

C E N T R A L Chronicle

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आओ चलें जगदलपुर !

भरोसे का सम्मेलन

13 अप्रैल 2023, दोपहर 12 बजे
लालबाग मैदान, जगदलपुर-बस्तर

मुख्य अतिथि
श्री भूपेश बघेल
मान. मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

विशिष्ट अतिथि
श्रीमती प्रियंका गांधी वाड़ा
मान. महासचिव, अखिल भारतीय कांग्रेस कमेटी



छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार भरोसे की सरकार



भूपेश बघेल
मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

मोहन मरकाम
अध्यक्ष, छत्तीसगढ़ प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी

छत्तीसगढ़ प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी



सैकड़ों पुरतों की विरासत

जनजातीय संस्कृति का सम्मान और संरक्षण

भरोसे का सम्मेलन

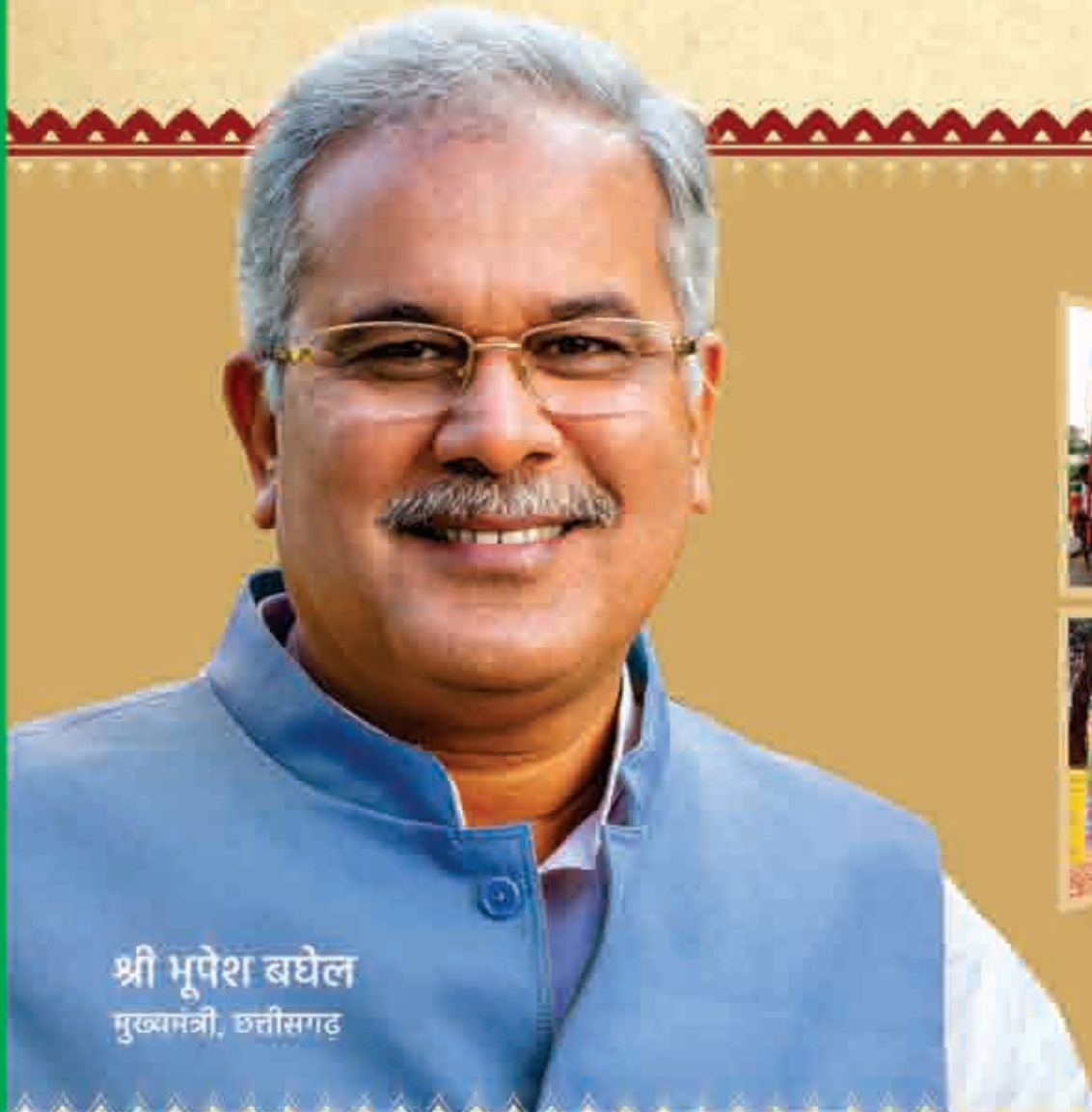
13 अप्रैल 2023 | दोपहर 12 बजे | लालबाग मैदान, जगदलपुर-बस्तर

मुख्यमंत्री आदिवासी पटब सम्मान निधि योजना

का
शुभारंभ

आदिवासी पर्वों के
बेहतर आयोजन के लिए जनजातीय क्षेत्रों की ग्राम पंचायतों को
प्रतिवर्ष 10-10 हजार रु की अनुदान राशि

देवगुड़ियों के संरक्षण
मेला-मड़ई, जात्रा पर्व, सरना पूजा, करमा, सरहुल, गौरा-गौरी, नवाखानी, अक्ति, छेरता आदि पर्वों
के आयोजन के लिए राशि का प्रावधान



श्री भूपेश बघेल
मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़



छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार
भरोसे की सरकार

BRIEF



Tribal artists participate in the festivities of 'Manda Puja', in Ranchi, Wednesday.

Inaugurate

Guwahati: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Guwahati will start functioning with 150 beds from April 14 after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates it, a top official of the premier medical facility said on Wednesday. Patient care services at AIIMS, Guwahati had started with telemedicine from August last year and limited OPD for local residents began in September, Executive Director Ashok Puranik said at a press conference here.

Seized

Diphu: A huge quantity of heroin, valued at around Rs nine crore in the international market, have been seized from a truck in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on Wednesday, police said. One person was arrested in this connection. Acting on a tip-off, a joint operation was launched by the police of Karbi Anglong and Golaghat districts along with CRPF at Khakrajan area under Barpathar police station.

Bail

New Delhi: A court here has granted bail to a man accused of being a part of the riotous mob that allegedly killed Delhi Police head constable Ratan Lal during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. Additional Sessions Judge Pulastya Pramachala was hearing the bail plea of accused Shahid against whom (along with other co-accused persons) the city police had filed a chargesheet under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, including sections 302 (murder) and 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object).

Encounter

Srinagar: An encounter broke out Wednesday evening between militants and security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The gunbattle got triggered after security forces launched a cordon and search operation at Chakoora in the district, a police spokesman said. He said further details of the incident were awaited.

Missing

Kathmandu: Three Nepalese Sherpa guides went missing on Wednesday after they fell into a deep crevasse on the most dangerous section of Mt. Everest amidst an avalanche, in the season's first accident at the world's tallest peak. The incident occurred between Camp 1 and the base camp of Mt.

Weather
High 40 Low 24

MARKET
NIFTY 17,812.40
SENSEX 60,392.77

BULLION
GOLD 60,522
SILVER 75,441

'4 Army jawans martyred'

Two men in civilian dress open fire

Bathinda, Apr 12 (PTI):

Four personnel of an Army artillery unit were killed in a firing incident at the Bathinda military station in Punjab early Wednesday.

The Punjab Police, which is investigating the matter along with their military counterparts, said according to the information gathered so far, the incident was not a terrorist act. The four personnel, in their mid 20s, were sleeping when the firing took place around 4:30 am near the barracks behind a mess.

The Army said it deployed quick reaction teams and cordoned off the area.

It is learnt that Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande briefed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the matter.

Bathinda Superintendent of Police (Detective) Ajay Gandhi, who headed the police investigation, told reporters that 19 empty shells of INSAS rifle were found from the spot. Quoting an Army jawan, Gandhi said two people in civilian clothes opened fire.

He said the slain jawans were identified as Sagar Banne (25), Kamalesh R (24), Yogesh Kumar J (24) and Santosh M Nagaram (25). He said CCTV footage is being scanned and the Army is conducting a cordon-and-search operation



Bathinda military station in Punjab where a firing incident took place, Wednesday morning.

Missing INSAS rifle found

An INSAS rifle that was reported missing at the Bathinda Military Station where four soldiers were killed in a firing incident on Wednesday morning has been found, the Army said. It was suspected that the missing rifle was used in the firing incident. "A search team has located the INSAS rifle along with the magazine. Army and police joint teams will now be undertaking forensic analysis of the weapon for ascertaining further details," the Army's South Western Command said. "The balance number of rounds in the weapon will only be available after forensic analysis. The joint investigation with Punjab Police is in progress," it said. After the firing incident, the South Western Command said in a statement that all aspects, including the possible case of involvement of an INSAS rifle along with 28 rounds reported missing two days back, are being ascertained. The Army said no individual has been detained or apprehended for the killing. All possible assistance is being provided to the police, it said.

and the entire area has been sanitized. The police officer, however, said they still have no information on who opened fire, and added the matter is under investigation. "Our investigation is going on jointly with military police," Gandhi said. "It has been ascertained that in the unfortunate incident, four army jawans of an artillery unit succumbed to

gunshot injuries sustained during the incident. No other injuries to personnel or loss/damage to property have been reported," the Army's South Western command said in a statement. It further said all aspects, including the possible case of involvement of an INSAS rifle along with 28 rounds reported missing two days back, are being ascertained.

Kolkata Metro creates history, rake runs under river

Kolkata, Apr 12 (PTI):

Kolkata Metro created history on Wednesday when its rake ran through a tunnel under a river for the first time in the country, a senior official said here.

The Metro rake which had only officials and engineers on board ran under the Hooghly from Kolkata to Howrah on the other side of the river.

This is a "revolutionary step" in providing a modern transport system to the people of Kolkata and its suburbs, the official said. Metro Railway General Manager P Uday Kumar Reddy travelled from Mahakaran station in Kolkata to Howrah Maidan station of the East West Metro corridor in the rake. Later, another rake also reached Howrah Maidan station by the same route.



Termed it a historic event', the Metro general manager said. "Trial runs between Howrah Maidan and Esplanade station will be conducted for the next seven months, following which regular services on this stretch will begin."

Trial runs on the 4.8 km stretch of the underground section will commence soon, the official said. After this stretch becomes operational, Howrah Maidan will be the deepest Metro station - 33-metre below the surface - of the country.

SII restarts manufacture of Covishield

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Serum Institute of India(SII) CEO Adar Poonawalla on Wednesday said the company has restarted manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccine Covishield amid rising numbers of cases of the virus infection.

He said the company already has six million booster doses of Covovax vaccine available and adults must take the booster shot.

"Just as a precaution, at risk we have done it so that people have Covishield as a choice if they want it," Poonawalla told PTI on restarting manufacturing of the vaccine. He further said Serum Institute of India (SII) will make 6-7 million doses of Covishield available in 90 days and it could take up to nine months to further build up the stock based on demand.

'Cong not mode of business for me'

Will not leave for greener pastures

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Amid reports of his being disgruntled, State Health Minister T S Singhdeo on Wednesday said the Congress has always been a path for him to serve the people and not a "mode of business" and asserted that "no way" he would leave this path for "greener pastures".

Singhdeo's remarks came days after a purported audio clip went viral in which he is telling agitating daily wage employees over phone that he himself is on the margins and cannot do much for them.

Tagging a video of his remarks to a TV channel that he would never crossover to the BJP even if he is offered the post of prime minister, Singhdeo said on Twitter, "I don't see Congress as a mode of business or trade. The party has always been a path for me to serve the



T S Singhdeo

people. The path of truth and service has never been easy for anyone. It is full of hurdles and difficulties."

"Yet, in no way I would leave this path for greener pastures, where you fail your values. That's not what I represent," Singhdeo said.

He has been locked in a leadership tussle with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel since the start of the government's tenure. He was reportedly keen that he be made CM at the government's half-way mark as

Jairam hails remarks

Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh hailed Singhdeo's remarks on Twitter and retweeted Singhdeo's tweet.

reportedly promised. Chhattisgarh will go to polls later this year.

Singhdeo also asserted that most workers and leaders in the Congress are loyal towards the party and its values. "If a few have given up in the recent past, it doesn't imply that other party members are equally opportunistic," he said. Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh hailed Singhdeo's remarks on Twitter and retweeted Singhdeo's tweet.

The Chhattisgarh minister's remarks come amid heightened tensions in Rajasthan Congress where Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is engaged in a leadership tussle with his bete noire Sachin Pilot.

LAUNCH OF SCHEME FOR TRIBALS

Priyanka Gandhi to attend event today

Jagdalpur, Apr 12:

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be on a one-day visit to Chhattisgarh on Thursday during which she will attend the launching of a state government scheme for tribals in Jagdalpur city in Bastar district, officials said.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will be the chief guest at the event "Bharose Ka Sammelan" where 'Mukhyamantri Adivasi Parab Samman Nidhi Yojana' will be launched.

Under this scheme, the state government will provide annual financial assistance of Rs 10,000 (in two instalments) to Gram



Panchayats in the scheduled areas for organising tribal festivals, fairs, and religious programs. At the event, the chief minister will disburse the first instalment of Rs 5,000 each for 1,840-gram panchayats in the Bastar division, comprising seven districts. The scheme is aimed at preserving tribal culture and traditions, officials said on Wednesday. Baghel had announced

CM to dedicate 49 development works worth Rs.129 cr

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will dedicate 49 development works worth Rs.129 crores for the development of the area. He will inaugurate 15 development works worth Rs 62 crore 29 lakh 47 thousand and will perform Bhoomipujan of 34 development works worth Rs 66 crore 70 lakh. He will also visit the exhibition based on the schemes of various departments and will also distribute cheques and kits to the beneficiaries of the schemes. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will be the chief guest at the event "Bharose Ka Sammelan" where 'Mukhyamantri Adivasi Parab Samman Nidhi Yojana' will be launched. Under this scheme, the state government will provide annual financial assistance of Rs 10,000 (in two instalments) to Gram Panchayats in the scheduled areas for organising tribal festivals, fairs, and religious programs.

the 'Adivasi Parab Samman Nidhi Yojana' on January 26 this year. A provision of Rs 5 crore has been made for the implementation of the scheme in the financial year 2023-24, officials added. It will be Priyanka

Gandhi's second visit to the Congress-ruled state this year so far where assembly elections are due after a few months. Earlier, she had visited the state during the plenary session of the Congress in February.

OPPN SHOW OF STRENGTH

Nitish, Tejashwi hold 'historic' meet with Kharge, Rahul

Pledge to take opposition unity forward

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav held a "historic" meeting with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday, and decided to bring together as many opposition parties as possible to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Addressing a joint press conference after the meet-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's residence, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

ing, Kharge said the opposition will together protect the Constitution and democracy and unitedly give a new direction to the country. Rahul Gandhi said the opposition will to-

gether develop its vision for the country and present the same before people as they fight the ongoing ideological battle together. This is the first formal effort in forging an opposi-

Nitish meets Kejriwal

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday met his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal at his residence in the national capital. Kumar was accompanied by his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, sources said. This comes hours after the Bihar chief minister met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi.

tion unity ahead of next year's election. The Congress chief would be meeting top leaders of various Opposition parties in the coming few days.

30

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Anyone trying to add 'fuel to fire' will not be spared: CM

● **BJP is always trying to encash upon such issues in its favour**

Raipur, Apr 12: Making a quick remark about the state government 'Bharosa sammelan' in the presence of AICC National general secretary Priyanka Gandhi and the ex-CM Raman Singh also on Bastar tour, CM Baghel said that if Raman Singh wants to come to join on the dais he is most welcome.

About the objection raised by ex-Minister Kedar Kashyap on presence of Priyanka Gandhi in the sammelan, CM Baghel reminded him that earlier also many programmes of BJP government were held and in this the BJP President was also present. The photo of co-organisation in-charge of BJP Soudan Singh used to be published in the



posters, he added.

To another question about protest by BJP Mahila Morcha over increasing incidents against women, CM Baghel said that if one compares the 14 yrs rule of BJP and 4 yrs that of Congress, it would be aptly clear and added that he has put it in the Vidhan Sabha as well. Contrary to this if BJP Mahila Morcha wants to stage protest, they should against the increasing inflation, prices of commodities,

petrol and diesel, LPG and others, we are ready to help them. If they want the central government to put a check on all these things, Congress is ready and would extend full support, CM added.

About the Birhanpur incident, CM once again came down heavily against BJP saying that BJP holds different stand on such issues. In case of Jashpur incident, they had formed a committee to probe, but in Birhanpur incident they

have not formed any probe committee. In Birhanpur the BJP leaders are only adding fuel to fire, he added.

