

Janpad members stage protest, raise slogans

Over lack of information about agenda of meeting and compliance report

■ Burns copy of agenda and information of Janpad Panchayat

Dongargaon, Apr 29:

The Janpad members created ruckus in the review meeting held in the conference room of Janpad Panchayat here on Thursday. During this majority of the Janpad members left the meeting and went out into the premises and started raising slogans in protest against hosts of shortcomings and problems in Janpad Panchayat. Later to intensify their protest, they even burnt a copy of information and agenda by the Janpad Panchayat and the members gheraoed the officers and employees of Janpad Panchayat over their highhandedness and



framed many charges against them.

The annoyed Janpad panchayat members informed that for last two & half year, 7-8 meetings have been held and about which the officers neither inform it to the public representatives nor give information on time and even the agenda is not disclosed. Due to this the Janpad members are facing lots of problems in review of the development work in their region and

hosts of other issues. Due to this there are many important development works which hangs in fire and they are made to face protest from general public.

The Janpad members informed that they take part as elected representatives of the people of their region along with their grievances and suggestions in the Janpad Panchayat meetings. But failing to get folder of meeting's agenda there is

hardly any discussion. Set aside this the subjects on which discussions are held, there is no discussions on its compliance report either.

So it is taking all these issues, the Janpad Panchayat members raised slogans in protest in the Janpad Panchayat office premises.

During this the CEO who came to explain it to the Janpad members witnessed heated exchange and the agitated Janpad

members burnt copy of Janpad information and rules in the premises itself.

■ No control on officers, employees:

In this entire incident, Janpad members charged that the officers and employees of Janpad Panchayat do not come to office on time and due to which lots of works get affected. So it is due to sheer negligence on part of the employees that Janpad administration is least bothered about the development works. On the other hand, due to lackadaisical an attitude on part of the officers and employees, they fail to get information about the agenda on time.

In this regard efforts were made to get in touch with CEO Janpad and even complaint was made, but till date it was to no avail.

Trade Union members continue to register protest

■ Against privatisation of Nagarnar Plant

Jagdalpur, Apr 29:

The NMDC employees have once again launched protest and under this right since April 11 onwards, the Trade Union members are staging protest in the plant area.

The family members of the Nagarnar area whose land was acquired for Nagarnar Steel Plant (NSP) have got employment in the NMDC plant, but right since there is news about its privatisation, it has become cause of concern for the 700 employees working in NMDC plant. Due to some communication gap, the employees are feeling danger of losing their jobs.

Meanwhile the mem-



bers of the Trade Union got token protest registered in view of likely privatisation of NMDC. Union members are of the opinion that in 2001 when NMDC started land acquisition at that time they taking it as one of the 'navratna' company's handed over their land for Nagarnar Plant. But with news about demerger of NMDC, they are fearing about losing their jobs. Meanwhile the Trade Union members are staging protest against privatisation move since April 11 and are raising slogans. They charged that if the NMDC Steel Plant is privatised, then the land acquired for Nagarnar Steel Plant should be returned to respective farmer. Failing to hear their demand, Trade Union members warned of intensifying their protest.

Farmers' submit memo to Collector

■ Demand early release of crop insurance amount

Khairagarh, Apr 29:

The farmers of Gram Saloni who have been deprived of amount under PM Crop Insurance, handed over a memorandum to the Collector here on Thursday. Lodging complaint through a camp, the farmers- Sanat Kumar, Puranik Verma, Chandrashekhar Singh, Raju Lal Verma, Sugreev Singh, Khemlal, Virsingh Verma, Khemlal, Doman, Pitamber Verma and Chandra Mohan informed that more than 200 farmers have taken paddy crop this season and with no rains in the beginning of the sea-

son, it caused lot of damage to the crop. The farmers informed that the farmers near Saloni and nearby villages got an insurance amount of Rs 3500 to Rs 6000 per acre from PM Crop Insurance Scheme. But many other farmers were deprived of this amount. In the crop survey also there was report about damage to the crop, but the insurance company citing it as better crop compared to that of last year did not pay any amount to affected farmers. The affected farmers informed that they have even submitted an application in the Insurance Company's office, but no action was taken and due to which around 200 farmers have been deprived of the crop insurance amount.

As per instructions by the District Collector, in view of increasing number of corona cases near Mahasamund district, in-

structions have been issued to follow the Corona guidelines in meetings

Pithora, Apr 29:

In view of the recent news about rise in number of corona cases through a new variant X-E, the Mahasamund Collector has issued instructions to all the administrative and departmental officers to ensure adherence to Corona guidelines. On the other hand, the officers from the District violating the norms are trying to push people towards death knell.

But in the local Mandi premises, it was in the presence of the woman and child development department officers, the block area Anganbadi

workers seemed to openly violating corona guidelines. Set aside this other facilities and precautions too were sidelined.

What is surprising here is that this meeting was organised beneath a tin-shed with temperature hovering around 42-44 Deg Celsius and with no drinking water facility, set aside any cooler or

door. But on the other hand, the women from the District, blocks of the District, including pregnant women are made to suffer out in the scorching heat. Presenting long speeches and giving information about departmental schemes in such meeting also has not significance.

When the family member of women tried to come in this meeting at the site, they were asked to go away by the Women and Child Devp officer. Set aside this, the District Guidance officer in the meeting even reportedly misbehaved with the journalists and they were not given proper information and asked them to go away. On this Pithora Block Patrakar Sangh Gaurav Chandrakar has

strongly criticised the same and demanded action against the Women and Child Development deptt officer over violation of Corona guidelines. Set aside this he also demanded test of all the persons who had attended the programme and if there is any corona infected women, they she must be identified and help others from falling prey to this deadly virus.

In this regard, our representative Santosh Gupta tried to get in touch with the SDM Ritu Hemani about holding meeting without adhering to corona guidelines by Women and Child Development and non-adherence of guidelines in Pithora, then he did not respond.

Officers openly violating Collector's orders



workers seemed to openly violating corona guidelines. Set aside this other facilities and precautions too were sidelined.

At one place where the Women & Child Development department is giving information about good health and well-being of women and girl through various schemes and are giving information about its benefits going door-to-door.

Delegation of CMKM meets Navaz Khan



■ Submits two-point memorandum to him

Khairagarh, Apr 29: A delegation of Chhattisgarh MGNREGA Karamchari Mahasangh (CMKM) paid a courtesy call to Chairman District Co-op Central Bank Rajnandgaon Navaz Khan and submitted a memorandum to him in support of two-point demand. On this, Khan assured to bring it to the knowledge of CM. It is notable here that Navaz Khan had attended 'Bhakt Mata Karma Jayanti' programme of Sahu Samaj in

Gram Salehbhari recently. So getting information in this regard the members of CMKM including Shikha Dixit, V-P Upendra Verma, Secretary Laxmi Narayan Soni, Rojgar Sahayak Ashwan Verma, Rojgar Sangh President Maharan Humane, Ramnarayan Sahu reached Salehbhari and met Navaz Khan. nThe office bearers of the Sangh demanded regularisation of MGNREGA employees, along with fixation of wages of Gram Rojgar Sahayaks and they should be brought under Civil Services Rule 1966 and Panchayat Karmi rules.

Change of Name (Affidavit)
I am Maqsooda Bano husband Haider Khan, Address-HIG-2861, Industrial Area Housing Board, Bhilai Tehsil and District Durg (Chhattisgarh). Which I solemnly submit the following statement.

- That my name and address are as above.
- That my name was Maqsooda Begum husband Haider Khan in the past. Presently my name is Maqsooda Bano husband Haider Khan.
- That I am now known, recognized and called as Maqsooda Bano husband Haider Khan. In support of whose veracity this affidavit is presented.

(Maqsooda Bano)

CHANGE OF NAME

It is informed to the General Public that I, Twinkle Jain D/o Manoj Jain Resident of Kailash Nagar, Rajnandgaon (C.G.) Have Changed My old Name To Sakshi Patni w/o Shreyans Patni.

So in future I should be recognized by My new name that is Sakshi Patni w/o Shreyans Patni in all Government and other documents.

**Sakshi Patni
Pachpedi Naka
Raipur (C.G.)**

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

CORRIGENDUM

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR KIND ATTENTION OF OUR MOST VALUED CUSTOMERS
With reference to the notice published in the newspaper on 22/04/2022 regarding "PUBLIC NOTICE" Now due to some administrative issues it has been decided to make changes as mentioned in below table:

S. No	Address of Existing Premises/Branch (II)	Address of New Premises/Branch (III)	Date of Operations from new premises (IV)
1	Bank of Baroda Gunderdehi, District Balod Road, Gunderdehi, District Balod, (CG) pin : 491223	Gunderdehi, District Balod Road, Gunderdehi, (Near by Existing Branch) District: Balod, (CG) pin : 491223	30th May 2022

We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to you in this regard.

Place : DURG REGIONAL HEAD
Date : 29.04.2022 Bank of Baroda Regional Office, Dhamtari

Reliance Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd.
Rel. Off: 11th Floor, North Side, R-Tech Park, Western Express Highway, Garegao (East), Mumbai 400 085.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
The below mentioned borrowers availed various credit facilities from Reliance Capital Limited. As borrowers have failed to maintain the financial discipline, the loan account has been classified as non-performing assets (NPA) by Reliance Capital Limited on 20.05.2016 in accordance with the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India. Reliance Capital Limited vide Assignment Agreement dated 30.12.2016 assigned the financial assets of following borrowers along with all its right, title and interest together with underlying security interests in favor of Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited trustee of MARC Trust.

Pursuant to said assignment the Undersigned authorized officer in exercise of powers conferred u/s 13(2) of the said Act the Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had sent the demand notices dated 07.04.2022 through registered post, thereby calling upon the borrowers to repay the entire outstanding mentioned in said notices with further interest thereon within a period of 60 days from the date of Notice. However, as demand notices could not be served some of the parties mentioned below, the same is hereby served upon the borrowers by way of alternate mode of service.

Details are as follows:-

Name & Add of Borrower/Guarantors/ Mortgagors etc.	Amount Outstanding (Rs.)
1. Mr.Deepak Kumar Khetter, At, S-6, Rajiv Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh -492001. Also At, E-34, IOV, Opposite City Centre Mall, Pandit, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001	Rs 2,03,43,336.99 (In Words Rupees Two Crore Three Lakhs Forty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Six and Paise Fifty-Nine Only)
2. Mrs.Dimple Khetter, At, S-6, Rajiv Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001	
3. Smt.Asha Khetter, At, S-4, Rajiv Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001	
4. Smt.Vandana Ishrani, At, Sector 4, Devenra Nagar, Behind Durga Temple, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492004	
5. Smt.Sweta Chetwani, At, 11, Kohi, Jari Petke, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440014, Also At, 5-6, Rajiv Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001	
6. Smt.Nisha Jeevan, At, S-6, Rajiv Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001	

Details of Secured Movables/Immovable Properties: All the pieces and parcel of land and any building constructed or to be constructed at Plot No. E-4, RDA, Devendra Yojna No.32, Indira Gandhi Vyavayik Parikh, Ph. No. 109, K.H. No. 1172(P) & 1361(P) Pandit, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001 land area, measuring 693 square feet.

Owned by Deepak Kumar Khetter The Land is Bounded by - North by Road, South by Plot No. E-07, Eastby- Plot No. E-05, Westby - Plot No. E-03

In case of failure to repay the aforesaid entire outstanding amount within a period of 60 days, the undersigned shall be constrained to enforce the above secured assets under the provisions of SARFAESI Act. Please note that as per Section 13 (1) of the said Act you are restrained from dealing with or transferring any of the secured assets referred to hereinwith whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise. Any contravention of this provision is an offence and punishable under SARFAESI Act.

Place: Raipur Date: 27-04-2022 Authorized Officer Reliance Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office No.2, Dava House, 1st Floor, NSC Bava Road, Chembur- 400 001.
Branch Office: Shop No. 416, 4th Floor National Corporate Park, Infront Of Maruti Business Park, G.E. Road, Raipur C.G.-492001

POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8 (1)
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Ms. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter called the Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column (B) below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, noticed is hereby given to this borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column (E) herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column (F) in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.

The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column (E) below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of Ms. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in Column (D) along with interest and other charges. Under section 13 (6) of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower/s and Loan Account No.	Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount	Details of Property Possessed	Date of Possession
A	B	C	D	E	F
1.	XOHERRH0003010411 Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- 1. Gautam Prasad Dewangan 2. Neera Dewangan, Both residing At House No 1144, Adarsh Nagar, Umla Road, Bargaon, Raipur - 493221 3. Kedar Nath Dewangan, House No 1144 Main Road, Satish Kumar Store, Bargaon, Raipur-493221 4. Maa Mawli Medicose , Residing At Main Road, Bargaon Raipur-493221.	08.02.2022	₹ 34,39,655.29 as on 07-02-2022	Residential House bearing Khasra No.131, comprising Area 1320 sq. ft or 122.67 sq.m situated at Mouja-Birgon, Ward No.26, Ph. No.101, R.I.C Raipur, Tahsil & District Raipur (C.G.)	22/04/2022

Date: 28.04.2022, Place: Raipur (C.G.)

Authorized Officer Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

BRIEF

Collapse

New Delhi: Two persons, including a Delhi University student, were injured when the roof of a rented accommodation in Delhi's Vijay Nagar collapsed partially. An FIR was registered against Rajendra Chadda, the owner of the house, and he has been arrested, the official said. The room in the two-storey building was rented by Indraprastha College For Women's (IPCW) student Sukanya (22).

Crackdown

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has launched a crackdown on vehicles operating without high security registration plates (HSRPs) in Jammu region and fined 236 violators, officials said. In view of the security aspect in Jammu and Kashmir, the government had earlier issued notifications to the people to get their vehicles registered.

Returns

Ranchi: The Jharkhand government said it has ensured the safe return of 10 of the 30 workers stranded in Malaysia while the process for the return of another 20 is on. The workers from the state who have been living and working in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur as labourers since 2019 had urged the Jharkhand government to ensure their return.

Duping

New Delhi: A 34-year-old man was arrested for allegedly duping aspirants on the false promise of giving them degrees from reputed universities, police said. They identified the accused as Jitender Kumar Sahoo, a resident of Shakarpur here. Deepak Kumar, the complainant, alleged that he stumbled upon an advertisement from Sahoo on social media and contacted him for an enrolment in Bachelors in Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS).

Approves

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Cabinet approved a gene bank project that aims to conserve genetic resources in the state, including marine and animal diversity and seeds of local crops at an estimated cost of more than Rs 172 crore. The Maharashtra Gene Bank project, which will be executed by the forest department, aims to conserve genetic resources in the state, including marine diversity, seeds of local crops and animal diversity.

Seized

Nagpur: Personnel of the forest department seized tiger teeth and whiskers in Maharashtra's Nagpur district and arrested two persons in this connection. The department had got a tip-off that some persons were about to sell tiger teeth and whiskers at Umred-Bhivapur T-point. A trap was laid and two persons were arrested from the spot, a release by the Nagpur forest department said.

Heatwave scorches wheat crop, snags export plans



A farmer harvests wheat on the outskirts of Jammu.

New Delhi, Apr 29 (AP):

An unusually early, record-shattering heatwave in India has reduced wheat yields, raising questions about how the country will balance its domestic needs with ambitions to increase exports and make up for shortfalls due to Russia's war in Ukraine. Gigantic landfills in New Delhi have caught fire in recent weeks. Schools in Odisha have been shut for a week and

very sensitive to heat, especially during the final stage when its kernels mature and ripen. Indian farmers time their planting so that this stage coincides with India's usually cooler spring.

Climate change has made India's heat wave hotter. Before human activities increased global temperatures, heat waves like this year's would have struck India once in about half a century. But now it is a much more common event, we can expect such high temperatures about once in every four years. India's vulnerability to extreme heat increased 15 percent from 1990 to 2019, according to a 2021 report by the medical journal The Lancet. It is among the top five countries where vulnerable people, like the old and the poor, have the highest exposure to heat. It and Brazil have the highest heat-related mortality in the world, the report said.

But it was the heat in March, the hottest in India since records first started being kept in 1901, that stunted crops. Wheat is



Congress workers protest against the power and water crisis, in Jammu, Friday.

'Hanuman Chalisa' episode plot to project CM as anti-Hindu

Maharashtra cops to court



Ravi Rana with wife Navneet.

Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTI):

The Mumbai police on Friday told special court that while on the face of it the plan of Amravati MP Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana to recite Hanuman Chalisa outside the Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's residence here may look innocent, but it was in fact a "big plot" to challenge the MVA government.

The police also claimed that the opposition BJP and the political opponents of Thackeray were trying to create an atmosphere to project him as anti-Hindu and not sponsoring the cause of Hinduism, and that in the

present regime it was difficult for Hindus to practise their religion freely and thus the feeling of hate would increase against the Muslim religion causing a rift. The police made these

claims in an affidavit filed through special public prosecutor Pradip Gharat opposing the bail pleas of the Rana couple, who were arrested on April 23 on sedition and other

charges. Special judge RN Rokade said he would hear the bail pleas.

The couple is presently in judicial custody. The police said if released on bail the accused, who are influential persons, would tamper with the evidence or influence witnesses.

The police further said that since the accused are not permanent residents of Mumbai, if granted bail they may not be available for the probe and trial.

The police in their affidavit claimed that the BJP, which is the opposition party in Maharashtra, has been strongly opposing the administrative policies of the present government and criticising the ruling Shiv Sena for its stand on Hindutva.

The state government on the other hand claimed that no rule is violated in implementation of the project. Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra has made a public statement saying that the work is being done with "coordination" with the ASI.

Even as the state government claimed that it was constructing some toilets, cloakroom and other devotee amenities, Mishra said: "I found foundation has been laid for massive construction. Though I am not an expert, it appears that foundation work is made to raise five to ten storied building near the temple boundary wall, which is much within the prohibited zone and required ASI's permission..."

national monument, said this after personally visiting the shrine and inspecting the works.

He said there is utter confusion as the BJP MP has alleged that there is no permission from the Archaeological Survey of India for the work and an RTI activist also claimed that the state did not get required nod from the ASI.

Congress raises doubts over Puri Heritage Corridor Project

Bhubaneswar, Apr 29 (PTI):



Narasingha Mishra

The controversy over the Puri Heritage Corridor project further intensified after Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra expressed concern over the massive construction close to the Shree Jagannath Temple.

Mishra expressed concern over the project a day after BJP Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi questioned transparency in the entire work being carried out by the state government for making Puri an international heritage site. The CLP leader, a member of the Odisha Assembly Committee formed to inspect the construction in the restricted zone of the 12th-century

claims in an affidavit filed through special public prosecutor Pradip Gharat opposing the bail pleas of the Rana couple, who were arrested on April 23 on sedition and other

EU special representative for human rights Eamon Gilmore said on Friday that in his meetings with the Indian government he has discussed issues such as the use of sedition and anti-terrorism laws, condition of minorities, communal violence and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Gilmore also said that in his meeting with members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) during his India visit, the panel's role in relation to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), detentions, bail, sedition and anti-terorism laws, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), minorities and individual cases, was discussed. An EU delegation, including Gilmore and EU

PROTEST



Mayawati mocks Akhilesh for saying he wanted her to become PM



Mayawati

Lucknow, Apr 29 (PTI): BSP supremo Mayawati on Friday mocked Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav's assertion that he wanted her to become the prime minister and wondered how someone who could not fulfil his own dream of becoming the chief minister will manage to realise the aspirations of others.

Reacting to Yadav's statement that he wanted her to become the prime minister and that the SP had forged an alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls for this, Mayawati, in a tweet in Hindi, said, "When the SP chief could not fulfil his own dream of becoming the chief minister (of Uttar Pradesh) even after securing the votes of Muslims and Yadavs and forming an alliance with several parties,

childish statements," she added. The BSP and the SP contested the 2019 general election in an alliance but parted ways subsequently and have regularly hit out at each other since then.

In another tweet, the BSP president, who had said that she never aspired to become the president but would rather prefer becoming the prime minister or the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh to realise her goals for uplifting the down-trodden, said, "Irrespective of whether I become the chief minister or the prime minister in the future, I can never become the president of the country in the interest of the weaker and neglected sections. Therefore, the SP's dream of having its own chief minister in Uttar Pradesh will never be fulfilled."

On his meeting with NHRC, he thanked the panel for the meeting, at which, he said the NHRC's role in relation to FCRA, detentions, bail, sedition and anti-terrorism laws, UAPA, minorities and individual cases, was discussed. According to sources in the Minority Affairs Ministry, Naqvi told the delegation that constitutional and religious rights of every section are absolutely safe in India but "nobody has the right to indulge in forceful and fraudulent religious conversion".

Naqvi is also learnt to have told the delegation that "not a single major communal riot has taken place in India since 2014", but there were some conspiracies to "give communal colour" to isolated criminal incidents.

Discussed use of sedition, anti-terrorism laws: EU representative

New Delhi, Apr 29 (PTD):



EU special representative for human rights Eamon Gilmore met with Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and NHRC members in New Delhi.

Ambassador to India Ugo Astuto, called on Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in Delhi, after it met NHRC chairperson Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra and other members of the panel. "At meetings with Government, including

@naqviumuktar, Minister for Minorities, I discussed FCRA, use of sedition and anti-terrorism laws, detentions, the situation of minorities, communal violence, situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and individual cases," Gilmore tweeted, tagging Naqvi's tweet on

Bihar Police to use AI tools to bust illicit liquor rackets

Patna, April 29 (PTD):



Kamal Kishore Singh

The Bihar Police will soon put to use Artificial intelligence (AI) technology to nab people involved in illegal liquor trade and other crimes, a senior police officer said on Friday.

The AI mechanism will digitise and automate all operations, with the force no longer having to maintain data manually, he said.

"Once introduced, it will help policemen nab gangs or individuals involved in illegal liquor trade in the dry state. It will be easy to identify their area of operations with real-time analytics and automated processes. "Law enforcement agencies are already unlocking the potential of

Bihar Police is planning to take necessary measures for the creation of a dedicated information technology (IT) cadre within the force, Singh stated. It has recently sent a proposal in the matter to the home department.

"The proposed cadre will have around 2,000 officers and personnel, including IT inspectors and IT constables. Officials of the IT cadre will handle all operations of the AI system," the ADG said.

AI tools, once embedded in the system, will increase the efficiency of the force, he maintained.

"From the perspective of crime handling and management, the AI tools will help in exploratory analysis.



Darul Uloom in Deoband, UP.

In case the ID is found wrong, the student will not only be expelled but legal action can also be taken against him.

Talking about the outstation students, Madrasa said, "No one is exempted in this regard. "Students

Those seeking admis-

of Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Manipur, Tripura, Assam etc. will (also) have to bring their original residence certificates and affidavits, without which the admission process will not be completed," he added.

Those who cannot submit the required documents should not come for admission because such students will not be enrolled, Madrasa said.

Darul Uloom is a leading Islamic seminary in India where the Sunni Deobandi Islamic movement began. It is located in Deoband, a town in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

The seminary was established by Muhammad Qasim Nanautavi, Fazlur Rahman Usmani, Sayyid Muhammad Abid and others in 1866.

BRIEF

Guilty

Calgary: A Calgary man who travelled to Syria to join the militant group Islamic State pleaded guilty to terrorism-related activities. Hussein Borhot, 36, pleaded guilty to one count of participating in terrorism group activity between May 9 and June 7, 2014, and the commission of the offence of kidnapping for a terrorist group while in Syria. RCMP arrested him in July 2020 after a seven-year investigation which also involved the FBI and US Department of Defense.

Fines

Montreal: A group of 37 passengers who were shown on video drinking and partying amid the pandemic on a chartered Sunwing flight from Montreal to Mexico in late December have been fined a total of CDN 59,500 (USD46,480), Transport Canada said. The agency said 42 tickets were issued, including 18 for non-compliance with vaccination requirements and 24 for violations of masking rules. Videos of the flight, shared on social media, showed unmasked passengers.

Releases

Beirut: The United Arab Emirates released a Lebanese physician after holding him for more than three weeks over a tweet he published years ago, a person familiar with the case said. The case of Dr Richard Kharrat came to attention in early April when local media reported that he went missing from his hotel in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the UAE has declined to comment on Kharrat's case since he was detained in early April.

