



BRIEF



A girl shows her palms decorated with 'mehndi' (henna) during the month of Ramadan, at a market in Srinagar, Tuesday.

Toddler drowns

Bengaluru: A two-and-half-year-old boy drowned in a pit dug up by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to lay water pipeline near Gollarahatti in Bengaluru on Tuesday. The pit was filled with water, police said. The child's parents alleged that no warning signs or safety measures were taken up near the site by the workers.

Maoist killed

Bijapur: A Maoist was killed in a gun battle with security personnel in a forest in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Tuesday, a police official said. Two Maoists, one of them injured, were also apprehended following the encounter, he said. The gunfight took place at around 8 am near Kachlavari village under Naimed police station limits, located about 400 km from state capital Raipur, when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on a search operation, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Anjneya Varshney told PTI.

History rewriting

New Delhi: The CPI(M) on Tuesday accused the Narendra Modi government of rewriting history to advance its "communal, fascist project" and called on people to defeat the move. History is not a propaganda tool, Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury wrote on Twitter. He also attached posters created by the party's student wing, Students' Federation of India (SFI), questioning the logic behind certain deletions in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks.

Weather
High 42 Low 26

MARKET
NIFTY 17,660.15
SENSEX 59,727.01

BULLION
GOLD 60,562
SILVER 75,402

Bilkis case

Centre, Gujarat govt may seek review of order on production of remission files of convicts

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):



The Centre and the Gujarat government on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that they may file a plea seeking a review of its March 27 order asking them to be ready with original files on the grant of remission to the convicts in the Bilkis Bano case.

A bench of Justices K M Joseph and B V Nagarathna questioned the paroles granted to 11 convicts during their in-

carceration period and said the gravity of the offence could have been considered by the state.

It said, "A pregnant woman was gang-raped and several people were

killed. You cannot compare victim's case with standard section 302 (murder) cases. Like you cannot compare apples with oranges, similarly massacre cannot be compared with single murder. Crimes are generally committed against society and the community. Unequals cannot be treated equally."

"The question is whether government applied its mind and what material formed the basis of its decision to grant re-

mission," the bench said, adding, "Today it is Bilkis but tomorrow it can be anyone. It may be you or me. If you do not show your reasons for grant of remission, then we will draw our own conclusions."

The bench posted the batch of pleas challenging the remission to the convicts in Bilkis Bano case for final disposal on May 2 and asked all the convicts who have not been served notices to file their replies.

Twitter to restrict visibility of tweets that violate its policy

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI)

Social media platform Twitter will allow freedom of speech but not "freedom of reach" as it will restrict visibility of tweets that violate its rules, the company said in its policy update.

Twitter will initially apply the visibility filter on tweets that are found violating hateful conduct rules and expand it to other domains later. The social media firm said that Twitter users have the right to express their opinions and ideas without fear of censorship. "We also believe it is our responsibility to keep users on our platform safe from content violating our rules.

Cong demands white paper from govt on Pulwama attack

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Congress on Tuesday demanded that the government should come out with a white paper on the Pulwama attack providing answers to questions such as what were the "intelligence failures" and why troops were denied aircraft.

Days after former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satypal Malik's allegations over the 2019 Pulwama attack, the Congress held a press conference here by Col (ret'd) Rohit Chaudhry and Wing Commander (ret'd) Anuma Acharya, both associated with the party, and posed a

series of questions to the government on the attack in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed. There has been no reaction from the government since Malik's interview to a news portal was released, while the BJP has said that there were serious questions about his credibility and cited various statements made by him in recent years.

The BJP had cited Malik's past remarks, including the one that mocked former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi as a "political juvenile", and slammed him as the "disgraced" governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

Water disputes tribunal begins five-day field survey of Mahanadi river in Chh'garh

Raipur, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal on Tuesday started a five-day field survey in Chhattisgarh to study the water flow downstream and the availability and use of water in non-monsoon season, officials here said.

The three-member tribunal assisted by a technical team started the visit from Dhamtari district where the river originates, they said.

In the first phase of the survey ending April 22, the tribunal will cover

Mahanadi basin in Chhattisgarh and visit Odisha in the second phase from April 29 to May 3, an official from the public relations department said.

The tribunal has so far held 36 hearings. During a hearing of water dispute between Chhattisgarh and Odisha on March 25 in New Delhi, it had decided to conduct a field survey, he said.

Speaking about the tribunal's visit, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said, "This (matter) should not have gone to the tribunal. Mahanadi originates in Chhattisgarh and we

don't have a dam here. The dispute erupted after barrages were constructed. Due to the ongoing dispute over water sharing, we could not construct a dam in Surguja and barrages (in other places). I understand we should get permission (for the construction), as the entire water of the river goes to Odisha."

Chhattisgarh, which came into existence on November 1, 2000 after its bifurcation from Madhya Pradesh, has the largest Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the country, the PR official said.

Cong MLA claims shots fired at convoy

Bijapur, Apr 18 (PTI):

A Congress MLA on Tuesday alleged that shots were fired at his convoy in a village in insurgency-hit Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh. Bastar Inspector General of Police Sunderraj P said the police received information about a firing by Maoists and no one was hurt in it. A probe has been initiated in the matter, he said in a release.

Congress MLA from Bijapur Vikram Mandavi alleged that shots were fired at his convoy when he was returning from Gangalur village on Tuesday afternoon. Talking to reporters, Mandavi said he had gone to attend a nukkad sabha (street meeting) in Gangalur weekly market and was returning to Bijapur when shots were fired near Padeda village. The bullets hit a wheel of a car belonging to Jila Panchayat member Parvati Kashyap, who was in the convoy. Luckily, no one was hurt in the incident, he said, adding that the police had been informed about his visit.

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'Will not go into personal laws'

SC while hearing pleas for legal validation for same-sex marriages

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Tuesday made it clear that it will not go into the personal laws governing marriages while deciding the pleas seeking legal validation for same-sex marriages and asked the lawyers to advance arguments on the Special Marriage Act.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud termed the issue involving the pleas "complex" and said the very notion of a man and a woman, as referred to in the Special Marriage Act, is not "an absolute based on genitals". "It is not the question

of what your genitals are. It is far more complex, that's the point. So, even when the Special Marriage Act says man and woman, the very notion of a man and a woman is not an absolute based on genitals," said the

bench, which also comprised justices Justices S K Kaul, S R Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha. On being pointed out the difficulties and ramifications for the Hindu Marriage Act and personal laws of various religious groups if the apex court were to hold same-sex marriages valid, the bench said, "Then we can keep the personal laws out of the equation and all of you (lawyers) can address us on the Special Marriage Act (a religion neutral marriage law)."

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 is a law that provides a legal framework for the marriage of people belonging to different religions or castes. It governs a civil marriage where the state sanctions the marriage rather than the religion. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing

for the Centre, referred to the laws on transgenders and said there are several rights such as the right to choose partners, privacy right, right to choose sexual orientation, and any discrimination is criminally prosecutable.

"However, the conferment of socio-legal status of marriage cannot be done through judicial decisions. It cannot even be done by the legislature. The acceptance has to come from within the society," the top government law officer said.

He said the problem will arise when a person, who is a Hindu, wants to avail the right to marry within the same sex while remaining a Hindu. "Hindus and Muslims and other communities will be affected and that is why the states should be heard," the law officer said.

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NHRC issues notice to UP Police over killing of Atiq Ahmad, brother

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh Police over the killing of gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf when they were being escorted by police in Prayagraj, officials said on Tuesday.

In its notice to the Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh and the Commissioner of Police of Prayagraj, the commission sought reports from them within four weeks.

The reports should cover all the aspects leading to the killings, copies of medical-legal certificates of the deceased, inquest report, post-mortem report, video cassette/CD of post-mortem examination, site plan of scene of occurrence of the crime, and magisterial enquiry report, it added.

Man held for sharing provocative content on social media

Bareilly (UP): A man has been arrested here for allegedly sharing a provocative post on social media in connection with the killing of gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf, police said on Tuesday. An FIR was filed at Izzatnagar police station on Monday night against the accused, Farooq (25), for trying to vitiate the atmosphere through provocative posts on social media, they said. Subsequently, Farooq, a resident of Abdullapur Mafi village, was arrested under the IT Act and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, Bareilly SP (City) Rahul Bhati said. Apart from Farooq, a few others from the district's Bhojipura area have also posted inflammatory content on social media and police are trying to identify them, the SP added.

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SAIL Chairman visits Bhilai Steel Plant

**Bhilai, Apr 18:**

SAIL Chairman, Soma Mondal visited Bhilai Steel Plant on Tuesday. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c(BSP) received Mondal at the airport on her arrival on April, 17, while all Executive Directors at BSP welcomed Mondal at Bhilai Niwas.

Next day on April, 18, Chairman Mondal visited Bhilai steel Plant in the morning and inaugurated and dedicated the newly

commissioned Rolling Mill Laboratory. This lab shall facilitate the Plant's Rolling Mill with various kinds of qualitative, strength, toughness and other tests through testing mechanisms like Qualifying Criteria Test Facility for Rails, Mechanical Testing equipment, Chemical Tests and Metallographic Test Equipment etc.

Chairman and all the senior officers complimented the team for establishing this lab and said



that this system will prove to be very useful to the Rolling Mill system and Bhilai Steel Plant. During her visit at the plant, the SAIL Chairman was accompanied by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c(BSP), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) with Additional Charge of ED(P&A), Dr AK Panda, ED (F&A), Dr M Ravindranath, CMO I/c (M&HS), Samir Swarup, CGM I/c (Mines & Rowghat), and other senior officials.

Chairman Mondal presided over various meetings at DIC Conference hall of Ispat Bhawan. As part of the CSR activities of Bhilai Steel Plant, the Chairman virtually inaugurated a Milk Distribution Scheme launched for 3,000 student beneficiaries from various village schools under the Rowghat Mines Project in four districts of Chhattisgarh, namely Narayanpur, Kanker, Balod and Manpur-mohla.

Seminar on 'Scope of Entrepreneurship in fisheries sector' conducted

Bhilai, Apr 18:

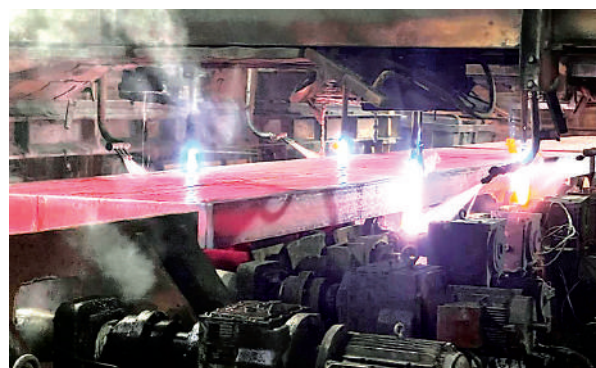
The PG Department of Zoology, St Thomas college, Bhilai, in association with the MOU partner, Govt Baba Sahib Bhimrao Ambedkar PG College, Dongargaon, organized an online Seminar on "Scope of Entrepreneurship in Fisheries Sector". Administrator of St Thomas College, Rev Father Dr Joshi Varghese was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Renuka Thakur, Asst Professor, Dongargaon College and Dr Neetu Raj Panicker, Assistant Professor St Thomas College, were the Resource Persons for the seminar. Principal of Dongargaon College Dr BN Meshram and Principal of St Thomas College, Bhilai Dr MG



Roymon participated in the seminar. Principal Dr BN Meshram while addressing the gathering, stressed on the relevance of the topic and its usefulness for the students. In his inspirational speech, Rev Father Dr Joshi Varghese encouraged both the institutions to

come forward with such programs that are of great benefit for the students. Dr Jayasree Balasubramanian, Head, department of Zoology, St Thomas College, Bhilai welcomed the guests and Student co-ordinator Riya Raj M proposed the vote of thanks.

BSP's Caster-6 of SMS-2 marks new record



Bhilai, Apr 18: Yet another milestone was achieved by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's SMS-2, with the Caster No 6 casting 60 heats in a single Tundish, by surpassing the previous best record of 52 heats, made on Jan, 15, 2023. The Casting started at 18:05 hrs on April, 15, 2023 and continued for a duration of 40 hours-21

minutes, and finally got over at 10:26 AM on April 17. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c, Bhilai steel plant, Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), SK Ghoshal, CGM, SMS-2 and other senior officials of the Plant congratulated the Caster-6 Team for this achievement.

The record number of 60 heats in a single

Tundish was achieved by making some modifications in the SEN, impact pad, slide gate plates and the tundish lining. The feat was achieved by strictly adhering to the technical norms and operational excellence. Highest number of hot charging heats (32) was also achieved directly to the Plate Mill, thereby increasing the rolling rate of Plate Mill. It is noteworthy that Caster No. 6 of SMS-2 exceeded its rated capacity and produced 0.88MT against the rated capacity of 0.8MT in the last financial year 2022-2023.

The Operations team of Caster No 6 was led by Alok Mathur GM, while Mechanical and Electrical teams were led by Yogesh Shastri, GM and Saurabh Jain GM, respectively.

Prostitution racket busted at Spa Center in TI Mall

- Eight girls of north-east and other states rescued
- Spa owner and 08 customers arrested

Bhilai, Apr 18: With the arrest of eight customers and a male pimp, police claimed to have busted a prostitution racket which was operated from a Spa centre situated at the Treasure Island Mall in Junwani. The nine accused have been booked under the provisions of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. Eight female workers of the Spa have been rescued.

SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that on April 17, they received information about immoral activities at a Spa Center in TI Mall. Taking the matter into serious cognizance, the Police team swung into action and a pointer was sent to



the Spa Centre for verification of the information. The pointer carried marked notes of Rs 500 denomination. Soon the pointer verified that immoral activities were going on in the Spa Centre and signalled the Police Team to conduct a raid. A police team including female constables conducted a raid at 'Essence - The Spa' located on the second floor of Surya Treasure Island

Mall. Sub Inspector Pramod Srivastava (SHO, Smriti Nagar Chowki) led the police team and the raid was conducted in the presence of independent witnesses. The team found eight girls in objectionable and compromising conditions with 08 customers. Police took action against the accused under sections 3, 4, 5, 7 of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. Investigation is also being

done in relation to human trafficking by interrogating the victim women. Durg Police is keeping a close watch on other centers as well. Strict action will be taken on receiving information about any kind of immoral activities. The arrested accused are (Spa Operator) Shariq Khan (43)s/o Ashiq Khan a resident of Noori Masjid Ward No 8 Farid Nagar; Customers - Amit Singh

Thakur (40) son of Ajit Singh Thakur a resident of Tulsipur, Rajnandgaon; Nivesh Jain (30) son of Nareshchandra Jain a resident of Sadar Bazar, Basantpur, Rajnandgaon; Jai Taunk (30) son of Ramesh Tank a resident of Rajnandgaon; Deepak Agrawal (46) son of Late Manmohan Agrawal a resident of Lakholi Janata Colony, Basantpur, Rajnandgaon; Surendra Kumar Gupta (44) son of Ambika Prasad Gupta a resident of Village Arjuni, Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon; Nooraj Singh Rajput (34) son of Gajanand Singh Rajput a resident of Housing Board Colony, Jamul; Kamaljit Chelak (29) son of Late Narayan Prasad Chelak a resident of Kosa Nagar, Supela and Dev Prakash (29) son of Shiv Prasad a resident of Nehru Nagar (East), Supela.

101 missing mobiles recovered: handed over to owners

Bhilai, Apr 18:

Anti Crime and Cyber Unit (ACCU) of Durg Police traced and recovered 101 missing mobile phones worth Rs 12 lakh. The recovered mobile phones were handed over to the concerned owners. On the instructions of the Inspector General of Police, the ACCU is making sustained efforts to trace and recover the missing mobile phones.

Various police stations of the district are receiving complaints about the missing mobile phones. Considering the situation, Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Anand Chhabra had instructed Superintendent of Police, Dr Abhishek Pallava to recover the missing mobiles and hand over the same to the appli-



cants. Under the supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Anant Sahu, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Dr Abhishek Pallava, ACCU conducted a campaign to trace the missing mobiles of 2022 - 2023.

(Crime) Rajiv Sharma, the Anti Crime and Cyber Unit Durg led by Inspector Santosh Mishra was deployed for tracing the missing mobiles. According to the instructions of senior officials, ACCU conducted a campaign to trace the missing mobiles of 2022 - 2023.

The Anti Crime and Cyber Unit team recovered almost 101 mobiles which were being used in Durg, Bhilai, Rajnandgaon, Balod, Bemetara and Raipur. Mobiles of various companies worth Rs 12.50 lakh were recovered. The recovered mobile phones were duly distributed to the applicants concerned. The Anti Crime and Cyber Unit team played a remarkable role in recovery of mobiles. On the instructions of Superintendent of Police, the list of IMEI numbers of the recovered mobiles will be uploaded on the social account of the Durg Police (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), so that the concerned mobile owner can collect their mobile phones from Anti Crime and Cyber Unit Office, Sector 3.

Collector issues order in public interest within few hours

Bhilai, Apr 18:

A public representative of the city submitted an application regarding the change in the timing of the government fair price shop in the public interest in view of the scorching heat. The applicant stated that in view of the scorching heat, the timings should be changed to provide relief to the common people. He demanded that the new timings should be fixed from 07:00 hrs to 12:00 hrs and from 16:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs. As it was a public interest issue, the Collector issued the order to the concerned department within four hours so that the interest of the common people is not affected and they can get ration easily.

A man whose child studies in Gandhi Memorial



School Ahiwara also reached Jandarshan with a complaint against the school. The applicant said that the books of each class are changed every year. Further, these books are available only at specific shops. He alleged that the school gets commission from this shop. Parents have to spend an amount of 3000 to 4000 rupees for books from nurs-

ery to primary classes. A middle class family cannot afford such expensive books. However, to build the future of children, the parents are forced to buy these books at high rates. Poor and middle class families are aggrieved with this system. The applicant requested the Collector to tighten noose around the school management. In view of the seriousness of

the matter, the Collector directed the District Education Officer to take immediate action in this context and to ensure that no school management can act arbitrarily. The schools should operate according to the guidelines set under the education policy.

On Monday, a total of 151 applications were received in Jandarshan.

Soma Mondal inaugurates Rolling Mill Laboratory

Bhilai, Apr 18:

Rolling Mill Laboratory of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, was inaugurated by Soma Mondal, Chairman SAIL, by unveiling the Inaugural Plaque and releasing a Brochure detailing the Laboratory facilities in the Inaugural Ceremony organized on April, 18, 2023.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) and Adtl Charge ED (P&A), Dr AK Panda, ED(F&A), AK Chakraborty, ED(MM),

M Ravindranath, CMO I/c (M&HS), Samir Swarup, CGM I/c (Mines & Rowghat), SK Kar, CGM(Quality & SMS-3), RK Srivastava, CGM (Projects) and other Senior Officials of Bhilai Steel Plant, were present during the Inaugural Ceremony.

After the formal inauguration, Chairman SAIL observed various state of art Analytical & Testing facilities set up in this Laboratory, wherein the details and speciality of each of the Lab equipment was explained to her by Sandip Kumar Kar, CGM (Quality & SMS-3) and other Lab Officials.



The Rolling Mill Laboratory, which was envisaged under MODEX Lab Package 090A, comprises of most modern and State of Art Sample Preparation,

Analytical & Testing Equipment to take care of Chemical, Mechanical & Metallographic test requirements and certification of different Long

Products produced in Bhilai Steel Plants, including Rails.

The Fatigue Crack Growth Rate(FCGR) Test equipment of this lab is the first such machine in

whole of SAIL, procured for the purpose of carrying out the FCGR Test of Rails, which is a mandatory Qualifying Criteria Test for rails, recently introduced in Rail

Specification. Necessary service facilities for the above-mentioned buildings and installation of laboratory equipment facilities in these buildings, was commissioned successfully on July 27, 2022 by Projects Utility Zone under guidance of user deptt RCL and provided with modern state-of-the-art equipment in the new Laboratory buildings.

The key driver of this project was AV Manoj GM (RCL). VC Shekhar, GM I/c (Proj-Utilities), Punit Verma, AGM (Proj-Utilities), Ashish Kumar Ranteke, AGM (Proj-Utilities), Rohit Arya, AGM (Proj-

Utilities) other officials from Projects side were present on the occasion.

Laboratory Officials, AV Manoj, Siddhartha Mukhopadhyay, KV Shankar, Saksham Shrivastava, Sathya Devi, JK Verma, Pawan Kumar, KK Gupta, Venu Gopal Swamy, Deepak Bhatia, CP Pradeep, ML Verma and others were involved in setting up the Rolling Mill Lab in association with the Projects Department Team.

With the setting up of this Rolling Mill Lab, Bhilai Steel Plant has become one of the SAIL Labs having World Class test facilities.

Youths join police with feeling of repaying the debt of their soil: CM

Raipur, Apr 18: 'Convocation ceremony is an important event in the life of a police officer while training is a continuing activity, and you have learned something new every day while training in this academy. It is commendable that you have chosen to serve in the police department'.



Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel stated this today during the passing-out-parade ceremony for the twelfth batch of DSPs training at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy. Chief Minister, Baghel wished the police officers graduating from the academy and expressed confidence that they would carry out their jobs with devotion and honesty.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today attended the passing-out-parade of trainee Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

Police Academy in Chandkhuri. The passing out parade at Chandkhuri featured 25 trainee Deputy Superintendents of Police from the twelfth batch. Chief Minister, Baghel attended the convocation event today at 9.00 a.m. and took salute of parade. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Urban Development Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahariya and Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh Ashok Juneja along with all senior police officers also participated in the convoca-

tion parade ceremony. During the parade's march past, Shri Ratan Lal Dangi, Director of the Police Academy, delivered the welcoming address and read the annual report on the event.

CM Baghel stated that our state is advancing steadily, that favorable good things have begun to emerge from the state's Naxalite violence-affected districts, and that all of this is owing to the police department's efficiency and promptness. These excellent circumstances are

possible by the officers of the department through their hard work, dedication, and determination, the new officers must take it a step further and live up to society's expectations.

As stated by the Chief Minister, the police should be united and dedicated. Youths join the police service not just for a living, but also to repay their soils debt. Only when police officers and employees fulfill their responsibilities in the spirit of self-sacrifice we feel comfortable in our homes.

Chief Minister, Baghel went on to say that because police officers are aware of innovation, they should be prepared to adapt new techniques and try to interact with people through innovation. Even in challenging situations, police officers and staff must work. The state government is always working to offer facilities and security for their families. Officers should always re-

member and endeavor to execute the provisions of the Police Code of Conduct while doing their duties.

On the occasion of the convocation, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu stated that our state is constantly moving forward and progressing under the leadership of Chief Minister Baghel. In his address to the new police officers, he stated that this occasion evokes excitement in everyone's mind and that after receiving convocation today, these police officers have become capable of accepting the challenges. Mr. Sahu complimented the trainee officers on their decision to work for the police department.

Additionally, Sahu further said that our state is constantly growing, and thanks to the hard work of police officers and personnel, a pleasant climate has now been formed even in places affected by Naxalite violence.

We Care Superspeciality Hospital celebrates seventh anniversary

Raipur, Apr 18: The prestigious We Care Superspeciality Hospital of Chhattisgarh located in Telibandha Ring Road No.1 celebrated its seventh anniversary on Tuesday. Dr. Vivek Pandey, Chief Director of We Care Hospital informed that his hospital has successfully completed 7 years and entered the eighth year with the immense support and trust of the people of Chhattisgarh and with the cooperation of all the fellow doctors, nurses and employees of the hospital. He thanked everyone for this immense affection. We Care Hospital has been awarded a good rating by the Government of Chhattisgarh for the excellent work done during Covid pandemic, which is an example of our dedication and determination towards the patients.

Giving further information, he said that in the last 7 years, We Care Hospital has gained the trust of the people, which is a proud achievement in itself. Referring to the achievements, Dr Pandey said that



in the past years, more than 30 thousand OPDs, more than 10 thousand surgeries and 15 thousand IPDs and other complicated surgeries were successfully completed. Giving further information, he said that in the last 7 years, V Care Hospital has gained the trust of the people, which is a proud achievement in itself. Referring to the achievements, he said that in the past years, more than 30 thousand OPDs, more than 10 thousand surgeries, more than 15 thousand IPDs and other complicated surgeries were successfully completed. The 100 bedded hospital fully equipped with modern facilities which includes Advanced Orthopedic

Trauma Department, Knee and Shoulder Arthroscopy, Joint Replacement Center, Neuro Surgery, Critical Care Unit, Gynecology and Obstetrics, General Surgery, Minimal Access Surgery Department, Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Unit, Medicine and Dialysis Unit, Respiratory and Chest Diseases, Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, Department of Pediatric, Department of Urology, Department of Ear Nose and Throat, Cancer Care Unit, Department of Psychiatry and plastic surgery department departments are being made available with latest equipment and technology.

'Will unite five lakh Ch'garhi traders of state'

Raipur, Apr 18: The state executive committee of Chhattisgarhia Commerce and Industry Federation has been expanded. On this occasion, an introductory meet and traders discussion was organised. Addressing this program organised at Jora-based Punjabi Tadka, the President of Chhattisgarhia Commerce and Industry Federation said that there are more than five lakh Chhattisgarhi traders in the state and to unite them now everyone has to join hands. General Secretary Manish Tikriha said that in the first phase of the expansion program, 50 members were included in the advisory and executive committee. It will be expanded even further. Senior members lit the traditional lamp and inaugurated the function after the state song.



The program was addressed by the Vice President Mr. Dilip Tikriha, in which he gave detailed information about the purpose and business prospects of the federation. Advisors Mahesh Dewangan, Raghavendra Chandrakar, Narayan Sahu, Omprakash Manikpuri, Sandeep Chandrakar, Shyam Verma and others also addressed the function, informs a release issued by Anita Soni, member, Chhattisgarhia Commerce and Industry Federation.

'Be alert in view of increase in Covid-19'

● **Health Minister Singhdeo to health department**

Raipur, Apr 18: In view of the increasing cases of corona infection in the country and the state Health Minister TS Singhdeo gave necessary guidelines by holding a meeting of senior departmental officers here today. He asked the officials of the health department to be alert and keep all the arrangements in place for the investigation, treatment, prevention and control of corona.

The Health Minister directed to ensure proper arrangement of medical equipments, oxygen kits, vaccines, medicines, con-



sumables etc. besides conducting maximum number of RTPCR tests to confirm Covid-19 positive patients. He also reviewed the deaths due to Corona in the last one month.

Singhdeo gave instructions to conduct 10,000 tests daily while expediting the sample testing of patients suspected of corona. He also asked to start training of human resource related to operation of life saving equipment and treatment of Covid-19 in hospitals.

rate in the country and the state, preparations for its treatment and control will have to be kept in the hospitals as well, he said. Health department officials informed that the number of samples being tested daily is being increased in the state. Between April 11 and April 17, an average of 3763 tests have been done daily, whereas in the first week of March, an average of 1008 tests were conducted daily. Officials said that in the last one month (between March 17 and April 17), 11 patients of Covid-19 have died in the state and 8 of them were suffering from comorbidity. Moreover four patients out of those 11 patients had not got vaccinated against Covid-19.

The Health Minister said in the meeting that 95 percent of the corona-infected patients were now recovering from home isolation treatment. But in view of the ever-increasing infection

PG block in Ayurveda College dedicated to public

Raipur: Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education Minister TS Singhdeo dedicated to public the newly constructed building (PG block) for post-graduate classes at Shri Narayan Prasad Awasthi Government Ayurveda College, Raipur today. It has been constructed by CGMSC (Chhattisgarh Medical Services Corporation) at a cost of Rs 12 crore 33 lakh 25 thousand in the college campus.

MLAs Vikas Upadhyay and Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, Secretary of Medical Education Department Prasanna R and Director of Ayush Department P Dayanand



were present on the occasion. Singhdeo also discussed with the professors and students of Ayurveda College after public dedication of the building. He asked the undergraduate and post graduate students about the teaching and other arrangements in the college. Principal Dr GS Baghel and Registrar Dr Sanjay Shukla along with all the professors and students of the college were present.

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Chief Secretary reviews top priority schemes of State Govt

Raipur, Apr 18: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain reviewed the priority schemes and programs of the state government at Mahanadi Bhawan (Mantralaya) on Monday. He reviewed the work related to the Revenue and Disaster Management Department and gave necessary instructions regarding the various schemes. He instructed the officials of the Revenue Department to provide the benefits of Rajiv Gandhi Bhumihon Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana to eligible beneficiaries in all the districts. Under the scheme, an amount of more than Rs 516 cr has been transferred to the beneficiaries so far. At present, there are 4.99 lakh beneficiaries under this scheme. This scheme has also been implemented in



all the Nagar Panchayats of the state from April 1, 2023. So far applications of 7377 beneficiaries have been received in the Nagar Panchayats. The Chief Secretary directed the officials of the Revenue Department to resolve all the revenue matters within the time limit. Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Subrata Sahoo was present in the meeting. Chief Secretary directed the departmental officers to make special efforts to freehold the land of Nazul Pattas. He said that

necessary information should be given to Nazul lessees in this respect. In the meeting, he took detailed information about the regularization of urban slum pattas, renewal, distribution of new slum pattas, and the allotment and regularization of government land up to 7500 square feet. For revenue cases, he directed the officials to resolve revenue cases including conversion, adistribution, and account division within the time limit. If any case has not been resolved within

the time limit, then the reason for the same should be mentioned. He directed all district collectors to regularly monitor the disposal of revenue cases. He also directed the officers to make special efforts for revenue recovery to increase revenue receipts of the government. The Secretary of Revenue Department N.N. Ekka, the Director of Land Records Ramesh Sharma, and officials of Revenue Department and Industries Department were present at the meeting.

Statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose unveiled at State Police Academy

State Police Academy has been named after Netaji
CM inaugurates newly constructed barracks of the Academy

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 18: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today unveiled the statue of India's great freedom fighter, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at the State Police Academy. Along with this, Chief Minister also inaugurated the newly constructed barracks of the Academy. State Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahariya, Director General of Police Ashok



Juneja, Director of State Police Academy Ratan Lal Dangi, and senior police officers were present.

It is worth mentioning that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel made a decision to rename this police academy after great freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose with the aim of giving a new identity to the State Police Academy. This State Police Academy is located in Raipur and is now known as 'Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose state police academy'. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the newly constructed barracks along with unveiling the statue in the academy premises during the twelfth convocation parade ceremony of Trainee Deputy Superintendents of Police.

Trainee DSPs felicitated for outstanding performance during training

CM Baghel presented police officers with awards

Raipur, Apr 18: At the passing-out parade convocation ceremony for the twelfth batch of trainee Deputy Superintendents (DPSs) of Police was organized today in Raipur's Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy in Chandkhuri. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel was the Chief Guest in the convocation ceremony. After the convocation ceremony, The Chief Minister felicitated the Deputy Superintendents of Police who had performed outstandingly during the training duration.

On this occasion, the Home Minister of the



state Tamradhwaj Sahu, Minister of Urban Development Dr. Shivkumar Dahariya, Director General of Police Ashok Juneja, and the Director of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy

Chandkhuri Ratan Lal Dangi were also present. In the award ceremony of the twelfth batch, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Akanksha Pandey for law research, Shubham Tiwari for crime

research, Vinkeshwari Pinde for criminology, Shubham Tiwari for forensic science, Pravin Bharti for best firing, Akanksha Pandey for indoor, Avinash Kanwar for outdoor, and Shubham Tiwari for achieving the

highest marks in the twelfth session were awarded by the Chief Minister.

During the passing out parade, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel also felicitated Monika Shyam as the Parade Commander and Pravin Bharti as the Parade 2IC. There has been a tradition of awarding Police Officers for their outstanding performance during the training period after the convocation ceremony of Deputy Superintendents of Police. Following this tradition, the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel extended his best wishes to all trainee Deputy Superintendents of Police for their bright future and said to them that they should resolve to become good police officers while serving the state.

Differently-abled players to be provided with every possible help: Bhedia



Gave sports wheelchairs to 15 promising differently-abled players of state

Raipur, Apr 18: Social Welfare Minister Bhedia while congratulating the players and extending her best wishes to the players, said that the State Government has always extended a helping hand for the empowerment of the state's players. She said while encouraging

the differently-abled players that these players have overcome their physical limitations to honor Chhattisgarh. Therefore, it is our responsibility to care for their problems.

Minister Bhedia said that the State Government and Social Welfare Department will help differently-abled players in every possible way. On this occasion, the team leader said that until now they used to play through a general

wheelchair. After receiving a sports wheelchair from the Social Welfare Department, they will be able to give their best. For this, they are thankful to the Chhattisgarh Government.

In the program, along with the officers of the Social Welfare department, representatives of sports organizations like Team Young Indians, Seva Niketan, and Chhattisgarh Wheelchair Cricket Association were also present.

CM Baghel makes heartwarming gesture towards children

During State Police Academy passing-out parade

Brings smiles to children's faces by sharing balloons with them for release

Raipur, Apr 18: It is widely known that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has a great fondness for children. Regardless of the situation, he always takes the time to stop and talk to them whenever he sees them. In 'Bhent-Mulaqat' programmes, he has even broken protocol



and security measures to spend time with children. He has even arranged a helicopter joyride for board exam toppers, showcasing his keen understanding of what would thrill the children. Moreover, to ensure better education for children, the

Chief Minister has also initiated the establishment of Swami Atmanand English schools in the state. Another example of the Chief Minister's love for children was witnessed today at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy in

Chandkhuri, Raipur. During a convocation ceremony, the Chief Minister was presented with colorful balloons for releasing them as a symbol of peace. He noticed that there were children sitting nearby in the audience and called two girls over to whom he gave the balloons, symbolizing peace. The children then released the balloons into the air. Upon witnessing the Chief Minister's gesture of calling the children and giving them balloons, all attendees at the ceremony commended his love for children and expressed their gratitude by giving him a round of applause and thanking him.

BPO center to open new avenues of employment for the youth: Baghel

Raipur, Apr 18: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel performed Bhumi Pujan for the establishment of the 500-seater BPO center in Raipur today. This BPO center which will be built at a cost of about Rs.10 Crores will be situated on the fifth floor of the multilevel parking in front of the Collectorate. After laying the foundation stone, Chief Minister Baghel said that with the establishment of this B.P.O. center, new avenues of employment will open up for the youth of Raipur through advanced Information technology-driven modern facilities. Moreover, attaining jobs in big multinational companies through BPO will bring self-reliance among the youth. The Chief Minister further said that youth will be able to get jobs in outsourcing businesses like call center customer support, sales and marketing, data entry, tech-



nic support, chat support, bank and front office work, social media handling and data analysis. Baghel also said that in this era of the Information-Technology revolution, there was a dire need for such modern B.P.O. in the capital Raipur. He further said that through this B.P.O., unemployed youths or college-going youths can hone their skills from a diverse variety of job roles and can get opportunities to enhance their career by

connecting with multinational companies from the whole world. Recalling the circumstances during the Corona pandemic, he also said that even during the Corona period, the need for such BPO-based hi-tech call centers was being felt in the city to deliver messages to every household. Now with the formation of this BPO, many public facilities will be started in Raipur city as well, from which people will be able to avail quick benefits

It is noteworthy that due to the non-availability of such call centers in Raipur, the youth here had to go to other cities like Indore, Bangalore and seek employment opportunities. Due to limited resources in the era of competition, the youth here used to be deprived of employment. Now with the opening of BPO center in Raipur, such youth will get new employment opportunities in the city itself. The participation of local youth in employment and holistic development will also increase by connecting the youth with big companies and commercial service institutions in India and abroad through this center. Along with this, the communication skills of the youth will also improve by working with companies using new technologies, which will open new avenues of personal development for the youth as well.

CM Baghel dedicates devp works worth more than Rs 117 cr

Under 'Bhent Mulaqat Abhiyan'-North Raipur City Assembly Constituency

Raipur's five major roads to get a facelift under beautification project

Raipur, Apr 18: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached the North Raipur City Assembly Constituency for his state-wide 'Bhent-Mulaqat Abhiyan' held on April 17. He announced the slew of development works worth more than Rs.117.61 cr for the residents of Raipur city. He inaugurated and

performed bhumpoojan of various development works related to employment, road traffic, drinking water, and beautification of the city. Baghel also laid the foundation stone for the beautification work of 5 major roads in Raipur city worth Rs.50 cr and 500 seaters BPO center on the fifth floor of Collectorate multilevel parking to be built at a cost of Rs.10 cr.

