typical Maharashtrian style.

Sayli was looking beautiful in her yellow sari with a fuchsia pink border and a purple wedding shawl. Her smile was enough to



share her happiness. In another picture, Dhawal was looking suave in off white kurta pyjama and a turban. The videos also show guests dancing and enjoying the ceremony.

Sayli's friend and 'Indian Idol 12' fame Arunita Kanjilal has spoken to the media and informed them about attending the wedding. She said: "I will be attending the wedding today and I am very happy for Sayli di." 'Indian Idol' contestants Nachiket Lele and Nihal Tauro attended the wedding and shared pictures on their social media accounts.

Neha Sargam to play Yashoda in 'Yashomati Maiyaa Ke Nandlala'

"Maa ki abhuth mamta ka anand uthane, aa rahe hain Gopala!" Mesmerising viewers with a heartfelt bond between Yashoda and Kanha (Lord Shri Krishna), Sony Entertainment Television recently announced their latest offering 'Yashomati Maiyaa Ke Nandlala' which will soon air on the channel. Essaying the pivotal role of Yashodha will be well-known television actor, Neha Sargam.

Neha Sargam, who has been a part of notable mythological shows in the past, says, "We've all grown up watching and hearing stories of Kanha so it's exciting for me to play such an integral part in 'Yashomati Maiyaa Ke Nandlala'. It's a great learning as well to revisit the bond shared between Yashodha Maiyaa and Kanha from a different perspective altogether. It brings a lot of peace to me."

Stay tuned to watch the untold story on *Yashomati Maiyaa ke Nandlala* only on Sony Entertainment Television.



HOROSCOPE TUESDAY APRIL 26

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Don't be surprised if you have a desire to redecorate. The celestial energies have put you in the mood to rearrange your house a bit. Take care to not go overboard, Aquarius. You have a tendency to turn little projects into big ones. For now, content yourself with buying some flowering plants and perhaps new area rugs and throw pillows. Leave the kitchen and bath renovations for later.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Be sure to answer all phone calls and open all letters and emails today, Pisces. You're likely to receive some interesting news. You might get word from a former boss that you'd be perfect for a new position opening up in his or her office. Or perhaps an old lover makes tentative inquiries about renewing old bonds. Your eyebrows will rise in surprise at least once during this day. Expect the unexpected!

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

As you get older, you're drawn more and more to spiritual matters, Gemini. It isn't so much that you're embracing any particular religion, more that you're quite curious about the supernatural and some of the ancient arts. Take some time today to visit the library or bookstore and do some reading on the subject. You might want to form a study group with other like-minded individuals.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Don't hesitate to try something new today, Cancer. If you've thought about joining a book club or taking a class, do it today! You're likely to meet some interesting people and enter a new social world. You might be tentative at first, but you'll find the group warm, friendly, and eager for your input. You'll talk like old friends by the end of the second meeting. This is just the infusion of fun you need!

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

You're looking beautiful and feeling passionate, Libra. If only your passions could be reciprocated! Even though there may not be anyone special in your life right now, that's no reason to not treat yourself well. Go out for a nice meal or, better yet, order take-out and dine at home, complete with music, candles, and your finest china. You should appreciate yourself even if no one else does at the moment.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

This could be a frustrating day in the romance department, Scorpio. Communication is blocked at all levels. You're anxious to speak with your loved one, but simply can't reach him or her. Perhaps the phone system is malfunctioning or email is acting up. You feel as though the Universe is conspiring against you. Take heart. Your partner will contact you soon enough, and your reunion will be electric!

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Just as a watched pot never boils, so, too, do anxiously awaited checks or letters refuse to arrive in the mail, Aries. Beyond double-checking that the person or company has your correct address, there isn't much you can do but continue to wait. Trust that it will arrive shortly, and then your financial difficulties will be behind you.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

You're likely to feel optimistic and enthusiastic about life today, Leo. You might also feel especially sexy, a feeling you should definitely take advantage of! Why not plan a romantic evening with your loved one? Don't hesitate to talk about your travel dreams over dinner. You never know, he or she just might share your dream. Before you know it, the two of you could be winging your way to exotic lands.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

You have certainly felt better than you do today, Sagittarius. We'll pause here while you go and fetch the aspirin. The stomachache and headache are simply the result of recent overindulgence. Don't worry - you'll be fit as a fiddle by tomorrow morning. Next time someone offers you multiple helpings of food or drink, however, you might want to consider politely declining!

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

No doubt you're feeling attractive and passionate today, Taurus. Don't be surprised if a former lover gets in touch with you to try and rekindle the old flame. The attention is flattering, to be sure, but you're unlikely to have any desire to pursue the relationship. You're happy with what you have right now. And as they say, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

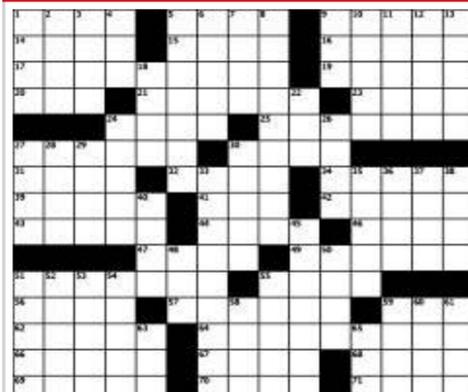
Today is full of possibilities, Virgo. You could fall in love at first sight, or at least meet someone who captures your interest! You should be feeling especially loving, passionate, and eager to devote yourself to a worthy cause or creative activity. Don't expect everything to fall into place right away. You could hit a few obstacles, but the ultimate result will be worth the bumps along the way.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

You could be feeling playful today, Capricorn. Your romantic partner will certainly appreciate your fun-loving mood. Why not plan a fun day together doing something other than your usual routine? Rather than dinner and a movie, how about lunch and a visit to a museum or art gallery? You have both been working very hard lately. Your relationship will benefit from an injection of spontaneity.

CROSSWORD

281



ACROSS

- Anger
- Leonardo's "___ Lisa"
- Leading actors
- She, in Madrid
- Milky stone
- Satellite's path
- Most strongly built
- Pioneer Daniel ___
- Foot digit
- Tel Aviv's locale

- Racing sled
- Computer info
- Housing agent
- Marked down in price (2 wds.)
- Stuck-up one
- Jury member
- Wine valley
- Make disappear
- Clocked
- Former GI
- Worn out
- Playground fixture

- Singles
- Peddle
- Rewrite
- Formal agreement
- Self-___ (confident)
- Converge
- Browns in the sun
- Hunting expedition
- In the past
- Oahu greeting
- Proposed as a candidate
- Sophia ___
- Brat's stocking stuffer
- Quality of sound
- Doorway
- Other than
- Tarzan's pals

DOWN

- Pause
- Voice range
- Adhesive
- Corn unit
- Dampen
- "Aida," for one
- Space agency (abbr.)
- Take turns
- Weep
- Internet pest
- Regard
- Beetle ___ Starr
- Ranch animal
- Clock face
- Author ___ Tolstoy
- Risked
- Spur on

- Makes a choice
- Astronaut ___ Armstrong
- Trucker's vehicle
- Paid out
- Act of shunning
- Metal bolt
- Region
- Exported
- Circular current
- Forest creature
- Free from germs
- ___ Moines
- Harness part
- Start of a Dickens title (2 wds.)
- Beauty shop
- Scornful sound
- Theater employee
- Mothers
- Trick
- On
- Cowboy ___ Autry
- Lyric verses
- Whichever one
- ___ moment's notice (2 wds.)

SOLUTION 280



BRIEF

Partners

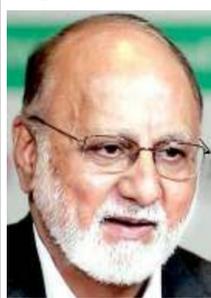


New Delhi: MG Motor India on Monday said it has partnered with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) to bolster EV charging infrastructure. MG Motor India President and MD Rajeev Chaba said our partnership is yet another step to energise and enhance confidence.

Exits

Jaipur: The Rajasthan Venture Capital Fund (RVCF) has exited Mumbai-based fintech startup Mosabee with a 19 times jump in returns. RVCF, supported by Rajasthan State Industrial Investment and Investment Corporation (RIICO) and other institutions, had invested Rs 5.25 crore in Mosabee in 2015 and 2016 in the form of equity.

Deploy



New Delhi: Hero Electric on Monday said it has joined hands with EVIFY, a tech-enabled electric vehicle-based logistics company. Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill said B2B partnerships will enable the EV industry to exchange and utilize partner expertise and strengths.

Accelerator

New Delhi: Swiggy on Monday said it has launched an accelerator programme that allows its delivery executives to transition into full-time, managerial-level jobs with a fixed salary and additional benefits. Under its 'Step-Ahead' programme, Swiggy said it is aiming to give an opportunity to those executives who want to move from their current flexible engagement with the company to a dedicated, managerial role.

Acquire



New Delhi: IT company Ciyent will acquire global plant and product engineering services company Citec for about Rs 800 crore to strengthen its business offerings. Ciyent MD CEO Krishna Bodanapu said it will be integral to gaining a strong foothold in the region.

India's GDP likely to grow 7.5-8% in FY-23

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

India's economy is expected to grow 7.5-8 per cent this fiscal year with exports playing a key role in the country's success story, CII President TV Narendran said on Monday.

However, he said the country needs to remain prepared for any fallout of next wave of COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

"We are confident that the economy can retain a high growth trajectory this year. So, we are very optimistic on the export front. Exports will be a key component of India's success story going forward," Narendran said.

In an interview to PTI, the President of the industry body said the resurgence of COVID globally will have an impact on the global supply chain and CII's India economic growth estimate of 7.5-8 per cent in the current fiscal factors these developments. "The experience with COVID shows that



TV Narendran

every time there is a fresh wave globally, it does hit India as well. Therefore, we must be prepared for the future waves," he said.

According to him, the industry has in place well defined safety protocols and has really moved up the learning curve in managing COVID and in its ability to continue to operate safely even as infections rise.

"Therefore, in our view we are much better prepared to deal with the next wave. In terms of immediate action, administration of precautionary dose and the vaccination of below 18 years could be expedited. People need to be re-

minded of the importance of COVID appropriate behaviour and hence reminder campaigns are important," the CII President said. He said in the past the strategy of micro-containment has worked well for India, adding that the industry body does not anticipate a scenario of re-imposition of major lockdowns.

"The widely accepted principle of managing COVID globally is to learn to live with it, rather than go in for strict lockdowns," said Narendran.

Observing that the rise in oil and other commodity prices has impacted margins of industries and purchasing power of consumers, the CII President, however, said there is no call for using a term like stagflation in the Indian context.

"Growth for the current fiscal remains within the 7.5-8 per cent range. The IMF is looking at 8.2 per cent growth for India and expects it to continue to remain the fastest growing major economy in the world.

Rupee slumps 34 paise at 76.76 against USD, bullion falls

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

The rupee declined 23 paise to 76.76 against the US dollar in the forex session on Monday tracking the strength of the dollar in the overseas market.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened on a muted note at 76.58 against the American dollar, then fell and touched an early low of 76.65 in initial deals, registering a fall of 23 paise over its previous close. On Friday, The rupee declined by 25 paise to close at 76.42 against the US currency. The rupee opened weaker against the US dollar weighed by hawkish comments from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell last week,

said Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities. Most Asian and emerging market peers are trading weaker this Monday morning and could weigh on sentiments. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.02 per cent to 101.23. The Indian currency fell 0.37% to 76.76 during the session. This is the second consecutive session in which the Rupee has depreciated against the US dollar. Bullion showed a fall on Monday. Gold prices on Monday fell by Rs 266 to Rs 51,995 per 10 grams in futures trade as speculators reduced their positions amid low demand.

Sensex slumps 617 pts, Nifty falls below 17,000

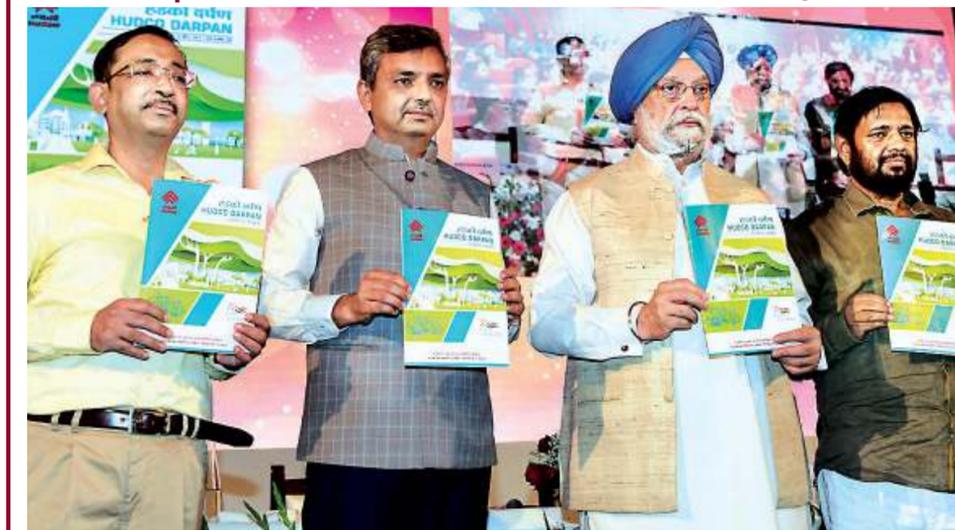


Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

Benchmark indices tumbled for the second day in a row on Monday, with the Sensex tanking 617.26 points following heavy selling in market major Reliance Industries and negative global cues.