CM charged that BJP does not want to maintain peace, but rather try to encash upon any issue in its favour. CM said that his government is providing security to the family and even made declaration of financial help and a government job to one from the family of the victim. Ajay Chandrakar says that judicial inquiry should be held and on this CM questioned as to why he was sleeping for last so many days. CM Baghel said that all the posts will be closely searched and this include those trying to spread hatred and violence in the society and added that there is rule of law & order in the state and nobody is above the law and on getting proof, strict action will be taken against the guilty.

Bhanupratap honoured with Satnam Anmol Ratna award



Raipur, Apr 12: Government School Lecturer Bhanupratap Daharia was felicitated with the Satnam Anmol Ratna Award at a state-level function held at Rang Mandir under the aegis of Chhattisgarh Guru Ghasidas Astha Manch here.

Daharia has been awarded as recognition for his initiative to create awareness among people towards education and social justice. He is presently the Raipur Unit President of Chhattisgarh School Teacher Association. Padmashree Usha Barle and others have congratulated him on his success. Prominent among those who congratulated him are Rajendra Daharia, Nohar Bandhe, Mohan Todare and others, informs a press release issued here.

Four nabbed in online fraud of Rs 15 lakh

● **Promising loan worth lakhs to customers through mobile phone**

Raipur, Apr 12: Raipur Police nabbed four accused involved in cheating people in online fraud worth lakhs by taking them into confinement of providing loan worth lakhs and they were nabbed from Palamgaon Delhi. The police also seized 2 ATM cards and 2 no's bank passbooks from their possession.

It was based upon the complaint by the complainant Ashok Sharma R/o Urukura Harshit Vihar Colony under Khamtarai thana area and works at Jai Durga Express Transport firm. It was on Feb 15, he received phone from 7 unknown mobile number saying that a loan of Rs 15 lakh has been sanctioned and asked for his Aadhar, PAN card, photo on WhatsApp and was given 10 different bank account number of different banks for depositing Rs 15 lakh and after which one of the unknown mobile number showed him photo of Demand Draft of Rs 42.0 lakh and 25 lakh ready for his loan, but did not deposited this amount into his bank account. On this he felt suspicious and lodged complaint in Khamtarai thana and a case under section 420 and 34 of IPC was filed.



The senior police officers formed a combined team of five from anti-crime, Cyber Crime unit and Kkhamtarai unit and send them to Delhi. In Delhi the team identified one Anhsul from Rajnagar Part-II Palam and on asking about the fraud, he disclosed the names of other accused viz. Neeraj Singh alias Neer Singh, Vikas Kumar, Bunty Kashyap, saying that they cheat people in the name of promising loan of high amount. The police on getting location of other three nabbed them from Palamgaon Delhi and brought them to Raipur.

ferent banks for depositing Rs 15 lakh and after which one of the unknown mobile number showed him photo of Demand Draft of Rs 42.0 lakh and 25 lakh ready for his loan, but did not deposited this amount into his bank account. On this he felt suspicious and lodged complaint in Khamtarai thana and a case under section 420 and 34 of IPC was filed.

'Class 12th students of 1999 batch spend memorable day'

● **Going down the memory lane at the Reunion of batch 1999 at GGEA**

Raipur, Apr 12: It was indeed a memorable day in the chapter of Gyan Ganga Educational Academy (GGEA), when the students of Class 12th batch of the year 1999, visited the Academy for their reunion on 8th April 2023.

The students entered the school premises with such excitement, that they would show on their first day of school. They attended the school assembly with all seriousness.

The students took the blessings of the Principal. Then they introduced themselves. They were all praise for the kind of education provided at the Academy, the strong sense of culture and bonding that was imbibed in them.



The students recalled their experiences in the academy and praised the teachers of their time. The students presented a shawl and shirwal to the Principal and the teachers who were present.

The batch of 1999 students have spread their wings in every sector namely- real estate, coal and steel, IT solution Marketing (London Based) Steel Trading, businessman, Software engineer, Mining Sector, Dentist, Advocate, Silver Trading etc. This apart many of the students have spread the name and fame of the Academy abroad. A delicious lunch was served to

the students, where they were shown their old memories via the media. This made them very nostalgic. Those students who were unable to attend the reunion were connected through a ZOOM meeting. After the lunch they visited all the classrooms, hostel, play grounds and gardens. Nitin Agrawal, the students' representative delivered the vote of thanks.

He thanked the Management, Principal and Staff for having given them this golden opportunity to revive old memories. He advised the present student fraternity to be inspired by their teachers and make the best of their school life.

150 kg 'Ganja' and 'Thetavet liquid' worth Rs 2.05 cr seized



Mahasamund, Apr 12: Mahasamund police nabbed five inter-state drug smugglers with 150 Kg 'Ganja', 'Thetavet liquid' and a truck estimated to cost around Rs 2.05 crore.

As per tip from an informer that a truck loaded from Odisha is carrying 'Ganja' and going to Haryana, that the Thana Komakhan and Cybe Cell team reached Gram Narra Barrier and started checking all the trucks coming

from Odisha. During this the police found one truck with Haryana pass bearing No. HR-58-C8083 and when they conducted search, they found drums with 'Thetavet Liquid' and six white bags placed in-between with 113 packets in yellow coloured plastic sheets. Komakhan police seized 'Ganja' worth Rs 30 lakhs and were carrying inflammable liquid 'Thetavet' in 32 drums and this is estimated to cost around total Rs 2.05 cr.

Shree Narayana Hospital celebrates successful robotic knee replacement surgery

Raipur, Apr 12: A get together was organised at Shree Narayana Hospital in which more than 20 patients who had successfully undergone robotic knee replacement surgery cut the cake and danced with exercises to enliven the atmosphere and to celebrate the occasion of our Chhattisgarh province benefiting 100 plus patients from robotic techniques since the launch of robotic knee joint replacement surgery at Chhattisgarh Sri Narayana Hospital by Chief Minister of the State, Bhupesh Baghel on November 10, 2022.

Addressing the scribes here Robotic knee replacement surgeon Dr. Pritam Agarwal said that "a day before the surgery, its complete planning is done, the data from the CT scan of the entire limb i.e. hip, knee and ankle is fed into the software and then



without cutting the muscles the implant is fixed in the knee with the same sub-vastus technique, bleeding is less in this, due to which the patient's recovery is very fast. He said that in this technique, bone cutting is done by Miller in which the alignment is very accurate, soft tissue balancing is very perfect, due to which the life of joints increases, along with this adductor canal block is applied, due to which there is absolutely no pain after surgery. Dr Pritam said that due to all these reasons, the complication rate of robotic knee replacement surgery is

very low and accuracy being in sub millimetre, the patient starts walking within 6 hours after the surgery and starts climbing stairs from the second day itself.

Speaking to the media-persona, Dr. Sunil Khemka, Managing Director, Shree Narayana Hospital said on this special occasion that the patients planning for robotic knee replacement surgery in Ahmedabad, Mumbai or other metro cities, when they come to know that the facility of robotic knee replacement surgery is now here in Raipur, Chhattisgarh itself and patients are undergoing successful robotic knee replacement surgery here and are very happy. The surgery is now being done in Shree Narayana Hospital located in Devdranagar, Raipur at about one third of the cost of metro cities.

Dr Raman seeks high-level probe into rice scam

● **Former CM writes letter to Union Minister Piyush Goel**

Raipur, Apr 12: Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh has written letter to the Union Minister for Food & Civil Supplies Piyush Goel seeking action into the much-talked alleged corruption in the distribution of rice to weaker section of society in Chhattisgarh from central pool.

In his letter, the former CM Dr Singh said that the Centre had provided additional 5 Kg rice every month since April 2020 whereas the actual distribution of rice to the eligible persons were few low in comparison to the rice received from Centre. He held the



State government responsible for denying the people with their genuine right to get additional 5Kg rice per member of the family every month. He said that the entire Public Distribution System (PDS) has collapsed due to irregularities conducted by Chhattisgarh government. Dr Singh said that a high-level investigation team should be formed to probe into the issue which would ensure people get their due benefits from Centre.

IOB revises FD rates, promising up to 7.25 per cent return

Raipur, Apr 12: Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), a public sector lender, has modified the interest rates on fixed deposits under 22 crore. This announcement by the bank is in line with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decision to keep the repo unchanged at 6.5% in its bi-monthly monetary policy meeting held on April 06, 2023. After the adjustment, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) reduced interest rates on a variety of tenors by up to 50 bps and increased interest rates on a few tenors by up to 40 bps. Deposits that mature in 44 days now earn a maximum interest rate of 7.25% instead of the previous rate of 7%. The latest FD rates of IOB will be in force from 10th April 2023. IOB reduced interest rates by 50 basis points (bps), from 4.5% to 4.00%, for deposits maturing in 7 to 29 days, and by 25 bps, from 4.5% to 4.25%, for deposits maturing between 30 to 45 days. The bank reduced interest rates on deposits maturing in 46 to 90 days by 50 basis points (bps), from 4.75% to 4.25%, but

increased interest rates on deposits maturing in 91 to 179 days by 30 bps, from 4.2% to 4.50%. Deposits with maturities between 180 and 269 days will now earn an interest rate of 4.95%, up 10 basis points from 4.85%, while deposits with maturities between 270 and 1 year will now earn an interest rate of 5.35%, up 10 basis points from 5.25%.

Deposits maturing in 1 to 2 years (except from 444 days) will now earn an interest rate of 6.50%, up 10 basis points from 6.4%, while deposits maturing in 444 days will now earn an interest rate of 7.25%, up 25 basis points from 7%. IOB increased its interest rate by 40 basis points, from 6.4% to 6.80%, while those maturing in 3 years and above would still get a 6.50% interest rate. IOB offers the highest interest rate of 7.25% p.a. for regular individuals. For senior citizens, the highest rate of interest is again for the same tenure for which the interest rate is 7.75% p.a.

Chhattisgarhi film 'Zero Banhi Hero' to be released on June 30



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 12: The first look of Chhattisgarhi film "Zero Banhi Hero" presented by Golden Dream Production was launched at on Wednesday here. Addressing the scribes here, Producer and Director of the film Bharti Verma said, the film is releasing across the state on June 30. The film is a double dose of

entertainment. She said that at the same time, it is going to give a message to the society. In today's era, the youth are in disorientation, they will also be shown a path through this film. Apart from Raipur, we have shot it in Devaloda and Mainpat. On a question, she said that this is my first film as a director. I hope that this Chhattisgarhi will live up to the expectations of the audience and

will be a super hit. Actor Maan Qureshi said, "This film is different in every sense. This is the story of every human being who goes ahead with his hard work and struggle. Cinematographer Siddharth Singh and Creative Director Adish Kashyap said that every artist and people association with the film have worked hard to provide a good Chhattisgarhi film to the audience.

The starcast of the film - Mann Qureshi, Bhumika Das, Kisan Sen-Poonam Sahu, Puran Kiri, Anjali Chauhan, Ajay Patel, R Master-Manisha Verma, Vikram Raj, Neeraj Uike, Nakul Mahalwar, Naval Das Manikpuri, Anusuiya Manikpuri, Rakhi Singh, Shalu and Vinayak Agarwal.

BJP announces names for Social Justice fortnight events

Raipur, Apr 12: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday announced the names of the guests at district-level functions under the Social Justice Fortnight programmes being organized across Chhattisgarh.

While former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh would be the chief guest at the events to be held in Bastar, the Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Narayan Chandel would be present during the Social Justice programme to be held at Raipur City, BJP General Secretary Vijay Sharma at Raipur Rural, MLA Punnul Mohile at Baloda Bazar, MP Guharam Ajgale at Gariabandh, Motilal Sahu at Mahsamund and Dharmil Kaushik at Dhantari under Raipur Division.

Madhusudan Yadav at Bhalai, Saurabh Singh at Durg, MLA Ranjana Sahu at Bemeta, Vikram Usendi at Balod, Raipur MP Sunil Soni at Rajnandgaon, OP Chaudhary at Mohala-Manpur, Laxmi Verma at Khairagarh and Chunnilal Sahu at Kawardha District.

PM to distribute 71,000 appointment letters

2107 personnel under SECR to get appointment letters

254 newly appointed personnel in Bilaspur and 212 in Raipur

Raipur, Apr 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute appointment letters to about 71,000 newly recruited per-

sonnel through video conferencing on April 13, 2023 at 10:30 am. On this occasion, the Prime Minister will also address these newly appointed personnel. This Rozgar Mela is a step towards fulfilling the Prime Minister's commitment to give top priority to employment generation. Newly selected personnel from all over the country will be inducted to work on various posts in Railway, Postal,

EMPLOYMENT FAIR

Finance, Higher Education, Central Reserve Police Force under Government of India.

In this series, this event will be organized tomorrow, April 13, 2023, in Bilaspur and Raipur under South East Central Railway Mrs Renuka Singh, Minister of State, Ministry of Tribal Affairs

and Prahlad Patel, Minister of State, Water Power and Food Processing will be present as chief guest in Bilaspur and Raipur respectively. Appointment letters will be given to 254 newly appointed personnel in Bilaspur and 212 in Raipur out of a total of 2107 newly appointed personnel under South East Central Railway. On this occasion, at the Community Hall of

Raipur Railway Division WRS Colony Divisional Railway Manager Sanjeev Kumar will be present along with MP Sunil Soni and other public representatives.

The newly recruited personnel will also get an opportunity to train themselves through 'Karmyogi Prarambh', which is an online orientation course for all newly recruited personnel in various government departments.

Disneyland Fair Grand launch on April 14

Raipur, Apr 15: Like every year, this year too, the Disneyland Fun Fair, organised at Bhatgaon, near Interstate Bus Stand, Rawanbhatta Maidan, will be launched again to woo children, elders and senior citizens. But this time the fair will be more bigger, better and special than before. The theme of this fair is the world famous and historic Red Fort, the width of which has been kept at the entrance of about 280 feet. The work of this fair, which is going on a faster



pace, is in its final stages. Disneyland Fair is going to start from coming April 14th with grand and attractive theme. Giving the above information, the director of the Disneyland fair said that this time there are more than 150 stalls in the fair where

people can make purchases of their choice. Various types of commercial stalls have been set up here from many states of India, mainly handlooms, sarees, bed-sheets, wooden handicrafts, handicraft items of bamboo, fancy jewelry, variety of toys for children, sofa cover and sofa cum bed. In addition to this there are many household items like bags, slippers, etc. There is also wide range of readymade summer special garments for kids, ladies and gents.

President KUM submits memo to MD Mandi Board

Demands immediate start of various devp works and roads in villages under Bhatapara Mandi

Bhatapara, Apr 12:

President Krishi Upaj Mandi (KUM) Sushil Sharma met the MD of Mandi Board Ranu Sahu and submitted her a memorandum for various development works in favour of farmers of different villages coming under KUM Bhatapara, including construction of 'Kissan Kutir', fertilizer godown and construction of roads for movement of farmers and construction of CC road in villages of Bhatapara including 2 km road from Gram Gurra to Jogideep.

The other development works for which he demanded immediate sanc-



tion included construction of 2 km road from Gram Tarenga main road to School to Gram Pendar and to Gram Machabhat; 800 mts approach road fromo Gram Rajpur crematorium to Khapari (R); 3 km road from Gram Khapari (R) to Gram Bitkuli; 3 km road from Gram Pasid to Amaldih; 2 km road from Gram Chamarguda to Komal Sahu's 'Badi' ap-

Jaiswal Kirana shop; 2 km road from Gram Chandiyarpara to Gram Adbandha; 2.50 km road from Gram Chanderi to Gram Damakheda; 2 km road from Gram Karhul to Gram Adbandha; 4 km road from Gram Kirwai tgo Chandiyapathra.

Mandi President Sushil Sharma informed that the Engineers of Mandi Board would visit the villages and take necessary action for road construction work. It is due to pro-farmer policy and pro-farmer CM Bhupesh Baghel that many development works in favour of farmers are being carried out in the Bhatapara Mandi. All the works by KUM Bhatapara are being done as per recommendations by Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Chairman CMDC Girish Dewangan.

Rahul Chandel appointed special invitee



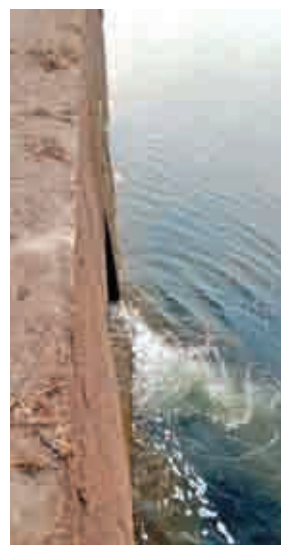
Nandini-Ahiwara, Apr 12: Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Durg District working committee has been declared, in which Yuva Morcha Mandal General Secretary Rahul Chandel from Ahiwara Mandal has been appointed as special invitee member in the district. For this Rahul, General Secretary of Yuva Morcha Mandal, Durg District President Jitendra Verma, District Vice President Natwar Tamarkar have expressed gratitude towards Yuva Morcha District President Jeet Hemchand Yadav, Yuva Morcha State Working Committee member Dau Anand Tamarkar, Yuva Morcha District General Secretary Manoj Sharma. He has also given assurance to fulfill the responsibility bestowed upon his shoulders.