Chief Minister Baghel performed bhumpoojan of several development works worth Rs 26 lakh in Zone No.7 of Raipur Municipal Corporation, development works worth Rs 85 lakh in Zone No.4, and development works worth Rs.1 cr in Zone No.10 of Raipur. Chief Minister Baghel



will also dedicate development works worth Rs. 65.5 cr to the residents of the city. Baghel inaugurated the Devendra Nagar high-level reservoir and pipeline expansion work built at a cost of Rs. 24.87 cr; Shankar Nagar high-level reservoir and

pipeline expansion work built at a cost of Rs.13.83 cr; Telibandha High-Level Reservoir and pipeline expansion work built at a cost of Rs 5.30 cr; beautification and redevelopment work of Jethwa Garden in Shankar Nagar and beautification and redevelopment work

of Gurughasidas Garden in Devendra Nagar. CM Baghel inaugurated the beautification and redevelopment work of Safu Para Talab of Fafadih, the beautification and redevelopment work of Maharana Pratap Garden of Shyamnagar; the beautifi-

cation and redevelopment work of Chaitanya Garden of Devendra Nagar, Siddhivinayak Garden beautification and redevelopment work and Sarbananda Garden beautification and redevelopment. He inaugurated the Kushtha Basti Talab in Pandri redeveloped at a cost of Rs 19 lakh, Bada Sheetla Talab of Khamhardih redeveloped at a cost of Rs 69 lakh.

Baghel inaugurated and dedicated the redeveloped Shankar Nagar Garden, Shaheed Nandkumar Patel Chowk, Indravati Colony Garden, and Gitanjali Nagar Garden to the residents of the city. Baghel also inaugurated various development works to be

done in zone number 3 of Municipal Corporation Raipur at a cost of Rs.2 cr; in zone number 2 at a cost of Rs. 5.18 cr; and in zone number 9 at a cost of Rs 3.17 cr.

CM Baghel inaugurated development works worth Rs.5.63 cr in order to provide better health-care facilities to the people of Raipur city. He inaugurated a 'TrueNat' lab built at a cost of Rs 35.62 lakh and a 20-bed isolation ward constructed at a cost of Rs 74.56 lakh in the district hospital. He also integrated a 12-bed ICU and a 30-bed with oxygen supplies constructed at a cost of Rs 65 lakh in the district hospital. He also inaugurated the Transit Hostel built at a cost of Rs 70 lakh in the

District Hospital of Kalibari and 20 beds additional ward built at the cost of Rs 32.28 lakh in the Community Health Center situated at Kho-Kho Para. Mr. Baghel also inaugurated 8 staff quarters built at a cost of Rs. 2.86 cr in the district hospital premises to provide better housing facilities to the medical personnel.

On this occasion, district in-charge minister Ravindra Choubey, MLA from North Raipur Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor of Municipal Corporation Raipur Aijaz Dhebar, Chairman Pramod Dubey, Chairman of State Minority Commission Mahendra Singh Chhabra and a large number of people were present.

Slogan of 'sympathy, friendship' by Ambedkar badly required now: Rashmi

Specially during time when Central govt is trying to spread hatred and differences among societies

Takathpur, Apr 18: After the country's Independence, it can be run in safe hand with a constitution only and Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar was the one who was the main architect of the same and on which the country is marching ahead on path of progress. The biggest gift to the nation by Baba Saheb was the Constitution. It was he who formed the Reserve Bank of India, united the Dalits and asked all to adopt the message of Lord Buddha 'be educated, be organised and struggle'. He also advocated about sympathy and friendship and which is badly required in the present-day time. In a time when differences are being created amidst societies and communities and



becoming more violent, spreading hatred and in such times it is 'Pragya', Sympathy and friendship which is need of the hour. What all the messages the great personalities gave from time-to-time are still relevant, says MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Singh while speaking as the chief guest at the programme organised on occasion of 132nd birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar

recently, DCC (urban) Takathpur organised 132nd birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar at Mahatma Gandhi Chowk and here MLA Rashmi Ashish Singh was the chief guest. She garlanded the photo of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and lighted the traditional lamp and on this occasion District Panchayat Speaker Jitendra Pandey, ex-Nagar Palika President Ajay Dewangan, BCC

Panchayat first President Birjhe Ram Singroul and others. Prior to this the guests galanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. Addressing the gathering District Panchayat Sabhapati Jitendra Pandey highlighted on the life and history of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and said that the BJP-led central government is working on the basis of political rivalry and democracy is being sidelined. He said that the public welfare policies and

schemes formed by the Congress government, formed in the state after 15 years, is becoming eye of a needle for the central government. To foil the efforts of the Bhupesh Baghel government committed towards for progress and development of people of Chhattisgarh, the BJP government at the Centre is making all efforts. Programme was also addressed by Ajay Singh Thakur, Birjhe Ram Singroul, Sunil Shukla and other speakers.

The Shobha Yatra taken out on Ambedkar Jayanti was also welcomed by all Congmen. The programme was conducted DCC (urban) President Bihari Devangan and vote of thanks was proposed by ex-Nagar palika President Ajay Dewangan. DCC office bearers and Congmen were present in large number.

CEO District Panchayat inspects RIPA centers

Korea, Apr 18:

District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Namrata Jain did a surprise inspection of RIPA centers in the district here and discussed with the officers present and gave necessary guidelines for smooth functioning of the activities.

While giving instructions, she said that the maintenance of visitor and attendance register should be systematic at each RIPA site. During the inspection, the CEO checked the machines and said that at the time of initial operation; keep a technician or electrician available at the local level so that any problem can be solved immediately. She also instructed to ensure maintenance of essential



raw material in all RIPA Gauthans in the coming week. Instructing to use gunny bags manufactured in RIPA Gothans the CEO instructed gunny bags not is purchased from the market.

Namrata Jain also appointed nodal and assis-

tant nodal officers for the systematic operation of activities in RIPA center and entrusted the responsibility to the block coordinators and other officers of the National Rural Livelihood Mission Bihan, who will act as coordinators for the activities.

'Baisakhi Parv' celebrated with fervour

'Prabhat Pheri' taken out for 3 days



Takathpur, Apr 18:

The members of Sikh Samaj observed 'Baisakhi Parv' as the Khalsa foundation day and it was celebrated with religious fervour and enthusiasm. In this context Sikh Samaj took out 'Prabhat Pheri' for three days.

In afternoon, 'Guruka-Atoot' 'Langar' was started and in which the members of the Samaj sat in one row and had their lunch.

In the night, the 'Diwan' was once again decorated and during which poem competition was organised amidst School and College students. On this day, 'Gurudwara' was decorated with colourful lights and in the night fire-crackers were burst.

On this occasion mainly Pradhan Kulwant Singh Hura, Gyani Mangat Singh Khalsa, Jagjit Singh Makkad, Manjit Singh Khanuja, Surendar Singh Ichapurani, Bhagwant Singh Malhotra, Prithvi Pal Singh Hura, Dayal Singh Bagga, Trilok Singh Bagga, Ravindra Singh Khurana, Gurudayal Singh Hura, Indrajit Singh Makkad and others were present.

Baisakhi Mela was organised on the same day by the Yuwa Samiti at Gurudwara Hall at 9:00 pm. In this stalls of Punjabi food were placed and the dance, 'bhangda', and other performances by youth, men and women continued till late at night.

Dr Ashok Puranik is Chief Director AIIMS Guwahati

- Hails from Koundekara of Fingeshwar/ Rajim area and big honour for people of the region
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated AIIMS Guwahati recently and Dr A Puranik was also present

Fingeshwar, Apr 18:

It is an honour for entire Rajim and Fingeshwar area that the Chief Director of AIIMS Guwahati -Dr Ashok Puranik is a resident of Gram Koundekara of Fingeshwar/ Rajim region. He is S/o Ramsharan Puranik of Gram Koundekara. Their elder father Ramsahai Puranik served as Secretary in Navapara Krishi Upaj Mandi for long and entire Puranik family is doing farming in Koundekara. It

was recently last on Jan 23 that Ashok Puranik along with family came to Koudekar, on sad demise of his mother and stayed for 15 days in the village during the entire programme.

Speaking to our correspondent he informed that it was recently AIIMS Guwahati with all the best services and equipments was inaugurated by PM Modi and will be starting in full-fledge manner shortly. Dr Puranik completed his schooling initially from Koundekara till Middle School in Fingeshwar and Higher Secondary from Navapara. Today he is the Chief Director of the world-class medical Institution AIIMS Guwahati. At the time of inauguration of AIIMS Guwahati, Dr Puranik explained to the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the achievements of AIIMS Guwahati and its entire structure and its working.

Sharing the photo along with PM Modi at the time of inauguration of AIIMS Guwahati, Dr Puranik informed that Guwahati AIIMS is ready for service to the people of East (Assam) with 150 beds. Spread on 189.20 acre, around 85% of the work of

the Institution has been completed. The Central government had given approval for establishing AIIMS Guwahati at the cost of Rs 1123 cr and after inauguration by PM Modi on April 14, 2023, AIIMS Guwahati is fully functional. AIIMS would prove to be major gift for the people of Guwahati. Dr Puranik informed that entire work of AIIMS Guwahati would be completed in coming 3 yrs.

pleted in coming 3 yrs.

It is notable here that AIIMS Guwahati started services to patients through tele-medicine from 2022 and provided limited OPD to local people. Presently majority of the departments in AIIMS Guwahati are functional. The Medical Education in MBBS from AIIMS Guwahati was started in 2020-21. The first batch of AIIMS Guwahati started its classes on temporary basis from Narkasur Hill-Top Institute of Para-Medical Sciences associated with the Medical College. It was on 15 March 2022 the educational and administrative activities were shifted to local premises in Changsari. Presently 199 MBBS students and 78 faculty members and 125 nursing officers and 12

senior citizens are there in AIIMS Guwahati. To provide diagnostic exposure and clinical posting to the students of fourth and fifth semester of AIIMS Guwahati, an MoU was signed with Maligaon Railway Hospital and AIIMS. The work of the project at the site has been completed 85%.

At the inauguration of AIIMS Guwahati, Dy. Director Pawani Gupta, Dr Bepan Burman, DMSA General Medicine deptt and head of the Department Dr Kaustav Kumar Bairagi DMSA Forensic Medicine and Toxicology Deptt AIIMS were present.

At present, elder brother of Dr Ashok Puranik, Mr. Rangkum Puranik is looking after the agricultural work in Gram Koundekara.

Bhagat accorded warm welcome by Congmen

During his short-stay at Katghora bus stand



Churrikala, Apr 18:

On arrival of Food & Civil Supplies and co-operative Minister Amarjeet Singh Bhagat from Ambikapur, he was accorded warm welcome by Congress party workers at Katghora bus stand. Bhagat on his return from Ambikapur and on way back to Raipur, halted for a while at Katghora bus stand near Murl Hotel and here he was accorded warm welcome by Congress party

workers. Roshan along with Congmen from urban and rural areas of Katghora.

During this BCC (Rural) Katghora President Gourelal Yadav, Heeralal Yadav and Jeewan Yadav MP's rep presented a shawl and welcomed him. During this President DCC Gourelal Yadav submitted a memorandum to him demanding for free & fair inquiry into alleged irregularities in the 'Krishna Kunj' construct-

ed in Churrikala and free the government houses from encroachment. On this the Minister assured him to take necessary action. During the welcome, Nagar Palika Katghora President Ratan Mittal, Roshan Mohammed, Vijay Vishwakarma, Suresh Das Mahant, Jeewan Yadav MP's rep, Laxman Dikseni MLA's rep; Pali Tanakhar, Vinod Kumar Bhatt, Samiti Manager Katghora and other Congmen were present in large number.

Sacked committee manager arrested

Dongargarh, Apr 18:

Sacked committee manager Kuldeep Vishwakarma, has been arrested after several farmers had complained against him of fraud on pretext of KCC loan.

As per information, on the basis of statement by farmers, an FIR was registered and with immediate effect the accused Kuldeep Vishwakarma's father late Chait Ram Vishwakarma, aged 51 years, resident of Indira Nagar was arrested.

Several passbooks, check books and Rs 20,000 in cash were seized from him. After the accused confessed to the crime and sufficient evidence was found against the accused, the accused was duly arrested and produced in the Honorable Court on judicial remand. Meanwhile his appointment to the post of committee manager is yet to be investigated, as raising questions on the appointment of Mr.



Vishwakarma, Congress leader and District Cooperative Central Bank President Nawaz Khan Directly accusing the senior BJP leader and the state coordinator of the Cooperative Cell, and has said that under his patronage, Kuldeep was appointed against the rules from accountant to the post of

committee manager. Meanwhile the deceived farmers have demanded the arrest of broker Rajendra of village Khalari, who played the role of a mediator between the committee manager and the farmers, by misleading them but has now changed his statement.

Immigrant Open Bill Stork camping permanent

For last two years

Pandaria, Apr 18:

Migratory bird Open Bill Stork has made their permanent home in the area for the last two years, thus making the region their permanent abode, as the birds are getting enough food in the fields and water bodies in this area. In the past, these birds used to come every year in the month of June to the Ramtala reservoir and Kranti reservoir located near the city and used to return after 5-6 months and Maikal Mountain near Kranti reservoir is their permanent nesting ground. The farmers of the region consider these birds as angels as because their arrival is considered as an indicator of good



rain and happiness. These birds in hundreds have camped in the area, mainly feeds on aquatic creatures including snails. Because of its beak being open from the middle, it is called open bill and the color of this bird is grayish white and its tail is shiny black and live usually in pairs and small groups.

The number of open bill storks is continuously increasing and their breeding period is from June to December and approximately 20 species of this

bird are found all over the world, including Philippines, China, Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, and Bangladesh. Jashveer Singh Maravi, SDO of Forest Department, Pandaria said that open bills mainly come to this area for food and breeding. The nests of these birds are in the trees growing in the middle of the water or in the trees around the water bodies and live in groups like a colony.

न्यायालय कलेक्टर एवं जिला दण्डाधिकारी रायपुर

/// नोटिस ///

क्रमांक/57/व-121/2022-23/300 रायपुर, दिनांक 27 मार्च, 2023

प्रति,

- मेसर्स साई इंजिनियर सर्विसेज प्रो. स्व. श्री अरुण कुमार शाह, प्लॉट नं. 17 जी.के. टाउनशिप सिलतरा जिला रायपुर
- श्रीमती मंजूदेवी शाह पति स्व. श्री अरुण कुमार स्व. श्री अरुण कुमार शाह के विधिवत उत्तराधिकारी
- श्रीमती मंजूदेवी शाह पति स्व. श्री अरुण कुमार
- प्रियंका शाह पिता स्व. श्री अरुण कुमार शाह
- अनिकेत शाह पिता स्व. श्री अरुण कुमार शाह
- अभिषेक शाह पिता स्व. श्री अरुण कुमार शाह
- प्रिया शाह पिता स्व. श्री अरुण कुमार शाह, प्लॉट नं. सी - 306 तीसरा माला अवंति विहार एलिगेन्स, राजधानी विहार सखुडु जिला रायपुर

आवेक प्राधिकृत अधिकारी युनियन बैंक आफ इंडिया शंकर नगर रायपुर की ओर से अतिनाश कर अधिवक्त ने आवेदन पर / शुल्कभ्रम एवं दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत कर आवेदन पर से आपकी बैंक ने 21,60,000.00 रुपये का ऋण दिया था, और स्व. श्री अरुण कुमार शाह के स्वामित्व की अचल संपत्ति बैंक के पक्ष में बंधक रखी गयी है। आपके द्वारा ऋण की अदायगी नहीं की जा रही है। जिसके कारण बैंक ने आपको अधिनियम की धारा 13 के तहत नोटिस जारी किया गया कि आप ऋण की अदायगी मध्य ब्याज एवं अन्य शुल्क रुपये 20,60,472.31 अदा करें, अन्यथा बंधक रखी गई संपत्ति बैंक अपने हक में प्राप्त कर लेगी कि जानकारी दी जाकर, बैंक के पक्ष में आपके द्वारा लिये गये ऋण के एवज में बंधक रखी संपत्ति का कब्जा दिलाये जाने का निवेदन किया है।

2/ आपने प्राधिकृत अधिकारी युनियन बैंक आफ इंडिया शंकर नगर रायपुर से 21,60,000.00 रुपये का ऋण प्राप्त कर मौजा सिलतरा प.ह. नं. 90 नया नं. 20 रा.नि.मं. परसौता- 1 रायपुर स्थित ख.नं. 542 का भाग प्लॉट नं. ए-16 रकबा 1000 वर्गफुट एवं प्लॉट नं. ए-17 रकबा 1000 वर्गफुट पर निर्मित मकान बैंक के पक्ष में बंधक रखा है।

3/ अतः आपके द्वारा लिये गये ऋण के एवज में उपरोक्त बंधक रखी गई अचल संपत्ति को वित्तीय आसितियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण और पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूति हित प्रयत्न अधिनियम 2002 की धारा 14 में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुये कया न आधिपत्य में लेने की कार्यवाही की जावे। आप स्वयं अथवा अपने निजक अधिभाषक के माध्यम से ऋण से संबंधित एवं बंधक रखी गई संपत्ति से संबंधित दस्तावेज लेकर पेश प्रस्तुत करने हेतु इस न्यायालय में पेशी दिनांक 24.04.2023 को ठीक 3.00 बजे उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करें। नियत तिथि में उपस्थित नहीं होने की दशा में आपके विरुद्ध एक पक्षीय कार्यवाही की जाकर, प्रकरण में निर्णय ले लिया जायेगा।

आज दिनांक 27 मार्च, 2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की मुहर से जारी किया गया।

कलेक्टर एवं जिला दण्डाधिकारी रायपुर (छ.ग.)

SVATANTRA MICRO HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.

Office no 1, Ground floor, Pushpak CHS, Opp. Gomantak Hall, Malaviya Road, Vile Parle (East), Mumbai 400 057. TEL- 18001234427 / 022 26101076-79 Email : collections@mhfcindia.com

DEMAND NOTICE

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

NOTICE is hereby given that the following borrower/s who have availed loan from Svatanttra Micro Housing Finance Corporation Limited (SMHFC) have failed to pay Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) of their loan to SMHFC and that their loan account has been classified as Non-performing Asset as per the guidelines issued by National Housing Bank. The borrower(s) have provided security of the immovable property/ies to SMHFC, the details of which are described herein below. The details of the loan and the amounts outstanding and payable by the borrower/s to SMHFC as on date are also indicated here below. The borrower(s) as well as the public in general are hereby informed that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SMHFC, the secured creditor has initiated action against the following borrower(s) under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the SARFAESI Act). If the following borrower(s) fail to repay the outstanding dues indicated against their names within 60 (Sixty) days of this notice, the undersigned will exercise any one or more of the powers conferred on the Secured Creditor under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, including power to take possession of the property/ies and sell the same. The public in general is advised not to deal with property/ies described here below.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of secured asset(s) (immovable property/ies)
Loan No : APP-016-623 Mrs. Sangeeta Yadav Mr. Kamlesh Kumar Yadav	07-02-2023 Rs. 2,41,574/-	Flat No. 101, EWS - 72, CHB - Sector 16 Naya Raipur Housing Board Colony, Sector 16, New Raipur, District Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492015
Loan No : APP-037-195 Mr. Sanjay Kumar Sen Mrs. Annapurna Sen	07-02-2023 Rs. 8,70,362/-	House constructed on Part of Kharsa No. 1179/1 (Renumbered as 1179/3), PH No. 33, Tehsil-Khairagarh, at Singharghat, RNM-Bhulatala, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, 491881
Loan No : APP-036-690 Mrs. Gulshama Begum Mr. Mohammad Jafar	07-02-2023 Rs. 5,04,285/-	Flat No. B-42 (Plot Area - 447 sq. ft.), RDA Boriyakhurd-EWS-I, RDA-Boriyakhurd-Row Houses Kharsa Nos. 111/1 & 111/4, Boriyakhurd, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492015
Loan No : APP-022-123 Mrs. Priti Kalwani Mr. Vicky Kalwani	10-03-2023 Rs. 4,04,408/-	Flat No. 405, A (EWS), RDA-Kamal Vihar Kamal Vihar, Sector 4, Raipur, District : Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492015

Place: Chhattisgarh
Date : 19/04/2023

Authorised Officer
For Svatanttra Micro Housing Finance Corporation Limited

BRIEF



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shrivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP State President VD Sharma and other leaders during the State BJP Core Committee meeting, at BJP office in Bhopal, Tuesday.

Septuagenarian dies

Puducherry: A 73-year-old man died of COVID-19 in Puducherry and 84 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours, a senior health official said on Tuesday. The patient hailing from neighbouring Nellithope was admitted to the government hospital on April 4 and died on April 13 due to COVID pneumonia pushing up the overall Coronavirus deaths to 1,979, Director of Health G Sriramulu said in a release today. The active cases were 503. Of them, 12 were in hospitals (one in Government General hospital, three in Government Hospital for Chest diseases and eight in COVID care centres) and the remaining 491 patients were in home quarantine, he said.

Car-SUV collision

Mangaluru: Four persons, including a child, were killed and a few others injured in a head-on collision between a car and an SUV on a highway in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district on Tuesday, police said. The car was heading towards the pilgrim town of Kukke Subrahmanya, while the other vehicle was proceeding to Dharmasthala, another pilgrimage spot, when the accident took place in the afternoon near Nettana bridge on the Uppinangady-Subrahmanya state highway.

Dalit raped

Ballia (UP): A 15-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly raped by a youth on the pretext of marriage in a village here, police said on Tuesday. The incident happened in Narhi police station area at least eight months ago, Deputy Superintendent of Police Sadar Ashok Mishra said. On the complaint of the girl's father on Monday, the 18-year-old accused has been arrested. He is from the same village as the victim, he said. A case under sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and SC/ST Act has been registered against the accused, he added.

Ex-militants

Diphu (Assam): More than 100 former militants joined the ruling BJP in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on Tuesday. They were previously cadres of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and were led by Nabin Chandra Bodo. Welcoming the new members at the BJP office here, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) chief executive Tuliram Ronghang said, "A total of 110 former members of the NDFB have joined our party today."

Unnao gang-rape

Accused set minor Dalit victim's house on fire

Unnao (UP), Apr 18 (PTD)

Two infants were in a critical condition Tuesday after a group of men set fire to the home of a minor Dalit girl, whom two of them had allegedly raped last year.

The injured babies include the rape victim's six-month-old child born after the 11-year-old was impregnated in the sexual assault and her two-month-old sister, police said. The two rape accused, recently released on bail, allegedly barged into the family's thatched shed Monday evening with five others, after the victim refused to withdraw the case. They beat up her mother



er and then set the shed on fire.

According to chief medical superintendent Sushil Srivastava, the rape victim's infant son suffered 35 per cent burns and her sister 45 per cent burns in the incident. "As their condition worsened, both the kids were sent to Kanpur for

better treatment," he said. Santosh Singh, Circle Officer, Purva said the rape victim's father was attacked with an axe by her grandfather and uncle, who had sided with the accused, and four other people on April 13 according to a complaint filed by her mother.

The father is admitted at the district hospital with serious injuries, he said.

Police said the Dalit girl was gang-raped on February 13, 2022. She gave birth to a son in September that year.

The victim's mother also alleged that their house was set on fire to eliminate her daughter's infant son.

HC asks MCD to file report on burial of cattle in city

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTD)

Lumpy skin disease

The Delhi High Court Tuesday asked the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to file a status report on burial of cattle in the national capital.

The high court was hearing a plea seeking constitution of a team of veterinary doctors in each zone to deal with cases of lumpy skin disease in cattle and to set up isolation wards for treatment of the infected animals.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Yashwant Varma granted two weeks to the MCD to place on record the report and listed the matter for further hearing on May 17. During the hearing, the court was informed that the municipal body has a

specialised burial ground for cattle in Gazipur and the responsibility of disposal of animals rests with it.

Advocate Ajay Dignaul, appearing for the MCD, sought time to file on record a report on burial of cattle.

The high court had earlier issued notice and sought the response of the Delhi government and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to the petition which also wanted direction to be issued to the authorities to make available an antidote to lumpy skin disease among cows. The petitioner sought stray cattle to be vaccinated on priority.

Petitioner Ajay Gautam said in the plea that immediate action and remedial steps are needed to eliminate the contagious viral disease which has killed nearly 70,000 cattle in the country till date and the numbers are increasing every day.

"Direct respondents to immediately constitute a team of veterinary doctors in every zone of Delhi and direct this team to deal and address cases of lumpy disease," the plea said.

Lumpy skin disease spreads among cattle through mosquitoes, flies, lice, and wasps by direct contact and also through contaminated food and water, and causes fever and nodules on the skin, reduced milk production,

CHARDHAM YATRA



Chamoli District Magistrate Himanshu Khurana during his visit to Badrinath Dham to take stock of the Chardham Yatra arrangements, in Chamoli district, Tuesday.

'Disgruntled' Manipur BJP MLAs camp in Delhi as party signals support to CM

Imphal/New Delhi Apr 18 (PTD)

Speculation over disension brewing in the N Biren Singh government in Manipur grew as a group of BJP MLAs are in Delhi to meet central leaders. An unconfirmed number of party MLAs from the Kuki tribe are also believed to be camping in the national capital.

Uripok MLA K h w a i r a k p a m Raghumani, who is among the MLAs from Manipur valley camping in Delhi, posted a picture on Facebook of a meeting with Union Minister of State for DONER B L Verma.

"They (Thokchom Radheshyam Singh, Karam Shyam, Paonam

by some for political reasons, he said.

State party officials have confirmed that at least four BJP MLAs from Manipur valley are in Delhi to meet central leaders. An unconfirmed number of party MLAs from the Kuki tribe are also believed to be camping in the national capital.

Uripok MLA K h w a i r a k p a m Raghumani, who is among the MLAs from Manipur valley camping in Delhi, posted a picture on Facebook of a meeting with Union Minister of State for DONER B L Verma.

"They (Thokchom Radheshyam Singh, Karam Shyam, Paonam

Brojen and Raghumani) discussed the border and developmental issues of Manipur," the post said.

Another BJP MLA, RK Imo Singh, on his official Facebook account said, "We all are bound by a particular ideology/constitution of the political party we belong to. As Legislators, we have a bounded duty to work as per the programmes and decision of that government/party. One may complain and take the dispute against the leader of the gov't/party/minister to the appropriate authority, but not take that dispute to the media as that amounts to attract disciplinary action being taken up against the complainant."

Human trafficking more dangerous than murder: Fadnavis

Nagpur, Apr 18 (PTD)

Human trafficking is more dangerous than murder, and social awareness coupled with a strong legal framework was needed to curb it, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Tuesday. Fadnavis, who also holds the Home portfolio, was speaking virtually at a panel discussion on 'Prevention of commercial sex trafficking of women', organised jointly by the Maharashtra State Women Commission and 'Alliance against Centres for Trafficking' here.

"Human trafficking is a very big challenge before us. It is said that drugs

trade is the biggest trade in the world but unfortunately human trafficking is to some extent, along with drugs trade, becoming a big trade. Women and children are most vulnerable to it," he said.

Its victims suffer a lot, and it is a far more dangerous crime than murder, the deputy CM added.

Human trafficking is an issue transcending boundaries, and social awareness and a people's movement along with a strong legal framework were needed to curb it, he said.

In 90 to 95 per cent of cases of sexual exploitation or abuse, people who are known to the victim or victim's family are the cul-

prits, Fadnavis noted.

Earlier, victims of such offences did not approach police due to societal stigma or pressures, but now this situation is changing and victims are coming forward to register police complaints, he said.

Police in the state have been instructed to submit charge sheets in rape cases in 90 days, and this norm is being complied with in 65 per cent of cases, Fadnavis said.

"But we need to go up to 90 percent and create an efficient justice system which ensures that those committing such crimes get punished and we get to see a deterrent effect of it," he added.

Haryana to frame new law to settle family land feud long pending in courts

Chandigarh, Apr 18 (PTD)

Haryana will introduce a new legislation to ensure quick solution of family land disputes that remain pending in courts for years due to absence of any proper redressal mechanism, an official statement said on Tuesday.

Speaking at an event here on Monday, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar shared the state government's vision of boosting the industrial and economical sectors.

"In a bid to resolve family land disputes, the state is all set to introduce a new legislation that objectifies to ensure quick re-

dressal of all such disputes that remain pending in courts for years due to absence of any proper redressal mechanism," the statement quoted the chief minister as saying.

He said on the lines of how Gurugram has been developed industrially and economically, the emphasis is now being laid on developing other districts of the state.

"Today Gurugram has become a global city and an IT hub," he said, adding that top companies around the world have their offices in Gurugram.

"Similarly, Faridabad district is also moving swiftly in the same direc-

tion. Due to its connectivity with the Jewar airport, industrial activities are increasing here. Not only this, as the Hisar airport will resume its operations soon, the progress graph of the district is certainly going to get a major boost," he said.

Khattar said Panchkula district also has its locational advantage.

"It also has the advantage of Chandigarh airport being nearby," he said. The chief minister said strengthening the grievance redressal mechanism is the utmost priority of the state government and for this maximum utilisation of IT is being

ensured.

"Today, people are getting the benefits of ration cards, pension, Ayushman and CHIRAYU Haryana Yojana while sitting at home as all such public welfare schemes have been integrated with the state government's Parivar Pehchan Patra (family id) scheme. This is the reason now we have termed PPP as Permanent Protection of Poor People," he said.

He added that 'Jan Samvad' programme talks about evaluating the ground reality regarding the reach of benefits of government schemes at the grassroots level.

Residents, experts lament shrinking architectural legacy of Patna

Patna, Apr 18 (PTD)

For 26-year-old conservation architect Diptanshu Sinha, the razing of the Dutch and British-era Patna Collectorate also led to demolition of whatever hopes he had for the revival and redemption of the historic city's "dying heritage".

Heartbroken, he quit his job at an NGO that works on conservation of heritage structures, and moved to Gurugram.

"Every person has a breaking point. I couldn't take the razing of the collectorate building which was preceded a wave of demolition since 2010. The last structure in the collectorate campus to go down was the frontage of its famed Dutch-era Record Room which had magnificent columns, and carried within its wide walls, centuries of history of urban evolution of Patna," Sinha

World Heritage Day

said. Patna Collectorate — the headquarters of the district administration — consisted of a cluster of buildings, including the 17th-century Record Room and old District Engineer's Office, both from the Dutch era; and the British-era DM Office Building and the iconic District Board Patna Building of 1938.

According to him, what the centuries-old collectorate building needed was a "human touch of restoration" and instead it got the "cold claws of bulldozers".

Sinha claimed that Patna gets excited about the opening of a new mall. But heritage is not on its agenda, and World Heritage Day is rather alien to them, he said.

World Heritage Day is celebrated on April 18

every year to raise people's awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve it.

"The city has become ruthless when it comes to heritage. The government destroys old buildings in the name of development and people look the other way without any guilt," Sinha alleged.

He was a part of the citizen-led movement 'Save Historic Patna Collectorate' that fought for six years to save the landmark, that featured in the Oscar-winning film "Gandhi", from demolition.

The Supreme Court on May 13 last year rejected a plea by INTACH to save the landmark, and bulldozers rolled in the next day.

Driver to undergo 20 year jail term for sexually assaulting girl student

Hyderabad, Apr 18 (PTD)

A local court on Tuesday sentenced a 34-year-old man to 20 years rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a four-and-a-half-year-old kindergarten girl studying in a private school where he was working as a driver in October 2022.

The fast track POCSO court held the man, a driver of the school principal, guilty under relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Indian Penal Code, and condemned him to rigorous jail term of 20 years.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on the convict. However, the woman school principal, who was also booked for alleged negligence in the case, was not found guilty by the court and acquitted.

According to the prosecution, the accused took the girl to a room in the school and sexually as-

saulted her. On October 18, 2022, the girl's mother complained to Banjara Hills police in the city stating that her daughter, studying in the school for the last five months, told her of having some pain in her legs.

After the mother had enquired with the girl, she informed her that a man working in the school used to take her to a separate room in the premises and sexually assaulted her over a period of three months.

The angered parents rushed to the school. Upon entering the place, the girl identified the person who had harassed her and pointed to the car driver of the school principal, police had said. A case was registered and the driver was subsequently arrested.

As the girl's parents were of the opinion that the incident indicated the principal's "negligence", the police had booked the woman also.

Massive landslide kills two Afghan nationals, buries 20 trucks in Northwest Pakistan

Peshawar, Apr 18 (PTI):

A massive landslide struck a key highway near the Torkham border town in northwestern Pakistan that killed at least two Afghan citizens, injured eight others and buried some 20 trucks on Tuesday morning, according to a media report.

The landslide occurred in the early hours of Tuesday following a strong thunderstorm on the main road through Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Khyber Pass near the Afghanistan border, burying the trucks transporting goods, the Dawn newspaper reported.

According to rescue officials, two Afghan citizens have been killed in the landslide and authorities



Paramilitary soldiers, rescue workers and volunteers search for survivors through the rubble at the site of landslide near the Torkham border town, Pakistan, Tuesday, April 18. A massive landslide struck a key highway in northwestern Pakistan near the border town of Torkham before dawn Tuesday, burying two dozen trucks, officials said.

were trying to recover their bodies.

"Two Afghan citizens had been killed in the landslide and authorities

were trying to recover the bodies. At least eight people were injured and they have been provided with first aid," Abdul Nasir

Khan, the deputy commissioner of the Khyber district, was quoted as saying.

Other officials said that the wreckage of the landslide is quite extensive and our rescue operation is continuing with heavy machinery.

The incident site is part of the main route connecting Pakistan with land-locked Afghanistan, a major transit point for trade between the South Asian nations and into Central Asia.

Meanwhile, officials also said a fire had broken out immediately after the landslide as drivers were cooking meals for sehri on gas stoves. The blaze is now under control, the report said.

Iran renews threats against Israel during Army Day parade

Tehran, Apr 18 (AP)

Iran's president on Tuesday reiterated threats against Israel while marking the country's annual Army Day, though he stayed away from criticising Saudi Arabia as Tehran seeks a d tente with the kingdom.

The comments by Ebrahim Raisi came as fighter jets and helicopters flew overhead in Tehran, and as Iranian submarines sailed across its waters during a ceremony carried live by state television.

The day celebrates Iran's regular military, not its paramilitary

Revolutionary Guard, whose expeditionary forces operate across the wider Mideast and aid Iranian-allied militia groups like Lebanon's Hezbollah. The Guard also routinely has tense encounters with the US Navy.

Speaking at the ceremony, Raisi threatened Israel, which is suspected of carrying out a series of attacks targeting Iran since the collapse of its nuclear deal with world powers.

"Enemies, particularly the Zionist regime, has receive the message that any tiny action against (our) country will prompt a harsh an-

swer from the armed forces, which will accompany the destruction of Haifa and Tel Aviv," Raisi said.

Raisi also reiterated a demand for the US to leave the Mideast. American policy since the Carter administration has viewed protected the Persian Gulf region as crucial to securing global energy supplies. A fifth of the world's supply of oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf.

While not specifically naming Saudi Arabia, Raisi did offer an olive branch in his remarks.

"The hand of our armed forces warmly shakes the hand of the regional nations that intend to create security in the region," the president said.

In March, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations and reopen embassies after seven years of tensions, a diplomatic agreement reached in China. In the time since, Saudi Arabia also has been involved in a prisoner swap with Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, with hopes such a deal could see an end to that country's years-long proxy war.

Putin visits Russian troops in occupied Ukraine

Kyiv, Apr 18 (AP):

Russian President Vladimir Putin visited headquarters of the Russian troops fighting in Ukraine early on Tuesday, his second trip to the Russian-held territories there since March.

A video released by the Kremlin and broadcast by Russian state television showed Putin visiting the command post for Russian forces in the southern Kherson region.

It showed Putin arriving by helicopter to receive reports from the top military brass about the combat situation. The Russian leader then moved by helicopter to the headquarters of the Russian National Guard of the eastern Luhansk region to hear report from commanders.

In both locations, Putin congratulated the military on the Orthodox Easter that was celebrated Sunday and presented them with icons.

