

BRIEF



An elderly woman passanger waits for her train, at Tilak bridge station, in New Delhi, Friday.

Teacher booked

■ **Raigarh:** A woman teacher from a private school has been booked for thrashing a 3-year-old student in Chattisgarh's Raigarh district, more than 9 months after the alleged incident took place, an official said on Friday. Police on Thursday registered a case against the teacher following a directive of the Chhattisgarh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the official said. A parent had approached the City Kotwali police station on July 7, 2022, accusing a woman teacher from the private school of beating his 3-year-old son, a nursery student.

Elder mauled


■ **Kotdwār:** A 72-year-old man was mauled to death by a tiger in a village near the Corbett Tiger Reserve here, officials said on Friday. The incident happened at around 6 pm on Thursday at Laduasain village in Riknikhal block close to the wildlife sanctuary, forest ranger Mahendra Singh Rawat said. Virendra Singh had gone to his field near his home to harvest the wheat crop when he was attacked by a tiger hiding behind the bushes, he said. The tiger dragged Singh around 100 metres into the nearby forest, the forest ranger said.

Factory fire

■ **Thane:** A major fire broke out at a factory in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai on Friday afternoon, civic officials said. One person sustained minor injuries in the blaze that started around 4 pm and was taken to hospital, they said. Six fire engines were pressed into service to control the blaze at a "thermo-plastic" factory at Rabale MIDC, they said. The cause of the fire is still not known, they added.

LS bypoll

■ **Chandigarh:** Ahead of the Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll, BJP leader Mohinder Paul Bhagat joined the ruling Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab on Friday. Bhagat, a leader from Jalandhar, is the son of Bhagat Chuni Lal, who was a minister in the erstwhile SAD-BJP government. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann welcomed Bhagat into the AAP fold, the party said in a statement. Jalandhar West MLA Sheetal Angural and AAP Punjab general secretary Harchand Singh Barsat were also present on the occasion. With Bhagat's joining, the AAP has gained more strength in Jalandhar, the party claimed. Recently, Sushil Kumar Rinku, crossed over to the AAP from the Congress and is contesting the parliamentary by-election as the ruling party's candidate.



Weather

High 41 Low 26

Tech, alternative dispute resolution, vital for justice delivery

Guwahati, Apr 14 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday emphasised that technology needs to be brought into play to speed up the justice delivery system, especially in remote areas such as in the northeast.

He also maintained that the alternative dispute resolution system was an important pillar of judicial delivery. Speaking at the concluding ceremony of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Gauhati High Court here, Modi said, "Technology can help bring justice to remote

areas such as in the north-east." He said the government is ensuring utilisation of new technology in every possible sphere, citing Digital India Mission, DBT and Aadhaar as examples of such initiatives to provide tech benefits to citizens. Indicating how lack of clarity in property ownership has proven to be a burden on the judiciary, he gave an example of how drones have been used to bring a solution by mapping properties in over 1 lakh villages under the PM Swamitva Yojana. "Property card distribu-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses during the inauguration of AIIMS Guwahati and launch of other initiatives, in Guwahati, Friday.

tion to lakhs of citizens have already been accomplished, which will result in a decline in property-related cases and ease the lives of citizens," the PM

added. He maintained that there is "unlimited scope for use of technology" to modernise the justice delivery system in the country. Praising the work of the Supreme Court's e-committee in this regard, he mentioned that Budgetary allocation has been made for phase 3 of the e-court mission.

Referring to global efforts to use AI in the judicial system to bring efficiency, Modi said, "We should also try to increase efforts to improve the ease of justice for the common citizen through AI."

He also said, "Alternative dispute resolution systems are vital. The North East has rich traditions in this regard. "The law schools should also teach about these," he added, lauding the Gauhati High Court for recently coming out with six books on customary laws of the region.

He also emphasised the country's law should be written in an easy language, comprehensible to ordinary people, as it enhances citizen's trust in the country and its systems.

Rahul starts shifting belongings ahead of vacating official bungalow



Workers move goods as Congress leader and former Lok Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi vacates his official bungalow at 12 Tughlak Lane, in New Delhi, Friday.

New Delhi, Apr 14 (PTI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has started shifting his belongings from his 12, Tughlaq Lane residence as he was asked to vacate the premises by April 22 following his disqualification from Lok Sabha. Two trucks were seen parked outside his residence and the belongings were later shifted to

his mother's 10, Janpath residence.

Sources said Gandhi is likely to soon vacate the official bungalow allotted to him.

While Rahul Gandhi has seen a number of houses, he may also opt to stay with his mother and Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

Death row convicts taking advantage of inordinate delay in deciding mercy petitions: SC

New Delhi, Apr 14 (PTI):

Death row convicts are taking advantage of an inordinate delay in deciding mercy petitions, the Supreme Court has said while directing the state governments and authorities concerned to see such pleas are decided and disposed of at the earliest.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar said even after the final conclusion by the top court, there is an inordinate delay in not deciding the mercy petition, the object and purpose of the death sentence would be frustrated.

"Therefore, as such, all efforts shall be made by the State Government and/or the concerned authorities to see that mercy petitions are decided and disposed of at the earliest, so that even the accused can also know his fate and

even justice is also done to the victim," the bench said.

The observations came on a petition filed by the Maharashtra government challenging an order of the Bombay High Court which commuted the death sentence awarded to a woman and her sister.

The high court commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment on grounds that there was an inordinate and unexplained delay on the part of the State/Governor of the State in not deciding the mercy petitions preferred by the accused which was kept pending for about seven years and 10 months.

A local court had awarded the death sentence to them in 2001 for kidnapping 13 children and killing nine in Kolhapur, which was confirmed by the high court in 2004.

Even the Supreme Court upheld the high court order in 2006.

Later, their mercy petitions were rejected by the Governor in 2013 and subsequently by the president in 2014.

Refusing to interfere with the high court order, the top court said the gravity of the offence can be a relevant consideration while commuting the death sentence to life imprisonment. However, inordinate delay in disposal of the mercy petitions can also be said to be a relevant consideration while commuting the death sentence to life imprisonment.

"In view of the above, the impugned judgment and order passed by the high court commuting the death sentence to life imprisonment is not required to be interfered with," it said.

Delhi Police nabs 'super thief' who inspired Bollywood movie

New Delhi, Apr 14 (PTI):

Delhi Police has arrested Devender Singh alias Bunt, a notorious thief who was allegedly involved in around 500 cases of theft across the country and inspired a Bollywood flick, officials said on Friday.

Nicknamed "super thief", 53-year-old Singh was nabbed from Uttar Pradesh in connection with two recently executed thefts in the national capital, they said.

Singh started committing thefts since the age of 14 years. He was previously involved in more than 250 cases of theft in Delhi alone, they said.

Singh gained fame after he participated in the popular reality show 'Big Boss' in 2010 but was evicted after he misbehaved with host Salman

Khan. He also inspired Bollywood movie 'Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!', police said.

The arrest was made after a case was registered based on the complaint of a GK-II resident regarding theft of three expensive mobile phones, purse, two laptops, branded shoes, wrist watch and Baleno car on the intervening night of April 12-13, police said.