Rejects

Ankara: Turkey rejected accusations that its warplanes conducted unauthorized military flights over Greek islands, pointing the finger at fellow NATO-member Greece instead. A Turkish Foreign Ministry statement said accusations made by Greece do not reflect the truth and insisted that it was Greece's air force that carried out provocative flights near Turkey's coast, allegedly violating its airspace repeatedly over the southwestern towns of Didim, Datca and Dalaman.

Measles

Kampala: Africa is seeing a surge of outbreaks of preventable diseases as a result of disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the World Health Organisation said. The continent recorded a 400 per cent increase in measles, to more than 17,000 cases between January and March, compared to the same period last year; Dr Benito Impouma, a WHO expert in Africa. Two years of disruptions by the coronavirus pandemic have had major effects on the provision.

Political stakes high as Beijing responds to COVID-19 outbreak

Beijing, Apr 29 (AP):

Classes suspended. Buildings and communities sealed off. Mass testing of residents. A rush to stock up on food, just in case. Beijing, China's sprawling capital, is starting to resemble other Chinese cities grappling with the latest wave of the omicron variant of the coronavirus.

Authorities are moving quickly to try to prevent a massive COVID-19 outbreak that could trigger a citywide lockdown like the one that has paralyzed Shanghai for more than three weeks. The political stakes are high as the ruling Communist Party prepares for a major congress this fall at which President Xi Jinping is seeking a



People line up at a COVID-19 coronavirus testing site in Beijing on Friday.

third five-year term to reassert his position as China's unquestioned leader.

Xi and the party's main policymaking body, the Politburo, reaffirmed their commitment to a 'zero-

shut and closing off entire cities to all but essential travel.

The Politburo acknowledged the economic cost of lockdowns, saying efforts must be made to 'minimize the impact of the epidemic on economic and social development,' the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Despite the toll on the economy and everyday life, the zero-COVID approach is extolled by the Communist Party as a virtuous display of self-sacrifice under the slogan 'Persistence is victory.' Officials frequently point out China's relatively low death toll and have accused the US and other countries of essentially giving up.



Iranians set an Israeli flag on fire as they during a rally marking 'al-Quds' Day (Jerusalem) day, street at the capital Tehran, on Friday.

'AL-QUDS' DAY

Russia accused of stoking divisions in Bosnia

Moscow has fostered vital relationships in Balkans



Bosnian Serbs, supporters of the pro-Russian Bosnian-Serb hardline leader Milorad Dodik gather in Banja Luka.

(RS).

But there are growing fears the arrangement that has kept the peace in Bosnia for decades may be at risk. Bosnia's Serb leader Milorad Dodik — who has made no secret about his admiration and close ties with

Murphy, who warned of a "very worrying time for Bosnia" during a recent tour of the Balkans. "As Putin gets backed into a corner, he is going to look for other places to try to score victories. And one of them may be Bosnia," he told. For centuries, Russia fostered deep fraternal ties with the Serbs in the Balkans — undergirded by their Slavic and Orthodox heritage along with their steadfast alliances during the world wars of the 20th century.

NATO's intervention in the Balkans in 1990s — first in Bosnia and later against Serbia during the Kosovo war — has long been seen by the Kremlin as a humiliating provocation.

President Vladimir Putin — has been increasingly vocal about his secessionist aims, a move widely believed to have the backing of the Kremlin. The latest sounding of the alarm over the situation came from US Democratic Senator Chris

Hong Kong's John Lee pledges to enact local security law

Hong Kong, Apr 29 (AP):

Hong Kong's only candidate for the upcoming leadership elections pledged Friday to enact a long-shelved local legislation to protect against security threats and vowed to increase the city's competitiveness upon taking office.

John Lee, formerly the city's No. 2 official, revealed his 44-page manifesto Friday, vowing to strengthen governance, increase public housing supply, boost the city's competitiveness and build an inclusive society focused

on upward mobility. As part of improving governance, Lee said he would fulfil the constitutional responsibility of legislation under Article 23 of Hong Kong's mini-constitution, the Basic Law. Article 23 stipulates that the city shall enact its own laws to prohibit any act of treason, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government," as well as theft of state secrets.

Hong Kong attempted to enact such laws in 2003, but it faced resistance from residents. Plans to implement such a security law were shelved following massive

protests. In 2020, the city implemented a national security law imposed by Beijing after months of anti-government protests in 2019.

Lee, 64, is Beijing's only endorsed candidate for the elections and is widely expected to win during the polls on May 8. He resigned as chief secretary for administration earlier in April to run for the elections. Prior to becoming a government official, Lee spent most of his career in the police force and is known for his tough stance against protesters during the 2019 anti-government demonstrations.

The fighting raging in four districts on the northern side of Port-au-Prince is a new peak in the criminal violence that has surged as increasingly powerful

Mexico president proposes dramatic electoral reforms

Mexico City, Apr 29 (AP):

general a repeated target of President Andr s Manuel Lpez Obrador, who has often feuded with the National Electoral Institute.

The proposals presented by Lpez Obrador and several members of his Cabinet would create a new federal elections authority to replace the institute, as well as eliminating similar state-level bodies. There is no intention of imposing a single party, Lpez Obrador said. What we want is that there is a true democracy in the country and that electoral frauds end ... to leave a

true democratic state established.

But the path for what will surely be a controversial reform package would be difficult. Lpez Obrador's party and its allies do not have the two-thirds majority in Congress required to make constitutional changes. The main opposition parties have already said they oppose such changes.

Another major constitutional reform proposed by the president, to shake up the energy sector, fell well short of the votes needed last week.

Haitians struggle to find food, shelter amid new gang battle

Port-au-Prince, Apr 29 (AP):



A police officer patrols a street during an anti-gang operation in Croix-des-Missions north of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

She had to abandon her 96-year-old paralysed father because she couldn't carry him. I don't know how he's doing, if he's still alive, she said.

Brutus said she keeps praying for him as she struggles to find shelter for her family. They have been huddling under the front step of a store with an awning that protects them from the rain, but she is looking for more permanent shelter. It seems like this country has no authorities. No one came here to see us. We don't know how long we're going to be here or how long this is going to last, she said, echoing the frustration of Haitians over the rise in violence.

Billionaire Luiza Trajano shaking up Brazil

Sao Paulo, Apr 29 (AP):

Brazilian businesswoman Luiza Trajano has made it onto a lot of lists as TIME's most influential people. Forbes' billionaires, the biggest fortunes in Brazil.

But although she has been touted as a potential contender in Brazil's presidential elections this year, there is one list she says she is determined to stay off the ballot.

With the country deeply polarized ahead of October's polls, "I want to unite Brazil," not divide it further, says the 73-year-old entrepreneur, who made her fortune building her family store, Magazine Luiza, into one of Latin America's biggest online retailers.

Not that Trajano, a household name in Brazil, is shying from the spotlight as the race heats up between far-right President Jair Bolsonaro and his nemesis, leftist ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Known for her trailblazing work promoting women's equality, fighting racial discrimination and pushing to speed



up Brazil's vaccination campaign against Covid-19, Trajano says she remains engaged as ever in this clutch election year. "I want to take Brazil where I think it should be, where I think it deserves to be," she told AFP in an interview.

"I want to end these deep divisions that are causing the country a lot of harm," said the elegantly dressed business-

woman, a forceful speaker with an imposing personality offset by her contagious laugh and bright red lipstick. Plenty of Brazilians would like to see Trajano get into politics. With the business sector and political middle desperately seeking centrist alternatives to Lula and Bolsonaro, her name was floated as a potential "third-way" candidate. There was also talk Lula

could ask her to be his running mate. "I've been invited plenty of times (to run), including for president," Trajano said. But she added she doesn't want labels, beyond the ones she already has: chair of the board at Magalu, as her company is popularly known, and president of Women of Brazil, her 100,000-member empowerment initiative.

Taliban supreme leader urges world to recognise government

Kabul, Apr 29 (AP):

and principles".

"Undoubtedly, the world has transformed into a small village," said Akhundzada, who has not been seen in public for years and lives reclusively in Kandahar; the Taliban's spiritual heartland.

"Afghanistan has its role in world peace and stability. According to this need, the world should recognise the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan."

His Eid message comes as the country has been rocked by a series of bomb blasts — some claimed by the jihadist Islamic State group and targeting the minority Shiite Hazara community.

Akhundzada made no mention of insecurity, but said the country had been able to build "a strong Islamic and national army", as well as "a strong intelligence organisation".

Many in the international community want recognition should come first "so that we may address our problems formally and within diplomatic norms

Tens of thousands of women lost their government jobs after the Taliban takeover, and they have also been barred from leaving the country — or even travelling between cities — unless accompanied by a male relative.

In March, the Taliban prompted global outrage by shutting all secondary schools for girls just hours after allowing them to reopen for the first time since they seized power.

Several Taliban officials said the ban was personally ordered by Akhundzada.

Akhundzada's Eid message didn't touch on girls' schools, but he did say authorities were opening new centres and madrasas for both "religious and modern education".

"We respect and are committed to all the sharia rights of men and women in Afghanistan... do not use this humanitarian and emotional issue as a tool for political ends," he said.

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Logistics in warfare

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the recent experiences of the Indian Air Force (IAF) as well as the evolving geopolitical scenario mandates it to be operationally and logically responsive at all times at the national seminar on logistics management. Pointing that during contingencies, the roads and rail heads would be choked due to simultaneous movement of Army along the same axes, ACM Chaudhari said. 'Towards this, we need to formalise an integrated road and rail management plan and explore the feasibility of increased containerisation and use of civilian wide bodied aircraft.' Chaudhari said logistics have been identified as a critical tool for the nation's economic progress. A document on logistics philosophy of IAF titled 'Tenets of Logistics' and a book on history of Logistics in IAF titled 'Footprints in Sands of Time' were released. The 'Tenets of Logistics' in IAF outlines the logistics credo in terms of concept of logistics operations, core functional areas, leveraging technology for conduct of business processes and necessity for jointness with sister services. Flexible stocking policies with modern forecasting techniques would help in demand sensing and prepositioning of items at bases. As seen in case of Russian invasion of Ukraine, logistics can make military operations slowdown. One notable observation so far has been the general disarray of nearly completely undefended Russian supply convoys, which is in contrast with the relative ease that Ukrainians are able to move Anti-Tank Guided Missiles and small arms throughout the battlespace. Echoed through the Russo-Ukrainian War are the rapid advances of Desert Storm, Korea, and Barbarossa; the same issues that plagued the Coalition, North Koreans, and Germans now eat away at conventional Russian capability. Studying these massed offences and learning from them is essential to the competitive advantage of a modern military force. Logistics has always mattered in warfare. Alexander the Great allegedly said that if his campaign should fail, his logisticians were the first to be punished.

Nothing about the way wars will be fought in the future will change the importance of logistics. What will change is how militaries conduct logistics operations. People remember use of commercial trucks supplying weapons for army and air force during the Kargil war. Subsequently, government has inducted several kinds of trucks, transport aircraft and ships for military logistics. In any war, food, fuel, ammunition, and medical re-supplies to frontline troops and besieged civilians are critical to success. In many areas, delivering supplies by rail, road, or traditional air transport is either extremely risky or impossible due to military activity. As technology evolves, drones will be able to deliver a range of cargo from 20kg to 500kg of critical supplies. With a huge range of fixed-wing, rotary-wing, gyrocopter, and hybrid aircraft operating in a coordinated network of short and long-range supply lines, we could provide an almost inexhaustible supply of anything that front line forces or trapped civilians might need without risking a single human life. During World War II, again due to the problems in the supply chain, the German Nazi Army lost the war before reaching its target, Russia. In a nutshell, the status quo of conventional warfare appears to have been broken. Military technologies, platforms and the methods of their employment need to be re-examined. Sichuan Tengen Technology, a Chinese start-up company, announced that it has developed a payload drone with a payload capacity of 20 tons. China's military has brought together hundreds of arms makers to showcase their products as the PLA looks for new drones and intelligent vehicles to boost logistic. China will be able to deploy transport drones near LAC against India. A GBP 3 million prize-winning military shipping drone competition was held in the UK. India also needs to develop a military transport industry for logistics.

Regional film industries

If Hindi is not the national language of India, why are movies made in different languages and eventually dubbed, Bollywood star Ajay Devgan had tweeted in response to a statement by south star Kichcha Sudeep. Sudeep had said, Hindi (filmmakers) should say they are making pan India movies. They have been dubbing those (Bollywood) movies into Tamil and Telugu, etc and they are struggling. They are not able to. Today, we just make films that reach everywhere. Sudeep's comments had sparked a debate on social media over the apparent imposition of Hindi, with politicians from Karnataka also expressing opinions. For the longest time, Bollywood's most popular offerings were either direct remakes or inspired by Southern film industries. Southern film industries have a zing that Bollywood wanted to reach but didn't know how. Regional film industries are now gaining more prominence nationally compared to Hindi language Bollywood. In a country as vast and diverse as India, it would be extremely wrong to consider Bollywood as the torchbearer of Indian film industry. It is high time that people are moving over the language barriers and open ourselves to the brilliant regional cinema. Bollywood itself made significant contribution to this situation.

For way too long mainstream Bollywood has been making sub-par movies with the same celebrity actors, based on scripts that lack creativity. If not for the lacklustre scripts, Bollywood turned to remake regional movies. The audience simply got fed up with this and looked for fresher, better content. Regional film industries are coming up with big-budget movies that would cater to a pan-India audience. According to the annual media and entertainment report by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) along with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), 35-40 percent of the consumption of OTT services happens in local languages and the hours of original programming that has tripled. The South stars, now with increased popularity thanks to social media and OTT, are becoming pan-India stars. Tamil and Telugu film industries especially, don't alienate their audience. They cast a very wide net when it comes to targeting an audience base. You will never see a South film, starring the superstars, made for a niche audience. Bollywood has been doing this for a while, which is why the least common denominator feels alienated.

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022

www.centralchronicle.in

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vacancies

Retirement is a regulated administrative matter in both the public and private sectors. So, retirement does not come unanticipated. In the case of the filling up of vacancies in the judiciary, the Central government must cooperate with the collegium and approve its recommendations in toto, without political motive or interference. A solution to fill up all judicial vacancies is by acting immediately. Any delay will affect the settling of cases. Also, taking into account the number of retirements between May and August, the services of all judges should be best utilised, perhaps even skipping the summer vacation this year, keeping the interests of the public in mind. Perhaps the only other option to overcome the retirement conundrum and reduce dependency is to increase the age of retirement of judges and have them retained in service till pending cases are manageable.

Manoharan, via email

Humour politics

What do Bhagwant Singh Mann and Volodmyr Zelensky have in common? Well, both are comedians-turned-politicians. In fact, the pages of political history show that plenty of Presidents and Prime Ministers had begun their careers as actors, musicians and satirists. But, can a comedian by profession make a good political leader and does he really have what it takes to lead a State or a country? Yes, there are many reasons why he can do so. Using humour has been shown to strengthen solidarity among colleagues, and successful leaders can channel humour into team spirit. In politics, laughter might not be the best medicine always to diffuse tension, but if leaders want to motivate ebbing and wearying followers, a well-timed joke can do the trick. Research has shown not only that humour can encourage positive thinking, but it can also suppress negative feelings. If political leaders use humour carefully, they can turn laughs into votes and giggles into team spirit. However, in the prevailing political scenario, while Mann is enjoying his time, having become the new Chief Minister of Punjab, Zelensky is fighting a war against Russia as a defiant hero, grabbing the global headlines.

Ranganathan, via email

Potential

Traditional medical systems such as Ayurveda have vast untapped potential in serving primary health-care needs. But this potential can be leveraged if these are approached and adapted scientifically. Enhancing their evidence-based character would first require divesting them of the obviously outdated notions of physiology and pathology they contain. The Ayush Ministry and its academic centres appear to be blissfully ignorant of this long-pending reform.

G Krishna, via email

SHOPPING IN SRINAGAR



People shop at a market for the upcoming 'Eid al-Fitr' in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Time for Kashmiri people to show their faith with India



RK SINHA



The pleasant breeze blowing through the valley of Kashmir is surely raising hope among the Kashmiris. The breeze of hope that the life is returning back to normal in the Valley. The atmosphere of fear and worry is almost ending there. Had it been a false statement then one lakh eighty thousand tourists almost 6000 per day, would not have reached Srinagar airport for excursion. This figure is much greater in comparison to last ten years tourist visit in a month. Additionally, the experts allied with the tourism sector of state government are predicting that in coming days and months this number will certainly boost. In order to beat the scorching heat of May and June, tourists from across the country, will surely like visit valleys, falls and religious spots in Jammu and Kashmir. In the time of terror, no one would have even imagined that the normalcy will return in that short period of time and tourists will not be troubled any more there. Presently, all the hotels are full and Shikaras also have long waiting period. The mindset of the people towards the valley is changing. Kashmir is welcoming tourists from Mumbai to Delhi and Bhubaneshwar to Kerala everywhere. One of my friends who is former Income tax commissioner, visited the valley along with his family last month. He was pleased by the reception offered by Kashmiri people which is similar to the one offered before the

decade of 90s. They are joyous seeing the unprecedented number of visitors. Firstly, terrorism and then Covid completely destroyed the tourism sector there. People in this sector was even devoid of two course meal. They faced a harsh scarcity of food. The atmosphere there is free from terror now. Still some anti India elements are existing there. Today or tomorrow, they will have to join and be a part of mainstream. They aren't left with any other choice. If they continue their path, they will be and are being reined. Now locals of Kashmir will have to make sure that they completely isolate themselves from anti India elements. Locals should report willingly the whereabouts of these anti India elements to security forces. Along with it they will have to provide complete security to the non-Kashmiri people working there. They will have to assure that Kashmir belongs to every Indian like whole India belongs to Kashmiris also. With the increase in number of tourists, Kashmiri people should think that people from other states will migrate to Kashmir for small job opportunities also. Indians from other states have equal right over Kashmir as the people of Kashmir have on the entire India. Every year people from Kashmir move to different parts of the country to sell the products of handloom and carpet and woolen industry of the state. Have they been denied from entering any area? Similarly, they

should allow other people to practice business in their state. In reality a poor person from Bihar selling golgappa is murdered. Despite all these mishaps, the Kashmiri society has not openly paid tribute to the poor deceased. It is also a reality that many migrants Bihar have fallen prey to terrorism. Few days back poor person from Bhagalpur named Virendra Paswan was gunned down. On his death no one was there to remorse except his relatives. Virendra Paswan used to migrate to Kashmir during every summer to earn livelihood. He used to sell tasty golgappas.

Actually, the main problem of muslims in the Kashmir is that they always remain in the victim mode. They continuously try to prove that they have suffered injustice. This is a wrong mindset. There is a need to come out of it. They become silent on exodus of Kashmiri Pandit. They don't protest the murders of people like Paswan. Actually, they haven't face any injustice. They themselves have done injustices to the Kashmiri Pandits and poor Hindu labourers who have temporarily migrated in Kashmir. Actually, as the Kashmir valley is changing, various development programs run by government should also be given due credit. Last Sunday PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stone for the development projects worth of 20 thousand crores. All the projects of central government are being implemented and executed in the valley. Kashmiri people are getting their full benefits. People who were devoid of benefits of reservation, are now getting its benefits. Shameful fact is that in the state Dalits and backwards have not received any benefits for last 70 years. Amidst, the foundation stone of three sections of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway was laid. It is a project worth more than 7.5 thousand crore. 108 Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Samba and Solar electricity plant of five hun-

dred kilowatt is being constructed. Along with it, Banihal-Kaazigund road tunnel has been inaugurated. Almost 8.5 kilometres long tunnel will dramatically reduce the distance between Banihal and Kaazigund by 16 km and travel time is reduced by 1.5 hours.

Many high-end tourists from wealthier Indian regions such as Gujarat, Delhi and Mumbai were opting for the Kashmir valley instead of destinations in Europe because of pandemic-related uncertainty. Over 3.5 lakh tourists have visited Kashmir in the last three months. This number is expected to go up in the coming months. As many as 6.6 lakh tourists from across the country visited the Valley in 2021, a considerable increase from 41,000 in 2020. J&K has been witnessing a considerable decline in tourist footfall since 2019, following the scrapping of Article 370. The decline was further accelerated by Covid restrictions, which dealt another blow to the Valley's bustling tourism industry. The bordering areas in North Kashmir have now been thrown open to the public. Areas like Keran, Gurez, Tangdhar, Machil, and Bangus are the new tourist destinations, which have been added to the list by the tourism department. With breath-taking views of the hills and rivers, these places are being promoted as adventure tourism destinations. If you have recently visited Jammu-Kashmir you will believe that the roads in the state is becoming world-class. The importance of road in mountainous region is known to all. As the central government along with the country are wishing that the state should get the deserving prosperity Kashmiri people should also perform their duty. They should show their allegiance. Pakistan has always led them to astray as a result they have always suffered losses.

(RK Sinha is senior editor, columnist, and former MP.)

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Cnkhil@chitale

We need to appreciate our efforts for greener India. Plastic is cheap & convenient for a common man. That's why it's widely used throughout the world. If there was another alternative that was food safe and equally priced, everyone would use it.



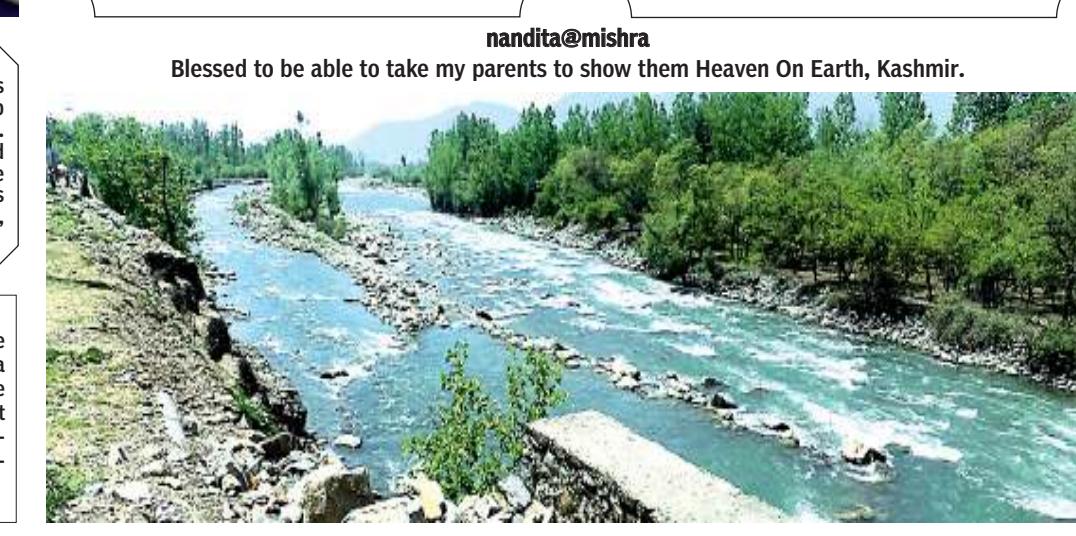
Vishal@VishalJ

Most under appreciated privilege of Homeschooling is kid's ability to sleep 'enough'. Research shows that their brain makes sense of world mostly while they are sleeping. Since industrial era schools have robbed kids of sleep by starting early as parents had to reach factory.



Arti@ghargi

The unprecedented heatwave gripping India should be on the agenda on news channels. Some of us are privileged to stay in AC cabins/homes. Many are not. Rikshaw pullers, daily wage labourers, street vendors are working in the harmful heatwave. This should be Prime Time.



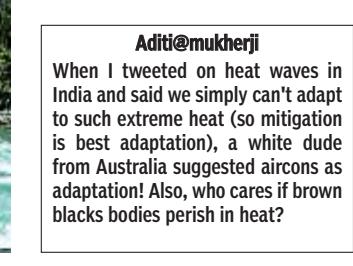
nandita@mishra

Blessed to be able to take my parents to show them Heaven On Earth, Kashmir.



Brahma@Chellaney

US sanctions, while pushing Myanmar into the arms of Beijing, have made China the almost exclusive buyer of Iran's rising oil exports. China, according to Kpler, largely relies on ship-to-ship transfers to dodge sanctions. Now US's Russia sanctions will prove a bonanza for China.