Russia annexed the Kherson and Luhansk regions along with the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions in September in a move that was rejected by much of the world as illegal. It was impossible to independently verify the



footage of Putin's visits to the two regions that was released by the Kremlin.

The trip marked a second visit by the Russian leader to the areas that Russia occupied in Ukraine in as many months. Last month, Putin visited the Russian-held Sea of Azov

port city of Mariupol, which was captured by Russian troops in May after two months of fierce fighting.

Putin's trips to the military headquarters come as Ukraine is preparing for a new counteroffensive to reclaim the occupied territories.

No impunity: G7 vows tough, unified stance on Russia's war

Karuizawa, Apr 18 (AP):

Top diplomats from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies vowed a unified front against Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, saying at the close of their meetings on Tuesday that they were committed to boosting and enforcing tough sanctions against Moscow.

The G-7 communique laying out their commitments also included strong words meant to curb what the ministers see as increasing Chinese and North Korean aggressive-

PALESTINIAN MUSLIM WORSHIPPERS



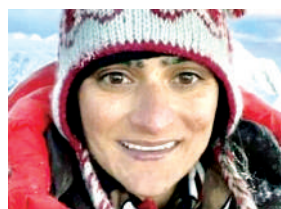
Palestinian Muslim worshippers pray during Laylat Al Qadr, also known as the Night of Destiny, in front of the Dome of the Rock, in the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City. Laylat Al Qadr is marked on the 27th day of the holy fasting month of Ramadan and is commemorated as the night Prophet Muhammad received the first revelation of the Quran. Muslims traditionally spend the night in prayer and devotion.

Indian mountaineer Baljeet Kaur rescued from Mt. Annapurna in Nepal

Kathmandu, Apr 18 (PTI):

Baljeet Kaur, a 27-year-old prominent Indian woman climber was rescued on Tuesday, a day after she went missing near Camp IV of Mt Annapurna while descending from the summit point, an official of the expedition organiser said.

Kaur, who scaled the world's 10th highest peak without using supplemental oxygen on Monday, was rescued from 7,363m after an aerial search team located her above Camp IV, Chairman at Pioneer



Adventure Pasang Sherpa, was quoted as saying by the Himalayan Times newspaper.

"She has suffered from frostbite and is now being rushed to CIWEC Hospital from Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu," Sherpa said.

Kaur was seen descending alone towards Camp IV by the aerial search team, according to Sherpa.

The leading Indian woman climber, who was left alone before the summit point, remained out of radio contact till this morning, the report added.

An aerial search mission was initiated on Tuesday morning only after she managed to send a radio signal asking for 'immediate help'.

According to Sherpa, her GPS location has indicated an altitude of 7,375m

(24,193ft). She climbed Mt Annapurna along with two Sherpa guides at around 5:15 pm on Monday. At least three helicopters were mobilised to trace her.

In May last year, Kaur, from Himachal Pradesh, scaled Mt Lhotse and became the first Indian climber to have climbed four 8000-meter peaks in a single season.

On Monday, Anurag Malu, a resident of Kishangarh in Rajasthan, went missing while descending from Camp III of Mt. Annapurna.

Office of the Director
Government Printing and Stationery Dept.
Indravati Bhawan, Block 1 Second Floor, Atal Nagar, Raipur (492002)
G.B. IV/paper(1)/22-23/32 Date 13/4/2023

Tender Notice
Extension of Opening date

With reference to the Tender notice no G.B. IV/paper(1)/22-12/6 dated 31/03/2023 published in various news paper, the last date of tender submission and opening has been increased. The new dates are as follows:-

- Last date of Tender submission:- 24/04/2023 at 5:00 PM
- Last date of Sample submission:- 24/04/2023 at 5:15 PM
- Tender document opening date:- 25/04/2023 at 11:00 AM

Director
Printing and Stationery
C.G. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar
G-00337/1

संपदा संचालनालय (गृह विभाग)
महानदी भवन, मंत्रालय,
छत्तीसगढ़, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर रायपुर-0771-2510743/2510130

कमांक- 661/1/सं.स./स्थापना/2023 नया रायपुर दिनांक 17/04/2023

// सूचना पत्र //

संचालक संपदा संचालनालय (गृह विभाग) महानदी भवन मंत्रालय नवा रायपुर द्वारा 01 जनवरी 2023 से 17 फरवरी 2023 तक जी. एच. व आई. श्रेणी आवास पुराना रायपुर एवं अटल नगर नवा रायपुर स्थित आवास हेतु वरीयता सूची अद्यतनीकरण के लिए पृथक-पृथक आवेदन आमंत्रित किये गये थे। समस्त आवेदनों की स्कूटी की पश्चात् प्रत्येक श्रेणी में पुराना रायपुर एवं अटल नगर नवा रायपुर हेतु पृथक-पृथक वरीयता सूची का कार्यालय संचालक संपदा संचालनालय (गृह विभाग) मंत्रालय महानदी भवन तृतीय तल ए.डी./26 के सूचना पटल पर प्रकाशन किया गया है। वरीयता सूची में अपूर्ण, अस्पष्ट एवं नियमानुसार पात्रता न रखने वाले आवेदनों को शामिल नहीं किया गया है।

आवास आर्बन नियम 2000 के नियम 5(6) व 5(7) के तहत वरीयता का निर्धारण किया गया है। वरीयता कमांक या सूची में आवेदक की आवेदानुसार प्रविष्टियों में यदि आवेदकगणों को आपत्ति हो, तो दिनांक 18 अप्रैल 2023 के पूर्व लिखित में आपत्ति मंगाई गई थी, जिसके तिथि में आगे वृद्धि करते हुए दिनांक 23 अप्रैल 2023 तक किया जाता है। समयावसान के पश्चात् आपत्तियों पर विचार नहीं किया जावेगा। ऐसे आवेदक जिनका आवेदन अपूर्ण, अस्पष्ट है, वे भी दावा आपत्ति के समयावसान के पूर्व स्पष्ट एवं पूर्ण आवेदन कार्यालय को प्रेषित कर सकते हैं।

संचालक
संपदा संचालनालय
(गृह विभाग) मंत्रालय रायपुर
G-00339/1

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Work Description:- E-Auction for allotment of 2 Wheelers & 4 Wheelers at ABKP & PND Railway Station

E-Auction has been invited for the work of two wheelers parking stand at Ambikapur & Pendra Road Railway Station. The catalog has already been published on the IREPS Website (https://ireps.gov.in). The details are as follows:-

Catalogue no.	Category	Auction Date & Time	Lot No.	Lot Description	Contract period
PARK-PND-ABKP1	(Parking Mixed)	26.04.2023 15:00	PARKING-BSP-ABKP-MX-2-22-1	Two Wheelers Parking and Four Wheelers Parking at circulating Area in ABKP Railway Station	184 Days
			PARKING-BSP-PND-MX-12-22-1	Two Wheelers Parking and Four Wheelers Parking at circulating Area in PND Railway Station	

Asst. Comm. Manager
S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur
CPR/10/19

Technology Development Board
Department of Science & Technology
Technology Bhawan, Block-2, 2nd Floor, New Delhi

Call for Proposal

India - Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I⁴F) 2023 CFP-10

Key Features

- Financial Assistance to Feasibility Study Projects, R&D Projects and Pilot Projects.
- Funding shall be in the form of Grants/Conditional Grants.
- Funding upto 70% for start-ups less than 5 years-old. (Whichever is lower)

Eligibility

- Indian company registered under the Indian Company Act 1956/2013 as Indian Project Lead (INPL).
- At least 51% stake of the INPL Company must be owned by Indian citizens.
- Sole proprietors and partnership firms are not eligible for support under this programme.

For finding partner/match making support, drop a mail at info@tdb.gov.in, For more Details, Funding Guidelines & Proposal Submission visit - www.tdb.gov.in
CBC 36106/12/0005/2324

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, RAIPUR
(An Autonomous Institute Under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt)

No.03/02/2022/Recruit/Reg/19 Date: 12.04.2023

SENIOR RESIDENTS RECRUITMENT

AIIMS Raipur invites application in the prescribed format from Indian Nationals for the post of Senior Resident (Non-acad.) [Total: 113 (UR-39, OBC-30, SC-25, ST-09, EWS-10)] including 05 posts for PwBD, under Govt. of India Residency Scheme for various departments in AIIMS Raipur. The pay scale is of Rs. 67,700/- (Level-11, Cell No. 01 As per 7th CPC) plus usual allowances including NPA (if applicable). Candidates can apply for the post by the link: <https://forms.gle/RdkvEBpJLGHoVdH6>. The link is also available of AIIMS, Raipur website from 12.04.2023 to 21.04.2023 (by 05:00 PM). For departments, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions, updates, notification, amendment, corrigendum etc. please visit website www.aiimsraipur.edu.in.
-Director

GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA, BILASPUR (C.G.)
A Central University established by the Central Universities Act, 2009
Korli, Bilaspur-495009 (C.G.)
Phone: 07752-26748, 260009. Fax: 07752-26154. Website: www.ggu.ac.in

No. 370/Rec/Admn/2023 Advertisement Bilaspur, date: 18-04-2023

Online applications are invited, for posts of Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Assistant Director (Physical Education) - in various disciplines in the University, under Rolling Application System.

- Applications, in the prescribed format should be submitted online throughout the duration of the advertisement
- Details of Vacant Positions, Minimum Eligibility and General Instructions, List of Allied Subject are available at the University website www.ggu.ac.in.
- The desiring applicant must upload documents clearly and specifically showing the required educational qualifications, work experience and research/publications, failing which the applications shall not be considered.
- Non-Refundable Fee - Rs. 2500/- (Rs. 1,000/- for SC/ST/PwD/Female candidates)
- Reservation and Relaxations will be given as per GOI/UGC Rules to all the persons belong to SC/ST/OBC/PH/EWS category.
- Various vacant positions under different categories (roster) may be changed if any, in the future as per the directions of the MHRD/UGC on the reservations in teacher's cadre posts (Roster positions)
- Any change or amendment in this advertisement shall be displayed on the university website only, therefore the aspiring candidates are advised to visit University website regularly and remain updated.

REGISTRAR

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corp. Ltd.
(A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)
3rd Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Telibandha, Ring Road No. 1, Raipur 492006 (C.G.)
TeleFax: 0771-4057624
Website: www.csidc.in, Email: csidc.cg@nic.in, csidc_raipur@yahoo.com

e-Tender Enquiry No. CSIDC/MKD/2023-24/84 Raipur, Dated : 17-04-2023

CSIDC Ltd, Raipur invites online tenders under Chhattisgarh Govt. Store Purchase Rule-2002 (As Amended) for the following items from the Manufacturer or Authorised distributor for the conclusion of the Rate Contract.

The tenderers are required to refer para 20 of form-5 tender documents under CSIDC form-5 where in the list of essential documents which are to be submitted along with Technical Bid Envelope-A is given & also read changes made in general terms & condition as per amendment recently made.

SPR Annex-1 Sr. No.	Sr. No.	Item Description	Last date of online submission	EMD (Rs)	Remarks
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
25/50	1	Compostable Films for Bags (General & Nursery Purpose)	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	(1) The EMD in the form of demand draft favoring CSIDCL Main Office (Receipt a/c) payable at raipur must reach this office physically upto 5.00 PM on last date (as quoted in column "D") of online submission of tender.
24/49	2	HDPE Poly Propylene Bag (ISI MARKED) - 10 To 30 Kg	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	(2) The tender documents can be downloaded from the portal (website) https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in directly and shall be submitted online only.
	3	HDPE Poly Propylene Bag (ISI MARKED) - 50 Kg	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	
73	4	E-Rickshaw (E-Cart) Garbage Container (48 Volt-310 Kg)	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	
	5	E-Rickshaw (E-Cart) Garbage Container (60 Volt-310 Kg)	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	
54/122	6	School Sports And Equipment	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	

NOTE:-

- The interested tenderers for online submission of tender may contact eproc.cgstate.gov.in Helpdesk. Operated by Service Provider Agency Mjunction Services Limited. They may reach by using Helpdesk 18004199140 (from 9AM to 11 PM) (therein press 2 for CG e-Proc) or you can email them at Helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in
- Tenderer may contact to CSIDC in working hours to clear their doubt if any before online submission of the tender.
- इच्छुक निर्माता एवं अधिकृत प्रदायकर्ता इकाईयों, सीएसआईडीसी वेबडर रजिस्ट्रेशन की प्रक्रिया ऑनलाईन वेबसाइट www.csidcmt.in पर अनिवार्यतः पूरा करें।

S-36665/2

Executive Director

कार्यालय एवं दुकान हेतु स्थान उपलब्ध वेबसाइट www.csidc.in देखें।



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 193

India Sizzles At 40°C

A Wake-Up Call to Address Climate Change

As the mercury soared to 40 degrees Celsius in several parts of India, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned of heat wave conditions in several states for the next few days. With West Bengal and Bihar experiencing heat wave conditions for four consecutive days, and other states like Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Andhra Pradesh expected to experience similar conditions, it is apparent that India is grappling with the impacts of climate change. The rise in temperatures and the increasing frequency of heat waves is a clear indication of the impending dangers of climate change that the world is facing. The scorching heat and the severe consequences it brings with it, such as heat stroke and heat-related health issues, pose a significant threat to vulnerable sections of society, including children, elderly individuals, and people with chronic diseases. The IMD's warning has prompted several states to take preventive measures, such as the closure of schools, colleges, and universities for a week in West Bengal and Tripura. However, it is high time that India's policymakers took a more proactive approach to address climate change and its effects on the country's people and economy. India, being the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, has a significant responsibility to take decisive action to reduce its carbon footprint. The country needs to adopt a holistic approach to tackle climate change, which includes a shift to clean energy, reducing emissions from the transport sector, and improving energy efficiency in buildings and industry. India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) commit to reducing the emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35% below 2005 levels by 2030. However, given the current pace of progress, it is unlikely that the country will meet these targets. It is imperative that India steps up its efforts and implements more ambitious policies to reduce emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. Apart from reducing emissions, there is a need to build resilience among communities to adapt to the changing climate. The government needs to invest in building climate-resilient infrastructure, such as constructing heat-resistant buildings and improving water supply and sanitation infrastructure. Educating people on the risks of climate change and equipping them with the necessary tools to cope with the effects of climate change is also critical. Moreover, India's policymakers must recognize that climate change is not a standalone issue but intersects with other challenges, such as poverty, inequality, and health. Addressing climate change requires an integrated approach that takes into account these interrelated challenges. The heat wave conditions are a stark reminder that climate change is real and poses a significant threat to India's people and economy. It is time for India's policymakers to acknowledge the severity of the problem and take decisive action to address it. The costs of inaction are too high, and the time to act is now. India must shift to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources, invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, and implement policies that reduce emissions and promote climate adaptation. As individuals, we must also take responsibility for our actions and make conscious choices to reduce our carbon footprint. Together, we can combat climate change and create a safer and healthier future for all.

Steps to keep your Liver Healthy: Observing World Liver Day

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

The liver is a vital organ that performs various critical functions in the body, such as digestion, metabolism, and immunity. Unfortunately, liver-related diseases have become a significant cause of mortality globally, with cirrhosis and liver cancer being the leading causes of death due to liver disease. However, a lack of awareness about the risk factors and preventive measures contributes to the rise in these numbers. To raise awareness about liver health, World Liver Day is observed annually on April 19th. This day serves as a reminder of the importance of taking care of our liver through regular check-ups and a healthy lifestyle. Regular full-body check-ups and a healthy diet are essential for preventing liver diseases. This year's World Liver Day theme, "Be Vigilant, Do Regular Liver Check-Up, Fatty Liver Can Affect Anyone," highlights the importance of regular check-ups as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease can affect anyone, regardless of their body mass index. It is vital to understand that early detection and prevention of liver diseases are critical, as symptoms often do not appear until it is too late. People with diabetes are at an increased risk of liver cirrhosis or scarring, making regular check-ups and a healthy lifestyle even more crucial. The importance of lifestyle modifications, including a healthy diet and regular exercise, cannot be overemphasized. Neglecting the liver can lead to severe health issues, making it essential to take care of our liver through regular check-ups and a healthy lifestyle. Maintaining good liver health is crucial for overall well-being and preventing severe liver issues that can be life-threatening. By taking care of our liver, we can ensure a healthier life for ourselves and those around us. Regular check-ups and a healthy lifestyle can help prevent liver diseases and ensure early detection, allowing for prompt treatment and better outcomes. It is also essential to understand the risk factors for liver diseases, including excessive alcohol consumption, obesity, and exposure to toxins such as chemicals and drugs. These risk factors can cause liver damage and contribute to the development of liver diseases. By taking steps to reduce these risk factors, we can help prevent liver diseases and maintain good liver health. World Liver Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness about liver-related diseases, their risk factors, and the importance of early detection and prevention through lifestyle and diet modifications. By taking care of our liver, we can ensure a healthier life for ourselves and those around us. So, let us observe World Liver Day by taking steps to keep our liver healthy and raising awareness about liver health.

Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of the original message, and ask that they be kept to around 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via email to editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com.

HOT SUMMER DAY

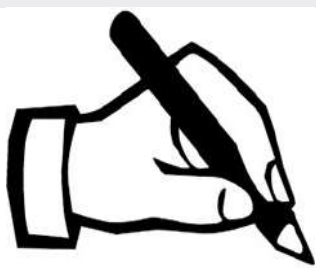


Young women use scarves to protect themselves from the heat on a hot summer day, in Gurugram, Tuesday, April 18.

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR'S CRITIQUE OF HINDUISM



PROF. SUNIL GOYAL



Ambedkar in his writings does not seem to be against Hinduism as such but against a phenomenon called Brahminism, which he believes is one of the components of Hinduism and not its essence. He is a staunch critic of the caste system which according to him is nothing but, Brahmanism incarnate. It is one of the components of a large cultural unit that is the Hindu culture. Brahminism can be easily understood as the desire of those in the Brahmin caste, or those appropriating that status, to assert themselves so as to be at the top of the social hierarchy. Like Brahminism, within the caste system, exist "isms" of all kinds, that is the desire to be at the top by every caste and within a caste, by the sub castes. Ambedkar was aware of this fact and the contestation between the Kshatriyas and the Brahmins described by him stands testimony to it. Here I would like to suggest that Ambedkar in his works does not condemn the people born in particular castes (therefore much against what many contemporary ideologues claim), but the tendency within the caste ideology, spearheaded by the status of the Brahmin caste to oppress the lower orders in accordance to the given graded hierarchies.

In "Triumph of Brahminism", Ambedkar narrates the story of how Buddhist India was revolted against by a new rouge phenomenon called Brahmanism under the leadership of Pushyamitra Shunga. Ambedkar suggests that the Aryan civilization was not Brahmanical. This can be suggested from the fact that he condemns the Shunga Dynasty for breaking the Aryan Law that forbids the Brahmins to rule. Further on, he narrates the

change was introduced in the caste system. All the children, regardless of their caste went to schools where their castes were decided after completion of their education. Here too the preceptor was not a castist, and we might deduce, not a hereditary priestly Brahmin as the castes were given out to children regardless of their father's castes after their schooling. Ambedkar upholds these two old, allegedly pre-Buddhist systems. Castes were later made hereditary and based on birth by Sumati Bhargava, giving strength to the designs of the evil Shungas. He also upholds the pre-Buddhist Chaturvarnya system as it did not forbid inter-caste marriage and was flexible nor was it a law of the state. Changes made to these rules by the Shungas annoy Ambedkar. It was the introduction of caste that made the Hindu system unbearable. The fact that the later degeneration of Hinduism, owing to a development of a phenomenon called Brahmanism did not regard the Vedas enrages Ambedkar. He upholds the Vedic Hymns for there are many composed by Shudra seers. This is in line with the arguments of the Arya Samaj. Ambedkar also suggests that in olden times, Shudras were taught as the new laws introduced by the Shungas penalized those who taught the Shudras. Brahmanism, says Ambedkar, is a poison that has killed Hinduism. He wants the Hindus to save Hinduism by slaying Brahmanism and invites the 'Arya Samajists' for this cause. While dedicating the work who were the Shudras? to Jyotiba Phule he refers to the consciousness of rights among the lower classes of the Hindus that was kindled by Phule.

The Shudras, according to Ambedkar were Kshatriyas, one among the various Aryan tribes. He suggests that the Shudras are Savarnas. The oldest reference to the caste system in the texts upheld by the Hindus is in the Rig Veda. Ambedkar believes that not only this particular Hymn but also that part of it which talks about caste is a later interpolation and that the early Aryan society did not know anything about the Shudras. Not only on the caste issue, but according to Ambedkar, even on gender issues, the Hindu religious

texts give a rather explicit egalitarian picture where we find women engaging in the study of the sacred Vedic text and running schools for teaching the same. He cites evi- tion. Here too the preceptor was not a castist, and we might deduce, not a hereditary priestly Brahmin as the castes were given out to children regardless of their father's castes after their schooling. Ambedkar upholds these two old, allegedly pre-Buddhist systems. Castes were later made hereditary and based on birth by Sumati Bhargava, giving strength to the designs of the evil Shungas. He also upholds the pre-Buddhist Chaturvarnya system as it did not forbid inter-caste marriage and was flexible nor was it a law of the state. Changes made to these rules by the Shungas annoy Ambedkar. It was the introduction of caste that made the Hindu system unbearable. The fact that the later degeneration of Hinduism, owing to a development of a phenomenon called Brahmanism did not regard the Vedas enrages Ambedkar. He upholds the Vedic Hymns for there are many composed by Shudra seers. This is in line with the arguments of the Arya Samaj. Ambedkar also suggests that in olden times, Shudras were taught as the new laws introduced by the Shungas penalized those who taught the Shudras. Brahmanism, says Ambedkar, is a poison that has killed Hinduism. He wants the Hindus to save Hinduism by slaying Brahmanism and invites the 'Arya Samajists' for this cause. While dedicating the work who were the Shudras? to Jyotiba Phule he refers to the consciousness of rights among the lower classes of the Hindus that was kindled by Phule.

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The dichotomy between Hinduism and Brahmanism is brought out by Ambedkar in almost all his works. This dichotomy clearly suggests that he believed the two to be different entities. As has been shown above, Brahmanism is phenomena that developed within the frame of Hinduism and began dominating it. These statements strongly suggest that according to Ambedkar, Hinduism is not the same as Brahmanism. Yet another statement that a Brahmin can undo the status of any Hindu at any time stands testimony to what has just been suggested.

Though, in his work, who were the Shudras? he narrates how the Kshatriyas of the Solar line came to be dominated by the Brahmins within the Hindu fold, he suggests at the end that not all those who are regarded as Shudras in modern times are real Shudras but this social category also includes those who in later times came to assimilated into this group owing to their cultural backwardness, thereby breaking the Myth that Shudras as we know today have been a homogeneous group throughout and have been dominated for last three thousand years. From this it can be suggested that he did not have anything against Hinduism but Brahmanism which form one of Hinduism's many constituting elements. Therefore he wrote a work describing the advent of Brahmanism and the perversion of Hinduism that followed.

(Author is Eminent Social Scientist, Columnist, and presently posted as Dean and Chairman - Board of Studies at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (MHOW), Madhya Pradesh. Vies are personal. Can be contacted: Email gasspub@gmail.com)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Compromised Security

Satya Pal Malik, the then governor of Jammu and Kashmir during the time when Pulwama massacre happened, revealed in the interview with journalist Karan Thapar for The Wire news portal last Friday that the safety and security of our defence personnel had been compromised before the Pulwama attack. He claimed that the government at the Centre turned down the CRPF request to ferry their people by an aircraft. He also pointed out that such a large convoy never went by road. After the massacre when he told about it he was asked not to speak. It has been alleged that instead of admitting the mistake, the massacre had been used to reap political dividends in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Digvijay Singh of the Congress also raised this issue a few days ago but surprisingly he did not get support even from his own party leaders. But such a matter that involves safety and security of our army must be thoroughly examined to avoid any kind of lapses on the part of the government in future.

Sujit De, Kolkata

Injustice to farmers

The central government has launched its latest attack on farmers by lowering the procurement price of wheat under the guise of grain quality. It is well known that crop quality suffered this season as a result of climate change and untimely rains. However, the government is now attempting to punish farmers for this natural disaster by lowering the purchase price for grains. The government's decision to lower the procurement price of wheat from farmers under the guise of quality is nothing more than a ruse to defraud farmers of their rightful dues. Previously, the government used quantity ceilings to reduce procurement. Now the Government is trying to reduce the procurement under the excuse of quality, which is entirely unacceptable.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

A concerning reality

The recent incident of four soldiers being gunned down in Bathinda military station raises serious questions about the safety and preparedness of our armed forces. The fact that the perpetrators managed to escape easily through a forest, and that no alarms were raised or shots fired by any of the jawans in the camp, is alarming. It indicates that there are gaps in the security infrastructure that need to be addressed. Moreover, the theft of a rifle and ammunition from the barracks just a day before the killings only adds to the concern. The laxity of security is unacceptable, and it puts not only the lives of our soldiers but also the safety of the common people at risk. It is high time that the government takes immediate action to conduct a thorough investigation and review the administration of security in all military stations. It is not just a matter of internal concern but a national issue that needs to be addressed urgently. We cannot afford to lose any more lives due to security lapses.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad.

Congress hopes to win Lingayat support with Shettar's induction



Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, a senior BJP leader, has joined the Congress party ahead of the May 10 Assembly elections in the state. This move came after Shettar resigned as the Hubli-Dharwad (Central) MLA following the BJP's decision to deny him a ticket to

contest the Assembly polls. He is now the second top leader of the Lingayat community after BJP's B.S. Yeddyurappa to join the Congress.

A few minutes after Shettar's induction, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President D.K. Shivakumar handed over the 'B' form to him to contest the elections from Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency. This sudden development has surprised many people as it is not common to see senior leaders defecting to the opposition party. However, the move can be seen as a strategy to strengthen the Congress party's position in the upcoming elections.

Shettar's joining the Congress has also raised concerns among the BJP leaders,

especially Yeddyurappa, who is known as the Lingayat strongman. Yeddyurappa has criticized Shettar and former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Sangappa Savadi for their decision to join the Congress. Both leaders belong to the Lingayat community and hail from Kittur in Karnataka.

The Lingayat community is one of the dominant communities in Karnataka, and both the BJP and Congress parties have been vying for their support in the upcoming elections. With Shettar's joining the Congress, the party is expected to strengthen its position among the Lingayats, who have traditionally supported the BJP.

Defection or joining from the parent party to another

party due to grievances is now part and parcel of democracy. However, it remains to be seen whether Shettar's decision to join the Congress will pay off for him and the party in the long run.

The Congress party has expressed its eagerness to earn the Lingayat community's votes, and the result will be known on May 13. The party's decision to field Shettar from Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency shows its confidence in his ability to secure the Lingayat community's support.

It is also worth noting that Shettar's move has come at a time when the BJP is facing criticism for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in the state. The Congress party has been quick to capitalize on the

situation, and Shettar's induction is expected to further boost the party's prospects in the upcoming elections.

Shettar's decision to join the Congress has sent shockwaves through the political circles in Karnataka. His move is expected to have a significant impact on the Lingayat community's voting patterns, and the Congress party is hoping to capitalize on it to win the upcoming elections. The BJP, on the other hand, is facing criticism for its handling of the pandemic, and it remains to be seen how this will play out in the elections. Whatever the outcome, the upcoming elections in Karnataka are likely to be closely watched by political observers across the country.

BRIEF

Maize output



New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday said the country's maize output needs to be increased to 44-45 million tonnes in the next five years amid growing demand for the grain for ethanol production and poultry industry. Union agriculture secretary Manoj Ahuja, speaking at the 9th India Maize Summit organised by industry body Ficci here, also stressed on the need to cut down the losses in the entire value chain of maize in a systematic manner.

New subscribers

New Delhi: Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) added 16.03 lakh new subscribers in February 2023, according to provisional payroll data released on Tuesday. As per the data, around 11,000 new establishments were registered in February under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme ensuring social security cover to their employees. Employees up to age of 25 years constitute the major chunk of new registrations, with 7.42 lakh such employees added during the month, a labour ministry statement said.

Investment protection



New Delhi: India and Russia are working on firming up a bilateral agreement for the promotion and protection of investments and Moscow is looking at expanding trade ties with New Delhi, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov said. Addressing an event, Manturov also said that Russia, along with the Eurasian Economic Commission, is looking forward to intensifying negotiations on a free trade agreement with India. Manturov, who is also Russia's minister for trade and industry, is on a two-day visit to India primarily to attend an inter-governmental meeting on trade, culture and science and technology.

Lending rates

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) on Monday announced increase in the marginal cost of funds based lending rates (MCLR) by 10 basis points across tenors. The revision in MCLR is effective from April 15, 2023. The benchmark one-year MCLR is up by 10 basis points to 8.50 per cent, it said. The one-year rate is used to fix most consumer loans such as auto, personal and home loans.

Gadkari seeks support from states, UTs

To strengthen policies for transformation of road sector

New Delhi, Apr 18:

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday called for active support from states and UTs to strengthen policies and strategies for the transformation of the road transport sector, according to an official statement. The Union road transport and highways minister chaired a meeting of transport ministers from all states and Union Territories (UTs) to discuss various concurrent policy matters, including review of road traffic regulations, setting up vehicle fitness stations and streamlining the issuance

of driving licenses.

The statement said that the objective of the meeting was to discuss a range of road transportation-related issues, including review of speed limits, vehicle fitness testing infrastructure, financing of electric buses and automation of learner's licenses, and find new innovative solutions through mutual cooperation and consultation.

According to the statement, in the meeting discussions were held on the status of the implementation of the Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernization Program

(VVMP) across states, specifically on the development of ATS infrastructure critical for the implementation of mandatory automated fitness testing regime and the support required for the success. Discussions were held on having online tutorials on road safety as a prerequisite for a learner's license, and states/UTs were encouraged to implement such tutorials expeditiously. The statement said discussions were held on the need to explore new business models for reducing the financial risks of the bus operator/OEMs and to improve private

participation in adoption of the electric buses. The discussions also covered the need to develop innovative financing mechanisms for the procurement and operations of electric buses, it added. According to the statement, the meeting saw participation from ministers for transport from 15 states and Union Territories (UTs) -- Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Punjab, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

Mercedes-Benz India clocks its 'Best Ever' Financial Year and Q1

Debuts the most powerful production vehicle ever by Mercedes-AMG - GT 63 S E Performance Iton

Pune, Apr 18:

India's largest luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz India, continued its strong sales momentum and leadership in the Indian luxury car market. The Three-Pointed Star clocked its 'best ever fiscal year' for 2022-23 with sales of 16,497 units, a strong growth of 37% (FY 21-22: 12,071). Mercedes-Benz also achieved its 'Best ever Q1' retailing 4697 units in Q1 2023, growing by 17% YoY. The highlight of Q1 2023



Santosh Iyer, MD & CEO and Lance Bennett, VP Sales and Marketing launching Mercedes-AMG GT 63 S E Performance_1.

sales was the outstanding growth of the TEV portfolio at 107%, comprising the GLS, S-Class, EQS, AMG, S-Class Maybach and GLS Maybach. The core sedan portfolio comprising the C-Class and E-Class LWB grew by a strong 27%, comprising 30% of the company's Q1 2023 volumes. The compa-

ny also recorded 'Best ever Q1' supported by the strong Desire of its products and increasing penetration of EVs. The seamless omnichannel luxury experience created through 'direct to customer' sales model- ROTF (Retail of the Future) resulted in an enhanced customer experience.

Cement demand seen rising 8-9 pc in FY24 over 9 pc growth in FY23

Mumbai, Apr 18:

Continued government push to build infrastructure will drive cement demand further this fiscal by 8-9 per cent on top of a 9 per cent growth in FY22, which will help the sector see some recovery in profitability, a report said.

According to India Ratings, which has a neutral outlook for the sector for the year, recovery in profitability despite the inflationary pressure and healthy balance sheets will keep the sector in good stead despite the large capex pipeline. The agency expects demand to grow 8-9 per cent in FY24 over an estimated 9 per cent growth in FY23, giving the sector a five-year compounded annual



growth rate of 4.5 per cent. Softening fuel cost to drive recovery in operating margins even as the industry is likely to increase prices only in low single digit. The agency expects operating margins to recover to Rs 950-1,000/MT in FY24 on the back of softening power and fuel cost. Downside risks could arise from a rebound in coal and petcoke prices, though. After the strong

profitability of over Rs 1,000/MT during FY20-22, operating margin has likely fallen to Rs 750-800/MT in FY23 as input costs soared.

The infrastructure push by the government will be key growth driver like in the past three pre-election years when the GDP multiplier averaged 1.5 times compared to the long-period average of 0.9 times. Another key driver will be

the agricultural sector and the focus on completing affordable housing projects. But the report added that if the likely adverse impact of the El Nino impacted the monsoon, it could pose a downside risk.

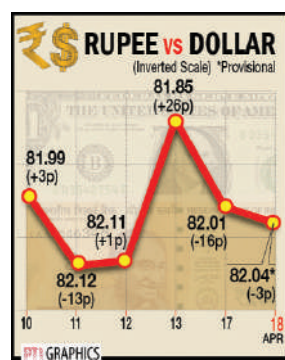
However, the large expansion plans will keep capacity utilisation below 70 per cent, up from 65 per cent in FY23. It expects 75 per cent of the announced expansion of around 150 million tonnes is actually likely to come on stream during FY23-25. But since most of the capacity addition is coming in grinding units, clinker utilisation is likely to remain 800-1,000 basis points higher than cement utilisation, indicating a higher effective utilisation rate.

Rupee falls 3 paise to close at 82.04 against US dollar

Mumbai, Apr 18:

The rupee depreciated 3 paise to close at 82.04 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking negative sentiments in the domestic equities market. Forex traders said a weak greenback against major currencies and falling crude prices, however, resisted the fall in the domestic unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the local unit opened strong at 81.99 against the dollar. During intra-day, it climbed to 81.96 and hit the lowest level of 82.09. It finally ended the session at 82.04 (provisional), 3 paise lower from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee settled at 82.01



against the dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.37 per cent to 101.73. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.32 per cent to USD 84.49 per barrel.

Apple's first India store goes live; CEO Cook opens doors to welcome customers

Mumbai, Apr 18:

Twenty-five years after entering India by selling products and services through partners, iconic consumer technology brand Apple on Tuesday launched the country's first retail store in Mumbai. Chief executive Tim Cook opened the doors of the store located in a mall in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) business district exactly at 11 AM to welcome the first set of customers.

Dressed in a black t-shirt and grey pants and accompanied by the company's senior vice president for retail Deirdre O'Brien, Cook opened the doors of the store to walk into a crowded foyer to pose for the



Apple CEO Tim Cook during the opening of India's first Apple retail store at BKC, in Mumbai, Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

media, and then started welcoming customers into the store. As the store's 100-odd employees along with company executives from other parts of the world

cheered, Cook welcomed about a dozen-odd customers for seven minutes before going back into the store.

Excitement levels were already very high over the last fortnight since the company announced the opening of the store, and many fans had been queuing up at the mall since morning to be among the first ones to shop at the store. Cook posed for selfies with the customers and exchanged quick pleasantries before welcoming them into the store located inside the Jio World Drive mall. The launch of the Mumbai store will be followed by opening of another retail outlet in New Delhi's Saket on Thursday.

Sensex, Nifty fall for 2nd day on profit taking in oil, banking stocks

Mumbai, Apr 18:

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower for a second day on Tuesday due to profit-taking in select banking, power and FMCG stocks amid mixed global markets and foreign fund outflows. Fall in index major Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank also dented sentiment. Reversing its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 183.74 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 59,727.01. During the day, it declined 331.45 points or 0.55 per cent to a low of 59,579.30. The broader NSE Nifty dipped 46.70 points or 0.26 per cent to end at 17,660.15 as 29 of its stocks declined while 21 advanced. After a gap-up



opening, the index moved in a range of 17,766.60 to 17,610.20 during the day. Among Sensex stocks, PowerGrid fell the most by 2.62 per cent. UltraTech Cement, Titan, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, ITC and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards.

Corteva Agriscience, Samunnati partner to empower women in agriculture

Mumbai, Apr 18:

Corteva Agriscience, a global leader in agriculture, has partnered with Samunnati Foundation, India's leading agri enterprise, to support and create 10 Female Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), on agronomic practices and crop production technology. Corteva with its implementation partner Samunnati, will help enrol 2500 women members in FPOs of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. Both organizations will impart required training, financial & technical support to the board of FPO & women members with an aim to becoming self-sustainable.