On the same day, a second theft was reported by another resident of GK-II, they added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Chandhan Choudhary said CCTV camera footage of the area and the place of incident revealed that a middle aged suspect wearing a cap was involved in both the incidents.

Flash droughts are the 'new normal' in droughts: Study

New Delhi, Apr 14 (PTI):

'Flash droughts', or droughts that start and develop rapidly, have become more frequent due to human-caused climate change and the trend is predicted to accelerate in a warmer future, according to a new research.

An international team of researchers, including those from the University of Southampton, UK, said that flash droughts are fast becoming the 'new normal' for droughts, making forecasting and preparing for their impact more difficult. Their research is published in the journal Science. Flash droughts, caused by low precipitation and high evapotranspiration and leading to quick depletion of soil of water, can develop into severe droughts within a few

weeks. While they start quickly, the droughts can last for months, damaging vegetation and ecosystems, and triggering heat waves and wildfires.

The researchers wanted to understand if there had been a transition from conventional 'slow' droughts to flash droughts and also how the trend would develop under different carbon emissions scenario.

The researchers found that the transition was most notable over East and North Asia, Europe, the Sahara, and the west coast of South America.

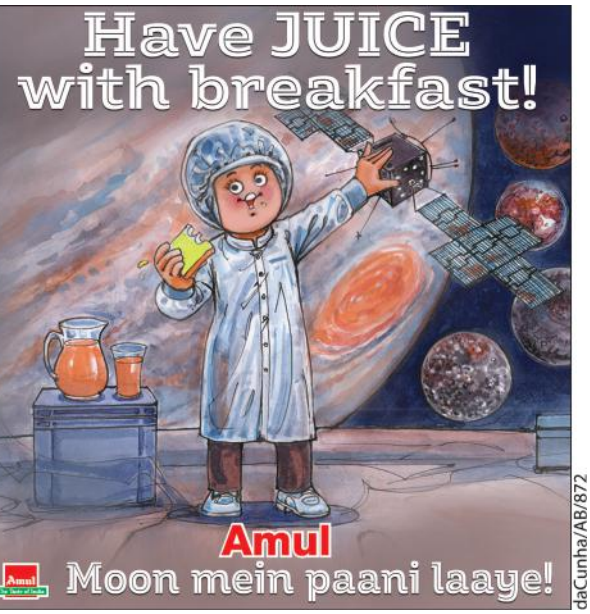
They said that while some areas, such as eastern North America, Southeast Asia and North Australia, saw fewer flash and slow "Climate change has effectively sped up the onset of droughts," said

Justin Sheffield, professor of Hydrology and Remote Sensing at the University of Southampton and co-author of the paper.

Further, they found that while the Amazon saw an increase in slow droughts, West Africa saw an increase in the frequency and extremity of both fast and slow droughts.

"While it varies between different regions, there has been a global shift towards more frequent flash droughts during the past 64 years," said Sheffield.

"As we head towards a warmer future, flash droughts are becoming the new normal. Our models show that higher-emission scenarios would lead to a greater risk of flash droughts with quicker onset which pose a major challenge for climate adaptation," said Sheffield.



Army reach out to Chenab valley youths to scuttle cross-border terrorist recruitment bid

Jammu, Apr 14 (PTI):

As part of its counter-strategy, Army and police have launched a massive youth outreach programme in the Chenab valley amid continuous attempts by Pakistan-based terrorist leaders to look for new recruits and revive terrorism in the Jammu region, security officials said on Friday.

The outreach programme was chalked out after security agencies pointed towards a new strategy being adopted by terrorist handlers to radicalise youths in Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban, the three districts that form the Chenab valley, the officials said.

Over the past couple of months, they said, there has been a spurt in cross-border phone calls with

terror commanders — mostly locals who fled across the border sometime back — making desperate attempts to rope in gullible youths. "More than 80 youths have been put under surveillance in the three districts, 60 questioned and 11 booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act as part of the counter-strategy," an officer told PTI. He said questioning the youths revealed that most of them have relatives across the border.

"The calls are made to radicalise and motivate the youths to join terror ranks. We are keeping a close watch to ensure that no youth is misled by the propaganda as Pakistan-based terror groups are trying to overcome dwindling support," the officer said.

PEACE CAMPAIGN



School students participate in a campaign promoting peace and education, in Kolkata, Friday.

SC collegium recommends retired judge for appointment as HC judge

New Delhi, Apr 14 (PTI):

Setting a precedent, the Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud has recommended a retired district judge for appointment as judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

The collegium, which also includes Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and KM Joseph, recommended the name of Roopesh Chandra Varshney, who joined judicial service on September 28, 1987 and is a senior member of the Madhya Pradesh Higher Judicial Service, for judgeship of the high court.

Prior to this, Justice Baharul Islam (1980) and Justice Fathima Beevi (1989) were appointed as

apex court judges after they had retired as judges of a high court.

Referring to the Intelligence Bureau report, the collegium said Varshney has a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity.

His judicial performance, as assessed by the Evaluation Committee of Judges, is very good and the annual confidential reports of the candidate are noteworthy, it said. The collegium said on the date of the recommendation by the collegium of the high court, he was about 59.10 years of age and has since retired from judicial service on reaching the age of superannuation.

Supela Flyover opens; brings relief to commuters

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 14: The flyover on National Highway was opened for commuting on Friday morning. The officials of Traffic Police, PWD and Construction Company performed religious rituals after which the flyover was opened for traffic movement. Considering the traffic pressure and congestion, this flyover has been opened for traffic without any formal inauguration.

Friday was a very important day for the citizens of Bhilai as well as daily commuters who travel between Durg and Raipur as the newly constructed flyover of Supela became operational.

People got great relief with the opening of this flyover. Traffic congestion at Supela and Chandra Mourya Square



almost vanished immediately after the diversion of traffic towards the flyover.

PWD's NH Division officials had declared that the construction work of Supela Flyover has been completed after the load testing. As it was ready for traffic movement, the

administration opened it without any delay.

Around 10:00 hrs on Friday, the lane of Raipur to Durg side was opened first and after about two hours, the second lane of Durg to Raipur was opened for traffic. Thousands of passengers who commute through

NH will be facilitated, as well as the time taken for commuting will be saved.

The repair work of the roads beneath the flyover will be launched soon. Landscaping work beneath the bridge is underway. Vertical gardens are also being established at many places.

More than 800 officers, employees and citizens participate in symbolic protest

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 14: More than 800 officers and employees of Bhilai Steel Plant along with the representatives of various other organizations responded to the call of BSP-OA and Trade Unions' Joint Front to participate in the symbolic demonstration at Sector 9 against the illegal encroachments, possession and activities of anti-social elements in Bhilai Township.

They strongly protested against the illegal encroachments on BSP land and houses, illegal constructions and giving houses of rent illegally by certain anti-social elements in Bhilai.

This symbolic protest was organized by all the representatives of the United Front to strengthen the voice of the people of Bhilai against the anarchy, illegal occupations and a sense of insecurity being spread in Bhilai. They reit-



erated their commitment to make Bhilai clean, safe and secure again.