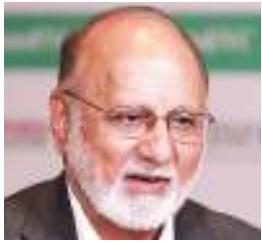


Aditi@mukherji

When I tweeted on heat waves in India and said we simply can't adapt to such extreme heat (so mitigation is best adaptation), a white dude from Australia suggested aircons as adaptation! Also, who cares if brown blacks bodies perish in heat?

BRIEF

Shortage



New Delhi: Hero Electric on Friday said it had zero dispatches to dealers in April, hit by the ongoing global semiconductor shortage that led to stoppage of production. CEO Sohinder Gill said we are using this time to enhance plant capacity to increase production volumes.

Directors

New Delhi: IDBI Bank on Friday said its board has approved the appointment of two government nominee directors with effect from April 28. The government nominee directors are Manoj Sahay, Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor; and Sushil Kumar Singh, Director, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, according to a regulatory filing.

Selling

New Delhi: Auto components maker Varroc Engineering Ltd (VEL) on Friday said it is selling its four-wheeler lighting systems operations in the Americas and Europe to France's Compagnie Plastic Omnium SE for 600 million euros (over Rs 4,830 crore). The divestment is part of VEL's strategy to align its resources with the high value and high growth primary markets in China, India, and the two-wheeler sector globally.

Hikes

New Delhi: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on Friday said it will hike prices of its compact SUV Urban Cruiser and premium hatchback Glanza from May 1, 2022 to offset the increase in input costs. At present, the Urban Cruiser is priced between Rs 8.88-11.58 lakh while the Glanza is tagged at Rs 6.39-9.96 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi), depending on the variants.

Profit

New Delhi: Varun Beverages Ltd, PepsiCo's largest franchise bottler, has reported a nearly two-fold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 271.09 crore for the first quarter ended March 2022, driven by volume growth and improved revenue. The company, which follows the calendar year as its financial year, had posted a net profit of Rs 136.75 crore during the January-March quarter a year ago.

Growth

New Delhi: French spirits major Pernod Ricard witnessed a strong growth of 19 per cent in the Indian market in March quarter on the back of a "solid premiumisation" in its portfolio. Some of its key brands such as Royal Stag, Blenders Pride and 100 Pipers had a very dynamic performance in the domestic market, the company said in its Q3 FY22 sales data released.

Structural reforms, price stability key for sustained growth

Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

Structural reforms and price stability are the prerequisites for achieving a medium-term steady economic growth of 6.5-8.5 per cent, according to a RBI report.

The Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2021-22 also emphasised that timely re-balancing of monetary and fiscal policy should be the first step in the journey towards sustained growth.

RBI said the report reflects the views of the contributors and not of the central bank.

The report has suggested structural reforms, including enhancing access to litigation free low-cost land, raising the quality of labour through public expenditure on education and health and Skill India Mission, and scaling up



R&D activities with an emphasis on innovation and technology.

Further, the report recommended creating an enabling environment for startups and unicorns, rationalisation of subsidies that promote inefficiencies, and encouraging urban agglomerations by improving the housing and physical infrastructure.

India suffered among the biggest pandemic induced losses in the world in terms of output, lives and livelihoods, which may take years to recover, it added.

"Economic activity has barely recovered to pre-COVID levels even after two years. India's economic rebound also faces difficult challenges from the legacy of deep-rooted structural bottlenecks as well as the scars of the pandemic," it said.

As per the report, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has also dampened the momentum of recovery, with its impact transmitting through record high commodity prices, weaker global growth outlook and tighter global financial conditions.

Concerns surrounding de-globalisation impacting future trade, capital flows and supply chains have amplified uncertainties for the business environment, it added.

Rupee surges 18 paise at 76.43 against USD, bullion rises

Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

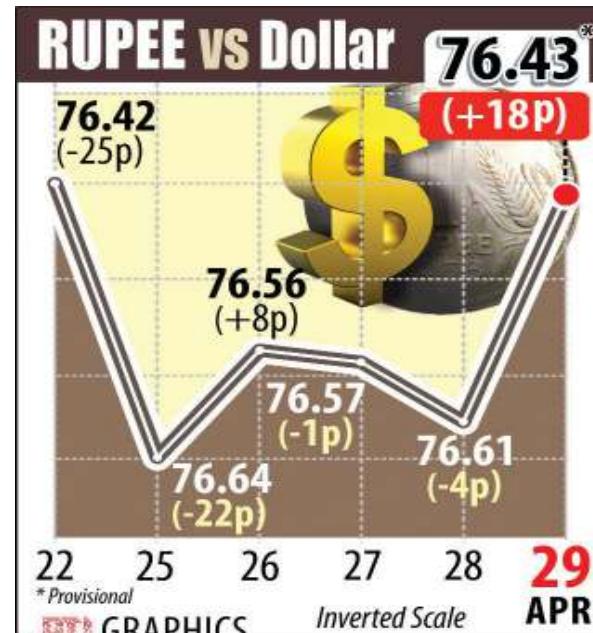
The rupee appreciated 18 paise to settle at 76.43 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking a weak greenback overseas and fresh foreign fund inflows.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 76.62 against the US dollar. It moved in the range of 76.63 to 76.29 during the day trade.

The rupee finally closed at 76.43, registering a rise of 18 paise over its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 76.61 against the US currency.

According to HDFC Securities Research Analyst Dilip Parmar, the rupee appreciated on the expectation of better inflows, a retreat in the dollar index and a rebound in risk assets.



* Provisional
GRAPHICS

Campus Activewear," Parmar said.

Moreover, the rupee has shown resilience among

Bank credit likely to grow at 4-year high of 11-12% in FY-23



Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

"Healthy economic growth and budgetary support from the government should lift bank credit growth by 200-300 basis points to 11-12 per cent this fiscal," Crisil Ratings said in the report.

The higher credit growth expectation is also supported by the improved resilience of the banking system, it added.

Its Senior Director and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer Krishnan Sitaraman said the biggest difference expected this fiscal is the upshift in the corporate credit growth trajectory, which is likely to double to 8-9 per cent.

"The Union Budget pegs public capex outlay at around Rs 7.5 lakh crore, a significant increase over the last fiscal, with a sharp focus on public infrastructure."

In the fiscal ended March 2022, bank advances have likely grown at 9-10 per cent.

Bank credit is likely to grow at a four-year high of 11-12 per cent in fiscal 2023, on the back of better economic growth and budgetary support from the government, according to a report.

In the fiscal ended March 2022, bank advances have likely grown at 9-10 per cent.

Motorola launches g52

New Delhi, Apr 29:

Motorola is adding yet another power-packed smartphone to its g series-franchise, the moto g52, a smartphone loaded with premium features and stunning performance. With the revolutionary pOLED 90Hz FHD+ display which enables slimmest bezels for maximum view along with an immersive viewing experience with vivid colors, contrast & great viewing angles. It is also more durable than regular OLED/AMOLED displays – it is truly the best OLED technology there is. All of this enables you to bring your favorite content to life. The phone also comes with a massive 360Hz touch sampling rate and 25% extra color gamut with DCI-P3 technology. It also has DC dimming and 5SGS Blue Light and Motion blur reduction

certification. The moto g52 is designed with the most intricate detailing that gives it an elegant touch and feel. Measuring just 7.99mm thin and 169g light, it is India's slimmest and lightest smartphone in the segment. With two massive stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos®, immerse yourself in true multi-dimensional sound. You can enjoy listening to your favorite playlist with improved bass, and cleaner

vocals, even at higher volumes. Besides that, the moto g52 ensures a rich ad-free Android 12, with assured upgrade to Android 13 and 3 years of security updates. It further packs a 50MP quad function camera system with an 8MP Ultra-wide camera to capture pictures from any angle and in any light. And the Quad Pixel technology lets you get 4x better low light sensitivity for sharper, more vibrant photos.

share its recommendation to the Cabinet. There is nothing final yet. Everything is in fluid stage," the officer who did not wish to be named told PTI. E-mail query sent to DoT elicited no immediate reply. Trai has mooted a mega auction plan valued at over Rs 7.5 lakh crore at the base price across multiple bands for radio waves allocated over 30 years.

The regulator has recommended that the millimeter wave spectrum between 24.25-28.5 GHz is going to be used for capacity requirement, its deployment is not likely to be ubiquitous rather it is more likely to be kind of hotspots or urban micro cells. Therefore it suggests both mobile service stations and Satellite Earth Station Gateway (Earth to Space) can co-exist in 27.5-28.5 GHz frequency range.

Govt may not auction 27.5-28.5 Ghz band

Leave it for satellite firms

New Delhi, Apr 29 (PTD):

The government may not auction spectrum frequency range between 27.5-28.5 gigahertz and leave it for satellite services, according to official sources.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) had recommended a base price for this frequency range and suggested that it can be used for both mobile as well as satellite services. Two official sources acknowledged that Department of Telecom (DoT) is considering auctioning spectrum only up to 27.5 GHz as sharing between the two services is difficult. "Trai also understands that it is difficult for both 5G and satel-

lite transmitters to work side by side. We are going ahead with an auction of only up to 27.5 GHz," an official source said.

The official said the government is looking if Earth Stations In Motion (ESIM) can be allowed in 27.5-28.5 GHz, which is available for in-flight and maritime connectivity, but meanwhile there are no plans to auction this fre-

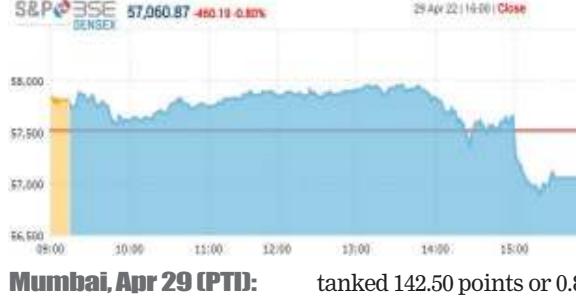
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AAHAR FAIR



Visitors at a stall during the AAHAR food and hospitality fair, organised by India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Friday.

Sensex tumbles over 460 points on selling in energy, banking stocks



Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

Asian currencies on the back of Central Bank intervention and inflows, he said.

"Dollar index is due for some consolidation under 104, given the technical indicators are registering some overbought readings. Bidders are waiting for a dip and positioning for a rally on the back of hawkish Federal Reserves and policy divergence with other developed nations," he noted.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.57 per cent lower at 103.03. Bullion prices on last trading day of week.

Gold prices on Friday increased by Rs 368 to Rs 51,630 per 10 grams in futures trade as speculators created fresh positions on a firm spot demand.

tanked 142.50 points or 0.83 per cent to 17,102.55. Axis Bank, Power Grid, Wipro, State Bank of India, Maruti, Titan and NTPC were among the major laggards from the Sensex pack.

Shares of Axis Bank tumbled 6.57 per cent a day after the company reported a 49.77 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit for the March quarter. In contrast, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, Sun Pharma, Tata Steel and Dr

Reddy's were among the gainers. Asian markets in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Seoul registered sharp gains. Markets in Europe were also trading in the green in the afternoon session. Stocks in the US had ended with significant gains on Thursday.

The BSE benchmark had jumped 701.67 points or 1.23 per cent to end at 57,521.06 on Thursday. The Nifty rallied 206.65 points or 1.21 per cent to 17,245.05.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude gained 1.91 per cent to USD 109.65 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors turned net buyers after their continuous selling spree for the past many days, as they bought shares worth Rs 743.22 crore on Thursday, according to stock exchange data.

KFC makes match time crispier with its Match Day Specials

Mumbai, Apr 29:

leg-piece lovers, there's the Dream Team Bucket which includes 10 Leg pieces & 4 Dips; and biryani-lovers can rejoice with the Howzzat Biryani Combo which offers flavourful Popcorn Chicken Biryani Bucket, 2 gravies, 4 Hot Wings and a Pepsi. So now that the Match Day Specials are sorted, get set to cheer on your fav teams, in true KFC style. These crispy, crunchy, Match Day Special offers are backed by KFC's 5X Safety Promise of Sanitization, Screening, Social Distancing, and Contactless service with vaccinated teams. While all surfaces and frequently touched areas in a restaurant are regularly sanitized, team members and riders are screened regularly for their temperatures.

On way to reaching USD 300 bn worth electronic goods manufacturing

Bengaluru, Apr 29 (PTD):

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said the country is already manufacturing electronic goods worth USD 76 billion and is on the way to reaching USD 300 billion.

He also said developing a semiconductor industry is not a sprint but a marathon and that the government is for it.

"We are already USD 76 billion in electronics manufacturing and are on the way to USD 300 billion. The way smartphone usage and the 5G industry is growing, it's going to see a very high growth for semiconductors in the coming years. Vaishnaw, who holds the Electronics and Communication as well as the Railways port-



folio, said at the inaugural session of the Semicon India-2022 here. About developing a semiconductor industry, he said, "we are prepared for the pursuance required. We are prepared for the sincere partnership between industry, government, academia and research, which is required for the sustained development of the semiconductor industry." Noting the many coun-

tries are offering incentives to the semiconductor industries, the Union Minister said India has offered a substantial incentive. "But the big differentiator is that we are committed to create and augment our talent pool by 85,000 semiconductor professionals over the next 10 years. We have also tied up with global institutions," the minister explained.



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CENTRAL Chronicle

Raipur, Saturday, April 30, 2022 | Pages 12 | Price ₹ 3.00 | City Edition | Fastest growing English Daily of Chhattisgarh



PAGE 11

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BRIEF

Muslims offer prayers on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, at Leisure Valley ground, in Gurugram, Friday.

Army Vice Chief

New Delhi: Lt Gen Bagavalli Somashekhar Raju will take over as the next vice chief of the Army Staff on May 1, the defence ministry said on Friday. Lt Gen Raju will succeed incumbent Lt Gen Manoj Pande who will take the reins of the 1.3 million-strong Army after Army Chief Gen MM Naravane completes his term on Saturday. A qualified helicopter pilot, Lt Gen Raju is currently serving as the Director General Military Operations and oversaw the Army's overall operational readiness in eastern Ladakh.

Pakistani arrested

Jammu: A 55-year-old Pakistani man was arrested along the Line of Control when he crossed into this side of the borderline in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Friday, officials said. Troops guarding the Line of Control (LoC) arrested the man who was moving under suspicious circumstances in forward area in Turkundi area, they said.

Farmer trampled

Bankura: A 51-year-old farmer was trampled to death by a wild elephant in West Bengal's Bankura district on Friday, police said. Tilak Sarkar, a resident of Baro Manchar in Barjora, went to the field at the daybreak to water his peanut crops, they said. At that time, the tusker attacked him from behind and trampled him, police said.

Fire erupts

Thane: A fire erupted at a godown where industrial oil was stored at a village in Bhiwandi of Maharashtra's Thane district on Friday, and no casualties were reported in the incident, a civic official said. The blaze broke out around 11.45 am at a godown in Oshia Mata Compound in Kalhar village, fire officer Amol Kini of the Bhiwandi Nizampur Municipal Corporation (BNMC) said.

Foreign currency

New Delhi: An Indian man travelling to Sharjah was caught by CISF personnel at the Delhi airport for allegedly trying to smuggle foreign currency worth about Rs 59 lakh by concealing it in his bag, an official said on Friday. The passenger was intercepted on the night of April 27 when he arrived at Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport to board an Air India flight.

	Weather
High 44	Low 27
MARKET	
NIFTY 17,102.55	▼
SENSEX 57,060.87	▼
BULLION	
GOLD 51,764	
SILVER 63,738	

Patiala witnesses group clash over anti-Khalistan march

Cops fire in air**Patiala, Apr 29 (PTD):**

Two people were injured when stones were hurled as two groups clashed over an anti-Khalistan march here on Friday. Police fired in the air to bring the situation under control.

The clash took place outside the Kali Mata temple when members of an outfit that calls itself Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray) began a "Khalistan Mardaband March".

Some Sikh activists, including Nihangs, took out another march against the Sena event.

Near the Kali Mata temple, the two groups came face to face and hurled stones at each other. The temple gates were locked and police deployed in



Security personnel attempt to maintain law and order after a clash broke out between followers of Shiv Sena and pro-Khalistani organisations, near Kali Mata Mandir in Patiala, Friday.

large numbers to prevent the situation from escalating further in the city, po-

lice said. Two people, including a policeman, were injured, in the stone-pelt-

Patiala: Local authorities announced an 11-hour curfew in Punjab's Patiala district on Friday after four people were injured when two groups clashed over an anti-Khalistan march. The curfew will be enforced between 7 pm Friday and 6 am Saturday, according to an order issued by Patiala district magistrate Sakshi Sawhney. The measure is being taken for the maintenance of peace and law and order, it said. However, all emergency and essential services shall remain exempted from the order, it added.

ing, they added. A Sena leader said the outfit had planned the march as a reply to the announcement by Sikhs for Justice to mark the foundation day of Khalistan on April 29. Patiala Inspector General

of Police Rakesh Agarwal told reporters here that the situation was now under control. "We have called for a force from outside. A peace committee meeting has been called by the Deputy Commissioner," he said, adding restoring peace in the area was the priority for police at present.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann termed the incident unfortunate and said he was in touch with the state police chief.

"The incident of clashes in Patiala is deeply unfortunate. I have spoken to the DGP; peace has been restored in the area. We are closely monitoring the situation and will not let anyone create disturbance in the state," Mann said in a tweet.

He said Punjab's peace and harmony are of utmost importance.

ED attaches assets of ex-Odisha IFoS officer in money laundering case

New Delhi, Apr 29 (PTD):

Assets worth Rs 29.83 lakh of a former Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer of Odisha have been attached as part of a money laundering investigation against him linked to an alleged disproportionate assets case, the ED said on Friday.

A provisional order for attaching the properties has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against the officer, Abhay Kant Pathak, it said.

Pathak last served as the additional principal chief conservator of forest (plan, programme and afforestation) in the Odisha government. Pathak, a 1987-batch IFoS officer, was compulsorily retired by the Centre on the recommendation of the Odisha government following the registration of a vigilance case for alleged possession of disproportionate assets against him in November 2020.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) case stems from this Odisha vigilance bureau FIR that alleged Pathak misused his official position and amassed ill-gotten wealth to an extent of Rs 9.35 crore.

The ED, in a statement, said the probe found that Pathak invested his allegedly ill-gotten income, which was over and above his known sources of income, in acquiring various immovable properties and in bank investments in his and in the name of his family members.

Pathak is accused of misusing his official position and amassed ill-gotten wealth to an extent of Rs 9.35 crore.

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Dholpur hottest at 46.5 deg C**Jaipur, Apr 29 (PTD):**

Rajasthan broiled under severe heat on Friday with Dholpur being the hottest at 46.5 degrees Celsius as the IMD predicted the heatwave will continue for the next three to four days causing a further rise in temperatures.

Night temperatures at many places in the state hovered around the 30-degree mark. Bundi town recorded a night temperature of 31.2 degrees Celsius, Jaipur 31.1 degrees Celsius, Ajmer 30.5 degrees Celsius and Banswara 30.3 degrees



Celsius. According to the India Meteorological Department, Jodhpur and Bikaner districts are likely to record maximum temperatures between 45 and 47 degrees Celsius on May 1.

Decision on new morcha with Azam Khan later: Shivpal

Farrukhabad (UP), Apr 29 (PTD):

Amid a widening rift with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, senior socialist leader Shivpal Singh Yadav on Friday did not rule out forming a front with jailed SP leader Azam Khan.

When asked by a reporter about the chances of him and Khan forming a new morcha, Yadav said, "A decision on this will be taken at the right time... after he comes out of jail." He said he will discuss the matter with party leaders after Eid. Azam Khan's bail plea is expected to come up in the Supreme Court on May 2. The 10-time MLA from Rampur Sadar is in Sitapur jail for over the past two years in connection with multiple cases.

Talking to media after inaugu-

rating a petrol pump here, Shivpal Yadav reiterated that he was not joining the BJP. He had earlier hit out at Akhilesh's remarks alluding to the former's apparent closeness to the ruling BJP, and dared the SP chief to expel him from the legislature party.

"Under his leadership, the Samajwadi Party's (SP) approach of launching a struggle for people's causes is nowhere to be seen today," he said in an apparent dig at Akhilesh.

Shivpal, who is Akhilesh's uncle and heads own Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) (PSPL), won the recent Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls on an SP ticket. Speaking in favour of Azam Khan, the PSPL chief said he is being harassed over "small cases".

Intense heat makes Delhi sweat**New Delhi, Apr 29 (PTD):**

The ongoing heatwave intensified over Delhi on Friday, with the mercury setting near 46 degrees Celsius in many parts. The Safdarjung observatory -- Delhi's base station -- recorded a maximum temperature of 43.5 degrees Celsius for a second day on the trot. The mercury leaped to 46.4 degrees Celsius at Sports Complex, Ridge (45.7 degrees Celsius), Mungerhupur (45.9 degrees Celsius), Najafgarh (45.9 degrees Celsius) and Tiparpura (45.9 degrees Celsius) recorded the maximum temperature five to seven notches above normal.

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to consider its decision to not lower the cut-off marks for admissions to Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) while taking note that over 9000 seats are vacant.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli also took note of the fact that the last date for BDS admissions has been extended to May 15 from April 11 and the Dental Council of India has recommended the Centre reduce the cut-off marks.

The bench said, Since the last date of admission has been extended, having

Jignesh Mevani gets bail in policewoman 'assault' case

Barpeta, Apr 28 (PTD):

Gujarat's Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani was given bail by a court in Assam's Barpeta district on Friday in a case where he was accused of assaulting a policewoman while being brought by a police posse from Guwahati to Kokrajhar.

Barpeta District and Sessions judge Paresh Chakraborty granted bail to Mevani on a Personal Recognition (PR) bond of Rs 1,000 in the case filed at the Barpeta Road police station. The court had heard both Mevani's lawyer and the public prosecutor on Thursday on the bail application and reserved judgement for Friday.

Jignesh Mevani, an independent MLA from Gujarat had been picked up by a posse from Assam police last week from Gujarat and arrested in a case against him for a purported tweet on Prime Minister Narendra Modi where he had claimed

that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "considered Godse as God". The MLA from Vadgam seat in Banaskantha, who has pledged his support to the Congress, had used the same tweet to also urge Modi to appeal for communal harmony during his visit to Gujarat, the FIR at Kokrajhar Police Station, which was accessed by PTI, said. After being released on bail in the case on his tweet, the Dalit leader from Gujarat was rearrested after being charged with assaulting a policewoman who was part of the police party which accompanied him to Kokrajhar; a complaint for which had been registered in Barpeta.

Bihar cop suspended after video of him getting massage by woman goes viral

Saharsa (Bihar), Apr 29 (PTD):

long, the bare-chested official can be seen with two women, one of them sitting next to him and the other massaging his neck, shoulders and back. According to police sources, the women were related to an accused in the rape case of a nine-year-old girl. They had allegedly sought the policeman's help to secure bail for their jailed relative.

In the video, the official can be seen talking languidly over his mobile phone, apparently to a lawyer.

He can be heard saying "I am sending to you two women with some money, Aadhar card and copies of documents. They are very poor. Please help them. I have ended up spending Rs 10,000 from my own pocket in their case".

SC asks Centre to consider afresh lowering of cut-off marks for BDS courses in NEET-UG 2021

New Delhi, Apr 29 (PTD):

regards to the extent of vacant seats and decision of this court, it will be appropriate if the issue pertaining to percentile is reconsidered by the Central government afresh. We accordingly request the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to take a fresh look in terms of the provisions within a period of one week.

The top court was hearing a PIL of aspiring dentists who had appeared in the NEET-UG examinations for conducting a fresh mop-up round counselling based on the reduced cut-off marks as recommended by the Dental Council to fill up

the vacant seats in the colleges for the academic session of 2021-22.

Senior advocate PS Patwaria submitted that till date out of the 27,698 seats around 9000 are still vacant for the BDS courses and referred to earlier decisions of the government when it had lowered the cut-off marks including in 2019-20.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati submitted that a decision was taken on April 8 to not reduce the cut-off marks to which the bench said that at that time the last date of admission was April 11 but now it has been extended to May 15.

Mumbai-based realtor Sanjay Chhabria sent to CBI custody till May 6

Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

probe into the matter. The CBI said his custody was required as the offence was serious and the investigation was at a critical stage.