In rural India, 84% of women rely on agriculture for a living. About



47% of agricultural workers and 33% of farmers are women, yet just 2.4% of FPOs are currently made up entirely of women.

This project thus aligns with the Government's vision of empowering women through entrepreneurship and skill-building to bridge the gender gap in the agriculture sector. The FPOs aim to financially empower

women in agriculture by generating revenue, providing access to government schemes.

Speaking about the initiative, Ravinder Balain, President-Corteva Agriscience South Asia said, "We are delighted to partner with Samunnati in this project, which has the potential to create a positive impact on the lives of thousands of women in the states of

Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. The FPOs will not only provide a platform for women to showcase their entrepreneurial skills but also enable them to contribute to the growth of the agriculture sector in the region."

"We are excited to partner with Corteva Agriscience to empower women farmers through the establishment of female FPO's. This initiative highlights our mission to provide small holder farmers access to markets through necessary training and support, these FPOs will not only contribute to the financial independence of women but also serve as a catalyst for entrepreneurship and growth in the region," said Sridhar Easwaran, Head Samunnati Foundation.

India's gem, jewellery exports decline 23.7pc to Rs 21,501.96 cr in March

Mumbai, Apr 18:

India's overall gem and jewellery exports grew marginally by 2.48 per cent to Rs 3,00,462.52 crore (USD 37,468.66 million) in 2022-23 due to global challenges like inflation, the Russia-Ukraine war and the lockdown in China for almost six months, a key market, the industry has managed to put up a commendable performance," GJEPC chairman Vipul Shah said.

The overall gems and jewellery exports grew 2.48 per cent to Rs 3,00,462.52 crores compared to last year and the timely implementation of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has resulted in a remarkable 17 per cent growth in exports of plain gold jewellery in 2022-23, Shah added. For the period of April 2022 - March 2023, the overall exports of Cut and

Polished diamonds witnessed a decline of 2.97 per cent at Rs 1,76,696.95 crores (USD 22,044.58 million) compared to Rs 1,82,111.14 crores (USD 24,433.75 million) in the previous year. "Global challenges affected the demand for diamonds in India's key markets, including the USA and China. But certain regions in Europe and South-East Asia fared well. India encountered difficulties due to inconsistent Russian rough diamond supply and challenges with beneficiation, as countries such as Namibia, Botswana, and Angola prefer to have their rough diamonds cut in their own countries," said Shah. However, stability would return to the diamond sector in the coming months, especially with improved conditions in China and Far East Asia, he added.

'You are a star till your show is on-air'

Saif Ali Khan starts shooting for his debut Telugu film 'NTR 30' alongside NTR Jr

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan has joined the cast of the highly anticipated Telugu-language action-drama film 'NTR 30'. The movie features actor NTR Jr. in the lead role and marks the first collaboration between the two actors.

Saif, who is playing a pivotal role in the film, has begun filming alongside NTR Jr., and the makers have officially welcomed him to the team on social media. 'NTR 30' is helmed by Koratala Siva and is expected to be a visual extravaganza with an exciting storyline and a talented cast.

The movie went on the floors last month after a grand muharat ceremony in Hyderabad. Apart from Saif Ali Khan and NTR Jr., the film also marks the debut of Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor in the Telugu industry.

Produced by Yuvasudha Arts and presented by Nandamuri Kalyan Ram under the banner of NTR Arts, 'NTR 30' is scheduled for a pan-India release on April 5, 2024.

After acing numerous roles in popular television shows with his compelling performances, actor Micckie Dudaaney has entered &TV's family drama, Doosri Maa. The actor portrays the character of Varun Sharma, the antagonist, who is known to stir up new hurdles and challenges in Yashoda (Neha Joshi) and Krishna's (Aayudh Bhanushali) lives. In this candid chat, the actor opens up about his character, negative roles, fame and more.

Excerpts from the interview:

What interested you to be part of Doosri Maa and play Varun Sharma?

Varun is creating havoc in Yashoda and Krishna's lives, leading to a high-voltage drama for our audience. He is involved in all the evil plans of Kamini and claims to be Krishna's father. As an



actor, I feel playing negative characters broadens our horizons and project stronger emotions. Apart

from my character, the storyline of Doosri Maa has also caught my interest. I have been watching

the show since its commencement and I am glad to become a part of it now.

You have played a lot of negative roles? Is that your comfort zone?

I never intended to play negative roles when I entered this industry. I was here to play a hero, like many other artists. But as an actor, I was always open to taking on challenging roles. I played an antagonist in my first show, and it went on to become a hit. People like my playing characters with grey shades. I would not consider this as my comfort zone as negative characters demand intensity, and one has to keep proving his or her acting prowess to do justice to such characters.

Playing an antagonist frequently attracts trolls and backlash. Have you had any personal experience with this?

Being the bad guy on-

screen can leave you with a negative impression in real life as well. It is very common that the antagonist is trolled by the protagonists' fans on social media platforms, and I've also fallen prey to it. We had a scene in my first show where I tried to kill the protagonist's newborn. After watching that scene, my own dadi (grandmother) stopped talking to me for over a month. She used to say 'Kuch acha role nahi karsakta tha?' or 'Yeh kyun kar raha hai?' However, as an actor, one should take such reactions as compliments as I really get into the skin of characters. These trolls and negative comments on social media have helped me realize that I was playing my character well.

Watch Micckie Dudaaney as Varun Sharma in Doosri Maa every Monday to Friday at 8:00 pm only!

Nushratt Bharuccha bags lead role in Hindi remake of 'Chatrapathi' alongside Sreenivas Bellamkonda



Actress Nushratt Bharuccha has been announced as the lead actress in the upcoming action film 'Chatrapathi'. The film is the Hindi remake of the 2005 Telugu film with the same title and stars Sreenivas Bellamkonda in his Hindi film debut. Presented by Jayantilal Gada of Pen Studios, 'Chatrapathi' is directed by V.V. Vinayak and written by V. Vijayendra Prasad.

Speaking about the film and her role, Nushratt said, "I am excited, but I also have goosebumps. This is my

first pan-India action drama, and I couldn't have asked for anything better than a film like Chatrapathi. I am so thrilled to have worked with a team of such brilliant technicians and an amazing co-star, Sreenivas." The actress will be seen opposite Bellamkonda in the film, which also stars Bhagyashree, Sharad Kelkar, and Karan Singh Chhabra in pivotal roles.

The film is an official remake of S.S. Rajamouli's Prabhas-starrer 'Chatrapathi', which was a massive success at the box office.

Rukshar Dhillon returns to Punjabi cinema with upcoming film 'Tufang'

Actress Rukshar Dhillon, who has worked prominently in Hindi and Telugu films, is all set for her next Punjabi film 'Tufang' alongside actor-singer Guri.

Talking about being part of the film and working in the Punjabi film industry, Rukshar said, "The role I'm playing is the strongest character in my career so far. Deep's story drives the film. The way she thinks, her morals, and her values are all very different and unique. The character has so many different emotions, which gave me the opportunity to do something different. Compared to all the girl next door characters I've played so far, this is a character that is very



strong and impactful."

Rukshar has been part of the films like 'Run Antony' (Kannada), 'Krishnarjuna Yudham' (Telugu), 'Bhangra Pa Le' and 'Jugaadistan' (Hindi), among others.

Sharing about her working experience with the team, Rukshar said: "Working with the team has been one of the most amazing experiences. My co-actor Guri was so supportive, encouraging, and such a great actor. I think the chemistry we share in the film is very unique and I'm sure everyone will love it. Producer K.V. Dhillon and the full team made me so comfortable. Also, Dheeraj sir is a very passionate director and writer. He was clear on the way he wanted my character to be played in the film."



Radhika Madan embraces uncertainty to challenge herself in every role

Actress Radhika Madan is known for her versatile acting skills and her ability to bring depth to her characters. In a recent interview, she spoke about her experience playing the character of Shanta in the upcoming series 'Saas Bahu aur Flamingo' and how it challenged her in new ways. Madan shared, "As an actor, I crave for uncertainty, which drives me to challenge myself at every step and explore the uncharted territories, pushing the envelope further and further." She added, "Playing the character of Shanta was a unique experience as she and I are poles apart in our approach. Shanta is much more calm, composed, self-assured, confident and calculative when it comes to her words, and being an actor, I do crave for the uncertainty to explore new avenues." 'Saas Bahu aur Flamingo' is produced by Maddock Films and directed by Homi Adajania. The series features a talented cast including Dimple Kapadia, Angira Dhar, Isha Talwar, Ashish Verma, Varun Mitra, Udit Arora, Deepak Dobriyal, Monica Dogra and Radhika Madan in pivotal roles.

Balachandran Menon: The jack of all trades in Malayalam films

Renowned Malayalam film personality Balachandran Menon, who is known for his versatility, is set to receive recognition with the release of a book titled 'Balachandran Menon: Kaanatha Kazhchakal Kelkatha Shabthangal'. The book, authored by T.P. Venugopalan and published by the Kerala Bhasha Institute, chronicles Menon's contribution to the Malayalam film industry. The release is scheduled for Tuesday, and Menon is thrilled about the recognition.

Menon has had a highly successful career in the film industry, having directed 37 films and acted in more than 100 films. Known as the jack of all trades, Menon holds the Limca Book of World Records for having written, directed, and acted in the most films. He began his film career in 1978 with the



movie 'Uthradaratri', where he did the screenplay, penned the story, and wrote the dialogues. In 1981, he donned the grease paint for the first time in his own film 'Maniyam Pilla Adhava Maniyam Pilla' which he directed and produced.

He won the National award for the best actor in his own film 'Samantharanga'. The film also bagged the national award for the best film on family welfare in 1997. Menon is known for introducing the maximum number of actors through his

films. Shobana in April 18, Parvathy in Vivahithare Ithile, Maniyampilla Raju in Maniyam Pilla Adhava Maniyam Pilla, Karthika in Manicheppu Thurannappol, Annie in Ammayane Sathyam, and Nandini in April 19 are among the famous actors he introduced to the Malayalam film industry. All of them went on to become big names.

When asked about his success, Menon remained modest. He said that although many talk about it, he would say that it just happened, and that's nothing great. Menon is known for his unique style, which includes his trademark knee-jerk body movements, dialogue delivery, and a handkerchief tied on his forehead.

The book launch is expected to be a grand event, and Menon's contributions to the Malayalam film industry will be celebrated.

Cast of 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan' encourages families to sow the seeds of love and communication

Baisakhi is a time for sharing stories, laughter, and love with loved ones, letting go of differences, and expressing gratitude and affection. It's not just a tradition, but an emotion, a feeling that binds everyone in a bond of love and happiness. As we celebrate the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, Dil Diyaan Gallaan on Sony SAB aims to spread the message of love and hope. As we begin a new year, the show encourages viewers to cherish their family relationships with affection and empathy. The ensemble cast, including Pankaj Berry, Sandeep Baswana, Kaveri Priyam, and Paras Arora,



share their memories of celebrating the festival and how Dil Diyaan Gallaan beautifully portrays the dynamics of family relationships.

The cast of Dil Diyaan Gallaan had a grand celebration for the festival on the sets. The celebration was a perfect blend of traditional Punjabi culture and modern entertainment, with the cast grooving to the beats of the dhol and dancing to the energetic Bhangra tunes. Their energy and enthusiasm were infectious. The cast of Dil Diyaan Gallaan also engaged in various games and activities that added to the fun and excitement of the celebration.

CROSSWORD

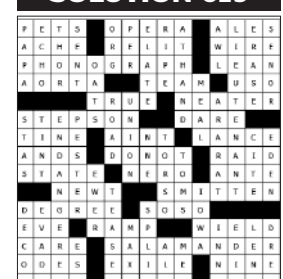
620



- ACROSS**
- Floppy
 - Boxing locale
 - Fog
 - Thought
 - Purple flower
 - Yodeler's feedback
 - Cabbage dish
 - Respect
 - Author's pseudonym (2 wds.)
 - Hawaiian necklace
 - Wind dir.
 - Pear type
 - Less frequent
 - The things there
 - Andrew _____ Webber
 - Perceived character
 - Cease
 - Mideast nation
 - Crinkly cloth
 - Perpetually
 - Cast
 - Italian vegetable soup
 - Highly skilled

- DOWN**
- Speech impediment
 - Doing nothing
 - Nasty
 - Chess piece
 - San Antonio shrine
 - Goes by taxi
 - Stately tree
 - Brad
 - Land parcel
 - Ran into
 - Colder
 - Gleamed
 - Copier's need
 - Well-ventilated
 - Aid in crime
 - Customers
 - Stick
 - Prune the hedges
 - Brave one
 - Semiprecious stone
 - Ice-cream treat
 - Easy gait
 - Washington bills
 - Pinnacle
 - Journey
 - Stratford-on-_____
 - Camera glass
 - Birch or spruce
 - Chef's units (abbr.)
 - Love foolishly
 - Fray
 - Puccini work
 - Deserve
 - Liquid measure
 - Lethargic
 - Lincoln and Vigoda
 - Weight unit
 - Retirement accounts (abbr.)
 - Liability
 - She, in Valencia
 - Hearty breads
 - Golf gizmo
 - _____ snail's pace (2 wds.)

SOLUTION 619



Inconsistent LSG faces RR test in IPL

Jaipur, Apr 18 (PTI):

Blowing hot and cold, Lucknow Super Giants will look to tick all the boxes and return to winning ways when they clash with table-toppers Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Wednesday.

With three wins and two losses so far, LSG is a team overflowing with talent but they have missed a trick or two at times to find themselves on the losing side twice.

In the last match against the Punjab Kings, Lucknow couldn't get enough runs in the middle overs, leaving them 10-15 runs short in the end.

While KL Rahul returning to form with a sizzling 56-ball 74 is a big positive, LSG will rue the scoring opportunities they squandered in the middle overs.

Lucknow have no dearth of power in their batting, with Kyle Mayers at the top and Nicholas Pooran and Marcus Stoinis in the



middle capable of pulverising any opposition.

While Mayers did his job in the powerplay, he,

perhaps, needs to think about building partnerships after the first six overs, especially with

Match time: 7:30 PM IST.

Deepak Hooda struggling to get runs at the top.

Against PBKS, LSG also committed the mistake of bringing in the talented Ravi Bishnoi too late, allowing the batters to take the chase deep into the final over.

Bishnoi is a wily customer with a mean googly, and skipper Rahul may think of using him in the middle as well, instead of holding him back for the death overs.

RR also has some quality spinners, with the trio of Yuzvendra Chahal, Adam Zampa and Ravichandran Ashwin making life difficult for the opposition. It was the spinners who had won them the match against Chennai Super Kings, while pace spearhead Trent Boult did the job against Delhi Capital by taking those two wickets in the first over to derail their chase.

Medium pacer Sandeep Sharma too has used all his experience, taking wickets regularly during his spells.

Jayasuriya 10 wickets lead Sri Lanka to big win over Ireland

Galle, Apr 18 (AP):

Sri Lanka defeated Ireland by an innings and 280 runs inside three days of the first test and recorded its biggest victory margin on Tuesday.

Ireland lost 13 wickets on the day to be all out for 143 and 168 in reply to Sri Lanka's 591-6 declared.

Slow left-arter Prabhath Jayasuriya led the Sri Lankans with a 10-wicket haul, taking the last wicket of the match when he trapped Ben White for 1 soon after tea. Jayasuriya took 3-56 in the second innings after a career-best 7-52 in the first.

Spin bowling partner Ramesh Mendis had the best figures in the second innings of 4-76 and a match haul of five wickets. Mendis equalled Dilruwan Perera in becoming the fastest Sri Lankan to 50 test wickets in 11 matches.

Seamer Vishwa Fernando took the other four Irish wickets, including opener Murray Commins for a pair.

The win surpassed Sri Lanka's previous highest victory margin of an innings and 254 runs against Zimbabwe in 2004. Sri



Sri Lanka's Prabhath Jayasuriya (2R) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Ireland's James McCollum during the third day of the first cricket Test match between Sri Lanka and Ireland at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle on April 18.

Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne said the Irish had the bowling quality but their inexperience showed in their bowling lengths, and the field placings were more alike to limited-overs cricket, which made it easier for his batters to score.

The home innings was built on centuries by Karunaratne (179), Kusal Mendis (140), Dinesh Chandimal (102) and Sadeera Samarawickrama

(104). Ireland began day three on 117-7 and lost its last three wickets all on 143. Lorcan Tucker made a team-high 45 when he tried to sweep Jayasuriya and missed. Mark Adair was stumped off Jayasuriya and Ramesh Mendis finished the innings. Forced to follow on 448 runs in arrears, Ireland was 41-5 by lunch. While the bowlers were pinning down Ireland, Nishan Madushka was also out-

standing in the field. His sharp low grab at short leg removed Peter Moor minutes before lunch, and his anticipation of a paddle sweep ended the 60-run resistance between Curtis Campher and Harry Tector.

Tector was dismissed shortly after, run out for 42 after slipping while trying to return to his crease and losing his bat. Ireland was 108-7 and lasted 15 more overs.

Left-handed batters on ground with short boundaries did the trick for CSK: Maxwell

Bengaluru, Apr 18 (PTI):

Royal Challengers Bangalore all-rounder Glenn Maxwell feels Chennai Super Kings' left-handers did the trick for the four-time champions by exploiting the shorter boundaries to the hilt to earn a crucial eight-run win in their IPL clash here.

CSK won the high-scoring 'Southern Derby' on Monday, with three of their left-handers - opener Devon Conway (83 off 45 balls), middle-order bat Shivam Dube (52 off 27) and Moeen Ali (19 not out off 9) - helping them amass 226 for 6, which proved to be a winning



total. "I think with short boundaries (at the Chinnaswamy Stadium),

they played heavy left-handers. Devon Conway batted for a long period in that innings," said Maxwell, who could have taken the match away from MS Dhoni's side had he remained at the crease for a little bit longer.

The Australian all-rounder, who struck his second half-century in this IPL, added that bringing in left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed to bowl to left-handers would have been a risky proposition.

"I think, it would have been a risk to bowl Shahbaz Ahmed to those guys," said Maxwell, though he added that the 28-year-old all-rounder was a "clever bowler".

Mark Taylor backs David Warner to play in WTC final

Melbourne, Apr 18 (PTI):

Former Australia captain Mark Taylor has backed David Warner to play in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final against India at The Oval in June and to also feature in the initial stage of the Ashes 2023 in England.

Warner has gone through a lean patch in Test cricket since the start of 2021, averaging below 39 and his returns have been ordinary especially in the last two years. Despite scoring a double century (200) in the Melbourne Test in December 2022 against South Africa his only Test hundred since January 2020 Warner averaged 30.05 in 11 games last year. In the three



Test matches that he played this year, Warner has managed a mere 36 runs at 9.00.

Warner, 36, has in the past spoken about retiring from Test cricket in order to push on in the shorter formats, and his participation was considered doubtful for the next red-ball assignments for Australia, especially after his horrendous run in India with the bat.

CSK batters targetting 200-plus strike rate: Conway

Bengaluru, Apr 18 (PTI):

Chennai Super Kings opener Devon Conway has sounded an ominous warning to his team's opponents, saying his side has been aiming for 200-plus strike rates on good batting surfaces to put up imposing totals, which give them better chances of winning matches. Monday was one such day when the four-time champions scored a mammoth 226 for 6 at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, and despite the onslaught from Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) skipper Faf du Plessis (62 off 33 balls) and Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell (76 off 36balls), CSK still man-



aged to win by eight runs.

Conway (83), Ajinkya Rahane and Shivam Dube played a pivotal role with the bat, scoring at a strike rate of more than 180 to help CSK post the big total.

"Tonight (Monday) was a really good surface to bat on, so for us to get those big to-

talts it's about trying to create a strike rate of around 200-plus," said Conway at the post-match press conference.

The New Zealander said that though he was some way off the 200-plus strike rate, he was happy Rahane (37 runs, 185 strike rate), Dube (52, 192.59), Ambati Rayudu (14, 233.33) and Moeen Ali (19 not out, 211.11), had brilliant strike rates. "I didn't manage to achieve that (200-plus rate) but some of the work done by the other players, like Ajinkya, Dube, Rayudu and Moeen Ali in the end, they all chipped in with really good strike rates and that's what got us to a very competitive total.

NZ snatches dramatic 4-run T20 win over strong Pakistan



New Zealand's cricketers celebrate after the dismissal of Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman (not pictured) during the third Twenty20 international cricket match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the Gaddafi Cricket Stadium in Lahore.

Lahore, Apr 18 (AP):

An inexperienced New Zealand survived Iftikhar Ahmed's late onslaught to snatch a stunning four-run win against Pakistan and keep alive their five-match Twenty20 series.

Iftikhar smacked six sixes and three fours and nearly sealed the series 3-0 for Pakistan with a blistering 60 off 24 balls. But New Zealand medium-pace James Neesham kept his nerve in the final over and Pakistan was dismissed for 159 on Monday night.

Captain Tom Latham, leading New Zealand in the absence of eight front-line players busy in the Indian Premier League, anchored the Kiwis to 163-5 with a brilliant 64 off 49 balls. "We were pleased to get a competitive total and it's satisfying to get across the line and keep the series

alive," Latham said. "The whole squad will take a lot of confidence from this match moving forward."

Pakistan's strong top order fell and limped to 88-7 in the 15th over. Then Iftikhar counter-punched by raising Pakistan's joint fastest T20 half-century off just 20 balls.

Together with Faheem Ashraf, who made 27 off 14 deliveries, Iftikhar brought Pakistan in sight of victory with a 61-run, eighth-wicket stand.

Faheem holed out at long on in the penultimate over and Pakistan needed 15 off the final Neesham over. Iftikhar clobbered a first-ball six over the square leg boundary and hit a crisp boundary on the off side. However, Iftikhar tried to finish off the game with another big hit and was caught at long on. Off the final delivery, last man

Haris Rauf was also caught in the deep. Neesham took 3-38.

"We didn't bat well enough," captain Babar Azam said. "The pressure kept building throughout the run chase, (but) Iftikhar delivered and Faheem also chipped in with crucial runs."

Babar, who smashed a century on Saturday, was out for 1 after Rachin Ravindra's spectacular diving catch at third man in the second over. Chad Bowes smartly ran out Mohammad Rizwan for 6 in the fourth over.

Ravindra, 2-28, and legspinner Ish Sodhi, 1-11, pinned down the batters in the middle overs.

Earlier, Latham and Daryl Mitchell (33) revived New Zealand with a 65-run, third-wicket stand before they fell in successive overs late in the innings.

Dhoni will be banned if CSK bowlers don't buck up: Sehwa



New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

Former India opener Virender Sehwag feels Chennai Super Kings' bowlers are repeatedly letting MS Dhoni down and has urged them to "buck up" to avoid the risk of getting their talismanic skipper "banned".

CSK posted an imposing 226/6 in their IPL match against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday, but Dhoni struggled to defend the total with his bowlers conceding six wides before prevailing over by eight runs. "Dhoni was not looking happy because he has mentioned it before that he wants the bowlers to reduce the number of no balls and wides," Sehwag said on Cricbuzz.

"It shouldn't go to a stage where Dhoni gets banned and CSK has to take the field without their captain."

In all, CSK bowled as many as 11 extras against RCB. The four-time IPL champions had leaked 18 runs in extras against Lucknow Super Giants earlier and Dhoni had warned them to cut down on extras or be ready to "play under a new captain".

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Crude bomb hurled near residence of Atiq's lawyer

Prayagraj/Lucknow (UP), Apr 18 (PTI): A crude bomb was hurled in a bylane near the residence of a lawyer of Atiq Ahmad on Tuesday, sparking panic in the area as the incident came just three days after the sensational killing of the gangster-turned politician and his brother.

No one was injured in the incident in Katra locality here and a case has been registered, police said and claimed Atiq's lawyer Dayashankar Mishra was not the target and the incident was a fallout of personal enmity between two youths. However, the lawyer claimed that it was an attempt "to create fear and terror".



Locals gather after a crude bomb was hurled near the residence of Daya Shankar Mishra, the lawyer of slain gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad, in Prayagraj, Tuesday.

In a statement issued in Lucknow, Special Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said, "On getting information about a bomb being hurled in Gobarwali Gali, police reached the spot... it emerged that Harshit Sonkar had a dispute with Akash Singh, Raunak Yadav and Chhote Singh, due to which Harshit attacked them with a bomb. However, no one was injured."

"This attack took place in a bylane in front of the residence of Dayashankar Mishra. However, rumour is being spread that Dayashankar Mishra was attacked. This is false information."

CBI to TMC's Abhishek

'Notice for questioning kept in abeyance till further SC order'

Kolkata, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday sent another letter to Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee informing him that the earlier notice for questioning has been kept in abeyance till further orders from the Supreme Court. The central probe agency's letter was dispatched a day after it had sent a notice to the TMC MP asking him to appear before its sleuths at its Kolkata office for questioning in connection with the school jobs scam following certain allegations of arrested Trinamool Congress youth leader Kuntal Ghosh. Ghosh is an accused in the scam.

Monday's notice to Abhishek, nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, had reached him a couple of hours after the Supreme Court put a stay on a Calcutta High Court order permitting the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to question him till April 24.

"It is hereby intimated that the effect of the notice served to you on April 17, 2023... for appearance before the IO... is kept in abeyance until further order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court," the CBI letter read. A copy of the CBI letter, signed by the superintendent of police of the CBI's anti-corruption branch (ACB), Kolkata, is with PTI. The

Calcutta High Court on April 13 said that Abhishek and Ghosh can be questioned by the ED and the CBI, and such "interrogation should be made soon". Abhishek challenged the order at the apex court. On Monday morning, the Supreme Court's division bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud stayed the high court's April 13 order till April 24, when the top court will take up Banerjee's plea again.

After receiving the CBI's notice on Monday, Abhishek accused central agencies of trying to "harass" him by summoning him for questioning despite the stay order from the Supreme Court.

Police unearth illegal arms factories

Sambhal (UP), Apr 18 (PTI):

Police in Sambhal have unearthed an illegal arms factory with the arrest of a man and recovered country-made weapons allegedly meant to be sold ahead of the local body election, an official said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police on Monday night raided a deserted house located in Hayatnagar police station area, and arrested a man, identified as Vakeel, Superintendent of Police (Sambhal) Chakresh Mishra said.

Another person identified as Usman managed to flee from the spot, he said.

"The arrested person told us that the illegal arms' manufactured give

good profit during the urban local body election. A case has been registered in this regard, and Vakeel has been arrested. The other accused will be arrested soon," SP Mishra said.

Six country-made pistols, some semi-manufactured pistols, a revolver and equipment used in manufacturing the illegal arms were recovered, police said.

In Bulandshahr, police unearthed another illegal arms factory and arrested two men, an official said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Surendra Nath Tiwari on Tuesday said that acting on a tip-off, police on Monday night conducted a raid and arrested two people identified as Ajay and Gagan.

TULIP GARDEN



President Droupadi Murmu at the opening of Tulip Garden at Rashtrapati Niwas, at Mashobra in Shimla district, Tuesday.

Balakot operation showed effectiveness of air power in 'no war, no peace' scenario: IAF chief

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

India's Balakot operation in 2019 demonstrated that given the political will, aerospace power can be effectively used in a 'no war, no peace' scenario, under a nuclear overhang, without escalating the situation into a full-blown conflict, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said on Tuesday.

The Chief of the Air Staff made the comments at a seminar while highlighting the critical importance of India's air power considering the nature of its adversaries, in an apparent reference to Pakistan and China. Talking about the key advantage that superior air power can provide in a conflict situation, Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said "to reach first and reach farthest and to strike first and strike with precision will be the mantra for fighting modern wars." The IAF Chief said the air power has become

an option of choice due to "inherent flexibility" and "unmatched" precision strike capability. "Operations like Balakot have also demonstrated that given the political will, aerospace power can be effectively used in a no war, no peace scenario, under a nuclear overhang without escalating into a full blown conflict," he said. "This is very important given the nature of our adversaries. The response options available to the leadership have suddenly increased and increasingly, air power has become an option of choice due to inherent flexibility and unmatched precision strike capability," the IAF chief said.

India's war planes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Pakistan's Balakot on February 26, 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed. Air Chief

Marshal Chaudhari was speaking at the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial seminar on Aerospace Power: Pivot to Future Battlespace Operations. "India's security concerns necessitate that it puts in place adequate military power that has the ability to achieve deterrence, ensure information dominance, coerce when needed and provide multiple response options," Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said. "Attributes of aerospace power enable the leadership to formulate an appropriate strategy with due cognizance given to the desired end state, conflict termination criteria and escalation matrix," he said.

The Air Chief Marshal said battlespace transparency, enhanced rapid mobility and pin point precision capability will be the key to success and India's capability development plans must address these issues.

Train services hit as farmers squat on rail tracks over wheat crop damage compensation

Chandigarh, Apr 18 (PTI):

At least 20 trains were cancelled after farmers squatted on railway tracks at several places in Punjab on Tuesday as part of their four-hour 'rail roko' agitation against the value cut announced by the Centre on wheat grain shrivelled and broken due to unseasonal rains.

While the Centre has relaxed quality norms for wheat procurement in Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, and Rajasthan following crop damage in unseasonal rains, it has decided to cut the value of shrivelled and broken wheat above 6 per cent. The farmers are also demanding a higher compen-



Passengers wait for trains at a railway station after farmers blocked railway tracks during their protest seeking compensation for their damaged crops due to rains, in Amritsar, Tuesday.

sation per acre for crop damage.

The disruption in rail services caused inconvenience to many rail passengers.

The protesters squatted on rail tracks in Ludhiana, Amritsar, Bathinda, Ferozepur, Sangrur, Fazilka, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran. In some

places, the farmers even put up tents on the tracks.

Under the banner of Samyukt Kisan Morcha, several farmer bodies including Bharti Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) and BKU (Lakhowal) had announced they would block rail tracks from 12 noon to 4 pm.

Ferozepur railway division officials said 20 trains including those running from Jalandhar city to Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana to Ferozepur Cantt, Amritsar to Qadian, Amritsar to Pathankot and Verka to Dera Baba Nanak were cancelled, while trains between Bathinda and Fazilka were short terminated and short originated.

Delhi HC dismisses death row convict's plea seeking information under RTI

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition by a death row convict in the 2006 Mumbai train blast case seeking disclosure of information pertaining to the ban imposed on terrorist outfit Indian Mujahideen.

Ehtesham Qutubuddin Siddique had filed an application under the RTI Act seeking "background notes" of the Centre and reports of state governments of Gujarat, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh in relation to the ban on the organisation, which was stated to have carried out

the blast. The outfit was proscribed under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The petitioner challenged in the high court an order passed by the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) on June 13, 2019 denying him the information on the ground that it was covered under the exemptions provided in the RTI Act.

While refusing to interfere with the CIC's decision, Justice Prathiba M Singh said the information sought by the petitioner has far reaching consequences and has to be seen

from the "larger issue of safety and security of the public and the nation". It said the information Siddique has sought, if provided, will have a bearing on sovereignty and security of the country.

"A perusal of the information shows that the same has far reaching consequences. The same organisation is stated to be involved in various unfortunate incidents since 2005, some resulting in severe loss of life and property," said the court.

It observed that the disclosure of the information sought by the petitioner can "jeopardize the sources" of the govern-

ment in relation to the ban on Indian Mujahideen and the CIC's opinion that sharing the information would endanger the sources is "correct and does not require interference".

"In view of the above, the writ petition is devoid of merit and is dismissed," ruled the court.

Maha sunstroke tragedy

Death toll climbs to 14

Mumbai, Apr 18 (PTI):

The death toll due to sunstroke at the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' award event in Navi Mumbai rose to 14 after the death of a 34-year-old woman while seven patients are undergoing treatment, a civic official said on Tuesday.

The deceased included ten women and four men. "A 34-year-old woman resident of Virar, identified as Swati Vaidya, was declared dead at MGM Hospital in Vashi, taking the toll to 14," said Panvel Municipal Corporation's Deputy Commissioner Vitthal Dake.

The official revised the number of hospitalised patients to seven from nine stated by him earlier in the day. "Now, only seven pa-

tients remain admitted to different hospitals in Navi Mumbai. Their condition is said to be stable and they are out of danger," Dake added.

He had said that patients are recuperating at MGM Hospital in Kamothe, Vashi civic hospital and Medcover Hospital in Kharghar.

The award ceremony was held in an open ground in Kharghar area in Raigad district on Sunday and was attended by several lakh people, most of them followers of social worker Appasaheb Dharmadhikari who was conferred with the Maharashtra Bhushan Award by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the event. Dharmadhikari has a massive following in the state due to his tree plantation drives, blood donation

and medical camps as well as de-addiction work in tribal areas.

The Opposition has accused the Maharashtra government of insensitivity and questioned the timing of the function, which concluded around noon, amid a rising temperature.

Maharashtra opposition leader Ajit Pawar on Tuesday demanded the registration of a culpable homicide case against the government over the sunstroke deaths.

Under fire from the Opposition, state minister Sudhir Mungantiwar had said the timing was suggested by Dharmadhikari. "Appasaheb Dharmadhikari had given us the timing and the event was planned accordingly. Politics should not be brought into everything," he said.

Take action to prevent transport of tsunami meat to Kerala from neighbouring states: HC

Kochi, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Kerala High Court has directed the Food Safety Commissioner of the state to take action, including periodic inspections, to prevent illegal transportation of 'tsunami' (poor quality) meat to Kerala from neighbouring states. The High Court said the issue of lack of infrastructure and scientific slaughter houses also requires special attention.

It directed the Health and Family Welfare Department to explore improving the infrastructure and the requirement of scientific slaughter houses. The directions were issued in a petition which the court had initiated on its own in May last year based on news reports of several incidents of food poisoning in Kerala and the death of

a young girl after consuming 'shawarma'. The directions to prevent the poor quality meat from coming into the state were issued in the wake of a report placed before the court in February by the District Judge and the Member Secretary of the Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) regarding the unhygienic sale and transportation of tsunami meat from Dindigul in Tamil Nadu to Kerala.

Subsequent to the report given by the KSLSA Member Secretary, the Food Safety Commissioner told the court that the tsunami meat was seized and destroyed. He also told the court that in the financial year 2022-2023, the Food Safety Department has conducted 1131 inspections, lifted 21 surveillance samples and destroyed 505

kg of meat. "Rectification notices and closure notices have been issued to those establishments who had failed to comply with the directions given by the officers of this department."

"Joint inspections have been conducted along with the Railway Food Safety officers, so as to prevent transportation of tsunami meat to the state," the Food Safety Commissioner told the court. He also told the court that while Kerala was a state which consumes a large amount of meat, lack of scientifically designed slaughter houses adversely affect the quality of the meat being consumed. "As of now, in the State of Kerala, there exist only a few slaughter houses, which meet the standards "It is respectfully submitted that consequent to lack of basic infrastruc-

ture and scientific slaughter houses, it has become difficult to ensure the quality of meat. Another problem which is being faced is with regard to traceability or identification of source or origin of the meat," he had said in an affidavit filed in court.

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BRIEF



A girl shows her palms decorated with 'mehndi' (henna) during the month of Ramadan, at a market in Srinagar, Tuesday.

Toddler drowns

Bengaluru: A two-and-half-year-old boy drowned in a pit dug up by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to lay water pipeline near Gollarahatti in Bengaluru on Tuesday. The pit was filled with water, police said. The child's parents alleged that no warning signs or safety measures were taken up near the site by the workers.

Maoist killed

Bijapur: A Maoist was killed in a gun battle with security personnel in a forest in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Tuesday, a police official said. Two Maoists, one of them injured, were also apprehended following the encounter, he said. The gunfight took place at around 8 am near Kachlavari village under Naimed police station limits, located about 400 km from state capital Raipur, when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on a search operation, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Anjneya Varshney told PTI.

History rewriting

New Delhi: The CPI(M) on Tuesday accused the Narendra Modi government of rewriting history to advance its "communal, fascist project" and called on people to defeat the move. History is not a propaganda tool, Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury wrote on Twitter. He also attached posters created by the party's student wing, Students' Federation of India (SFI), questioning the logic behind certain deletions in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks.