Unabated foreign fund outflows added to the weak sentiment. The BSE benchmark Sensex dived 617.26 points or 1.08 per cent to end at 56,579.89. During the day, it

HUDCO FOUNDATION DAY



Union Ministers Hardeep Puri with Kaushal Kishore (R), HUDCO's Kamran Rizvi (L), and Manoj Joshi (2L), Secretary, MoHUA, releases publication during 52nd foundation day of HUDCO, in New Delhi, Monday.

Indiastat releases its latest 'Election Atlas of India'

New Delhi, Apr 25:

Indiastat today released its book titled, Election Atlas of India. The book is edited and published by Dr R K Thukral, Co-Founder and Director of Indiastat. A copy of the book was presented to the Chief Election Commissioner of

India in his office today by Dr Thukral. As a one-of-its-kind book presenting comprehensive details year-wise on all Parliamentary Elections from 1952 to 2019, it includes data updated till January 2022.

Speaking on the occasion, the Book's Editor and Publisher, Dr R K Thukral, stat-

ed: "The success of our first edition of the Election Atlas of India and the robust response from readers prompted us to produce an updated version after the General Elections in 2019. Significantly, at 912 million in the 2019 General Elections, India's electorate is larger than the combined pop-

ulations of the US and Western Europe. Given the fast-evolving dynamics of the General Elections during the past decade, the latest edition of the Election Atlas of India will be an indispensable and scholarly compendium about the journey of Indian Parliamentary Elections."

Sebi rejigs market data advisory panel

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

Sebi has restructured its advisory committee on market data that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy.

Rejigging its market data advisory committee, Sebi has said the panel will now have 21 members, as per the latest information with the regulator. Earlier the committee had 20 members.

The committee is chaired by MS Sahoo, Professor at National Law University, Delhi and former chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). Apart from Sahoo, the panel has CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives



of various stakeholders and senior officials of Sebi as members. Members of the committee include Nithin Kamath, Founder & CEO, Zerodha Broking Ltd; Ranjit Pawar Managing Director, South Asia at Refinitiv; Sreekanth Nadella CEO & COO at Kfintech; Suhas Tuljapurkar Managing Partner, Legagis; Raman Uberoi Senior Advisor Government & Regulatory Relations at CRISIL and Kiran Shetty, CEO and Regional Head - India & South Asia at SWIFT India.

Ducati launches Multistrada V2 range bikes starting at Rs 14.65 lakh

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

Premium motorcycle maker Ducati on Monday announced the launch of its Multistrada V2 range bikes in the domestic market. Available starting Monday at the Ducati dealerships across India, the Multistrada V2 is priced at Rs 14.65 lakh while the Multistrada V2 S starts at Rs 16.65 lakh (both prices ex-showroom India), the company said in a statement. It also said that bookings for the latest offering are now open across all Ducati dealerships in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kochi, Kolkata & Chennai



and deliveries will begin immediately. "The Ducati Multistrada V2 is an all-new model which has been extensively worked on to achieve significant weight reduction on engine and chassis. It also features revisions in de-

sign and ergonomics, which blend perfectly with a lighter, tried and tested Testastretta 11 twin-cylinder engine.

"The Multistrada V2 puts the excitement back in the mid-sport touring segment, and is built to guarantee long riding hours in the utmost comfort," said Bipul Chandra, Managing Director, Ducati India. In 2010, the Multistrada was the first motorcycle in the world equipped with Riding Modes, which allow a rider to choose between different pre-set modes to optimize vehicle behaviour based on the rider's riding style and environmental conditions, it said, adding, the Multistrada V2 features four Riding Modes (sport, touring, urban and enduro).

Despite policy efforts, half of Indian adults credit unserved

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI): Around 480 million adult Indians till the age of 65, representing half of the overall population in the earning segment, are 'credit unserved', as per a report by a credit information company.

An additional 164 million were classified as 'credit underserved' in the global study done by Transunion Cibil, while only 179 million fit into the 'credit served' category. Specific efforts are being taken by the policy apparatus to deepen the credit culture in the country to ensure that borrowers do not fall prey to usurious moneylenders. The Jan Dhan Yojana, which saw the opening of over 450 million accounts, has accounts that come with a credit overdraft facility. Only 3 per cent of US adults are credit unserved,



while the number is 7 per cent in Canada, 44 per cent in Colombia and 51 per cent in South Africa, the report said. "Although India has made great strides in increasing levels of credit inclusion across the country in recent years, the current reality highlights the

importance of incorporating enriched credit data into the lending ecosystem, so that fewer consumers find themselves as credit unserved," said Rajesh Kumar, the managing director and chief executive of Cibil.

Admitting that it is a "chicken and egg" situation when it comes to unserved consumers, the report said a lack of credit score and credit history for unserved consumers is an impediment for getting credit opportunities, as many lenders are hesitant to extend loans to consumers without any credit history or score.

The study found that about 5 per cent of consumers who started as credit underserved were found to have migrated to becoming more credit active in a two-year window.

SatCom Industry Association signs pact with TSDSI

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

Satellite industry body SatCom Industry Association (SIA-India) has entered into a pact with Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI) for cooperation in development of standards in India and international standards developing organisations. The ultimate aim of the collaboration is to bring cooperation and support for the standardisation, towards an efficient and sustainable industry, SIA-India said in a statement. "The collaboration between SIA-India and TSDSI will go a long way in strengthening the standards-based manufacturing expertise in the country. We hope Indian standards will soon be recognized globally," SIA-India



President Subba Rao Pavuluri said in the statement. SIA-India represents satellite operators, satellite-based service providers, satellite systems, launch vehicles and ground and terminal equipment manufacturers and suppliers as well as IOT/M2M application solutions providers, space startups, innovation hubs, academic institutions, law firms.

Edible oil industry suggests dialogue with Indonesia over palm oil ban

Kolkata, Apr 25 (PTI):

The cooking oil national industry body — Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India has suggested immediate initiation of government to government (G2G) dialogue with Indonesia on the proposed palm oil export ban from April 28 by them as it would have an adverse repercussions in India.

Indonesia, which is the world's largest producer of palm oil and meets nearly 50 per cent of the total palm oil requirement in India annually, had announced to ban exports till further notice apparently to contain edible oil prices in their domestic



market. "We have suggested our government initiate dialogue with Indonesian counterparts at the highest diplomatic level on the cooking oil export ban. This will have serious repercussions in our domestic market as half of our total imports of palm oil is from Indonesia and no one can fill up this void," SEA di-

rector general BV Mehta told PTI.

SEA liaisons with the Union Food ministry, he said. Mehta said, "... the industry was not expecting a ban. There will be an immediate impact on prices in the domestic market from Monday itself as the news of the ban has distorted the sentiment."

MSMEs must be allowed to use pooled data of bio-stimulants

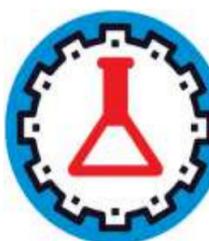
For registration process

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

Agro Inputs Manufacturers Association of India on Monday said it possesses pooled data of eight major bio-stimulants and demanded that the government should also allow all MSMEs to use its data for the registration process to carry out business operations.

A notification issued in 2019 had brought bio-stimulants under the purview of Fertiliser Control Order (FCO) 1985.

Noting that it would be difficult and unviable for small individual manufacturers to source the data,



the grouping emphasised that such entities should be permitted to use the data for completing the registration process.

"The government should allow MSMEs to submit pooled data, collected by the association, for registration process," it said in a statement.



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 26

Governing Kashmir

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation of multiple development projects worth over Rs 20,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir, including the opening of the Banihal-Qazigund road tunnel to establish all-weather connectivity between the two regions of the union territory. The government has understood that governing Jammu and Kashmir requires grassroots democracy and not high command party politics with officialdom. As Pakistan sponsored terrorists are eliminated regularly, development work has to continue simultaneously. For the first time decision-making has been in a true sense decentralised in the region. At the same time, it must be ensured that robust mechanisms are put in place to ensure accountability and transparency in the functioning of this three-tier system. Some of the ways to achieve this is by encouraging e-governance, performance audits and stricter implementation of anti-corruption laws. Political instability and violence has prevailed in J&K for over seventy years due to Pakistan and has caused immense sufferings for the people but today is an opportune moment for India to fulfil the aspirations of the people of J&K by empowering the grassroots democracy in the region. Many saw the waning faith in electoral politics as a reason for growing support for local militancy. Panchayati Raj aims to restore faith of people in electoral system. Meanwhile, demanding that a commission be setup to investigate the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley, members of the community sat on dharnas, to draw the attention of central government. The new Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has sent letters to India, even as encounters with terrorists continue in Kashmir valley.

At this stage with Sharif's status uncertain it is unlikely that Modi will open serious negotiations. A Pakistan election is likely to take place in July, so Sharif may not be the prime minister for very long. The Sharif family has built good relations with Modi, to the extent that Modi attended a Sharif family wedding in Pakistan and the current prime minister's brother (and former prime minister) Nawaz Sharif was invited to Modi's inauguration ceremony. Sharif may be cautious of rocking the boat too much, if he wants to remain in power. The government in India appeared to have identified the problems of escalated conflict and centrifugal tendencies in Kashmir when the Parliament revoked the erstwhile state's special status. The general public in Kashmir thought that corruption will be reined in and corrupt administrators will be shown the door following imposition of direct central rule. However, once again, the aspirations of the people were restricted in the new socio-administrative and economic structures by the power-hungry officials. Many strategists, academicians, analysts, and even the common people believe that until bureaucracy and administration is not overhauled comprehensively and corruption cleaned out, conducting elections and even restoring statehood will be futile. These are, at best, half-hearted efforts that will only take Kashmir back to the troubled days of rampant separatism, centrifugal tendencies, and violence. Greater focus must be laid on the empowerment of the youth, women, farmers, backward communities, people living in the forward areas, etc. Some of the issues that need urgent attention and must be addressed with a bottom-up approach are corruption, radicalisation, drug addiction, poor-quality infrastructure, lack of connectivity, electricity shortage especially during winter months, poor drinking water facilities, lack of primary healthcare facilities, lack of higher educational opportunities, unemployment, inadequate recreational facilities, rehabilitation and reintegration of surrendered terrorists among other things.

Rise of Macron

French President Emmanuel Macron won re-election, convincingly defeating his rival Marine Le Pen and prompting a wave of relief in Europe that the far-right had been kept out of power. Political analysts put rise of Macron into context. It is an absorbing case study of what happens when the erstwhile centre-left, discarding its remaining obligations to the working class, gets drunk on its own heresy. Analysts trace the prehistory of Macronism back to mid-twentieth-century technocratic French modernism, and particularly the 'Second Left', the right-wing, revisionist faction of the Parti Socialiste (PS), which emerged in the 1970s. The Second Left sought to abandon social-democratic shibboleths such as Keynesian demand management and public ownership, promoting instead what we would now recognize as neoliberalism. By the 1990s, it had established its dominance within the PS. However, the revisionist social democrats were unable to replace the traditional left-wing bloc. The presidency of Francois Hollande repeated the pattern in farcical style. Hollande was elected promising a decisive break with austerity and hefty taxes on the rich, only to swiftly do a reverse ferret in office. This ensured the rapid collapse of the PS and prompted the heirs of the Second Left to break with it altogether, as it was no longer electorally viable.

Emmanuel Macron, who served as Hollande's finance minister, established his own party, En Marche (now La Republique En Marche), as a vehicle for his own presidential ambitions. Macron likes to pose as an anti-establishment figure tearing up the rule book, but he is a scion of the French ruling class almost to his bone marrow. Educated at the elite Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), Macron was an investment banker before entering politics and had authored a report for Hollande's predecessor, Nicolas Sarkozy, advising him to implement a raft of neoliberal reforms. Macron's hope is that his reforms will create expanded bourgeois bloc, further shrinking the ranks of the blue-collar workforce while boosting those of the service sector and white-collar professionals. This is a fragile foundation on which to build an entire political project. The far right in France must thank its lucky stars for opponents like these. For all Macron's contrived appearance of restlessness, and his self-congratulatory self-image as a thrusting 'modernizer', there isn't one beyond more of the same as more inequality, poverty, and precarity on the one hand, and obscene profiteering on the other. It's no surprise that Macron is widely mocked as 'le president des riches'. This is the 'Uberization' of the French economy. France is looking towards new kind of neoliberal economy with capitalism and less socialist policies.

ACTORS TELL STORIES



Iranian actors after a performance which tells stories in song to children, at Koran exhibition at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla mosque.

Participatory governance needs to be more effective for just transitions in India

SARTHAK SHUKLA & AMIT KUMAR

As a nation, India is at the cusp of various developments and transitions. These include the sustainability transition which emanates from the adverse impacts of climate change, the inclusivity transition which aspires to make our economy and society fairer and more equitable, and the race to resilience which imbues the virtues of inclusivity and sustainability in building back a better society, economy and ecology in the aftermath of the ongoing COVID-pandemic. However, there is an evidently widening fault line between the decision-makers and people which are potentially affected by these transitions. The state, at all levels and ranks, seems to be unaware or disengaged with the ground realities as it plans, implements, governs, monitors and reaps the benefits of these developments and transitions. This is evident from the wide unrests, uproar and demonstrations against developments that aim to further the aforementioned transitions.

In other words, the quality of participatory governance, a tool through which people engage and shape the policy discourse is arguably sub-optimal. In this context, a dangerous paradigm that seems to be appearing amongst most stakeholders is of status-quo. This alludes to the fact that the current perceptions around participatory governance, the form in which it is currently being pursued and the role of various

stakeholders in them is optimally designed and should remain so. This is problematic for several critical reasons.