For the past some time, many illegal constructions have been made in Bhilai Township, which are technically very unsafe and are potential danger to the residents of Bhilai. The people of Bhilai are very serious over the attempt to cover Bhilai Township with illegal constructions.

To restore the security and peace of Bhilai and eliminate the fear, hundreds of people registered their presence at Sector-9.

During the peaceful symbolic protest, the BSP Officers Association and all trade unions together displayed their unity under the banner of the United Front. They resolved to continue to struggle jointly for the interests of Bhilai to make Bhilai fear free.

The representatives of the front appreciated the work and extended full moral support to the campaign being run by the Enforcement Department. After the peaceful procession, the United Front of

BSP Officers Association and Trade Unions expressed their gratitude towards the people of Bhilai who participated in the demonstration.

BSP Officers Association, BMS, INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AICTU, BWU, Ispat Shramik Manch, Steel Workers Union, Diploma Engineers Association, Retired Officers, office bearers of all contract labor unions and members of social organizations actively participated in this symbolic demonstration.

Free medical camp conducted in memory of Shaheed B Shankar Rao

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 14: A free medical check up camp was organised in memory of Shaheed B Shankar Rao, Platoon Commander (STF) on his 8th death anniversary on April 10. The camp was conducted under the auspices of SR Hospital at the Shaheed Shankar Rao memorial garden premises in Camp 2. Durg SP Dr Abhishek Pallava and CSP Ashish Kumar Banchor paid homage to the immortal martyr in the programme and met the family members of the Shaheed.

Praising SR Hospital for the camp the duo said that people of the area will definitely get benefits from the health camp. Dr Pallava stated that the wife of Amar Shaheed is an ideal for the society. The Police force is always with the family of Amar Shaheed B Shankar Rao. Senior doctor Dr



SP Kesarwani briefed that 282 patients have taken benefits from the camp. In the camp, 65 patients with eye disease were identified who were provided free spectacles by the hospital management.

The doctors of SR Hospital who rendered free service at the camp included Dr SP Kesarwani, Dr Abhishek Mahobia, Dr Neelam Chandrakar, Dr Sanchin Jain, Dr Palak, Dr Shiv Patel, Chandrasen

Rathore, Prem Chandrakar, Hari Sahu, Yavantika, Seema Sharma, Nisha Sahu, Yamuna Patel, Nisha, Meghu, Archana Verma, Rampal Shahu, Gopi Ram Mandalay.

Mota Raju, Trilochan Singh, Vinod Chelak, Shamim Ahmed, Ajay Bhasin, Gudda Arya, Bhaskar Rao, Shankar Sahni, Sanjay Nayak, Shiv Jaiswal, Amit Pandey, Arvind Verma and other residents of the area paid tributes.

BMC to lodge FIR in cases of cheque bounce

UPI facility available for property tax payment

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 14: Bhilai Municipal Corporation urged the taxpayers to maintain sufficient balance in their bank accounts if they have paid the property tax through bank cheque. The taxpayers must ensure that the situation of cheque bounce does not occur. In case of cheque bounce, the Corporation is going to lodge an FIR.

Bhilai Municipal Corporation has received many complaints of cheque bounce. Corporation administration is now alert about this issue and is preparing to take legal action. BMC has received information about 12 cases under Zone

No 1 area. Cheque bounce cases have come to light in Vaishali Nagar Zone, Mother Teresa Nagar Zone and Khursipar Zone area also.

About 56 cases of insufficient balance in the account and signatures mismatch have been reported. The BMC has taken these matters seriously and action can be taken soon. Bhilai Municipal Corporation appealed to the taxpayers, who use bank cheques to pay taxes, to maintain sufficient balance in the bank account and sign the cheques carefully to ensure that the cheque is honoured.

There is good news for taxpayers as no surcharge will be levied to deposit tax through UPI till April



30 for the financial year 2022-23. Now the people can deposit tax will get the facility of UPI system. Taxes can be paid through

the UPI system from platforms including Phone Pay, Google Pay, Paytm etc. Tax deposit facility will be available through UPI sys-

tem in all zone offices including the head office of the corporation. It is notable that the Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas is constantly directing the

officers to increase the tax collection. In this context, online arrangements are also being made soon. Till then, people living outside the city can easily deposit tax on account number 50200078894152 by contacting helpline number 9153986192 and 9153986196.

Giving information, Saurabh Pandey of Shree Publication and Stationers said that UPI will also be arranged for the employees of the agency doing door to door collection, so that tax collection can be done through digital mode also.

Rally taken out on Ambedkar Jayanti



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 14: A state level fair and grand rally was organized at Power House in Bhilai on the occasion of Dr Ambedkar

Jayanti on Friday. A large number of followers attended the Jayanti Mela Mahotsav Maharally at Ambedkar Chowk Power House. Rallies with tableaux were taken out

from various Ambedkarite localities.

People holding the national flag tricolor, Panchsheel and blue flags participated in the rallies. The procession was taken

out from Wambay Awas, Model Town, Kosa Nagar, Radhika Nagar, Ambedkar Nagar and Bhim Nagar.

The other rally was taken out from Hudco

which was joined by the rally of Sector 6. The third rally reached Power House from Old Bhilai and Khursipar. Best tableaux were given first, second and third prize.

Baisakhi celebrated with fervor

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 14: On Friday, Steel City celebrated the festival of Baisakhi with religious fervor. Devotees thronged to the Gurudwaras in the city to offer prayers. Langar was served to the devotees.

This festival also marks the beginning of the New Year for the Sikh Community.

Baisakhi is a harvest festival and on this day, Guru Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa Panth in the year 1699.

Local public representatives also reached the Gurudwaras and exchanged greetings with the people.



'Physics Wallah' launches Vidyapeeth in city

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 14: Physics Wallah, India's most affordable & loved edtech platform, launched its Vidyapeeth center in Bhilai the other day. The Bhilai center was inaugurated by Devendra Yadav, MLA, Bhilai Nagar. Chief guest Devendra Yadav stated that he was grateful to Physics Wallah to have chosen Bhilai for their Vidyapeeth center. This news will definitely bring joy to students since everyone loves Physics Wallah and Alakh Pandey.

Here it needs a mention that edtech startup is already running 11 Vidyapeeth centers in various cities across the country and with these new inaugurations it is going to add on the wider range of options for students, so that they don't have to leave their cities for further studies. Like other Vidyapeeth classrooms, the Bhilai center will also be equipped with a smart board for interactive learning, with all the lectures



uploaded on the PW app after every class. Tapas Chowdhury, Center Head, PW Vidyapeeth, added Vidyapeeth is a revolutionary initiative in the edtech sector. It is an answer to their long-standing commitment to offering quality education to every student everywhere. The Vidyapeeth will offer support for more than 15 hours a day. Students will also have the facility to escalate any issue to our head office via the PW app. In addition, the centre will also conduct extra classes and regular tests for students while

also providing them with a test analytics dashboard to help them prepare well for competitive exams.

Rama Krishna Reddy, Business Head, PW Vidyapeeth said that with Vidyapeeth, the aim is to leverage technology to make education enjoyable and more accessible. We are dedicated to bringing the best features such as live recorded classes that can be viewed on the app. We also focus on bringing in the best faculty with over 10 years of experience and great expertise.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 14: Fire Service day was observed at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Fire Service department on April 14, 2023. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Dasgupta paid tributes at Shaheed Smarak to Firemen who lost their lives during their service earlier.

Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay ED (Projects) with additional charge of ED (P&A), AK Chakravorty, ED (MM), Dr AK Panda, ED (F & A), Samir Swarup, CGM I/c (Mines and Rowghat), Dr M Ravindranath, CMO I/c (Medical and Health Services), CGM I/cs, CGMs, other senior officials and family members of Fire Service personnel and children were present on the occasion.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) in his address emphasised on preventing fire.



We must strive to keep the Plant safe and improve monitoring of our Fire protection system, he said.

We must take support of technology in the field of Fire Safety. We must be prepared to tackle emergencies, he added. We must also equip ourselves to hazards which are seasonal in nature, he stated.

Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) stated that we must follow SoPs. We must sensitize people towards Fire safety and recognise the efforts of the

those Firemen who serve to save us round the clock, he said.

The theme for Fire Safety day this year is "Awareness in Fire Safety for Growth of National Infrastructure (AGNI)".

Vineet Pal Singh Dhama accorded Chief Guest Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) an inspection of the Parade. Two minutes silence was observed for remembering the sacrifice of Firemen who lost their lives earlier. An Oath was taken by Firemen



followed by Guard of Honour to the Chief Guest.

GP Singh, CGM (Safety & FS) gave the Welcome address. BK Mahapatra, Chief Fire Officer presented the Annual report and enumerated the details of efforts taken to prevent accidents.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP), and Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) gave away prizes to winners of different competitions. Dinesh Kumar Bhatt and Mandata Goyal were declared the Best Firemen of the year.

Informative and interesting fire safety demonstration including Ladder drill, First aid fire fighting demo, AFT Tank fire, Home safety, Kitchen fire, Party fire, Cable tunnel, transformer oil fire, Propane storage Tank fire and High expansion foam were displayed which kept the audience watching in awe of the procedures.

Pramod Rathod and Sarika Gahane compered the programme while Sanjay Dhawas proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Constitution given by Baba Saheb is the biggest strength of people of the country: CM

CM Baghel pays tribute to Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar by garlanding his statue

Attends Ambedkar public birth anniversary celebrations

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 14: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has said that the biggest strength of the people of the country is our constitution given by Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Our constitution makes us empowered, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel expressed views to this effect while addressing the public birth anniversary function organised on the occasion of the 132nd birth anniversary of Constitution maker, Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Ambedkar in the state capital today. Earlier, the Chief Minister paid tribute to Baba Saheb Ambedkar by garlanding his life-size statue at Ambedkar Chowk.

The Chief Minister said that on one hand the country was fighting for freedom, while on the other hand Babasaheb Ambedkar was organizing and fighting for the downtrodden society to get rights. Baba Saheb inspired the people of the backward classes of the society to struggle by



being educated and organised. Baghel said that Baba Saheb realised that the biggest weakness of Indian society is education. Referring to Indian philosophy, he said that we consider the whole world as our family. Ideologically we are very high, but our behaviour is not like that. Human beings are discriminated against in our society, equality is not treated. Many great men of the country including Baba Saheb realised this evil of the Indian society and fought against it. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar fought for the rights of the downtrodden and by becoming their voice.

Chief Minister Baghel said that legends like Baba Saheb are born once in centuries, he gave us the mantra to 'Sikshit bano, sangathi raho aur sangarsh karo'. His thoughts inspire us to struggle and move forward. He imbibed Lord Buddha's message of wisdom, compassion and friendship. Today the society needs it the most. The constitution given by Baba Saheb gives us an opportunity for social, eco-



conomic and political equality. We got reservation because of the constitution. Baba Saheb tried to bring change in the society. Under his leadership lakhs of people took initiation of Buddhism in Nagpur.

The Chief Minister said that our government has simplified the caste certificate. Chhattisgarh is the first state in the country where if the parents have a caste certificate, then the newborn child is given its caste certificate. If someone does not have a record of 50 years, then arrangements have been made to make caste certificate after the resolution is passed by the Gram Sabha or the General Assembly in urban areas. On the demand of the society for land in Naya Raipur, the Chief Minister said that the land is being allotted to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes on giving 10 percent of the cost of the land and 15 percent to other

classes. He said that if the society wants to take government land, then mark the land, the land will be allotted as per the prescribed procedure. He said that Guru Ghasidas Museum, Shaheed Veer Narayan Memorial and world class school are being built in Nava Raipur. The Chief Minister released the book titled Tathagat Sandesh Patrika and Constitution of India in the programme.

During the program, it was informed by the organizers that according to the announcement made by Chief Minister Baghel last year on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, approval has been received for the works. On acceptance of these works, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar public birth anniversary celebration committee expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister. Last year, the Chief Minister had announced Rs 50 lakh for Mangal Bhavan and Rs 50

lakh for the construction of an auditorium at Devendranagar-based Buddh Vihar, installation of a new 20-feet tall statue of Baba Saheb by the Municipal Corporation at Ambedkar Chowk. All these works have been approved.

On this occasion, Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, Mayor of Raipur Municipal Corporation Ajiaz Dhebar, Speaker RMC Pramod Dubey, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Minority Commission Mahendra Chhabra, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Scheduled Castes Commission K.P. Khande, District Cooperative Central Limited President of the Bank Pankaj Sharma, Councillor of Municipal Corporation Raipur Sunder Jogi and many councillors and Shakun Dahria, Ratanlal Dangi, Chairman of the organising committee Dilip Wasnikar and many officials of the committee and citizens were present.

AMBEDKAR JAYANTI



On occasion of 132nd Jayanti of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, the followers took out procession and distributed squash in different locations here on Friday.

Role of Governor should be reviewed : CM

Questions as to how the Governor can withhold the bill and for how long?

Says it is badly affecting exams, recruitment of youth in state



Raipur, Apr 14: Raising questions over inordinate delay on signing of the Reservation Bill pending with the Governor, CM Bhupesh Baghel said that the rule of Rajbhavan should be closely reviewed. As to how long the Governor can withhold the Bill? Why the issue pertaining to public is being withheld? Due to this youth are facing problems in employment and recruitment, he added.

Speaking to media persons on occasion of birth anniversary of one of the founders of Constitution of India Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, CM Baghel the very issue that a Bill can be withheld for indefinite period by Rajbhavan should be reviewed. The Governor is unable to take decision pertaining to public interest and it is almost four months that the Reservation Bill is pending with Rajbhavan, the exams of students and

their recruitment is still pending CM added

CM Baghel said that his Government has done its job on the reservation, but the Governor is not signing on the Bill passed in the Vidhan Sabha. CM Baghel charged that the Constitution is in danger and it is being amended and used as per convenience. If the Constitution is safe, then the country will also remain safe, otherwise we all will land in trouble. Abedkarji tried to bring changes in the society, through the Constitution, he added.

Commenting on the same, ex-CM Dr Raman Singh said that there is no such provision in the Constitution and whether any discussions will be held on it, in the near future or any decision be taken, is a different issue.