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Bilkis case

Centre, Gujarat govt may seek review of order on production of remission files of convicts

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):



The Centre and the Gujarat government on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that they may file a plea seeking a review of its March 27 order asking them to be ready with original files on the grant of remission to the convicts in the Bilkis Bano case.

A bench of Justices K M Joseph and B V Nagarathna questioned the paroles granted to 11 convicts during their in-

carceration period and said the gravity of the offence could have been considered by the state.

It said, "A pregnant woman was gang-raped and several people were

killed. You cannot compare victim's case with standard section 302 (murder) cases. Like you cannot compare apples with oranges, similarly massacre cannot be compared with single murder. Crimes are generally committed against society and the community. Unequals cannot be treated equally."

"The question is whether government applied its mind and what material formed the basis of its decision to grant re-

mission," the bench said, adding, "Today it is Bilkis but tomorrow it can be anyone. It may be you or me. If you do not show your reasons for grant of remission, then we will draw our own conclusions."

The bench posted the batch of pleas challenging the remission to the convicts in Bilkis Bano case for final disposal on May 2 and asked all the convicts who have not been served notices to file their replies.

Cong demands white paper from govt on Pulwama attack

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Congress on Tuesday demanded that the government should come out with a white paper on the Pulwama attack providing answers to questions such as what were the "intelligence failures" and why troops were denied aircraft.

Days after former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satypal Malik's allegations over the 2019 Pulwama attack, the Congress held a press conference here by Col (ret'd) Rohit Chaudhry and Wing Commander (ret'd) Anuma Acharya, both associated with the party, and posed a

series of questions to the government on the attack in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed. There has been no reaction from the government since Malik's interview to a news portal was released, while the BJP has said that there were serious questions about his credibility and cited various statements made by him in recent years.

The BJP had cited Malik's past remarks, including the one that mocked former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi as a "political juvenile", and slammed him as the "disgraced" governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

Water disputes tribunal begins five-day field survey of Mahanadi river in Chh'garh

Raipur, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal on Tuesday started a five-day field survey in Chhattisgarh to study the water flow downstream and the availability and use of water in non-monsoon season, officials here said.

The three-member tribunal assisted by a technical team started the visit from Dhamtari district where the river originates, they said.

In the first phase of the survey ending April 22, the tribunal will cover

Mahanadi basin in Chhattisgarh and visit Odisha in the second phase from April 29 to May 3, an official from the public relations department said.

The tribunal has so far held 36 hearings. During a hearing of water dispute between Chhattisgarh and Odisha on March 25 in New Delhi, it had decided to conduct a field survey, he said.

Speaking about the tribunal's visit, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said, "This (matter) should not have gone to the tribunal. Mahanadi originates in Chhattisgarh and we

Twitter to restrict visibility of tweets that violate its policy

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI)

Social media platform Twitter will allow freedom of speech but not "freedom of reach" as it will restrict visibility of tweets that violate its rules, the company said in its policy update.

Twitter will initially apply the visibility filter on tweets that are found violating hateful conduct rules and expand it to other domains later. The social media firm said that Twitter users have the right to express their opinions and ideas without fear of censorship. "We also believe it is our responsibility to keep users on our platform safe from content violating our rules.

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NHRC issues notice to UP Police over killing of Atiq Ahmad, brother

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh Police over the killing of gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf when they were being escorted by police in Prayagraj, officials said on Tuesday.

In its notice to the Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh and the Commissioner of Police of Prayagraj, the commission sought reports from them within four weeks.

The reports should cover all the aspects leading to the killings, copies of medical-legal certificates of the deceased, inquest report, post-mortem report, video cassette/CD of post-mortem examination, site plan of scene of occurrence of the crime, and magisterial enquiry report, it added.

Man held for sharing provocative content on social media

Bareilly (UP): A man has been arrested here for allegedly sharing a provocative post on social media in connection with the killing of gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf, police said on Tuesday. An FIR was filed at Izzatnagar police station on Monday night against the accused, Farooq (25), for trying to vitiate the atmosphere through provocative posts on social media, they said. Subsequently, Farooq, a resident of Abdullahpur Mafi village, was arrested under the IT Act and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, Bareilly SP (City) Rahul Bhati said. Apart from Farooq, a few others from the district's Bhojipura area have also posted inflammatory content on social media and police are trying to identify them, the SP added.

Excise scam

Court reserves verdict on Sisodia's bail plea in money laundering case for April 26

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Tuesday reserved its order on the bail application of AAP leader Manish Sisodia, arrested in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, for April 26. Special Judge M K Nagpal reserved the order after hearing arguments on his application seeking relief claiming his custody is no longer required for investigation.

The ED opposed the application, asserting the investigation was at a "crucial" stage and claiming the former Delhi deputy chief minister had planted fabricated e-mails to show there was public approval for the policy. The federal anti-money laundering agency also said it has found fresh evidence of his complicity in the alleged crime. Special Public

Prosecutor Naveen Kumar Matta, appearing for the ED, told the judge the agency is likely to file a supplementary charge sheet against Sisodia and co-accused Arun Pillai and Amandeep Dhal by the end of this month. The court had on Monday extended till April 29 Sisodia's judicial custody in the money laundering cases lodged by the ED.

It also extended his custody till April 27 in the corruption case related to the alleged scam being probed by the CBI. The court had on March 31 dismissed Sisodia's bail application in the corruption case, saying he was "prima facie the architect" in the criminal conspiracy behind alleged payment of advance kickbacks of around Rs 90-100 crore meant for him and his colleagues in the Delhi government.

Cong MLA claims shots fired at convoy

Bijapur, Apr 18 (PTI):

A Congress MLA on Tuesday alleged that shots were fired at his convoy in a village in insurgency-hit Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh. Bastar Inspector General of Police Sunderraj P said the police received information about a firing by Maoists and no one was hurt in it. A probe has been initiated in the matter, he said in a release. Congress MLA from Bijapur Vikram Mandavi alleged that shots were fired at his convoy when he was returning from Gangalur village on Tuesday afternoon. Talking to reporters, Mandavi said he had gone to attend a nukkad sabha (street meeting) in Gangalur weekly market and was returning to Bijapur when shots were fired near Padeda village. The bullets hit a wheel of a car belonging to Jila Panchayat member Parvati Kashyap, who was in the convoy. Luckily, no one was hurt in the incident, he said, adding that the police had been informed about his visit.

BIHU SANMILANI



Pratiksharani Borgohain, centre, winner of Bihu Samragi poses with Banani Gogoi, left, Bihu Rani, and Ananya Phukan, Bihu Konwari, during award function at the 72nd Guwahati Bihu Sanmilani, Tuesday.

Delhi court sends Lawrence Bishnoi to NIA custody for a week in terror funding case

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Tuesday sent gangster Lawrence Bishnoi to the custody of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for a week for interrogation in a case related to alleged terror funding to pro-Khalistan outfits, a source said.

Special Judge Shailendra Malik passed the order in an 'in-chamber proceeding' on an application moved by the NIA, the court source said. In its application, the agency sought Bishnoi's custody for seven days, claiming that he was required to be confronted with an arrested co-accused Deepak Ranga in the matter. The court has also allowed Bishnoi's lawyers to meet him during his custody and directed jail authorities to ensure his safety and security,



noting that he was a high-risk accused. The NIA had lodged the case under sections related to waging war against the State, conspiracy and other offences punishable under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Bishnoi is also an accused in the case related to the alleged killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala.

'Will not go into personal laws'

SC while hearing pleas for legal validation for same-sex marriages

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Tuesday made it clear that it will not go into the personal laws governing marriages while deciding the pleas seeking legal validation for same-sex marriages and asked the lawyers to advance arguments on the Special Marriage Act.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud termed the issue involving the pleas "complex" and said the very notion of a man and a woman, as referred to in the Special Marriage Act, is not "an absolute based on genitals". "It is not the question



Actor Bobby Darling speaks to media after the completion of first day's hearing in same-sex marriage case, at Supreme Court in New Delhi.

of what your genitals are. It is far more complex, that's the point. So, even when the Special Marriage Act says man and woman, the very notion of a man and a woman is not an absolute based on genitals," said the

bench, which also comprised justices Justices S K Kaul, S R Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha.

On being pointed out the difficulties and ramifications for the Hindu Marriage Act and personal laws of various religious groups if the apex court were to hold same-sex marriages valid, the bench said, "Then we can keep the personal laws out of the equation and all of you (lawyers) can address us on the Special Marriage Act (a religion neutral marriage law)."

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 is a law that provides a legal framework for the marriage of people belonging to different religions or castes. It governs a civil marriage where the state sanctions the marriage rather than the religion. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing

for the Centre, referred to the laws on transgenders and said there are several rights such as the right to choose partners, privacy right, right to choose sexual orientation, and any discrimination is criminally prosecutable.

"However, the conferment of socio-legal status of marriage cannot be done through judicial decisions. It cannot even be done by the legislature. The acceptance has to come from within the society," the top government law officer said.

He said the problem will arise when a person, who is a Hindu, wants to avail the right to marry within the same sex while remaining a Hindu.

"Hindus and Muslims and other communities will be affected and that is why the states should be heard," the law officer said.

Ajit Pawar on rumour of rift 'Will work for NCP till I am alive'

Mumbai, Apr 18 (PTI):

Senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar on Tuesday said he would work for his party till he is alive and scotched speculation that he and a group of MLAs loyal to him might align with the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party.

Talking to reporters here, the Leader of the Opposition said there is no truth in reports about any rift in the Nationalist Congress Party and his joining hands with the BJP.

Pawar dismissed reports that he had taken the signatures of 40 of 53 MLAs of NCP amid a buzz about his rumoured alliance with the BJP.

He said such unfounded reports hurt party workers and create confusion among them.

"We (party MLAs) are all with the NCP. I will work for the NCP till I live,"

Pawar added. He said the NCP has decided to strengthen the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and the coalition has planned several rallies that target the Centre and the Maharashtra government over various issues.

The MVA comprises Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), NCP, and Congress.

Responding to a query, Pawar said no signatures of (NCP) MLAs were taken.

"We are working as a family and will continue to do that," he added. Rumours about Ajit Pawar's next political move started going rounds last week when he suddenly cancelled his scheduled meetings and also made comments which were seen as being soft on the BJP and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's camp. The BJP is part of the Shinde government.

SAIL Chairman visits Bhilai Steel Plant

**Bhilai, Apr 18:**

SAIL Chairman, Soma Mondal visited Bhilai Steel Plant on Tuesday. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c(BSP) received Mondal at the airport on her arrival on April, 17, while all Executive Directors at BSP welcomed Mondal at Bhilai Niwas.

Next day on April, 18, Chairman Mondal visited Bhilai steel Plant in the morning and inaugurated and dedicated the newly

commissioned Rolling Mill Laboratory. This lab shall facilitate the Plant's Rolling Mill with various kinds of qualitative, strength, toughness and other tests through testing mechanisms like Qualifying Criteria Test Facility for Rails, Mechanical Testing equipment, Chemical Tests and Metallographic Test Equipment etc.

Chairman and all the senior officers complimented the team for establishing this lab and said



that this system will prove to be very useful to the Rolling Mill system and Bhilai Steel Plant. During her visit at the plant, the SAIL Chairman was accompanied by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c(BSP), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) with Additional Charge of ED(P&A), Dr AK Panda, ED (F&A), Dr M Ravindranath, CMO I/c (M&HS), Samir Swarup, CGM I/c (Mines & Rowghat), and other senior officials.

Chairman Mondal presided over various meetings at DIC Conference hall of Ispat Bhawan. As part of the CSR activities of Bhilai Steel Plant, the Chairman virtually inaugurated a Milk Distribution Scheme launched for 3,000 student beneficiaries from various village schools under the Rowghat Mines Project in four districts of Chhattisgarh, namely Narayanpur, Kanker, Balod and Manpur-mohla.

Seminar on 'Scope of Entrepreneurship in fisheries sector' conducted

Bhilai, Apr 18:

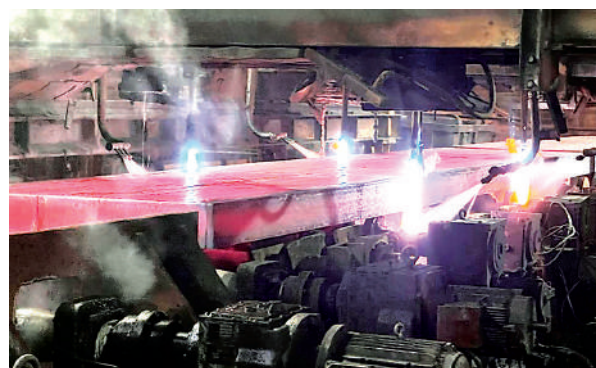
The PG Department of Zoology, St Thomas college, Bhilai, in association with the MOU partner, Govt Baba Sahib Bhimrao Ambedkar PG College, Dongargaon, organized an online Seminar on "Scope of Entrepreneurship in Fisheries Sector". Administrator of St Thomas College, Rev Father Dr Joshi Varghese was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Renuka Thakur, Asst Professor, Dongargaon College and Dr Neetu Raj Panicker, Assistant Professor St Thomas College, were the Resource Persons for the seminar. Principal of Dongargaon College Dr BN Meshram and Principal of St Thomas College, Bhilai Dr MG



Roymon participated in the seminar. Principal Dr BN Meshram while addressing the gathering, stressed on the relevance of the topic and its usefulness for the students. In his inspirational speech, Rev Father Dr Joshi Varghese encouraged both the institutions to

come forward with such programs that are of great benefit for the students. Dr Jayasree Balasubramanian, Head, department of Zoology, St Thomas College, Bhilai welcomed the guests and Student co-ordinator Riya Raj M proposed the vote of thanks.

BSP's Caster-6 of SMS-2 marks new record



Bhilai, Apr 18: Yet another milestone was achieved by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's SMS-2, with the Caster No 6 casting 60 heats in a single Tundish, by surpassing the previous best record of 52 heats, made on Jan, 15, 2023. The Casting started at 18:05 hrs on April, 15, 2023 and continued for a duration of 40 hours-21

minutes, and finally got over at 10:26 AM on April 17. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c, Bhilai steel plant, Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), SK Ghoshal, CGM, SMS-2 and other senior officials of the Plant congratulated the Caster-6 Team for this achievement.

The record number of 60 heats in a single

Tundish was achieved by making some modifications in the SEN, impact pad, slide gate plates and the tundish lining. The feat was achieved by strictly adhering to the technical norms and operational excellence. Highest number of hot charging heats (32) was also achieved directly to the Plate Mill, thereby increasing the rolling rate of Plate Mill. It is noteworthy that Caster No. 6 of SMS-2 exceeded its rated capacity and produced 0.88MT against the rated capacity of 0.8MT in the last financial year 2022-2023.

The Operations team of Caster No 6 was led by Alok Mathur GM, while Mechanical and Electrical teams were led by Yogesh Shastri, GM and Saurabh Jain GM, respectively.

Prostitution racket busted at Spa Center in TI Mall

- Eight girls of north-east and other states rescued
- Spa owner and 08 customers arrested

Bhilai, Apr 18: With the arrest of eight customers and a male pimp, police claimed to have busted a prostitution racket which was operated from a Spa centre situated at the Treasure Island Mall in Junwani. The nine accused have been booked under the provisions of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. Eight female workers of the Spa have been rescued.

SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that on April 17, they received information about immoral activities at a Spa Center in TI Mall. Taking the matter into serious cognizance, the Police team swung into action and a pointer was sent to



the Spa Centre for verification of the information. The pointer carried marked notes of Rs 500 denomination. Soon the pointer verified that immoral activities were going on in the Spa Centre and signalled the Police Team to conduct a raid. A police team including female constables conducted a raid at 'Essence - The Spa' located on the second floor of Surya Treasure Island

Mall. Sub Inspector Pramod Srivastava (SHO, Smriti Nagar Chowki) led the police team and the raid was conducted in the presence of independent witnesses. The team found eight girls in objectionable and compromising conditions with 08 customers. Police took action against the accused under sections 3, 4, 5, 7 of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. Investigation is also being

done in relation to human trafficking by interrogating the victim women. Durg Police is keeping a close watch on other centers as well. Strict action will be taken on receiving information about any kind of immoral activities. The arrested accused are (Spa Operator) Shariq Khan (43) s/o Ashiq Khan a resident of Noori Masjid Ward No 8 Farid Nagar; Customers - Amit Singh

Thakur (40) son of Ajit Singh Thakur a resident of Tulsipur, Rajnandgaon; Nivesh Jain (30) son of Nareshchandra Jain a resident of Sadar Bazar, Basantpur, Rajnandgaon; Jai Taunk (30) son of Ramesh Tank a resident of Rajnandgaon; Deepak Agrawal (46) son of Late Manmohan Agrawal a resident of Lakholi Janata Colony, Basantpur, Rajnandgaon; Surendra Kumar Gupta (44) son of Ambika Prasad Gupta a resident of Village Arjuni, Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon; Nooraj Singh Rajput (34) son of Gajanand Singh Rajput a resident of Housing Board Colony, Jamul; Kamaljit Chelak (29) son of Late Narayan Prasad Chelak a resident of Kosa Nagar, Supela and Dev Prakash (29) son of Shiv Prasad a resident of Nehru Nagar (East), Supela.

101 missing mobiles recovered: handed over to owners

Bhilai, Apr 18:

Anti Crime and Cyber Unit (ACCU) of Durg Police traced and recovered 101 missing mobile phones worth Rs 12 lakh. The recovered mobile phones were handed over to the concerned owners. On the instructions of the Inspector General of Police, the ACCU is making sustained efforts to trace and recover the missing mobile phones.

Various police stations of the district are receiving complaints about the missing mobile phones. Considering the situation, Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Anand Chhabra had instructed Superintendent of Police, Dr Abhishek Pallava to recover the missing mobiles and hand over the same to the appli-



cants. Under the supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Anant Sahu, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Cyber) Prabhakar Kumar and Deputy Superintendent of Police

(Crime) Rajiv Sharma, the Anti Crime and Cyber Unit Durg led by Inspector Santosh Mishra was deployed for tracing the missing mobiles. According to the instructions of senior officials, ACCU conducted a campaign to trace the missing mobiles of 2022 - 2023.

The Anti Crime and Cyber Unit team recovered almost 101 mobiles which were being used in Durg, Bhilai, Rajnandgaon, Balod, Bemetara and Raipur. Mobiles of various companies worth Rs 12.50 lakh were recovered. The recovered mobile phones were duly distributed to the applicants concerned. The Anti Crime and Cyber Unit team played a remarkable role in recovery of mobiles. On the instructions of Superintendent of Police, the list of IMEI numbers of the recovered mobiles will be uploaded on the social account of the Durg Police (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), so that the concerned mobile owner can collect their mobile phones from Anti Crime and Cyber Unit Office, Sector 3.

Collector issues order in public interest within few hours

Bhilai, Apr 18:

A public representative of the city submitted an application regarding the change in the timing of the government fair price shop in the public interest in view of the scorching heat. The applicant stated that in view of the scorching heat, the timings should be changed to provide relief to the common people. He demanded that the new timings should be fixed from 07:00 hrs to 12:00 hrs and from 16:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs. As it was a public interest issue, the Collector issued the order to the concerned department within four hours so that the interest of the common people is not affected and they can get ration easily.

A man whose child studies in Gandhi Memorial



School Ahiwara also reached Jandarshan with a complaint against the school. The applicant said that the books of each class are changed every year. Further, these books are available only at specific shops. He alleged that the school gets commission from this shop. Parents have to spend an amount of 3000 to 4000 rupees for books from nurs-

ery to primary classes. A middle class family cannot afford such expensive books. However, to build the future of children, the parents are forced to buy these books at high rates. Poor and middle class families are aggrieved with this system. The applicant requested the Collector to tighten noose around the school management. In view of the seriousness of

the matter, the Collector directed the District Education Officer to take immediate action in this context and to ensure that no school management can act arbitrarily. The schools should operate according to the guidelines set under the education policy.

On Monday, a total of 151 applications were received in Jandarshan.

Soma Mondal inaugurates Rolling Mill Laboratory

Bhilai, Apr 18:

Rolling Mill Laboratory of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, was inaugurated by Soma Mondal, Chairman SAIL, by unveiling the Inaugural Plaque and releasing a Brochure detailing the Laboratory facilities in the Inaugural Ceremony organized on April, 18, 2023.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) and Adl Charge ED (P&A), Dr AK Panda, ED (F&A), AK Chakraborty, ED(MM),

M Ravindranath, CMO I/c (M&HS), Samir Swarup, CGM I/c (Mines & Rowghat), SK Kar, CGM(Quality & SMS-3), RK Srivastava, CGM (Projects) and other Senior Officials of Bhilai Steel Plant, were present during the Inaugural Ceremony.

After the formal inauguration, Chairman SAIL observed various state of art Analytical & Testing facilities set up in this Laboratory, wherein the details and speciality of each of the Lab equipment was explained to her by Sandip Kumar Kar, CGM (Quality & SMS-3) and other Lab Officials.



The Rolling Mill Laboratory, which was envisaged under MODEX Lab Package 090A, comprises of most modern and State of Art Sample Preparation,

Analytical & Testing Equipment to take care of Chemical, Mechanical & Metallographic test requirements and certification of different Long

Products produced in Bhilai Steel Plants, including Rails.

The Fatigue Crack Growth Rate (FCGR) Test equipment of this lab is the first such machine in

whole of SAIL, procured for the purpose of carrying out the FCGR Test of Rails, which is a mandatory Qualifying Criteria Test for rails, recently introduced in Rail

Specification. Necessary service facilities for the above-mentioned buildings and installation of laboratory equipment facilities in these buildings, was commissioned successfully on July 27, 2022 by Projects Utility Zone under guidance of user deptt RCL and provided with modern state-of-the-art equipment in the new Laboratory buildings.

The key driver of this project was AV Manoj GM (RCL). VC Shekhar, GM I/c (Proj-Utilities), Punit Verma, AGM (Proj-Utilities), Ashish Kumar Ranteke, AGM (Proj-Utilities), Rohit Arya, AGM (Proj-

Utilities) other officials from Projects side were present on the occasion.

Laboratory Officials, AV Manoj, Siddhartha Mukhopadhyay, KV Shankar, Saksham Shrivastava, Sathya Devi, JK Verma, Pawan Kumar, KK Gupta, Venu Gopal Swamy, Deepak Bhatia, CP Pradeep, ML Verma and others were involved in setting up the Rolling Mill Lab in association with the Projects Department Team.

With the setting up of this Rolling Mill Lab, Bhilai Steel Plant has become one of the SAIL Labs having World Class test facilities.

Youths join police with feeling of repaying the debt of their soil: CM

Raipur, Apr 18: 'Convocation ceremony is an important event in the life of a police officer while training is a continuing activity, and you have learned something new every day while training in this academy. It is commendable that you have chosen to serve in the police department'.
 Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel stated this today during the passing-out-parade ceremony for the twelfth batch of DSPs training at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy. Chief Minister, Baghel wished the police officers graduating from the academy and expressed confidence that they would carry out their jobs with devotion and honesty.
 Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today attended the passing-out-parade of trainee Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose



Police Academy in Chandkhuri. The passing out parade at Chandkhuri featured 25 trainee Deputy Superintendents of Police from the twelfth batch. Chief Minister, Baghel attended the convocation event today at 9.00 a.m. and took salute of parade. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Urban Development Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahariya and Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh Ashok Juneja along with all senior police officers also participated in the convoca-

tion parade ceremony. During the parade's march past, Shri Ratan Lal Dangi, Director of the Police Academy, delivered the welcoming address and read the annual report on the event.
 CM Baghel stated that our state is advancing steadily, that favorable good things have begun to emerge from the state's Naxalite violence-affected districts, and that all of this is owing to the police department's efficiency and promptness. These excellent circumstances are

possible by the officers of the department through their hard work, dedication, and determination, the new officers must take it a step further and live up to society's expectations.
 As stated by the Chief Minister, the police should be united and dedicated. Youths join the police service not just for a living, but also to repay their soils debt. Only when police officers and employees fulfill their responsibilities in the spirit of self-sacrifice we feel comfortable in our homes.
 Chief Minister, Baghel went on to say that because police officers are aware of innovation, they should be prepared to adapt new techniques and try to interact with people through innovation. Even in challenging situations, police officers and staff must work. The state government is always working to offer facilities and security for their families. Officers should always re-

member and endeavor to execute the provisions of the Police Code of Conduct while doing their duties.
 On the occasion of the convocation, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu stated that our state is constantly moving forward and progressing under the leadership of Chief Minister Baghel. In his address to the new police officers, he stated that this occasion evokes excitement in everyone's mind and that after receiving convocation today, these police officers have become capable of accepting the challenges. Mr. Sahu complimented the trainee officers on their decision to work for the police department.
 Additionally, Sahu further said that our state is constantly growing, and thanks to the hard work of police officers and personnel, a pleasant climate has now been formed even in places affected by Naxalite violence.

We Care Superspeciality Hospital celebrates seventh anniversary

Raipur, Apr 18: The prestigious We Care Superspeciality Hospital of Chhattisgarh located in Telibandha Ring Road No.1 celebrated its seventh anniversary on Tuesday. Dr. Vivek Pandey, Chief Director of We Care Hospital informed that his hospital has successfully completed 7 years and entered the eighth year with the immense support and trust of the people of Chhattisgarh and with the cooperation of all the fellow doctors, nurses and employees of the hospital. He thanked everyone for this immense affection. We Care Hospital has been awarded a good rating by the Government of Chhattisgarh for the excellent work done during Covid pandemic, which is an example of our dedication and determination towards the patients.
 Giving further information, he said that in the last 7 years, We Care Hospital has gained the trust of the people, which is a proud achievement in itself. Referring to the achievements, Dr Pandey said that



in the past years, more than 30 thousand OPDs, more than 10 thousand surgeries and 15 thousand IPDs and other complicated surgeries were successfully completed. Giving further information, he said that in the last 7 years, V Care Hospital has gained the trust of the people, which is a proud achievement in itself. Referring to the achievements, he said that in the past years, more than 30 thousand OPDs, more than 10 thousand surgeries, more than 15 thousand IPDs and other complicated surgeries were successfully completed. The 100 bedded hospital fully equipped with modern facilities which includes Advanced Orthopedic

Trauma Department, Knee and Shoulder Arthroscopy, Joint Replacement Center, Neuro Surgery, Critical Care Unit, Gynecology and Obstetrics, General Surgery, Minimal Access Surgery Department, Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Unit, Medicine and Dialysis Unit, Respiratory and Chest Diseases, Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, Department of Pediatric, Department of Urology, Department of Ear Nose and Throat, Cancer Care Unit, Department of Psychiatry and plastic surgery department departments are being made available with latest equipment and technology.

'Will unite five lakh Ch'garhi traders of state'

Raipur, Apr 18: The state executive committee of Chhattisgarhia Commerce and Industry Federation has been expanded. On this occasion, an introductory meet and traders discussion was organised. Addressing this program organised at Jora-based Punjabi Tadka, the President of Chhattisgarhia Commerce and Industry Federation said that there are more than five lakh Chhattisgarhi traders in the state and to unite them now everyone has to join hands. General Secretary Manish Tikriha said that in the first phase of the expansion program, 50 members were included in the advisory and executive committee. It will be expanded even further. Senior members lit the traditional lamp and inaugurated the function after the state song.



The program was addressed by the Vice President Mr. Dilip Tikriha, in which he gave detailed information about the purpose and business prospects of the federation. Advisors Mahesh Dewangan, Raghavendra Chandrakar, Narayan Sahu, Omprakash Manikpuri, Sandeep Chandrakar, Shyam Verma and others also addressed the function, informs a release issued by Anita Soni, member, Chhattisgarhia Commerce and Industry Federation.

'Be alert in view of increase in Covid-19'

Health Minister Singhdeo to health department

Raipur, Apr 18: In view of the increasing cases of corona infection in the country and the state Health Minister TS Singhdeo gave necessary guidelines by holding a meeting of senior departmental officers here today. He asked the officials of the health department to be alert and keep all the arrangements in place for the investigation, treatment, prevention and control of corona.
 The Health Minister directed to ensure proper arrangement of medical equipments, oxygen kits, vaccines, medicines, con-



sumables etc. besides conducting maximum number of RTPCR tests to confirm Covid-19 positive patients. He also reviewed the deaths due to Corona in the last one month.
 Singhdeo gave instructions to conduct 10,000 tests daily while expediting the sample testing of patients suspected of corona. He also asked to start training of human resource related to operation of life saving equipment and treatment of Covid-19 in hospitals.

Singhdeo inquired about normal beds as well as ICU beds, HDU beds and beds with oxygen facility and ventilator facility in the hospitals. He also inquired about the availability of surgical masks, PPE kits, caps, gloves and N-95 masks in the hospitals.
 The Health Minister said in the meeting that 95 percent of the corona-infected patients were now recovering from home isolation treatment. But in view of the ever-increasing infection

rate in the country and the state, preparations for its treatment and control will have to be kept in the hospitals as well, he said. Health department officials informed that the number of samples being tested daily is being increased in the state. Between April 11 and April 17, an average of 3763 tests have been done daily, whereas in the first week of March, an average of 1008 tests were conducted daily. Officials said that in the last one month (between March 17 and April 17), 11 patients of Covid-19 have died in the state and 8 of them were suffering from comorbidity. Moreover four patients out of those 11 patients had not got vaccinated against Covid-19.

PG block in Ayurveda College dedicated to public

Raipur: Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education Minister TS Singhdeo dedicated to public the newly constructed building (PG block) for post-graduate classes at Shri Narayan Prasad Awasthi Government Ayurveda College, Raipur today. It has been constructed by CGMSC (Chhattisgarh Medical Services Corporation) at a cost of Rs 12 crore 33 lakh 25 thousand in the college campus.
 MLAs Vikas Upadhyay and Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, Secretary of Medical Education Department Prasanna R and Director of Ayush Department P Dayanand



were present on the occasion. Singhdeo also discussed with the professors and students of Ayurveda College after public dedication of the building. He asked the undergraduate and post graduate students about the teaching and other arrangements in the college. Principal Dr GS Baghel and Registrar Dr Sanjay Shukla along with all the professors and students of the college were present.

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Chief Secretary reviews top priority schemes of State Govt

Raipur, Apr 18: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain reviewed the priority schemes and programs of the state government at Mahanadi Bhawan (Mantralaya) on Monday. He reviewed the work related to the Revenue and Disaster Management Department and gave necessary instructions regarding the various schemes. He instructed the officials of the Revenue Department to provide the benefits of Rajiv Gandhi Bhumihon Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana to eligible beneficiaries in all the districts. Under the scheme, an amount of more than Rs 516 cr has been transferred to the beneficiaries so far. At present, there are 4.99 lakh beneficiaries under this scheme. This scheme has also been implemented in



all the Nagar Panchayats of the state from April 1, 2023. So far applications of 7377 beneficiaries have been received in the Nagar Panchayats. The Chief Secretary directed the officials of the Revenue Department to resolve all the revenue matters within the time limit. Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Subrata Sahoo was present in the meeting. Chief Secretary directed the departmental officers to make special efforts to freehold the land of Nazul Pattas. He said that

necessary information should be given to Nazul lessees in this respect. In the meeting, he took detailed information about the regularization of urban slum pattas, renewal, distribution of new slum pattas, and the allotment and regularization of government land up to 7500 square feet. For revenue cases, he directed the officials to resolve revenue cases including conversion, adistribution, and account division within the time limit. If any case has not been resolved within

the time limit, then the reason for the same should be mentioned. He directed all district collectors to regularly monitor the disposal of revenue cases. He also directed the officers to make special efforts for revenue recovery to increase revenue receipts of the government. The Secretary of Revenue Department N.N. Ekka, the Director of Land Records Ramesh Sharma, and officials of Revenue Department and Industries Department were present at the meeting.

Statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose unveiled at State Police Academy

State Police Academy has been named after Netaji
CM inaugurates newly constructed barracks of the Academy

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 18: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today unveiled the statue of India's great freedom fighter, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at the State Police Academy. Along with this, Chief Minister also inaugurated the newly constructed barracks of the Academy. State Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahariya, Director General of Police Ashok



Juneja, Director of State Police Academy Ratan Lal Dangi, and senior police officers were present.

It is worth mentioning that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel made a decision to rename this police academy after great freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose with the aim of giving a new identity to the State Police Academy. This State Police Academy is located in Raipur and is now known as 'Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose state police academy'. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the newly constructed barracks along with unveiling the statue in the academy premises during the twelfth convocation parade ceremony of Trainee Deputy Superintendents of Police.

Trainee DSPs felicitated for outstanding performance during training

CM Baghel presented police officers with awards

Raipur, Apr 18: At the passing-out parade convocation ceremony for the twelfth batch of trainee Deputy Superintendents (DPSs) of Police was organized today in Raipur's Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy in Chandkhuri. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel was the Chief Guest in the convocation ceremony. After the convocation ceremony, the Chief Minister felicitated the Deputy Superintendents of Police who had performed outstandingly during the training duration.



state Tamradhwaj Sahu, Minister of Urban Development Dr. Shivkumar Dahariya, Director General of Police Ashok Juneja, and the Director of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy

Chandkhuri Ratan Lal Dangi were also present. In the award ceremony of the twelfth batch, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Akanksha Pandey for law research, Shubham Tiwari for crime

research, Vinkeshwari Pinde for criminology, Shubham Tiwari for forensic science, Pravin Bharti for best firing, Akanksha Pandey for indoor, Avinash Kanwar for outdoor, and Shubham Tiwari for achieving the

highest marks in the twelfth session were awarded by the Chief Minister.

During the passing out parade, Chief Minister Baghel also felicitated Monika Shyam as the Parade Commander and Pravin Bharti as the Parade 2IC. There has been a tradition of awarding Police Officers for their outstanding performance during the training period after the convocation ceremony of Deputy Superintendents of Police. Following this tradition, the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel extended his best wishes to all trainee Deputy Superintendents of Police for their bright future and said to them that they should resolve to become good police officers while serving the state.

Differently-abled players to be provided with every possible help: Bhedia



Gave sports wheelchairs to 15 promising differently-abled players of state

Raipur, Apr 18: Social Welfare Minister Bhedia while congratulating the players and extending her best wishes to the players, said that the State Government has always extended a helping hand for the empowerment of the state's players. She said while encouraging

the differently-abled players that these players have overcome their physical limitations to honor Chhattisgarh. Therefore, it is our responsibility to care for their problems.

Minister Bhedia said that the State Government and Social Welfare Department will help differently-abled players in every possible way. On this occasion, the team leader said that until now they used to play through a general

wheelchair. After receiving a sports wheelchair from the Social Welfare Department, they will be able to give their best. For this, they are thankful to the Chhattisgarh Government.

In the program, along with the officers of the Social Welfare department, representatives of sports organizations like Team Young Indians, Seva Niketan, and Chhattisgarh Wheelchair Cricket Association were also present.

CM Baghel makes heartwarming gesture towards children

During State Police Academy passing-out parade

Brings smiles to children's faces by sharing balloons with them for release

Raipur, Apr 18: It is widely known that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has a great fondness for children. Regardless of the situation, he always takes the time to stop and talk to them whenever he sees them. In 'Bhent-Mulaqat' programmes, he has even broken protocol



and security measures to spend time with children. He has even arranged a helicopter joyride for board exam toppers, showcasing his keen understanding of what would thrill the children. Moreover, to ensure better education for children, the

Chief Minister has also initiated the establishment of Swami Atmanand English schools in the state. Another example of the Chief Minister's love for children was witnessed today at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy in

Chandkhuri, Raipur. During a convocation ceremony, the Chief Minister was presented with colorful balloons for releasing them as a symbol of peace. He noticed that there were children sitting nearby in the audience and called two girls over to whom he gave the balloons, symbolizing peace. The children then released the balloons into the air. Upon witnessing the Chief Minister's gesture of calling the children and giving them balloons, all attendees at the ceremony commended his love for children and expressed their gratitude by giving him a round of applause and thanking him.