First, the need of public participation and the objective of hearing the voices from the ground seems to be misconceived by the policymakers, decision-makers and even the general public. The objective of conducting operations in a participatory manner for the authorities is mostly either a mandated obligation or an optical exercise to project oneself as pro-people, both of these being in their own self-interests of political or financial gains, evident from the frequent news of compromised quality of public infrastructure despite steady levy of taxes and other sources of revenues. Similarly, the general public also seems to be raising their concerns with respect to any development only when it becomes a problem that impacts them directly. As a society, dilution of virtues of brotherhood, fraternity and compassion has ramifications beyond just social disruptions but affecting the health of economy, politics and governance as well.

Secondly, the prevailing approach to public's participation in policy discourse around transitions is of a minimalistic requirement for compliance. Consider public consultations and public hearings in various sectors. There is a lack of accountability and transparency in deciding the form, shape and fate of the proposed development. In most of these cases, the authorities can get away without even providing justification of either considering or dismissing the concerns of the people. This flags towards a failure of a top-down imposed format of public participation. On the other hand, the alternative model of civil society organisations filling in this gap has also come to a problematic inflection point. This relates to the modus-operandi of organisations/individuals which are working to fill the void of actual public not being informed, capacitated or motivated enough to participate in public consultations, and the state's capacity to reach out to the

public being financially and otherwise constrained, in matters that directly affects the general public. The term 'public' includes citizens (political entity), consumers (economic entity) and individuals (social entity).

While several such think-tanks, civil society groups and people-centric advocates and representatives portray themselves as doing public service by giving voice to the voiceless, they seem to be operating for commercial and business interests rather than selfless service to the cause. This is evident from the varicolour dominant metrics that are used to judge the success of such organisations. Instead of sustainable impact and true empowerment of people to raise their own concerns, the metrics revolve around the monetary size, density of networks, closeness with governments and people in power, amongst others.

Painting every organisation/individual in this space as the same is not the objective here. Exceptions are and will be there. But the worrying development is the hijacking of the public policy and participatory governance space by a few behemoths with the intent to remain relevant forever. This is because this implies that the organisations are banking on the problem existing forever, in some form or shape or magnitude. There is a very interesting parallel with the developments in the Indian economy. In the economic setting, the larger players dictate the rules of the game and mindlessly pursue ways to cut costs and increase their profits, even if it comes at a cost of comprising the well-being of their own workers (low wages), or consumers (poor quality, high price products) or the environment (flooding pollution norms). Similarly, the civil society space seems to be daunted by profit mongers operating with a commercial frame of mind in a sector that is about social welfare at its core.

This also impacts the new generation of budding policy professionals and new start-ups in the civil society space which are forced to compromise on selfless social service values as profit-making

is institutionalised as the only way of survival. Especially in the public policy setting, there are several other goals which almost everyone seems to be chasing - creating a brand and image, being called by government panels and committees, publishing numerous out-puts and reports, among others. All of this adversely impacts the quality of public participation in which there is always a business case in keeping the problems alive so that new projects and funds can be sought for addressing the same. In this vicious cycle, empowerment or capacity building as an objective is wrongly construed as education without realising that the people's problems are best voiced in the dialect, manner and words of the people who will be affected by it. Principles of justice dictates that any intermediary trying to give voice to the unheard should provide a platform where the decision-makers and people can have a dialogue together, instead of furthering the mindless race striving for success in the public policy space as we know it.

And prior to this collective social dialogue, each and every stakeholder must introspect, drop their respective biases, come clean about their own motives and then listen carefully to the concerns of each other so that the dialogue does not become a war of words, but a constructive and forward-looking strategy-making process. This will actuate the optimal usage of one of the most important and often overlooked pillar of the just transition framework is social dialogue. As Noam Chomsky said with respect to intellectuals' role in speaking truth to power, 'power knows the truth already; it's just busy concealing it'. Similarly, public policy and participatory governance is also not a race to achieve monetary success and fame, as it is being pursued currently. Instead, it is a tool to ensure justice in the developmental transitions that we face today.

(Sarthak Shukla is public policy professional and Amit Kumar is former Senior Director of TERI).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ambivalence

After the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991, the successor states' bilateral relations have undergone periods of ties, tensions and outright hostility. The break up of the Soviet Union had taken place surprisingly peacefully and with relatively little bloodshed. At first, the main issue of the war is that it looks at the new security patterns in the FSU, focusing upon Russia's ambivalence regarding the legitimacy of Ukrainian sovereignty, and Ukraine's search for national identity. In late October, 2014 Russian President Vladimir Putin opened the eleventh Valdai club meetings in Sochi under the banner: The world order, New Rules or a Game within Rules? That banner in many ways symbolizes the problem that Putin, as the leader of Russia, has struggled with in his own image making. In October, 2021 Russia began moving troops and military, equipment near its border with Ukraine, reigniting concerns over a potential invasion. Commercial satellite imagery, social media posts and publicly released. However, we all know about the current situation. The conflict has severely strained US-Russia relations and increased the rash of a wide European conflict. Additionally, the conflict in Ukraine will have broader ramifications for future cooperation on critical issues like arms control, cyber security, nuclear non-proliferation, energy security, counter-terrorism and political solutions in Syria, Libya and elsewhere.

Hrshikesh, via email

Two courses

In a practical sense, there is nothing significant about the University Grants Commission's new policy allowing students in higher education to pursue two full time courses simultaneously. Even completing one course in earnest is a hard job for a vast majority of students! Instead, the UGC's endeavour should be to impart deeper and more competitive quality to higher education. Now, the 'two-in-one move' will only undermine existing quality. Also, there will not be many who can make use of the offer of flexibility of subjects, except by experimenting. Of course, those who are exceptionally smart and intelligent (and who constitute a very thin minority) may quickly spot the gains from the new system. Let us not try and imitate some foreign countries where education is a money-minting business. In India, the new system may give a boost to the commercialisation of education, resulting in a widening of the gap between academic qualifications and employability.

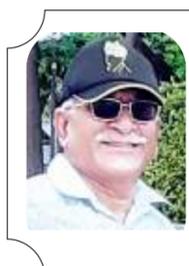
P Mangal, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Nirupama@NMenonRao
A deepening communal divide helps nobody, least of all the Republic of India, and our constitutional democracy. The overwhelming majority of public opposes violence. Most people are concerned with security of life and upholding rule of law. Mobs of whatever make-up, are enemies of the state.

Imtiaz@Madmoed
Pakistan was created by violence and propagating the notion that the two communities can't live together. For more than a thousand years they had lived together. Now they are reaping the crop they sowed, they can't even live with each other. Imran Khan will act as a catalyst.



AK Naithani @Anju1304
Learning is an ongoing process. In the context of the services, leadership is demonstrated and demonstrated. It starts from the junior most level and gets continuously chiseled refined and polished. The environment plays its role and that's what makes the leaders we have.



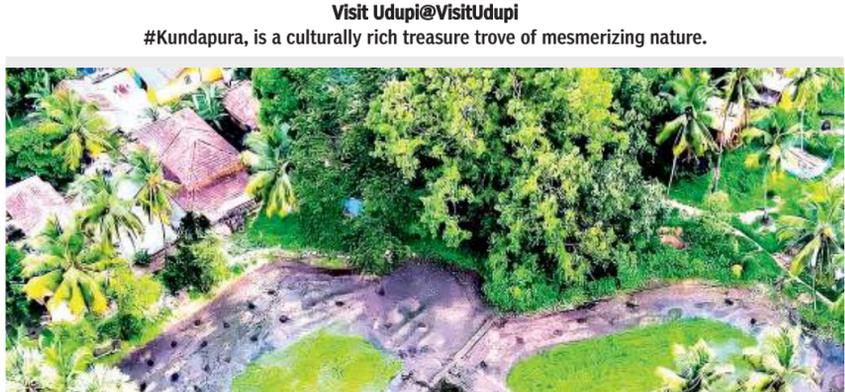
MajorGenAjay @genvsm
Commandant BSF is home grown who has served all along in the BSF and understands nuances very well whereas an IPS officer will sky rocket on the appointment without any knowledge and experience. Not a wise move.



Singh Vjaya@Singh
I don't think it's about the economy and India doesn't have money for fellowship. It's all about mismanagement at the administrative level and the priority. The Head of every single funding agency is a Scientist (active or former PI) why it can't be fixed in one go?



Soumitra@netshrink
This is what scientists in India end up doing. Following procedures set by some bureaucrat who has never done any science/research in their life. Then we complain Indian scientists not doing groundbreaking work. They are busy doing back breaking work for the bureaucracy.



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BRIEF

Accepts

Jerusalem: President Joe Biden has accepted an invitation to visit Israel in the coming months, the two countries announced. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke to Biden, discussing recent Israeli-Palestinian unrest in Jerusalem as well as their shared concerns about Iran, both of their offices said. Israel has opposed US efforts to revive international nuclear deal, saying it does not include sufficient safeguards to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

Ban

Dubai: The island kingdom of Bahrain announced it would start banning the import, distribution and sale of single-use lightweight plastic bags from mid-September, the latest move by an oil-producer to advance carbon reduction goals. It did not specify how the upcoming ban would be enforced, whether by fining distributors of the ubiquitous thin bags or charging people for their use. The ban, to come into effect September 19, is in line with the government's plans.

Attack

Bamako: A series of attacks targeted three military bases in Mali, killing at least six soldiers and injuring nearly a dozen more, the West African nation's army said. The Malian army said simultaneous attacks were underway in Sevare, Niono and Bapho, three central towns in the sprawling desert nation. While no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State has ravaged. The military junta that seized power in 2020.

Vows

Madrid: Spanish authorities are pledging full transparency as they launch inquiries into allegations that the phones of dozens of supporters of Catalan independence were hacked with powerful and controversial spyware only sold to government agencies. An internal probe by the country's intelligence agency, a special parliamentary commission to share its results, and a separate investigation by Spain's ombudsman will be arranged to show that central authorities in Madrid.

Carjack

Atlanta: Five teenagers were shot in a fight outside a diner in downtown Atlanta, US, and two of them took a vehicle at gunpoint to get to a hospital in carjack.

Loss is victory for far-right politics in French election

Paris, Apr 25 (AP):



French Rassemblement National (RN) presidential candidate Marine Le Pen leaves after her speech in Paris.

The far-right has gone mainstream in France. That's the headline from the landmark showing by Marine Le Pen in the French presidential election. The fierce nationalist didn't win. But she edged another step closer, snatching a victory of sorts from her defeat to reelected President Emmanuel Macron.

With 41.5% of the vote, unprecedented for her, Le Pen's anti-foreigner, anti-system politics of disgruntlement are now more entrenched than ever in the psyche, thinking and political landscape of France.

Since the Le Pen dynasty first her dad, Jean-Marie, and now Marine, his daughter, first started contesting presidential elections in 1974, never have so many French voters bought into their doctrine that multicultural and multiracial France, a country with the words 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity' inscribed on its public buildings, would be richer, safer and somehow more French if it was less open to foreigners and the outside world.

Had she become France's first woman president, her plan for fighting Islamic terrorism would have included stripping part of France's population, women who are Muslims of some of their liberty. She wanted to ban them from wearing headscarves in public, hardly very equal or fraternal. Same goes for her proposals to move French citizens to the front of lines for jobs, benefits and housing. For headscarf-wearing voter Yasmina Aksas, Le Pen's defeat wasn't a celebration moment, not with such strong backing for her and ideas that 'used to be limited to militant far-right

groups' becoming increasingly acceptable in polite company. 'It's still 40% of people voting for Le Pen,' the 19-year-old law student said. 'It's not a victory.' Internationally, Le Pen wanted to start diluting France's relationships with the European Union, NATO and neighbour Germany, moves that would have been seismic for the architecture of peace in Europe, in the midst of Russia's war in Ukraine.

In short, France escaped a political, social and economic electroshock by not voting in Le Pen.

Or perhaps just delayed one, should she choose to

stand again in 2027. That's a long way off. Much could change. But Le Pen isn't done yet. 'In this defeat, I can't help but feel a form of hope,' she said. 'I will never abandon the French.'

Surpassing 40% of the vote elevates Le Pen into illustrious, mainstream company. Since Gen. Charles de Gaulle beat Francois Mitterrand by 55% to 45% in 1965, all defeated finalists lost 40-something to 50-something. With two exceptions, both named Le Pen. Jean-Marie was trounced 82% to 18% by Jacques Chirac in 2002 and Marine lost 66% to 34% to Macron in 2017. Voters used to regard it as their civic duty to keep the Le Pens' score low, seeing a ballot against them as a blow against racism and xenophobia. Fewer think that way now.

By championing cost-of-living issues, befriending the working class, changing her party's name and distancing herself from her father, Le Pen broadened her appeal and made herself less scary to growing swaths of France's electorate. Immigration isn't the top concern for all her supporters.

'Russia is failing in war aims, Ukraine succeeding'

Kyiv, Apr 25 (AP):



US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Kyiv, Ukraine.

American Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Monday after a secrecy-shrouded visit to Kyiv that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is committed to winning his country's fight against Russia and that the United States will help him achieve that goal.

He has the mindset that they want to win, and we have the mindset that we want to help them win, Austin told reporters in Poland, the day after the three-hour face-to-face meeting with Zelenskyy in Ukraine.

Austin said that the nature of the fight in Ukraine had changed now that Russia has

pulled away from the wooded northern regions to focus on the eastern industrial heartland of the Donbas.