During investigation into the case, the criminal complicity of Chhabria emerged as an accused in the case. He had allegedly diverted loans worth Rs 3,094 crore that were sanctioned to his companies by Kapil Wadhwan of DHFL and Yes Bank, founded by Rana Kapoor, it said. Both Kapoor and Wadhwan are accused in the case. The duo is currently in judicial custody.

Security personnel attempt to stop farmers during a protest against Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) over power cuts, outside the residence of Minister of Power of Punjab Harbhajan Singh ETO, on the outskirts of Amritsar, Friday.

speeches against the government.

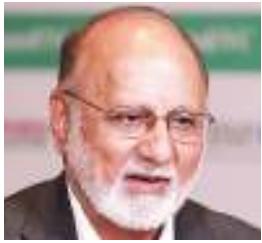
On Thursday, opposition parties in Punjab had hit out at the Aam Aadmi Party government over "massive"

power outages at many places in the state amid the scorching heat, accusing it of having failed to fulfil its promise of providing round-the-clock electricity to people.

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BRIEF

Shortage



New Delhi: Hero Electric on Friday said it had zero dispatches to dealers in April, hit by the ongoing global semiconductor shortage that led to stoppage of production. CEO Sohinder Gill said we are using this time to enhance plant capacity to increase production volumes.

Directors

New Delhi: IDBI Bank on Friday said its board has approved the appointment of two government nominee directors with effect from April 28. The government nominee directors are Manoj Sahay, Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor; and Sushil Kumar Singh, Director, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, according to a regulatory filing.

Selling

New Delhi: Auto components maker Varroc Engineering Ltd (VEL) on Friday said it is selling its four-wheeler lighting systems operations in the Americas and Europe to France's Compagnie Plastic Omnium SE for 600 million euros (over Rs 4,830 crore). The divestment is part of VEL's strategy to align its resources with the high value and high growth primary markets in China, India, and the two-wheeler sector globally.

Hikes

New Delhi: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on Friday said it will hike prices of its compact SUV Urban Cruiser and premium hatchback Glanza from May 1, 2022 to offset the increase in input costs. At present, the Urban Cruiser is priced between Rs 8.88-11.58 lakh while the Glanza is tagged at Rs 6.39-9.96 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi), depending on the variants.

Profit

New Delhi: Varun Beverages Ltd, PepsiCo's largest franchise bottler, has reported a nearly two-fold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 271.09 crore for the first quarter ended March 2022, driven by volume growth and improved revenue. The company, which follows the calendar year as its financial year, had posted a net profit of Rs 136.75 crore during the January-March quarter a year ago.

Growth

New Delhi: French spirits major Pernod Ricard witnessed a strong growth of 19 per cent in the Indian market in March quarter on the back of a "solid premiumisation" in its portfolio. Some of its key brands such as Royal Stag, Blenders Pride and 100 Pipers had a very dynamic performance in the domestic market, the company said in its Q3 FY22 sales data released.

Structural reforms, price stability key for sustained growth

Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

Structural reforms and price stability are the prerequisites for achieving a medium-term steady economic growth of 6.5-8.5 per cent, according to a RBI report.

The Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2021-22 also emphasised that timely re-balancing of monetary and fiscal policy should be the first step in the journey towards sustained growth.

RBI said the report reflects the views of the contributors and not of the central bank.

The report has suggested structural reforms, including enhancing access to litigation free low-cost land, raising the quality of labour through public expenditure on education and health and Skill India Mission, and scaling up



R&D activities with an emphasis on innovation and technology.

Further, the report recommended creating an enabling environment for startups and unicorns, rationalisation of subsidies that promote inefficiencies, and encouraging urban agglomerations by improving the housing and physical infrastructure.

India suffered among the biggest pandemic induced losses in the world in terms of output, lives and livelihoods, which may take years to recover, it added.

"Economic activity has barely recovered to pre-COVID levels even after two years. India's economic rebound also faces difficult challenges from the legacy of deep-rooted structural bottlenecks as well as the scars of the pandemic," it said.

As per the report, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has also dampened the momentum of recovery, with its impact transmitting through record high commodity prices, weaker global growth outlook and tighter global financial conditions.

Concerns surrounding de-globalisation impacting future trade, capital flows and supply chains have amplified uncertainties for the business environment, it added.

Rupee surges 18 paise at 76.43 against USD, bullion rises

Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

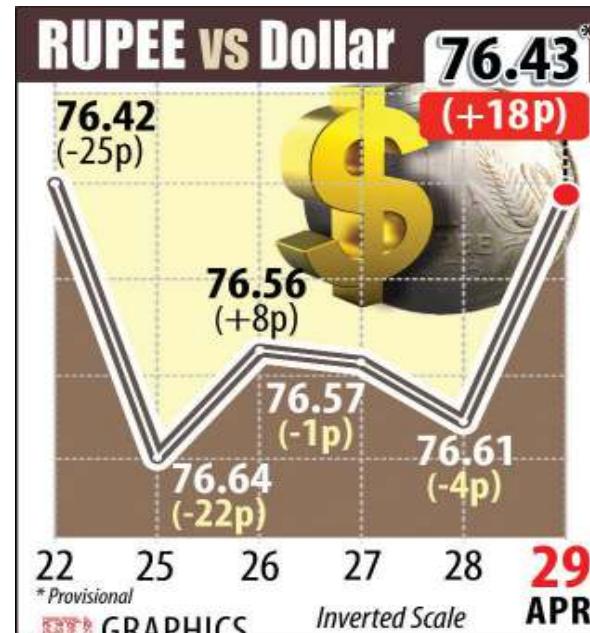
The rupee appreciated 18 paise to settle at 76.43 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking a weak greenback overseas and fresh foreign fund inflows.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 76.62 against the US dollar. It moved in the range of 76.63 to 76.29 during the day trade.

The rupee finally closed at 76.43, registering a rise of 18 paise over its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 76.61 against the US currency.

According to HDFC Securities Research Analyst Dilip Parmar, the rupee appreciated on the expectation of better inflows, a retreat in the dollar index and a rebound in risk assets.



*Market participants are expecting good inflows in LIC IPO after the recent oversubscription of Campus Activewear," Parmar said.

Moreover, the rupee has shown resilience among

Bank credit likely to grow at 4-year high of 11-12% in FY-23



Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

"Healthy economic growth and budgetary support from the government should lift bank credit growth by 200-300 basis points to 11-12 per cent this fiscal," Crisil Ratings said in the report.

The higher credit growth expectation is also supported by the improved resilience of the banking system, it added.

Its Senior Director and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer Krishnan Sitaraman said the biggest difference expected this fiscal is the upshift in the corporate credit growth trajectory, which is likely to double to 8-9 per cent.

"The Union Budget pegs public capex outlay at around Rs 7.5 lakh crore, a significant increase over the last fiscal, with a sharp focus on public infrastructure.

In the fiscal ended March 2022, bank advances have likely grown at 9-10 per cent.

Motorola is adding yet another power-packed smartphone to its g series-franchise, the moto g52, a smartphone loaded with premium features and stunning performance. With the revolutionary pOLED 90Hz FHD+ display which enables slimmest bezels for maximum view along with an immersive viewing experience with vivid colors, contrast & great viewing angles. It is also more durable than regular OLED/AMOLED displays – it is truly the best OLED technology there is. All of this enables you to bring your favorite content to life. The phone also comes with a massive 360Hz touch sampling rate and 25% extra color gamut with DCI-P3 technology. It also has DC dimming and 5SGS Blue Light and Motion blur reduction

certification. The moto g52 is designed with the most intricate detailing that gives it an elegant touch and feel. Measuring just 7.99mm thin and 169g light, it is India's slimmest and lightest smartphone in the segment. With two massive stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos®, immerse yourself in true multi-dimensional sound. You can enjoy listening to your favorite playlist with improved bass, and cleaner

vocals, even at higher volumes. Besides that, the moto g52 ensures a rich ad-free Android 12, with assured upgrade to Android 13 and 3 years of security updates. It further packs a 50MP quad function camera system with an 8MP Ultra-wide camera to capture pictures from any angle and in any light. And the Quad Pixel technology lets you get 4x better low light sensitivity for sharper, more vibrant photos.

Govt may not auction 27.5-28.5 Ghz band

Leave it for satellite firms

New Delhi, Apr 29 (PTD):

The government may not auction spectrum frequency range between 27.5-28.5 gigahertz and leave it for satellite services, according to official sources.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) had recommended a base price for this frequency range and suggested that it can be used for both mobile as well as satellite services. Two official sources acknowledged that Department of Telecom (DoT) is considering auctioning spectrum only up to 27.5 GHz as sharing between the two services is difficult. "Trai also understands that it is difficult for both 5G and satel-



lite transmitters to work side by side. We are going ahead with an auction of only up to 27.5 GHz," an official source said.

The official said the government is looking if Earth Stations In Motion (ESIM) can be allowed in 27.5-28.5 GHz, which is available for in-flight and maritime connectivity, but meanwhile there are no plans to auction this fre-

quency range. A senior DoT official said that there are several views within the department and nothing is final yet. "Digital Communications Commission (DCC) will take a call on the matter. It will send reference back to Trai and based on Trai's response DCC will firm up its view. The final decision will be taken by the Cabinet. DCC will only

share its recommendation to the Cabinet. There is nothing final yet. Everything is in fluid stage," the officer who did not wish to be named told PTI. E-mail query sent to DoT elicited no immediate reply. Trai has mooted a mega auction plan valued at over Rs 7.5 lakh crore at the base price across multiple bands for radio waves allocated over 30 years.

The regulator has recommended that the millimeter wave spectrum between 24.25-28.5 GHz is going to be used for capacity requirement, its deployment is not likely to be ubiquitous rather it is more likely to be kind of hotspots or urban micro cells. Therefore it suggests both mobile service stations and Satellite Earth Station Gateway (Earth to Space) can co-exist in 27.5-28.5 GHz frequency range.

AAHAR FAIR



Visitors at a stall during the AAHAR food and hospitality fair, organised by India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Friday.

Sensex tumbles over 460 points on selling in energy, banking stocks

Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):



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KFC makes match time crispier with its Match Day Specials

Mumbai, Apr 29:

Bring out the jerseys, call your gang over and get ready to cheer on your favorite teams. And KFC promises to be the best match viewing partner with its Super 4s and Super 6s Match Day Specials. The Super 4s and Super 6s offers are available as Buckets or Meals options and include your all-time favorite Hot & Crispy chicken, Chicken Strips and Chicken Popcorn. As the name suggests, the Super 4s and Super 6s Buckets come with 4 and 6 pieces of Hot & Crispy and Chicken Strips each. And if your cricket-watching squad gets bigger, then you could go in for the Meal option, that comes with additional Chicken popcorn, Fries and Pepsi. But that's not all. For all the chicken

On way to reaching USD 300 bn worth electronic goods manufacturing

Bengaluru, Apr 29 (PTD):

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said the country is already manufacturing electronic goods worth USD 76 billion and is on the way to reaching USD 300 billion. He also said developing a semiconductor industry is not a sprint but a marathon and that the government is for it. "We are already USD 76 billion in electronics manufacturing and are on the way to USD 300 billion. The way smartphone usage and the 5G industry is growing, it's going to see a very high growth for semiconductors in the coming years," Vaishnaw, who holds the Electronics and Communication as well as the Railways port-

folio, said at the inaugural session of the Semicon India-2022 here. About developing a semiconductor industry, he said, "we are prepared for the pursuance required. We are prepared for the sincere partnership between industry, government, academia and research, which is required for the sustained development of the semiconductor industry." Noting the many coun-

tries are offering incentives to the semiconductor industries, the Union Minister said India has offered a substantial incentive. "But the big differentiator is that we are committed to create and augment our talent pool by 85,000 semiconductor professionals over the next 10 years. We have also tied up with global institutions," the minister explained.

Sohum Shah is on cloud nine with 'Dahad' announcement

Actor-producer Sohum Shah, who is known for his work in films like 'Tumbbad', 'Talvar' and 'Ship of Theseus' and the series 'Maharani', is thrilled with the announcement of his latest project 'Dahad'.

'Dahad' is produced by Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti's Tiger Baby in association with Excel Entertainment.

The project which was announced on Thursday as part of Prime Video's upcoming slate on the occasion of its fifth anniversary in India, stars Sonakshi Sinha, Vijay Varma, Gulshan Devaiah and Sohum.

Sharing his excitement, Sohum said, "This is a special time, really, as we've just wrapped up



'Sanaa' and the second season of 'Maharani'. And now I am feeling absolutely thrilled as we fi-

nally announce 'Dahaad' today."

"It's been a pretty crazy ride, in terms of the rapid physical transformation I had to undergo for my role as a cop right after Maharani. And as always, super excited to come back to OTT - I hope Amazon Prime Video audiences love every bit of it", he added.

Meanwhile, Sohum has an exciting line-up in the capacity of an actor and a producer. He has 'Maharani 2', the feature film 'Sanaa', his production venture 'CrazeXy', his ten film horror anthology and several other developments in the pipeline.

Actress Keerthy Suresh

has begun promoting her next big Telugu release 'Sarkaru Vaari Paata'.

As this is her first collaboration with superstar Mahesh Babu, the excited actress has joined the team in their promotional phase.

'Sarkaru Vaari Paata' billed as a commercial action drama, stars Mahesh Babu in a role unlike any other. Keerthy Suresh, who plays his love interest in the film, joined the team to promote the film on Thursday by participating in a video interview.

The makers have enlisted Keerthy Suresh to handle the first round of promotions while Mahesh Babu is on vacation and will return in the first week of May.

The video interview featuring Keerthy Suresh will be released soon in order to increase the buzz surrounding the film's release. Mahesh Babu is reportedly having a story session with 'RRR' director S.S. Rajamouli about their next project while on a short trip to Dubai. Directed by Parasuram Petla, the movie 'Sarkaru Vaari Paata' is slated for its grand release on May 12.



Keerthy Suresh kickstarts promotions for 'Sarkaru Vaari Paata'

Jayashree Venketaraman wishes to play a cop on-screen

TV actress Jayashree Venketaraman, who recently made headlines for wearing a bikini and posting her pictures on Instagram speaks about the role she would love to play on-screen.

She says: "I personally believe that a role is a role at the end of the day, but a role that causes a little anxiety in me, that is the role I'd like to do next. Something that I haven't played yet, a kind of emotion that I haven't tapped into a character, could be dark or it could be grey, neither too good, neither too bad."

The actress rose to the fame after essaying the protagonist in popular television show, 'Na Bole Tum Na Maine Kuch Kaha'.

Jayashree feels its fine to play a little grey character as that's how we are in



reality. She adds: "I think the characters I have seen so far are all, most of the times black or white but in reality that's not the case. We are all a little grey. Some call it bad, some call it practical. I could be a completely normal girl and play these different shades at a time."

She is looking forward to essay a role promoting women empowerment in the society.

"What could be extremely exciting is playing an ambitious, unmarried cop with a superpower to fight the evils of the world," she shares. Jayashree has also featured in shows like 'Beend Banooqaa Ghodi Chadhunga' and 'Zindagi Khatti Meethi'.



Haseena Malik becomes every little child's inspiration



Imprinting into our lives with its love, and passion, Punjabi folk billboard hit- Buhe Bariyan has been no less than a sweet delicacy all through spring. Set to harbour around our hearts forever, Bollywood's favourite Baby Doll- Kanika Kapoor, is now out with her own rendition of this romantic melody.

Narrating a tale of uniting with one's beloved, displaying ethereal visuals nevertheless, Buhe Bariyan explores a surreal romantic journey. Composed by famed composers Gourav Dasgupta and Shruti Rane, we hear a resounding track in the words of acclaimed lyricist- Kunwar Juneja.

Compelling you to fall in love with a heartwarming tale of smitten birds- Kanika has prepared a cracker of a song for her fans, and it is sure to hit the right airwaves. The song encapsulates the emotion of love beautifully and talks of togetherness and trust. Kanika's sizzling outfit in the music video will make you go 'wow' and wanting for more!

So, get ready to plug your earphones on, because your favorite romantic melody of the year just got better!

Kanika reimagines 'Buhe Bariyan' with her ethereal spark

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Rendered by none other than Kanika herself, the track transcends beyond space and time leaving us with something utterly beautiful.

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So, get ready to plug your earphones on, because your favorite romantic melody of the year just got better!

HOROSCOPE SATURDAY APRIL 30

Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

Today's planetary energies will be very demanding, Aquarius. As you agonize over whether or not you're up to "standard," the planets, in a very cheeky way, respond that you are not! That's because you're moving too quickly. The change in direction that you're making at the moment is profound, yet you're trying to take it lightly.

Gemini: May 22 – June 21

If you admit you've made a mistake, people are more likely to forgive you. You have a confrontational day ahead, Gemini. There's no doubt that you're in a stationary position concerning your career. That may be crimping your style somewhat, financially speaking, but you'll make better progress if you assume your responsibility and see your mistakes.

Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22

Today the celestial energy will be trying to teach you something, Libra, specifically, how to share with others. But first you must get to a place where you truly want to share something of yourself. Have you examined your tendency to run away? You seem to be afraid that they'll overwhelm you or that you'll owe them something.

Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

You face a day of some conflict, Taurus. Nevertheless, the discord will prove quite useful. This is probably one of the best opportunities in recent weeks to become aware of some family matters. These matters may have been occurring behind your back for some time now. News about a bit of past personal history could surprise you, and perhaps even upset you for a short time.

Cancer: June 22 – July 22

You may have been wishing for some recognition and appreciation lately. Perhaps you had your eye on a promotion at work. The day ahead will show you which path will be the most productive. In order to succeed, Cancer, you have to plan everything carefully and focus on one goal.

Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

Today's energy will be making you think only about your relationships, Scorpio. It isn't easy to have relationships with others, as you may have noticed. You could find yourself battling some of those same old doubts and insecurities that you thought you'd left behind. Your desire for a higher standard of living will have you preoccupied with money concerns in the middle of the day.

Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

There is some probability that you'll want to escape from reality today, Aries. You aren't anxious to face a situation that demands that you commit yourself. Is this because you're afraid that you lack the ability to assume this new responsibility? This is an honest-to-goodness chance to fulfill your dreams of success.

Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

If you happen to be training for a new trade, learning a new technique, or perhaps you're being evaluated after an internship period, you can expect these pursuits to conclude on a high note. You may have been somewhat afraid that those in authority would frown upon your originality, Leo.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Some of your demons may come back to haunt you today, Sagittarius. You could find yourself battling some of those same old doubts and insecurities that you thought you'd left behind. Your desire for a higher standard of living will have you preoccupied with money concerns in the middle of the day.

Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

You face a day of some conflict, Taurus. Nevertheless, the discord will prove quite useful. This is probably one of the best opportunities in recent weeks to become aware of some family matters. These matters may have been occurring behind your back for some time now.

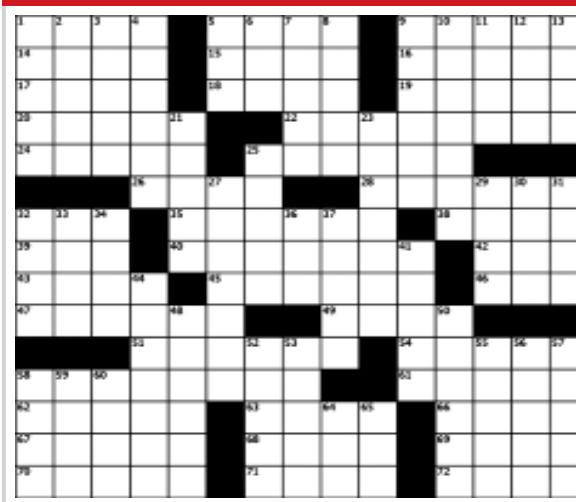
Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

Although you might find the day ahead somewhat stressful, it's a key day in your professional evolution. Since you've lacked inspiration lately, you must not miss the opportunity you'll be presented with today. You could find out about an internship in a new field, which may lead to a new passion or commitment.

Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

It might seem like you no longer completely believe in what you're doing, Capricorn, perhaps because you've been going a little quickly in your quest to get what you need. It's very possible that your social life has slowed down a lot now, just when you decided to go full speed in this domain. Surprising what the astral energy can do, isn't it? Don't get upset. You can't do a thing about it.

CROSSWORD



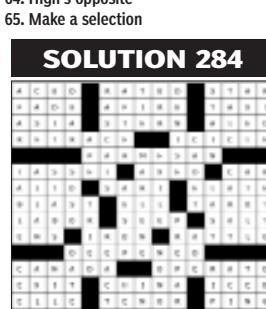
ACROSS

- 1. Lids
- 5. Seafood choice
- 9. Corrects copy
- 14. Rock's _____ Clapton
- 15. Army camp
- 16. Fable collector
- 17. Distribute
- 18. Move slightly
- 19. Christmas visitor
- 20. Amid
- 22. AWOL soldier
- 24. Proportion
- 25. Decide
- 26. Castro's country
- 28. Compositions
- 32. Earth's star
- 35. Erase
- 38. Snare
- 39. _____ loss for words (2 wds.)
- 40. Attacks
- 42. Poetic "before"
- 43. Social insect

DOWN

- 45. Shooting range feature
- 46. Total up
- 47. Hebrew greeting
- 49. Greek mythology figure
- 51. Blackboard cleaner
- 54. Take off
- 58. Yearly (2 wds.)
- 61. Corroded
- 62. Got up
- 63. Perform alone
- 66. Store
- 67. More mature
- 68. On
- 69. Additional
- 70. Shabby
- 71. Salamander
- 72. At no time, poetically
- 73. Closet wood
- 74. Scent
- 75. Plane's captain
- 76. Picturesque
- 77. Major network
- 78. Ship deserter
- 79. Stage remark
- 80. French cap
- 81. Artists' stands
- 82. Most cherished
- 83. Common contraction
- 84. Carry around
- 85. Mast
- 86. Cheese type
- 87. Pittsburgh player
- 88. Hot sauce
- 89. Groom's assistant (2 wds.)

SOLUTION 284



Sindhu enters BAC semifinals



Manila, Apr 29 (PTI):

Double Olympic medalist P V Sindhu eked out a thrilling win over China's He Bing Jiao to enter the women's singles semifinals of the Badminton Asia Championships here on Friday.

With this win, Sindhu assured herself of a medal in the continental individual championships, which is making a return after a gap of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The fourth-seeded

Sindhu, who had claimed a bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition, got the better of the fifth seeded Chinese 21-9 13-21 21-19 in a quarterfinal match that lasted an hour and 16 minutes. The 26-year-old from Hyderabad, who won two super 300 titles at Syed Modi International and Swiss Open, will face top seeded Japanese Akane Yamaguchi in the semifinals.

World number 7 Sindhu came into the match with a 7-9 head-to-head record against Bing Jiao, whom she had beaten twice in the last two meetings. It was at the Tokyo Games that Sindhu had last played Bing Jiao on way to her bronze at the Olympics and the Indian ace kept her nerves in the closing stages to once again emerge victorious in a pulsating contest.

The former world champion made her intent clear from the start as she galloped to an 11-2 lead in no time and then kept things under her firm grip to take a 1-0 lead in the match.

Bing Jiao came back strongly after the change of sides as errors flew from Sindhu's racquet. The Chinese soon moved to a 6-4 lead before managing a slender 11-10 advantage. The world number 9 looked for angles in her returns, while Sindhu was guilty of making too many errors.

After the break, the Chinese reeled off five points on the trot to grab a 19-12 lead to eventually roar back into the contest.

In the decider, it was 2-2 early on as Sindhu looked to step up the pace. Soon she unleashed her cross-court smashes to gather points, moving to a massive 11-5 lead going into the final change of ends.

Bing Jiao, however, scripted a recovery after the interval to narrow down the deficit to 15-16 as Sindhu let the momentum slip despite being 15-9 up at one stage.

It was 18-16 next with Sindhu's slice going to the net. The Indian then unleashed a body smash before grabbing four match points with Bing Jiao erring on the back-court. The Chinese saved three match points before Sindhu converted the fourth to seal the contest in her favour.