BPO center to open new avenues of employment for the youth: Baghel

Raipur, Apr 18: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel performed Bhumi Pujan for the establishment of the 500-seater BPO center in Raipur today. This BPO center which will be built at a cost of about Rs.10 Crores will be situated on the fifth floor of the multilevel parking in front of the Collectorate. After laying the foundation stone, Chief Minister Baghel said that with the establishment of this B.P.O. center, new avenues of employment will open up for the youth of Raipur through advanced Information technology-driven modern facilities. Moreover, attaining jobs in big multinational companies through BPO will bring self-reliance among the youth. The Chief Minister further said that youth will be able to get jobs in outsourcing businesses like call center customer support, sales and marketing, data entry, tech-



nic support, chat support, bank and front office work, social media handling and data analysis. Baghel also said that in this era of the Information-Technology revolution, there was a dire need for such modern B.P.O. in the capital Raipur. He further said that through this B.P.O., unemployed youths or college-going youths can hone their skills from a diverse variety of job roles and can get opportunities to enhance their career by

connecting with multinational companies from the whole world. Recalling the circumstances during the Corona pandemic, he also said that even during the Corona period, the need for such BPO-based hi-tech call centers was being felt in the city to deliver messages to every household. Now with the formation of this BPO, many public facilities will be started in Raipur city as well, from which people will be able to avail quick benefits

It is noteworthy that due to the non-availability of such call centers in Raipur, the youth here had to go to other cities like Indore, Bangalore and seek employment opportunities. Due to limited resources in the era of competition, the youth here used to be deprived of employment. Now with the opening of BPO center in Raipur, such youth will get new employment opportunities in the city itself. The participation of local youth in employment and holistic development will also increase by connecting the youth with big companies and commercial service institutions in India and abroad through this center. Along with this, the communication skills of the youth will also improve by working with companies using new technologies, which will open new avenues of personal development for the youth as well.

CM Baghel dedicates devp works worth more than Rs 117 cr

Under 'Bhent Mulaqat Abhiyan'-North Raipur City Assembly Constituency

Raipur's five major roads to get a facelift under beautification project

Raipur, Apr 18: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached the North Raipur City Assembly Constituency for his state-wide 'Bhent-Mulaqat Abhiyan' held on April 17. He announced the slew of development works worth more than Rs.117.61 cr for the residents of Raipur city. He inaugurated and

performed bhumpoojan of various development works related to employment, road traffic, drinking water, and beautification of the city. Baghel also laid the foundation stone for the beautification work of 5 major roads in Raipur city worth Rs.50 cr and 500 seaters BPO center on the fifth floor of Collectorate multilevel parking to be built at a cost of Rs.10 cr.

Chief Minister Baghel performed bhumpoojan of several development works worth Rs 26 lakh in Zone No.7 of Raipur Municipal Corporation, development works worth Rs 85 lakh in Zone No.4, and development works worth Rs.1 cr in Zone No.10 of Raipur. Chief Minister Baghel



will also dedicate development works worth Rs. 65.5 cr to the residents of the city.

Baghel inaugurated the Devendra Nagar high-level reservoir and pipeline expansion work built at a cost of Rs. 24.87 cr; Shankar Nagar high-level reservoir and

pipeline expansion work built at a cost of Rs.13.83 cr; Telibandha High-Level Reservoir and pipeline expansion work built at a cost of Rs 5.30 cr; beautification and redevelopment work of Jethwa Garden in Shankar Nagar and beautification and redevelopment work

of Gurughasidas Garden in Devendra Nagar.

CM Baghel inaugurated the beautification and redevelopment work of Safu Para Talab of Fafadih, the beautification and redevelopment work of Maharana Pratap Garden of Shyamnagar, the beautifi-

cation and redevelopment work of Chaitanya Garden of Devendra Nagar, Siddhivinayak Garden beautification and redevelopment work and Sarbananda Garden beautification and redevelopment. He inaugurated the Kushtha Basti Talab in Pandri redeveloped at a cost of Rs 19 lakh, Bada Sheetla Talab of Khamhardih redeveloped at a cost of Rs 69 lakh.

Baghel inaugurated and dedicated the redeveloped Shankar Nagar Garden, Shaheed Nandkumar Patel Chowk, Indravati Colony Garden, and Gitanjali Nagar Garden to the residents of the city. Baghel also inaugurated various development works to be

done in zone number 3 of Municipal Corporation Raipur at a cost of Rs.2 cr; in zone number 2 at a cost of Rs. 5.18 cr; and in zone number 9 at a cost of Rs 3.17 cr.

CM Baghel inaugurated development works worth Rs.5.63 cr in order to provide better health-care facilities to the people of Raipur city. He inaugurated a 'TrueNat' lab built at a cost of Rs 35.62 lakh and a 20-bed isolation ward constructed at a cost of Rs 74.56 lakh in the district hospital. He also integrated a 12-bed ICU and a 30-bed with oxygen supplies constructed at a cost of Rs 65 lakh in the district hospital. He also inaugurated the Transit Hostel built at a cost of Rs 70 lakh in the

District Hospital of Kalibari and 20 beds additional ward built at the cost of Rs 32.28 lakh in the Community Health Center situated at Kho-Kho Para. Mr. Baghel also inaugurated 8 staff quarters built at a cost of Rs. 2.86 cr in the district hospital premises to provide better housing facilities to the medical personnel.

On this occasion, district in-charge minister Ravindra Choubey, MLA from North Raipur Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor of Municipal Corporation Raipur Aijaz Dhebar, Chairman Pramod Dubey, Chairman of State Minority Commission Mahendra Singh Chhabra and a large number of people were present.

Slogan of 'sympathy, friendship' by Ambedkar badly required now: Rashmi

■ Specially during time when Central govt is trying to spread hatred and differences among societies

Takathpur, Apr 18: After the country's Independence, it can be run in safe hand with a constitution only and Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar was the one who was the main architect of the same and on which the country is marching ahead on path of progress. The biggest gift to the nation by Baba Saheb was the Constitution. It was he who formed the Reserve Bank of India, united the Dalits and asked all to adopt the message of Lord Buddha 'be educated, be organised and struggle'. He also advocated about sympathy and friendship and which is badly required in the present-day time. In a time when differences are being created amidst societies and communities and



becoming more violent, spreading hatred and in such times it is 'Pragya', Sympathy and friendship which is need of the hour. What all the messages the great personalities gave from time-to-time are still relevant, says MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Singh while speaking as the chief guest at the programme organised on occasion of 132nd birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar

recently. DCC (urban) Takathpur organised 132nd birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar at Mahatma Gandhi Chowk and here MLA Rashmi Ashish Singh was the chief guest. She garlanded the photo of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and lighted the traditional lamp and on this occasion District Panchayat Speaker Jitendra Pandey, ex-Nagar Palika President Ajay Dewangan, BCC President Sunil Shukla, District

Panchayat first President Birhe Ram Singroul and others. Prior to this the guests garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. Addressing the gathering District Panchayat Sabhapati Jitendra Pandey highlighted on the life and history of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and said that the BJP-led central government is working on the basis of political rivalry and democracy is being sidelined. He said that the public welfare policies and

schemes formed by the Congress government, formed in the state after 15 years, is becoming eye of a needle for the central government. To foil the efforts of the Bhupesh Baghel government committed towards for progress and development of people of Chhattisgarh, the BJP government at the Centre is making all efforts. Programme was also addressed by Ajay Singh Thakur, Birhe Ram Singroul, Sunil Shukla and other speakers.

The Shobha Yatra taken out on Ambedkar Jayanti was also welcomed by all Congmen. The programme was conducted DCC (urban) President Bihari Devangan and vote of thanks was proposed by ex-Nagar palika President Ajay Dewangan. DCC office bearers and Congmen were present in large number.

CEO District Panchayat inspects RIPA centers

Korea, Apr 18:

District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Namrata Jain did a surprise inspection of RIPA centers in the district here and discussed with the officers present and gave necessary guidelines for smooth functioning of the activities.

While giving instructions, she said that the maintenance of visitor and attendance register should be systematic at each RIPA site. During the inspection, the CEO checked the machines and said that at the time of initial operation; keep a technician or electrician available at the local level so that any problem can be solved immediately. She also instructed to ensure maintenance of essential



raw material in all RIPA Gauthans in the coming week. Instructing to use gunny bags manufactured in RIPA Gauthans the CEO instructed gunny bags not is purchased from the market.

Namrata Jain also appointed nodal and assis-

tant nodal officers for the systematic operation of activities in RIPA center and entrusted the responsibility to the block coordinators and other officers of the National Rural Livelihood Mission Bihan, who will act as coordinators for the activities.

'Baisakhi Parv' celebrated with fervour

'Prabhat Pheri' taken out for 3 days



Takathpur, Apr 18:

The members of Sikh Samaj observed 'Baisakhi Parv' as the Khalsa foundation day and it was celebrated with religious fervour and enthusiasm. In this context Sikh Samaj took out 'Prabhat Pheri' for three days.

On this occasion the special 'Diwan' of Guru Singh Sabha was beautifully decorated and here the local Ragi-Jattha Gurucharan Singh Bagga, Trilok Singh Bagga performed 'Shabad Kirtan' and later other 'Ragi-Jatthas' also performed.

Gurucharan Singh Bagga from the Samaj informed that the present day Sikh Samaj was formed by the 10th Guru-Guru Govind Singhji in 1699 by forming 'Panj Payare' at Kesgarh of Anandpur Saheb and carried out 'Amrut-pan' from them.

The Baisakhi Parv is celebrated as formation of 'Khalsa Panth'. In the afternoon, Mata Ajit Kaur, Jasbir Singh Mucchal carried out 'Chola Parivartan' of 'Nishan Saheb' and it was done by Gyani Mangat Singh Khalsa, Ravindra Singh Khurana.

In afternoon, 'Guru-ka-Atoot' 'Langar' was started and in which the members of the Samaj sat in one row and had their lunch.

In the night, the 'Diwan' was once again decorated and during which poem competition was organised amidst School and College students. On this day, 'Gurudwara' was decorated with colourful lights and in the night fire-crackers were burst.

On this occasion mainly Pradhan Kulwant Singh Hura, Gyani Mangat Singh Khalsa, Jagjit Singh Makkad, Manjit Singh Khanuja, Surender Singh Ichapurani, Bhagwant Singh Malhotra, Prithvi Pal Singh Hura, Dayal Singh Bagga, Trilok Singh Bagga, Ravindra Singh Khurana, Gurudayal Singh Hura, Indrajeet Singh Makkad and others were present.

Baisakhi Mela was organised on the same day by the Yuwa Samiti at Gurudwara Hall at 9:00 pm. In this stalls of Punjabi food were placed and the dance, 'bhangda', and other performances by youth, men and women continued till late at night.

Dr Ashok Puranik is Chief Director AIIMS Guwahati

- Hails from Koundekara of Fingeshwar/ Rajim area and big honour for people of the region
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated AIIMS Guwahati recently and Dr A Puranik was also present

Fingeshwar, Apr 18:

It is an honour for entire Rajim and Fingeshwar area that the Chief Director of AIIMS Guwahati -Dr Ashok Puranik is a resident of Gram Koundekara of Fingeshwar/ Rajim region. He is S/o Ramsharan Puranik of Gram Koundekara. Their elder father Ramsahai Puranik served as Secretary in Navapara Krishi Upaj Mandi for long and entire Puranik family is doing farming in Koundekara. It

was recently last on Jan 23 that Ashok Puranik along with family came to Koudeker, on sad demise of his mother and stayed for 15 days in the village during the entire programme.

Speaking to our correspondent he informed that it was recently AIIMS Guwahati with all the best services and equipments was inaugurated by PM Modi and will be starting in full-fledge manner shortly. Dr Puranik completed his schooling initially from Koundekara till Middle School in Fingeshwar and Higher Secondary from Navapara. Today he is the Chief Director of the world-class medical Institution AIIMS Guwahati. At the time of inauguration of AIIMS Guwahati, Dr Puranik explained to the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the achievements of AIIMS Guwahati and its entire structure and its working.

Sharing the photo along with PM Modi at the time of inauguration of AIIMS Guwahati, Dr Puranik informed that Guwahati AIIMS is ready for service to the people of East (Assam) with 150 beds. Spread on 189.20 acre, around 85% of the work of

the Institution has been completed. The Central government had given approval for establishing AIIMS Guwahati at the cost of Rs 1123 cr and after inauguration by PM Modi on April 14, 2023, AIIMS Guwahati is fully functional. AIIMS would prove to be major gift for the people of Guwahati. Dr Puranik informed that entire work of AIIMS Guwahati would be com-

pleted in coming 3 yrs.

It is notable here that AIIMS Guwahati started services to patients through tele-medicine from 2022 and provided limited OPD to local people. Presently majority of the departments in AIIMS Guwahati are functional. The Medical Education in MBBS from AIIMS Guwahati was started in 2020-21. The first batch of AIIMS Guwahati started its classes from Narkasur Hill-Top Institute of Para-Medical Sciences associated with the Medical College. It was on 15 March 2022 the educational and administrative activities were shifted to local premises in Changsari. Presently 199 MBBS students and 78 faculty members and 125 nursing officers and 12

senior citizens are there in AIIMS Guwahati. To provide diagnostic exposure and clinical posting to the students of fourth and fifth semester of AIIMS Guwahati, an MoU was signed with Maligaon Railway Hospital and AIIMS. The work of the project at the site has been completed 85%.

At the inauguration of AIIMS Guwahati, Dy. Director Pawani Gupta, Dr Bepan Burman, DMSA General Medicine deptt and head of the Department Dr Kaustav Kumar Bairagi DMSA Forensic Medicine and Toxicology Deptt AIIMS were present.

At present, elder brother of Dr Ashok Puranik, Mr: Rankumar Puranik is looking after the agricultural work in Gram Koundekara.

Bhagat accorded warm welcome by Congmen

During his short-stay at Katghora bus stand



Churrikala, Apr 18:

On arrival of Food & Civil Supplies and co-operative Minister Amarjeet Singh Bhagat from Ambikapur, he was accorded warm welcome by Congress party workers at Katghora bus stand. Bhagat on his return from Ambikapur and on way back to Raipur, halted for a while at Katghora

bus stand near Murla Hotel and here he was accorded warm welcome by Congress party workers. Moh. Roshan along with Congmen from urban and rural areas of Katghora.

During this BCC (Rural) Katghora President Gourelal Yadav, Heeralal Yadav and Jeewan Yadav MP's rep presented a shawl and

welcomed him. During this President DCC Gourelal Yadav submitted a memorandum to him demanding for free & fair inquiry into alleged irregularities in the 'Krishna Kunj' constructed in Churrikala and free the government houses from encroachment. On this the Minister assured him to take necessary action

During the welcome, Nagar Palika Katghora President Ratan Mittal, Roshan Mohammed, Vijay Vishwakarma, Suresh Das Mahant, Jeewan Yadav MP's rep, Laxman Diksena MLA's rep; Pali Tanakhar, Vinod Kumar Bhatt, Samiti Manager Katghora and other Congmen were present in large number.

Sacked committee manager arrested

Dongargarh, Apr 18: Sacked committee manager Kuldeep Vishwakarma, has been arrested after several farmers had complained against him of fraud on pretext of KCC loan. As per information, on the basis of statement by farmers, an FIR was registered and with immediate effect the accused Kuldeep Vishwakarma's father late Chait Ram Vishwakarma, aged 51 years, resident of Indira Nagar was arrested. Several passbooks, check books and Rs 20,000 in cash were seized from him. After the accused confessed to the crime and sufficient evidence was found against the accused, the accused was duly arrested and produced in the Honorable Court on judicial remand. Meanwhile his appointment to the post of committee manager is yet to be investigated, as raising questions on the appointment of Mr. Vishwakarma, Congress leader



and District Cooperative Central Bank President Nawaz Khan Directly accusing the senior BJP leader and the state coordinator of the Cooperative Cell, and has said that under his patronage, Kuldeep was appointed against the rules from accountant to the post of

committee manager. Meanwhile the deceived farmers have demanded the arrest of broker Rajendra of village Khalaria, who played the role of a mediator between the committee manager and the farmers, by misleading them but has now changed his statement.

Immigrant Open Bill Stork camping permanent

■ For last two years

Pandaria, Apr 18:

Migratory bird Open Bill Stork has made their permanent home in the area for the last two years, thus making the region their permanent abode, as the birds are getting enough food in the fields and water bodies in this area.

In the past, these birds used to come every year in the month of June to the Ramtala reservoir and Kranti reservoir located near the city and used to return after 5-6 months and Maikal Mountain near Kranti reservoir is their permanent nesting ground.

The farmers of the region consider these birds as angels as because their arrival is considered as an indicator of good rain and happiness. These birds in hundreds have campe dteh



area and mainly feeds on aquatic creatures including snails. Because of its beak being open from the middle, it is called open bill and the color of this bird is grayish white and its tail is shiny black and live usually in pairs and small groups.

The number of open bill storks is continuously increasing and their breeding period is from June to December and approximately 20 species of this bird are found all over the

world, including Philippines, China, Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, and Bangladesh. Jashveer Singh Maravi, SDO of Forest Department, Pandaria said that open bills mainly come to this area for food and breeding. The nests of these birds are in the trees growing in the middle of the water or in the trees around the water bodies and live in groups like a colony.

Annual academic review meeting organized MLLF held

Jagdulpur, Apr 18:

Annual review meeting of district and state level programmes was organized at Hotel Champa Bagh in Jagdulpur on Monday. This review meeting was organized by the Mission Language and Learning Foundation (MLLF) in the context of academic cooperation being done in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Chief education officers of SCERT Raipur, Durg, Balod, Bastar and Sukma districts participated in this review meeting. During the review, the representatives of the four districts reviewed the works being done by the Language and Learning Foundation in the state and district, such as academic material production, district resource group formation and training, teacher training, workshop of cluster academic coordinators and school visits, organization.

At the same time, Manju Garg, opinion leader of Language and Learning Foundation, while discussing



about the educational work being done by the organization in the state, talked about the upcoming plan. This review meeting was organized keeping in mind the language and learning mission.

So that other districts can also know each other's efforts, learn from each other and since SCERT is also responsible for academic betterment in the state, then as a team, communication can be done in a single platform to achieve the goal of the mission. Hence this review meeting was organized. During the review, the officials of all the districts discussed the lan-

guage and learning and appreciated the work being done by the Foundation in the field of education and for the upcoming session, a plan for better efforts in the field of education was discussed with the state.

Deekshwar Verma from SCERT, NGO and multilingual education in-charge SCEBARTI, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, while highlighting the objectives of the review meeting, said that the FLN mission is being implemented in the state under a common strategy, in which the role of Language and Learning Foundation is very important. Nishi Bhabri, SCERT, Raipur,

stated that SCERT and Language and Learning Foundation are working together to achieve the goal of FLN Mission. Joint Director (Education) Bastar RP Adi, included in the review, praised the ongoing multilingual education in Bastar as well as gave suggestions for better implementation of the FLN mission in the district.

Sunil Miah from SCERT said that we need to help 100 percent children of the state to learn. Dr. Sushma Jha, Principal of DIET Bastar, said that on behalf of DIET Bastar, cooperation is being given to

the organization in all works like teacher training, material preparation etc. for academic betterment in the district. Overall, DMC Akhilesh Mishra apprised the education officers of SCERT and other districts regarding the educational conditions of Bastar and insisted on making more efforts for the betterment of education in Bastar. During the review, the education officers of Durg, Balod, Bastar and Sukma informed about the works going on under the FLN mission in their respective districts. Stanley John, Subhash Srivastava from DIET and Ganesh Tiwari from Samagra also shared their experiences during the review.

Surendra Pandey DMC and Vivek Sharma in this review meeting APC, District Durg, Anurag Trivedi DMC and GL Surshyam APC District Balod, Rajneesh Kumar Singh APC and Wasim Khan BRCC, District Sukma, Sunil Bagwan and Madhulika and the team of Language and Learning Foundation were involved.

BRIEF



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shrivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP State President VD Sharma and other leaders during the State BJP Core Committee meeting, at BJP office in Bhopal, Tuesday.

Septuagenarian dies

Puducherry: A 73-year-old man died of COVID-19 in Puducherry and 84 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours, a senior health official said on Tuesday. The patient hailing from neighbouring Nellithope was admitted to the government hospital on April 4 and died on April 13 due to COVID pneumonia pushing up the overall Coronavirus deaths to 1,979, Director of Health G Sriramulu said in a release today. The active cases were 503. Of them, 12 were in hospitals (one in Government General hospital, three in Government Hospital for Chest diseases and eight in COVID care centres) and the remaining 491 patients were in home quarantine, he said.

Car-SUV collision

Mangaluru: Four persons, including a child, were killed and a few others injured in a head-on collision between a car and an SUV on a highway in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district on Tuesday, police said. The car was heading towards the pilgrim town of Kukke Subrahmanya, while the other vehicle was proceeding to Dharmasthala, another pilgrimage spot, when the accident took place in the afternoon near Nettana bridge on the Uppinangady-Subrahmanya state highway.

Dalit raped

Ballia (UP): A 15-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly raped by a youth on the pretext of marriage in a village here, police said on Tuesday. The incident happened in Narhi police station area at least eight months ago, Deputy Superintendent of Police Sadar Ashok Mishra said. On the complaint of the girl's father on Monday, the 18-year-old accused has been arrested. He is from the same village as the victim, he said. A case under sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and SC/ST Act has been registered against the accused, he added.

Ex-militants

Diphu (Assam): More than 100 former militants joined the ruling BJP in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on Tuesday. They were previously cadres of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and were led by Nabin Chandra Bodo. Welcoming the new members at the BJP office here, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) chief executive Tuliram Ronghang said, "A total of 110 former members of the NDFB have joined our party today."

Unnao gang-rape

Accused set minor Dalit victim's house on fire

Unnao (UP), Apr 18 (PTD)

Two infants were in a critical condition Tuesday after a group of men set fire to the home of a minor Dalit girl, whom two of them had allegedly raped last year.

The injured babies include the rape victim's six-month-old child born after the 11-year-old was impregnated in the sexual assault and her two-month-old sister, police said. The two rape accused, recently released on bail, allegedly barged into the family's thatched shed Monday evening with five others, after the victim refused to withdraw the case. They beat up her moth-



er and then set the shed on fire.

According to chief medical superintendent Sushil Srivastava, the rape victim's infant son suffered 35 per cent burns and her sister 45 per cent burns in the incident.

"As their condition worsened, both the kids were sent to Kanpur for

better treatment," he said.

Santosh Singh, Circle Officer, Purva said the rape victim's father was attacked with an axe by her grandfather and uncle, who had sided with the accused, and four other people on April 13 according to a complaint filed by her mother.

The father is admitted at the district hospital with serious injuries, he said.

Police said the Dalit girl was gang-raped on February 13, 2022. She gave birth to a son in September that year.

The victim's mother also alleged that their house was set on fire to eliminate her daughter's infant son.

HC asks MCD to file report on burial of cattle in city

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTD)

Lumpy skin disease

The Delhi High Court Tuesday asked the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to file a status report on burial of cattle in the national capital.

The high court was hearing a plea seeking constitution of a team of veterinary doctors in each zone to deal with cases of lumpy skin disease in cattle and to set up isolation wards for treatment of the infected animals.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Yashwant Varma granted two weeks to the MCD to place on record the report and listed the matter for further hearing on May 17. During the hearing, the court was informed that the municipal body has a

specialised burial ground for cattle in Gazipur and the responsibility of disposal of animals rests with it.

Advocate Ajay Dignaul, appearing for the MCD, sought time to file on record a report on burial of cattle.

The high court had earlier issued notice and sought the response of the Delhi government and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to the petition which also wanted direction to be issued to the authorities to make available an antidote to lumpy skin disease among cows. The petitioner sought stray cattle to be vaccinated on priority.

Petitioner Ajay Gautam said in the plea that immediate action and remedial steps are needed to eliminate the contagious viral disease which has killed nearly 70,000 cattle in the country till date and the numbers are increasing every day.

"Direct respondents to immediately constitute a team of veterinary doctors in every zone of Delhi and direct this team to deal and address cases of lumpy disease," the plea said.

Lumpy skin disease spreads among cattle through mosquitoes, flies, lice, and wasps by direct contact and also through contaminated food and water, and causes fever and nodules on the skin, reduced milk production,

loss of appetite and watery eyes. The disease can be fatal.

The plea submitted the Centre had said about 70,000 cattle have died so far due to the disease which has spread to Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

"This disease has knocked the doors of Delhi too and has started affecting cows here. These infected cows strictly need medical treatment at the earliest," the petition said, adding only one isolation shelter has been set up by the authorities in Rewala, Khanpur in South West district for 4,500 cattle, even though there are more than 20,000 to 25,000 stray cows in the national capital.

CHARDHAM YATRA



Chamoli District Magistrate Himanshu Khurana during his visit to Badrinath Dham to take stock of the Chardham Yatra arrangements, in Chamoli district, Tuesday.

'Disgruntled' Manipur BJP MLAs camp in Delhi as party signals support to CM

Imphal/New Delhi Apr 18 (PTD)

Speculation over disension brewing in the N Biren Singh government in Manipur grew as a group of BJP MLAs are in Delhi to meet central leaders. An unconfirmed number of party MLAs from the Kuki tribe are also believed to be camping in the national capital.

Uripok MLA K h w a i r a k p a m Raghumani, who is among the MLAs from Manipur valley camping in Delhi, posted a picture on Facebook of a meeting with Union Minister of State for DONER B L Verma. "They (Thokchom Radheshyam Singh, Karam Shyam, Paonam

by some for political reasons, he said.

State party officials have confirmed that at least four BJP MLAs from Manipur valley are in Delhi to meet central leaders. An unconfirmed number of party MLAs from the Kuki tribe are also believed to be camping in the national capital.

Uripok MLA K h w a i r a k p a m Raghumani, who is among the MLAs from Manipur valley camping in Delhi, posted a picture on Facebook of a meeting with Union Minister of State for DONER B L Verma.

"They (Thokchom Radheshyam Singh, Karam Shyam, Paonam

Brojen and Raghumani) discussed the border and developmental issues of Manipur," the post said.

Another BJP MLA, RK Imo Singh, on his official Facebook account said, "We all are bound by a particular ideology/constitution of the political party we belong to. As Legislators, we have a bounded duty to work as per the programmes and decision of that government/party. One may complain and take the dispute against the leader of the govt/party/minister to the appropriate authority, but not take that dispute to the media as that amounts to attract disciplinary action being taken up against the complainant."

Human trafficking more dangerous than murder: Fadnavis

Nagpur, Apr 18 (PTD)

Human trafficking is more dangerous than murder, and social awareness coupled with a strong legal framework was needed to curb it, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Tuesday. Fadnavis, who also holds the Home portfolio, was speaking virtually at a panel discussion on 'Prevention of commercial sex trafficking of women', organised jointly by the Maharashtra State Women Commission and 'Alliance against Centres for Trafficking' here. "Human trafficking is a very big challenge before us. It is said that drugs

trade is the biggest trade in the world but unfortunately human trafficking is to some extent, along with drugs trade, becoming a big trade. Women and children are most vulnerable to it," he said. Its victims suffer a lot, and it is a far more dangerous crime than murder, the deputy CM added.

Human trafficking is an issue transcending boundaries, and social awareness and a people's movement along with a strong legal framework were needed to curb it, he said. In 90 to 95 per cent of cases of sexual exploitation or abuse, people who are known to the victim or victim's family are the cul-

prits, Fadnavis noted.

Earlier, victims of such offences did not approach police due to societal stigma or pressures, but now this situation is changing and victims are coming forward to register police complaints, he said.

Police in the state have been instructed to submit charge sheets in rape cases in 90 days, and this norm is being complied with in 65 per cent of cases, Fadnavis said.

"But we need to go up to 90 percent and create an efficient justice system which ensures that those committing such crimes get punished and we get to see a deterrent effect of it," he added.

Haryana to frame new law to settle family land feud long pending in courts

Chandigarh, Apr 18 (PTD)

Haryana will introduce a new legislation to ensure quick solution of family land disputes that remain pending in courts for years due to absence of any proper redressal mechanism, an official statement said on Tuesday. Speaking at an event here on Monday, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar shared the state government's vision of boosting the industrial and economical sectors.

"In a bid to resolve family land disputes, the state is all set to introduce a new legislation that objectifies to ensure quick re-

dressal of all such disputes that remain pending in courts for years due to absence of any proper redressal mechanism," the statement quoted the chief minister as saying.

He said on the lines of how Gurugram has been developed industrially and economically, the emphasis is now being laid on developing other districts of the state.

"Today Gurugram has become a global city and an IT hub," he said, adding that top companies around the world have their offices in Gurugram.

"Similarly, Faridabad district is also moving swiftly in the same direc-

tion. Due to its connectivity with the Jewar airport, industrial activities are increasing here. Not only this, as the Hisar airport will resume its operations soon, the progress graph of the district is certainly going to get a major boost," he said.

Khattar said Panchkula district also has its locational advantage.

"It also has the advantage of Chandigarh airport being nearby," he said. The chief minister said strengthening the grievance redressal mechanism is the utmost priority of the state government and for this maximum utilisation of IT is being

ensured.

"Today, people are getting the benefits of ration cards, pension, Ayushman and CHIRAYU Haryana Yojana while sitting at home as all such public welfare schemes have been integrated with the state government's Parivar Pehchan Patra (family id) scheme. This is the reason now we have termed PPP as Permanent Protection of Poor People," he said.

He added that 'Jan Samvad' programme talks about evaluating the ground reality regarding the reach of benefits of government schemes at the grassroots level.

MLAs from Udaipur, Kota, Bharatpur divisions meet Cong leaders for one-on-one dialogue

Jaipur, Apr 18 (PTD)

Senior Congress leaders were holding individual meetings with party MLAs from Udaipur, Kota and Bharatpur divisions on Tuesday to get their feedback ahead of the Rajasthan Assembly polls due later this year.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Congress state in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and state president Govind Singh Dotasra were interacting with the MLAs in the party's new office in Jaipur. While Congress leaders say the objective of the exercise, which began on Monday, is to get feedback from the MLAs about their constituency, it has come days after senior party leader Sachin Pilot sat on a day-long fast alleging inaction by the Gehlot government into allegations of corruption during the previous BJP rule. Pilot, who has been involved in a leadership tussle with Gehlot, renewed his demand on

Monday, saying, "It's been a week now but no action has been taken".

The Tonk MLA skipped his interaction with party leaders on Monday and instead addressed two scheduled public meetings in Shahpura (Jaipur) and Khetri (Jhunjhunu). Tonk comes under the Ajmer division.

Gehlot tweeted photos of the one-on-one discussion held with MLAs from Ajmer and Jodhpur divisions on Monday night.

The chief minister said necessary suggestions were received regarding 'Mission 2030' to make Rajasthan the number 1 state by then.

According to the schedule released by the party, a one-day workshop will be organised on Wednesday in which the MLAs, and other party leaders and workers will participate.

On Thursday, the MLAs from Bikaner and Jaipur divisions will interact with Randhawa, Gehlot and Dotasra.

Residents, experts lament shrinking architectural legacy of Patna

Patna, Apr 18 (PTD)

For 26-year-old conservation architect Diptanshu Sinha, the razing of the Dutch and British-era Patna Collectorate also led to demolition of whatever hopes he had for the revival and redemption of the historic city's "dying heritage".

Heartbroken, he quit his job at an NGO that works on conservation of heritage structures, and moved to Gurugram.

"Every person has a breaking point. I couldn't take the razing of the collectorate building which was preceded a wave of demolition since 2010. The last structure in the collectorate campus to go down was the frontage of its famed Dutch-era Record Room which had magnificent columns, and carried within its wide walls, centuries of history of urban evolution of Patna," Sinha

World Heritage Day

said. Patna Collectorate — the headquarters of the district administration — consisted of a cluster of buildings, including the 17th-century Record Room and old District Engineer's Office, both from the Dutch era; and the British-era DM Office Building and the iconic District Board Patna Building of 1938.

According to him, what the centuries-old collectorate building needed was a "human touch of restoration" and instead it got the "cold claws of bulldozers".

Sinha claimed that Patna gets excited about the opening of a new mall. But heritage is not on its agenda, and World Heritage Day is rather alien to them, he said.

World Heritage Day is celebrated on April 18

every year to raise people's awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve it.

"The city has become ruthless when it comes to heritage. The government destroys old buildings in the name of development and people look the other way without any guilt," Sinha alleged.

He was a part of the citizen-led movement 'Save Historic Patna Collectorate' that fought for six years to save the landmark, that featured in the Oscar-winning film "Gandhi", from demolition.

The Supreme Court on May 13 last year rejected a plea by INTACH to save the landmark, and bulldozers rolled in the next day.

Driver to undergo 20 year jail term for sexually assaulting girl student

Hyderabad, Apr 18 (PTD)

A local court on Tuesday sentenced a 34-year-old man to 20 years rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a four-and-a-half-year-old kindergarten girl studying in a private school where he was working as a driver in October 2022.

The fast track POCSO court held the man, a driver of the school principal, guilty under relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Indian Penal Code, and condemned him to rigorous jail term of 20 years.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on the convict. However, the woman school principal, who was also booked for alleged negligence in the case, was not found guilty by the court and acquitted.

According to the prosecution, the accused took the girl to a room in the school and sexually as-

saulted her.

On October 18, 2022, the girl's mother complained to Banjara Hills police in the city stating that her daughter, studying in the school for the last five months, told her of having some pain in her legs.

After the mother had enquired with the girl, she informed her that a man working in the school used to take her to a separate room in the premises and sexually assaulted her over a period of three months.

The angered parents rushed to the school. Upon entering the place, the girl identified the person who had harassed her and pointed to the car driver of the school principal, police had said. A case was registered and the driver was subsequently arrested.

As the girl's parents were of the opinion that the incident indicated the principal's "negligence", the police had booked the woman also.

Massive landslide kills two Afghan nationals, buries 20 trucks in Northwest Pakistan

Peshawar, Apr 18 (PTI):

A massive landslide struck a key highway near the Torkham border town in northwestern Pakistan that killed at least two Afghan citizens, injured eight others and buried some 20 trucks on Tuesday morning, according to a media report.

The landslide occurred in the early hours of Tuesday following a strong thunderstorm on the main road through Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Khyber Pass near the Afghanistan border, burying the trucks transporting goods, the Dawn newspaper reported.

According to rescue officials, two Afghan citizens have been killed in the landslide and authorities



Paramilitary soldiers, rescue workers and volunteers search for survivors through the rubble at the site of landslide near the Torkham border town, Pakistan, Tuesday, April 18. A massive landslide struck a key highway in northwestern Pakistan near the border town of Torkham before dawn Tuesday, burying two dozen trucks, officials said.

were trying to recover their bodies.

"Two Afghan citizens had been killed in the landslide and authorities

were trying to recover the bodies. At least eight people were injured and they have been provided with first aid," Abdul Nasir

Khan, the deputy commissioner of the Khyber district, was quoted as saying.

Other officials said that the wreckage of the landslide is quite extensive and our rescue operation is continuing with heavy machinery.

The incident site is part of the main route connecting Pakistan with land-locked Afghanistan, a major transit point for trade between the South Asian nations and into Central Asia.

Meanwhile, officials also said a fire had broken out immediately after the landslide as drivers were cooking meals for sehri on gas stoves. The blaze is now under control, the report said.

Iran renews threats against Israel during Army Day parade

Tehran, Apr 18 (AP)

Iran's president on Tuesday reiterated threats against Israel while marking the country's annual Army Day, though he stayed away from criticising Saudi Arabia as Tehran seeks a d tente with the kingdom.

The comments by Ebrahim Raisi came as fighter jets and helicopters flew overhead in Tehran, and as Iranian submarines sailed across its waters during a ceremony carried live by state television.

The day celebrates Iran's regular military, not its paramilitary

Revolutionary Guard, whose expeditionary forces operate across the wider Mideast and aid Iranian-allied militia groups like Lebanon's Hezbollah. The Guard also routinely has tense encounters with the US Navy.

Speaking at the ceremony, Raisi threatened Israel, which is suspected of carrying out a series of attacks targeting Iran since the collapse of its nuclear deal with world powers.

"Enemies, particularly the Zionist regime, has receive the message that any tiny action against (our) country will prompt a harsh answer from the armed forces, which will accompany the destruction of Haifa and Tel Aviv," Raisi said.

Raisi also reiterated a demand for the US to leave the Mideast. American policy since the Carter administration has viewed protected the Persian Gulf region as crucial to securing global energy supplies. A fifth of the world's supply of oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf.

While not specifically naming Saudi Arabia, Raisi did offer an olive branch in his remarks. "The hand of our armed forces warmly shakes the hand of the regional nations that intend to create security in the region," the president said.