Because the nature of the fight has evolved, so have Ukraine's military needs, and Zelenskyy is now focused on more tanks, artillery and other munitions. The first step in winning is

believing that you can win," Austin said.

"We believe that they can win if they have the right equipment, the right support, and we're going to do everything we can ... to ensure that gets to them. The trip by Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was the highest-level American visit to the capital since Russia invaded in late February.

They told Zelenskyy and his advisers that the US would provide more than 300 million in foreign military financing and had approved a 165 million sale of ammunition. We had an opportunity to demonstrate directly our strong ongoing support for the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian people," Blinken said.

Unvaccinated people increase COVID-19 risk

Toronto, Apr 25 (PTI):



Unvaccinated people threaten the safety of those who are vaccinated against COVID-19 even when the immunisation rates are high, according to a modelling study published on Monday.

Researchers from the University of Toronto in Canada used a simple model to explore the effect of mixing between unvaccinated and vaccinated people to understand the dynamics of an infectious disease like SARS-CoV-2.

They simulated mixing of like-with-like populations in which people have exclusive contact with others of the same vaccination status as well as random mixing between different groups.

"Many opponents of vaccine mandates have framed vaccine adoption as a matter of individual choice," said David Fisman, from Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

"However, we found that the choices made by people who forgo vaccination contribute disproportionately to risk among those who do get vaccinated," Fisman said in a statement. The study, published in Canadian Medical Association Journal, found that the risk to vaccinated people was lower when unvaccinated mixed with unvaccinated.

However, when vaccinated and unvaccinated people mixed, a substantial number of new infections would occur in vaccinated people, even in scenarios where immunisation rates were high.

The findings remained stable even when they modelled lower levels of vaccine effectiveness for prevention of infection, such as in those who have

Beijing Covid spike prompts mass testing, panic buying



Woman leaves a supermarket after buying food and household provisions in Beijing on Monday.

Beijing, Apr 25 (AFP):

Fears of a hard Covid lockdown sparked panic buying in Beijing on Monday, as long queues

for compulsory mass testing formed in a large central district of the Chinese capital.

China is already trying to contain a wave of in-

fections in its largest city Shanghai, which has been almost entirely locked down for weeks and reported 51 new Covid deaths on Monday. Shanghai has struggled to provide fresh food to those confined at home, while patients have reported trouble accessing non-Covid medical care—and the rising cases in the capital triggered fears of a similar lockdown.

Downtown Beijing's most populous district of Chaoyang, home to around 3.5 million people, ordered mass testing from Monday for residents and those coming to work there. The area

hosts the headquarters of many multinational firms and embassies.

Queues snaked around malls and outside office complexes on Monday as people waited to be swabbed for samples by health workers in protective gear. "If a single case is found, this area could be affected," said office worker Yao Leiming, 25, as he headed for a testing site in Chaoyang with a group of his colleagues.

The mass testing order, and warnings of a "grim" Covid situation in the city, sparked a run on Beijing's supermarkets overnight as residents rushed to stockpile essentials.

SL Prez ready to form interim Govt, claims senior Buddhist monk

Colombo, Apr 25 (PTI):

Sri Lanka's embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has agreed to form an interim government to tackle the unprecedented economic crisis, a senior Buddhist monk claimed on Monday, as the debt-ridden country stepped up efforts to keep the economy afloat. Thousands of demonstrators have hit the streets since April 9, as the government ran out of money for vital imports; prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed and there are acute shortages in fuel, medicines and electricity supply.

Rajapaksa expressed his intention to form the interim government in a letter to the powerful Buddhist clergy. Rajapaksa had responded to a letter from the chief monks of the four Buddhist chapters dated April 4 in which they had asked Rajapaksa to dissolve the Cabinet to set up an interim government, M a d a g o d a Dhammananda, Chief Registrar of one of the chapters, said. A few days

ago high-ranking Buddhist monks, who oversee and regulate the Buddhist clergy, have urged the President, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and all MPs to take effective steps to put the country in order and also said that they will be forced to issue a Sangha Convention if they fail to do so, Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

There was no immediate reaction from the President's Office.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, ARANG
E-Procurement Tender Notice (1st Call)
SYSTEM TENDER NO: 97996 NIT NO: 116/2022 ARANG, Dated 25.04.2022
Online bids in three envelope system are invited for the following construction works/supply works up to date 17.05.2022 at 17.30 Hours

Sl. No.	Description	Cost of Tender
1	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUS STAND & COMMERCIAL COMPLEX AT NAGAR PALIKA PARISHADARANG (CGPWD ROAD AND BUILDING S.O.R. 01.01.2015, ELECTRICAL SOR 2020, PHE SOR 2013 APPROVED NDSR)	(1) Rs. 669.52 Lacs

The details can be downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh e-Procurement Portal <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> From 25.04.2022 at 17.30 Hours. (IST) onwards.

For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SALE OF ASH

Lanco Amarkantak Power Ltd. (LAPL) invites proposals for sale of ash to road construction projects (NH&I) to buyers of ash for filling of low lying areas (land development) and to manufacturers of ash based products such as Cement & Bricks manufacturing companies for environment friendly utilization of fly ash from the ash dykes (slabs of LAPL's power station situated at Village-Pathri, Korba, Chhattisgarh on "as is where is basis". Detailed terms and conditions of sale are given in respective tender documents. This tender document is in compliance to the clause no.5.1 of Ministry of Power (MoP) notification dated 22.02.2022 stipulating procedure to be followed for disposal of Ash under competitive bidding. The various tender documents being part of this tender notifications are as below:-

1. LAPL/ASH/SALE/2022-23/01 Road Construction projects (NH&I)
2. LAPL/ASH/SALE/2022-23/02 To fill low lying areas (land development)
3. LAPL/ASH/SALE/2022-23/03 Cement Manufacturers
4. LAPL/ASH/SALE/2022-23/04 Fly Ash Brick Manufacturers

Please visit Lanco group website www.lancoenergy.com and download the tender documents for detailed information.

NOTE: Bidders have to visit the above Lanco group website at regular intervals to get update about this tender.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना

क्र. 26/न.पा.नि./सत विभाग/2022-23 दिनांक 25/04/2022
एकीकृत पंजीन प्रणाली अंतर्गत लागू केली में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा दिनांक 19.05.2022 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.सं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	अंशेतर राशि (रु. लाख में)	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
97972	Submersible Motor Pump Repairing Work for Central Zone (Zone 3, 4 and 5)	41.30	31000.00	D सूचक

उपरोक्त निविदा की सलाह शर्तों, परीक्षार्थी, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से दिनांक 27/04/2022 से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यालय अधिकारी
नगर पालिक निगम, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

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ग्राम-उरला, पो - बी.एम.वाय. चरोदा, जिला-दुर्ग, छ.ग.

क्रमांक/389/प्रगदुस/क्र/2022/ दिनांक- 25/04/2022

॥ समय वृद्धि सूचना ॥

दुग्ध महासंघ द्वारा प्लोमीटर एवं फिजोमीटर स्थापना कार्य हेतु जारी निविदा सूचना क्रमांक-4182, दिनांक-21.03.2022 आमंत्रित की गई थी, जिसकी निविदा जमा करने की तिथि में वृद्धि किया जाकर - 05.05.2022 की जाती है। शेष नियम व शर्तों पूर्वानुसार रहेगी।

प्रबंध संचालक



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 201

Governing Kashmir

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation of multiple development projects worth over Rs 20,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir, including the opening of the Banihal-Qazigund road tunnel to establish all-weather connectivity between the two regions of the union territory. The government has understood that governing Jammu and Kashmir requires grassroots democracy and not high command party politics with officialdom. As Pakistan sponsored terrorists are eliminated regularly, development work has to continue simultaneously. For the first time decision-making has been in a true sense decentralised in the region. At the same time, it must be ensured that robust mechanisms are put in place to ensure accountability and transparency in the functioning of this three-tier system. Some of the ways to achieve this is by encouraging e-governance, performance audits and stricter implementation of anti-corruption laws. Political instability and violence has prevailed in J&K for over seventy years due to Pakistan and has caused immense sufferings for the people but today is an opportune moment for India to fulfil the aspirations of the people of J&K by empowering the grassroots democracy in the region. Many saw the waning faith in electoral politics as a reason for growing support for local militancy. Panchayati Raj aims to restore faith of people in electoral system. Meanwhile, demanding that a commission be setup to investigate the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley, members of the community sat on dharnas, to draw the attention of central government. The new Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has sent letters to India, even as encounters with terrorists continue in Kashmir valley.

At this stage with Sharif's status uncertain it is unlikely that Modi will open serious negotiations. A Pakistan election is likely to take place in July, so Sharif may not be the prime minister for very long. The Sharif family has built good relations with Modi, to the extent that Modi attended a Sharif family wedding in Pakistan and the current prime minister's brother (and former prime minister) Nawaz Sharif was invited to Modi's inauguration ceremony. Sharif may be cautious of rocking the boat too much, if he wants to remain in power. The government in India appeared to have identified the problems of escalated conflict and centrifugal tendencies in Kashmir when the Parliament revoked the erstwhile state's special status. The general public in Kashmir thought that corruption will be reined in and corrupt administrators will be shown the door following imposition of direct central rule. However, once again, the aspirations of the people were restricted in the new socio-administrative and economic structures by the power-hungry officials. Many strategists, academicians, analysts, and even the common people believe that until bureaucracy and administration is not overhauled comprehensively and corruption cleaned out, conducting elections and even restoring statehood will be futile. These are, at best, half-hearted efforts that will only take Kashmir back to the troubled days of rampant separatism, centrifugal tendencies, and violence. Greater focus must be laid on the empowerment of the youth, women, farmers, backward communities, people living in the forward areas, etc. Some of the issues that need urgent attention and must be addressed with a bottom-up approach are corruption, radicalisation, drug addiction, poor-quality infrastructure, lack of connectivity, electricity shortage especially during winter months, poor drinking water facilities, lack of primary healthcare facilities, lack of higher educational opportunities, unemployment, inadequate recreational facilities, rehabilitation and reintegration of surrendered terrorists among other things.

Rise of Macron

French President Emmanuel Macron won re-election, convincingly defeating his rival Marine Le Pen and prompting a wave of relief in Europe that the far-right had been kept out of power. Political analysts put rise of Macron into context. It is an absorbing case study of what happens when the erstwhile centre-left, discarding its remaining obligations to the working class, gets drunk on its own heresy. Analysts trace the prehistory of Macronism back to mid-twentieth-century technocratic French modernism, and particularly the 'Second Left', the right-wing, revisionist faction of the Parti Socialiste (PS), which emerged in the 1970s. The Second Left sought to abandon social-democratic shibboleths such as Keynesian demand management and public ownership, promoting instead what we would now recognize as neoliberalism. By the 1990s, it had established its dominance within the PS. However, the revisionist social democrats were unable to replace the traditional left-wing bloc. The presidency of Francois Hollande repeated the pattern in farcical style. Hollande was elected promising a decisive break with austerity and hefty taxes on the rich, only to swiftly do a reverse ferret in office. This ensured the rapid collapse of the PS and prompted the heirs of the Second Left to break with it altogether, as it was no longer electorally viable.

Emmanuel Macron, who served as Hollande's finance minister, established his own party, En Marche (now La Republique En Marche), as a vehicle for his own presidential ambitions. Macron likes to pose as an anti-establishment figure tearing up the rule book, but he is a scion of the French ruling class almost to his bone marrow. Educated at the elite Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), Macron was an investment banker before entering politics and had authored a report for Hollande's predecessor, Nicolas Sarkozy, advising him to implement a raft of neoliberal reforms. Macron's hope is that his reforms will create expanded bourgeois bloc, further shrinking the ranks of the blue-collar workforce while boosting those of the service sector and white-collar professionals. This is a fragile foundation on which to build an entire political project. The far right in France must thank its lucky stars for opponents like these. For all Macron's contrived appearance of restlessness, and his self-congratulatory self-image as a thrusting 'modernizer', there isn't one beyond more of the same as more inequality, poverty, and precarity on the one hand, and obscene profiteering on the other. It's no surprise that Macron is widely mocked as 'le president des riches'. This is the 'Uberization' of the French economy. France is looking towards new kind of neoliberal economy with capitalism and less socialist policies.

ACTORS TELL STORIES



Iranian actors after a performance which tells stories in song to children, at Koran exhibition at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla mosque.

Participatory governance needs to be more effective for just transitions in India

SARTHAK SHUKLA & AMIT KUMAR

As a nation, India is at the cusp of various developments and transitions. These include the sustainability transition which emanates from the adverse impacts of climate change, the inclusivity transition which aspires to make our economy and society fairer and more equitable, and the race to resilience which imbues the virtues of inclusivity and sustainability in building back a better society, economy and ecology in the aftermath of the ongoing COVID-pandemic. However, there is an evidently widening fault line between the decision-makers and people which are potentially affected by these transitions. The state, at all levels and ranks, seems to be unaware or disengaged with the ground realities as it plans, implements, governs, monitors and reaps the benefits of these developments and transitions. This is evident from the wide unrests, uproar and demonstrations against developments that aim to further the aforementioned transitions.

In other words, the quality of participatory governance, a tool through which people engage and shape the policy discourse is arguably sub-optimal. In this context, a dangerous paradigm that seems to be appearing amongst most stakeholders is of status-quo. This alludes to the fact that the current perceptions around participatory governance, the form in which it is currently being pursued and the role of various

stakeholders in them is optimally designed and should remain so. This is problematic for several critical reasons.