Continuous water flowing from Navagaon Anicut

Rajim, Apr 12:

Reports of continuous flow of water from the gate of Navagaon Anicut has come up. Already one and a half feet of water has been emptied rapidly in the water resource and if this situation continues, in the coming 15 days there will probably not be a drop of water left in the anicut. The water resources department is looking irresponsible in keeping the water of Navagaon Anicut safe, as a result, this situation has been created due to lack of supervision.

It is necessary to inform that after the Maghi Punni Mela, in the months of February and March, due to the gate being open in the same way, the storage water flowed unnecessarily and there was no water left in the Aniket. Block Congress Committee Vice President Vishnu Jangde



contacted MLA Amitesh Shukla and kept demanding release of water from Sikaser Dam. As a result, the anicut was filled with water; but could not close the gate and still the same situation remains.

It is worth mentioning that Navagaon Anicut is

situated at Triveni Sangam, about half a kilometer from the Kuleshwarnath Mahadev Temple, built on Pari and Sondhur rivers. As long as there is water in this anicut, the water level of the surrounding villages and cities remains equal. As soon as the water runs out, the label also goes down.

People of many villages including Nawapara town of Raipur district, about two dozen villages of Dhamtari district and Rajim town of Gariaband district are benefited from this anicut.

The supervision of anicut is given to the Water Resources Department of Dhamtari district and regarding the water flow the responsible was though contacted but calls were not received. The people of the area and farmers have demanded immediate closure of the gate of Navagaon Anicut.

DA Tamrakar appointed co-in-charge



Nandini Ahiwara, Apr 11: Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) has appointed assembly in-charges and co-in-charges for new-voter greetings and upcoming movements and programmes. On the recommendation of Bharatiya Janata Party State President Arun Sao and Organization General Secretary Pawan Sai, BJYM state in-charge Vijay Sharma, Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha state president Ravi Bhagat assigned the responsibility of Patan assembly co-in-charge of Durg district to Ahiwara resident BJYM State Working Committee member Dau Anand Tamarkar. This responsibility has been given to him for continuously playing an excellent role in organizational work. Due to Tamarkar's good work towards the party, BJP Chhattisgarh again kept him in the State Yuva Morcha team. Tamrakar expressed gratitude to the seniors of the party for the appointment as co-in-charge of Patan assembly constituency. He said that he would try to meet upon their expectations and would work for the party in ensuring its victory in the coming election.

LADC System inaugurated in five districts

Bilaspur, Apr 12:

In compliance with the instructions of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), the Legal Aid Defense Counsel system has been established in five districts of Chhattisgarh, namely Balod, Bemetara, Dantewada, Jashpur, and Kondagaon. Bilaspur district was selected on a pilot project basis initially, wherein the LADC of office was established for the first time in the state. The results of the pilot project were encouraging and successful, leading to the selection of 17 other districts for the expansion of the LADC project in phase II. On April 12, 2023, the offices in the remaining five districts were inaugurated virtually by Justice Ramesh Sinha, Chief Justice High Court of Chhattisgarh.

Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha (Patron, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority) inaugurated phase III of LADC in virtual mode and expressed in his ad-



dress that it is our duty to provide legal help to the weak and deprived class as directive principles of state policy of Indian Constitution mandates free legal aid to them. He also emphasized upon the importance of providing high-quality legal aid to those seeking it. The main objective of the LADC is to provide the best legal assistance to the poor people seeking legal aid in criminal matters.

On this occasion, Justice Goutam Bhaduri, Executive Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, high-lighted the implementation of the Legal Aid Defense Counsel System. This system aims to pro-

vide competent and effective legal assistance to individuals detained in jail as well as to underprivileged and marginalized sections on the defense side. Hon'ble Justice Bhaduri congratulated the selected Legal Aid Defense Councils and urged them to make the system successful by taking full responsibility and utilizing their abilities and experience.

At the inauguration event, Anand Prakash Wariyal, the Member Secretary of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, extended a warm welcome to all the esteemed dignitaries and expressed his gratitude to Chief

Justice, Ramesh Sinha, Justice Goutam Bhaduri, Judge Chhattisgarh, and all the respected Judges for gracing the occasion with their presence. He highlighted that the day marked a momentous occasion for the State of Chhattisgarh, which was made possible due to the efficient leadership and guidance of Chief Justice and Executive Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority. The virtual inauguration program was attended by District Judges, judicial officers, Advocates, Secretaries, District Legal Services Authority, and newly appointed LADCs.

The expansion of the Legal Aid Defense Counsel system in Chhattisgarh is a significant step towards providing legal aid to the underprivileged and ensuring that they receive high-quality legal assistance. The Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority hopes that this system will continue to grow and benefit those who need it the most.

Netizens demand installation of Ambedkar statue

Dongargarh, Apr 12:

Denizens and Buddhist of the region have alleged that the Ambedkar statue approved by the government for the huge Buddhist Vihar of Kalka Para Ward No. 10 proposed in the municipality by the then Municipal President Tarun Hathel has been kept imprisoned in the Sudarshan Bhawan located in Indira Nagar, since last 4 years. Following which the Buddhist followers lodged a complaint with the SDM for an appropriate action. It has been told in the memorandum that, on the application of Adarsh Buddhist Mahasabha Nagsen Buddha Vihar Trust Committee, former Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh in 2017 for the life-size statue of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in Dongargarh had announced 10 lakh but due to the arbitrariness of the former Municipal President Tarun Hathel the matter got complicated and without taking the society into confi-



dence, overnight the idol was kept from Bhilai to the building of Indira Nagar, since last 4 years. Dr. Munnalal Nandeshwar, president of the Buddhist society, in a memorandum given to the government, has

requested the government to install the idol in Buddha Vihar.

What officer says: "The location of the statue was changed as per the proposal made in the municipality." **SDM Girish Ramteke**

Farmer's son commits suicide over KCC loan fraud



Dongargarh, Apr 12:

A farmer's son committed suicide over KCC loan fraud and the accuse Kuldeep Vishwakarma, Medha committee manager is still to compensate to the loss of the victims. The indebted farmers are neither able to sell their paddy, nor are they getting loans in the name of farming.

In one such case, the son of a debtor father committed suicide due to lack of money and died during treatment at Rajnandgaon Medical College. A case of suicide by consuming poison has come to light by Khallari resident Anand Ram father Bhagirathi aged 35 years. According to the information received from the family sources, there was a dispute between the farmer Bhagirathi Kavar and his son Anand Ram in the past due to the debt of KCC loan under the influence of alcohol, due to which Anand Ram tried to commit suicide by consuming poison.

Chandravanshi, the procurement in-charge of Medha Society, told that Bhagirathi Kanwar comes among big farmers, who does agriculture in 8.75 acres and at present, the amount of KCC loan of Rs. 252688 is left. There was an agreement between the committee manager and the farmers regarding the removal of KCC loan and as per information, the committee manager cheated 37 farmers of lakhs of rupees.

According to the information received from the deceased's cousin Vasudev Kavar and other farmers, lakhs of rupees were fraudulently extorted by Kuldeep Vishwakarma, former society manager, in the name of KCC loan from 37 farmers of village Khalari.

Though on the complaint of the farmers, Kuldeep Vishwakarma in front of the police station Dongargarh and SDOP police administration, had agreed to return the money but till today the money of other farmers including Bhagirathi has not been returned.

Six Scouts & Guides leave for training camp



Rajim, Apr 11:

As per instructions by the state Chief Commissioner Scouts & Guides and MLA Sewanlal Chandrakar and State secretary Kailash Soni and under guidance of District Education officer DS Chouhan and District Secretary Roman Sahu, and under leadership of DOC (Scout), Ashish Kumar, DOC (Guide) Seema Sahu, a total of 6 Scouts & Guides from the district left for taking part in the state-level disaster management, personality development and mountaineering

camp to be organised in Kullu-Manali (HP) from April 12 to 16. District Chief Commissioner Baisakhu Ram Sahu distributed trait-suits to the candidates taking part in this camp and departed them for the camp. In the above camp the Scouts & Guide who are taking part are- Lokesh Sen, Lukeshwar Kavar, DK Sahu, Devnandini Sahu, Yamini Mandal and Bhavani Padhan. On this occasion social worker Nutan Sahu, Sarpanch Omprakash, District Food in-charge Prem Lal Sahu and parents of the candidates were present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my client (1) Tektam Choubie s/o Shri Radheshyam Choubie & (2) Smt. Neel Choubie s/o Shri Tektam Choubie, both R/o 280, Gaji Nagar, Raipur, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur (C.G.) has purchased all that piece and parcel of land situated at situated at Mauga-Dhanul, P.H.No. 99/24, R.N.M. Dhaniswari-1, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur (C.G.), bearing Khata No. (part of) 42/72, admeasuring 0.018 Hectare = 2000 sq. ft., from premratan Maheshwari vide registered sale deed dated 27.07.2019 Doc. No. 3490. The said Premratan Maheshwari had purchased the said Property from Anil Kumar Dayani vide registered sale deed dated 28.08.2008 Doc. No.4521. The said registered sale deed dated 28.08.2008 was in the custody of my client and the same has been lost / misplaced by my client. A police report was lodged on dated 24.03.2023.

Any person having any right, title or interest of any claim, demand or objection of any nature whatsoever against or in respect of the said property or any part thereof is hereby requested to notify the same in writing to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence within 07 days from the date hereof, failing which no such claims, demands, objections etc. shall be entertained thereafter and the said property shall be considered as free from all encumbrances.

Ashwini Singh, Advocate For Ashwini Singh & Associates 207, Orange Hive, Mowa, Raipur (C.G.) Mob. No. 9302887265

NMDC Limited

(A Government of India Enterprise) 'Khanji Bhawan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028 Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - L13100TG9580G001674

PRESS NOTIFICATION

Tender Enquiry No:HO(Contracts)/DMP/Overburden/2022/910/172 Dated 13/04/2023 NMDC Limited, A 'NAVARATNA' Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids through MSTC Portal from experienced domestic bidders for the work of Excavation of 8.85 Lakh Cu. Mtr of Overburden/waste soil / soft rock and hard rock of all classifications from Diamond Mining Project, Majhgawan, Panna - 488001 (MP) The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and/or downloaded from 13/04/2023 to 12/05/2023 from following website links;

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of Jana Small Finance Bank Limited (Formerly known as Janalakshmi Financial Services Limited), under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notices to the borrower(s) Co-borrower(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within 60 days from the receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realization.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagee	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (In Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	45089420000613 & 45089430000402	1) Mr. Madan Kumar Soni, S/o. Chhidami Lal Soni, 2) Mrs. Mala Soni, W/o. Madan Kumar Soni, 3) Mr. Mayank Soni, S/o. Madan Kumar Soni	10.12.2022 Rs.20,22,559.70 (Rupees Twenty Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Nine and Seventy Paise Only) as on 05.12.2022	Date: 10.04.2023 Time: 11.40 AM Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Khata No.528/12, total admeasuring area of 495 Sq.ft., (46.00 Sq.mtrs.) together with construction thereon, P.H. No.27 (Old) 49 (New), Ward No.42 (Old), 48 (New), Mohalla Gondpara Gram Nandari, R.N.M. Rajnandgaon-1, Tehsil & District Rajnandgaon (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Gali; West by: House of Manish, North by: House of Ramadhar and South by: House of Rakmani.

2	45089440000378 & 45089440000381	1) Mr. Yamin Chauhan, S/o. Haji Jahir Chauhan (Prop. M/s. J Enterprises), 2) Mrs. Jarina Khousar, W/o. Haji Jahir Chauhan	17.01.2023 Rs.18,71,748.90 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Seventy One Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Eight and Ninety Paise Only) as on 08.01.2023	Date: 10.04.2023 Time: 12.30 PM Symbolic Possession
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Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of land bearing part of Khata No.912/133 & 912/225, total admeasuring area of 0.0090 Hectare, P.H. No.24, Situated at Marar Para Ward, Shifa Para, R.N.M. Durg, Mouza Durg, Tehsil & District Durg (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: House of Khediram, West by: House of Narendra Kumar, North by: Road and South by: Plot of Mahobia.

3	45118640000279	1) M/s. Shree Gurukripa Merchant Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gowari, S/o. Raj Kumar Gowari, 2) Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gowari, S/o. Raj Kumar Gowari, 3) Mr. Sunil Gowari, S/o. Raj Kumar Gowari, 4) Mrs. Kanak Gowari, W/o. Sandeep Gowari, 5) Mrs. Kashiish Kumar, W/o. Sunil Gowari	12.01.2023 Rs.1,01,69,568.40 (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Eight and Forty Paise Only) as on 08.01.2023	Date: 10.04.2023 Time: 03.10 PM Symbolic Possession
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Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of residential house bearing Plot No.64, admeasuring area of 1324.12 Sq.ft., together with construction thereon, Part of Khata No.147/4, renumbered as Khata No.147/5, Situated at 'Aishwarya Empire', Mauza Labhandi, Maharsahi Valmiki Ward, Ward No.28, P.H. No.113/44, New No.65, R.N.M. Raipur-02, Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Road, West by: Plot No.55, North by: Road and South by: Plot No.83.

4	45099430000571	1) Mr. Vinod Kumar Kashyap, S/o. Ramayan Kashyap, 2) Mr. Ramayan Kashyap, S/o. Santram Kashyap, 3) Mrs. Geeta Bai Kashyap, W/o. Ramayan Kashyap	09.01.2023 Rs.5,21,687.30 (Rupees Five Lakh Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven and Thirty Paise Only) as on 04.01.2023	Date: 11.04.2023 Time: 02.05 PM Symbolic Possession
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Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Khata No.211/2, total admeasuring area of 0.162 hect., Situated at Mouza Saikha, P.H. No.02, R.N.M. Ballara, Tehsil & District Bilaspur (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Land of Bhagwati, West by: Land of Kewla, North by: Land of Bhagwati and South by: Other Land.

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagees, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorized officer of Jana Small Finance Bank Limited has taken possession of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagees mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.

Place: Raipur & Bilaspur (C.G.) Date: 13.04.2023 Sd/- Authorised Officer. For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Subsidiary of commercial bank) Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/26, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Chailaghatta, Bangalore-560071. Branch Office: Krishna Complex, Opp. Aurobindo Nutralaya, Main Road, Sadar Bazar, Raipur-492001.

CM announces to name new college at Nagpura after Late Shalini Yadav

Bhilai, Apr 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached Bora, the home village of Late Shalini Yadav, President of District Panchayat Durg on Wednesday. He met the bereaved family and expressed condolences. Chief Minister said that Late Shalini Yadav was modest, simple and very soft-spoken. Her demise is an irreparable loss, but her name has become permanent due to her work, dedication and behaviour towards the society. The coming generation should also remember her for her social and political contri-



bution. Chief Minister announced that the proposed Naveen Nagpura College would be named after Late Shalini Yadav. The Chief Minister described her

dedication towards service of people as incomparable. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu also expressed condolences. He prayed to God for eternal

peace to the departed soul and strength to her family. It needs to be mentioned here that Shalini Yadav died of heart attack on April 05 at Ramkrishna Hospital Raipur.

Vice President and members of District Panchayat Balod, District Panchayat Durg Vice President Ashok Sahu, Member Yogita Chandrakar, Janpad President Devendra Deshmukh, Vice President District Panchayat Durg Jhameet Gaikwad, DCC Bank Chairman Rajendra Sahu, public representatives of the area and villagers were present.

Four arrested for thefts of cables - wires of irrigation pump sets

Bhilai, Apr 12: With the arrest of four ruffians, police claimed to have solved about 15 cases of thefts which occurred in rural areas of the district. The accused used to steal the cable wires of motor pumps in the agricultural fields. Along with the thief, the buyer was also arrested by the police. They committed thefts in Rajnandgaon, Durg, Dhantari, Bemetara and Balod areas.

SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that they were continuously receiving complaints about theft of cable wire. Taking the matter into cognizance, investigation was launched under the supervision of ASP (Rural) Anant Sahu and leadership of SDOP



(Patan) Devansh Singh Rathore and DSP (Crime) Rajeev Sharma. In this sequel, Patan Police Station rounded up two suspects who were lingering near a solar panel installed in the agriculture field of village Sonupar. Police questioned the suspects and soon they admitted to stealing the winding copper wire of the motor

pump. During sustained interrogation, they confessed to committing thefts at several places in the last five years. Two of the accused moved on a moped to conduct recce during day time and commit thefts in the night. The arrested accused are identified as Sukhdev Rai (48) son of Surendar Rai a resident of Arjun

Nagar, Vaishali nagar; Manoj Vishwakarma (28) son of Shankarlal Vishwakarma a resident of Camp-1; Dhaneshwar Sahu (38) son of Vijay Nand Sahu a resident of Ram Nagar; and Sarvesh Kaser (37) son of Narendra Kaser a resident of Santrabadi, Durg.