IIIT-NR conduct 5th edition of Industry-Academia meet



Raipur, Apr 13: IIT-NR organized fifth edition of Industry Academia Meet on April 13 in physical mode at its campus in Atal Nagar. The event proved to be a grand success, providing an excellent platform for industry professionals, students, and academics to exchange ideas, experiences, and knowledge. The meet witnessed a congregation of representatives from some of the top MNCs in the country, including Google Cloud, Verizon, Carl Zeiss India, Autodesk, AxtiaInc, Truminds Software Systems, Miraфра Technologies, and Synapse Design Inc.

Based on the theme of 'Technology Challenge Showcase,' IAM 2023 was

specifically designed to promote collaboration between academia and industry, providing an opportunity to explore opportunities for mutual growth. The esteemed panel of industry leaders included: Mr. Tushar Sahu, Director of Engineering & India Site Lead, Google Cloud, Mr. Sudepto Mukherjee, Head-Technical Training, Verizon, Ms. Amrisha Vohra, Research Development Lead, Carl Zeiss India, Mr. Somanth Yadav, Engineering Manager, Autodesk, Mr. Ashish Chandra, Senior Director- Decision Sciences, AxtialInc, Mr. Abhijit Chakrabarty, Senior Engineering Manager, Truminds

Software Systems, Mr. Vinod John, Vice President-Hardware Engineering, Mirafr Technologies and Mr. Apurva Kumar, Director-Engineering, Synapse Design Inc.

The meet was inaugurated by VC & Director of the Institute, Dr Pradeep Kumar Sinha in presence of distinguished industry experts. He elaborated on the genesis of IAM. The technical sessions were conducted in four parallel technical tracks. Track A had projection IOT, Network and Security; Track B on Image Processing and Computer vision; Track C on Data Science and Machine Learning whereas track D had projects on VLSI.

Communication, and Embedded System. Students of IIIT-NR presented their project and product ideas to the judges from Industry and the industry experts served as jury members and assessed projects and gave valuable feedback to the students to render their projects industry-oriented. The students were able to get valuable insights on the quality of their finished work and working prototypes in terms of expectations and relevance to industry standards. The keynote speeches, panel discussions, and networking opportunities provided an enriching experience for students, faculty, and industry professionals. All the winners in different tracks were awarded in the closing ceremony of the event.

Dr. Amit Kumar Aggarwal, Assistant Professor, was the faculty coordinator for the event. He looks forward to continuing this tradition in the future, aiming to provide a dynamic environment for innovative research and technological advancements.

Ch'garh one of leading states in crop insurance implementation

Raipur, Apr 14: Chhattisgarh has been awarded the excellent award by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, for the better and successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in Chhattisgarh. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel and Agriculture Minister Mr. Ravindra Choubey congratulated the officials and employees of the Agriculture Department for this achievement. It may be noted that Chhattisgarh is one of the leading states across the country in the implementation of Prime Minister's Crop Insurance. At the 9th National Review Workshop



organised by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, in Raipur on Friday, Mr. Manoj Ahuja, Secretary to the Government of India, handed over the citation to Chhattisgarh's Agriculture Production Commissioner Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, awarding him with the excellent award.

On this occasion, Dr. Ayyaz F., Special Secretary, Agriculture Department, Tamboli, Director Agriculture, Mrs. Ranu Sahu, Director, Horticulture Department, Mr. V. Matheswaran, Additional Director Horticulture, Mr. Bhupendra Pandey and Joint Director Agriculture Mr. BK Mishra were also present. In

the national review workshop, it was informed that the ambitious scheme of the Government of India, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, has been successfully implemented in Chhattisgarh with DigiClaim module for automatic calculation and settlement of National Crop Insurance Portal. Along with this, remarkable success has been achieved in registering the portal and taking the benefits of insurance to the farmers. Under this scheme in Chhattisgarh, in the year 2022-23, 6,77,558 eligible farmers have been given the benefit of crop insurance. An amount of Rs 192.41 crore has been given to the farmers as insurance amount.



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CU made a center for creating Shraavan Kumars: Sao



● **Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya Shraavan line service launched on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti in CU**

Bilaspur, Apr 14: A function was organized at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (GGU) (a Central University) for the celebration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti and inauguration ceremony of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya Shraavan Line Yojana (GSL). In the function organized at Rajat Jayanti Sabhagar, Arun Sao, LS MP, Bilaspur was the Chief Guest. Special Guests were Rajneesh Singh, MLA, Beltara Vidhan Sabha, Chhattisgarh and Hamida Siddiqui, President Rotary Club, Bilaspur and Deputy Advocate General, Chhattisgarh High Court Bilaspur. The program was presided over by Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal.

The Chief Guest of the program Arun Sao, said on the occasion of the launch of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya Shraavan Line Yojana on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, "The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal has made the youth of Central University Shraavan Kumars". He appreciated the fact that the university is becoming a center for innovative initiatives with thrust on culture, education and inspiration. He paid his tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar lauding him as the constitution maker, policy maker and a strong social reformer.

In the inaugural program, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor

Alok Kumar Chakrawal said that great character and personality should always be imbibed. "The launch of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya Hearing Line Scheme (GSL)", Professor Chakrawal said, "is a symbol of the commitment of the University to the society". He said that we aim to reach out even to the last person from all sections of the society. It is our endeavor that the city of Bilaspur reaches the highest place in the country in the Happiness Index. He said that along with getting education, the students here will be involved in social work.

The Special Guest, Rajneesh Singh, MLA, Beltara Vidhansabha said

that the personality of constitution maker, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar was huge. He said that innovative work is being done continuously under the leadership of Dr. Chakrawal, the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Special Guest Hamida Siddiqui, President, Rotary Club, Bilaspur and Deputy Advocate General of Chhattisgarh High Court, Bilaspur said that if we serve the society then the country is served.

We can cooperate in nation building by joining hands with the society. Keeping in view social harmony and necessity, this GSL scheme is a very commendable effort, she

reiterated.

Convener of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya Shraavan Line Yojana (GSL) is Dr. Manish Srivastava, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science Engineering, and Co-convener is Dr. Archana Yadav, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work. There are 20 members including those in the Advisory Committee.

Later a workshop was also organized on the topic 'Helpline Service: Challenges and Management'. At the end, the vote of thanks was delivered by the Registrar of the university, Prof. Manish Srivastava and Dr. Garima Tiwari, Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Environmental Science conducted the program.

On this occasion, eminent citizens of Bilaspur city, senior citizens, Deans of various schools, heads of departments, officers, teachers, research scholars and a large number of students were present.

Workshop on Enhancing Self-Confidence organised



● **At HNLU**

Raipur, Apr 14: A workshop on Enhancing Self Confidence was organised on April 11, 2023, for the students, faculty and staff of Hidayatullah National Law University. Hosted by HNLU, the speaker was Ms. Anisha Basu Choudhary, a Psychologist and Counsellor from YourDOST, an online counselling and psychological support system where users can anonymously seek support from psychologists and other trained individuals.