First, the need of public participation and the objective of hearing the voices from the ground seems to be misconceived by the policymakers, decision-makers and even the general public. The objective of conducting operations in a participatory manner for the authorities is mostly either a mandated obligation or an optical exercise to project oneself as pro-people, both of these being in their own self-interests of political or financial gains, evident from the frequent news of compromised quality of public infrastructure despite steady levy of taxes and other sources of revenues. Similarly, the general public also seems to be raising their concerns with respect to any development only when it becomes a problem that impacts them directly. As a society, dilution of virtues of brotherhood, fraternity and compassion has ramifications beyond just social disruptions but affecting the health of economy, politics and governance as well.

Secondly, the prevailing approach to public's participation in policy discourse around transitions is of a minimalistic requirement for compliance. Consider public consultations and public hearings in various sectors. There is a lack of accountability and transparency in deciding the form, shape and fate of the proposed development. In most of these cases, the authorities can get away without even providing justification of either considering or dismissing the concerns of the people. This flags towards a failure of a top-down imposed format of public participation. On the other hand, the alternative model of civil society organisations filling in this gap has also come to a problematic inflection point. This relates to the modus-operandi of organisations/individuals which are working to fill the void of actual public not being informed, capacitated or motivated enough to participate in public consultations, and the state's capacity to reach out to the

public being financially and otherwise constrained, in matters that directly affects the general public. The term 'public' includes citizens (political entity), consumers (economic entity) and individuals (social entity).

While several such think-tanks, civil society groups and people-centric advocates and representatives portray themselves as doing public service by giving voice to the voiceless, they seem to be operating for commercial and business interests rather than selfless service to the cause. This is evident from the varicolour dominant metrics that are used to judge the success of such organisations. Instead of sustainable impact and true empowerment of people to raise their own concerns, the metrics revolve around the monetary size, density of networks, closeness with governments and people in power, amongst others.

Painting every organisation/individual in this space as the same is not the objective here. Exceptions are and will be there. But the worrying development is the hijacking of the public policy and participatory governance space by a few behemoths with the intent to remain relevant forever. This is because this implies that the organisations are banking on the problem existing forever, in some form or shape or magnitude. There is a very interesting parallel with the developments in the Indian economy. In the economic setting, the larger players dictate the rules of the game and mindlessly pursue ways to cut costs and increase their profits, even if it comes at a cost of comprising the well-being of their own workers (low wages), or consumers (poor quality, high price products) or the environment (flooding pollution norms). Similarly, the civil society space seems to be daunted by profit mongers operating with a commercial frame of mind in a sector that is about social welfare at its core.

This also impacts the new generation of budding policy professionals and new start-ups in the civil society space which are forced to compromise on selfless social service values as profit-making

is institutionalised as the only way of survival. Especially in the public policy setting, there are several other goals which almost everyone seems to be chasing - creating a brand and image, being called by government panels and committees, publishing numerous outputs and reports, among others. All of this adversely impacts the quality of public participation in which there is always a business case in keeping the problems alive so that new projects and funds can be sought for addressing the same. In this vicious cycle, empowerment or capacity building as an objective is wrongly construed as education without realising that the people's problems are best voiced in the dialect, manner and words of the people who will be affected by it. Principles of justice dictates that any intermediary trying to give voice to the unheard should provide a platform where the decision-makers and people can have a dialogue together, instead of furthering the mindless race striving for success in the public policy space as we know it.

And prior to this collective social dialogue, each and every stakeholder must introspect, drop their respective biases, come clean about their own motives and then listen carefully to the concerns of each other so that the dialogue does not become a war of words, but a constructive and forward-looking strategy-making process. This will actuate the optimal usage of one of the most important and often overlooked pillar of the just transition framework is social dialogue. As Noam Chomsky said with respect to intellectuals' role in speaking truth to power, 'power knows the truth already; it's just busy concealing it'. Similarly, public policy and participatory governance is also not a race to achieve monetary success and fame, as it is being pursued currently. Instead, it is a tool to ensure justice in the developmental transitions that we face today.

(Sarthak Shukla is public policy professional and Amit Kumar is former Senior Director of TERI).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ambivalence

After the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991, the successor states' bilateral relations have undergone periods of ties, tensions and outright hostility. The break up of the Soviet Union had taken place surprisingly peacefully and with relatively little bloodshed. At first, the main issue of the war is that it looks at the new security patterns in the FSU, focusing upon Russia's ambivalence regarding the legitimacy of Ukrainian sovereignty, and Ukraine's search for national identity. In late October, 2014 Russian President Vladimir Putin opened the eleventh Valdai club meetings in Sochi under the banner: The world order, New Rules or a Game within Rules? That banner in many ways symbolizes the problem that Putin, as the leader of Russia, has struggled with in his own image making. In October, 2021 Russia began moving troops and military, equipment near its border with Ukraine, reigniting concerns over a potential invasion. Commercial satellite imagery, social media posts and publicly released. However, we all know about the current situation. The conflict has severely strained US-Russia relations and increased the rash of a wide European conflict. Additionally, the conflict in Ukraine will have broader ramifications for future cooperation on critical issues like arms control, cyber security, nuclear non-proliferation, energy security, counter-terrorism and political solutions in Syria, Libya and elsewhere.

Hrshikesh, via email

Two courses

In a practical sense, there is nothing significant about the University Grants Commission's new policy allowing students in higher education to pursue two full time courses simultaneously. Even completing one course in earnest is a hard job for a vast majority of students! Instead, the UGC's endeavour should be to impart deeper and more competitive quality to higher education. Now, the 'two-in-one move' will only undermine existing quality. Also, there will not be many who can make use of the offer of flexibility of subjects, except by experimenting. Of course, those who are exceptionally smart and intelligent (and who constitute a very thin minority) may quickly spot the gains from the new system. Let us not try and imitate some foreign countries where education is a money-minting business. In India, the new system may give a boost to the commercialisation of education, resulting in a widening of the gap between academic qualifications and employability.

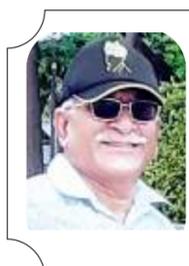
P Mangal, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Nirupama@NMNonRao
A deepening communal divide helps nobody, least of all the Republic of India, and our constitutional democracy. The overwhelming majority of public opposes violence. Most people are concerned with security of life and upholding rule of law. Mobs of whatever make-up, are enemies of the state.

Imtiaz@Madmoed
Pakistan was created by violence and propagating the notion that the two communities can't live together. For more than a thousand years they had lived together. Now they are reaping the crop they sowed, they can't even live with each other. Imran Khan will act as a catalyst.



AK Naithani @Anju1304
Learning is an ongoing process. In the context of the services, leadership is demonstrated and demonstrated. It starts from the junior most level and gets continuously chiseled refined and polished. The environment plays its role and that's what makes the leaders we have.



MajorGenAjay @genvsm
Commandant BSF is home grown who has served all along in the BSF and understands nuances very well whereas an IPS officer will sky rocket on the appointment without any knowledge and experience. Not a wise move.



Singh Vj@Singh
I don't think it's about the economy and India doesn't have money for fellowship. It's all about mismanagement at the administrative level and the priority. The Head of every single funding agency is a Scientist (active or former PI) why it can't be fixed in one go?



Soumitra@netshrink
This is what scientists in India end up doing. Following procedures set by some bureaucrat who has never done any science/research in their life. Then we complain Indian scientists not doing groundbreaking work. They are busy doing back breaking work for the bureaucracy.



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BRIEF

Partners

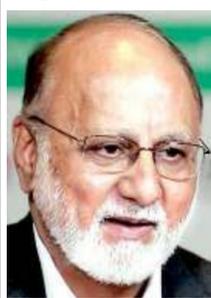


New Delhi: MG Motor India on Monday said it has partnered with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) to bolster EV charging infrastructure. MG Motor India President and MD Rajeev Chaba said our partnership is yet another step to energise and enhance confidence.

Exits

Jaipur: The Rajasthan Venture Capital Fund (RVCF) has exited Mumbai-based fintech startup Mosabee with a 19 times jump in returns. RVCF, supported by Rajasthan State Industrial Investment and Investment Corporation (RIICO) and other institutions, had invested Rs 5.25 crore in Mosabee in 2015 and 2016 in the form of equity.

Deploy



New Delhi: Hero Electric on Monday said it has joined hands with EVIFY, a tech-enabled electric vehicle-based logistics company. Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill said B2B partnerships will enable the EV industry to exchange and utilize partner expertise and strengths.

Accelerator

New Delhi: Swiggy on Monday said it has launched an accelerator programme that allows its delivery executives to transition into full-time, managerial-level jobs with a fixed salary and additional benefits. Under its 'Step-Ahead' programme, Swiggy said it is aiming to give an opportunity to those executives who want to move from their current flexible engagement with the company to a dedicated, managerial role.

Acquire



New Delhi: IT company Ciyent will acquire global plant and product engineering services company Citec for about Rs 800 crore to strengthen its business offerings. Ciyent MD CEO Krishna Bodanapu said it will be integral to gaining a strong foothold in the region.

India's GDP likely to grow 7.5-8% in FY-23

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

India's economy is expected to grow 7.5-8 per cent this fiscal year with exports playing a key role in the country's success story, CII President TV Narendran said on Monday.

However, he said the country needs to remain prepared for any fallout of next wave of COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

"We are confident that the economy can retain a high growth trajectory this year. So, we are very optimistic on the export front. Exports will be a key component of India's success story going forward," Narendran said.

In an interview to PTI, the President of the industry body said the resurgence of COVID globally will have an impact on the global supply chain and CII's India economic growth estimate of 7.5-8 per cent in the current fiscal factors these developments. "The experience with COVID shows that



TV Narendran

every time there is a fresh wave globally, it does hit India as well. Therefore, we must be prepared for the future waves," he said.

According to him, the industry has in place well defined safety protocols and has really moved up the learning curve in managing COVID and in its ability to continue to operate safely even as infections rise.

"Therefore, in our view we are much better prepared to deal with the next wave. In terms of immediate action, administration of precautionary dose and the vaccination of below 18 years could be expedited. People need to be re-

minded of the importance of COVID appropriate behaviour and hence reminder campaigns are important," the CII President said. He said in the past the strategy of micro-containment has worked well for India, adding that the industry body does not anticipate a scenario of re-imposition of major lockdowns.

"The widely accepted principle of managing COVID globally is to learn to live with it, rather than go in for strict lockdowns," said Narendran.

Observing that the rise in oil and other commodity prices has impacted margins of industries and purchasing power of consumers, the CII President, however, said there is no call for using a term like stagflation in the Indian context.

"Growth for the current fiscal remains within the 7.5-8 per cent range. The IMF is looking at 8.2 per cent growth for India and expects it to continue to remain the fastest growing major economy in the world.

Rupee slumps 34 paise at 76.76 against USD, bullion falls

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

The rupee declined 23 paise to 76.76 against the US dollar in the forex session on Monday tracking the strength of the dollar in the overseas market.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened on a muted note at 76.58 against the American dollar, then fell and touched an early low of 76.65 in initial deals, registering a fall of 23 paise over its previous close. On Friday, The rupee declined by 25 paise to close at 76.42 against the US currency. The rupee opened weaker against the US dollar weighed by hawkish comments from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell last week,

said Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities. Most Asian and emerging market peers are trading weaker this Monday morning and could weigh on sentiments. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.02 per cent to 101.23. The Indian currency fell 0.37% to 76.76 during the session. This is the second consecutive session in which the Rupee has depreciated against the US dollar. Bullion showed a fall on Monday. Gold prices on Monday fell by Rs 266 to Rs 51,995 per 10 grams in futures trade as speculators reduced their positions amid low demand.

Sensex slumps 617 pts, Nifty falls below 17,000

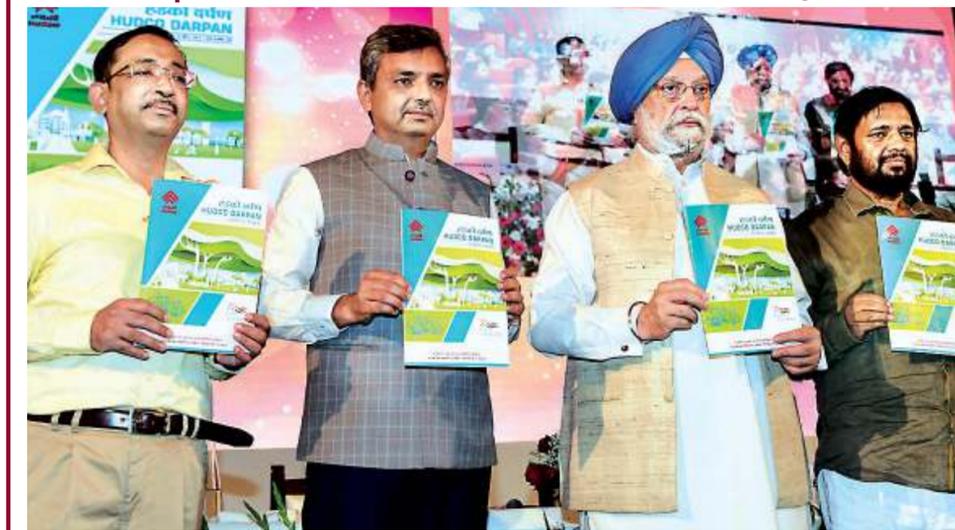


Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

Benchmark indices tumbled for the second day in a row on Monday, with the Sensex tanking 617.26 points following heavy selling in market major Reliance Industries and negative global cues.