Inspector Rajkumar Lahere, Inspector Santosh Mishra, SI AINU Dewangan, ASI Chandrashekhar Soni, ASI Jitendra Chandrakar, ASI Reman Sahu, ASI Raghavendra Singh, Head Constable Roman Sonwani, Satish Kashyap, Constable Rajkumar Chandra, Pankaj Chaturvedi and Ashwani Yadu played a vital role in arresting the accused.

PG Department of Psychology celebrates World Health Day



Bhilai, Apr 12: PG Department of Psychology and IQAC St Thomas College, Ruabandha celebrated World Health Day. For the event students conducted Physical health and hygiene awareness in the neighbouring society and went to slums of Ruabandha. The PG students of the Department distributed Masks, sanitizers and soaps to the elderly and children. The young females of the slum area were distributed

healthy sprouts and protein packets. The students also talked with the residents spreading information of physical fitness, cleanliness, proper use of mask, sanitizers and mandatory use of soap before meals. Importance of vaccination for infants was also explained. The awareness regarding dengue, malaria, AIDS were spread through slogans and posters. The slogans consisted of keeping drains

and window cooler clean and proper way of disposal of trash. Administrator of the college, Rev Father Dr Joshy Varghese appreciated the initiative and stressed that in today's scenario one has to be conscious about his physical as well as mental health. Principal Dr MG Roymon said the IQAC has to conduct such awareness programs for physical well being and we at St Thomas College are always seeking ways of doing so. Dr Debjani Mukherjee Head, PG dept of psychology welcomed the gathering and said every student should be aware of his health and that the true success can be achieved only if one is Physically and Mentally Fit. Faculty Dr Ankit Deshmukh, Dr Sumita Singh and Tanmaya Pattnaik encouraged the students for their initiative and hard work.

Fire Safety Department of BSP to observe National Fire Safety Day

Bhilai, Apr 12: National Fire Safety Day will be observed by the Fire Service Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant on April 14, 2023 at the Main Fire Safety Center, Bhilai. It is noteworthy that "National Fire Services Day" is observed to commemorate the martyrdom of 66 firemen who laid down their lives while protecting the life and property in the horrific fire incident in the Mumbai Dockyard on April 14, 1944. The sacrifice of the country's firemen who were martyred in various other fire accidents is also remembered on this occasion. The one-day event is also an attempt to spread awareness about the fire hazards in the industries.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c of Bhilai Steel Plant will be present

as the chief guest on this occasion. Commencing from 8:30 hrs, the special attraction of the event includes a display of fire fighting vehicles, equipment and safety equipment, etc. At the outset of the event, an oath will be administered to the fire brigade personnel for a dedicated service towards the country and Bhilai Steel Plant. The parade by Fire Brigade Personnel will commence with the chief guest taking the salute.

For the purpose of prevention of fire accidents and its awareness, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has promulgated the theme of this year's National Fire Service Day 2023 as "Awareness in Fire Safety for Growth of National Infrastructure (AGNI)".

Preeti becomes self-employed with assistance from CM Youth Self-Employment Scheme

Bhilai, Apr 12: Preeti Sahu, a resident of Durg, has now become self-employed with her hard work and commitment. She was very interested in the work related to sewing and embroidery. So she decided to open a thread and matching house. She decided to open the shop in such an area which shall have good footfall of customers. Meanwhile, she came to know about the Chief Minister Youth Self-Employment Scheme after contacting the officials of the District Trade and Industry Center. She immediately submitted the application under the scheme and after getting approval from the district



level task force committee meeting, she got a loan from the bank which proved to be a boon for her business. Preeti Sahu took a rented shop, where she kept thread and matching house

goods. The saleables at her shop included thread, button, lining, fall, lace, gota, readymade blouse piece etc. She took a loan of Rs 2 lakh from Chief Minister Youth Self-Employment Scheme and started her own thread and matching house, which is currently running smoothly and she is earning a good income from this business. She has also provided employment to a girl at her shop. Along with this, she is regularly paying the loan installments of the bank. She said that the state government's plan is to reduce the problem of increasing unemployment in rural areas. She thanked the government for this scheme.

INTUC discusses measures to curb illegal occupants in township

Bhilai, Apr 12: Apex office bearers of Steel Employees Union (INTUC) conducted a meeting to explore the measures for restricting the illegal occupants and encroachers in Bhilai Township. The office bearers expressed ire over the encroachment of empty spaces and quarters of the township. They supported the action taken by the joint union to protest against such illegal activities. INTUC office bearers suggested that two adjacent quarters should be clubbed and allotted to the personnel. The quarters up to 650 square feet should be given on license. In the meeting, the office bearers expressed displeasure over the non-availability of hyperten-



sion medicines in Sector 9 Hospital. Apex office bearers of INTUC expressed their displeasure over the problems being faced by the employees due to increasing illegal encroachments in the empty spaces and quarters of the township and said that this should be stopped soon. In the meeting, the office bearers supported the action taken by the United Front against illegal encroach-

ment and said that encroachment of any kind will not be tolerated in the township. They added that the number of employees in the township is reducing. The management should soon combine the two quarters and make one and allot it to the employee, as well as start giving quarters up to 650 square feet to the employees on license. General Secretary Vansh Bahadur Singh

said that INTUC Union supports the campaign being run by the Management and United Front against illegal encroachments. Working President Puran Verma, Senior Vice President Santosh Kitchlu, Chandrashekhar Singh, PV Rao, S Ravi, Ramesh Tiwari, Ajay Kumar Martin, Sunil Khicharia, Giriraj Deshmukh, Madanlal Sinha, Rajaram Pandey, Shekhar Kumar Sharma, Ramashankar Singh, Bipin Bihari Mishra, Jayant Kumar Barate, PK Vishwas, Animesh Pasine, Dinanath Singhsarva, GR Suman, Resham Lal Rathore, Raman Murthy, Rajkumar, Gurudev Sahu, Gyanendra Kumar Pandey, GK Agrawal and others were present.

Free Medical Camp conducted under 'Samajik Nyay Saptah'

Bhilai, Apr 12: As per the instructions of Bharatiya Janata Party National President Jagat Prakash Nadda and under the leadership of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha National President Tejashwi Surya, the week from April 06 to April 14 is being observed as "Samajik Nyay Saptah" by the Morcha. The week is being observed in view of the fact that it includes the foundation day of BJP (April 06) and the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar (April 14), therefore, the Social Justice Week.

In the sequel a medical camp was organized on April 12, 2023 by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, West Division of District Bhilai. Under the leadership of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha District Bhilai President Amit Mishra and Bharatiya Janata Party West Division



President Tilak Raj Yadav, a free medical camp was organized with the help of Shri Shankaracharya Medical College at Bhilai Nagar Railway Station Basti in Sector -07 which was coordinated by Rituraj Sharma, president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, West Division. More than 100 people took benefits in the medical camp and some people

were sent to Sri Shankaracharya Medical College for tests done free of cost in the concerned department. Bharatiya Janata Party's District Bhilai Mahila Morcha President Sweetie Kaushik, State Training Head Nitesh Mishra, Youth Morcha District Vice President Vishal Shahi, Youth Morcha District General Secretary

Ritesh Singh, District Government Swadhyay Mandal Head P Raj, District Coordinator Social Media in the program Ravi Kashyap, West Division Vice President B Padmanabhan, V Shivram, Jaiprakash Gupta, S Rajasekhar, M Ravi, Kamlesh Singh, Pritam and other workers helped in successful conduct of the camp.

Considering surge in Covid cases, preparatory Mock-Drill conducted at JLN Hospital

Bhilai, Apr 12: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Pt JLN Hospital & Research Center, Sector 9, conducted a successful "Mock Drill" on April 10, 2023, to ascertain the preparedness of emergency and health facilities at the Hospital. The Mock-drill was conducted under the guidance of Dr M Ravindranath, CMO I/c (M&HS), Dr P Binayak, CMO, and Dr K Thakur, CMO. Necessary directions were given by Dr Trinath Das, Additional CMO, for making it a well-coordinated mock drill activity. Dr Das informed that all the necessary medical arrangements including ICU beds, essential medicines, emergency facilities, isolation rooms, duty stations, PPE Kits, collection of samples, laboratories, arrangements for sanitization, drugs and disposal, oxygen supply, treatment protocols, rapid



response teams and other critical care preparatory measures have been thoroughly reviewed and updated. In view of an abrupt upsurge in the number of Covid-19 cases in the last few days, the Ministry of Health, Government of India has issued guidelines in pursuance of the Covid-19 Pandemic and instructions have been issued to the hospitals to start preparations to deal with the same. In adherence to these guidelines,

the "Mock Drill" was conducted on Monday. Observing the rise in Covid-19 Cases, the Central Government has also become alert along with respective State Governments. Amidst the review activities of the rapidly increasing cases of Covid-19, on last Monday, all of a sudden an ambulance arrived at the emergency gate of the Central casualty of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital & Research Center, Sector 9, operated



by the Medical & Health Services Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. Two PPE kit-clad medical staff stepped out, carrying the patient out of the ambulance. Due to the critical condition of the patient, he was shifted to the ICU on stretchers after running the emergency tests including BP, oxygen-saturation level, lung infection level, pulse, blood-sugar level and other tests at the Accident & Emergency Room of the

Casualty Department. The Patient's details were recorded at the Covid-19 counter and the samples for conducting tests, were collected from the patient at the Collection area in the Covid-19 Lab. After preliminary examination, he was taken to the counseling room, where necessary inquiries were made by the attending Doctor to the patient and his family members, regarding vaccination and travel-history, and after re-

examination, as he was in a critical condition, he was shifted to the Covid Ward of the Intensive Care Unit with ventilators and other life-saving medical equipment and the treatment was initiated. Meanwhile another patient arrived, who was also treated in the similar manner. After running the tests he was found to be normal and was prescribed to follow home isolation.

It was informed that in case a patient is not in critical condition, then the suspected patients are sent to the OPD or Flu Clinic as per requirement after their temperature analysis at the "Covid Triage" counter set up in the Casualty Emergency Department. Para medical staff, nurses and management officials from BSP's main hospital also participated in the mock drill.



Mahatma Jyotiba Phule commemorated on birth anniversary

Bhilai, Apr 12: Country's foremost social reformer, educator and thinker Jyotiba Phule was commemorated on his birth anniversary on Tuesday. An event was organised at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Vidyalaya in Kosanagar. Nitish Kashyap, State President All India Saini Mali Sabha, was the chief guest.

Jyotiba Phule Education Committee President Siddharth Borkar was also present on this occasion. In his address, Nitish said that they are celebrating the birth anniversary of such a great scholar, who was the teacher of Dr Babasaheb.

He urged all to follow the path shown by him. Principal Pratibha Sahu, Vandana Banorkar, Neelu Meshram, Rukmani, and others were present.

Biden, Sunak reiterate importance of G20 during bilateral talks

London, Apr 12 (PTI):

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak met Joe Biden at Belfast in Northern Ireland on Wednesday during the US President's historic visit to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.

During bilateral talks, dubbed by some in the British media as a "bi-latte" alluding to a rather brief discussion in a hotel cafe, Biden and Sunak are said to have covered the range of the "thriving" UK-US relationship.

The two leaders also reiterated the importance of working through global forums such as the G20 the presidency of which is held



President Joe Biden meets with Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Wednesday, April 12 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

by India at present. "They agreed that manipulation of global markets by authoritarian leaders demonstrates, more than ever, the need for like-minded partners to work together to support the economic health and security of our nations," said a

Downing Street readout of the talks.

"They looked forward to discussing the issue of economic security further during the G7 Summit next month and the Prime Minister's visit to Washington DC in June.

They also agreed on the importance of using global forums like the G7 and G20 to challenge economic coercion and market manipulation, and promote the economic well-being of our countries," it said.

Biden's Air Force One was greeted at the tarmac of Belfast International Airport by Sunak on Tuesday night for a trip to the island of Ireland to mark 25 years of the Good Friday Agreement, signed this week in 1998. The agreement, signed by then British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart, Bertie Ahern, backed by then US President Bill Clinton, brought an end to 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland, known as the Troubles.

SITHARAMAN IN MARYLAND



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visits the Spacecraft Testing & Integration Complex at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

China backs Macron's remarks

Beijing, Apr 12 (PTI): China on Wednesday waded into controversy over French President Emmanuel Macron's comments in which he called for greater "European sovereignty" by not following the US policy over China and Taiwan.

"The question we need to answer, as Europeans, is the following: Is it in our interest to accelerate (a crisis) on Taiwan? No," Macron was quoted as saying in the interview after his recent visit to China during which he held extensive talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing and later Guangzhou. "The worst thing would be to think that we Europeans must become followers on this topic and take our cue from the US agenda and a Chinese overreaction," Macron said. The comments were made last Friday before China launched large-scale combat drills around Taiwan that simulated sealing off the island in response to the Taiwanese president's trip to the US last week.

Indian-origin man sentenced in UK for offensive TikTok video

London, Apr 12 (PTI): A 68-year-old Indian-origin man has been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment by a UK court over a video he posted on social media found to be offensive to certain communities. Amrik Bajwa from Slough in Berkshire, south-east England, was sentenced and fined GBP 240 last week after pleading guilty to one count of sending an offensive message using social media, the police said in a statement on Tuesday.

The post related to a video he posted on TikTok on July 19 last year reportedly targeted the Dalit community. "I am pleased with the sentence given, which provides a clear message that Thames Valley Police will not tolerate behaviour like that of Amrik Bajwa," said Sergeant Andrew Grant, the investigating officer on the case from the Slough police station.

"As a force, we are committed to protecting our communities and ensuring that criminal actions which have the potential to undermine community cohesion are dealt with robustly," he said. Bajwa was arrested a few days after his post, on July 22 last year, and charged via postal requisition on March 2 this year. The Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance (ACDA), a voluntary human rights organisation campaigning against caste-based discrimination in the UK, was among the organisations to complain about the offensive "casteist" post which it characterised as hate speech targeted at Dalit communities.

Four Indian nationals killed in Nepal car accident

Kathmandu, Apr 12 (PTI): Four Indian nationals were killed and another person was seriously injured when their car plunged into a ravine in a remote region in Nepal's Bagmati province, media reports said on Wednesday.

The accident occurred late Tuesday when the car with the five Indian nationals lost control and plunged some 500 metres off the road in the Sindhuli district of Bagmati province, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported.

According to the report, all four deceased were males, but their identities are yet to be ascertained.

The car with a Bihar registration was heading to Kathmandu from the east, and its fall resulted in the death of three people on the spot, District

There's no obstacles for UN work in Afghanistan: Taliban

Islamabad, Apr 12 (AP): The Taliban's chief spokesman said on Wednesday there are no obstacles for the UN to function in Afghanistan, after they barred Afghan women from working at the global body.

Last week, the country's Taliban rulers took a step further in the restrictive measures they have imposed on women and said that female Afghan staffers employed with the UN mission can no longer report for work. The ban is being actively enforced by the country's intelligence agency, which reports to the Taliban's leadership in Kandahar. The UN says it cannot accept the decision, calling it unlawful and an unparalleled violation of women's rights. It says women are crucial for the delivery of life-saving aid to millions of Afghans, and has instructed its national staff, male and female, to stay at home.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban-led government's chief spokesman and part of the supreme leader's inner circle, denied authorities were to blame for Afghanistan's many crises.

The decision to bar Afghan women from working at the UN was an internal matter and should be respected by all sides, Mujahid said, as he set out the Taliban's position and demands to the international community. "This decision does not mean there is discrimination here, or that the activities of the United Nations are blocked. On the contrary, we are committed to all the rights of all our countrymen, taking into account their religious and cultural interests. "Considering the emergency situation in Afghanistan, it is necessary for the member countries of the United Nations to resolve the problem of frozen Afghan assets, banking, travel bans and other restrictions as soon as possible so that Afghanistan can progress in economic, political and security areas. Afghans have the capacity to stand on their own feet."

Aid agencies have been providing food, education and health care support to Afghans in the wake of the Taliban takeover and the economic collapse that followed.

But distribution has been severely affected by a Taliban edict banning women from working at non-governmental organizations and, now, also at the UN. Its head of mission in the country, Roza Otunbayeva, has "initiated an operational review period" lasting until May 5 in response to the ban, according to a UN statement.

India's progress can create new opportunities for Ugandan businesses: EAM Jaishankar

Kampala, Apr 12 (PTI):

India's progress and prosperity can create new opportunities that can benefit Uganda, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, as he met the Indian business community here and encouraged it to bolster bilateral business ties for growth and development.