The objective of organ-

ising the workshop was to help identify cognitive errors & restructuring processes which help in maintaining desired levels of confidence, and also to orient participants on several points of behavioural dynamics, such as visualizing self-confidence, understanding confidence, exploring what lack of confidence can look like, strategies for believing in one's self, strategies for building oneself up, etc. Ms. Basu Choudhary, in her presentation provided a comprehensive account of the various psychological facets associated with self-confidence. The presenta-

tion involved a series of interactive discussions with the members of the audience on the contours of self-confidence, namely, self-efficacy, self-affirmation, societal motivation, and most importantly, self-motivation. It also involved a range of interactions on topics like the significance of assertiveness in social situations; stoicism; and the cultivation of high self-esteem in oneself regardless of extraneous or surrounding circumstances.

Overall, this interactive session served as a great means of instilling in the students the right ideas, concepts, and theories surrounding self-confidence, not just in the academic sense but in a way that they actually benefit in the everyday dealings of life. The session witnessed active participation from the students community, who had a lot to take away from the day's session. The session served as an effective means of helping students develop a deeper understanding of self-confidence and its practical applications in real-life situations.

BBPS holds annual prize distribution function



● **At BBPS, NTPC Sipat**

Sipat, Apr 13: The function was organized to reward meritorious students during the previous academic session, wherein N Srinivasa Rao, Executive Director, NTPC Sipat, was the Chief guest. Umakant Haribhau Gokhe, General Manager, CPG 2 and Mr. Praveen Ranjan Bharti, Manager, Human Resource Department were also present for the event.

The ceremony commenced by the lighting of the lamp followed by welcome song which enthralled everyone. During the event, the awards, trophies and certificates were

conferred upon the well deserving BBPSites by the chief guest. The guests encouraged the students by felicitating them in various fields like sports and co-curricular activities. The Shivaji House team won the best performer trophy by excelling in various competitions.

The chief guest Srinivasa Rao also gave a message to the students to study diligently, stay positive and to never lose hope. The programme was concluded with a vote of thanks. The Principal of the school, Shalabh Nigam congratulated the staff and students for their hard work and expressed his gratitude to the guests.

NIT Students secure placements at Visa and Tekion

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 14: National Institute of Technology Raipur's final year Information Technology students Durgesh Pushpkar, Lalit Kumar Jena, and Hemant Patel, Computer Science and Engineering students Gritika Chandrakar and Bharat Bhushan Tandon, Electrical Engineering student Md. Sadique, and Electronics and Communication Engineering student Hemant Kumar Rathore have bagged a placement of 28.5 LPA at Visa as Software Developing Engineers. Final year Information Technology students Twinkle Agarwal, Mahim Mittal, Akashdeep Chandrakar, Manas Chandrawanshi, and Omprakash Patel, Computer Science and Engineering students Akash Sudan, Tushar Singh, Vashu Jain, Chodiseti Venkata Rohith, Atul Rathore, Pabbiseti Sai Venkata Tarun Kumar, and Harshdeep Raghawanshi



have bagged a placement of 47 LPA at Tekion as full-time Software Developers.

Hailing from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Md. Sadique shared his preparation journey by emphasizing his problem-solving practice on online platforms like GeeksforGeeks and Leetcode. He emphasized the importance of building a good project around which you can drive your interview. He recommended beginners to focus on Data Structures and Algorithms and to develop proficiency in Competitive programming.



Sushant Pandey from Koriya, Chhattisgarh received an offer from Tekion with 47 LPA CTC. He mentioned that he started web development in 2nd semester by following various courses available and in 3rd semester, he began practicing Data Structures and Algorithms in C++. He shared that coding platforms like Hackerrank and GeeksforGeeks are good for beginners and they helped him a lot in creating a strong foundation. After getting a grip on DSA concepts, he started solving problems on Leetcode for a better understanding of those



concepts. To develop efficiency and speed for online assessments, having good proficiency in competitive programming is necessary. Further, he mentioned that projects help a lot during the interview and suggested that while selecting a project we should try to solve some real-world problems.

Hemant Kumar Rathore from Korba, Chhattisgarh received an offer letter from VISA INC. as an SWE with a package of 28.5 LPA. He started writing articles regarding Data Structures and Algorithms in GEEKS FOR GEEKS platform.

State-level Power Engineers Conclave 2023 today



Raipur, Apr 14: A delegation from the Chhattisgarh Electricity Board Engineers Association (CEBEA) led by Provincial General Secretary Engineer Manoj Verma met with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his official residence on Wednesday. The delegation invited the Chief Minister to be the chief guest at the state-level Power Engineers Conclave 2023, which will be held on April 15 in the state capital. Engineer Manoj Verma told Chief Minister Baghel that the state-level Power Engineers Conclave is being organized after the Corona period for the first time in the last four years. This conclave will bring to-

gether electrical engineers from throughout the state. Together with an intellectual conversation on technological problems, issues relating to the advancement of engineers will be covered during the conclave. Hemant Verma, Chairman of the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (CSERC), will preside over the program. Meanwhile, Chief Minister thanked the group for the invitation to the Power Engineers Conclave and expressed his best wishes for the Conclave's success. On this occasion, R.K. Sharma, R.K. Banchole, Vinay Chandrakar, and other members were present.

Attempt for theft by the accused foiled

Kondagaon, Apr 14: An accused was arrested by the police while trying to conduct theft in one's house on Wednesday night. According to the information received from the police, the father of the complainant, Manguram Markam, S/o Dhuseeram Markam, (38 yrs), R/o Gamhri, Patelpara, entered inside the house by an unknown person at night. He was moving the goods here and there with



the intention, but the woman woke up on hearing the noise and shouted for help loudly. On this other members of the house also woke up and found that Shankar Shori of the village has broke-in the house to steal the goods. Due to loud noise the

accused hid under the bed. The incident was reported to Banskot check-post where the police registered the crime under investigation and took immediate action. Suspect Shankar Shori, S/o Chamra Ram Shori, (56 yrs), R/o Gamhri Patelpara, District Kondagaon, was detained and interrogated and he confessed his crime. He was arrested and sent to jail on judicial remand.

Socio-economic survey in 22 villages completed



● **In Kondagaon district**

Kondagaon, Apr 14: Chhattisgarh Government is conducting Chhattisgarh Socio-Economic Survey from April 1 to 30th across the state for implementation of various schemes and creation of new schemes. Under which the survey work is being done at a fast pace in Kondagaon district. For which 652 enumeration teams have been formed in the district and 111 supervisors have also been appointed for their investigation and training. As a result of which the survey work has been completed in 22 villages of this

district in 10 days. In this survey work has been completed in 12 villages of Farsgaon Development Block, 5 villages of Keshkal Development Block, 2-2 villages of Kondagaon and Makdi Development Blocks and 1 village of Baderajpur Development Block. In order to speed up the survey, SDMs of all sections, Janpad Panchayat CEOs, Tehsildars and other nodal officers accompany the enumeration teams in their designated areas and review the quality and progress of the survey work every week. Meetings are being encouraged to conduct surveys at a fast pace.