Unabated foreign fund outflows added to the weak sentiment. The BSE benchmark Sensex dived 617.26 points or 1.08 per cent to end at 56,579.89. During the day, it

HUDCO FOUNDATION DAY



Union Ministers Hardeep Puri with Kaushal Kishore (R), HUDCO's Kamran Rizvi (L), and Manoj Joshi (2L), Secretary, MoHUA, releases publication during 52nd foundation day of HUDCO, in New Delhi, Monday.

Indiastat releases its latest 'Election Atlas of India'

New Delhi, Apr 25:

Indiastat today released its book titled, Election Atlas of India. The book is edited and published by Dr R K Thukral, Co-Founder and Director of Indiastat. A copy of the book was presented to the Chief Election Commissioner of

India in his office today by Dr Thukral. As a one-of-its-kind book presenting comprehensive details year-wise on all Parliamentary Elections from 1952 to 2019, it includes data updated till January 2022.

Speaking on the occasion, the Book's Editor and Publisher, Dr R K Thukral, stat-

ed: "The success of our first edition of the Election Atlas of India and the robust response from readers prompted us to produce an updated version after the General Elections in 2019. Significantly, at 912 million in the 2019 General Elections, India's electorate is larger than the combined pop-

ulations of the US and Western Europe. Given the fast-evolving dynamics of the General Elections during the past decade, the latest edition of the Election Atlas of India will be an indispensable and scholarly compendium about the journey of Indian Parliamentary Elections."

Sebi rejigs market data advisory panel

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

Sebi has restructured its advisory committee on market data that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy.

Rejigging its market data advisory committee, Sebi has said the panel will now have 21 members, as per the latest information with the regulator. Earlier the committee had 20 members.

The committee is chaired by MS Sahoo, Professor at National Law University, Delhi and former chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). Apart from Sahoo, the panel has CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives



of various stakeholders and senior officials of Sebi as members. Members of the committee include Nithin Kamath, Founder & CEO, Zerodha Broking Ltd; Ranjit Pawar Managing Director, South Asia at Refinitiv; Sreekanth Nadella CEO & COO at Kfintech; Suhas Tuljapurkar Managing Partner, Legagis; Raman Uberoi Senior Advisor Government & Regulatory Relations at CRISIL and Kiran Shetty, CEO and Regional Head - India & South Asia at SWIFT India.

Ducati launches Multistrada V2 range bikes starting at Rs 14.65 lakh

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

Premium motorcycle maker Ducati on Monday announced the launch of its Multistrada V2 range bikes in the domestic market. Available starting Monday at the Ducati dealerships across India, the Multistrada V2 is priced at Rs 14.65 lakh while the Multistrada V2 S starts at Rs 16.65 lakh (both prices ex-showroom India), the company said in a statement. It also said that bookings for the latest offering are now open across all Ducati dealerships in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kochi, Kolkata & Chennai



and deliveries will begin immediately. "The Ducati Multistrada V2 is an all-new model which has been extensively worked on to achieve significant weight reduction on engine and chassis. It also features revisions in de-

sign and ergonomics, which blend perfectly with a lighter, tried and tested Testastretta 11 twin-cylinder engine.

"The Multistrada V2 puts the excitement back in the mid-sport touring segment, and is built to guarantee long riding hours in the utmost comfort," said Bipul Chandra, Managing Director, Ducati India. In 2010, the Multistrada was the first motorcycle in the world equipped with Riding Modes, which allow a rider to choose between different pre-set modes to optimize vehicle behaviour based on the rider's riding style and environmental conditions, it said, adding, the Multistrada V2 features four Riding Modes (sport, touring, urban and enduro).

Despite policy efforts, half of Indian adults credit unserved

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI): Around 480 million adult Indians till the age of 65, representing half of the overall population in the earning segment, are 'credit unserved', as per a report by a credit information company.

An additional 164 million were classified as 'credit underserved' in the global study done by Transunion Cibil, while only 179 million fit into the 'credit served' category. Specific efforts are being taken by the policy apparatus to deepen the credit culture in the country to ensure that borrowers do not fall prey to usurious moneylenders. The Jan Dhan Yojana, which saw the opening of over 450 million accounts, has accounts that come with a credit overdraft facility. Only 3 per cent of US adults are credit unserved,



while the number is 7 per cent in Canada, 44 per cent in Colombia and 51 per cent in South Africa, the report said. "Although India has made great strides in increasing levels of credit inclusion across the country in recent years, the current reality highlights the

importance of incorporating enriched credit data into the lending ecosystem, so that fewer consumers find themselves as credit unserved," said Rajesh Kumar, the managing director and chief executive of Cibil.

Admitting that it is a "chicken and egg" situation when it comes to unserved consumers, the report said a lack of credit score and credit history for unserved consumers is an impediment for getting credit opportunities, as many lenders are hesitant to extend loans to consumers without any credit history or score.

The study found that about 5 per cent of consumers who started as credit underserved were found to have migrated to becoming more credit active in a two-year window.

SatCom Industry Association signs pact with TSDSI

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

Satellite industry body SatCom Industry Association (SIA-India) has entered into a pact with Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI) for cooperation in development of standards in India and international standards developing organisations. The ultimate aim of the collaboration is to bring cooperation and support for the standardisation, towards an efficient and sustainable industry, SIA-India said in a statement. "The collaboration between SIA-India and TSDSI will go a long way in strengthening the standards-based manufacturing expertise in the country. We hope Indian standards will soon be recognized globally," SIA-India



President Subba Rao Pavuluri said in the statement. SIA-India represents satellite operators, satellite-based service providers, satellite systems, launch vehicles and ground and terminal equipment manufacturers and suppliers as well as IOT/M2M application solutions providers, space startups, innovation hubs, academic institutions, law firms.

Edible oil industry suggests dialogue with Indonesia over palm oil ban

Kolkata, Apr 25 (PTI):

The cooking oil national industry body — Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India has suggested immediate initiation of government to government (G2G) dialogue with Indonesia on the proposed palm oil export ban from April 28 by them as it would have an adverse repercussions in India.

Indonesia, which is the world's largest producer of palm oil and meets nearly 50 per cent of the total palm oil requirement in India annually, had announced to ban exports till further notice apparently to contain edible oil prices in their domestic



market. "We have suggested our government initiate dialogue with Indonesian counterparts at the highest diplomatic level on the cooking oil export ban. This will have serious repercussions in our domestic market as half of our total imports of palm oil is from Indonesia and no one can fill up this void," SEA di-

rector general BV Mehta told PTI.

SEA liaisons with the Union Food ministry, he said. Mehta said, "... the industry was not expecting a ban. There will be an immediate impact on prices in the domestic market from Monday itself as the news of the ban has distorted the sentiment."

MSMEs must be allowed to use pooled data of bio-stimulants

For registration process

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

Agro Inputs Manufacturers Association of India on Monday said it possesses pooled data of eight major bio-stimulants and demanded that the government should also allow all MSMEs to use its data for the registration process to carry out business operations.

A notification issued in 2019 had brought bio-stimulants under the purview of Fertiliser Control Order (FCO) 1985.

Noting that it would be difficult and unviable for small individual manufacturers to source the data,



the grouping emphasised that such entities should be permitted to use the data for completing the registration process.

"The government should allow MSMEs to submit pooled data, collected by the association, for registration process," it said in a statement.



Actress Kasthuri hits back at those trolling her for tweeting on power cuts

Actress Kasthuri Shankar on Sunday hit back at twitterati who trolled her posts about power cuts occurring often in Chennai. It all started on Saturday night when the actress tweeted, "Power cut. Again. Midnight. Unannounced. Unacknowledged. Chennai vaasis are really stuck. When the government machinery is stoutly denying that power cuts happen at all, then how to expect any relief?" An hour-and-a-half later, the actress again tweeted, "Yay!!! Power is back !! 100 minutes of mosquito bite and humid night later, power is back, so goodnight y'all!" But by then, she was trolled by some of those who mockingly kept asking her if she didn't have an UPS or inverter at home. Responding to their tweets, Kasthuri said, "Stupid Sheeple. Yes, I don't have inverter in my home. In USA also I never had. Is it because I'm poor? Chennai, I pay tax and bill but no metrowater. Instead of questioning government failure to supply water, electricity, you troll people to buy can water and UPS. Vaazhga paguththarivu(Long live common sense)."

It is all about challenges in &TV this week

It is all about various challenges and road-blocks faced by the characters across shows, this week on &TV, coupled with high-voltage drama. About &TV's Baal Shiv track, Devi Parvati shares, "Totasur and Dandapani attempt to enter the house of Mahasati Anusuya and Devi Parvati to disrupt their pooja but fail because of the defensive shield Devi Parvati has constructed around her and Mahasati Anusuya's house." Devi Parvati is overjoyed because she is about to finish her pooja, which will transform Baal Shiv (Aan Tiwari) into Mahadev (Siddharth Arora). On the other hand, Mahasati Anusuya rejoices because her pooja will keep Baal Shiv as Balashiv. Tarkasur (Kapil Nirmal), Varangi, and Ajamukhi (Shrashi Maheshwari) travel to



Darukavan to track down Daruka (Ambika Soni). Tarkasur finds Daruka facing difficulties and asks her to seek help from Devi Parvati. Daruka summons Devi Parvati, but she is in Puja and does not want her pooja to get spoiled, so she asks Laxmi and Saraswati to assist Daruka. Daruka adamantly refuses to accept Laxmi and Saraswati's assistance, as Devi Parvati promised her to help whenever she needs it. Devi Parvati later recalls how Mahadev taught her about God's responsibilities to their worshipers. How will Devi Parvati complete her pooja and fulfill the promise made to Daruka? About &TV's Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? track, Sakina Mirza shares, "Mishra and Mirza accept Bittu's cricket match challenge between Haveli members and everyone in Mohalla lead by Bittu. However, the side which loses the match will have to give up on their house. Mishras and Mirzas are worried about their haveli which is at stake. To save the haveli, both the families try to find their unique cricketing skills. Mirza (Pawan Singh) and Mishra (Ambrish Bobby) regret not selecting Majnu and Aashiq for their team after learning about their cricket proficiencies. Finally, the day arrives, and Ammi Jaan is selected as the umpire. Bittu's team puts up a tough fight. Will Mishra and Mirza's team win the match and save their haveli?" Watch Baal Shiv, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?, Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai from 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Ahead of the release of Chiranjeevi-starrer 'Acharya' which is set to hit the theatres on April 29, actor Ram Charan on Sunday spoke to media about the flick and expressed his delight that South Indian films are gaining popularity across the country. Ram Charan, who is said to have played a significant role in the film, said: "At first, I became a part of 'Acharya' as a producer-only but later I joined the cast to play Siddha." "My character's initial length is only 15 minutes. It was eventually extended to 45 minutes. Siddha's character is one of the most unique roles I've ever played. You'll enjoy my scenes, especially those with my father, Chiranjeevi". When asked about his role in 'Acharya', Ram Charan explained that his character is named Siddha, and he is a person who is obligated to follow non-violence, but a conflict with the antagonist Sonu Sood forces him to take a different path. On South Indian films gaining popularity across the country, Ram Charan expressed his delight and said: "It's wonderful to see the popularity of South Indian films in the country. My father used to say that back then, people only talked about super actors in Bollywood. Our films, such as ' KGF 2', 'RRR', and



Ram Charan: It's great to see South Indian films getting popular across the country

others, are now being discussed throughout the country. I'm also proud to have been a part of it." 'Acharya' is directed by Koratala Siva. Ram Charan will be next seen in a big-ticket movie, which is currently being directed by Shankar Shanmugham.



Sayli Kamble of 'Indian Idol 12' fame ties the knot with boyfriend Dhawal

'Superstar Singer 2' captain Sayli Kamble tied the knot with boyfriend Dhawal on Sunday at Royal Garden in Kalyan, Mumbai. The singer has shared a reel on her social media handle from the venue where the wedding ceremony took place. Many of her wedding pictures and videos are going viral on social media. The couple got engaged last year. They got married in typical Maharashtrian style. Sayli was looking beautiful in her yellow sari with a fuchsia pink border and a purple wedding shawl. Her smile was enough to



share her happiness. In another picture, Dhawal was looking suave in off white kurta pyjama and a turban. The videos also show guests dancing and enjoying the ceremony. Sayli's friend and 'Indian Idol 12' fame Arunika Kanjilal has spoken to the media and informed them about attending the wedding. She said: "I will be attending the wedding today and I am very happy for Sayli di." 'Indian Idol' contestants Nachiket Lele and Nihal Tauro attended the wedding and shared pictures on their social media accounts.

Neha Sargam to play Yashoda in 'Yashomati Maiyaa Ke Nandlala'

"Maa ki abhuth mamta ka anand uthane, aa rahe hain Gopala!" Mesmerising viewers with a heartfelt bond between Yashoda and Kanha (Lord Shri Krishna), Sony Entertainment Television recently announced their latest offering 'Yashomati Maiyaa Ke Nandlala' which will soon air on the channel. Essaying the pivotal role of Yashodha will be well-known television actor, Neha Sargam. Neha Sargam, who has been a part of notable mythological shows in the past, says, "We've all grown up watching and hearing stories of Kanha so it's exciting for me to play such an integral part in 'Yashomati Maiyaa Ke Nandlala'. It's a great learning as well to revisit the bond shared between Yashodha Maiyaa and Kanha from a different perspective altogether. It brings a lot of peace to me." Stay tuned to watch the untold story on Yashomati Maiyaa ke Nandlala only on Sony Entertainment Television.