Jaishankar is on a two-nation visit to Uganda and Mozambique from April 10-15 to strengthen India's strong bilateral ties with the two African countries.

"India's progress and prosperity create new opportunities that can benefit Uganda. Just as India's experiences can help Uganda's development journey," he tweeted on Tuesday after his meeting with the Indian Business Community.

Addressing the commu-



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during an interaction about millets and their importance in Ugandan culture during his visit to Uganda, Wednesday, April 12.

nity, Jaishankar spoke about the problems that India faced due to the war in Ukraine.

He said when the Ukraine conflict started a year ago, the first hit that the world economy took

was the price of oil. "Very soon thereafter, there was a big issue with the price of wheat, because the oil prices, of course, were a more complicated issue. The wheat was a direct outcome of

the lack of exports from Ukraine, which is a big exporter of wheat," he said.

Jaishankar said that was a less noticed story, however, was the problems that India faced in terms of edible oil.

"We were big importers of sunflower oil from Ukraine. And the pressure on us to find compensatory resources actually took Indian importers well beyond their traditional sources, a lot of those sources were in the ASEAN. It actually took them to Latin America," he said. "So, if you look today at the big spike in India's trade with Latin America, interestingly, some of that is oil in terms of fuel oil, but a large part of it is oil in terms of edible oil," he said in a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Wednesday.

Over community stigmatisation

London, Apr 12 (PTI):

A British Pakistani diaspora group has written an open letter to UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, urging him to clarify the remarks of his Home Secretary Suella Braverman which, they say, stigmatised their community in relation to grooming gangs behind child sexual exploitation.

The British Pakistani Foundation (BPF), which claims to represent 18,000 Pakistani diaspora members, called on Sunak to ask his Cabinet minister to withdraw her "irresponsible words" as it would be perceived as normalising bigotry against the community.

Similar letters have also been issued by other Pakistani diaspora groups, all calling for the Indian-origin Cabinet minister's comments to be withdrawn.

In a series of television interviews earlier this month ahead of the launch of a new Grooming Gangs Taskforce, Braverman said that the perpetrators of such crimes are "groups of men, almost all British Pakistani".

"We are writing to you to share our deep concern and disappointment at the Home Secretary's recent comments and for you not speaking out against them," reads the open letter issued on Tuesday.

These comments singled out only the involvement of British Pakistani males in so-

British Pakistani group issues open letter to UK PM Sunak

called grooming gangs' and holding cultural values totally at odds with British values', it said.

"Words have consequences by stigmatising an entire community, and making it the face of child sexual exploitation, the Home Secretary's remarks will detract attention from perpetrators who don't meet her stereotypes, harming the very victims the Home Secretary ostensibly set out to protect but also further perpetrating violence against minorities," it reads.

The letter references a report commissioned by the UK Home Office in 2020, entitled The characteristics of group-based child sexual exploitation in the community, which had concluded that despite some high-profile cases, links between ethnicity and this form of offending cannot be proven.

It also references the most recent conviction of 21 men and women of "white British ethnicity", who were last week found guilty of sexually abusing young children in Walsall in the West Midlands region of England over a decade.

Taiwan encirclement drills a 'serious warning': China

Beijing, Apr 12 (AP):

Recent Chinese air and sea drills simulating an encirclement of Taiwan were intended as a "serious warning" to pro-independence politicians on the self-governing island and their foreign supporters, a Chinese spokesperson said Wednesday.

The three days of large-scale air and sea exercises named Joint Sword that ended Monday were a response to Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's meeting with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California last week during a transit visit to the US. China had warned of serious consequences if that meeting went ahead.

"The People's Liberation Army recently organised and conducted a series of countermeasures in the Taiwan Strait and surrounding waters, which is a serious warning against the collusion and provocation of Taiwan independence separatist forces and external forces," Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office, said at a biweekly news conference.

"It is a necessary action to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," she said.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary and regularly sends ships and warplanes into airspace and wa-

ters near the island. Such missions have grown more frequent in recent years, accompanied by increasingly bellicose language from the administration of Communist Party leader Xi Jinping. Any conflict between the sides could draw in the US, Taiwan's closest ally, which is required by law to consider all threats to the island as matters of "grave concern." China has kept up military pressure against Taiwan despite the formal conclusion of the drills. On Wednesday, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said it tracked 35 flights by People's Liberation Army warplanes within the last 24 hours, and eight navy vessels in the waters surrounding the island.

IMF slashes Pak's growth rate to 0.5 per cent for FY23

Islamabad, Apr 12 (PTI):

The IMF has lowered its forecast for Pakistan's economic growth rate from 2 per cent to just 0.5 per cent for the current fiscal year, amid high inflation and a growing unemployment rate in the cash-strapped country.

This showed an unambiguous deterioration of economic fundamentals over the last six months since October when the IMF forecast the country's gross domestic product to grow by 3.5 per cent against 6 per cent for 2022 ago and inflation at 20 per cent against 12.1 per cent.

The revision in Pakistan's

growth prospects is in line with similar 0.4 per cent and 0.6 per cent projected last week by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, respectively. They also projected inflation at 29.5 per cent and 27.5 per cent respectively for the current year, the Dawn newspaper reported on Wednesday.

In its flagship World Economic Outlook (WEO), the IMF has also estimated the unemployment rate in Pakistan to rise to 7 per cent against 6.2 per cent last year. For fiscal 2024, however, the IMF expected the economic growth to improve to 3.5 per cent, inflation to stay elevated at 22

राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला, रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

क्रमांक / रा.न्या.वि.प्र. / टेंडर / M-1449 / 2023 रायपुर दिनांक 11/04/2023

// Tender //

पुलिस बल आधुनिकीकरण योजना वर्ष 2020-21 अंतर्गत राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला, रायपुर के रसायन शाखा हेतु निम्नांकित उपकरणों का क्रय किया जाता है, जिसके लिए निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है :-

S.No.	Name of Instrument
01	Chemistry Lab Equipment High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) with UV/Vis Detector

निविदा जारी करने की तिथि : दिनांक 13.04.2023
 निविदा फार्म प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि : दिनांक 24.05.2023 सायं 05:00 बजे तक
 निविदा फार्म जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि : दिनांक 29.05.2023 दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक
 निविदा खोलने की तिथि : दिनांक 29.05.2023 सायं 04:00 बजे

राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला टिकवापरा, पुजारी मार्ग के पास रायपुर (छ.ग.) पिन कोड-492001, दूरभाष 0771-4043342/4069791 तथा वेबसाइट www.fsl.cg.nic.in से जानलाईन आवेदन का विस्तृत जानकारी एवं निविदा फार्म प्राप्त (डाउनलोड) किया जा सकता है। किसी भी राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक से 1000/- (एक हजार रुपये मात्र) का संचालक, राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला रायपुर के नाम से बैंक अकाउंट बनवाकर निविदा फार्म प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।
 (संचालक सहोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित)

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 रायपुर (छ.ग.)
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Political Uncertainty in Karnataka

The state of Karnataka has been a hotbed of political activity in recent years, with the BJP, Congress, and JD(s) fighting for supremacy. However, an analysis of all assembly elections since 1985 reveals a concerning trend – a high proportion of seats are won with thin victory margins, with more than 25% of seats witnessing a close contest. This indicates that political loyalties in the state are in a constant state of flux, making it difficult to predict election outcomes. The trend of ever-narrowing victory margins has been growing in Karnataka in recent years, with the 2018 assembly elections being a notable exception. While the BJP emerged as the largest party with over 36% of votes, the Congress trailed in the seats tally despite having a higher voter share. However, victory margins for all parties have been decreasing over time, with smaller parties also having pockets of influence in certain constituencies. As a result, elections have become increasingly competitive in the state. The high proportion of narrow election victories suggests that the political loyalties of voters in Karnataka are in a state of constant churn, making it difficult for any party to establish a long-term hold on power. Victory margins in elections provide insight into public support for a particular candidate or a party. A narrow victory margin suggests that winning candidates and parties cannot take the support for granted. A higher share of seats decided with a low victory margin is also indicative of the people's propensity to vote out the incumbent, election after election. In recent years, Karnataka has witnessed a growing trend of anti-incumbency, with victory margins shrinking and voters choosing to elect new candidates. This is evident from the fact that the proportion of close-contest seats reached its highest in 2008, with around 31% (70 out of 224) MLAs winning with less than a 5% victory margin. While this proportion stayed elevated at 30% in the 2013 assembly polls, 2018 saw a reduction in the proportion of such seats to nearly 28%. The BJP and JD(s) have had more comfortable victories than the Congress in the last three assembly elections, with an average winning margin of nearly 12%. However, the Congress has been trailing behind with a slightly lower margin of 11%. Party-wise victory margin data shows that the BJP's candidates had more comfortable victories in 2018, with the number of seats won by a narrow margin of less than 5% decreasing from 33 in 2008 to 18 in 2018. Similarly, the Congress won a simple majority with a tally of 122 seats in 2013, but the proportion of seats won by a narrow margin of 5% remained constant at 33% in 2018. The reduction in victory margins in Karnataka is not unique to the state but has been observed in many other parts of the country as well. Until the 1980s, a high proportion of seats across the country used to be won with a victory margin of 30% or more. However, subsequent elections beginning in the late 1980s witnessed a reduction in the margin of victory. Kerala has seen a large number of seats with a neck-and-neck battle since 1987, with more than half of the assembly seats being decided by a narrow margin of less than 5% in 1991. Overall, victory margins are an important metric for understanding the dynamics of democratic elections and the political landscape. The ever-narrowing victory margins in Karnataka suggest that the state is in a state of political uncertainty, making it difficult to predict election outcomes. With over five crore voters set to exercise their right to elect 224 legislators in Karnataka on May 10, it remains to be seen.

GLOBAL RISKS REPORT 2023

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

The recently published Global Risks Report 2023 by the World Economic Forum has identified various risks that could significantly impact societies and economies over the next ten years. These risks are primarily the result of underlying geopolitical and economic trends, and if not addressed, could negatively affect climate action, human development, and resilience. The report emphasizes that environmental risks dominate the top 10 risks over the next decade, with 'biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse' being the fastest deteriorating risk. Failure to address this risk could result in severe consequences, including crop failure, water scarcity, and the spread of diseases. In the short term, the 'cost-of-living crisis' is the most significant global risk, which is already being felt by many lower-income countries. This risk could potentially turn into a humanitarian crisis, causing social unrest and political instability. The end of an economic era brings risks of stagnation, divergence, and distress. Geopolitical fragmentation could lead to geoeconomic warfare and increase the risk of multi-domain conflicts. Technology could worsen inequalities, and cybersecurity risks will remain constant. Climate efforts face a risky trade-off while nature collapses. The world is facing an urgent challenge over the next decade, with the most severe risks being the 'failure to mitigate climate change' and the 'failure of climate change adaptation.' Addressing these risks is essential as the potential consequences could be catastrophic. Other significant threats facing the planet include 'natural disasters and extreme weather events' and 'biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse.' Unfortunately, the current trajectory of emissions is not conducive to achieving the global ambition of limiting warming to 1.5°C, making it crucial to adopt more sustainable and eco-friendly practices. verall, the Global Risks Report 2023 highlights the urgent need for decision-makers to anticipate and prepare for potential risks. Failure to address these risks could have severe consequences, including worsening social and economic inequality, political instability, and irreversible damage to the environment.

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 editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

WHEAT HARVESTING



A farmer works in a wheat field during harvesting season, in Amritsar, Wednesday, April 12.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana: Credit saturation for livelihoods

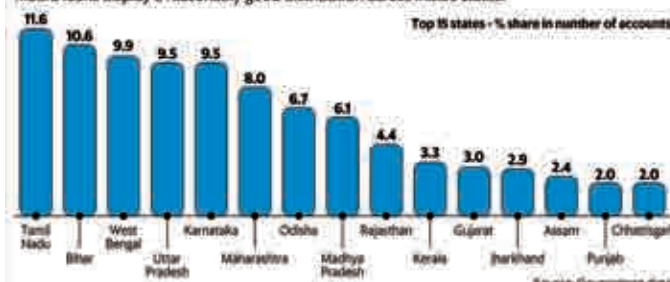


SOUMYA KANTI GHOSH



Fairly even spread

Mudra loans display a reasonably good distribution across India's states.



The scheme has supported small enterprises and revitalized the Indian micro-credit ecosystem in its eight years of existence.

As India's Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) completed eight years on 8 April, we can glance back at the changes wrought by this mass credit saturation programme that was envisaged during the bleak days of 2014-15 when our formal financial sector was reeling under bad loans, especially its impact on the socio-cultural fabric of the country. The PMMY is one of the flagship schemes of Union government to encourage self-employment. The scheme targets micro and own-account enterprises that constitute a vibrant business ecosystem in India. Micro enterprises are mostly engaged in manufacturing, processing, trading and services, and many of these units are single-owner-businesses. The country's formal or institutional architecture was unable to reach out to them and meet their financial requirements. These units were largely self-financed or reliant on either personal networks or moneylenders. With this gap kept in mind, the PMMY was floated with the objective to create an easily accessible bridge between a large unbanked sector and formal lenders. Launched in 2015, PMMY provides collateral-free institutional credit up to Rs 10 lakh, as provided by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs); i.e., Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs). Under the aegis of the PMMY, the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) created three sub-schemes that differ by the loan amount: Shishu (for loans up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (Rs 50,001-Rs 5 lakh) and Tarun (Rs 500,001-Rs10 lakh). The names Shishu, Kishore and Tarun also signify the stage of the beneficiary micro unit's growth or development and its funding needs.

Any individual who is otherwise eligible to take a loan and has a business plan for a small business enterprise can avail of credit under the scheme. Since its launch, the scheme has undergone numerous changes. Its target area, for example, has been widened to maximize its positive economic impact. Initially, the PMMY covered income-generating activity only in the sectors of manufacturing, trading and services. However, since 2016-17, activities allied with agriculture and their support services promoting livelihoods have been brought under its ambit; since 2017-18, loans have been sanctioned for the purchase of tractors and power tillers; and from 2018-19, loans to buy two wheelers for commercial purposes have also been included. Total disbursement under the scheme showed an average 33% growth in its first three years, indicating that its unique selling proposition was well received. The outbreak of the covid pandemic and subsequent slowdown in economic activity impacted the demand for these loans. During this phase, a special relief provision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted all lending institutions to grant a moratorium of six months on the payment of all instalments under the scheme. After the economy's re-opening, loan demand under the PMMY has gathered pace. In most categories, disbursements have surpassed pre-covid levels. Data as on 24 March 2023 puts the scheme's cumulative disburse amount at Rs 22.65 trillion. The share of Shishu loans is the highest, at 40%, suggesting that the PMMY has largely supported first-time entrepreneurs. The PMMY's economic impact is now well established. As per survey results of the ministry of labour and employment, the scheme had helped in generating 11.2

million net additional jobs during the period 2015 to 2018. The social impact of the PMMY is a much deeper story and can be understood at three levels. These three levels include the scheme's impact on (1) broad social groups; 2) women; and 3) members of minority communities. In terms of the first, the PMMY has benefitted all segments of Indian society: General, Schedule Caste/Tribe (SC/ST) groups and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The increasing participation of OBCs and SCs in availing these loans in recent times is an indication of the scheme's outreach. One of the scheme's most commendable achievements is its impetus to women's entrepreneurship. In its cumulative data since inception, the share of accounts held by women is as high as 69%, while the share of women in the sanction list is 45%. Disbursements to women entrepreneurs registered an average growth of 23% in the scheme's first four years. In 2022, it surpassed its pre-covid level, registering a robust growth of 28%. The PMMY also fares well on other measures of inclusivity. The scheme has been able to cater to the requirements of minorities. Loans to members of minority groups touched an all-time high in 2022, with their overall share at 10%, with Shishu and Kishore loans accounting for 85% of total cumulative disbursement. Since the PMMY is a national scheme, its spatial dispersion is an important consideration from the point of view of balanced economic growth. One of the objectives of India's growth policy has been to bridge the divide between the thriving western and lagging eastern parts of the country. A Herfindahl Concentration Index estimate of the number of accounts and disbursed amounts shows significant dispersion

across states and products. This indicates an impressive geographical coverage. States such as Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar have recorded all-round gains from the PMMY. West Bengal and Tripura have also seen a rise in their total share (and also in the Kishore and Tarun categories), indicating an eastward flow of beneficiaries. Developed regions such as the national capital region, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa have seen their shares decline, even though they dominate the scheme in absolute terms. Overall, the PMMY has achieved its objectives of equitable and fair spatial distribution of benefits during its ninth year of operation by fostering self employment across social groups, doubling the participation rate of women over that observed in commercial-bank lending and boosting the participation of minority groups. In the coming years, it is imperative that the PMMY reaps the benefits of 5G technology and e-commerce, even as Mudra cards are popularized further. Encouraging the registration and formalization of own-account enterprises could be another way of taking this scheme to new highs. The celebrated anthropologist Oscar Lewis had once argued in his seminal work, The Children of Sanchez, that a "culture of poverty" tends to perpetuate itself over time, often transcending boundaries. The PMMY, in a short span, has not only attacked and altered the course of this culture of poverty, but infused a sense of vibrancy and can-do spirit in the Indian micro-credit ecosystem. The PMMY has clearly been an uncommon solution to 'common problems'. (Writer is Group chief economic advisor, State Bank of India. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welcome move by Consumer affairs

The department of consumer affairs will tighten the rules and regulations for people (influencers) who influence people's thinking in the health and beauty sector with their advice and ideas. Health care and beauty products are a rapidly expanding business segment that directly affects people's health. Before giving health and beauty advice, influencers must disclose their credentials. The audience should be able to see these qualifications. This rule is a welcome move. If you are advising someone on whether a certain food is good or bad, or which medicine is good or bad, you should be qualified to do so. Otherwise, it will be a case of deceiving the public.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Ignorance or Intentional?