In March, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations and reopen embassies after seven years of tensions, a diplomatic agreement reached in China. In the time since, Saudi Arabia also has been involved in a prisoner swap with Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, with hopes such a deal could see an end to that country's years-long proxy war.

Putin visits Russian troops in occupied Ukraine

Kyiv, Apr 18 (AP):

Russian President Vladimir Putin visited headquarters of the Russian troops fighting in Ukraine early on Tuesday, his second trip to the Russian-held territories there since March.

A video released by the Kremlin and broadcast by Russian state television showed Putin visiting the command post for Russian forces in the southern Kherson region.

It showed Putin arriving by helicopter to receive reports from the top military brass about the combat situation. The Russian leader then moved by helicopter to the headquarters of the Russian National Guard of the eastern Luhansk region to hear report from commanders.

In both locations, Putin congratulated the military on the Orthodox Easter that was celebrated Sunday and presented them with icons.

Russia annexed the Kherson and Luhansk regions along with the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions in September in a move that was rejected by much of the world as illegal. It was impossible to independently verify the



footage of Putin's visits to the two regions that was released by the Kremlin.

The trip marked a second visit by the Russian leader to the areas that Russia occupied in Ukraine in as many months. Last month, Putin visited the Russian-held Sea of Azov

port city of Mariupol, which was captured by Russian troops in May after two months of fierce fighting.

Putin's trips to the military headquarters come as Ukraine is preparing for a new counteroffensive to reclaim the occupied territories.

port city of Mariupol, which was captured by Russian troops in May after two months of fierce fighting.

Putin's trips to the military headquarters come as Ukraine is preparing for a new counteroffensive to reclaim the occupied territories.

No impunity: G7 vows tough, unified stance on Russia's war

Karuizawa, Apr 18 (AP):

Top diplomats from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies vowed a unified front against Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, saying at the close of their meetings on Tuesday that they were committed to boosting and enforcing tough sanctions against Moscow.

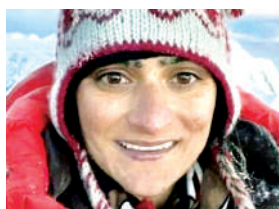
The G-7 communique laying out their commitments also included strong words meant to curb what the ministers see as increasing Chinese and North Korean aggressive-

Indian mountaineer Baljeet Kaur rescued from Mt. Annapurna in Nepal

Kathmandu, Apr 18 (PTI):

Baljeet Kaur, a 27-year-old prominent Indian woman climber was rescued on Tuesday, a day after she went missing near Camp IV of Mt Annapurna while descending from the summit point, an official of the expedition organiser said.

Kaur, who scaled the world's 10th highest peak without using supplemental oxygen on Monday, was rescued from 7,363m after an aerial search team located her above Camp IV, Chairman at Pioneer



Adventure Pasang Sherpa, was quoted as saying by the Himalayan Times newspaper.

"She has suffered from frostbite and is now being rushed to CIWEC Hospital from Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu," Sherpa said.

Kaur was seen descending alone towards Camp IV by the aerial search team, according to Sherpa.

The leading Indian woman climber, who was left alone below the summit point, remained out of radio contact till this morning, the report added.

An aerial search mission was initiated on Tuesday morning only after she managed to send a radio signal asking for 'immediate help'.

According to Sherpa, her GPS location has indicated an altitude of 7,375m

(24,193ft). She climbed Mt Annapurna along with two Sherpa guides at around 5:15 pm on Monday. At least three helicopters were mobilised to trace her.

In May last year, Kaur, from Himachal Pradesh, scaled Mt Lhotse and became the first Indian climber to have climbed four 8000-meter peaks in a single season.

On Monday, Anurag Malu, a resident of Kishangarh in Rajasthan, went missing while descending from Camp III of Mt. Annapurna.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR AUGMENTATION WORK
 Tender Notice No.: Elect-GSU-R-2022-02, Date: 15.04.2023.
Name of Work: "TRD works for Capacity augmentation of RVH-RSD line with electrification."
Tender Value: ₹ 1,48,19,332.55.
Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 2,24,100/-.
Submission of Tender: Upto 12.00 hours on 10.05.2023.
Opening of Tender: 12.30 hours on 10.05.2023.
 For further details of tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD) & Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (GSU)/South East Central Railway, Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in
 Sr.DEE(TRD)&Dy.CEE (GSU)/PR/IR/TRD/IP/18 Raipur
 f South East Central Railway @secral

Office of the Director
 Government Printing and Stationery Dept.
 Indravati Bhawan, Block 1 Second Floor, Atal Nagar, Raipur (492002)
 G.B. IV/paper(1)/22-23/32 Date 13/4/2023
Tender Notice
Extension of Opening date
 With reference to the Tender notice no G.B. IV/paper(1)/22-12/6 dated 31/03/2023 published in various news paper, the last date of tender submission and opening has been increased. The new dates are as follows:-
 1- Last date of Tender submission:- 24/04/2023 at 5:00 PM
 2- Last date of Sample submission:- 24/04/2023 at 5:15 PM
 3- Tender document opening date:- 25/04/2023 at 11:00 AM
 Director
 Printing and Stationery
 C.G. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar
 G-00337/1

संपदा संचालनालय (गृह विभाग)
 महानदी भवन, मंत्रालय,
 छत्तीसगढ़, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर रायपुर-0771-2510743/2510130

कमांक- 661/1/सं.सं./स्थापना/2023 नया रायपुर दिनांक 17/04/2023
// सूचना पत्र //
 संचालक संपदा संचालनालय (गृह विभाग) महानदी भवन मंत्रालय नवा रायपुर द्वारा 01 जनवरी 2023 से 17 फरवरी 2023 तक जी. एच. व आई. श्रेणी आवास पुराना रायपुर एवं अटल नगर नवा रायपुर स्थित आवास हेतु वरीयता सूची अद्यतनीकरण के लिए पृथक-पृथक आवेदन आमंत्रित किये गये थे। समस्त आवेदनों की स्कैन की गई प्रतियां प्रत्येक श्रेणी में पुराना रायपुर एवं अटल नगर नवा रायपुर हेतु पृथक-पृथक वरीयता सूची का कार्यालय संचालक संपदा संचालनालय (गृह विभाग) मंत्रालय महानदी भवन तृतीय तल ए.डी./26 के सूचना पटल पर प्रकाशन किया गया है। वरीयता सूची में अपूर्ण, अस्पष्ट एवं नियमानुसार पात्रता न रखने वाले आवेदनों को शामिल नहीं किया गया है।
 आवास आर्बन नियम 2000 के नियम 5(6) व 5(7) के तहत वरीयता का निर्धारण किया गया है। वरीयता कमांक या सूची में आवेदक की आवेदनानुसार प्रविष्टियों में यदि आवेदकगणों को आपत्ति हो, तो दिनांक 18 अप्रैल 2023 के पूर्व लिखित में आपत्ति मंगाई गई थी, जिसके तिथि में आगे वृद्धि करते हुए दिनांक 23 अप्रैल 2023 तक किया जाता है। समयावसान के पश्चात् आपत्तियों पर विचार नहीं किया जावेगा। ऐसे आवेदक जिनका आवेदन अपूर्ण, अस्पष्ट है, वे भी दावा आपत्ति के समयावसान के पूर्व स्पष्ट एवं पूर्ण आवेदन कार्यालय को प्रेषित कर सकते हैं।
 संचालक
 संपदा संचालनालय
 (गृह विभाग) मंत्रालय रायपुर
 G-00339/1

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Work Description:- E-Auction for allotment of 2 Wheelers & 4 Wheelers at ABKP & PND Railway Station
 E-Auction has been invited for the work of two wheelers parking stand at Ambikapur & Pendra Road Railway Station. The catalog has already been published on the IREPS Website (https://ireps.gov.in). The details are as follows:-

Catalogue no.	Category	Auction Date & Time	Lot no.	Lot Description	Contract period
PARK-PND-ABKP1	(Parking Mixed)	26.04.2023 15:00	PARKING-BSP-ABKP-MX-2-22-1	Two Wheelers Parking and Four Wheelers Parking at circulating Area in ABKP Railway Station	184 Days
			PARKING-BSP-PND-MX-12-22-1	Two Wheelers Parking and Four Wheelers Parking at circulating Area in PND Railway Station	

 Asst. Comm. Manager
 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur
 CPR/10/19

Technology Development Board
 Department of Science & Technology
 Technology Bhawan, Block-2, 2nd Floor, New Delhi
Call for Proposal
India - Israel
Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I⁴F) 2023 CFP-10
Key Features

- Financial Assistance to Feasibility Study Projects, R&D Projects and Pilot Projects.
- Funding shall be in the form of Grants/Conditional Grants.
- Funding upto 70% for start-ups less than 5 years-old. (Whichever is lower)

Eligibility

- Indian company registered under the Indian Company Act 1956/2013 as Indian Project Lead (INPL).
- At least 51% stake of the INPL Company must be owned by Indian citizens.
- Sole proprietors and partnership firms are not eligible for support under this programme.

 For finding partner/match making support, drop a mail at indoisrael@tdb.gov.in, For more Details, Funding Guidelines & Proposal Submission visit - www.tdb.gov.in
 CBC 36106/12/0005/2324

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, RAIPUR
 (An Autonomous Institute Under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt.)
 No.03/02/2022/Recruit/Reg/19 Date: 12.04.2023
SENIOR RESIDENTS RECRUITMENT
 AIIMS Raipur invites application in the prescribed format from Indian Nationals for the post of Senior Resident (Non-acad.) [Total: 113 (UR-39, OBC-30, SC-25, ST-09, EWS-10)] including 05 posts for PwBD, under Govt. of India Residency Scheme for various departments in AIIMS Raipur. The pay scale is of Rs. 67,700/- (Level-11, Cell No. 01 As per 7th CPC) plus usual allowances including NPA (if applicable). Candidates can apply for the post by the link: <https://forms.gle/RdkvEBpJLGHoVdH6>. The link is also available of AIIMS, Raipur website from 12.04.2023 to 21.04.2023 (by 05:00 PM). For departments, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions, updates, notification, amendment, corrigendum etc. please visit website www.aiimsraipur.edu.in.
 -Director

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corp. Ltd.
 (A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)
 3rd Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Telibandha, Ring Road No. 1, Raipur 492006 (C.G.)
 Tele/Fax: 0771-4057624
 Website : www.csidc.in, Email : csidc.cg@nic.in, csidc_raipur@yahoo.com

e-Tender Enquiry No. CSIDC/MKD/2023-24/84 Raipur, Dated : 17-04-2023
 CSIDC Ltd, Raipur invites online tenders under Chhattisgarh Govt. Store Purchase Rule-2002 (As Amended) for the following items from the Manufacturer or Authorised distributor for the conclusion of the Rate Contract.
 The tenderers are required to refer para 20 of form-5 tender documents under CSIDC form-5 where in the list of essential documents which are to be submitted along with Technical Bid Envelope-A is given & also read changes made in general terms & condition as per amendment recently made.

SPR Annex-1 Sr. No.	Sr. No.	Item Description	Last date of online submission	EMD (Rs)	Remarks
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
25/50	1	Compostable Films for Bags (General & Nursery Purpose)	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	(1) The EMD in the form of demand draft favoring CSIDCL Main Office (Receipt a/c) payable at raipur must reach this office physically upto 5.00 PM on last date (as quoted in column "D") of online submission of tender.
24/49	2	HDPE Poly Propylene Bag (ISI MARKED) -10 To 30 Kg	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	(2) The tender documents can be downloaded from the portal (website) https:// eproc.cgstate.gov.in directly and shall be submitted online only.
	3	HDPE Poly Propylene Bag (ISI MARKED) -50 Kg	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	
73	4	E-Rickshaw (E-Cart) Garbage Container (48 Volt-310 Kg)	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	
	5	E-Rickshaw (E-Cart) Garbage Container (60 Volt-310 Kg)	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	
54/122	6	School Sports And Equipment	30-05-2023	1,00,000/-	

NOTE:-
 1. The interested tenderers for online submission of tender may contact eproc.cgstate.gov.in Helpdesk. Operated by Service Provider Agency Mjunction Services Limited. They may reach by using Helpdesk 18004199140 (from 9AM to 11 PM) (therein press 2 for CG e-Proc) or you can email them at Helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in
 2. Tenderer may contact to CSIDC in working hours to clear their doubt if any before online submission of the tender.
 3. इच्छुक निर्माता एवं अधिकृत प्रदायकर्ता इकाईयों, सीएसआईडीसी वेबडर रजिस्ट्रेशन की प्रक्रिया ऑनलाईन वेबसाइट www.csidcmt.in पर अनिवार्यतः पूरा करें।
 S-36665/2
Executive Director
 कार्यालय एवं दुकान हेतु स्थान उपलब्ध वेबसाइट www.csidc.in देखें।



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 1 No. 19

India Sizzles At 40°C

A Wake-Up Call to Address Climate Change

As the mercury soared to 40 degrees Celsius in several parts of India, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned of heat wave conditions in several states for the next few days. With West Bengal and Bihar experiencing heat wave conditions for four consecutive days, and other states like Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Andhra Pradesh expected to experience similar conditions, it is apparent that India is grappling with the impacts of climate change. The rise in temperatures and the increasing frequency of heat waves is a clear indication of the impending dangers of climate change that the world is facing. The scorching heat and the severe consequences it brings with it, such as heat stroke and heat-related health issues, pose a significant threat to vulnerable sections of society, including children, elderly individuals, and people with chronic diseases. The IMD's warning has prompted several states to take preventive measures, such as the closure of schools, colleges, and universities for a week in West Bengal and Tripura. However, it is high time that India's policymakers took a more proactive approach to address climate change and its effects on the country's people and economy. India, being the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, has a significant responsibility to take decisive action to reduce its carbon footprint. The country needs to adopt a holistic approach to tackle climate change, which includes a shift to clean energy, reducing emissions from the transport sector, and improving energy efficiency in buildings and industry. India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) commit to reducing the emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35% below 2005 levels by 2030. However, given the current pace of progress, it is unlikely that the country will meet these targets. It is imperative that India steps up its efforts and implements more ambitious policies to reduce emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. Apart from reducing emissions, there is a need to build resilience among communities to adapt to the changing climate. The government needs to invest in building climate-resilient infrastructure, such as constructing heat-resistant buildings and improving water supply and sanitation infrastructure. Educating people on the risks of climate change and equipping them with the necessary tools to cope with the effects of climate change is also critical. Moreover, India's policymakers must recognize that climate change is not a standalone issue but intersects with other challenges, such as poverty, inequality, and health. Addressing climate change requires an integrated approach that takes into account these interrelated challenges. The heat wave conditions are a stark reminder that climate change is real and poses a significant threat to India's people and economy. It is time for India's policymakers to acknowledge the severity of the problem and take decisive action to address it. The costs of inaction are too high, and the time to act is now. India must shift to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources, invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, and implement policies that reduce emissions and promote climate adaptation. As individuals, we must also take responsibility for our actions and make conscious choices to reduce our carbon footprint. Together, we can combat climate change and create a safer and healthier future for all.

Steps to keep your Liver Healthy: Observing World Liver Day

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

The liver is a vital organ that performs various critical functions in the body, such as digestion, metabolism, and immunity. Unfortunately, liver-related diseases have become a significant cause of mortality globally, with cirrhosis and liver cancer being the leading causes of death due to liver disease. However, a lack of awareness about the risk factors and preventive measures contributes to the rise in these numbers. To raise awareness about liver health, World Liver Day is observed annually on April 19th. This day serves as a reminder of the importance of taking care of our liver through regular check-ups and a healthy lifestyle. Regular full-body check-ups and a healthy diet are essential for preventing liver diseases. This year's World Liver Day theme, "Be Vigilant, Do Regular Liver Check-Up, Fatty Liver Can Affect Anyone," highlights the importance of regular check-ups as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease can affect anyone, regardless of their body mass index. It is vital to understand that early detection and prevention of liver diseases are critical, as symptoms often do not appear until it is too late. People with diabetes are at an increased risk of liver cirrhosis or scarring, making regular check-ups and a healthy lifestyle even more crucial. The importance of lifestyle modifications, including a healthy diet and regular exercise, cannot be overemphasized. Neglecting the liver can lead to severe health issues, making it essential to take care of our liver through regular check-ups and a healthy lifestyle. Maintaining good liver health is crucial for overall well-being and preventing severe liver issues that can be life-threatening. By taking care of our liver, we can ensure a healthier life for ourselves and those around us. Regular check-ups and a healthy lifestyle can help prevent liver diseases and ensure early detection, allowing for prompt treatment and better outcomes. It is also essential to understand the risk factors for liver diseases, including excessive alcohol consumption, obesity, and exposure to toxins such as chemicals and drugs. These risk factors can cause liver damage and contribute to the development of liver diseases. By taking steps to reduce these risk factors, we can help prevent liver diseases and maintain good liver health. World Liver Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness about liver-related diseases, their risk factors, and the importance of early detection and prevention through lifestyle and diet modifications. By taking care of our liver, we can ensure a healthier life for ourselves and those around us. So, let us observe World Liver Day by taking steps to keep our liver healthy and raising awareness about liver health.

Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of the original message, and ask that they be kept to around 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via email to editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com.

HOT SUMMER DAY

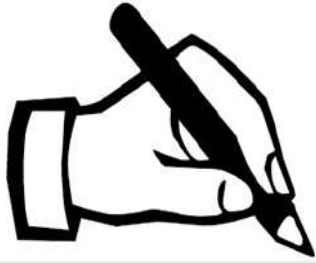


Young women use scarves to protect themselves from the heat on a hot summer day, in Gurugram, Tuesday, April 18.

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR'S CRITIQUE OF HINDUISM



PROF. SUNIL GOYAL



Ambedkar in his writings does not seem to be against Hinduism as such but against a phenomenon called Brahminism, which he believes is one of the components of Hinduism and not its essence. He is a staunch critic of the caste system which according to him is nothing but, Brahmanism incarnate. It is one of the components of a large cultural unit that is the Hindu culture. Brahminism can be easily understood as the desire of those in the Brahmin caste, or those appropriating that status, to assert themselves so as to be at the top of the social hierarchy. Like Brahminism, within the caste system, exist "isms" of all kinds, that is the desire to be at the top by every caste and within a caste, by the sub castes. Ambedkar was aware of this fact and the contestation between the Kshatriyas and the Brahmins described by him stands testimony to it. Here I would like to suggest that Ambedkar in his works does not condemn the people born in particular castes (therefore much against what many contemporary ideologues claim), but the tendency within the caste ideology, spearheaded by the status of the Brahmin caste to oppress the lower orders in accordance to the given graded hierarchies.

In "Triumph of Brahminism", Ambedkar narrates the story of how Buddhist India was revolted against by a new rouge phenomenon called Brahmanism under the leadership of Pushyamitra Shunga. Ambedkar suggests that the Aryan civilization was not Brahmanical. This can be suggested from the fact that he condemns the Shunga Dynasty for breaking the Aryan Law that forbids the Brahmins to rule. Further on, he narrates the

change was introduced in the caste system. All the children, regardless of their caste went to schools where their castes were decided after completion of their education. Here too the preceptor was not a castist, and we might deduce, not a hereditary priestly Brahmin as the castes were given out to children regardless of their father's castes after their schooling. Ambedkar upholds these two old, allegedly pre-Buddhist systems. Castes were later made hereditary and based on birth by Sumati Bhargava, giving strength to the designs of the evil Shungas. He also upholds the pre-Buddhist Chaturvarnya system as it did not forbid inter-caste marriage and was flexible nor was it a law of the state. Changes made to these rules by the Shungas annoy Ambedkar. It was the introduction of caste that made the Hindu system unbearable. The fact that the later degeneration of Hinduism, owing to a development of a phenomenon called Brahmanism did not regard the Vedas enrages Ambedkar. He upholds the Vedic Hymns for there are many composed by Shudra seers. This is in line with the arguments of the Arya Samaj. Ambedkar also suggests that in olden times, Shudras were taught as the new laws introduced by the Shungas penalized those who taught the Shudras. Brahmanism, says Ambedkar, is a poison that has killed Hinduism. He wants the Hindus to save Hinduism by slaying Brahmanism and invites the 'Arya Samajists' for this cause. While dedicating the work who were the Shudras? to Jyotiba Phule he refers to the consciousness of rights among the lower classes of the Hindus that was kindled by Phule.

The Shudras, according to Ambedkar were Kshatriyas, one among the various Aryan tribes. He suggests that the Shudras are Savarnas. The oldest reference to the caste system in the texts upheld by the Hindus is in the Rig Veda. Ambedkar believes that not only this particular Hymn but also that part of it which talks about caste is a later interpolation and that the early Aryan society did not know anything about the Shudras. Not only on the caste issue, but according to Ambedkar, even on gender issues, the Hindu religious

texts give a rather explicit egalitarian picture where we find women engaging in the study of the sacred Vedic text and running schools for teaching the same. He cites evi- tion. Here too the preceptor was not a castist, and we might deduce, not a hereditary priestly Brahmin as the castes were given out to children regardless of their father's castes after their schooling. Ambedkar upholds these two old, allegedly pre-Buddhist systems. Castes were later made hereditary and based on birth by Sumati Bhargava, giving strength to the designs of the evil Shungas. He also upholds the pre-Buddhist Chaturvarnya system as it did not forbid inter-caste marriage and was flexible nor was it a law of the state. Changes made to these rules by the Shungas annoy Ambedkar. It was the introduction of caste that made the Hindu system unbearable. The fact that the later degeneration of Hinduism, owing to a development of a phenomenon called Brahmanism did not regard the Vedas enrages Ambedkar. He upholds the Vedic Hymns for there are many composed by Shudra seers. This is in line with the arguments of the Arya Samaj. Ambedkar also suggests that in olden times, Shudras were taught as the new laws introduced by the Shungas penalized those who taught the Shudras. Brahmanism, says Ambedkar, is a poison that has killed Hinduism. He wants the Hindus to save Hinduism by slaying Brahmanism and invites the 'Arya Samajists' for this cause. While dedicating the work who were the Shudras? to Jyotiba Phule he refers to the consciousness of rights among the lower classes of the Hindus that was kindled by Phule.

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The dichotomy between Hinduism and Brahmanism is brought out by Ambedkar in almost all his works. This dichotomy clearly suggests that he believed the two to be different entities. As has been shown above, Brahmanism is phenomena that developed within the frame of Hinduism and began dominating it. These statements strongly suggest that according to Ambedkar, Hinduism is not the same as Brahmanism. Yet another statement that a Brahmin can undo the status of any Hindu at any time stands testimony to what has just been suggested.

Though, in his work, who were the Shudras? he narrates how the Kshatriyas of the Solar line came to be dominated by the Brahmins within the Hindu fold, he suggests at the end that not all those who are regarded as Shudras in modern times are real Shudras but this social category also includes those who in later times came to assimilated into this group owing to their cultural backwardness, thereby breaking the Myth that Shudras as we know today have been a homogeneous group throughout and have been dominated for last three thousand years. From this it can be suggested that he did not have anything against Hinduism but Brahmanism which form one of Hinduism's many constituting elements. Therefore he wrote a work describing the advent of Brahmanism and the perversion of Hinduism that followed.

(Author is Eminent Social Scientist, Columnist, and presently posted as Dean and Chairman - Board of Studies at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (MHOW), Madhya Pradesh. Vies are personal. Can be contacted: Email gasspub@gmail.com)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Compromised Security

Satya Pal Malik, the then governor of Jammu and Kashmir during the time when Pulwama massacre happened, revealed in the interview with journalist Karan Thapar for The Wire news portal last Friday that the safety and security of our defence personnel had been compromised before the Pulwama attack. He claimed that the government at the Centre turned down the CRPF request to ferry their people by an aircraft. He also pointed out that such a large convoy never went by road. After the massacre when he told about it he was asked not to speak. It has been alleged that instead of admitting the mistake, the massacre had been used to reap political dividends in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Digvijay Singh of the Congress also raised this issue a few days ago but surprisingly he did not get support even from his own party leaders. But such a matter that involves safety and security of our army must be thoroughly examined to avoid any kind of lapses on the part of the government in future.

Sujit De, Kolkata

Injustice to farmers

The central government has launched its latest attack on farmers by lowering the procurement price of wheat under the guise of grain quality. It is well known that crop quality suffered this season as a result of climate change and untimely rains. However, the government is now attempting to punish farmers for this natural disaster by lowering the purchase price for grains. The government's decision to lower the procurement price of wheat from farmers under the guise of quality is nothing more than a ruse to defraud farmers of their rightful dues. Previously, the government used quantity ceilings to reduce procurement. Now the Government is trying to reduce the procurement under the excuse of quality, which is entirely unacceptable.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

A concerning reality

The recent incident of four soldiers being gunned down in Bathinda military station raises serious questions about the safety and preparedness of our armed forces. The fact that the perpetrators managed to escape easily through a forest, and that no alarms were raised or shots fired by any of the jawans in the camp, is alarming. It indicates that there are gaps in the security infrastructure that need to be addressed. Moreover, the theft of a rifle and ammunition from the barracks just a day before the killings only adds to the concern. The laxity of security is unacceptable, and it puts not only the lives of our soldiers but also the safety of the common people at risk. It is high time that the government takes immediate action to conduct a thorough investigation and review the administration of security in all military stations. It is not just a matter of internal concern but a national issue that needs to be addressed urgently. We cannot afford to lose any more lives due to security lapses.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad.

Congress hopes to win Lingayat support with Shettar's induction



Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, a senior BJP leader, has joined the Congress party ahead of the May 10 Assembly elections in the state. This move came after Shettar resigned as the Hubli-Dharwad (Central) MLA following the BJP's decision to deny him a ticket to

contest the Assembly polls. He is now the second top leader of the Lingayat community after BJP's B.S. Yeddyurappa to join the Congress.

A few minutes after Shettar's induction, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President D.K. Shivakumar handed over the 'B' form to him to contest the elections from Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency. This sudden development has surprised many people as it is not common to see senior leaders defecting to the opposition party. However, the move can be seen as a strategy to strengthen the Congress party's position in the upcoming elections.

Shettar's joining the Congress has also raised concerns among the BJP leaders,

especially Yeddyurappa, who is known as the Lingayat strongman. Yeddyurappa has criticized Shettar and former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Sangappa Savadi for their decision to join the Congress. Both leaders belong to the Lingayat community and hail from Kittur in Karnataka.

The Lingayat community is one of the dominant communities in Karnataka, and both the BJP and Congress parties have been vying for their support in the upcoming elections. With Shettar's joining the Congress, the party is expected to strengthen its position among the Lingayats, who have traditionally supported the BJP.

Defection or joining from the parent party to another

party due to grievances is now part and parcel of democracy. However, it remains to be seen whether Shettar's decision to join the Congress will pay off for him and the party in the long run.

The Congress party has expressed its eagerness to earn the Lingayat community's votes, and the result will be known on May 13. The party's decision to field Shettar from Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency shows its confidence in his ability to secure the Lingayat community's support.

It is also worth noting that Shettar's move has come at a time when the BJP is facing criticism for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in the state. The Congress party has been quick to capitalize on the

situation, and Shettar's induction is expected to further boost the party's prospects in the upcoming elections.

Shettar's decision to join the Congress has sent shockwaves through the political circles in Karnataka. His move is expected to have a significant impact on the Lingayat community's voting patterns, and the Congress party is hoping to capitalize on it to win the upcoming elections. The BJP, on the other hand, is facing criticism for its handling of the pandemic, and it remains to be seen how this will play out in the elections. Whatever the outcome, the upcoming elections in Karnataka are likely to be closely watched by political observers across the country.

BRIEF

Maize output



New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday said the country's maize output needs to be increased to 44-45 million tonnes in the next five years amid growing demand for the grain for ethanol production and poultry industry. Union agriculture secretary Manoj Ahuja, speaking at the 9th India Maize Summit organised by industry body Ficci here, also stressed on the need to cut down the losses in the entire value chain of maize in a systematic manner.

New subscribers

New Delhi: Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) added 16.03 lakh new subscribers in February 2023, according to provisional payroll data released on Tuesday. As per the data, around 11,000 new establishments were registered in February under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme ensuring social security cover to their employees. Employees up to age of 25 years constitute the major chunk of new registrations, with 7.42 lakh such employees added during the month, a labour ministry statement said.

Investment protection



New Delhi: India and Russia are working on firming up a bilateral agreement for the promotion and protection of investments and Moscow is looking at expanding trade ties with New Delhi, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov said. Addressing an event, Manturov also said that Russia, along with the Eurasian Economic Commission, is looking forward to intensifying negotiations on a free trade agreement with India. Manturov, who is also Russia's minister for trade and industry, is on a two-day visit to India primarily to attend an inter-governmental meeting on trade, culture and science and technology.

Lending rates

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) on Monday announced increase in the marginal cost of funds based lending rates (MCLR) by 10 basis points across tenors. The revision in MCLR is effective from April 15, 2023. The benchmark one-year MCLR is up by 10 basis points to 8.50 per cent, it said. The one-year rate is used to fix most consumer loans such as auto, personal and home loans.

Gadkari seeks support from states, UTs

To strengthen policies for transformation of road sector

New Delhi, Apr 18:

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday called for active support from states and UTs to strengthen policies and strategies for the transformation of the road transport sector, according to an official statement. The Union road transport and highways minister chaired a meeting of transport ministers from all states and Union Territories (UTs) to discuss various concurrent policy matters, including review of road traffic regulations, setting up vehicle fitness stations and streamlining the issuance

of driving licenses.

The statement said that the objective of the meeting was to discuss a range of road transportation-related issues, including review of speed limits, vehicle fitness testing infrastructure, financing of electric buses and automation of learner's licenses, and find new innovative solutions through mutual cooperation and consultation.

According to the statement, in the meeting discussions were held on the status of the implementation of the Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernization Program

(VVMP) across states, specifically on the development of ATS infrastructure critical for the implementation of mandatory automated fitness testing regime and the support required for the success. Discussions were held on having online tutorials on road safety as a prerequisite for a learner's license, and states/UTs were encouraged to implement such tutorials expeditiously. The statement said discussions were held on the need to explore new business models for reducing the financial risks of the bus operator/OEMs and to improve private

participation in adoption of the electric buses. The discussions also covered the need to develop innovative financing mechanisms for the procurement and operations of electric buses, it added. According to the statement, the meeting saw participation from ministers for transport from 15 states and Union Territories (UTs) -- Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Punjab, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

Mercedes-Benz India clocks its 'Best Ever' Financial Year and Q1

Debuts the most powerful production vehicle ever by Mercedes-AMG - GT 63 S E Performance Iton

Pune, Apr 18:

India's largest luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz India, continued its strong sales momentum and leadership in the Indian luxury car market. The Three-Pointed Star clocked its 'best ever fiscal year' for 2022-23 with sales of 16,497 units, a strong growth of 37% (FY 21-22: 12,071). Mercedes-Benz also achieved its 'Best ever Q1' retailing 4697 units in Q1 2023, growing by 17% YoY. The highlight of Q1 2023



Santosh Iyer, MD & CEO and Lance Bennett, VP Sales and Marketing launching Mercedes-AMG GT 63 S E Performance_1.

sales was the outstanding growth of the TEV portfolio at 107%, comprising the GLS, S-Class, EQS, AMG, S-Class Maybach and GLS Maybach. The core sedan portfolio comprising the C-Class and E-Class LWB grew by a strong 27%, comprising 30% of the company's Q1 2023 volumes. The compa-

ny also recorded 'Best ever Q1' supported by the strong Desire of its products and increasing penetration of EVs. The seamless omnichannel luxury experience created through 'direct to customer' sales model- ROTF (Retail of the Future) resulted in an enhanced customer experience.

Cement demand seen rising 8-9 pc in FY24 over 9 pc growth in FY23

Mumbai, Apr 18:

Continued government push to build infrastructure will drive cement demand further this fiscal by 8-9 per cent on top of a 9 per cent growth in FY22, which will help the sector see some recovery in profitability, a report said.

According to India Ratings, which has a neutral outlook for the sector for the year, recovery in profitability despite the inflationary pressure and healthy balance sheets will keep the sector in good stead despite the large capex pipeline. The agency expects demand to grow 8-9 per cent in FY24 over an estimated 9 per cent growth in FY23, giving the sector a five-year compounded annual



growth rate of 4.5 per cent. Softening fuel cost to drive recovery in operating margins even as the industry is likely to increase prices only in low single digit. The agency expects operating margins to recover to Rs 950-1,000/MT in FY24 on the back of softening power and fuel cost. Downside risks could arise from a rebound in coal and petcoke prices, though. After the strong

profitability of over Rs 1,000/MT during FY20-22, operating margin has likely fallen to Rs 750-800/MT in FY23 as input costs soared.

The infrastructure push by the government will be key growth driver like in the past three pre-election years when the GDP multiplier averaged 1.5 times compared to the long-period average of 0.9 times. Another key driver will be

the agricultural sector and the focus on completing affordable housing projects. But the report added that if the likely adverse impact of the El Nino impacted the monsoon, it could pose a downside risk.

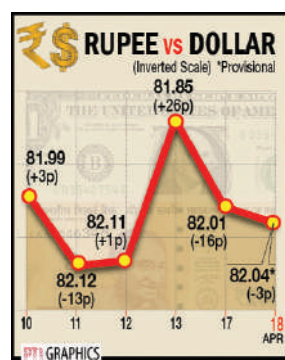
However, the large expansion plans will keep capacity utilisation below 70 per cent, up from 65 per cent in FY23. It expects 75 per cent of the announced expansion of around 150 million tonnes is actually likely to come on stream during FY23-25. But since most of the capacity addition is coming in grinding units, clinker utilisation is likely to remain 800-1,000 basis points higher than cement utilisation, indicating a higher effective utilisation rate.

Rupee falls 3 paise to close at 82.04 against US dollar

Mumbai, Apr 18:

The rupee depreciated 3 paise to close at 82.04 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking negative sentiments in the domestic equities market. Forex traders said a weak greenback against major currencies and falling crude prices, however, resisted the fall in the domestic unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the local unit opened strong at 81.99 against the dollar. During intra-day, it climbed to 81.96 and hit the lowest level of 82.09. It finally ended the session at 82.04 (provisional), 3 paise lower from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee settled at 82.01



against the dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.37 per cent to 101.73. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.32 per cent to USD 84.49 per barrel.

Apple's first India store goes live; CEO Cook opens doors to welcome customers

Mumbai, Apr 18:

Twenty-five years after entering India by selling products and services through partners, iconic consumer technology brand Apple on Tuesday launched the country's first retail store in Mumbai. Chief executive Tim Cook opened the doors of the store located in a mall in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) business district exactly at 11 AM to welcome the first set of customers.

Dressed in a black t-shirt and grey pants and accompanied by the company's senior vice president for retail Deirdre O'Brien, Cook opened the doors of the store to walk into a crowded foyer to pose for the



Apple CEO Tim Cook during the opening of India's first Apple retail store at BKC, in Mumbai, Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

media, and then started welcoming customers into the store. As the store's 100-odd employees along with company executives from other parts of the world

cheered, Cook welcomed about a dozen-odd customers for seven minutes before going back into the store.

Excitement levels were already very high over the last fortnight since the company announced the opening of the store, and many fans had been queuing up at the mall since morning to be among the first ones to shop at the store. Cook posed for selfies with the customers and exchanged quick pleasantries before welcoming them into the store located inside the Jio World Drive mall. The launch of the Mumbai store will be followed by opening of another retail outlet in New Delhi's Saket on Thursday.

Sensex, Nifty fall for 2nd day on profit taking in oil, banking stocks

Mumbai, Apr 18:

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower for a second day on Tuesday due to profit-taking in select banking, power and FMCG stocks amid mixed global markets and foreign fund outflows. Fall in index major Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank also dented sentiment. Reversing its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 183.74 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 59,727.01. During the day, it declined 331.45 points or 0.55 per cent to a low of 59,579.30. The broader NSE Nifty dipped 46.70 points or 0.26 per cent to end at 17,660.15 as 29 of its stocks declined while 21 advanced. After a gap-up



opening, the index moved in a range of 17,766.60 to 17,610.20 during the day. Among Sensex stocks, PowerGrid fell the most by 2.62 per cent. UltraTech Cement, Titan, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, ITC and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards.