HOROSCOPE TUESDAY APRIL 26

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Don't be surprised if you have a desire to redecorate. The celestial energies have put you in the mood to rearrange your house a bit. Take care to not go overboard, Aquarius. You have a tendency to turn little projects into big ones. For now, content yourself with buying some flowering plants and perhaps new area rugs and throw pillows. Leave the kitchen and bath renovations for later.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Be sure to answer all phone calls and open all letters and emails today, Pisces. You're likely to receive some interesting news. You might get word from a former boss that you'd be perfect for a new position opening up in his or her office. Or perhaps an old lover makes tentative inquiries about renewing old bonds. Your eyebrows will rise in surprise at least once during this day. Expect the unexpected!

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

As you get older, you're drawn more and more to spiritual matters, Gemini. It isn't so much that you're embracing any particular religion, more that you're quite curious about the supernatural and some of the ancient arts. Take some time today to visit the library or bookstore and do some reading on the subject. You might want to form a study group with other like-minded individuals.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Don't hesitate to try something new today, Cancer. If you've thought about joining a book club or taking a class, do it today! You're likely to meet some interesting people and enter a new social world. You might be tentative at first, but you'll find the group warm, friendly, and eager for your input. You'll talk like old friends by the end of the second meeting. This is just the infusion of fun you need!

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

You're looking beautiful and feeling passionate, Libra. If only your passions could be reciprocated! Even though there may not be anyone special in your life right now, that's no reason to not treat yourself well. Go out for a nice meal or, better yet, order take-out and dine at home, complete with music, candles, and your finest china. You should appreciate yourself even if no one else does at the moment.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

This could be a frustrating day in the romance department, Scorpio. Communication is blocked at all levels. You're anxious to speak with your loved one, but simply can't reach him or her. Perhaps the phone system is malfunctioning or email is acting up. You feel as though the Universe is conspiring against you. Take heart. Your partner will contact you soon enough, and your reunion will be electric!

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Just as a watched pot never boils, so, too, do anxiously awaited checks or letters refuse to arrive in the mail, Aries. Beyond double-checking that the person or company has your correct address, there isn't much you can do but continue to wait. Trust that it will arrive shortly, and then your financial difficulties will be behind you.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

You're likely to feel optimistic and enthusiastic about life today, Leo. You might also feel especially sexy, a feeling you should definitely take advantage of! Why not plan a romantic evening with your loved one? Don't hesitate to talk about your travel dreams over dinner. You never know, he or she just might share your dream. Before you know it, the two of you could be winging your way to exotic lands.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

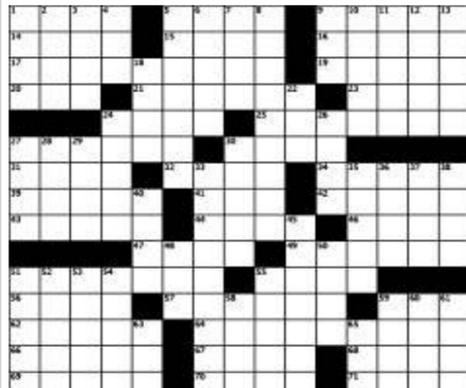
You could be feeling playful today, Capricorn. Your romantic partner will certainly appreciate your fun-loving mood. Why not plan a fun day together doing something other than your usual routine? Rather than dinner and a movie, how about lunch and a visit to a museum or art gallery? You have both been working very hard lately. Your relationship will benefit from an injection of spontaneity.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Today is full of possibilities, Virgo. You could fall in love at first sight, or at least meet someone who captures your interest! You should be feeling especially loving, passionate, and eager to devote yourself to a worthy cause or creative activity. Don't expect everything to fall into place right away. You could hit a few obstacles, but the ultimate result will be worth the bumps along the way.

CROSSWORD

281



ACROSS

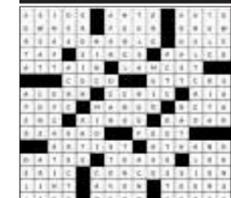
- Anger
- Leonardo's "___ Lisa"
- Leading actors
- She, in Madrid
- Milky stone
- Satellite's path
- Most strongly built
- Pioneer Daniel ___
- Foot digit
- Tel Aviv's locale

- Racing sled
- Computer info
- Housing agent
- Marked down in price (2 wds.)
- Stuck-up one
- Jury member
- Wine valley
- Make disappear
- Clocked
- Former GI
- Worn out
- Playground fixture

DOWN

- Pause
- Voice range
- Adhesive
- Corn unit
- Dampen
- "Aida," for one
- Space agency (abbr.)
- Take turns
- Weep
- Internet pest
- Regard
- Beetle ___ Starr
- Ranch animal
- Clock face
- Author ___ Tolstoy
- Risked
- Spur on

SOLUTION 280



- Makes a choice
- Astronaut ___ Armstrong
- Trucker's vehicle
- Paid out
- Act of shunning
- Metal bolt
- Region
- Exported
- Circular current
- Forest creature
- Free from germs
- ___ Moines
- Harness part
- Start of a Dickens title (2 wds.)
- Beauty shop
- Scornful sound
- Theater employee
- Mothers
- Trick
- On
- Cowboy ___ Autry
- Lyric verses
- Whichever one
- ___ moment's notice (2 wds.)

RCB aim to stop Jos Buttler juggernaut against Rajasthan

Pune, Apr 25 (PTI):

Royal Challengers Bangalore will be aiming to halt the Jos Buttler juggernaut when they take on Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Attention will be on Virat Kohli as well following his second consecutive first ball duck in the competition. RCB would be hoping their star batter to be back among the runs besides a much improved performance by the batting unit after a shocker in the previous game.

While the Challengers come into the match on the back of a demoralising nine-wicket loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan have had two successive wins and are one of the in-form teams this season. While the focus would be on Kohli, RCB have also power-hitters in captain Faf Du Plessis, Glenn Maxwell,



Dinesh Karthik and Shahbaaz Ahmed, who can be destructive on their day and if they fire in unison, the RR attack would have a tough time.

Du Plessis, the highest run-scorer for his team, has been hot and cold with the willow but remains a vital cog for the team. Karthik too with his

hitting abilities is playing the finisher's role to near perfection.

They are up against Rajasthan's varied attack, led by Trent Boult, who has troubled Kohli in the past with the delivery that comes in. Prasidh Krishna and the spin duo of wily Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal can

also pose problems for the RCB batters. Chahal, with 18 wickets so far, can turn the game on his head.

And ditto for Ashwin, who can be the opposition's nemesis on his day. Add to it the four overs by Obed McCoy; Rajasthan have a decent attack. For Rajasthan, opener Jos Buttler has been in sub-

lime form, having already hammered three hundreds this season. Opener Devdutt Padikkal and skipper Sanju Samson have also been toying with opposition attacks and are among the runs. And so is Shimon Hetymar, who can compound the bowling team's woes with his brutal onslaught.

RR would be hoping that the top order delivers once again at the MCA Stadium, which has witnessed high-scoring games. The weak links in Rajasthan's batting are Karun Nair and Riyan Parag and the duo would need to step up and deliver.

For RCB, they have the best death bowler in Harshal Patel, but he would need support from Mohammed Siraj and Josh Hazlewood. The four overs by Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who has eleven wickets, could also change the match's fate.

Rublev wins Serbia Open, denies Djokovic 1st title of 2022

Belgrade, Apr 25 (AP):

Andrey Rublev defeated Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-0 to win the Serbia Open for his third title of the season.

The second-seeded Russian player dug deep to stop Djokovic from mounting another comeback as he prevented the top-ranked Serb from claiming his first title of 2022.

The 24-year-old Rublev looked fitter in their third set as he closed out the win in 2 hours, 24 minutes. Djokovic who is 10 years older than Rublev appeared affected by the effort he put in to level the match in the second-set tiebreaker. Djokovic had already come back from a set down in each of his three matches at his hometown tournament, defeating Laslo Djere,



Miomir Kecmanovic and Karen Khachanov on his way to the final in what were only his fifth, sixth and seventh matches of the year.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion opened his clay-court season

with a surprising loss to Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Monte Carlo Masters the previous week, his first match since being eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Dubai 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. Rublev, who dropped only one set as he eliminated Jiri Lehecka, Taro Daniel and Fabio Fognini on his way to the final, has now equaled Rafael Nadal's mark of three tour-level titles in 2022, after wins in Marseille and Dubai in February.

If we need to make changes, we will do that: Jayawardene

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

Mumbai Indians coach Mahela Jayawardene has hinted at a few changes after repeated failures of the star-studded batting-line up and is also concerned about the drastic drop in form of star opener Ishan Kishan.

Record five-time champions Mumbai Indians are enduring their worst run in IPL history having lost their first eight games including the one against Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday night.

"Good question. I need to review this and have a chat with the rest of the coaches as well and make some plans," said Jayawardene when asked about potential changes in the batting line up going forward in the competition.



"Batting has been a concern for us especially on good wickets where we have batted under par. This is a senior group who understands the conditions and performed in the past. We

need to keep pushing and if we need to make those changes we will do that.

"We had few changes (uptill now) but not a lot. We wanted to keep the batting consistent.

Obviously there are concerns as we have not been consistent whether we are batting first or chasing totals down," said the Sri Lankan legend.

Jayawardene also plans to sit down with Kishan whose performance graph has dipped drastically after fifties in the first two games.

"He has struggled a bit, we have given him the freedom to play his natural game. I haven't yet spoken to him today but I will have a conversation with him soon, he said.

Mumbai had bought back Kishan for Rs 15.25 crore at the IPL auction earlier this year.

Skipper Rohit Sharma has also not been at his best while veteran Kieron Pollard has also underdelivered.

We haven't batted well enough in tournament: Rohit Sharma

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

Skipper Rohit Sharma ran out of reasons for Mumbai Indians' losing streak which extended to eight games, accepting that shoddy batting has hurt the team and led to the disaster which the 2022 season has been for the five-time champions.

Lucknow Super Giants beat MI by 36 runs with skipper KL Rahul scoring another hundred against his favourite side while Rohit's 39 was the top score for the home team.

"We haven't batted well enough in this tournament. Whoever plays in the middle needs to take that responsibility and go on to play long innings. Some of the opposition players have done that and that is what is hurting us. One guy needs to ensure that he bats as long as possible," Rohit said after the



match. Rohit accepted that some shots were irresponsible. "I thought we bowled pretty okay. It wasn't easy. It was a good pitch to bat on. I thought that score should have been chased down, but we didn't bat

well enough. When you have a target like that, it is important to string partnerships. But some irresponsible shots in the middle, including mine," he added. Rohit feels that the manner in which they are

losing games, everyone in the bench is in contention. "Everyone has come into discussion given how our tournament has gone. We need to ensure that we have a settled team and give players in the middle a fair chance," he said when asked if there is a chance for Tim David to come into equation.

"Their roles are different when they play for their countries and here we expect something else from them. We tried not making too many changes, and we have tried to play the best combination possible. 'But when you lose games, you always have such discussions. As far as I am concerned, I want to give people enough chances to prove themselves. The season hasn't gone the way we would have wanted it to, but such things happen," he concluded.

Alcaraz youngest since Nadal in top 10 after Barcelona win



Barcelona, Apr 25 (AP):

Exactly 17 years ago, an 18-year-old Rafael Nadal was starting to attract the attention of the tennis world by winning the Barcelona Open and making it to the top 10 for the first time.

Carlos Alcaraz followed in the footsteps of his hero on Sunday, also winning his first Barcelona title and cracking the top 10 men's rankings for the first time at the same age.

Alcaraz continued his impressive run by beating Pablo Carreno Busta in straight sets for his third title of the season, winning the all-Spanish

match 6-3, 6-2 after having made it to the final a few hours earlier in a semifinal game postponed from Saturday because of rain.

It means a lot," Alcaraz said.

I've watched this tournament since I was a kid. I always wished to play in this tournament and of course to be able to win this tournament. I'm really, really happy to be part of the Spanish history list.

Alcaraz was guaranteed to move into the top 10 after reaching the semifinals. He will be No. 9 when the new rankings come out on Monday, making him the youngest player in the top 10 since Nadal made it after lifting his first Barcelona trophy in 2005.

Like Nadal then, Alcaraz came into the tournament as the 11th-ranked player in the world. A record 21-time Grand Slam winner, Nadal never dropped out of the top 10 since then.

The victory at the Rafa Nadal center court in Barcelona capped a long day for Alcaraz, who needed 3 hours, 39 minutes to rally past Alex de Minaur 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4), 6-4 in their semifinal match in the morning.

Liverpool wins derby, dumps Everton into EPL relegation zone

Manchester, Apr 25 (AP):

Staying in the slipstream of Manchester City in the Premier League title race wasn't Liverpool's only cause for celebration following victory in another fast and furious Merseyside derby.

Liverpool's 2-0 win at Anfield on Sunday also dumped Everton into the relegation zone, leaving its neighbor's 68-year stay in England's top flight in major doubt with a month left of the season.

Second-half goals by Andrew Robertson and Divock Origi were enough for Liverpool in a match that ended with the jubilant home fans singing Going down, going down to their rivals from across Stanley Park.

Completing a dismal day for Everton was relegation rival Burnley winning a second straight



game since firing its long-serving manager Sean Dyche, 1-0 at home to Wolverhampton.

It left Everton in third-to-last place and two points below Burnley, which finally climbed out of the relegation zone.

Everton, which has been in the top division

every year since the 1954-55 season, has played one game less than Burnley but has a tough run-in featuring games against Chelsea, Arsenal and in-form Brentford.