RR aim to continue winning momentum against MI

Navi Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTI):

On a three-match winning streak, Rajasthan Royals have the momentum as well as source of inspiration when they face bottom-placed and out-of-reckoning Mumbai Indians in an Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

The Royals will be celebrating the extraordinary life of their lone IPL title-winning captain Shane Warne, who died last month in Thailand, during this game. A win would give a perfect tribute to the legendary Australian spinner under whose inspirational leadership, the Royals had won the 2008 title.

While Rajasthan, placed second in the standings, have lost only two games and won six, Mumbai are already out of contention for a play-off berth, having lost all their eight matches so far.

After mustering just 144 runs in their last game against Royal Challengers Bangalore, the Royals would be hoping for an improvement from their batters.

The Royals' bowlers have been in top form as the pacers as well as the spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal, the



Kishan need to find ways to get going and the same holds good for the middle-order batters. Kishan, with 199 runs from eight outings, has not justified his Rs 15.25 crore price tag.

Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma and Devald Brewis have had their moments of individual brilliance, but they need to fire in unison. One of the top-order batters will need to score big if Mumbai have to get a big score or chase down a stiff target.

Another concern for Mumbai is the poor run of form of all-rounder Kieron Pollard who is no longer the 'finisher' that he once used to be and the burly West Indian will need to display his six-hitting abilities. Mumbai's bowling has been even a bigger concern. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been at his best but has lacked support from the likes of Jaydev Unadkat, Daniel Sams and Riley Meredith.

If Mumbai again opt for a pace-heavy attack, the pacers will need to hit the right lengths to stop Buttler and company and will also need support from rookie off-spinner Hrithik Shokeen.

Chopping and changing isn't ideal, says KKR's Southee



Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTI):

New Zealand pacer Tim Southee opened up on Kolkata Knight Riders' struggles with their opening pair in batting, saying chopping and changing isn't ideal but the team is still trying to find the right combination in the ongoing IPL. KKR have used four different opening combinations in this edition but didn't bear fruit as the team suffered its fifth loss on the trot on Thursday night to lie at the seventh position in the points table. "It's hard when you haven't had the wins you wanted. After a big auction, we are still trying to find the right combinations," Southee said during the post-match press conference following KKR's four-wicket loss to Delhi Capitals.

Ronaldo salvages 1-1 draw for Man United against Chelsea

Manchester, Apr 29 (AP):

Cristiano Ronaldo's fifth goal in three games salvaged a point for Manchester United in a 1-1 draw against Chelsea that further damaged his team's chances of a top-four finish in the Premier League.

Ronaldo ran onto a ball over the Chelsea defense from Nemanja Matic and delivered a clinical finish in the 62nd minute, two minutes after Marcos Alonso gave the visitors the lead.

Reece James later curled a shot against the post for Chelsea, which dominated the first half but found United goalkeeper David de Gea in fine form.

With only three games left to play in the league, United stayed in sixth place five points behind fourth-place Arsenal and having played two matches more than its rival for Champions League qualification. Tottenham is between the two teams, in



the fifth spot, with three more points than United and two games in hand.

Chelsea consolidated third place and is six points above Arsenal.

Ronaldo came into the game having scored a hat

trick against Norwich and another goal against Arsenal in his previous two games. On 17 goals, Ronaldo is tied with Son Heung-min in second place in the Premier League scoring chart be-

hind Mohamed Salah.

"Not only the goal Cristiano scored but his whole performance, his attitude at age of 37, this is not normal to do that," interim United manager Ralf Rangnick said.

Robin Singh backs struggling Kishan, Rohit to come good in remaining games

Navi Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

Mumbai Indians batting coach Robin Singh on Friday backed his out-of-form skipper Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan to find their touch in the remaining matches of IPL-15.

Kishan, who was bought by the five-time champions for Rs 15.25 crore, started well but soon suffered a slump in form and has so far failed to justify his price-tag. The Jharkhand dasher has managed to score just 199 runs from eight matches at an average of 24.43. "We've addressed a few things that we feel that he (Kishan) can improve on. Obviously it's about getting better during the course of the game," Robin said at the virtual pre-match press conference ahead of their game against Rajasthan Royals.

"As you know, he (Kishan) started very well. But he fell away a little bit. We sort of revisited the entire tournament, we addressed a few things and we're hoping that he'll get back the same sort of form that he started with," added Robin.



Robin. Rohit is also battling a prolonged lean patch and has managed just 153 runs from eight outings, averaging 19.13. But Robin was confident that the star opener would come back strong. "As a batsman you need to address what you think is important to you. I think he's (Rohit) put in a lot of work. We've spent a lot of time with him, at the nets, at the ground. And I think like Ishan Kishan, we have addressed what he needs to do." "As an individual, as a senior batsman, he knows his responsibility. So that is something he has put his hand up for and I'm pretty sure he'll come back very strongly," said Robin.

Titans look to continue 'Golden Touch', RCB seek Kohli's return to form

Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

Batting stalwart Virat Kohli's wretched form would once again come under scrutiny when Royal Challengers Bangalore face table-toppers Gujarat Titans in an Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

Kohli has scored a mere 128 runs in nine matches for RCB this season with 48 being his highest score. His promotion to opening slot in RCB's previous match after scoring back-to-back ducks too did not yield results as he was out for 9. Kohli's form has been one of the reasons for the inconsistent show of RCB who are currently at fifth spot with five wins from nine matches.

The Bengaluru-based team, though, is hoping that the former India captain would return to form soon with captain Faf du Plessis backing him after their last match.

On the other hand, the Titans have been the side to watch this IPL.



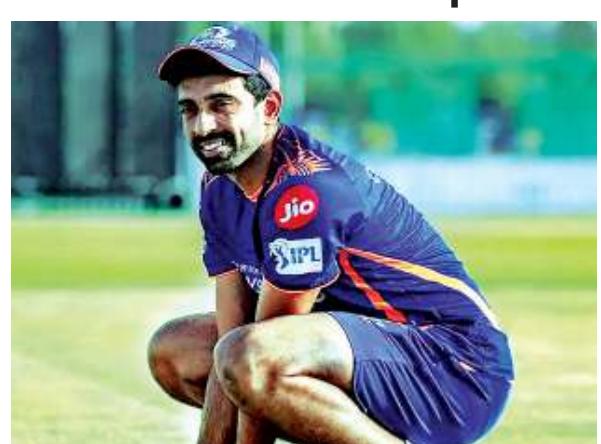
Whatever they have touched have turned to gold with unlikely match winners emerging every time they were in trouble.

With seven wins from eight matches and on a five-match winning streak, the Titans are the clear favourites to win Saturday's match. If they

do that, they will virtually book a play-off berth.

It is not that RCB do not have the batting depth but the problem for them is that they have not fired as a team on many occasions. Besides, Kohli's struggle, Australian Glenn Maxwell has blown hot and cold so far with just 124 runs from

Pacer Dhawal Kulkarni joins Mumbai Indians squad



Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

Frustrated by the unending struggle of its pacers, Mumbai Indians have brought in seasoned campaigner Dhawal Kulkarni, who may be considered for the remaining IPL games if he does well in the training sessions.

According to IPL sources, the 33-year-old right-arm pacer has joined the team's bubble and will be part of the team's training soon.

Kulkarni was part of the commentary team of the official broadcaster before being approached by the five-time champions.

Mumbai's pace spear-

head Jasprit Bumrah has conceded 229 runs from eight matches and has managed to take just five wickets.

The other pacers have also struggled badly this season. The performances of left-arm pacers Jaydev Unadkat (six wickets and 190 runs conceded from five matches) and Daniel Sams (six wickets and 209 runs conceded from five matches) have been pretty ordinary.

Unadkat was taken to task by legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni in the game against Chennai Super Kings, when he failed to defend 17 runs.

Rahul to PM on power crisis

NTAGI panel recommends inclusion of Covovax
In vaccination drive for 12-17 age group

New Delhi, Apr 29 (PTI):

which met on Friday has recommended that the vaccine can be used for 12-17 years age group," an official source said.

Serum Institute of India (SII) Director for Government and Regulatory Affairs Prakash Kumar Singh had written to the Union Health Ministry recently, requesting for Covovax's inclusion in the immunisation drive for those 12 years and above.

Singh had stated that the Pune-based firm wanted to provide Covovax to private hospitals at Rs 900 per dose plus GST and was waiting for directions to supply it to the Centre. However, the price of the vaccine for the government was not mentioned. The country began inoculating children aged 12-14 from March 16.



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CENTRAL Chronicle

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PAGE 11

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BRIEF

Muslims offer prayers on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, at Leisure Valley ground, in Gurugram, Friday.

Army Vice Chief

New Delhi: Lt Gen Bagavalli Somashekhar Raju will take over as the next vice chief of the Army Staff on May 1, the defence ministry said on Friday. Lt Gen Raju will succeed incumbent Lt Gen Manoj Pande who will take the reins of the 1.3 million-strong Army after Army Chief Gen MM Naravane completes his term on Saturday. A qualified helicopter pilot, Lt Gen Raju is currently serving as the Director General Military Operations and oversaw the Army's overall operational readiness in eastern Ladakh.

Pakistani arrested

Jammu: A 55-year-old Pakistani man was arrested along the Line of Control when he crossed into this side of the borderline in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Friday, officials said. Troops guarding the Line of Control (LoC) arrested the man who was moving under suspicious circumstances in forward area in Turkundi area, they said.

Farmer trampled

Bankura: A 51-year-old farmer was trampled to death by a wild elephant in West Bengal's Bankura district on Friday, police said. Tilak Sarkar, a resident of Baro Manchar in Barjora, went to the field at the daybreak to water his peanut crops, they said. At that time, the tusker attacked him from behind and trampled him, police said.

Fire erupts

Thane: A fire erupted at a godown where industrial oil was stored at a village in Bhiwandi of Maharashtra's Thane district on Friday, and no casualties were reported in the incident, a civic official said. The blaze broke out around 11.45 am at a godown in Oshia Mata Compound in Kalhar village, fire officer Amol Kini of the Bhiwandi Nizampur Municipal Corporation (BNMC) said.

Foreign currency

New Delhi: An Indian man travelling to Sharjah was caught by CISF personnel at the Delhi airport for allegedly trying to smuggle foreign currency worth about Rs 59 lakh by concealing it in his bag, an official said on Friday. The passenger was intercepted on the night of April 27 when he arrived at Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport to board an Air India flight.

Weather

High 44 Low 27

MARKET

NIFTY 17,102.55

SENSEX 57,060.87

BULLION

GOLD 51,764

SILVER 63,738

Patiala witnesses group clash over anti-Khalistan march

Cops fire in air**Patiala, Apr 29 (PTD):**

Two people were injured when stones were hurled as two groups clashed over an anti-Khalistan march here on Friday. Police fired in the air to bring the situation under control.

The clash took place outside the Kali Mata temple when members of an outfit that calls itself Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray) began a "Khalistan Murdabad March".

Some Sikh activists, including Nihangs, took out another march against the Sena event.

Near the Kali Mata temple, the two groups came face to face and hurled stones at each other. The temple gates were locked and police deployed in



Security personnel attempt to maintain law and order after a clash broke out between followers of Shiv Sena and pro-Khalistani organisations, near Kali Mata Mandir in Patiala, Friday.

large numbers to prevent the situation from escalating further in the city, po-

lice said. Two people, including a policeman, were injured, in the stone-pelt-

Patiala: Local authorities announced an 11-hour curfew in Punjab's Patiala district on Friday after four people were injured when two groups clashed over an anti-Khalistan march. The curfew will be enforced between 7 pm Friday and 6 am Saturday, according to an order issued by Patiala district magistrate Sakshi Sawhney. The measure is being taken for the maintenance of peace and law and order, it said. However, all emergency and essential services shall remain exempted from the order, it added.

ing, they added. A Sena leader said the outfit had planned the march as a reply to the announcement by Sikhs for Justice to mark the foundation day of Khalistan on April 29. Patiala Inspector General

of Police Rakesh Agarwal told reporters here that the situation was now under control. "We have called for a force from outside. A peace committee meeting has been called by the Deputy Commissioner," he said, adding restoring peace in the area was the priority for police at present.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann termed the incident unfortunate and said he was in touch with the state police chief.

"The incident of clashes in Patiala is deeply unfortunate. I have spoken to the DGP; peace has been restored in the area. We are closely monitoring the situation and will not let anyone create disturbance in the state," Mann said in a tweet.

He said Punjab's peace and harmony are of utmost importance.

ED attaches assets of ex-Odisha IFoS officer in money laundering case

New Delhi, Apr 29 (PTD):

Assets worth Rs 29.83 lakh of a former Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer of Odisha have been attached as part of a money laundering investigation against him linked to an alleged disproportionate assets case, the ED said on Friday.

A provisional order for attaching the properties has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against the officer, Abhay Kant Pathak, it said.

Pathak last served as the additional principal chief conservator of forest (plan, programme and afforestation) in the Odisha government. Pathak, a 1987-batch IFoS officer, was compulsorily

retired by the Centre on the recommendation of the Odisha government following the registration of a vigilance case for alleged possession of disproportionate assets against him in November 2020. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) case stems from this Odisha vigilance bureau FIR that alleged Pathak

"misused his official position and amassed ill-gotten wealth to an extent of Rs 9.35 crore". The ED, in a statement, said the probe found that Pathak "invested his allegedly ill-gotten income, which was over and above his known sources of income, in acquiring various immovable properties and in bank investments in his and in the name of his family members.

The brokerage has recently lowered India's real

Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

Rising cases are "early hints" of a fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic but do not pose any near-term risk to India's economic growth, a Japanese brokerage said on Friday.

However from a medium-term perspective, there are headwinds for growth like high inflation, weak private capex and slower global growth, Nomura said in a report.

"Near-term growth should be supported by continued normalisation as services catch up and due to lagged effects of easy monetary policy and government capex. However, high inflation, weak private capex and slower global growth are medium-term negatives," its analysts wrote.

The brokerage has recently lowered India's real

'Rising COVID cases early hints of 4th wave'

A healthcare worker collects a swab sample of a woman for Covid-19 testing, amid a surge in coronavirus cases, in Jammu, Friday.

GDP growth forecast to 7.4 per cent in FY23, down from the 8.4 per cent it expects the economy to clock in FY22.

COVID-19 cases are starting to pick up, with the 7-day moving average of daily cases up to 2,800 per day as on April 29 from less than 1,000 in mid-April, it said, adding that these are "early hints of a fourth wave". It is too early to view this as a sig-

nificant downside risk for growth, because economies are learning to live with the virus; newer variants are infectious but not as deadly; and there is reduced public and policy appetite for a return of severe restrictions," it said.

The potential fourth wave is a risk to monitor, it said, adding that the economic sensitivity to future waves should also wane.

The brokerage's activity normalisation index shows a broad-based improvement in activity in March, and when one excludes services which are rising fast after the third wave, all other key sectors have surpassed their pre-pandemic levels.

Aggregate demand and aggregate supply now stand at 15 percentage points and 9 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels.

Jignesh Mevani gets bail in policewoman 'assault' case

Barpeta, Apr 28 (PTD):

Gujarat's Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani was given bail by a court in Assam's Barpeta district on Friday in a case where he was accused of assaulting a policewoman while being brought by a police posse from Guwahati to Kokrajhar.

Barpeta District and Sessions judge Paresh Chakraborty granted bail to Mevani on a Personal Recognition (PR) bond of Rs 1,000 in the case filed at the Barpeta Road police station. The court had heard both Mevani's lawyer and the public prosecutor on Thursday on the bail application and reserved judgement for Friday.

Jignesh Mevani, an independent MLA from Gujarat had been picked up by a posse from Assam police last week from Gujarat and arrested in a case against him for a purported tweet on Prime Minister Narendra Modi where he had claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "considered Godse as God". The MLA from Vadgam seat in Banaskantha, who has pledged his support to the Congress, had used the same tweet to also urge Modi to appeal for communal harmony during his visit to Gujarat, the FIR at Kokrajhar Police Station, which was accessed by PTI, said. After being released on bail in the case on his tweet, the Dalit leader from Gujarat was rearrested after being charged with assaulting a policewoman who was part of the police party which accompanied him to Kokrajhar; a complaint for which had been registered in Barpeta.



Bihar cop suspended after video of him getting massage by woman goes viral

Saharsa (Bihar), Apr 29 (PTD):

long, the bare-chested official can be seen with two women, one of them sitting next to him and the other massaging his neck, shoulders and back. According to police sources, the women were related to an accused in the rape case of a nine-year-old girl. They had allegedly sought the policeman's help to secure bail for their jailed relative.

In the video, the official can be seen talking languidly over his mobile phone, apparently to a lawyer.

He can be heard saying "I am sending to you two women with some money, Aadhar card and copies of documents. They are very poor. Please help them. I have ended up spending Rs 10,000 from my own pocket in their case".

Rajasthan reels under heatwave

Dholpur hottest at 46.5 deg C**Jaipur, Apr 29 (PTD):**

Rajasthan broiled under severe heat on Friday with Dholpur being the hottest at 46.5 degrees Celsius as the IMD predicted the heatwave will continue for the next three to four days causing a further rise in temperatures.

Night temperatures at many places in the state hovered around the 30-degree mark. Bundi town recorded a night temperature of 31.2 degrees Celsius, Jaipur 31.1 degrees Celsius, Ajmer 30.5 degrees Celsius and Banswara 30.3 degrees



Celsius. According to the India Meteorological Department, Jodhpur and Bikaner districts are likely to record maximum temperatures between 45 and 47 degrees Celsius on May 1.

Intense heat makes Delhi sweat**New Delhi, Apr 29 (PTD):**

The ongoing heat intensified over Delhi on Friday, with the mercury setting near 46 degrees Celsius in many parts. The Safdarjung observatory -- Delhi's base station -- recorded a maximum temperature of 43.5 degrees Celsius for a second day on the trot. The mercury leaped to 46.4 degrees Celsius at Sports Complex, Ridge (45.7 degrees Celsius), Mungeshpur (45.9 degrees Celsius), Najafgarh (45.9 degrees Celsius) and Tiparpura (45.9 degrees Celsius) recorded the maximum temperature five to seven notches above normal.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrabhushan and Hima Kohli also took note of the fact that the last date for BDS admissions has been extended to May 15 from April 11 and the Dental Council of India has recommended the Centre review the cut-off marks.

The bench said, Since the last date of admission has been extended, having

regards to the extent of vacant seats and decision of this court, it will be appropriate if the issue pertaining to percentile is reconsidered by the Central government afresh.

We accordingly request the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to take a fresh look in terms of the provisions within a period of one week.

The top court was hearing a PIL of aspiring dentists who had appeared in the NEET-UG examinations for conducting a fresh mop-up round counselling based on the reduced cut-off marks as recommended by the Dental Council to fill up

the vacant seats in the colleges for the academic session of 2021-22.

Senior advocate PS Patwaria submitted that till date out of the 27,698 seats around 9000 are still vacant for the BDS courses and referred to earlier decisions of the government when it had lowered the cut-off marks including in 2019-20.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati submitted that a decision was taken on April 8 to not reduce the cut-off marks to which the bench said that at that time the last date of admission was April 11 but now it has been extended to May 15.

Mumbai-based realtor Sanjay Chhabria sent to CBI custody till May 6

Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTD):

probe into the matter. The CBI said his custody was required as the offence was serious and the investigation was at a critical stage.

During investigation into the case, the criminal complicity of Chhabria emerged as an accused in the case. He had allegedly diverted loans worth Rs 3,094 crore that were sanctioned to his companies by Kapil Wadhwan of DHFL and Yes Bank, founded by Rana Kapoor, it said. Both Kapoor and Wadhwan are accused in the case. The duo is currently in judicial custody.

Decision on new morcha with Azam Khan later: Shivpal

Farrukhabad (UP), Apr 29 (PTD):

rating a petrol pump here, Shivpal Yadav reiterated that he was not joining the BJP. He had earlier hit out at Akhilesh's remarks alluding to the former's apparent closeness to the ruling BJP, and dared the SP chief to expel him from the legislature party.

"Under his leadership, the Samajwadi Party's (SP) approach of launching a struggle for people's causes is nowhere to be seen today," he said in an apparent dig at Akhilesh.

Shivpal, who is Akhilesh's uncle and heads his own Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) (PSPL), won the recent Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls on an SP ticket. Speaking in favour of Azam Khan, the PSPL chief said he is being harassed over "small cases".

Talking to media after inaugu-

ral protest near residence of minister over electricity shortage

Amritsar, Apr 29 (PTD):

Different farmer groups held a protest near the residence of Punjab Power Minister Harbhajan Singh here on Friday against the alleged inadequate electricity supply to the farm sector. There was heavy barricading around the minister's house in New Amritsar locality.

The farmers, who were protesting under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, scuffled with police as they tried to break the barricades to reach Singh's house, police said. No one was injured in the scuffle, they said. Later, the protesters set up a makeshift stage near the minister's house and gave

speeches against the government.

On Thursday, opposition parties in Punjab had hit out at the Aam Aadmi Party government over "massive" power outages at many places in the state amid the scorching heat, accusing it of having failed to fulfil its promise of providing round-the-clock electricity to people.



Security personnel attempt to stop farmers during a protest against Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) over power cuts, outside the residence of Minister of Power of Punjab Harbhajan Singh ETO, on the outskirts of Amritsar, Friday.

Bhilai Trio from Coke Ovens Bag 1st Prize in Hazard Analysis Competition

At World Steel Safety Day celebrated by SSO, Ranchi

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 29: A team of three employees from SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Coke Ovens & Coal Chemicals Dept comprising of S Mazumdar, Rajesh Singh & Hemant Sahu have bagged the first prize in Hazard Analysis Competition organised as part of World Steel Safety Day celebrations by SAIL Safety Organisation (SSO). As many as 39 teams participated in the competition.

World Steel Safety Day was celebrated on Thursday in a befitting manner by SAIL Safety Organisation (SSO). The day is celebrated globally every year on April 28 under the aegis of World Steel Association. As a part of the celebration, a Hazard Analysis Competition - HazAn.Com



was organised for the employees of plants & units of SAIL, in which case studies on mitigating the hazards at the workplace were invited from the employees. Out of a total 39 entries received, 13 entries from the teams of employees were shortlisted, who made detailed presentation before a panel of judges in SSO, Ranchi.

The programme started with administering a safety pledge. Out of the short-listed teams, the team of S Mazumdar, Rajesh Singh & Hemant Sahu from Bhilai Steel Plant emerged as winner of the first prize in the competition. All three in the team are working in SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Coke Ovens & Coal Chemicals Dept.

Shiladitya Mazumdar is Chargeeman, Rajesh Singh is Technician Mechanical Maintenance and Hemant Sahu is Technician Electrical Maintenance in CO & CCD. It is worth mentioning that all three employees were selected for Prime Minister's Shram Shree Puraskar for Year 2017 as part of a group of six employees

from Coke Ovens.

Second position was bagged by team from Salem Steel Plant comprising P Somasundaram & S Matheswaran, while team of JD Mohapatra, AK Samantara & SK Das from Rourkela Steel Plant emerged as third. The winning teams were awarded by Nirvik Banerjee, Executive Director (RDCIS) in presence of S Vashishta, CGM (Safety), SSO and Atanu Mukherjee, GM I/c (Academic), MTI. The event was coordinated by Ashok Kumar Choudhary, Manager (SSO) with able support from SSO collective. Senior officers of SAIL-BSP management have congratulated the trio from Coke Ovens for their award winning presentation on the important topic of Hazard Analysis in safety.

Mayor instructs officials for demarcation of BMC's land



● In Semaria

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 29: Bhilai Municipal Corporation Mayor Neeraj Pal inspected the incinerator unit built in about 7000 square feet of land and took stock of the situation. He oversaw the process of disposal of dead animals.

He examined the map / layout and inspected the land transferred to the Corporation which is divided into different plots. The Mayor directed the health officer to get the demarcation of 70 acres of land which has been transferred to the BMC.

After demarcation, the Corporation will work to

secure the land and use it for various purposes. The work of preparing an action plan will also be done in this complex. It needs to be mentioned here that after the transfer of land to the Corporation, the land was not being used.

Mayor took it seriously and reached the spot along with the officials to conduct an inspection. Commissioner Prakash Surve, Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi, MiC members Ekansh Banchor, Sandeep Nirankari, Saket Chandrakar were also present during the inspection.