Students of APS won gold, silver & bronze medals



At the Int'l Olympiad
Khilendra Kumar Dhruv shined in the Athletic Federation of India

Bemetara, Apr 13: Allonsians won 6 Gold Medals, 5 Silver Medals & 3 Bronze Medals in the International Olympiads held in last December 2022 for Mathematics, Science, English & Spell Bee. The students are selected through a rigorous screening process and then trained properly with the support of the trainers of Humming Birds Education Limited. Allonsian Khilendra Kumar Dhruv shined in Athletic Federation of India who brought laurels for the Bemetara District by participating in 600 M, U-16 category at 18th National Inter District



Junior Athletics Meet 2023 organised by Sports Development Authority. All the certificates and medals were distributed to the students by Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal in the morning assembly. Gold Medal Achievers :Tanishqa Sonwani, Class-V (English), Arav Sahu, Class-II (Mathematics), Pranshi Dhruv, Class-III (Mathematics), Peehu Parganiha, Class-IV (Mathematics), Ranveer Singh, Class-IV (Science) and Prajjawal Mandavi, Class-IV (Spell bee).

Silver Medal Achievers: Daksh Dewangan, Class-III (Mathematics), Shirsh Dewangan, Class-IV (Mathematics), Tanishqa Sonwani, Class-V (Mathematics), Vanya Verma, Class-V (Mathematics) and Arvind Sahu, Class-V (Mathematics). Bronze Medal Achievers-Aniket, Class-III

(Mathematics), Gurman Kaur, Class-IV (Mathematics) and Shashwat Maheshwari, Class-V (Mathematics) Certificate& Medal Achiever- The most recognized grass root level National competition-Khilendra Kumar Dhruv, Class-X(18th National Inter District Junior Athletics Meet 2023 organised by Sports Development Authority) Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal blessed the winner students on this occasion. He advised all the students to participate in different competitions to enhance their talents. He praised the teachers also for honing the latent potential of the students for their exceptional well performance in the Olympiad. Kamaljeet Arora, Chairman, Pushkal Arora, Director, Sunil Sharma, Administrator and all the teachers blessed the students and wished their success in the future.

Classifieds

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Award started in the name of Sushma Swaraj by Mahila Morcha

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Apr 13: Sushma Swaraj Award was first started by Mahila Morcha Mandal unit Gurur at Jagriti Bhavan of Gurur Nagar in Balod district.

Chairman Chandrik Ganjeer said that Sushma Swaraj has been a living example of a strong woman and every woman should be empowered like her. Going ahead with the felicitation, Mahila Morcha honored women and girls belonging to the Scheduled Caste category by giving them mementoes.

On the occasion Former President of Janpad Panchayat Gurur



Dameshwari Sahu said that Sushma Swaraj has been a living example of a strong woman and every woman should become strong like her. Vibha

Srivastava said that we will always move forward on the path shown by her. Mandal President of Mahila Morcha, Chandrika Ganjeer ad-

ressed and threw light on the great personality of Sushma Swaraj and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started Sushma Swaraj Award campaign to honor her service and we feel proud that we are able to do something for her.

Meenu Sahu, Savita Sahu, Pawaiya Sahu, Sonkunwar Chandel, Saraswati Manikpuri and many more were felicitated. Former District Panchayat President Dameshwari Sahu, Mahila Morcha President Chandrika Ganjeer, Sarpanch Dineshwari Sinha, Councilor Jiteshwari Nishad and others were present.

Mock-drill held at Covid treatment Hospital

● In Kanchanpur

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Apr 13: For the prevention and treatment of corona infection, here, under the guidance of District Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh, a mock-drill was done at Exclusive Covid Treatment Hospital, Kanchanpur, and District Headquarters Baikunthpur.

Under the mock-drill, the availability and functionality of the health facilities available in the Hospital were tested by the health staff, apart from the functioning of medical equipments, ven-



tilators, multi-paramoni- tor oxygen concentrator being tested.

All medical staff including Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. RS Sengar, DPM Dr. Prince

Jaiswal was present. As per information, a total of 402 beds are available in various institutions for Covid management in the district, in which 29 for ICU, 9 for HDU, 165 with

oxygen in addition to ICU and HDU, 199 normal beds are included. Also, 12 out of 29 ICU beds are available for children, along with this, 78 oxygen concentrators and 110 pipelines are also available.

Adequate quantity of equipment is also ready in the district, which includes 25 ventilators for adults, 3 pediatric ventilators for children, 34 multi-parameters, 740 oxygen cylinders jumbo, 305 oxygen small cylinders, 65 oxygen concentrators. Oxygen generator plant has also been set up in Covid Hospital premises Baikunthpur, which has a capacity of 500 LPM.

TSS submits memo to SDM

In protest against murder of one from community in Biranpur



Central Chronicle News

Pandaria, Apr 13: In protest against murder of one Bhuneswar Sahu from Biranpur village in Balod district, members of Tehsil Sahu Samaj (TSS) Pandaria went to SDM's office and submitted a memorandum in the

name of CM and Governor, demanding death sentence to the accused involved and government job to one from the family and compensation of Rs 50 lakh to Bhuneswar Sahu's family.

During this TSS Tehsil President Gajpal Sahu, District Panchayat speak-

er's rep- Durg div. working committee President Jaleshwar Jallu Sahu, YC cell State V.P. Ghanshyam Sahu, State YC Cell Joint Secy. Shailendra Sahu, TSS V-P Dayalu Sahu, Tehsil general secy. Maheshwar Sahu, Hari Sahu, Sudarshan Sahu and others were present.

Supply of raw Mangoes increases in the market

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Apr 13: The demand for King of all Fruits 'Mango' is increasing with arrival of summer. These days the supply of raw mangoes has increased, specially for preparing Mango pickles and it is being spread outside the Whole-sale Mandi shops for sale by the retailers.

But since the supply is less, the rates are very high. Finding a big range of variety of Mangoes being laid in Pasara Bazar in Mahamaya Chowk, the denizens fail to satiate their desire to purchase a good lot.

As such the taste of half sweet and sour Mangoes for the Mango pickle is



liked by one & all. Then be it for the food prepared daily or the 'chutney' prepared by it, is enjoyed by all. Set aside this the use

of raw mangoes for preparing 'Aam Panah' is also very healthy to beat the summer heat and avoid chances of falling

on account of the same.

At present the supply of ripened sweet mangoes in the market is very less. It is worthwhile to mention here that about two decades ago, the number of Mango trees in the urban and nearby villages used to be in large number, specially in city's near 'Mela Maidan', Pitaibandh road', known as 'Aamapara' earlier.

Set aside this there were many Mango gardens also developed. But it kept on reducing one by one and now its number of reduced drastically.

It is notable here that for purchase of vegetables from the wholesale market area of Rajim, people travel about 70-80 kms. People from

Deobhog to Kondagaon, Jagdalpur, Rajnandgaon, Bemetara, Dhamtari, Mahasamund and other places come here for purchase from the Rajim Mandi.

In this regard one of the purchase Om Prakash Sahu informed that the rate of raw mango for pickles is Rs 40 and informed that he has purchased 2 kgs. It is by making 'pickle' from it, he would provide it to his family.

It is notable here that so far there is no major hailstorm in the last two-three months and due to which the farmers expect good crop and getting right price for their products can make them financially strong.