Rahul Gandhi's recent comments on Savarkar and the treatment of Sikhs in India have stirred controversy and raised questions about his understanding of historical facts. His lack of knowledge on the subject has drawn backlash, and there are concerns about the potential impact on the Congress party's relations with the Shiv Sena and other opposition parties. It is imperative for Rahul Gandhi to educate himself on historical facts before making such statements to avoid causing offense and damaging the party's image. As a public figure, he must also be mindful of the impact of his words and the potential consequences they may have. It is important for politicians to speak responsibly and consider the implications of their words before speaking. ter with a good title. add some more to make it 120 words

MKN, Raipur

Productivity Plummetts in Parliament

The second half of the Budget Session in Parliament was marked by two contentious issues that resulted in stalled proceedings. The Opposition demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigation into the Adani controversy, while the BJP called for an apology from Rahul Gandhi for his remarks on Indian democracy. Unfortunately, neither demand was met, and as a result, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha's productivity rates plummeted to 5.29% and 6.4%, respectively. This lack of productivity is a disservice to the voters who elected MPs to discuss issues of national importance. It is imperative that our elected representatives understand the gravity of the situation and the importance of fulfilling their obligations to the people who pay their salaries and allowances. Suresh Verma, Raipur

Role of Artificial Intelligence in Pathology



Dr. ARVIND NERAL

The role of AI in laboratory medicine is rapidly expanding owing to recognition of its potential to improve detection, laboratory workflows, decision support and reduce costs and increase efficiency. Increased healthcare demand has placed pressure on laboratory medicine to improve turnover and optimise efficiency using digitalisation, automation and artificial intelligence (AI). This will bring new challenges for the clinical laboratory. Laboratories need to understand the utility of AI, its limitations and implementations. AI uses complex algorithms and data from medical and laboratory data to mimic human analysis and this requires accurate and reliable data. As in other domains, artificial intelli-

gence is becoming increasingly important in Pathology. In particular, deep learning-based pattern recognition methods can advance the field of pathology by incorporating clinical, radiologic, and genomic data to accurately diagnose diseases and predict patient prognoses. One area where digitalisation has progressed rapidly is in whole slide imaging. This allows slides to be transferred between locations. This has also progressed towards the use of AI for interpretation of digital slides. The increased adoption of digital pathology allows the use of AI algorithms to facilitate automatic triaging and quality control along with assisted reading of whole slide images. Provision of high-quality and cost-effective digital histopathology will be beneficial to underserved, remote areas and whole slide imaging has also found use in distant teaching. Microscopic morphology remains the gold standard in diagnostic pathol-

Special on National Pathology Day: 13th April



ogy, but the main limitation to morphologic diagnosis is diagnostic variability in bearing error among pathologists. The Gleason grading system is one of the most important prognostic factors in prostate cancer. However, significant interobserver variability has been reported when pathologists have used this system. In order to get a consistent and possibly more accurate diagnosis, it is natural to introduce algorithmic intelligence in the pathology domain, at least in the morphological analysis of tissues and cells. With the help of digital pathology equipment varying from micro-

scopic cameras to whole slide imaging scanners, morphology-based automated pathologic diagnosis has become a reality. Digital pathology images used in AI are mostly scanned from H&E stained slides. Pathology specimens undergo multiple processes, including formalin fixation, grossing, paraffin embedding, tissue sectioning and staining. Each step of the process and the different devices and software used with the digital imaging scanners can affect aspects of the quality of the digital images, such as color, brightness, contrast and scale. For the best results, it is strongly recommended to alleviate the effect of these variations before using the images in automated analysis work. Normalization is one of the techniques used to reduce such variations. It is encouraging that the accuracy of automated morphological analyses has improved due to DL technology. The pathologic field in AI is expanding

to disease severity assessment and prognosis prediction. Although most AI research in pathology is still focused on cancer detection and grading of tumors, pathological diagnosis is not simply a morphological diagnosis, but is a complex process of evaluation and judgment of various types of clinical data that deal with various organs and diseases. Eventually, there will be a medical AI of the prognostic prediction model. Also, a new grading system applicable to several tumors can be created by an AI model that has learned from the patient's prognosis combined with a number of other variables including morphology, treatment modality, tumor markers, etc. This will also help to overcome the poor reproducibility, leading to much better clinical outcomes for patients. (Writer is Professor & H.O.D. Department of Pathology Pt. J.N.M. Medical College Raipur (C.G.). Views are personal).

BRIEF

Paddy procurement



Paris: India's paddy procurement has been well on target and the government has built up sufficient stock so that there is no concern at all on rice for the current year, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said. He said that on the wheat front, there has been a slight delay because of the unseasonal rains. "I have been receiving reports that in the next few weeks, we'll be seeing a significant amount of stocks coming in there. There is absolutely no concern about the procurement in the current year, particularly since the export of wheat continues to be restricted and will not be allowed except for the G2G relationships," Union Food Minister Goyal told reporters here.

New products

New Delhi: Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Pvt Ltd on Tuesday said it has launched more than 15 new products for the summer season this year. The new product line-up for this year includes a ready-to-consume custard, two cold coffees and more than 10 ice cream variants. In addition, the company has enriched its Nutrifit curd offering with Vitamins A & D, Mother Dairy said in a statement. The newly introduced range will be available across major markets of the company through both traditional and new-age distribution channels. Manish Bandlish, Managing Director of Mother Dairy, said, "Given the diversity and evolution being witnessed in the needs and preferences of our consumers, we have embarked upon a journey to tap into new product spaces and categories."

Infrastructure sector



New Delhi: Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia said the country's infrastructure sector is growing at a significant pace in areas such as roads, highways and civil aviation. Scindia, who is in charge of the ministries of civil aviation and steel, was speaking at the 8th National Leadership Conclave organised by the All India Management Association (AIMA) in the national capital. The government's thrust is on development of infrastructure and related sectors in the country. The PM Gati Shakti master plan is going to change the face of India's infrastructure, he said. "The infrastructure sector has had tremendous potential in driving the economic destiny of any country."

Govt incentives to drive EV penetration in India, charging infrastructure key: Moody's

New Delhi, Apr 12:

Government incentives, including those to consumers, local battery manufacturing, state-level subsidies and cut in GST rates would help drive EV penetration in India, Moody's has said. In a report, Moody's Investors Service said India has the fourth-largest car market globally, but electric vehicle (EV) penetration is currently only around 1 per cent. The pace of increase in EV sales and towards the government's target of 30 per cent by 2030 will also depend on the country's charging infrastructure, and consumers' readiness to switch to EVs from traditional ICE vehicles, or those traditional engines

powered by petrol, diesel, or natural gas. "We expect various government incentives will drive an increase in EV penetration. These include consumer incentives, production-linked incentives for advanced battery storage to drive local cell manufacturing, goods and services tax (GST) rate cuts, and other state-level subsidies," Moody's said.

India has beaten Japan to become the third-largest vehicle market in 2022 after China and the USA. Last month, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had said that if India can use the lithium reserves recently discovered in Jammu and Kashmir, it can become the world's number one automobile

manufacturer in electric vehicle segment. Lithium is a crucial element in producing batteries that power electric vehicles. The government aims to have EV sales accounting for 30 per cent of private cars, 70 per cent for commercial vehicles and 80 per cent for two-and three-wheelers by 2030.

Moody's said Tata Motors retains an early mover advantage in the battery EV market in India, with a 85 per cent share (April-December 2022). Presence through 250 dealers across 165 cities, and with close to 4,300 charging points, has already allowed the company to sell some 50,000 EVs, Moody's said. Tata said it plans to increase its

EV line-up from four models to 10, by March 2026. Tata's EV business has already raised USD 1 billion from private-equity investor TPG, it added. Last year, global battery electric vehicle sales were around 8 million, with 65 per cent of these in China. Europe represented nearly 20 per cent. Consumers in those regions benefited from the government incentives and automakers' expanded product offerings, Moody's said.

"We expect Battery Electric Vehicles' (BEVs) share of global light vehicle sales will grow from around 10 per cent of new vehicle registrations currently to more than one-third by 2030 and to nearly half by 2035," it added.

Retail inflation declines to 5.66 pc in March

New Delhi, Apr 12:

Retail inflation fell to a 15-month low of 5.66 per cent in March, mainly due to a decline in food prices, government data showed on Wednesday. The inflation figure in March is within the RBI's comfort zone as it is below 6 per cent. The retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 6.44 per cent in February 2023 and 6.95 per cent in the year-ago period. According to the National Statistical Office, the inflation in the food basket was 4.79 per cent in March, as against 5.95 per cent in February and 7.68 per cent in the year-ago period. The retail inflation rose from 5.7 per cent in December 2022 to 6.4 per cent in February 2023 on the back of higher inflation in cereals, milk and fruits and slower deflation in vegetables prices. Reserve Bank of India has projected the CPI inflation at 5.2 per cent for FY2023-24, with 5.1 per cent in Q1, 5.4 per cent in Q2, 5.4 per cent in Q3, and 5.2 per cent in Q4, and risks evenly balanced.

PROMOTIONAL EVENT



Maybelline's new brand ambassadors Suhana Khan (R), singer Ananya Birla (C) and Internet personality Eksha Subba pose for photographs during a promotional event in Mumbai.

Govt developing portal to expedite clearances for newly allocated blocks: Coal Secretary

New Delhi, Apr 12:

The government is in the process of developing a portal for monitoring and expediting clearances for newly allocated coal blocks, Coal Secretary Amrit Lal Meena said on Wednesday. The secretary along with Additional Coal Secretary and Nominated Authority M Nagaraju held an interaction with the representatives of captive and commercial coal block allottees to discuss ways to increase coal production and other issues. "Timely availability of land and other clearances are of paramount importance in ensuring early production of coal from newly allocated blocks. The nominated

authority in the ministry is in the process of developing a portal for timely monitoring and resolution of issues in this regard," the secretary informed stakeholders. M Nagaraju highlighted the policy-level initiatives carried out by the ministry to increase coal production and facilitate ease of doing business to make the sector more appealing. He also underlined the key reforms implemented by the ministry in various tranches of commercial coal mine auctions in order to make the auction regime more appealing and rewarding. The ministry launched the first ever tranche of commercial auctions of 38 coal mines on June 18, 2020.

No global company can think about growth without India: FICCI president

Washington, Apr 12:

A series of reforms undertaken by the government coupled with efforts aimed at making it easier to do business has made India a land of opportunities, a top Indian industrialist has said, asserting that no global company can think about growth without India being a part of its plans.

Subhrakant Panda, president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) said India is where it is today because of a couple of factors, including sustained reforms even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"You cannot think about growth without India being in your plans. It's as



simple as that. But if I were to expand on that a little bit more, where else in the world would you find an opportunity where you not only have a large unified domestic market, but also the resources to produce not just for the domestic market, but use it as an export base," he told PTI on Tuesday.

"That is where I think India represents a unique proposition. Whether you're a large global corporation or a local entity you cannot be thinking about

growing your business without India figuring in your plans," he said. Panda is in the US leading a FICCI delegation of eminent Indian corporate leaders to attend meetings on the sidelines of the annual Spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He said the economy has fully recovered from the pandemic, but the global slowdown and the fact that advanced economies are struggling with inflation will have an impact on India. He said India is ideally positioned for rapid growth in the coming years. A lot has been done whether it is from the ease of doing business to encash the opportunities available for India globally, he said.

Steps taken to implement Act East policy for benefits of NE, Bangladesh: Reddy

Agartala, Apr 12:

Emphasizing close ties between India's Northeast and Bangladesh, DoNER Minister G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday asserted that the Narendra Modi government has taken concrete steps to implement the Act East policy for mutual benefits. "The Bay of Bengal is very close to the Northeast and there is a need for cooperation from its immediate neighbour, Bangladesh, for development of the region," he said during the third India-Japan Intellectual Conclave here. Highlighting the Modi government's efforts for developing connectivity, Reddy mentioned the number of airports in the region has increased from nine in 2014 to 17 in 2023.

Sitharaman, Gita Gopinath meet in US, both discuss debt vulnerabilities

Washington, Apr 12:

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday had a meeting with Gita Gopinath, the First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), during which they discussed debt vulnerabilities and other issues.

Sitharaman is leading a high-powered Indian delegation to attend the annual Spring Meeting of the IMF and the World Bank. Sitharaman congratulated Gopinath for accelerating India's work on the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable along with the World Bank and reiterated India's commitment to foster efforts to address growing debt vulnerabilities, the finance ministry said in a tweet after the meeting. During



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with Gita Gopinath, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, during a meeting on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings 2023, in Washington D.C., USA.

the meeting, the finance minister noted IMF's concerns on key downside risks to the economy including financial sector stress, rising real interest rates, elevated

debt, inflation, geo-political fragmentation, and faltering growth in China, as highlighted in World Economic Outlook World Economy Outlook.

Finance Minister Sitharaman meets Saudi counterpart

Global debt crisis, G20 agenda discussed

Washington, Apr 12:

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday had a meeting with her counterpart from Saudi Arabia Mohammed Aljadaan during which they discussed the global debt crisis and strengthening of the multilateral development banks, an Indian initiative under its G-20 presidency.

"H.E. Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and I discussed the #G20 agenda, and the progress made," Aljadaan said in a tweet after the meeting held on the sidelines of the annual Spring

Industrial production growth rises marginally to 5.6 pc in Feb

New Delhi, Apr 12:

India's industrial production growth rose marginally to 5.6 per cent in February from 5.5 per cent in January 2023, mainly due to good performance of the power, mining and manufacturing sectors, according to official data released on Wednesday. There was an improvement on an annual as well as sequential basis.

The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 1.2 per cent in February 2023. As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 5.3 per cent in February 2023 from 0.2 per cent a year ago. Mining output growth remained

flat at 4.6 per cent during the month under review compared to the year-ago period. Power generation surged 8.2 per cent in February 2023 against 4.5 per cent. As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment recorded a growth of 10.5 per cent in February against a growth of 1.3 per cent a year ago.

Consumer durables output during the month declined by four per cent against a contraction of 9.7 per cent a year ago. Consumer non-durable goods output expanded by 12.1 per cent against a decline of 6.8 per cent earlier. Infrastructure/construction goods posted a growth of 7.9 per cent compared to an 8.6 per cent expansion in the same period a year ago.

CFA Institute announces significant enhancements to the CFA Program

Jaipur, Apr 12:

CFA Institute, the global association of investment professionals, announces significant enhancements to the CFA Program as part of its continual efforts to evolve the Program. These changes address the way today's candidates learn and prepare them for successful careers as investment professionals, while also supplying the industry with the well-trained, ethical professionals it so requires. Margaret Franklin, CFA, President and CEO, CFA Institute, commented "These enhancements represent an important milestone for our candidates and employers in the industry. In fact, they constitute the most significant changes we

have ever made to the CFA Program since its inception in 1963. We conducted extensive research to get feedback directly from employers, candidates, prospective candidates, and the industry at large to inform how best to advance the knowledge and skills we provide to the investment professionals of the future.

"We can say with certainty that candidates are exceptionally keen to get an edge in the market for employment, and they are willing to work very hard for the advantage that the CFA Program provides. These changes will meet their needs by helping them to understand how to put investing concepts into practice on the job and be desk-ready on day one.

Indian economy continues to perform well, remains one of the fastest growing in world: IMF

Washington, Apr 12:

The Indian economy continues to perform well and remains one of the fastest growing in the world, a top official of the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday, even as it lowered its growth projection for 2023-24 to 5.9 per cent from 6.1 per cent earlier.