JJM review meeting held

Bhilai, Apr 29: A review meeting of the works of Jal Jeevan Mission in the district was organized on Friday. In the meeting, Dhananjay Devangan, Secretary Public Health Engineering Department, Topeshwar Verma, Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Additional Mission Director and Chief Engineer, took information from all the Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers of Durg Division about the various works going on under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Instructions were given to all the Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers to complete the works for the year 2022-23 by resolving the difficulties being faced in completing the works of Jal Jeevan mission mode. In the meeting, instructions were given to complete the retrofitting work by September 2022.

Health centre inaugurated at Antagarh

BSP strives to provide health services in Rowghat area

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 29: The buffer zone area in Rowghat Mining area of SAIL-BSP was having inadequate health infrastructure such as hospitals, doctors and other paramedical support. SAIL-BSP under its Corporate Social Responsibility has therefore decided to collaborate with Ramakrishna Mission Ashram for providing uninterrupted medical services.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Narayanpur on March 25, 2021 for providing mobile medical services to the population in 22 buffer zone villages surrounding SAIL-Bhilai's Rowghat Mining Project area in Bastar.



Medical services were inaugurated at a Health centre in Antagarh on March 25, 2022 by MLA Anoop Nag, Samir Swarup, CGM (Mines-Rowghat) was present on the occasion. A doctor, a nurse, an attendant and Pharmacist are rendering their services here.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Narayanpur on March 23,

2022 for setting up Khondgaon's Health Centre. After signing of the Mou, a Bhoomipujan was done for constructing the Health centre. Free medical facility has started in Khondgaon temporarily with a lady doctor, Nurse, Dresser and Pharmacist.

The largely tribal population living in interior villages of the region have little access to medical facilities. Established in 1985, the Ramakrishna Mission Ashram has been serving

tribal population spread over a large area in villages in the jungles of Abujhmarh. Ramakrishna Mission Ashram has been allotted monetary assistance for constructing OPD facility in Kundla and Aakabeda area of Abujhmarh.

Under the Rowghat project, 22 villages have been provided medical services through SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant in collaboration with Ramakrishna Mission Ashram for providing uninterrupted medical services.

BSP employees of I & A Zone felicitated with Pali Shiromani & Karm Shiromani Award

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 29: Employees belonging to Instrumentation and Automation Zone of Bhilai Steel Plant were felicitated on April 28, 2022 with 'Pali Shiromani Puraskar' & 'Karm Shiromani Puraskar' for their exemplary work performance under the Shiromani Puraskar Yojana of Bhilai Steel Plant.

The winners of Pali Shiromani (I & A Zone) include Vijendra Kumar Choudhary, Assistant Manager Instrumentation (O). The winners of Karm Shiromani (I & A zone) include Tungeshwar Prasad Verma, Technician, Instrumentation (O), Rajesh Kumar Jain, Chargeeman, Instrumentation (O), Phool



Chandra Kumar Sahoo, Senior Technician, Instrumentation (O) and Hasan Imam, Technician(I), Instrumentation (O). The norms of social distancing were followed in conducting and distribution of the prizes during the function in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. Asit Saha, CGM (I&A),

Sant Kumar Keshkar, GM I/c (Instrumentation) and Gautam Kumar Kundu, GM (Instrumentation) presented the award winners with a certificate of merit, memento and appreciation letter for the spouse of the employee. The programme was conducted by Personnel Office of P&E Zone.

work and efforts done by him. The honesty, simplicity, and dedication of this brave man have paid off very well.

The mike was then handed over to Ramesh, he before speaking bursted out with tears as he could not believe the fact that this was his last day at school and he was going to retire.

In his farewell speech he thanked and appreciated the management and the staff for their support and co-operation.

He wished that DAV should achieve the pinnacle of success in years to come.

The entire DAV fraternity wished for his health and happiness and bestowed him with a token of love and gratitude.

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According to different sports activities, sports grounds have been prepared in the corporation area where athletics, badminton, ball badminton, basketball, boxing, chess, cricket, football, handball, hockey, karate, judo, tennis table, tennis, volleyball, yoga Sports, Kho Kho, Kabaddi, Powerlifting, Cycle Polo, Gymnastics, will be organized in the summer camp.

The players will be able to prove their mettle in the field through the summer camp and will bring laurels to the city in the

last two years, there have been interruptions in sports activities. But at present the infection is negligible. Considering the situation and with the aim of promoting sports activities, summer camp will be organized in the sports grounds constructed under Bhilai Corporation area. These camps will be conducted by the coaches.

The Mayor's Council has approved the beautification work at a cost of Rs 80 lakhs. With this amount, other works including high mast light, paver block, construction of pool, plantation, bore well and beautification will be done. Summer camps will be organized in developed sports grounds located within the municipal limits. MiC will give approval to organise such events in sports grounds. With this, a new tradition will also begin.

Due to the Covid-19 for the

BMC's MiC resolves to organise summer camps at sports grounds

● Sector 2 pond to be beautified with Rs 80 lakhs

Bhilai, Apr 29: A meeting of the Mayor in Council of Bhilai Municipal Corporation was held the other day in which various important decisions were taken. The meeting was chaired by Mayor Neeraj Pal and in the presence of Commissioner Prakash Surve and Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi. In the interest of the city, many important decisions were taken by the council. MiC members Siju Anthony, Ekansh Banchore, Laxmipati Raju, Sandeep Nirankari, Mannan Ghaffar Khan, Saket Chandrakar, Keshav Choubey, Chandrashekhar Gavai, Meera Banjare, Malti Thakur, Aditya Singh, Rita Singh Gera and Neha Sahu were present.

Renovation work of roads will be done under Vaishali Nagar assembly constituency. People will get relief from the dilapidated roads. The proposal to renovate the tar roads from KPS Chowk to Surya Mall Chowk and Surya Nagar Colony was approved. MiC has also given approval for tar road work in Ward No 17 Nehru Bhawan Road. CC road construction work will be done in ward number 7 Radhika Nagar. Upgradation work will be done in ward number 10 Shanti Nagar Dussehra ground at a cost of 90 lakh, its approval has also been given by the Mayor's Council.

The players will be able to get better facilities after the upgradation work of the ground, while the residents will also get benefit. Apart from this, MiC also approved the proposal to provide first, second and third pay scales, additional approval for the work of pipeline leakage maintenance under Nehru Nagar, providing

computer operators, pavement construction work, chain-link fencing and beautification work, dome shed and toilet construction work, electrification air cooling system in Mother's Market and other development works.

At Sector 2 pond, beautification work will be done at a cost of Rs 80 lakhs. According to the intention of Mayor Neeraj Pal, the work of beautification of Sector 2 pond has been done, the remaining work will also be completed. A large number of devotees visit this pond on Chhath festival. Considering the faith of a large

state, country and world by nurturing their sports talent. One of the important agenda in the meeting of the MiC was to provide golden opportunities for self employment through maintenance of gardens.

The MiC has approved a proposal to invite expression of interest to provide employment to common citizens, women self-help groups, flower sellers, government and non-government organizations residing in the corporation area through the maintenance of gardens.

Under this provision, women of self-help groups can earn income and get employment by establishing kiosks and in return, they will have to maintain the garden. For this, detailed terms and conditions have been prepared, under which expressions of interest will be invited and work will be done to connect people with employment.

population, the work of beautification of this pond is necessary.

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Pre-exam test be conducted to help students develop self-confidence: Bharathidasan

● Newly appointed school education secretary inspects SCERT and BEd College

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 29: The newly appointed Secretary of School Education Department said that teachers must conduct a test for the children before examination or board examination to help them develop self-confidence and overcome fear of examination. Teachers must explain the children in a simple way, so that they can remember well he said at an informal meeting held at the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) recently. Dr Bharathidasan along with SCERT Director Rajesh Rana inspected BEd College on the occa-



sion.

According to Dr Bharathidasan there is an atmosphere of fear in the children and to overcome this, it is necessary that four groups, each with five members should be formed in each of the subjects and four papers should be set and examination should be conducted on one paper out of them. This will also give an idea of how much work the teachers have done, he said. He emphasized that the teacher should per-

form result oriented tasks. He asked the English medium cell to conduct activities that can help children of Chhattisgarh come first in English competitions and speak English fluently.

According to Dr Bharathidasan high priority works in the School Education Department have to be conducted in a better way. SCERT is an important institution in which focus has been laid on how children will study and what they will study, he said. He also stressed

Dacoits run away with cash, jewelleries worth Rs 15 lakh

● In village Lakhouli of Dharshiwa

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 29: It was on intervening night of Thursday-Friday, 5-6 dacoits entered the house of Javitri Verma in village Lakhouli, near Dharshiwa and ran away with cash and jewelleries worth Rs 15 lakh. The dacoits were carrying stones in their hand and threatened to kill all in the family and demanded keys of the lockeer. Javitri Verma is a ward

panch and the marriage of his daughter is due on May 11 and preparations for the marriage were in full swing. There are reports that the dacoits are likely from Dhar gang of Madhya Pradesh (MP).

The Police reached the site and carried out investigation and the family members informed that gold and silver jewelleries worth Rs 9 lakh and cash of Rs 6 lakh has been stolen from the house. All the dacoits were masked and no one could be identified during night hours and all this happened in a very short period.

Raipur, Apr 29: Health Minister TS Singhdeo dedicated to public five latest and state-of-the-art equipment for eye disease treatment in the Regional Eye Research Center cum Ophthalmology Department of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College and Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital Raipur. Five new devices include Green Laser, Fundus Camera, A Scan, slit lamp with imaging and operating microscope with monitor.

Singhdeo said that all the people of the state would get benefit of eye medicine with modern and latest eye treat-



ment equipment. Apart from treatment, these devices will also benefit in the education of medical students. During public dedication programme Singhdeo also met cataract patients and inquired about their well-being besides dis-

tributing safety goggles to the. He also conducted inspection of maternity-child hospital building proposed under expansion of medical college and proposed new boys hostel near sickle cell institute. The health minister

also spent some time with medical students and played cricket match with them. Commissioner Health Services Dr CR Prasanna, Director Medical Education Dr Vishnu Dutt, Dean Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Dr Tripti Nagaria, Medical Superintendent Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital Dr SBS Netam, Head of Ophthalmology Department Dr Nidhi Pandey, Ophthalmologist Dr Swati Kujur, other doctors, medical students and eye counselor Sanjay Sharma were present on the occasion.

Raman Singh meets PM Modi



meeting PM, ex-CM Raman Singh said that he got an opportunity to meet the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During this he extended greetings to him for victory of BJP in four states in the last elections and apprised him about the works of the organization in Chhattisgarh. He also expressed gratitude towards PM for extending the date for PM Graib Kalyan Anna-Yojana.

Five new machines for eye examination, treatment at Ambedkar Hospital

Raipur, Apr 29: Three members have been nominated by the state government in the executive council of Chhattisgarh Kusshabahu Thackeray University of Journalism and Mass Communication, Raipur. Senior MLAs Satyana Sharmaya, Dhanendra Sahu, and Brijmohan Agrawal have been nominated. An order to this effect has been issued by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry, Mahanadi Bhawan, Nava Raipur.

Raipur, Apr 29: Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission is going to conduct examinations on May 1 and 2 for various posts including Principal Class-1, Principal Class-2, Placement Officer, Assistant Director (Technical) (Skill Development, Technical Education and Employment Department), Assistant Director, Silk (Village Industries Department), Scientific Officer (Chemistry), Medical Education (AYUSH) Department, Assistant Director (Planning, Economic and Statistics Department). The examinations will be held in two shifts from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Similarly on May 4, the examination of Assistant Director Handloom (Village Industries Department), Assistant Registrar (Commerce and Industry Department) will be held in the first shift at 9 am till 12 noon while the examination for Law Officer (Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission), Law Officer (Home-Jail) Department) examination will be conducted in the second shift from 2 pm to 5 pm in the examination centers finalised by the commission. During the examination, it will be mandatory for all the examinees and officers-employees to follow social distancing, sanitisation, wear masks and follow other COVID-19 guidelines.

Raipur, Apr 29: The 29th meeting of the Board of Directors of Chhattisgarh Road and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (CIRD) was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain on Friday through video conferencing at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan. In the meeting, the status of various road works approved under the corporation and

the updated status of the tender, including the related works in the roads were discussed in detail. In the meeting, the Managing Director of Chhattisgarh Road and Infrastructure Development Corporation, Mr. Himshikhar Gupta gave detailed information about the updated status of road tenders. Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Subrat Sahoo, was specially present on the occasion.

Additional Chief Secretary of Panchayat and Rural Development Department Mrs. Renu Pillay, Secretary of Public Works Department Mr. Siddharth Komal Pardesi, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Mr. Bhatpahari and other members of the Board of Directors attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Girl crushed to death by passenger bus

Raipur, Apr 29: A girl was crushed to death by a passenger bus in Nava Raipur late Thursday night. She was sitting on a pillion seat of motorcycle along with her father. Meanwhile a speeding bus coming behind them suddenly hit motorcycle. Both father and daughter fell on road after their motorcycle was hit by the bus.

The bus ran over the girl. Driver of the bus fled after accident, although police arrested him on Friday and seized the bus. Rakhi police station has registered a case of culpable homicide against the bus driver.

According to the information, Rukmani Sahu, a resident of Balod, had come to the house of her elder brother Neman Sahu

Nomination of three senior MLAs in Executive Council of Journalism University

Raipur, Apr 29: People visiting fair price shops should not face inconvenience in getting ration, said Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Amarjit Bhagat while addressing the review meeting of the Food Department. He told the officials to replace defective e-pass machines within the stipulated time period. Bhagat said that according to the priority set by the state government no person should sleep hungry and that it is our responsibility to provide ration easily to each and every beneficiary of the state. He said that there were complaints about distribution of ration due to thumb impression of ration card holders, nominee and server problems. Officers should give serious attention to all these complaints.

About 69 lakh ration cards are active in the state and out of more than 13 thousand government fair

price shops, e-pass machines have been installed in 12 thousand 312 shops. Bhagat said in the meeting that ration should be provided through effective scheme to those who have ration cards in their names but are unable to come to fair price shops to obtain ration. Such people include handicapped, elderly, children below 10 years of age and those suffering from serious incurable diseases etc.

The officials said that on the written application of the disabled person and the member whose age is more than 60 years or less than 10 years, food grains are being distributed at the district level itself by appointing a nominee attached to the

same fair price shop and any other beneficiary proposed by him. More than 39 thousand nominees have been appointed at the district level and 5,439 nominees have been appointed at the state level. For leprosy patients, or ration card holders suffering from serious illness, food grains are being distributed by appointing Mitanin or Anganwadi worker as Trusted Person. The list of nominee and trusted person should be released as soon as possible after the application test so that ration can be easily available to the people. Bhagat also directed to make new allotment to new gram panchayats and fair price shops having

more than 500 ration cards under rationalization according to card numbers. In the meeting, he reviewed the works of Custom Milling, Civil Supplies Corporation, Chhattisgarh State Warehousing Corporation and gave necessary directions. The meeting was attended by Secretary of Food Department Topeshwar Verma, Managing Director of Civil Supplies Corporation Niranjan Das, Managing Director of Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Maryadit (MARKFED) Kiran Kaushal, Joint Secretary Abhinav Agrawal and other concerned senior officers.

Raipur, Apr 29: Principal Secretary School Education, Dr. Alok Shukla said in a review meeting of the Principals of Swami Atmanand Excellence Schools run in the state in Mantralaya on Friday that all teaching and non-teaching posts should not remain vacant in these schools. Before the start of the academic session, the appointment of all the posts of teachers should be completed. He said that the entire responsibility of running English medium schools rests with the principals. The Principal Secretary said that the ranking will be done on the basis of the performance of the children in these schools. Do not compromise on the quality of education. The good work done by the teachers in Chhattisgarh during the Corona period has to be carried forward. Schools will run well, only then children will earn a name in the country. The number of applications for admission in Swami Atmanand Excellent English Medium

School should appear in the National Talent Search Examination. Various competitions should be organized from school level to state level to enhance the talent of the children of these schools. There should be a chance for the children of class 12th to show their talent in start-ups and other technical subjects. Special Secretary, School Education, Rajesh Singh Rana said that the entry of the online survey should be recorded in the software. For the training of teachers, the names of five-five trainers of each subject should be publicized. Director SCERT, Director Sunil Jain said that Swami Atmanand Schools will now be reviewed through online entry. In the online entry, the information of teachers and students taking admission in each school will be recorded from the photo. Information about the work of infrastructure and its progress will also have to be recorded.

People should get ration easily: Bhagat



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SEIZURE OF VEHICLES



The traffic police seized vehicles illegally parked in the market and other parts of city in its seizure vehicle here on Friday.

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Rail Industrial Park in state will result in rapid expansion of industrial activities: CM

State govt is committed to improve the industrial scenario of the state

CM Baghel inaugurates the Rail Industrial Park in Hathkhol and various infrastructures in Bhilai

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 29: The state government under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is working continuously and efficiently towards improving the industrial scenario of Chhattisgarh. So far, the government has signed 167 MoUs. Through these, an investment of Rs 78 thousand crore is proposed in the state, out of which the process of setting up 90 units has also begun.

The Chief Minister said that in the earlier years when industrial areas were formed, there was lack of basic facilities and infrastructures, and a lot



of effort had to be made in this sector. With the establishment of the infrastructure of Rail Park, all kinds of facilities are available in the park, and more units will be installed here soon. In his address, the Chief Minister said that an investment of Rs 19,550 crore has been made in the state through various industries, through which 33 thousand people have got employment.

Baghel said that Chhattisgarh state is an agricultural-centric state and keeping in view its potential, we laid special emphasis on food processing

units. In the food and processing sector, an investment of Rs 1167 crore has been made through 478 units, providing employment to 6000 people. The Chief Minister said that industrial activities would expand even more rapidly after the establishment of Rail Industrial Park. It is the priority of the state government to provide all possible facilities in the field of industrial infrastructure and industrial policies to further expand the enterprises in the state and continuous work is being done to improve such facilities.

On this occasion,

The Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Manoj Pingua gave detailed information about the industrial scenario about the rail park of the state. He informed that there are 22 plots in the rail park. The preparation of infrastructure has been completed in this park. He informed that continuous work is being done by the Industries Department towards the establishment of food parks in the state. This will enable rapid economic development of our agricultural dominated state.

On this occasion,

Principal Advisor to Chief Minister Pradeep Sharma, Mayor of Bhilai Charoda Nirmal Kosare, Chairman Krishna Chandrakar and other dignitaries were present. Divisional Commissioner Mahadev Kavre, IG Shri Badri Narayan Meena, Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, CSIDC MD Arun Prasad and other officers were present.

It is noteworthy that the arrangement of CC road, pipeline, overhead tank, street light etc has been ensured in the rail park at a cost of Rs. 8 crore 40 lakh.

Moreover, Units manufacturing plants for railway equipment will greatly benefit from this improved infrastructure. Entrepreneurs will have an ease of access towards preceding their activities with the help of the availability of this infrastructure at one place. Also, it will be very convenient for railways to build a rail park. Along with this, four and a half kilometer CC road was also inaugurated in the light and heavy industrial areas today.

Chairman, CEO RDA pay courtesy call on MD-CEO Central Bank



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 29: Chairman Raipur Development Authority (RDA) Subhash Dhupad and CEO Chandrakar Verma paid courtesy call on MD and CEO Central Bank of India MV Rao in a private hotel here on Friday. During the meeting they gave information

about RDA's Kamal Vihar Project, its development and construction work. Duo also held detailed positive talks with him about the repayment of Rs 600 crore loan given by Central Bank of India to for this project.

It is notable here that RDA by taking loan from Central Bank for development and construction of

RDA's Kamal Vihar Project has developed one of the biggest urban development project of city. During this meeting, CBI Mumbai GM Mayank Shah, SD Mahurkar of Central Bank Bhopal Zone and Zonal Head Central Bank Bhopal Zone TS Jira and Regional Manager Central Bank of India Raipur Mahendra Singh were present.

NTPC Lara awarded APEX India Green leaf Award 2021



station and its outcome result was appreciated by APEX India foundation and Lara station was adjudged as the winner in platinum category.

It is to mention that NTPC's Lara Super Thermal Power Station's present installed capacity is 1600 megawatt. Out of generated capacity Chhattisgarh state gets the lion share i.e., 50 percent power from this plant. Rest of the power is supplied to Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Daman & Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli.

NTPC Lara is having the distinction of introducing first ever 800 MW supercritical technology-based power generation for better environment management and this resulted into maintaining the ecological balance in and around Lara project. The environment protection measures taken by Environment management department of Lara

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Similarly Eklavya Schools are being opened in Metawada Koypal, Gotia, Kodenar, Metapal, Chhindwara and Harem and Kuakonda in Bastar, Girhola in Gariaband, Ghel in Jashpur, Rairumakala (Sukhraapara), Dhundrudan, Kardana and Pandripani. Eklavya Schools are also being opened in Bedma, Korgaon, Shampur and Chichadi in Kondagaon district and at Lala and Rampur in Korba district, Ghughra, Jamthan in Kore district, Bayasi,

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Chhattangarh and Potra in Raigarh district, Khavashfalkdi and Mading-Pindling Dhenu in Rajnandgaon district and at Airabor and Baltikara (Chhindwara) in Sukma, Khorwa, Paldanoli and Bakirma in Surajpur district and Rikhi, Sahanpur, Petla and Shivpur in Surguja, Anjani, Faraskot, Hilchur and Narharpur in Kanker district and Orchha in Narayanpur district.

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Chhattangarh and Potra in Raigarh district, Khavashfalkdi and Mading-Pindling Dhenu in Rajnandgaon district and at Airabor and Baltikara (Chhindwara) in Sukma, Khorwa, Paldanoli and Bakirma in Suraj

Janpad members stage protest, raise slogans

Over lack of information about agenda of meeting and compliance report

Burns copy of agenda and information of Janpad Panchayat

Dongargaon, Apr 29:

The Janpad members created ruckus in the review meeting held in the conference room of Janpad Panchayat here on Thursday. During this majority of the Janpad members left the meeting and went out into the premises and started raising slogans in protest against hosts of shortcomings and problems in Janpad Panchayat. Later to intensify their protest, they even burnt a copy of information and agenda by the Janpad Panchayat and the members gheraoed the officers and employees of Janpad Panchayat over their highhandedness and



framed many charges against them.

The annoyed Janpad panchayat members informed that for last two & half year, 7-8 meetings have been held and about which the officers neither inform it to the public representatives nor give information on time and even the agenda is not disclosed. Due to this the Janpad members are facing lots of problems in review of the development work in their region and

hosts of other issues. Due to this there are many important development works which hangs in fire and they are made to face protest from general public.

The Janpad members informed that they take part as elected representatives of the people of their region along with their grievances and suggestions in the Janpad Panchayat meetings. But failing to get folder of meeting's agenda there is

hardly any discussion. Set aside this the subjects on which discussions are held, there is no discussions on its compliance report either.

So it is taking all these issues, the Janpad Panchayat members raised slogans in protest in the Janpad Panchayat office premises.

During this the CEO who came to explain it to the Janpad members witnessed heated exchange and the agitated Janpad

members burnt copy of Janpad information and rules in the premises itself.

No control on officers, employees:

In this entire incident, Janpad members charged that the officers and employees of Janpad Panchayat do not come to office on time and due to which lots of works get affected. So it is due to sheer negligence on part of the employees that Janpad administration is least bothered about the development works. On the other hand, due to lackadaisical an attitude on part of the officers and employees, they fail to get information about the agenda on time.

In this regard efforts were made to get in touch with CEO Janpad and even complaint was made, but till date it was to no avail.

Trade Union members continue to register protest

Against privatisation of Nagarnar Plant

Jagdalpur, Apr 29:



The NMDC employees have once again launched protest and under this right since April 11 onwards, the Trade Union members are staging protest in the plant area. The family members of the Nagarnar area whose land was acquired for Nagarnar Steel Plant (NSP) have got employment in the NMDC plant, but right since there is news about its privatisation, it has become cause of concern for the 700 employees working in NMDC plant. Due to some communication gap, the employees are feeling danger of losing their jobs. Meanwhile the mem-

bers of the Trade Union got token protest registered in view of likely privatisation move since April 11 and are raising slogans.