Corteva Agriscience, Samunnati partner to empower women in agriculture

Mumbai, Apr 18:

Corteva Agriscience, a global leader in agriculture, has partnered with Samunnati Foundation, India's leading agri enterprise, to support and create 10 Female Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), on agronomic practices and crop production technology. Corteva with its implementation partner Samunnati, will help enrol 2500 women members in FPOs of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. Both organizations will impart required training, financial & technical support to the board of FPO & women members with an aim to becoming self-sustainable.

In rural India, 84% of women rely on agriculture for a living. About



47% of agricultural workers and 33% of farmers are women, yet just 2.4% of FPOs are currently made up entirely of women.

This project thus aligns with the Government's vision of empowering women through entrepreneurship and skill-building to bridge the gender gap in the agriculture sector. The FPOs aim to financially empower

women in agriculture by generating revenue, providing access to government schemes.

Speaking about the initiative, Ravinder Balain, President-Corteva Agriscience South Asia said, "We are delighted to partner with Samunnati in this project, which has the potential to create a positive impact on the lives of thousands of women in the states of

Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. The FPOs will not only provide a platform for women to showcase their entrepreneurial skills but also enable them to contribute to the growth of the agriculture sector in the region."

"We are excited to partner with Corteva Agriscience to empower women farmers through the establishment of female FPO's. This initiative highlights our mission to provide small holder farmers access to markets through necessary training and support, these FPOs will not only contribute to the financial independence of women but also serve as a catalyst for entrepreneurship and growth in the region," said Sridhar Easwaran, Head Samunnati Foundation.

India's gem, jewellery exports decline 23.7pc to Rs 21,501.96 cr in March

Mumbai, Apr 18:

India's overall gem and jewellery exports grew marginally by 2.48 per cent to Rs 3,00,462.52 crore (USD 37,468.66 million) in 2022-23 due to global challenges like inflation, the Russia-Ukraine war and the lockdown in China for almost six months, a key market, the industry has managed to put up a commendable performance," GJEPC chairman Vipul Shah said.

The overall gems and jewellery exports grew 2.48 per cent to Rs 3,00,462.52 crores compared to last year and the timely implementation of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has resulted in a remarkable 17 per cent growth in exports of plain gold jewellery in 2022-23, Shah added. For the period of April 2022 - March 2023, the overall exports of Cut and

Polished diamonds witnessed a decline of 2.97 per cent at Rs 1,76,696.95 crores (USD 22,044.58 million) compared to Rs 1,82,111.14 crores (USD 24,433.75 million) in the previous year. "Global challenges affected the demand for diamonds in India's key markets, including the USA and China. But certain regions in Europe and South-East Asia fared well. India encountered difficulties due to inconsistent Russian rough diamond supply and challenges with beneficiation, as countries such as Namibia, Botswana, and Angola prefer to have their rough diamonds cut in their own countries," said Shah. However, stability would return to the diamond sector in the coming months, especially with improved conditions in China and Far East Asia, he added.

'You are a star till your show is on-air'

Saif Ali Khan starts shooting for his debut Telugu film 'NTR 30' alongside NTR Jr

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan has joined the cast of the highly anticipated Telugu-language action-drama film 'NTR 30'. The movie features actor NTR Jr. in the lead role and marks the first collaboration between the two actors.

Saif, who is playing a pivotal role in the film, has begun filming alongside NTR Jr., and the makers have officially welcomed him to the team on social media. 'NTR 30' is helmed by Koratala Siva and is expected to be a visual extravaganza with an exciting storyline and a talented cast.

The movie went on the floors last month after a grand muharat ceremony in Hyderabad. Apart from Saif Ali Khan and NTR Jr., the film also marks the debut of Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor in the Telugu industry.

Produced by Yuvasudha Arts and presented by Nandamuri Kalyan Ram under the banner of NTR Arts, 'NTR 30' is scheduled for a pan-India release on April 5, 2024.

After acing numerous roles in popular television shows with his compelling performances, actor Micckie Dudaaney has entered &TV's family drama, Doosri Maa. The actor portrays the character of Varun Sharma, the antagonist, who is known to stir up new hurdles and challenges in Yashoda (Neha Joshi) and Krishna's (Aayudh Bhanushali) lives. In this candid chat, the actor opens up about his character, negative roles, fame and more.

Excerpts from the interview:

What interested you to be part of Doosri Maa and play Varun Sharma?

Varun is creating havoc in Yashoda and Krishna's lives, leading to a high-voltage drama for our audience. He is involved in all the evil plans of Kamini and claims to be Krishna's father. As an



actor, I feel playing negative characters broadens our horizons and project stronger emotions. Apart

from my character, the storyline of Doosri Maa has also caught my interest. I have been watching

the show since its commencement and I am glad to become a part of it now.

You have played a lot of negative roles? Is that your comfort zone?

I never intended to play negative roles when I entered this industry. I was here to play a hero, like many other artists. But as an actor, I was always open to taking on challenging roles. I played an antagonist in my first show, and it went on to become a hit. People like my playing characters with grey shades. I would not consider this as my comfort zone as negative characters demand intensity, and one has to keep proving his or her acting prowess to do justice to such characters.

Playing an antagonist frequently attracts trolls and backlash. Have you had any personal experience with this?

Being the bad guy on-

screen can leave you with a negative impression in real life as well. It is very common that the antagonist is trolled by the protagonists' fans on social media platforms, and I've also fallen prey to it. We had a scene in my first show where I tried to kill the protagonist's newborn. After watching that scene, my own dadi (grandmother) stopped talking to me for over a month. She used to say 'Kuch acha role nahi karsakta tha?' or 'Yeh kyun kar raha hai?' However, as an actor, one should take such reactions as compliments as I really get into the skin of characters. These trolls and negative comments on social media have helped me realize that I was playing my character well.

Watch Micckie Dudaaney as Varun Sharma in Doosri Maa every Monday to Friday at 8:00 pm only!

Nushratt Bharuccha bags lead role in Hindi remake of 'Chatrapathi' alongside Sreenivas Bellamkonda



Actress Nushratt Bharuccha has been announced as the lead actress in the upcoming action film 'Chatrapathi'. The film is the Hindi remake of the 2005 Telugu film with the same title and stars Sreenivas Bellamkonda in his Hindi film debut. Presented by Jayantilal Gada of Pen Studios, 'Chatrapathi' is directed by V.V. Vinayak and written by V. Vijayendra Prasad.

Speaking about the film and her role, Nushratt said, "I am excited, but I also have goosebumps. This is my

first pan-India action drama, and I couldn't have asked for anything better than a film like Chatrapathi. I am so thrilled to have worked with a team of such brilliant technicians and an amazing co-star, Sreenivas." The actress will be seen opposite Bellamkonda in the film, which also stars Bhagyashree, Sharad Kelkar, and Karan Singh Chhabra in pivotal roles.

The film is an official remake of S.S. Rajamouli's Prabhas-starrer 'Chatrapathi', which was a massive success at the box office.

Rukshar Dhillon returns to Punjabi cinema with upcoming film 'Tufang'

Actress Rukshar Dhillon, who has worked prominently in Hindi and Telugu films, is all set for her next Punjabi film 'Tufang' alongside actor-singer Guri.

Talking about being part of the film and working in the Punjabi film industry, Rukshar said, "The role I'm playing is the strongest character in my career so far. Deep's story drives the film. The way she thinks, her morals, and her values are all very different and unique. The character has so many different emotions, which gave me the opportunity to do something different. Compared to all the girl next door characters I've played so far, this is a character that is very



strong and impactful."

Rukshar has been part of the films like 'Run Antony' (Kannada), 'Krishnarjuna Yudham' (Telugu), 'Bhangra Pa Le' and 'Jugaadistan' (Hindi), among others.

Sharing about her working experience with the team, Rukshar said: "Working with the team has been one of the most amazing experiences. My co-actor Guri was so supportive, encouraging, and such a great actor. I think the chemistry we share in the film is very unique and I'm sure everyone will love it. Producer K.V. Dhillon and the full team made me so comfortable. Also, Dheeraj sir is a very passionate director and writer. He was clear on the way he wanted my character to be played in the film."



Radhika Madan embraces uncertainty to challenge herself in every role

Actress Radhika Madan is known for her versatile acting skills and her ability to bring depth to her characters. In a recent interview, she spoke about her experience playing the character of Shanta in the upcoming series 'Saas Bahu aur Flamingo' and how it challenged her in new ways. Madan shared, "As an actor, I crave for uncertainty, which drives me to challenge myself at every step and explore the uncharted territories, pushing the envelope further and further." She added, "Playing the character of Shanta was a unique experience as she and I are poles apart in our approach. Shanta is much more calm, composed, self-assured, confident and calculative when it comes to her words, and being an actor, I do crave for the uncertainty to explore new avenues." 'Saas Bahu aur Flamingo' is produced by Maddock Films and directed by Homi Adajania. The series features a talented cast including Dimple Kapadia, Angira Dhar, Isha Talwar, Ashish Verma, Varun Mitra, Udit Arora, Deepak Dobriyal, Monica Dogra and Radhika Madan in pivotal roles.

Balachandran Menon: The jack of all trades in Malayalam films

Renowned Malayalam film personality Balachandran Menon, who is known for his versatility, is set to receive recognition with the release of a book titled 'Balachandran Menon: Kaanatha Kazhchakal Kelkatha Shabthangal'. The book, authored by T.P. Venugopalan and published by the Kerala Bhasha Institute, chronicles Menon's contribution to the Malayalam film industry. The release is scheduled for Tuesday, and Menon is thrilled about the recognition.



Menon has had a highly successful career in the film industry, having directed 37 films and acted in more than 100 films. Known as the jack of all trades, Menon holds the Limca Book of World Records for having written, directed, and acted in the most films. He began his film career in 1978 with the

films. Shobana in April 18, Parvathy in Vivahithare Ithile, Maniyanpilla Raju in Maniyan Pilla Adhava Maniyan Pilla, Karthika in Manicheppu Thurannappol, Annie in Ammayane Sathyam, and Nandini in April 19 are among the famous actors he introduced to the Malayalam film industry. All of them went on to become big names.

When asked about his success, Menon remained modest. He said that although many talk about it, he would say that it just happened, and that's nothing great. Menon is known for his unique style, which includes his trademark knee-jerk body movements, dialogue delivery, and a handkerchief tied on his forehead.

The book launch is expected to be a grand event, and Menon's contributions to the Malayalam film industry will be celebrated.

movie 'Uthradaratri', where he did the screenplay, penned the story, and wrote the dialogues. In 1981, he donned the grease paint for the first time in his own film 'Maniyan Pilla Adhava Maniyan Pilla' which he directed and produced.

He won the National award for the best actor in his own film 'Samantharanga'. The film also bagged the national award for the best film on family welfare in 1997. Menon is known for introducing the maximum number of actors through his

Cast of 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan' encourages families to sow the seeds of love and communication

Baisakhi is a time for sharing stories, laughter, and love with loved ones, letting go of differences, and expressing gratitude and affection. It's not just a tradition, but an emotion, a feeling that binds everyone in a bond of love and happiness. As we celebrate the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, Dil Diyaan Gallaan on Sony SAB aims to spread the message of love and hope. As we begin a new year, the show encourages viewers to cherish their family relationships with affection and empathy. The ensemble cast, including Pankaj Berry, Sandeep Baswana, Kaveri Priyam, and Paras Arora,

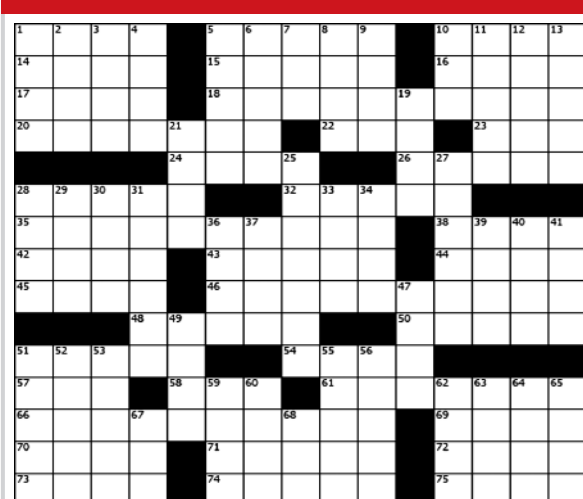


share their memories of celebrating the festival and how Dil Diyaan Gallaan beautifully portrays the dynamics of family relationships.

The cast of Dil Diyaan Gallaan had a grand celebration for the festival on the sets. The celebration was a perfect blend of traditional Punjabi culture and modern entertainment, with the cast grooving to the beats of the dhol and dancing to the energetic Bhangra tunes. Their energy and enthusiasm were infectious. The cast of Dil Diyaan Gallaan also engaged in various games and activities that added to the fun and excitement of the celebration.

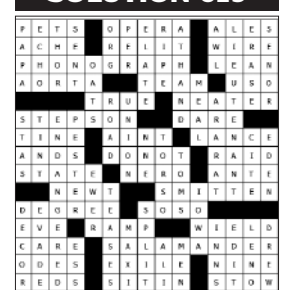
CROSSWORD

620



- ACROSS**
- Floppy
 - Boxing locale
 - Fog
 - Thought
 - Purple flower
 - Yodeler's feedback
 - Cabbage dish
 - Respect
 - Author's pseudonym (2 wds.)
 - Hawaiian necklace
 - Wind dir.
 - Pear type
 - Less frequent
 - The things there
 - Andrew ___ Webber
 - Perceived character
 - Cease
 - Mideast nation
 - Crinkly cloth
 - Perpetually
 - Cast
 - Italian vegetable soup
 - Highly skilled
- DOWN**
- Speech impediment
 - Doing nothing
 - Nasty
 - Chess piece
 - San Antonio shrine
 - Goes by taxi
 - Stately tree
 - Brad
 - Land parcel
 - Ran into
 - Colder
 - Gleamed
 - Copier's need
 - Well-ventilated
 - Aid in crime
 - Customers
 - Stick
 - Prune the hedges
 - Brave one
 - Semiprecious stone
 - Ice-cream treat
 - Easy gait
 - Washington bills
 - Pinnacle
 - Journey
 - Stratford-on-___
 - Camera glass
 - Birch or spruce
 - Chef's units (abbr.)
 - Love foolishly
 - Fray
 - Puccini work
 - Deserve
 - Liquid measure
 - Lethargic
 - Lincoln and Vigoda
 - Weight unit
 - Retirement accounts (abbr.)
 - Liability
 - She, in Valencia
 - Hearty breads
 - Golf gizmo
 - ___ snail's pace (2 wds.)

SOLUTION 619



Inconsistent LSG faces RR test in IPL

Jaipur, Apr 18 (PTI):

Blowing hot and cold, Lucknow Super Giants will look to tick all the boxes and return to winning ways when they clash with table-toppers Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Wednesday.

With three wins and two losses so far, LSG is a team overflowing with talent but they have missed a trick or two at times to find themselves on the losing side twice.

In the last match against the Punjab Kings, Lucknow couldn't get enough runs in the middle overs, leaving them 10-15 runs short in the end.

While KL Rahul returning to form with a sizzling 56-ball 74 is a big positive, LSG will rue the scoring opportunities they squandered in the middle overs.

Lucknow have no dearth of power in their batting, with Kyle Mayers at the top and Nicholas Pooran and Marcus Stoinis in the



middle capable of pulverising any opposition.

While Mayers did his job in the powerplay, he,

perhaps, needs to think about building partnerships after the first six overs, especially with

Match time: 7:30 PM IST.

Deepak Hooda struggling to get runs at the top.

Against PBKS, LSG also committed the mistake of bringing in the talented Ravi Bishnoi too late, allowing the batters to take the chase deep into the final over.

Bishnoi is a wily customer with a mean googly, and skipper Rahul may think of using him in the middle as well, instead of holding him back for the death overs.

RR also has some quality spinners, with the trio of Yuzvendra Chahal, Adam Zampa and Ravichandran Ashwin making life difficult for the opposition. It was the spinners who had won them the match against Chennai Super Kings, while pace spearhead Trent Boult did the job against Delhi Capital by taking those two wickets in the first over to derail their chase.

Medium pacer Sandeep Sharma too has used all his experience, taking wickets regularly during his spells.

Jayasuriya 10 wickets lead Sri Lanka to big win over Ireland

Galle, Apr 18 (AP):

Sri Lanka defeated Ireland by an innings and 280 runs inside three days of the first test and recorded its biggest victory margin on Tuesday.

Ireland lost 13 wickets on the day to be all out for 143 and 168 in reply to Sri Lanka's 591-6 declared.

Slow left-arter Prabhath Jayasuriya led the Sri Lankans with a 10-wicket haul, taking the last wicket of the match when he trapped Ben White for 1 soon after tea. Jayasuriya took 3-56 in the second innings after a career-best 7-52 in the first.

Spin bowling partner Ramesh Mendis had the best figures in the second innings of 4-76 and a match haul of five wickets. Mendis equalled Dilruwan Perera in becoming the fastest Sri Lankan to 50 test wickets in 11 matches.

Seamer Vishwa Fernando took the other four Irish wickets, including opener Murray Commins for a pair.

The win surpassed Sri Lanka's previous highest victory margin of an innings and 254 runs against Zimbabwe in 2004. Sri



Sri Lanka's Prabhath Jayasuriya (2R) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Ireland's James McCollum during the third day of the first cricket Test match between Sri Lanka and Ireland at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle on April 18.

Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne said the Irish had the bowling quality but their inexperience showed in their bowling lengths, and the field placings were more alike to limited-overs cricket, which made it easier for his batters to score.

The home innings was built on centuries by Karunaratne (179), Kusal Mendis (140), Dinesh Chandimal (102) and Sadeera Samarawickrama

(104). Ireland began day three on 117-7 and lost its last three wickets all on 143. Lorcan Tucker made a team-high 45 when he tried to sweep Jayasuriya and missed. Mark Adair was stumped off Jayasuriya and Ramesh Mendis finished the innings. Forced to follow on 448 runs in arrears, Ireland was 41-5 by lunch. While the bowlers were pinning down Ireland, Nishan Madushka was also out-

standing in the field. His sharp low grab at short leg removed Peter Moor minutes before lunch, and his anticipation of a paddle sweep ended the 60-run resistance between Curtis Campher and Harry Tector.

Tector was dismissed shortly after, run out for 42 after slipping while trying to return to his crease and losing his bat. Ireland was 108-7 and lasted 15 more overs.

Left-handed batters on ground with short boundaries did the trick for CSK: Maxwell

Bengaluru, Apr 18 (PTI):

Royal Challengers Bangalore all-rounder Glenn Maxwell feels Chennai Super Kings' left-handers did the trick for the four-time champions by exploiting the shorter boundaries to the hilt to earn a crucial eight-run win in their IPL clash here.

CSK won the high-scoring 'Southern Derby' on Monday, with three of their left-handers - opener Devon Conway (83 off 45 balls), middle-order bat Shivam Dube (52 off 27) and Moeen Ali (19 not out off 9) - helping them amass 226 for 6, which proved to be a winning



total. "I think with short boundaries (at the Chinnaswamy Stadium),

they played heavy left-handers. Devon Conway batted for a long period in that innings," said Maxwell, who could have taken the match away from MS Dhoni's side had he remained at the crease for a little bit longer.

The Australian all-rounder, who struck his second half-century in this IPL, added that bringing in left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed to bowl to left-handers would have been a risky proposition.

"I think, it would have been a risk to bowl Shahbaz Ahmed to those guys," said Maxwell, though he added that the 28-year-old all-rounder was a "clever bowler".

Mark Taylor backs David Warner to play in WTC final

Melbourne, Apr 18 (PTI):

Former Australia captain Mark Taylor has backed David Warner to play in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final against India at The Oval in June and to also feature in the initial stage of the Ashes 2023 in England.

Warner has gone through a lean patch in Test cricket since the start of 2021, averaging below 39 and his returns have been ordinary especially in the last two years. Despite scoring a double century (200) in the Melbourne Test in December 2022 against South Africa his only Test hundred since January 2020 Warner averaged 30.05 in 11 games last year. In the three



Test matches that he played this year, Warner has managed a mere 36 runs at 9.00.

Warner, 36, has in the past spoken about retiring from Test cricket in order to push on in the shorter formats, and his participation was considered doubtful for the next red-ball assignments for Australia, especially after his horrendous run in India with the bat.

CSK batters targetting 200-plus strike rate: Conway

Bengaluru, Apr 18 (PTI):

Chennai Super Kings opener Devon Conway has sounded an ominous warning to his team's opponents, saying his side has been aiming for 200-plus strike rates on good batting surfaces to put up imposing totals, which give them better chances of winning matches. Monday was one such day when the four-time champions scored a mammoth 226 for 6 at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, and despite the onslaught from Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) skipper Faf du Plessis (62 off 33 balls) and Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell (76 off 36balls), CSK still man-



aged to win by eight runs.

Conway (83), Ajinkya Rahane and Shivam Dube played a pivotal role with the bat, scoring at a strike rate of more than 180 to help CSK post the big total.

"Tonight (Monday) was a really good surface to bat on, so for us to get those big to-

tal's it's about trying to create a strike rate of around 200-plus," said Conway at the post-match press conference.

The New Zealander said that though he was some way off the 200-plus strike rate, he was happy Rahane (37 runs, 185 strike rate), Dube (52, 192.59), Ambati Rayudu (14, 233.33) and Moeen Ali (19 not out, 211.11), had brilliant strike rates. "I didn't manage to achieve that (200-plus rate) but some of the work done by the other players, like Ajinkya, Dube, Rayudu and Moeen Ali in the end, they all chipped in with really good strike rates and that's what got us to a very competitive total.

NZ snatches dramatic 4-run T20 win over strong Pakistan



New Zealand's cricketers celebrate after the dismissal of Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman (not pictured) during the third Twenty20 international cricket match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the Gaddafi Cricket Stadium in Lahore.

Lahore, Apr 18 (AP):

An inexperienced New Zealand survived Iftikhar Ahmed's late onslaught to snatch a stunning four-run win against Pakistan and keep alive their five-match Twenty20 series.

Iftikhar smacked six sixes and three fours and nearly sealed the series 3-0 for Pakistan with a blistering 60 off 24 balls. But New Zealand medium-pace James Neesham kept his nerve in the final over and Pakistan was dismissed for 159 on Monday night.

Captain Tom Latham, leading New Zealand in the absence of eight front-line players busy in the Indian Premier League, anchored the Kiwis to 163-5 with a brilliant 64 off 49 balls. "We were pleased to get a competitive total and it's satisfying to get across the line and keep the series

alive," Latham said. "The whole squad will take a lot of confidence from this match moving forward."

Pakistan's strong top order fell and limped to 88-7 in the 15th over. Then Iftikhar counter-punched by raising Pakistan's joint fastest T20 half-century off just 20 balls.

Together with Faheem Ashraf, who made 27 off 14 deliveries, Iftikhar brought Pakistan in sight of victory with a 61-run, eighth-wicket stand.

Faheem holed out at long on in the penultimate over and Pakistan needed 15 off the final Neesham over. Iftikhar clobbered a first-ball six over the square leg boundary and hit a crisp boundary on the off side. However, Iftikhar tried to finish off the game with another big hit and was caught at long on. Off the final delivery, last man

Haris Rauf was also caught in the deep. Neesham took 3-38.

"We didn't bat well enough," captain Babar Azam said. "The pressure kept building throughout the run chase, (but) Iftikhar delivered and Faheem also chipped in with crucial runs."

Babar, who smashed a century on Saturday, was out for 1 after Rachin Ravindra's spectacular diving catch at third man in the second over. Chad Bowes smartly ran out Mohammad Rizwan for 6 in the fourth over.

Ravindra, 2-28, and legspinner Ish Sodhi, 1-11, pinned down the batters in the middle overs.

Earlier, Latham and Daryl Mitchell (33) revived New Zealand with a 65-run, third-wicket stand before they fell in successive overs late in the innings.

Dhoni will be banned if CSK bowlers don't buck up: Sehwa



New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

Former India opener Virender Sehwag feels Chennai Super Kings' bowlers are repeatedly letting MS Dhoni down and has urged them to "buck up" to avoid the risk of getting their talismanic skipper "banned".

CSK posted an imposing 226/6 in their IPL match against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday, but Dhoni struggled to defend the total with his bowlers conceding six wides before prevailing over by eight runs. "Dhoni was not looking happy because he has mentioned it before that he wants the bowlers to reduce the number of no balls and wides," Sehwag said on Cricbuzz.

"It shouldn't go to a stage where Dhoni gets banned and CSK has to take the field without their captain."

In all, CSK bowled as many as 11 extras against RCB. The four-time IPL champions had leaked 18 runs in extras against Lucknow Super Giants earlier and Dhoni had warned them to cut down on extras or be ready to "play under a new captain".

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Crude bomb hurled near residence of Atiq's lawyer

Prayagraj/Lucknow (UP), Apr 18 (PTI): A crude bomb was hurled in a bylane near the residence of a lawyer of Atiq Ahmad on Tuesday, sparking panic in the area as the incident came just three days after the sensational killing of the gangster-turned politician and his brother.

No one was injured in the incident in Katra locality here and a case has been registered, police said and claimed Atiq's lawyer Dayashankar Mishra was not the target and the incident was a fallout of personal enmity between two youths. However, the lawyer claimed that it was an attempt "to create fear and terror".



Locals gather after a crude bomb was hurled near the residence of Daya Shankar Mishra, the lawyer of slain gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad, in Prayagraj, Tuesday.

In a statement issued in Lucknow, Special Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said, "On getting information about a bomb being hurled in Gobarwali Gali, police reached the spot... it emerged that Harshit Sonkar had a dispute with Akash Singh, Raunak Yadav and Chhote Singh, due to which Harshit attacked them with a bomb. However, no one was injured."

"This attack took place in a bylane in front of the residence of Dayashankar Mishra. However, rumour is being spread that Dayashankar Mishra was attacked. This is false information."

CBI to TMC's Abhishek

'Notice for questioning kept in abeyance till further SC order'

Kolkata, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday sent another letter to Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee informing him that the earlier notice for questioning has been kept in abeyance till further orders from the Supreme Court. The central probe agency's letter was dispatched a day after it had sent a notice to the TMC MP asking him to appear before its sleuths at its Kolkata office for questioning in connection with the school jobs scam following certain allegations of arrested Trinamool Congress youth leader Kuntal Ghosh. Ghosh is an accused in the scam.

Monday's notice to Abhishek, nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, had reached him a couple of hours after the Supreme Court put a stay on a Calcutta High Court order permitting the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to question him till April 24.

"It is hereby intimated that the effect of the notice served to you on April 17, 2023... for appearance before the IO... is kept in abeyance until further order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court," the CBI letter read. A copy of the CBI letter, signed by the superintendent of police of the CBI's anti-corruption branch (ACB), Kolkata, is with PTI. The

Calcutta High Court on April 13 said that Abhishek and Ghosh can be questioned by the ED and the CBI, and such "interrogation should be made soon". Abhishek challenged the order at the apex court. On Monday morning, the Supreme Court's division bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud stayed the high court's April 13 order till April 24, when the top court will take up Banerjee's plea again.

After receiving the CBI's notice on Monday, Abhishek accused central agencies of trying to "harass" him by summoning him for questioning despite the stay order from the Supreme Court.

Police unearth illegal arms factories

Sambhal (UP), Apr 18 (PTI):

Police in Sambhal have unearthed an illegal arms factory with the arrest of a man and recovered country-made weapons allegedly meant to be sold ahead of the local body election, an official said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police on Monday night raided a deserted house located in Hayatnagar police station area, and arrested a man, identified as Vakeel, Superintendent of Police (Sambhal) Chakresh Mishra said.

Another person identified as Usman managed to flee from the spot, he said.

"The arrested person told us that the illegal arms' manufactured give

good profit during the urban local body election. A case has been registered in this regard, and Vakeel has been arrested. The other accused will be arrested soon," SP Mishra said.

Six country-made pistols, some semi-manufactured pistols, a revolver and equipment used in manufacturing the illegal arms were recovered, police said.

In Bulandshahr, police unearthed another illegal arms factory and arrested two men, an official said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Surendra Nath Tiwari on Tuesday said that acting on a tip-off, police on Monday night conducted a raid and arrested two people identified as Ajay and Gagan.

TULIP GARDEN



President Droupadi Murmu at the opening of Tulip Garden at Rashtrapati Niwas, at Mashobra in Shimla district, Tuesday.

Balakot operation showed effectiveness of air power in 'no war, no peace' scenario: IAF chief

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

India's Balakot operation in 2019 demonstrated that given the political will, aerospace power can be effectively used in a 'no war, no peace' scenario, under a nuclear overhang, without escalating the situation into a full-blown conflict, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said on Tuesday.

The Chief of the Air Staff made the comments at a seminar while highlighting the critical importance of India's air power considering the nature of its adversaries, in an apparent reference to Pakistan and China. Talking about the key advantage that superior air power can provide in a conflict situation, Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said "to reach first and reach farthest and to strike first and strike with precision will be the mantra for fighting modern wars." The IAF Chief said the air power has become

an option of choice due to "inherent flexibility" and "unmatched" precision strike capability. "Operations like Balakot have also demonstrated that given the political will, aerospace power can be effectively used in a no war, no peace scenario, under a nuclear overhang without escalating into a full blown conflict," he said. "This is very important given the nature of our adversaries. The response options available to the leadership have suddenly increased and increasingly, air power has become an option of choice due to inherent flexibility and unmatched precision strike capability," the IAF chief said.

India's war planes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Pakistan's Balakot on February 26, 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed. Air Chief

Marshal Chaudhari was speaking at the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial seminar on Aerospace Power: Pivot to Future Battlespace Operations. "India's security concerns necessitate that it puts in place adequate military power that has the ability to achieve deterrence, ensure information dominance, coerce when needed and provide multiple response options," Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said. "Attributes of aerospace power enable the leadership to formulate an appropriate strategy with due cognizance given to the desired end state, conflict termination criteria and escalation matrix," he said.

The Air Chief Marshal said battlespace transparency, enhanced rapid mobility and pin point precision capability will be the key to success and India's capability development plans must address these issues.

Train services hit as farmers squat on rail tracks over wheat crop damage compensation

Chandigarh, Apr 18 (PTI):

At least 20 trains were cancelled after farmers squatted on railway tracks at several places in Punjab on Tuesday as part of their four-hour 'rail roko' agitation against the value cut announced by the Centre on wheat grain shrivelled and broken due to unseasonal rains.

While the Centre has relaxed quality norms for wheat procurement in Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, and Rajasthan following crop damage in unseasonal rains, it has decided to cut the value of shrivelled and broken wheat above 6 per cent. The farmers are also demanding a higher compen-



Passengers wait for trains at a railway station after farmers blocked railway tracks during their protest seeking compensation for their damaged crops due to rains, in Amritsar, Tuesday.

sation per acre for crop damage.

The disruption in rail services caused inconvenience to many rail passengers.

The protesters squatted on rail tracks in Ludhiana, Amritsar, Bathinda, Ferozepur, Sangrur, Fazilka, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran. In some

places, the farmers even put up tents on the tracks.

Under the banner of Samyukt Kisan Morcha, several farmer bodies including Bharti Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) and BKU (Lakhowal) had announced they would block rail tracks from 12 noon to 4 pm.

Ferozepur railway division officials said 20 trains including those running from Jalandhar city to Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana to Ferozepur Cantt, Amritsar to Qadian, Amritsar to Pathankot and Verka to Dera Baba Nanak were cancelled, while trains between Bathinda and Fazilka were short terminated and short originated.

Delhi HC dismisses death row convict's plea seeking information under RTI

New Delhi, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition by a death row convict in the 2006 Mumbai train blast case seeking disclosure of information pertaining to the ban imposed on terrorist outfit Indian Mujahideen.

Ehtesham Qutubuddin Siddique had filed an application under the RTI Act seeking "background notes" of the Centre and reports of state governments of Gujarat, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh in relation to the ban on the organisation, which was stated to have carried out

the blast. The outfit was proscribed under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The petitioner challenged in the high court an order passed by the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) on June 13, 2019 denying him the information on the ground that it was covered under the exemptions provided in the RTI Act.

While refusing to interfere with the CIC's decision, Justice Prathiba M Singh said the information sought by the petitioner has far reaching consequences and has to be seen

from the "larger issue of safety and security of the public and the nation". It said the information Siddique has sought, if provided, will have a bearing on sovereignty and security of the country.

"A perusal of the information shows that the same has far reaching consequences. The same organisation is stated to be involved in various unfortunate incidents since 2005, some resulting in severe loss of life and property," said the court.

It observed that the disclosure of the information sought by the petitioner can "jeopardize the sources" of the govern-

ment in relation to the ban on Indian Mujahideen and the CIC's opinion that sharing the information would endanger the sources is "correct and does not require interference".

"In view of the above, the writ petition is devoid of merit and is dismissed," ruled the court.

Maha sunstroke tragedy

Death toll climbs to 14

Mumbai, Apr 18 (PTI):

The death toll due to sunstroke at the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' award event in Navi Mumbai rose to 14 after the death of a 34-year-old woman while seven patients are undergoing treatment, a civic official said on Tuesday.

The deceased included ten women and four men. "A 34-year-old woman resident of Virar, identified as Swati Vaidya, was declared dead at MGM Hospital in Vashi, taking the toll to 14," said Panvel Municipal Corporation's Deputy Commissioner Vitthal Dake.

The official revised the number of hospitalised patients to seven from nine stated by him earlier in the day. "Now, only seven pa-

tients remain admitted to different hospitals in Navi Mumbai. Their condition is said to be stable and they are out of danger," Dake added.

He had said that patients are recuperating at MGM Hospital in Kamothe, Vashi civic hospital and Medcover Hospital in Kharghar.

The award ceremony was held in an open ground in Kharghar area in Raigad district on Sunday and was attended by several lakh people, most of them followers of social worker Appasaheb Dharmadhikari who was conferred with the Maharashtra Bhushan Award by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the event. Dharmadhikari has a massive following in the state due to his tree plantation drives, blood donation

and medical camps as well as de-addiction work in tribal areas.

The Opposition has accused the Maharashtra government of insensitivity and questioned the timing of the function, which concluded around noon, amid a rising temperature.

Maharashtra opposition leader Ajit Pawar on Tuesday demanded the registration of a culpable homicide case against the government over the sunstroke deaths.

Under fire from the Opposition, state minister Sudhir Mungantiwar had said the timing was suggested by Dharmadhikari. "Appasaheb Dharmadhikari had given us the timing and the event was planned accordingly. Politics should not be brought into everything," he said.

Take action to prevent transport of tsunami meat to Kerala from neighbouring states: HC

Kochi, Apr 18 (PTI):

The Kerala High Court has directed the Food Safety Commissioner of the state to take action, including periodic inspections, to prevent illegal transportation of 'tsunami' (poor quality) meat to Kerala from neighbouring states. The High Court said the issue of lack of infrastructure and scientific slaughter houses also requires special attention.

It directed the Health and Family Welfare Department to explore improving the infrastructure and the requirement of scientific slaughter houses. The directions were issued in a petition which the court had initiated on its own in May last year based on news reports of several incidents of food poisoning in Kerala and the death of

a young girl after consuming 'shawarma'. The directions to prevent the poor quality meat from coming into the state were issued in the wake of a report placed before the court in February by the District Judge and the Member Secretary of the Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) regarding the unhygienic sale and transportation of tsunami meat from Dindigul in Tamil Nadu to Kerala.

Subsequent to the report given by the KSLSA Member Secretary, the Food Safety Commissioner told the court that the tsunami meat was seized and destroyed. He also told the court that in the financial year 2022-2023, the Food Safety Department has conducted 1131 inspections, lifted 21 surveillance samples and destroyed 505

kg of meat. "Rectification notices and closure notices have been issued to those establishments who had failed to comply with the directions given by the officers of this department."

"Joint inspections have been conducted along with the Railway Food Safety officers, so as to prevent transportation of tsunami meat to the state," the Food Safety Commissioner told the court. He also told the court that while Kerala was a state which consumes a large amount of meat, lack of scientifically designed slaughter houses adversely affect the quality of the meat being consumed. "As of now, in the State of Kerala, there exist only a few slaughter houses, which meet the standards "It is respectfully submitted that consequent to lack of basic infrastruc-

ture and scientific slaughter houses, it has become difficult to ensure the quality of meat. Another problem which is being faced is with regard to traceability or identification of source or origin of the meat," he had said in an affidavit filed in court.

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