"The Indian economy continues to perform well and remains the fastest growing Asian economy, and one of the fastest growing in the world," Anne-Marie Gulde-Wolf, Deputy Director for Asia and Pacific Department,

IMF told PTI in an interview. "However, we have revised our projections to incorporate recent data, which were released earlier this year. Based on this information, we now project that growth in FY 2023-24 will be 5.9 per cent, only slightly lower than our previous projection of 6.1 per cent in the January WEO, on the back of an expected slowdown in consumption growth," she said. "Indeed, we have seen evidence of this deceleration in consumption growth in the data for CY 2022:Q4, as the large so-called 'revenge consumption' boom earlier in the

year subsided," Gulde-Wolf said in response to a question. With consumption slowing, she said, IMF sees the investment as the main driver of growth as evidenced by double-digit credit growth, strong PMIs and an ambitious budgeted government spending programme. Infrastructure investment has potentially a large impact on medium-term and potential growth and hence is an important policy priority, she said. Another positive growth contributor is net exports, in particular, exports of services, which have performed very strongly

Badshah's performance puts forth a sensational on-ground experience

Indore, Apr 12:

Celebrating the spirit of 'Living it Large', Seagram's Royal Stag presents Royal Stag Boombox, a first-of-its-kind musical experience. It is the sound of a young generation, a tribe that tends to make rather than follow trends, a tribe that is in constant search of soul-stirring experiences. The musical experience held its third on ground experience in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on April 8, 2023. The city came alive as Royal Stag Boombox audaciously brought together polar opposites of the music industry - the melody of Bollywood and the gully vibe of Hip-Hop - to make original music, to create a new soundscape. With an excited crowd of close to 10,000 people, the Indore experience was abuzz with youthful energy. The venue



(Velvet Garden) was beautifully lit with vibrant colors, featuring various facets of culture, merchandise, food and a myriad interactive experience for the audience to engage with. Rapper Badshah expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, stating, "Being associated with Royal Stag Boombox and having the chance to perform for my incredible fans in Indore was truly exciting. I am now eagerly looking forward to delivering a memorable performance in Pune and setting the stage on fire with my music."



Arti Singh to make her debut in a negative role

Get ready for an electrifying ride as Arti Singh makes her much-awaited debut in a negative role in Shemaroo Umang's upcoming family drama "Shravani". The show promises to be a heartwarming journey that will capture your heart from the very first moment. However, with Arti Singh's inclusion in the cast, the show has taken an intriguing turn and promises to be a high-octane family drama.

As a versatile actor who has won the hearts of millions with her performances, Arti Singh is all set to showcase her acting prowess in a completely different avatar. Arti will play the role of Chandra Chachi and this will mark her debut in a negative role, and she's excited about facing the challenge and surprise her fans with a powerful performance that keeps them soaked in cent percent TV drama. With her incredible talent and the rest of the talented support cast and crew, the show is touted to be an unforgettable experience for

the viewers.

The show brings an enchanting tale to life. Arti Singh's fans have been eagerly awaiting her return to the screen, and this role is sure to leave a lasting impression. In a recent interview, Arti expressed her excitement about her debut in a negative role and said that she wanted to push the envelope and surprise her fans with every project.

Arti Singh expressed her eagerness to surprise the audience with every project she takes on. While people have been speculating that she might return with a show where she will play a stereotypical 'maa' or 'bahu' character, Arti is determined to take the stride and challenge herself. She stated, "I want to keep surprising my fans and myself with the roles I take on. I don't want to limit myself to playing just one type of character. That's why I am excited to play the role of a villain, it's a completely new challenge for me and I am ready to give it my all."

'My character Radheshyam Yadav is inspired by real people'



The 'coming of age' drama, 'Sapnon Ki Chhalaang' on Sony Entertainment Television has piqued the interest of the audience with its distinctive narrative. Starring Megha Ray as the protagonist Radhika, the show follows her leap of faith to Mumbai to fulfill her dreams while wanting to prove to her parents, Radheshyam Yadav (Sanjiv Jotangia) and Suman Yadav (Kashish Duggal) that she can stand on her own feet and take care of them. But to succeed, Radhika must

overcome the challenges of moving to a new city, handling the pressures of her first job, and learning to live with her roommates, all from a diverse background.

Essaying his role of a solicitous father to perfection, Sanjiv Jotangia talks about how the character lives not only on the pages of the show's script but has been inspired by real people. Elaborating further, he shared, "Radheshyam Yadav's character has intrigued me since the time I heard the script. A man in his late 40s, he is the defini-

tion of a bridge between two generations. So, when it comes to educating his daughter, he stands tall amongst sceptics and believes in women empowerment through education. Yet, when it comes to sending his daughter to a new city, he is torn with concerns about her well-being away from home. My character is progressive, yet he is still a traditionalist."

Tune in to watch 'Sapnon Ki Chhalaang', every Monday to Friday at 9:30 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.

Alia Bhatt to make her Met Gala debut this year

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt is all set to make her international debut on one of the biggest fashion stages of the year, the Met Gala. The event, established in 1948 by fashion publicist Eleanor Lambert, will be held in New York City in September to mark the opening of the Costume Institute's annual exhibit. This year's theme, 'Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty', will honor the late designer's artistic brilliance and trace his evolution.

Alia Bhatt will be wearing a Prabal Gurung outfit for the red carpet, adding to the buzz around her Met Gala debut. The actress, who is currently enjoying motherhood, had a successful year in 2022 on both personal and professional fronts. She married Ranbir Kapoor and welcomed their daughter Raha in November 2022. Her projects like 'Gangubai Kathiawadi', 'RRR', 'Brahmastra', and 'Darlings' were all major successes.

In addition to her Met Gala debut, Bhatt will be making her international debut in 'Heart of Stone' alongside Gal Gadot. She also has the eagerly anticipated 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahaani' releasing this year. Fans are excited to see what the talented actress will bring to the global stage with her latest achievements.



Sikandar Kher joins Varun Dhawan and Samantha in 'Citadel' Hindi remake

Bollywood actor Sikandar Kher is all set to share the screen with Varun Dhawan and Samantha Ruth Prabhu in the Hindi remake of the popular American TV series 'Citadel'. According to sources, the actor has been confirmed as the latest addition to the cast of the upcoming web series, which is being directed by the famous filmmaker duo Raj and DK.

Kher attended the India premiere of the American version of the show that happened in Mumbai, and he is reportedly thrilled to be a part of this big-budget project. The Hindi version of 'Citadel' is said to be one of the most anticipated shows of the season, and the makers are slowly finalizing the rest of the cast for the project.

While Varun Dhawan will be seen in the lead role, Samantha Ruth Prabhu will be essaying the part originally played by Priyanka Chopra in the American version of the show. This will be the first time that Sikandar Kher will be working with the director duo Raj and DK, who have previously delivered hits like 'Street' and 'The Family Man'.

Fans of the original series and Bollywood enthusiasts are eagerly waiting for the release of 'Citadel', which promises to be an exciting new addition to the Indian web series scene.



Actress Sneha Raikar reflects on changes in the acting industry over time



Sneha Raikar, known for her role in the television show 'Naagin 6', opened up about the changes she has witnessed in the acting industry during her career. According to Sneha, when she started her acting career, there were limited resources for actors and only a few selective channels to work with. The procedure of casting was also different, as social media wasn't as prevalent as it is today. However, with the passage of time, the industry has grown and evolved, providing actors with more opportunities and resources. Sneha noted that actors nowadays have access to social media, which serves as a portfolio of sorts, and many castings are done after seeing an actor's social media profile. Additionally, there are many channels and other mediums available now, including the popular option of OTT platforms.

Aparshakti finds 'weird real-life' connection with his character in Jubilee series

Bollywood actor Aparshakti Khurana, who plays the character of Binod in the recently released series 'Jubilee', has revealed a strange coincidence between his life and the role he portrays. Aparshakti disclosed that just like Binod, his character in the show, he also started his career as a costume designer before making a switch to become a television host.

Aparshakti said, "There is a weird real-life connection between me and my character, Binod. I started my career as a costume designer at the age of 21-22 but I always wanted to switch careers and work on TV as a host." The series revolves around Binod's journey, who begins as a worker at a studio but rises to fame as an actor named Madan Kumar. Aparshakti shared that the connection he shares with his character motivated him to perform better in the role. Directed by Vikramaditya Motwane and created by Soumik Sen and Vikramaditya Motwane, Jubilee has



been produced by Andolan Films in association with Reliance Entertainment and Phantom Studios.

Besides Aparshakti Khurana, the show stars Aditi Rao Hydari, Prosenjit Chatterjee, Ram Kappor, Wamiqa Gabbi, Sidhant Gupta, and Nandish Sandhu. The first part of the series comprising episodes one to five is now streaming, while the second part comprising episodes six to ten will be available on April 14.

&TV Actors pay tribute to Babasaheb

Every year, the 14th of April is observed as Ambedkar Jayanti to celebrate the birth of one of the most exceptional leaders in Indian history, who rallied a revolution and became a voice to reckon with - Dr B.R. Ambedkar. Reverently called 'Babasaheb', his life and legacy have inspired many. On the birth anniversary of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, &TV artists Atharva (Bhimrao), Jagannath Nivangune (Ramji Sakpal), Narayani Mahesh Varne (Ramabai) from Ek Mahanayak - Dr B.R Ambedkar, Neha Joshi (Yashoda, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh Singh) Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, and Rohitashv Gour (Manmohan Tiwari, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) pay tribute to Babasaheb.

Neha Joshi, aka Yashodha in &TV's Doosri Maa, says, "Dr Ambedkar was truly a leader par excellence. His work has touched and impacted Indians. Be it his



fight for equality, women's empowerment, or involvement in education reformation. He has impacted the lives of every Indian. On Ambedkar Jayanti, let us remember and honour Babasaheb's immense work for women and society." Kamna Pathak, aka Rajesh Singh in &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, says, "Babasaheb has inspired many. He envisaged a society based on liberty, equality, and fraternity. It takes a lot of vision and belief to bring about social and economic reforms that touch many lives. His work has touched and impacted the lives of all Indians. Let us all come together to pay tribute to this great leader on his birth anniversary."

Tune in to Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Ek Mahanayak - Dr B.R. Ambedkar at 8:30 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

CROSSWORD

614



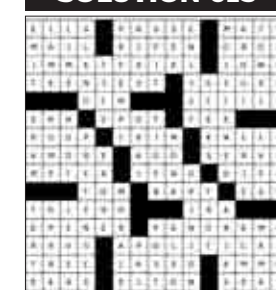
ACROSS

- Engine
- Business abbr.
- Begone!
- Similar
- Brainstorm
- Ear part
- Ogles
- Attaches
- Mideast country
- Until now (2 wds.)
- Educated guess

DOWN

- Beer grain
- Toast topping
- Knotted
- Southern veggie
- Renovate
- Undercover gp.
- More unusual
- What Moses parted (2 wds.)
- Macaroni and spaghetti
- Slender
- Reef material
- Lesson
- Principle
- Makes level
- ... a boy!
- Prepare copy
- Kin of PDQ
- Over
- Scavenger
- Nights before holidays
- Howard of "Happy Days"

SOLUTION 613



Antim Panghal reaches gold medal round

Astana, Apr 12 (PTI):

Displaying a brilliant counter-attacking game, young Indian wrestler Antim Panghal breezed into the 53kg title clash, scoring dominant wins over her rivals, whereas Anshu Malik will fight for bronze after struggling to breach the defence of Japan's Sae Nanjo, here Wednesday.

The 18-year-old Panghal, who last year became the first Indian woman wrestler to become U20 world champion, routed the 53kg field, not conceding a single point on the moves of her rivals.

The only point she lost was through a caution received in her semifinal against Uzbekistan's Aktenge Keunimjaeva, whom she outclassed 8-1.

Panghal got on board with a take-down move that she initiated with a left-leg attack. The Uzbeki had the Indian in head lock position a couple of times but on both occasions, not only Panghal wriggled out with consummate ease, she also employed counter attacks at a lightening pace to



keep extending her lead.

Panghal had begun her campaign with a dominating 'win by fall' against Singaporean Hsiao Ping Alvina Lim and followed up with a 6-0 victory in the quarterfinal against China's Li Deng.

She will now fight for gold against the formidable Japanese Akari Fujimami, the 2021 world champion and someone who has hardly lost a bout since she started competing at the senior level in 2020.

In the 57kg competition, much was expected from talented Anshu Malik but the 2021 world championship silver medallist struggled to score against Nanjo, the reigning U23 world champion.

Titans look to forget Rinku Singh's onslaught against Punjab Kings

Mohali, Apr 12 (PTI):

Defending champions Gujarat Titans, smarting from Rinku Singh's last-over blitzkrieg, would like to forget that nightmarish night and get back to winning ways when they take on gritty Punjab Kings in an Indian Premier League match here on Thursday.

GT had several heroes on that electrifying night, including young Sai Sudarshan, Vijay Shankar and the hat-trick man from Afghanistan Rashid Khan, who led the side in place of unwell Hardik Pandya. But Rinku had other ideas.

When the match looked as good as over, the Uttar Pradesh batter pulled the rabbit out of the hat for Kolkata Knight Riders, smashing five maximums in the last over to stun the home team.

That last-ball defeat will hurt GT for years to come but, in the immediate, they would like to forget it and get on with the next game.

Going by their current form, PBKS' eight-wicket loss to Sunrisers



Hyderabad could just be an aberration, given the form of their captain Shikhar Dhawan and young left-arm bowler Arshdeep Singh.

Dhawan's innings in Hyderabad on April 9 was a testament to the stalwarts' resilience and his ability to stay composed as wickets

fell like ninepins at the other end. His 99 in a losing cause was far bigger and better than playing a winning hand in the match against Rajasthan Royals with an unbeaten 86, or a stroke-filled 40 against KKR. GT would be wary of Dhawan's form and Hardik

would know all too well how the veteran Delhi cricketer would be itching to once again prove himself.

GT though have their own firepower, boasting of the likes of Gill, top-order batter Sudarshan and Shankar - late bloomer at 32 -, who struck an unbeaten 24-ball 63 to guide the side to a 200-plus total in their game against KKR.

Had it not been for Rinku's breathtaking last-over mayhem, Vijay could well have patting his back for the wonderful effort. Unfortunately, that was not to be and things turned upside-down in the last over bowled by Yash Dayal. GT would perhaps take a second look at their bowling combination and see how they can rotate their bowlers more efficiently.

With four premier bowlers in Shami, Josh Little, Alzarri Joseph and Rashid in their team, they shouldn't have lost the game after posting 204. But, then, this is IPL and there are one Rinku too many itching to prove themselves.

Some players have become permanent residents of NCA: Shastri

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has hit out at the injury management of some of country's premier bowlers, saying they seem to have become "permanent residents" of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) while undergoing rehabilitation.

While Shastri didn't take any name, his obvious reference was Chennai Super Kings seamer Deepak Chahar, who has broken down at least thrice in match situations in the last eight months after being declared fit by Nitin Patel-headed Sports Science & Medical team at NCA.

"Let's put it this way: there are quite a few in the last three or four years who are permanent residents of the NCA. Soon, they'll get a resident permit there to walk in any time they want, which is not a good thing at all. It's unreal," Shastri said.

The BCCI-run NCA in Bengaluru has a dedicated sports science and medical team that helps the cen-



trally-contracted cricketers in getting treatment for their injuries.

Chahar is struggling due to recurrence of his left hamstring injury while tearaway quicks Jasprit Bumrah and Prasad Krishna have undergone surgeries in New Zealand for lower back stress fracture.

Shastri, who was India's head coach as recently as October, 2021, is surprised that some of these bowlers don't even play all formats but are yet not fit enough to bowl four overs across four T20 games on the trot.

"Come on, you're not playing that much cricket to be injured again and again," Shastri said.

Suryakumar Yadav continues to lead ICC T20 batter rankings



Dubai, Apr 12 (PTI):

He might be going through a lean patch in the ongoing Indian Premier League but Suryakumar Yadav continued to top the

ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings released on Wednesday.

Suryakumar is leading the chart with 906 rating points ahead of Pakistan duo of Mohammed Rizwan

(811 points) and skipper Babar Azam (755), South Africa's Aiden Markram (748) and Devon Conway of New Zealand (745). Virat Kohli remained static at the 15th spot. Suryakumar is not having the best of IPL, registering scores of 15, 1 and 0 in Mumbai Indians' first three games. Babar, who moved up to third, will get further opportunity to make gains on Suryakumar when Pakistan commence their five-game T20I series against New Zealand on Saturday.

A host of New Zealand and Sri Lanka stars who did feature in the recently-completed T20I series were rewarded for their performances, with young spinner Maheesh Theekshana the biggest eye-catcher as the 22-year-old rose to a career-high rating and equal fifth-place on the rankings for bowlers. Afghan spinner Rashid Khan is leading the T20 bowlers chart ahead of compatriot Fazalhaq Farooqi, Australian Josh Hazlewood and Wanindu Hasaranga of Sri Lanka.