Meanwhile the Trade Union members are staging protest against privatisation move since April 11 and are raising slogans. They charged that if the NMDC Steel Plant is privatised, then the land acquired for Nagarnar Steel Plant should be returned to respective farmer. Failing to hear their demand, Trade Union members warned of intensifying their protest.

Farmers' submit memo to Collector

Demand early release of crop insurance amount

Khairagarh, Apr 29:

The farmers of Gram Saloni who have been deprived of amount under PM Crop Insurance, handed over a memorandum to the Collector here on Thursday. Lodging complaint through a camp, the farmers- Sanat Kumar, Puranik Verma, Chandrashekhar Singh, Raju Lal Verma, Sugreev Singh, Khemlal, Virsingh Verma, Khemlal, Doman, Pitamber Verma and Chandra Mohan informed that more than 200 farmers have taken paddy crop this season and with no rains in the beginning of the sea-

Not adhering to Corona guidelines in meetings

Pithora, Apr 29:

In view of the recent news about rise in number of corona cases through a new variant X-E, the Mahasamund Collector has issued instructions to all the administrative and departmental officers to ensure adherence to Corona guidelines. On the other hand, the officers from the District violating the norms are trying to push people towards death knell.

As per instructions by the District Collector, in view of increasing number of corona cases near Mahasamund district, in-

structions have been issued to follow the Corona guidelines. Under this it has been instructed not to spit in general public; wear masks while working in the office, hospital, shops, crowded areas and work place and other factories and institutions. Apart from this instructions have been issued to carry out examination of patients suffering with cough & cold. In all the government, semi-government offices and private crowded area, the people have been asked to maintain social distancing and wear mask without fail.

But in the local Mandi premises, it was in the presence of the woman and child development department officers, the block area Anganbadi

workers seemed to openly violating corona guidelines. Set aside this other facilities and precautions too were sidelined.

What is surprising here is that this meeting was organised beneath a tin-shed with temperature hovering around 42-44 Deg Celsius and with no drinking water facility, set aside any cooler or

door. But on the other hand, the women from the District, blocks of the District, including pregnant women are made to suffer out in the scorching heat. Presenting long speeches and giving information about departmental schemes in such meeting also has not significance.

When the family member of women tried to come in this meeting at the site, they were asked to go away by the Women and Child Devp officer. Set aside this, the District Guidance officer in the meeting even reportedly misbehaved with the journalists and they were not given proper information and asked them to go away. On this Pithora Block Patrakar Sangh Gaurav Chandrakar has

strongly criticised the same and demanded action against the Women and Child Development deptt officer over violation of Corona guidelines. Set aside this he also demanded test of all the persons who had attended the programme and if there is any corona infected women, they she must be identified and help others from falling prey to this deadly virus.

In this regard, our representative Santosh Gupta tried to get in touch with the SDM Ritu Hemani about holding meeting without adhering to corona guidelines by Women and Child Development and non-adherence of guidelines in Pithora, then he did not respond.

Officers openly violating Collector's orders



fan and here the female Anganbadi workers had to face lots of problems.

At one place where the Women & Child Development department is giving information about good health and well-being of women and girl through various schemes and are giving information about its benefits going door-to-

Felling of trees for Parsa coal mining project: villagers protest

Ambikapur, Apr 29:

The Chhattisgarh forest department on Tuesday launched a tree cutting exercise to pave the way for start of the Parsa coal mining project in the Surguja division, triggering strong opposition from local villagers who forced the authorities to halt their action after 300 trees were axed.

The move came days after the Chhattisgarh government granted the final approval for non-forestry use of 841.538 hectares of forest land for the Parsa coal mine spread across Surguja and Surajpur districts in northern part of the state. The mine has been allotted to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd (RRVNL).

According to villagers, they learnt about the deforestation exercise early in the morning and rushed to the spot to register their objection.

On April 6, the state government had given the final approval for non-forestry use of 841.538 hectares of forest land for the Parsa coal mine spread across Surguja and Surajpur districts in northern part of the state. The mine has been allotted to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd (RRVNL).

As many as 300 trees were felled in Janardanpur village (Surajpur district) under the Ramanujnagar forest range for the Parsa coal mine project. After the objection by local villagers, the work was stopped, a local forest official said.

Around 1,590 trees are to be cut in this area for the project. Further action in this direction will be taken after getting directives from senior officials, he added. On getting information about the deforestation work in Janardanpur which is close to Salhi village (Surguja district), res-

idents of project-affected villages reached there, said Ramlal Kariyam, a resident of Salhi.

Over 50 police personnel were deployed to facilitate the deforestation work, he added. The residents of Salhi, Fatehpur and Hariharpur villages have been protesting against the project for a long time. We have even demanded a probe into forged gram sabha documents based on which clearances have been given for the project, he said.

This forest is part of the biodiversity-rich and ecologically sensitive Hasdeo Arand region. Mining in this area will not only result in displacement of local tribals but also cause destruction to the environment. We will not allow this area to get destroyed, said Kariyam, who is associated with the Hasdeo Arand Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, an outfit spearheading agitation against tree cutting and raising other environmental issues.

Convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan (CBA), Alok Shukla, termed the forest department's move as very sad and claimed that to extend benefit to corporates, constitutional rights of tribals are being crushed.

The CBA has been fighting for rights of tribals and environment conservation. It is very sad that the process for the project is being carried forward by crushing the constitutional rights of tribals and ignoring their welfare. The state government did not even consider it appropriate to investigate the fake Gram Sabha proposals and under corporate pressure, the felling of trees started at midnight, Shukla claimed.



Konta, Apr 29:

As per instructions from State CM Bhupesh Baghel and under guidance of Ashok Juneja, DGP Chhattisgarh Police and P.Sundarraj IG Bastar, the Superintendent of Police Sukma Sunil Sharma, under the guidance of IG Bastar, Sukma District Police Station, Keralapal, solved the problems of hundreds of villagers by holding 'Jandarshan' and redressed their grievances and assured to complete the other problems soon.

Sukma SP Sharma appealed the villagers to cooperate in the development work being done in the area. He shared information about various schemes of the state government, especially the 'rehabilitation policy'. The villagers were also apprised about the disadvantages of Naxalism, the advantages of setting up a police camp. In this 'Jandarshan' the villagers were very happy to find the police captain of Sukma district amidst them. An elderly villager told that a few days ago the police had built a road in our village, due to which today they have come sitting in a taxi and the villagers thanked the police

department wholeheartedly. During the Jandarshan, about 300-400 villagers were present and informed the Sukma SP about their problem and the main problem was said to be a huge problem due to lack of road, electricity, hospital, society in the inner villages. SDOP Sukma Parameshwara Tilakwar, CRPF Camp Keralapal in-charge Thakur, Sandeep Toppo station in-charge Keralapal, DRG Sukma in-charge Deepak Thakur, DRG Keralapal in-charge Sandeep Singh and other police forces were present during this programme.

Scouts & Guides enjoy hill climbing



sented GPM in the camp. On the first and last day of the camp, the participants of the camp got the chance to take a dip in 'Karath' hot-water source (Gandhak). On the second day of the camp they enjoyed cycling and after this doing hill-trekking, they witnessed the beauty of famous Baod Parsha waterfall and took part in this adventurous hill climbing. All the Scouts & Guides enjoyed the snow capped mountains and wonderful weather in the hilly terrain of Himachal Pradesh. On the last day, they took part in the 'Zipline' and other culture activities and witnessed the thrill and enthusiasm in this camp. In this camp organised under aegis of BS&G Chhattisgarh, Lovely Netam, Nitu Dhure, Harshita Mishra, Hansika Kaushik from District's Govt Mishri Devi HS School; Sunil Baghel from Govt HS School Lalpur and Yash Jaitwar, Vijay Nimoda, Tushar Kashipuri, Shashak Masih from SAGEMS Semara took part along with in-charge of team Archana Samuel Masih repre-

under the aegis of Bharat Scouts & Guides (BS&G) Chhattisgarh in Kullu-Manali (HP) from Apr 18 to 25. In this under direction of DEO GPM Manoj Rai, 5 scouts and 4 guides and team in-charge Archana Samuel Masih repre-

Distribution of answer-sheets starts

Khairagarh, Apr 29: The distribution of answer-sheets is being done as per University's guidelines to students of the Colleges studying in Rashmi Devi Government College (RDGC) BA-Part I, II and III. The students of BA-Part I, II and III Regular Students are to be distributed answer-sheets from April 28-30 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm; that of BA-Part II, III and IV (private) students from May 2-6 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. The College management informed that no answer-sheets will be distributed after the prescribed date and it will not be issued without the admission card, which has been issued to be downloaded online centre and the student has to be present in person to take it. There should not be any error in the admission card and failing to get admission card downloaded, the students can contact the College computer section after 4:00 pm.

Delegation of CMKM meets Navaz Khan



Khairagarh, Apr 29: A delegation of Chhattisgarh MGNREGA Karamchari Mahasangh (CMKM) paid a courtesy call to Chairman District Co-op Central Bank Rajnandgaon Navaz Khan and submitted a memorandum to him in support of two-point demand. On this, Khan assured to bring it to the knowledge of CM. It is notable here that Navaz Khan had attended 'Bhakt Mata Karma Jayanti' programme of Sahu Samaj in Gram Salehbhari recently. So getting information in this regard

the members of CMKM including Shikha Dixit, V-P Upendra Verma, Secretary Laxmi Narayan Soni, Rojgar Sahayak Ashwan Verma, Rojgar Sangh President Maharan Humane, Ramnarayan Sahu reached Salhebhari and met Navaz Khan. The office bearers of the Sangh demanded regularisation of MGNREGA employees, along with fixation of wages of Gram Rojgar Sahayaks and they should be brought under Civil Services Rule 1966 and Panchayat Karmi rules.

The Borrower mentioned above has availed total credit facilities as mentioned above from CANARA BANK and the mentioned Guarantors provided guarantee and secured by way of mortgaged of above mentioned property. The borrower failed to adhere to terms and conditions of sanction. The account became irregular and classified as NPA as mentioned above as per RBI guidelines. The Bank intends to enforce the said property mortgaged by you and issued Demand Notice as mentioned above for recovery of outstanding amount as mentioned above with interest and expenses thereon under registered post with acknowledgment due which were not served to the borrowers and guarantors. Hence this publication is issued. Hereto Borrower/Guarantor are called upon to pay the amount mentioned above with rate of interest (Contractual Rate), costs, charges etc., thereon within 60 Days from the date of publication failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action against mortgaged property under section 13(4) and the provision of said Act to realize our Bank's dues. Your attention is invited to provisions of the Sec (8) of Sec (13) of the act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 29.04.2022 Place: Bilaspur (CG)

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002
BILASPUR-II (SYND) BRANCH, BILASPUR (C.G.)
Borrower's & Guarantor's Name & Address
SOD Synd MSE
EMT of Land & Residential building situated at Khasra No. 4912 & 4916 (After mutation) Khasra No. 4913) Ph No. 22, Village & Mouza - Talapara, Ward no. 22, RNM & District-Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.
Total Dues ₹ 4,39,506.46/- as on 10.04.2022
NPA Dt. 30.06.2021
Area - 0.0068 Hect. (742.5 Sq Ft)
Boundary: North : Land of Halu Bhai, South: Land of Javed & Farooq, East: Remaining Land of Seller, West: Land of Chandi.
The Borrower mentioned above has availed total credit facilities as mentioned above from CANARA BANK and the mentioned Guarantors provided guarantee and secured by way of mortgaged of above mentioned property. The borrower failed to adhere to terms and conditions of sanction. The account became irregular and classified as NPA as mentioned above as per RBI guidelines. The Bank intends to enforce the said property mortgaged by you and issued Demand Notice as mentioned above for recovery of outstanding amount as mentioned above with interest and expenses thereon under registered post with acknowledgment due which were not served to the borrowers and guarantors. Hence this publication is issued. Hereto Borrower/Guarantor are called upon to pay the amount mentioned above with rate of interest (Contractual Rate), costs, charges etc., thereon within 60 Days from the date of publication failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action against mortgaged property under section 13(4) and the provision of said Act to realize our Bank's dues. Your attention is invited to provisions of the Sec (8) of Sec (13) of the act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.

Authorised officer / CANARA BANK

BRIEF

Collapse

New Delhi: Two persons, including a Delhi University student, were injured when the roof of a rented accommodation in Delhi's Vijay Nagar collapsed partially. An FIR was registered against Rajendra Chadda, the owner of the house, and he has been arrested, the official said. The room in the two-storey building was rented by Indraprastha College For Women's (IPCW) student Sukanya (22).

Crackdown

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has launched a crackdown on vehicles operating without high security registration plates (HSRPs) in Jammu region and fined 236 violators, officials said. In view of the security aspect in Jammu and Kashmir, the government had earlier issued notifications to the people to get their vehicles registered.

Returns

Ranchi: The Jharkhand government said it has ensured the safe return of 10 of the 30 workers stranded in Malaysia while the process for the return of another 20 is on. The workers from the state who have been living and working in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur as labourers since 2019 had urged the Jharkhand government to ensure their return.

Duping

New Delhi: A 34-year-old man was arrested for allegedly duping aspirants on the false promise of giving them degrees from reputed universities, police said. They identified the accused as Jitender Kumar Sahoo, a resident of Shakarpur here. Deepak Kumar, the complainant, alleged that he stumbled upon an advertisement from Sahoo on social media and contacted him for an enrolment in Bachelors in Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS).

Approves

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Cabinet approved a gene bank project that aims to conserve genetic resources in the state, including marine and animal diversity and seeds of local crops at an estimated cost of more than Rs 172 crore. The Maharashtra Gene Bank project, which will be executed by the forest department, aims to conserve genetic resources in the state, including marine diversity, seeds of local crops and animal diversity.

Seized

Nagpur: Personnel of the forest department seized tiger teeth and whiskers in Maharashtra's Nagpur district and arrested two persons in this connection. The department had got a tip-off that some persons were about to sell tiger teeth and whiskers at Umred-Bhivapur T-point. A trap was laid and two persons were arrested from the spot, a release by the Nagpur forest department said.

Heatwave scorches wheat crop, snags export plans



A farmer harvests wheat on the outskirts of Jammu.

New Delhi, Apr 29 (AP):

An unusually early, record-shattering heatwave in India has reduced wheat yields, raising questions about how the country will balance its domestic needs with ambitions to increase exports and make up for shortfalls due to Russia's war in Ukraine. Gigantic landfills in New Delhi have caught fire in recent weeks. Schools in Odisha have been shut for a week and

very sensitive to heat, especially during the final stage when its kernels mature and ripen. Indian farmers time their planting so that this stage coincides with India's usually cooler spring.

Climate change has made India's heat wave hotter. Before human activities increased global temperatures, heat waves like this year's would have struck India once in about half a century. But now it is a much more common event, we can expect such high temperatures about once in every four years. India's vulnerability to extreme heat increased 15 percent from 1990 to 2019, according to a 2021 report by the medical journal The Lancet. It is among the top five countries where vulnerable people, like the old and the poor, have the highest exposure to heat. It and Brazil have the highest heat-related mortality in the world, the report said.

But it was the heat in March, the hottest in India since records first started being kept in 1901, that stunted crops. Wheat is

PROTEST



Congress workers protest against the power and water crisis, in Jammu, Friday.

'Hanuman Chalisa' episode plot to project CM as anti-Hindu

Maharashtra cops to court



Ravi Rana with wife Navneet.

Mumbai, Apr 29 (PTI):

The Mumbai police on Friday told special court that while on the face of it the plan of Amravati MP Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana to recite Hanuman Chalisa outside the Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's residence here may look innocent, but it was in fact a "big plot" to challenge the MVA government.

The police also claimed that the opposition BJP and the political opponents of Thackeray were trying to create an atmosphere to project him as anti-Hindu and not sponsoring the cause of Hinduism, and that in the

present regime it was difficult for Hindus to practise their religion freely and thus the feeling of hate would increase against the Muslim religion causing a rift. The police made these

claims in an affidavit filed through special public prosecutor Pradip Gharat opposing the bail pleas of the Rana couple, who were arrested on April 23 on sedition and other

charges. Special judge RN Rokade said he would hear the bail pleas.

The couple is presently in judicial custody. The police said if released on bail the accused, who are influential persons, would tamper with the evidence or influence witnesses.

The police further said that since the accused are not permanent residents of Mumbai, if granted bail they may not be available for the probe and trial.

The police in their affidavit claimed that the BJP, which is the opposition party in Maharashtra, has been strongly opposing the administrative policies of the present government and criticising the ruling Shiv Sena for its stand on Hindutva.

Congress raises doubts over Puri Heritage Corridor Project

Bhubaneswar, Apr 29 (PTI):

The controversy over the Puri Heritage Corridor project further intensified after Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra expressed concern over the massive construction close to the Shree Jagannath Temple.

Mishra expressed concern over the project a day after BJP Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi questioned transparency in the entire work being carried out by the state government for making Puri an international heritage site. The CLP leader, a member of the Odisha Assembly Committee formed to inspect the construction in the restricted zone of the 12th-century

national monument, said this after personally visiting the shrine and inspecting the works.

He said there is utter confusion as the BJP MP has alleged that there is no permission from the Archaeological Survey of India for the work and an RTI activist also claimed that the state did not get required nod from the ASI.

The state government on the other hand claimed that no rule is violated in implementation of the project. Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra has made a public statement saying that the work is being done with "coordination" with the ASI.

Even as the state government claimed that it was constructing some toilets, cloakroom and other devotee amenities, Mishra said: "I found foundation has been laid for massive construction. Though I am not an expert, it appears that foundation work is made to raise five to ten storied building near the temple boundary wall, which is much within the prohibited zone and required ASI's permission..."

Police verification mandatory before enrolment at Darul Uloom

Saharanpur, Apr 29 (PTD):

Islamic educational institution Darul Uloom Deoband has made this year's admission process more stringent by making police verification of the documents submitted by the applicants mandatory, the institute's management said on Friday.

"Students seeking admission this year will have to submit their documents, including their Aadhaar cards, original residence certificates and an affidavit, which would be checked and verified by government agencies, including the Local Intelligence Unit (LIU) of the police," Darul Uloom's Naib Mohtamim (Deputy Vice Chancellor) Maulana Abdul Khaliq Madrasvi said in a statement.

Those seeking admis-

sion will have to submit their previous madrasa certificates, the mark-sheets obtained from there and the Aadhaar cards of the applicants and their fathers including their mobile numbers, he said.

In case the ID is found wrong, the student will not only be expelled but legal action can also be taken against him.

Talking about the outstation students, Madrasvi said, "No one is exempted in this regard. "Students

of Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Manipur, Tripura, Assam etc. will (also) have to bring their original residence certificates and affidavits, without which the admission process will not be completed," he added.

Those who cannot submit the required documents should not come for admission because such students will not be enrolled, Madrasvi said.

Darul Uloom is a leading Islamic seminary in India where the Sunni Deobandi Islamic movement began. It is located in Deoband, a town in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

The seminary was established by Muhammad Qasim Nanautavi, Fazlur Rahman Usmani, Sayyid Muhammad Abid and others in 1866.

In case the ID is found wrong, the student will not only be expelled but legal action can also be taken against him.

Talking about the outstation students, Madrasvi said, "No one is exempted in this regard. "Students

Mayawati mocks Akhilesh for saying he wanted her to become PM

Lucknow, Apr 29 (PTI): BSP supremo Mayawati on Friday mocked Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav's assertion that he wanted her to become the prime minister and wondered how someone who could not fulfil his own dream of becoming the chief minister will manage to realise the aspirations of others.



Mayawati

Reacting to Yadav's statement that he wanted her to become the prime minister and that the SP had forged an alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls for this, Mayawati, in a tweet in Hindi, said, "When the SP chief could not fulfil his own dream of becoming the chief minister (of Uttar Pradesh) even after securing the votes of Muslims and Yadavs and forming an alliance with several parties,

childish statements," she added. The BSP and the SP contested the 2019 general election in an alliance but parted ways subsequently and have regularly hit out at each other since then.

In another tweet, the BSP president, who had said that she never aspired to become the president but would rather prefer becoming the prime minister or the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh to realise her goals for uplifting the down-trodden, said, "Irrespective of whether I become the chief minister or the prime minister in the future, I can never become the president of the country in the interest of the weaker and neglected sections. Therefore, the SP's dream of having its own chief minister in Uttar Pradesh will never be fulfilled."

Discussed use of sedition, anti-terrorism laws: EU representative

New Delhi, Apr 29 (PTD):

EU special representative for human rights Eamon Gilmore said on Friday that in his meetings with the Indian government he has discussed issues such as the use of sedition and anti-terrorism laws, condition of minorities, communal violence and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Gilmore also said that in his meeting with members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) during his India visit, the panel's role in relation to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), detentions, bail, sedition and anti-terrorist laws, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), minorities and individual cases, was discussed. An EU delegation, including Gilmore and EU

Ambassador to India Ugo Astuto, called on Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and NHRC members in New Delhi.

@naqvimukhtar, Minister for Minorities, I discussed FCRA, use of sedition and anti-terrorism laws, detentions, the situation of minorities, communal violence, situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and individual cases," Gilmore tweeted, tagging Naqvi's tweet on

their meeting.

On his meeting with NHRC, he thanked the panel for the meeting, at which, he said the NHRC's role in relation to FCRA, detentions, bail, sedition and anti-terrorism laws, UAPA, minorities and individual cases, was discussed. According to sources in the Minority Affairs Ministry, Naqvi told the delegation that constitutional and religious rights of every section are absolutely safe in India but "nobody has the right to indulge in forceful and fraudulent religious conversion".

Naqvi is also learnt to have told the delegation that "not a single major communal riot has taken place in India since 2014", but there were some conspiracies to "give communal colour" to isolated criminal incidents.

Bihar Police to use AI tools to bust illicit liquor rackets

Patna, April 29 (PTD):

The Bihar Police will soon put to use Artificial intelligence (AI) technology to nab people involved in illegal liquor trade and other crimes, a senior police officer said on Friday.



Kamal Kishore Singh

The AI mechanism will digitise and automate all operations, with the force no longer having to maintain data manually, he said.

"Once introduced, it will help policemen nab gangs or individuals involved in illegal liquor trade in the dry state. It will be easy to identify their area of operations with real-time analytics and automated processes. "Law enforcement agencies are already unlocking the potential of

Bihar Police is planning to take necessary measures for the creation of a dedicated information technology (IT) cadre within the force, Singh stated. It has recently sent a proposal in the matter to the home department.

"The proposed cadre will have around 2,000 officers and personnel, including IT inspectors and IT constables. Officials of the IT cadre will handle all operations of the AI system," the ADG said.

AI tools, once embedded in the system, will increase the efficiency of the force, he maintained.

"From the perspective of crime handling and management, the AI tools will help in exploratory analysis.



Darul Uloom in Deoband, UP.

In case the ID is found wrong, the student will not only be expelled but legal action can also be taken against him.

Talking about the outstation students, Madrasvi said, "No one is exempted in this regard. "Students

BRIEF

Guilty

Calgary: A Calgary man who travelled to Syria to join the militant group Islamic State pleaded guilty to terrorism-related activities. Hussein Borhot, 36, pleaded guilty to one count of participating in terrorism group activity between May 9 and June 7, 2014, and the commission of the offence of kidnapping for a terrorist group while in Syria. RCMP arrested him in July 2020 after a seven-year investigation which also involved the FBI and US Department of Defense.

Fines

Montreal: A group of 37 passengers who were shown on video drinking and partying amid the pandemic on a chartered Sunwing flight from Montreal to Mexico in late December have been fined a total of CDN 59,500 (USD46,480), Transport Canada said. The agency said 42 tickets were issued, including 18 for non-compliance with vaccination requirements and 24 for violations of masking rules. Videos of the flight, shared on social media, showed unmasked passengers.

Releases

Beirut: The United Arab Emirates released a Lebanese physician after holding him for more than three weeks over a tweet he published years ago, a person familiar with the case said. The case of Dr Richard Kharrat came to attention in early April when local media reported that he went missing from his hotel in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the UAE has declined to comment on Kharrat's case since he was detained in early April.