More importantly for Liverpool, the team returned to being a point behind City with five

games left in a title race that seems destined to go to the final weekend. In other games, Chelsea scored in the 90th minute through Christian Pulisic to beat West Ham 1-0 and cement third place, five points clear of Arsenal in fourth. Brighton drew 2-2 at home to Southampton.

Rahul fined Rs 24 lakh for second over rate offence

Wankhede, Apr 25 (PTI): Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul has been fined Rs 24 lakh for maintaining a slow over rate in their IPL game against Mumbai Indians. It was Rahul's second over rate offence of the season. He was

fined Rs 12 lakh for the first offence. "KL Rahul was fined Rs 24 lakhs and the rest of the members in the playing eleven were fined Rs 6 lakhs or 25 percent of their match fee, whichever is lower," said the IPL in a statement. "This was the

team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences."

Lucknow Super Giants registered a comfortable 36-run win over Mumbai Indians, as they rode on Rahul's hundred.

Former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith cleared of racism allegations

Johannesburg, Apr 25 (PTI):

Former Cricket South Africa (CSA) Director of Cricket and captain Graeme Smith has been cleared of racism allegations against him following the outcome of the board's Social Justice and Nation-Building (SJNI) commission's report.

In December last year, a 235-page report submitted by the SJNI Commission head Dumisa Ntsebeza had accused Smith, current head coach Mark Boucher and former skipper AB de Villiers, among others of engaging in racial discrimination.

The Ombudsman's SJNI report had made various "tentative findings" regarding allegations of discrimination and racism.

However, the Ombudsman had indicated that he was not in a position to make definite findings and had recommended that a further process be undertaken, following which CSA launched a formal inquiry.

The report had alleged that Smith had discriminated against the black players by not selecting them in the national team. After a full arbitration process, advocates Ngwako Maenetje SC and Michael Bishop cleared the former skipper of all the three account he was charged for.



"There was no evidentiary basis to conclude that Mr Smith engaged in racial discrimination against Mr Thami Tsolekile during the period 2012-2014," the CSA statement read.

"2. There was no evidentiary basis to conclude that Mr Smith was racially biased against black leadership at CSA; and

"3. There was no evidentiary basis to conclude Mr Smith's appointment of Mr Mark Boucher, rather than Mr Enoch Nkwe, as coach of the men's Proteas team in 2019 amounted to unfair racial discrimination," it added.

Lawson Naidoo, Chair of the CSA Board, commented: The manner in which these issues have been dealt with and resolved by the arbitration proceedings confirms CSA's commitment to deal with the SJNI issues in a manner that treats them with utmost seriousness but also ensures fairness, due process and finality.

BEATING THE HEAT



Men cool themselves with water on a hot summer day, at the Dussehra Ghat behind the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Monday.

RUN-UP TO 2024 POLLS

BJP identifies 73,000 'weak' booths

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

With an eye on 2024 general elections, the BJP has identified 73,000 polling booths where it is weak and has constituted a committee to strengthen the party's position on them, sources said on Monday.

Majority of these booths are in southern and eastern states, the sources said, adding that the party is also contemplating to draw a blue print for strengthening its position in 150 Lok Sabha constituencies where it has not done well in previous several polls.

Chaired by BJP's vice president Bajjayant Panda, the committee has party general secretaries CT Ravi and Dilip Ghosh, and party's SC cell head Lal Singh Arya as its mem-

bers, they said. The committee has drafted a report suggesting the strategy for strengthening the BJP on these booths, the sources said. The report is likely to be placed in the meeting of BJP's general secretaries on Monday and then a strategy will be finalised which will be communicated to the respective state units, they said.

These booths have been identified on the basis of 2014 and 2019 general elections, the sources said, adding that the broader idea is to substantially increase the party's vote share on these booths in 2024 general elections. The booths have been divided into various categories on the basis of demography, organisational strength and other aspects, they said.

'No load-shedding in Maha for last 3 to 4 days'

Nagpur, Apr 25 (PTI):

Maharashtra has not faced load-shedding in the last 3 to 4 days and the state government is focused on addressing coal shortage and is also in touch with the Centre over the issue, Energy Minister Nitin Raut said on Monday. Several parts of the state had been facing load-shedding (power outages) due to an increase in electricity demand and a shortage of coal to run power plants. The state government has blamed the Centre for poor management of coal supply.

Speaking to reporters in Nagpur, Raut said due to a shortage of coal over two dozen states have resorted to load-shedding. However,



Nitin Raut

there has been no power cuts in Maharashtra in the last 3 to 4 days, he said, adding "Today, the demand of electricity has exceeded 27,000 MW and Mahagenco (power generating company) has provided 8,000 MW to Mahavitrans (distribution utility)." "However, there is question of a shortage of coal at some power stations. But, we have done a micro-level planning and are also

in touch with the Union coal ministry on the situation," the minister said. He said coal companies and the central government are working on filling up the gap between coal demand and supply.

Raut said in the coming days, he will meet his central government counterpart, the Union coal minister and also the Railway minister to discuss the supply issue. The minister said Mahagenco has been allotted a coal mine by the Union coal ministry at Gare Palma in adjoining Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district. The mine will be a source of dedicated coal supply for power generation in the state and cut down dependence on existing coal companies, he said.

SC not to interfere with K'taka vaccine mandate

To attend colleges

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to interfere with a vaccine mandate of the Karnataka government for attending the colleges saying in the wider national interest there are some matters which we should not be entertaining.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant dismissed the plea challenging the Karnataka High Court order upholding the state government's July 16, 2021 notification which said that students' teachers and non-teaching staff who have received one dose of vaccine can at-

tend the colleges. The bench said, We will not entertain this. Take your vaccines. In the wider national interest there are some matters which we should not be entertaining.

It told advocate Anas Tanvir, appearing for petitioner Sushma S Aradhya, that the High Court order was passed on December 4, 2021, and what was the difficulty in getting vaccinated. The advocate said that his belief is in Ayurvedic and not allopathic and he wears a mask and observes all the COVID appropriate behaviour. There cannot be a vaccine mandate for attending the college, he said.

COVID 4th wave concerns K'taka makes masks, social distancing mandatory

Bengaluru, Apr 25 (PTI):

Amid fresh COVID-19 concerns in different parts of the country and apprehensions about a possible fourth wave of the pandemic, the Karnataka government on Monday decided to issue guidelines making wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing compulsory.

The decision was taken at a meeting headed by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with senior ministers, officials and the COVID-19 technical advisory committee consisting of experts here, to review the situation in the state amid concerns over a possible fourth wave.

"Masks should be worn

compulsorily, especially at places where there is a crowd and in indoor places, social distancing has to be maintained. Guidelines will be issued today to this effect. We have not taken any decision regarding imposing any penalty immediately," Health Minister K Sudhakar said.

Speaking to reporters after taking part in the meeting, the minister said the number of positive cases have slightly increased in Bengaluru, where the positivity rate is 1.9 per cent, and the situation will be monitored and supervised with guidelines about the treatment if required.

"On April 27, the Prime Minister will be holding a

video conference with Chief Ministers and Health Ministers of all states, where more guidance and information may be shared. After that, we will hold another round of meeting here and further measures, if required, will be taken," he added.

Pointing out that according to the World Health Organisation, health issues like hospitalisation and ICU care are required more among unvaccinated people, the minister said the number of people who have taken preventive dose (third dose) is low, and more people will have to get the booster jabs.

"People above 60 years are being given the preventive or third dose for free.

Don't wait for the next wave, take the preventive dose and protect yourselves," he advised.

Noting that countries like South Korea, Thailand and Japan have been reporting a spike in cases, Sudhakar said the passengers travelling directly to the state from these countries will be specially monitored at the airports and their details and contact numbers will be collected, and they will be telemonitored at home.

In response to a question, the minister said Omicron BA.2 sub-lineages are emerging, but until an official report comes from the INSACOG lab, it will be difficult to say which variant is prevalent.

Apparel unit in tribal area to boost women employment

Sambalpur, Apr 25 (PTI):

An apparel manufacturing unit will be set up in the tribal-dominated Kuchinda sub-division of Odisha's Sambalpur district to provide employment to women throughout the year and also to augment their livelihood, an official said. The clothing plant will come up at Ardabahal under the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). It will be the first apparel industry under the scheme in the state and Rs 2.79 crore will be spent on the project. The Union government will bear 90 per cent of the cost and the rest will be provided by the state government. An agreement will be signed on Wednesday between the Khadi and Village Industry Commission and the Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS).

Akhilesh warns of panic in UP if fourth Covid wave hits state

Lucknow, Apr 25 (PTI):

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said active Covid cases are rising in Uttar Pradesh and warned that there could be a panic if fourth wave hits the state, asserting that the medical facilities are crumbling under the BJP government.

"The active cases of coronavirus are once again rising in the state. Experts are expecting the possibility of a fourth wave. The peak of infection can come in June-July.

The BJP-led state government seems to have learned no lesson from the horrors of the last Covid wave. In view of

the plight of health services in the state, there is a possibility of panic," Yadav said in a statement issued here.

"The people were orphaned during the last wave of the Covid pandemic. There had been reports of lakhs of deaths then. The public had to see very bad days during the lockdown period. The memory of those days still haunts us," he said.

Alleging that the BJP government is doing a gimmick of reviewing the situation, Yadav said "it (government) is pretending as if it has just come to power" and added that the chief minister's meetings have no effect on the ground. "So the minis-

ters are facing embarrassment.

The new health minister of the state is upset with his own department due to the disorder. The reality of health services in UP is very disappointing," he said.

"There are not enough doctors in the hospitals. There are long queues of patients in the government hospitals and medicines are also not available," he added.

Yadav alleged that the BJP government is proving to be more failure than ever on fronts of health, education, and law and order. "The mismanagement of health sector seems to be waiting for the situation to get worse," he said.

DEMOLITION DRIVE



Residents look on their during a demolition drive by the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) at Banjara Market, in Gurugram, Monday.

Healthcare becoming affordable, accessible: Mandaviya 'No law for govt to install/remove loudspeakers'

New Delhi, Apr 25 (PTI):

Healthcare is becoming accessible and affordable in the country with the government taking steps to enhance the overall infrastructure, including doubling of MBBS seats, Union Health Minister Mansukh L Mandaviya said on Monday.

The minister, who also holds Chemicals and Fertilisers portfolio, noted that the country is witnessing the rise of a new India and all the stakeholders have to ensure that the pharma sector also becomes part of this growth.

The government is working on a roadmap for healthcare ecosystem 'Heal by India' and 'Heal in India', which would pave the way for providing manpower for treatment

to the world along with promoting affordable healthcare in India, Mandaviya noted. He added that the government does not see health sector from the commercial aspect but as a service initiative for all.

"So we need to take care of our needs and that of the world as well," Mandaviya said while speaking at the 7th edition of India Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Conference 2022. The three day event, from April 25-27, will see government, industry and academia come together to brainstorm for a roadmap for the sector for the next 25 years.

Mandaviya noted that the government has been taking steps to make healthcare both affordable

and accessible.

"Medical colleges have doubled, MBBS seats which used to be in the range of 55,000 seats will go up to 1 lakh this year...similarly 1.17 lakh health and wellness centres have been established across the country...district hospitals are being strengthened besides there are AIIMS coming up for tertiary needs," the minister said.

Conferences like India Pharma and India Medical Device 2022 provide a platform for the industry, academia and policy makers to brainstorm and draft a plan for the next 25 years for the sector, he added.

Mandaviya further said the country has the capability to sell pharma products all over the globe and also to treat people from all

across the world at healthcare facilities spread across the nation.

"We can take care of it in a holistic and comprehensive manner. we are brainstorming for that," he added. He said Modi government has been able to provide health security to about 50 crore people in the country. Mandaviya noted that the government supports industry while staying pro-poor and pro-farmers. "We just don't make policies in the paper or just give lectures but we make efforts to implement the policy," he said.

Mandaviya, while praising the pharma industry for steps taken during COVID-19 pandemic, said there were apprehensions across the globe as how India will manage the cri-

sis. "We showed the world how it can be done. We also proved it again by having a successful vaccination programme," he added. The minister said the way India has managed COVID-19 pandemic is a global case study.

"Today the entire world community is praising India's efforts in carrying out the world's largest vaccination drive. We have administered more than 187 crore doses in the country so far which is a commendable feat. When it comes to providing healthcare services, one should not think just for the nation but for the whole world," he added. The Union minister exhorted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, energy of the youth has been channelised.

Mumbai, Apr 25 (PTI):

There is no provision for the state government to either install or remove loudspeakers, Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil said on Monday after an all-party meeting on the issue. The BJP boycotted the meet, Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly Devendra Fadnis said.

Some political parties have been demanding regulations on the use of loudspeakers and had set a deadline on it, Walse-Patil said without naming the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena or its chief Raj Thackeray who has given an ultimatum to the state



Dilip Walse Patil

government to remove loudspeakers atop mosques by May 3. He said that in the all-party meeting it was decided that the government should take all steps to maintain law and order in the state and work accordingly. The Supreme Court had given

a decision on the use (regulations) of loudspeakers in 2005. Subsequently, other courts have also given decisions in this regard.

Accordingly, the Maharashtra government between 2015-17 came out with some GRs (government resolutions) and circulars on the use of loudspeakers and the permission on its usage including the timings and decibel limits. Based on it, loudspeakers are used in the state. "There is no provision that the government cannot decide on installing or removing loudspeakers. Those who have installed loudspeakers, those who use it, will have to take care of the regulation, he said.