Stokes wants to add pace component to 'Bazball' in upcoming Ashes

London, Apr 12 (PTI):

England Test skipper and Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Ben Stokes wants to bombard Australia with express pace, while also banking on typically seaming home conditions, when the arch-rivals clash during the Ashes later this year.

Even as England will continue to employ 'Bazball' - the ultra-aggressive batting approach to overpower Australia when they tour England for the series in June -, Stokes said he wants to add a fresh threat to the hosts' combative game plan that has seen them win 10 out of the 12 Test under new coach Brendon McCullum. "I could pick a 20-man squad if I wanted to," Stokes was quoted as saying by Sky Sports.

"I have asked the medical team to give us eight bowlers to choose from and this year the games



are close together, so being able to have those resources available in every game is something I am keen to have." The 31-year-old, who is nursing a toe injury but should be fit to play for CSK in the next 4-5 days, added that he already has the playing XI in mind in their endeavour to regain the urn.

The five-match Ashes series will commence at Edgbaston on June 16 and England would be hoping to avenge the humiliation of a 0-4 debacle under Joe Root in 2021-22.

Kerr scores as Australia ends England streak with 2-0 win

London, Apr 12 (AP):

Australia ended England's 30-match unbeaten run with a 2-0 victory in a friendly on Tuesday, 100 days from the start of the Women's World Cup.

Sam Kerr scored in the first half after a defensive error and Charlotte Grant doubled the advantage in the 67th minute to hand Sarina Wiegman her first loss as England's coach.

England's unbeaten run of 26 wins and four draws had included winning the European Championship last summer.

Kerr, the Australian captain who plays for Chelsea, pounced on a weak backpass by defender Leah Williamson and one-on-one with Mary Earps deftly flicked the ball past the goalkeeper's left shoulder and into the net in the 32nd minute at a rainy Gtech Community Stadium in west London.

Williamson was trying to deal with a long ball and after a bounce headed it



England's midfielder Leah Williamson (L) Australia's forward Sam Kerr vies with during the international football friendly match between England and Australia at the Gtech Community Stadium in Brentford, west London.

back to Earps, but the England captain left it short and Australia's all-time leading scorer took advantage and gave the Matildas a 1-0 lead.

Grant got on the end of Kerr's cross and beat Earps with a header that deflect-

ed into the net. "It was a good performance from us, everyone played really well, out of their skin, and it takes a lot to come over here and beat England at home, of course," Kerr told Australian television's Network Ten.

Rahim's twin strike helps Chennaiyin defeat NorthEast United 4-2



Manjeri, Apr 12 (PTI):

Rahim Ali scored a double as Chennaiyin FC routed NorthEast United FC 4-2 in a Group D match of the Hero Super Cup here.

Chennaiyin FC didn't have to wait long in a Tuesday night game to open the scoring in the 17th minute, when forward Rahim found a perfect cross delivered to him from the right by Vafa.

The lanky forward still had everything to do as he met the ball in the air to head it into the far corner, giving Mirshad Michu no chance and putting his side ahead at the Payyanad stadium.

Aakash Sangwan, who had a good day in office, came to the party in the 34th minute to provide an assist for Edwin Sydney Vanspaul, who made it 2-0 for the Chennai outfit.

It all started with a throw-in from the left flank, which was initially met by Jiteshwar. As Jiteshwar whipped in a cross on the half turn, the ball went to Aakash, who nodded it down for Edwin. The right-back volleyed the ball in.

Warner is trying but it's just not happening for him: Axar



New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

Delhi Capitals vice-captain Axar Patel feels skipper David Warner is trying his best to lead from the front, but things are not falling in place for the veteran Australian opener.

DC slumped to their fourth consecutive loss in the ongoing IPL after being outplayed

by Mumbai Indians by six wickets here on Tuesday night. They are languishing at the bottom of the table without any points.

Delhi Capitals scored 172 on the Ferozeshah Kotla pitch, which was chased down by the five-time IPL champions on the last ball, with skipper Rohit Sharma playing a captain's knock of 65.

Even though Warner has been among the runs, scoring 209 in four innings, Axar feels the Australian is not able to close out the games for the side. "If you talk about the last two-three games, he is trying, but it's just not happening for him. I don't know what he is thinking as a batter at that time," said Axar during the post-match press conference. Axar also indicated that the Australian stalwart was getting confused over when to drop anchor and when to attack the bowling. Warner has been criticised for his inordinately slow batting in powerplays, with the 36-year-old opener scoring his half-century at a strike rate of just 108.51 in Tuesday's game. Though the Australia has scored three half-tons in four games, they have been painfully slow, and one of the reasons for the Delhi franchise's poor run this season.

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'I'm reduced to dust, spare my family'

Lucknow, Apr 12 (PTI):

"I am totally reduced to dust, but please don't trouble the women and children of my family now," gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad told reporters from inside a police van on Wednesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's "mafiaon ko mitti me mila denge" warning probably playing on his mind.

The 60-year-old former Samajwadi Party MLA, who faces more than 100 cases in Uttar Pradesh, was taken from the Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad to a prison in Prayagraj, more than 1000 kms away, by road in connection with the Umesh Pal murder case.

The police convoy taking Ahmad to Prayagraj left the Sabarmati Jail on Tuesday evening and entered into the Uttar Pradesh border from Jhansi at around 8.45 am.



Atiq Ahmad

The convoy reached the Naini Central Jail in Prayagraj around 6 pm.

While he was on the way, he spoke to the mediapersons from inside the police van. He pleaded with the government to spare his family members, who are co-accused in several cases. "Hum aapke jariye government se kehna chahte hain, bulkul mitti me mil gaye hain ab

hamari auraton aur bachchon ko pareshan na karein. (I want to tell the government through you (the media) that I am totally reduced to dust, but please don't trouble the women and children of my family now," Ahmad told a news channel from inside his police van between Jhansi and Prayagraj.

He will be produced before a court in Prayagraj on Thursday in the Umesh Pal murder case.

After Umesh Pal, a key witness in the 2005 murder of former BSP MLA Raju Pal in which Ahmad is an accused, was shot dead outside his residence in Prayagraj on February 24 this year Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had said "mafiaon ko mitti me mila denge (will reduce the mafia to dust)".

"Mafiagiri toh pahle hi samapth ho gyi, ab toh ragada ja raha hai. Mafiagiri has already ended, now I am being hounded," Ahmad said, when asked about his criminal acts.

Ahmad last month moved the Supreme Court for protection, claiming he and his family have been falsely implicated as accused in the Umesh Pal murder case in Prayagraj and he may be killed in a fake encounter by the Uttar Pradesh Police.

CELEBRATION TIME



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers celebrate the national party status achievement of the party, in Srinagar, Wednesday.

ED TO COURT

Excise scam: Sisodia planted e-mails to show public approval for policy

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Wednesday told a Delhi court that AAP leader Manish Sisodia, arrested in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam, had planted fabricated e-mails to show that there was a public approval for the policy. The agency made the submissions before Special Judge M K Nagpal while opposing the bail application of the former Delhi deputy chief minister. "We have evidence that Sisodia had e-mails planted. These have been received not only in the official e-mail account of the Excise Department but even in his personal e-mail account. The content of the e-mails was given by Sisodia which suited his agenda," the counsel for the ED told the court. The directions to send these pre-

drafted e-mails were given to Zakir Khan, Chairman of Delhi Minorities' Commission, who then asked his interns to send these e-mails, the ED told the court. "Fabricated e-mails were sent to show that there was a public approval of the policy. This is a sham approval... Illegal ecosystem was created to give benefits to the liquor cartels in lieu of kickbacks," the counsel said.

The ED's special public prosecutor then told the judge that the agency wanted to show him the case diary, at which the defence counsel said that it should not be done so in secrecy. "Sealed cover business should go. If something is used against me to deny me my liberty... If they are relying on something behind my back... It should be put to me as well," the defence counsel said.

Christians not persecuted in India: Kerala archbishop

Thrissur (Ker), Apr 12 (PTI): A bishop of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church in Kerala said on Wednesday that an "unnecessary propaganda" claiming that the Christian community is persecuted in India has been unleashed internationally by vested interests, and it amounted to insulting a great nation.

There are communal organisations among all religious groups, but the ultimate goal of religions and such outfits is different, Geevarghese Mar Yulios, the metropolitan of the Kunnankulam Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, told reporters here.

Such vested interests were propagating that there was no religious freedom in the country

and that the Christian community was being widely attacked in the nation.

"I used to get calls from abroad asking what is happening there (in India)...whether people are being killed, and so on. Of course, India is a big country. There may be some resentments here and there. It should be dealt with legally. Protests also should be staged if required," he said.

He pointed out the example of a protest held against the harassment of nuns while he had served in Gujarat some time ago. The bishop said it was proved later that the accused were those who had intruded into India using fake ID cards.

"When they were caught (by the investiga-

tors), they were not VHP activists or such others. I am not saying that the VHP is good," he added.

His remarks assume significance in view of the BJP's bid to reach out to Kerala's numerically strong Christian community ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP had organised a programme on Easter Day in which party leaders visited Christian homes as part of an effort to reach out to the minority community.

Yulios had recently hit the headlines by stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi could not be blamed for all the internal issues reported in the country.

At variance with Bishop Yulios's remarks about "some resentments here and there", when members of some

Christian communities had held a protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on February 19, which PTI had reported, one of them named Steven who hails from Uttar Pradesh pointed out that there had been "525 cases of atrocities against the members of the community in 2021 and 600 cases in 2022".

"In Uttar Pradesh, the number of such cases increased from 70 in 2020 to 183 in 2022," he had claimed, stating, "We are being accused of forcibly converting people to Christianity. Churches are being attacked, our people are being beaten up and arrested. The community members are living in a constant state of panic."

The numbers cited could not be independently verified.

'Amritpal Singh wanted' posters pasted at Batala railway station

Punjab police offers reward to informer

Chandigarh, Apr 12 (PTI): Posters declaring radical preacher Amritpal Singh as a "wanted man" were pasted at the Batala railway station in Punjab's Gurdaspur district on Wednesday. In the posters pasted by the government railway police, it is mentioned that Amritpal, who has been on the run since March 18 following a police crackdown, is wanted in multiple cases by police. "Whosoever has any information about him (Amritpal) can share it on the mobile numbers given below. Appropriate reward will be given on providing the information," read the poster. The name of the informer will be kept confi-

dential, it said. Police had last month launched a major crackdown against the Khalistan sympathiser and members of his outfit 'Waris Punjab De'. Amritpal, who is yet to be nabbed, escaped the police net in Jalandhar district on March 18, switching vehicles and changing appearances. His close aide Papalpreet Singh was held recently by the state police. The radical preacher and his associates have been booked under several criminal cases related to spreading disharmony among classes, attempt to murder, attack on police personnel and creating obstructions in the lawful discharge of duty by public servants.

PROTEST MARCH



People from the Christian community under the banner of 'Samast Christi Sama' stage a protest against alleged atrocities on Christians in Maharashtra, at Azad Maidan in Mumbai, Wednesday.

Delhi school evacuated after bomb threat via e-mail

Search underway

New Delhi, Apr 12 (PTI):

A school in Delhi's Defence Colony was evacuated Wednesday morning after an e-mail said there were bombs on the premises, police said.

The panicked students and parents of 'The Indian School' gathered outside the school as the bomb squad and other agencies inspected the premises for any explosive substance, they said.

"This morning, a bomb threat e-mail was received by the school. Immediately all safety protocols were carried out and all children and staff were safely evacuated," Tania Joshi, principal, The Indian School told PTI. She said the police is investigating the matter to identify the



Delhi Police dog squad at the Indian School after the school received a bomb threat via email, at Sadiq Nagar in New Delhi, Wednesday.

perpetrator: "Prima facie, the threat seems to be a hoax," she added.

A senior police officer said a person named Brijesh of The Indian School, BRT Road, informed them about the e-mail. The e-mail was received at 10:49 am, the officer said. Police said the school had received a simi-

lar e-mail in November last year.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Chandan Chowdhary said, "The school received the e-mail regarding the bomb threat at 10:49 am on Wednesday. They then informed the Defence Colony police station following which the security personnel

reached the spot and immediately evacuated the school.

"We deployed our bomb squads and also informed the Special Cell and the Special Branch. The SWAT team is also conducting searches inside the premises," he said.

Chowdhary further said that the police force has so far conducted two rounds of search and that the third round is underway.

"We are looking for the source of the e-mail. In November last year, the school received a similar mail which was sent via a German server," he said.

The DCP also said that the e-mail threat appeared to be a hoax.

Vigyan, a class 5 student, said he along with his classmates was evacuated from the school building and taken to the ground.

ROAD SAFETY EXPERTS

'Large ads of Maha govt, private entities on BEST buses blocking reflective tapes, pose risk'

Mumbai, Apr 12 (PTI): The passenger buses being operated by the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) in Mumbai are currently covered with large advertisements, majority of them related to the Maharashtra government campaigns, which pose a risk of accidents as the reflective tapes on these vehicles are getting concealed, say road safety experts.

Reflective tapes improve visibility, ensuring safety for road users. As per the rules, reflective tapes of bright red, white and yellow colours are installed on the rear, front and the sides of the buses. When light from the headlights of other vehicles falls on these tapes, they glitter making the vehicle visible from a distance in darkness, even if the lights of these vehicles are off. The civic transport body has given

the contract of advertising on BEST buses and at bus stops to a private agency. At present the BEST buses are covered with various large advertisements of various initiatives of the Maharashtra government and also some private entities. Some of the ads of the state government, which has been pumping crores of rupees on road safety initiatives and campaigns, read: "Nirnay Vegvan, Maharashtra Gatiman" (Speedy decisions, fast-moving Maharashtra) and "Aapla Davakhana" (Our dispensary), the experts and activists pointed out.

With its fleet of around 3,400 buses, BEST provides bus service in Mumbai and neighbouring cities. Around 35 lakh commuters travel on these on a daily basis. Sources in the BEST said that barring e-buses hired on wet lease, including

double decker e-buses, the public transport body has taken permission from the Tardeo Regional Transport Office (RTO) for advertising on more than 2,900 buses paying Rs 2,000 fee per bus. "Though advertisements are one of the revenue sources nowadays, the reflective tapes and number plates, brake lights cannot be ignored and those should be visible all the time," Sanjay Sasane, a retired RTO official, said, adding that covering such reflective tapes is also a violation of the permit conditions as per the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Experts and some RTO officers are of the opinion that by covering its buses with advertisements, the reflective tapes get concealed and this way, the BEST is risking the lives of passengers as other vehicles may ram into the buses due to visibility issues.

Canoe race of Nicobari tribe of Andaman & Nicobar islands

Port Blair, Apr 12 (PTI): The much-awaited traditional 'Asol Aap' (Canoe Race) of the Nicobari Tribe was held at Big Lapathy Beach in Car Nicobar in the Nicobar district of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

'Asol Aap' is a popular canoe race of the Nicobarese, a tribal group in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In Asol Aap, the number of contestants depends on the size of the canoe. Only two teams are allowed to participate at a time and the race takes place on the sea surrounding the island.

This year, the race was held on April 10-11. It was the 13th Inter village Canoe Race Championship, 2023 and organized by the Nicobars Games and Sports Association, Car Nicobar in coordination with district administration.



Participants of the much awaited traditional 'Asol Aap' (Canoe Race) of Nicobari Tribe prepare for the race in Nicobar district in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Hari Kallikkat, Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar District, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The Chairman of Tribal Council, Car Nicobar, Lionald Nicomede along with other dignitaries were also present. Speaking to PTI, Kallikkat, said, "Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the canoe race championship could not be held for the last few years. This year it was held with larger participation and great enthu-

siasm. This is one of the big events in this remote island, which is located in the northernmost part of the Nicobar Islands. This event is a symbol of holding the root, love, courage and brotherhood of this beautiful Nicobari people." While elaborating more about Asol Aap' (Canoe Race), he said, "The race is a traditional thrilling competition that pits canoe enthusiasts against one another in a challenging and

exciting race down. The race covers a distance of 3 km from Chukchucha to Kinmai village. This year there were a total 22 participants divided in two groups from 15 villages in Car Nicobar. Trophies and prize money were distributed among the six winners from Kinyuka, Tamaloo, Small Lapathy and Chukchucha villages." "We are encouraging model self-sufficient villages here in Nicobar

and I am happy to share that our Laxminagar gram panchayat, Great Nicobar, won second position in the theme 'self sufficient infrastructure' for Panchayat Satat Vikas Puruskar. I would like to congratulate all PRI's, Ex-PRI's, Rural Development officials for this achievement," he added.

कालड़ा बर्न एंव
प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर

हॉटों को पतला - मोटा करें
और आकर्षक बनायें.

डॉ. जे. ए. लक्ष्मणन

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Ajay Advt