Rejects

Ankara: Turkey rejected accusations that its warplanes conducted unauthorized military flights over Greek islands, pointing the finger at fellow NATO-member Greece instead. A Turkish Foreign Ministry statement said accusations made by Greece do not reflect the truth and insisted that it was Greece's air force that carried out provocative flights near Turkey's coast, allegedly violating its airspace repeatedly over the southwestern towns of Didim, Datca and Dalaman.

Measles

Kampala: Africa is seeing a surge of outbreaks of preventable diseases as a result of disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the World Health Organisation said. The continent recorded a 400 per cent increase in measles, to more than 17,000 cases between January and March, compared to the same period last year; Dr Benito Impouma, a WHO expert in Africa. Two years of disruptions by the coronavirus pandemic have had major effects on the provision.

Political stakes high as Beijing responds to COVID-19 outbreak

Beijing, Apr 29 (AP):

Classes suspended. Buildings and communities sealed off. Mass testing of residents. A rush to stock up on food, just in case. Beijing, China's sprawling capital, is starting to resemble other Chinese cities grappling with the latest wave of the omicron variant of the coronavirus.

Authorities are moving quickly to try to prevent a massive COVID-19 outbreak that could trigger a citywide lockdown like the one that has paralyzed Shanghai for more than three weeks. The political stakes are high as the ruling Communist Party prepares for a major congress this fall at which President Xi Jinping is seeking a



People line up at a COVID-19 coronavirus testing site in Beijing on Friday.

third five-year term to reassert his position as China's unquestioned leader.

Xi and the party's main policymaking body, the Politburo, reaffirmed their commitment to a 'zero-

COVID' policy on Friday, putting China at odds with much of the world. While many countries are dropping restrictions and trying to live with the virus, China is keeping its international borders largely giving up.

shut and closing off entire cities to all but essential travel.

The Politburo acknowledged the economic cost of lockdowns, saying efforts must be made to 'minimize the impact of the epidemic on economic and social development,' the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Despite the toll on the economy and everyday life, the zero-COVID approach is extolled by the Communist Party as a virtuous display of self-sacrifice under the slogan 'Persistence is victory.' Officials frequently point out China's relatively low death toll and have accused the US and other countries of essentially giving up.

'AL-QUDS' DAY



Iranians set an Israeli flag on fire as they during a rally marking 'al-Quds' Day (Jerusalem) day, street at the capital Tehran, on Friday.

Russia accused of stoking divisions in Bosnia

Moscow has fostered vital relationships in Balkans

Banja Luka, Apr 29 (AFP):



Bosnian Serbs, supporters of the pro-Russian Bosnian-Serb hardline leader Milorad Dodik gather in Banja Luka.

(RS).

But there are growing fears the arrangement that has kept the peace in Bosnia for decades may be at risk. Bosnia's Serb leader Milorad Dodik — who has made no secret about his admiration and close ties with

Murphy, who warned of a "very worrying time for Bosnia" during a recent tour of the Balkans. "As Putin gets backed into a corner, he is going to look for other places to try to score victories. And one of them may be Bosnia," he told. For centuries, Russia fostered deep fraternal ties with the Serbs in the Balkans — undergirded by their Slavic and Orthodox heritage along with their steadfast alliances during the world wars of the 20th century.

NATO's intervention in the Balkans in 1990s — first in Bosnia and later against Serbia during the Kosovo war — has long been seen by the Kremlin as a humiliating provocation.

President Vladimir Putin — has been increasingly vocal about his secessionist aims, a move widely believed to have the backing of the Kremlin. The latest sounding of the alarm over the situation came from US Democratic Senator Chris

Hong Kong's John Lee pledges to enact local security law

Hong Kong, Apr 29 (AP):

on upward mobility.

As part of improving governance, Lee said he would fulfil the constitutional responsibility of legislation under Article 23 of Hong Kong's mini-constitution, the Basic Law. Article 23 stipulates that the city shall enact its own laws to prohibit any act of treason, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government," as well as theft of state secrets.

Hong Kong attempted to enact such laws in 2003, but it faced resistance from residents. Plans to implement such a security law were shelved following massive protests. In 2020, the city implemented a national security law imposed by Beijing after months of anti-government protests in 2019.

Lee, 64, is Beijing's only endorsed candidate for the elections and is widely expected to win during the polls on May 8. He resigned as chief secretary for administration earlier in April to run for the elections. Prior to becoming a government official, Lee spent most of his career in the police force and is known for his tough stance against protesters during the 2019 anti-government demonstrations.

Heavy gunfire echoed in a once quiet neighbourhood in Haiti's capital that has become ground zero in a gang fight that has killed at least 20 people, injured more than a dozen and forced thousands to flee their homes this week.

Parents grabbed children by the hands as they balanced bags on their heads with the few belongings they could salvage after gang members ousted them from their homes.

The fighting raging in four districts on the northern side of Port-au-Prince is a new peak in the criminal violence that has surged as increasingly powerful

Mexico president proposes dramatic electoral reforms

Mexico City, Apr 29 (AP):

Mexico's government proposed a dramatic overhaul of the nation's electoral system and the agency that oversees it one of the country's most trusted institutions. It would reduce the size of Congress and state legislatures while having the federal elections board chosen by voters, potentially adding a higher degree of politics to what has been an independent body.

The proposal also would reduce federal funding of political parties and spending on elections in general a repeated target of President Andr s Manuel Lpez Obrador, who has often feuded with the National Electoral Institute.

The proposals presented by Lpez Obrador and several members of his Cabinet would create a new federal elections authority to replace the institute, as well as eliminating similar state-level bodies. There is no intention of imposing a single party, Lpez Obrador said. What we want is that there is a true democracy in the country and that electoral frauds end ... to leave a

true democratic state established.

But the path for what will surely be a controversial reform package would be difficult. Lpez Obrador's party and its allies do not have the two-thirds majority in Congress required to make constitutional changes. The main opposition parties have already said they oppose such changes.

Another major constitutional reform proposed by the president, to shake up the energy sector, fell well short of the votes needed last week.

Haitians struggle to find food, shelter amid new gang battle

Port-au-Prince, Apr 29 (AP):



A police officer patrols a street during an anti-gang operation in Croix-des-Missions north of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

She had to abandon her 96-year-old paralysed father because she couldn't carry him. I don't know how he's doing, if he's still alive, she said.

Brutus said she keeps praying for him as she struggles to find shelter for her family. They have been huddling under the front step of a store with an awning that protects them from the rain, but she is looking for more permanent shelter. It seems like this country has no authorities. No one came here to see us. We don't know how long we're going to be here or how long this is going to last, she said, echoing the frustration of Haitians over the rise in violence.

Billionaire Luiza Trajano shaking up Brazil

Sao Paulo, Apr 29 (AFP):



Brazilian businesswoman Luiza Helena Trajano has made it onto a lot of lists as TIME's most influential people. Forbes' billionaires, the biggest fortunes in Brazil.

But although she has been touted as a potential contender in Brazil's presidential elections this year, there is one list she says she is determined to stay off the ballot.

With the country deeply polarized ahead of October's polls, "I want to unite Brazil," not divide it further, says the 73-year-old entrepreneur, who made her fortune building her family store, Magazine Luiza, into one of Latin America's biggest online retailers.

Not that Trajano, a household name in Brazil, is shying from the spotlight as the race heats up between far-right President Jair Bolsonaro and his nemesis, leftist ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Known for her trailblazing work promoting women's equality, fighting racial discrimination and pushing to speed

woman, a forceful speaker with an imposing personality offset by her contagious laugh and bright red lipstick. Plenty of Brazilians would like to see Trajano get into politics. With the business sector and political middle desperately seeking centrist alternatives to Lula and Bolsonaro, her name was floated as a potential "third-way" candidate. There was also talk Lula

could ask her to be his running mate. "I've been invited plenty of times (to run), including for president," Trajano said. But she added she doesn't want labels, beyond the ones she already has: chair of the board at Magalu, as her company is popularly known, and president of Women of Brazil, her 100,000-member empowerment initiative.

Kabul, Apr 29 (AP):

and principles".

Afghanistan's supreme leader called again Friday for the international community to recognise the Taliban government, saying the world had become a "small village" and proper diplomatic relations would help solve the country's problems.

No nation has formally recognised the regime installed by the Taliban after they seized power in August and reintroduced the hardline Islamist rule that is increasingly excluding women from public life.

In a written message ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada did not mention international sticking points — including reopening secondary schools for girls.

Instead, he said recognition should come first "so that we may address our problems formally and within diplomatic norms

Tens of thousands of women lost their government jobs after the Taliban takeover, and they have also been barred from leaving the country — or even travelling between cities — unless accompanied by a male relative.

In March, the Taliban prompted global outrage by shutting all secondary schools for girls just hours after allowing them to reopen for the first time since they seized power.

Several Taliban officials said the ban was personally ordered by Akhundzada.

Akhundzada's Eid message didn't touch on girls' schools, but he did say authorities were opening new centres and madrasas for both "religious and modern education".

"We respect and are committed to all the sharia rights of men and women in Afghanistan... do not use this humanitarian and emotional issue as a tool for political ends," he said.

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Logistics in warfare

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the recent experiences of the Indian Air Force (IAF) as well as the evolving geopolitical scenario mandates it to be operationally and logically responsive at all times at the national seminar on logistics management. Pointing that during contingencies, the roads and rail heads would be choked due to simultaneous movement of Army along the same axes, ACM Chaudhari said. 'Towards this, we need to formalise an integrated road and rail management plan and explore the feasibility of increased containerisation and use of civilian wide bodied aircraft.' Chaudhari said logistics have been identified as a critical tool for the nation's economic progress. A document on logistics philosophy of IAF titled 'Tenets of Logistics' and a book on history of Logistics in IAF titled 'Footprints in Sands of Time' were released. The 'Tenets of Logistics' in IAF outlines the logistics credo in terms of concept of logistics operations, core functional areas, leveraging technology for conduct of business processes and necessity for jointness with sister services. Flexible stocking policies with modern forecasting techniques would help in demand sensing and prepositioning of items at bases. As seen in case of Russian invasion of Ukraine, logistics can make military operations slowdown. One notable observation so far has been the general disarray of nearly completely undefended Russian supply convoys, which is in contrast with the relative ease that Ukrainians are able to move Anti-Tank Guided Missiles and small arms throughout the battlespace. Echoed through the Russo-Ukrainian War are the rapid advances of Desert Storm, Korea, and Barbarossa; the same issues that plagued the Coalition, North Koreans, and Germans now eat away at conventional Russian capability. Studying these massed offences and learning from them is essential to the competitive advantage of a modern military force. Logistics has always mattered in warfare. Alexander the Great allegedly said that if his campaign should fail, his logisticians were the first to be punished.

Nothing about the way wars will be fought in the future will change the importance of logistics. What will change is how militaries conduct logistics operations. People remember use of commercial trucks supplying weapons for army and air force during the Kargil war. Subsequently, government has inducted several kinds of trucks, transport aircraft and ships for military logistics. In any war, food, fuel, ammunition, and medical re-supplies to frontline troops and besieged civilians are critical to success. In many areas, delivering supplies by rail, road, or traditional air transport is either extremely risky or impossible due to military activity. As technology evolves, drones will be able to deliver a range of cargo from 20kg to 500kg of critical supplies. With a huge range of fixed-wing, rotary-wing, gyrocopter, and hybrid aircraft operating in a coordinated network of short and long-range supply lines, we could provide an almost inexhaustible supply of anything that front line forces or trapped civilians might need without risking a single human life. During World War II, again due to the problems in the supply chain, the German Nazi Army lost the war before reaching its target, Russia. In a nutshell, the status quo of conventional warfare appears to have been broken. Military technologies, platforms and the methods of their employment need to be re-examined. Sichuan Tengen Technology, a Chinese start-up company, announced that it has developed a payload drone with a payload capacity of 20 tons. China's military has brought together hundreds of arms makers to showcase their products as the PLA looks for new drones and intelligent vehicles to boost logistic. China will be able to deploy transport drones near LAC against India. A GBP 3 million prize-winning military shipping drone competition was held in the UK. India also needs to develop a military transport industry for logistics.

Regional film industries

If Hindi is not the national language of India, why are movies made in different languages and eventually dubbed, Bollywood star Ajay Devgan had tweeted in response to a statement by south star Kichcha Sudeep. Sudeep had said, Hindi (filmmakers) should say they are making pan India movies. They have been dubbing those (Bollywood) movies into Tamil and Telugu, etc and they are struggling. They are not able to. Today, we just make films that reach everywhere. Sudeep's comments had sparked a debate on social media over the apparent imposition of Hindi, with politicians from Karnataka also expressing opinions. For the longest time, Bollywood's most popular offerings were either direct remakes or inspired by Southern film industries. Southern film industries have a zing that Bollywood wanted to reach but didn't know how. Regional film industries are now gaining more prominence nationally compared to Hindi language Bollywood. In a country as vast and diverse as India, it would be extremely wrong to consider Bollywood as the torchbearer of Indian film industry. It is high time that people are moving over the language barriers and open ourselves to the brilliant regional cinema. Bollywood itself made significant contribution to this situation.

For way too long mainstream Bollywood has been making sub-par movies with the same celebrity actors, based on scripts that lack creativity. If not for the lacklustre scripts, Bollywood turned to remake regional movies. The audience simply got fed up with this and looked for fresher, better content. Regional film industries are coming up with big-budget movies that would cater to a pan-India audience. According to the annual media and entertainment report by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) along with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), 35-40 percent of the consumption of OTT services happens in local languages and the hours of original programming that has tripled. The South stars, now with increased popularity thanks to social media and OTT, are becoming pan-India stars. Tamil and Telugu film industries especially, don't alienate their audience. They cast a very wide net when it comes to targeting an audience base. You will never see a South film, starring the superstars, made for a niche audience. Bollywood has been doing this for a while, which is why the least common denominator feels alienated.

SHOPPING IN SRINAGAR



People shop at a market for the upcoming 'Eid al-Fitr' in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Time for Kashmiri people to show their faith with India



RK SINHA



The pleasant breeze blowing through the valley of Kashmir is surely raising hope among the Kashmiris. The breeze of hope that the life is returning back to normal in the Valley. The atmosphere of fear and worry is almost ending there. Had it been a false statement then one lakh eighty thousand tourists almost 6000 per day, would not have reached Srinagar airport for excursion. This figure is much greater in comparison to last ten years tourist visit in a month. Additionally, the experts allied with the tourism sector of state government are predicting that in coming days and months this number will certainly boost. In order to beat the scorching heat of May and June, tourists from across the country, will surely like visit valleys, falls and religious spots in Jammu and Kashmir. In the time of terror, no one would have even imagined that the normalcy will return in that short period of time and tourists will not be troubled any more there. Presently, all the hotels are full and Shikaras also have long waiting period. The mindset of the people towards the valley is changing. Kashmir is welcoming tourists from Mumbai to Delhi and Bhubaneshwar to Kerala everywhere. One of my friends who is former Income tax commissioner, visited the valley along with his family last month. He was pleased by the reception offered by Kashmiri people which is similar to the one offered before the

decade of 90s. They are joyous seeing the unprecedented number of visitors. Firstly, terrorism and then Covid completely destroyed the tourism sector there. People in this sector was even devoid of two course meal. They faced a harsh scarcity of food.

The atmosphere there is free from terror now. Still some anti India elements are existing there. Today or tomorrow, they will have to join and be a part of mainstream. They aren't left with any other choice. If they continue their path, they will be and are being reined. Now locals of Kashmir will have to make sure that they completely isolate themselves from anti India elements. Locals should report willingly the whereabouts of these anti India elements to security forces. Along with it they will have to provide complete security to the non-Kashmiri people working there. They will have to assure that Kashmir belongs to every Indian like whole India belongs to Kashmiris also. With the increase in number of tourists, Kashmiri people should think that people from other states will migrate to Kashmir for small job opportunities also. Indians from other states have equal right over Kashmir as the people of Kashmir have on the entire India. Every year people from Kashmir move to different parts of the country to sell the products of handloom and carpet and woolen industry of the state. Have they been denied from entering any area? Similarly, they

should allow other people to practice business in their state. In reality a poor person from Bihar selling golgappa is murdered. Despite all these mishaps, the Kashmiri society has not openly paid tribute to the poor deceased. It is also a reality that many migrants Bihar have fallen prey to terrorism. Few days back poor person from Bhagalpur named Virendra Paswan was gunned down. On his death no one was there to remorse except his relatives. Virendra Paswan used to migrate to Kashmir during every summer to earn livelihood. He used to sell tasty golgappas.

Actually, the main problem of muslims in the Kashmir is that they always remain in the victim mode. They continuously try to prove that they have suffered injustice. This is a wrong mindset. There is a need to come out of it. They become silent on exodus of Kashmiri Pandit. They don't protest the murders of people like Paswan. Actually, they haven't face any injustice. They themselves have done injustices to the Kashmiri Pandits and poor Hindu labourers who have temporarily migrated in Kashmir. Actually, as the Kashmir valley is changing, various development programs run by government should also be given due credit. Last Sunday PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stone for the development projects worth of 20 thousand crores. All the projects of central government are being implemented and executed in the valley. Kashmiri people are getting their full benefits. People who were devoid of benefits of reservation, are now getting its benefits. Shameful fact is that in the state Dalits and backwards have not received any benefits for last 70 years. Amidst, the foundation stone of three sections of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway was laid. It is a project worth more than 7.5 thousand crore. 108 Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Samba and Solar electricity plant of five hun-

dred kilowatt is being constructed. Along with it, Banihal-Kaazigund road tunnel has been inaugurated. Almost 8.5 kilometres long tunnel will dramatically reduce the distance between Banihal and Kaazigund by 16 km and travel time is reduced by 1.5 hours.

Many high-end tourists from wealthier Indian regions such as Gujarat, Delhi and Mumbai were opting for the Kashmir valley instead of destinations in Europe because of pandemic-related uncertainty. Over 3.5 lakh tourists have visited Kashmir in the last three months. This number is expected to go up in the coming months. As many as 6.6 lakh tourists from across the country visited the Valley in 2021, a considerable increase from 41,000 in 2020. J&K has been witnessing a considerable decline in tourist footfall since 2019, following the scrapping of Article 370. The decline was further accelerated by Covid restrictions, which dealt another blow to the Valley's bustling tourism industry. The bordering areas in North Kashmir have now been thrown open to the public. Areas like Keran, Gurez, Tangdhar, Machil, and Bangus are the new tourist destinations, which have been added to the list by the tourism department. With breath-taking views of the hills and rivers, these places are being promoted as adventure tourism destinations. If you have recently visited Jammu-Kashmir you will believe that the roads in the state is becoming world-class. The importance of road in mountainous region is known to all. As the central government along with the country are wishing that the state should get the deserving prosperity Kashmiri people should also perform their duty. They should show their allegiance. Pakistan has always led them to astray as a result they have always suffered losses.

(RK Sinha is senior editor, columnist, and former MP.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vacancies

Retirement is a regulated administrative matter in both the public and private sectors. So, retirement does not come unanticipated. In the case of the filling up of vacancies in the judiciary, the Central government must cooperate with the collegium and approve its recommendations in toto, without political motive or interference. A solution to fill up all judicial vacancies is by acting immediately. Any delay will affect the settling of cases. Also, taking into account the number of retirements between May and August, the services of all judges should be best utilised, perhaps even skipping the summer vacation this year, keeping the interests of the public in mind. Perhaps the only other option to overcome the retirement conundrum and reduce dependency is to increase the age of retirement of judges and have them retained in service till pending cases is manageable.

Manoharan, via email

Humour politics

What do Bhagwant Singh Mann and Volodmyr Zelensky have in common? Well, both are comedians-turned-politicians. In fact, the pages of political history show that plenty of Presidents and Prime Ministers had begun their careers as actors, musicians and satirists. But, can a comedian by profession make a good political leader and does he really have what it takes to lead a State or a country? Yes, there are many reasons why he can do so. Using humour has been shown to strengthen solidarity among colleagues, and successful leaders can channel humour into team spirit. In politics, laughter might not be the best medicine always to diffuse tension, but if leaders want to motivate ebbing and wearying followers, a well-timed joke can do the trick. Research has shown not only that humour can encourage positive thinking, but it can also suppress negative feelings. If political leaders use humour carefully, they can turn laughs into votes and giggles into team spirit. However, in the prevailing political scenario, while Mann is enjoying his time, having become the new Chief Minister of Punjab, Zelensky is fighting a war against Russia as a defiant hero, grabbing the global headlines.

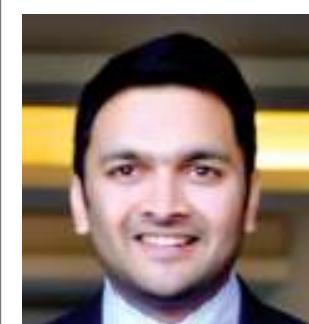
Ranganathan, via email

Potential

Traditional medical systems such as Ayurveda have vast untapped potential in serving primary health-care needs. But this potential can be leveraged if these are approached and adapted scientifically. Enhancing their evidence-based character would first require divesting them of the obviously outdated notions of physiology and pathology they contain. The Ayush Ministry and its academic centres appear to be blissfully ignorant of this long-pending reform.

G Krishna, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Cnkhilchitale

We need to appreciate our efforts for greener India. Plastic is cheap & convenient for a common man. That's why it's widely used throughout the world. If there was another alternative that was food safe and equally priced, everyone would use it.



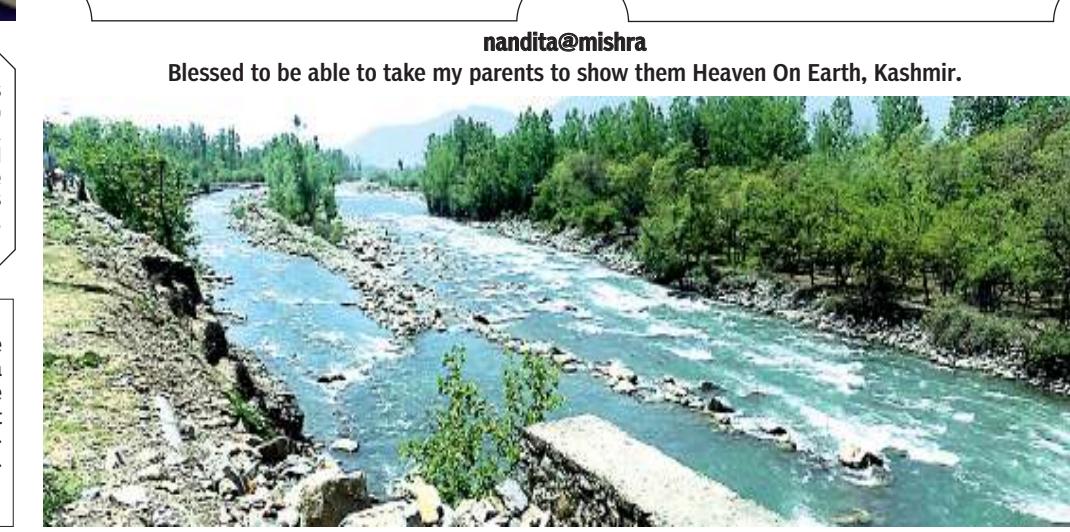
Vishal@VishalJ

Most under appreciated privilege of Homeschooling is kid's ability to sleep 'enough'. Research shows that their brain makes sense of world mostly while they are sleeping. Since industrial era schools have robbed kids of sleep by starting early as parents had to reach factory.



Arti@ghargi

The unprecedented heatwave gripping India should be on the agenda on news channels. Some of us are privileged to stay in AC cabins/homes. Many are not. Rikshaw pullers, daily wage labourers, street vendors are working in the harmful heatwave. This should be Prime Time.



nandita@mishra

Blessed to be able to take my parents to show them Heaven On Earth, Kashmir.



Brahma@Chellaney

US sanctions, while pushing Myanmar into the arms of Beijing, have made China the almost exclusive buyer of Iran's rising oil exports. China, according to Kpler, largely relies on ship-to-ship transfers to dodge sanctions. Now US's Russia sanctions will prove a bonanza for China.



Aditi@mukherji

When I tweeted on heat waves in India and said we simply can't adapt to such extreme heat (so mitigation is best adaptation), a white dude from Australia suggested aircons as adaptation! Also, who cares if brown blacks bodies perish in heat?