Collector, SP holds combined review



● Of law & order situation in the district

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Apr 13: Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh and SP Trilok Bansal reviewed

law & order situation by holding meeting with the Revenue and Police Department at the Collectorate here on Tuesday.

In the meeting Collector Langeh directed to strengthen the IT system and directed to take action in case of any untoward

incident coming to fore.

Giving strict instructions, he directed to identify such sensitive areas in the district, wherein there are chances of such incident and prepare list of the anti-social elements as well.

In case of elements trying to spread false-rumour,

all efforts be made to avoid the same and submit immediate condemnation from those involved, so that right information reaches out to the people and they do not get provoked from such false rumours.

In the meeting SP Trilok Bansal asked the District and Police Administration to hold combined meeting from time-to-time and remain on alert to ensure peace in their areas. He asked to ensure regular night patrolling.

Meeting was attended by Addl.SP Rohit Kumar, SDM Baikunthpur Ankita, SDM Sonhat Amit Singh and other officers and employees from district and police administration.

Legal and Defense Council office e-launched



Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, Apr 14: As per the directives of National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) New Delhi and on the guidance of State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) Bilaspur, Defense Council System was launched through virtual mode in District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) under office building.

Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha of Chhattisgarh

High Court & Chief Patron CG. SLSA Bilaspur and Justice Gautam

Bhadudi Chief Justice State HC and Working Chairman SLSA Bilaspur on April 12. Uttara Kumar Kashyap, District and Sessions Judge and President, DLSA Kondagaon and Honorable Judges were present in the said inauguration programme. In this the Inscription on the stone was unveiled

by the District and Sessions Judge and President DLSA,

Kondagaon.

During this time President District Advocate Association Kondagaon along with all advocates and newly appointed Defense Council Chief Rajnish Dubey Deputy Chief Yeswant Gautam Assistant Defense along with all the employees working in District and Sessions Court were present.

CSS President submits memo to DEO

Demanding issue of error-free seniority list

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Apr 14: The President Chhattisgarh Shikshak Sangh (CSS) Raipur division Ramnarayan Mishra submitted a memorandum to the DEO Gariyaband in order to release error-free seniority list of the teachers of different grades. On this occasion Mishra said that as on 1 April 2023, there are many errors/ faults in the interim seniority list issued by the DEO Gariyaband

and it carries names of many a retired teachers and there are few teachers who are not post-graduate, whose names are there in the list. Set aside there are many teachers who are senior, but in the list have become junior. The name of the teachers first appointed in 1989 is before that of 1985 teachers.

As a result of which, Mishra demanded DEO to issue a fresh seniority list at the earliest and on which DEO assured to issue error-free list.

Resolve pending cases of land acquisition: Collector



Central Chronicle News

Korba, Apr 14: District Collector Sanjeev Kumar Jha reviewed the pending cases by taking a meeting and while reviewing the pending compensation in cases of land acquisition under Water Resources, Public Works Department, and said that pending cases of land acquisition should be resolved quickly.

The Collector also directed the departments in the time-limit meeting to get themselves registered in e-Kuber under the Public Works Department and ensure settlement of compensation related

cases.

While reviewing the Forest Rights Charter (FRA) in the district, he directed all the SDMs, district CEOs to bring progress in it and also instructed the officer of the National Highway to ensure presence at the site while preparing the compensation case to the businessmen affected by the road construction.

He instructed to ensure arrangements for electricity and drinking water in Madwarani, Matindai, Chaiturgarh, the main religious and tourist places of the district. The Collector instructed all SDMs and Tehsildars to

ensure timely verification of loan books and to speed up the work of making caste certificates of school students.

He also instructed the entire district CEOs to run a campaign while giving instructions for seeding beneficiaries' Aadhaar for pension payment, reducing the number of cash payments.

On this occasion, DFO Arvind PM, CEO District Panchayat Nutan Kanwar, Additional Collector Vijendra Patle, Pradeep Sahu, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prabhakar Pandey and officers of all departments were present.

3 day 'Bhandara' from Apr 16

Birkoni, Apr 14: A massive Bhandana and Mela will be organised in Jai Babe De Mandir, near Old Pal Dabha Ghodari, in Gram Birkoni from April 16 to 18. This 'Bhandara' will be inaugurated after prayers to Jai Siddha Balak Nathji. The Bhandara with snacks and food will be held from 4:15 am to 5:15 pm and the three-day Mela will be organised in the premises of Baba Balaknath Temple. In this the villagers and devotees from nearby villages and Birkoni have been appealed to be present in the 'puja' and pay obeisance to Baba Poshanhari and avail food in the 'massive Bhandara'.

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I DEVENDRA KUMAR GUPTA S/O RADHESHYAM GUPTA RESIDENT OF HOUSE NO. 86/1, WARD NO. 07, BAJARPARA -1, PANDARIYA KABERDHAM (C.G.) 491559 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME DEVENDRA KUMAR GUPTA S/O RADHESHYAM GUPTA, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME DEVENDRA GUPTA S/O RADHESHYAM GUPTA IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

DEVENDRA GUPTA
HOUSE NO. 86/1,
WARD NO. 07,
BAJARPARA -1, PANDARIYA
KABERDHAM (C.G.)
491559

AFFIDAVIT

I Nazreen Bano Chini aged about 42 Years wife of Mohammad Hanif Chini Resident of : Ward No 55, Laxmi Nagar Pachpedi Naka Raipur C.G. do hereby solemnly affirm on oath as under:-

- That my name and address as mentioned above are true and correct.
- That I Nazreen Bano Chini aged about 42 Years wife of Mohammad Hanif Chini have changed my old name Nazreen Chini so in future I should be recognize by me new name Nazreen Bano Chini wife of Mohammad Hanif Chini in all Government and other documents.

Verification
I above name deponent verify that the contents of this affidavit from para 01 to 02 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and signed today at place Raipur C.G. Raipur C.G. Date 13/04/2023

Deponent

Indian Overseas Bank Branch : Pandri, Phase-II, Investment Building, Jeevan Bima Marg, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.) 492004 Ph.No.: 0771-2882348, e-mail: iof2871@iob.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

[Under Proviso to Rule 6(2) and Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002] E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) and Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on the date mentioned below, for recovery of outstanding dues specified below (along with further interest at contractual rates and rests, besides costs / charges incurred till the date of repayment in full) due to Indian Overseas Bank (Secured Creditor).

E-auction Sale Date : 18.05.2023

Name of the Account & Branch	Outstanding dues (as per Sale Notice)	Reserve Price Rs. EMD Rs
Mr. Mohammed Monis Farooqui S/o Shri Masood Ali Farooqui and Mr. Masood Ali Farooqui S/o Mohamood Ali Farooqui, at Flat No.203, Johar Mansion, Amanaka, Behind Noorjahan, Raipur (C.G.)-492001. and Guarantor - Mr. Mohammed Qazi Ahmed at Flat No. 303, Johar Mansion Amanaka, Behind Noorjahan Raipur (C.G.)-492001.	Rs.8,70,000/- (as on 10.04.2023) (+) interest & Other Charges	Rs. 38,48,000/- Rs. 3,84,800/-

Description of the Immovable Property: All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Residential Flat 203, 2nd Floor, Part of Khasara No.382, 383/3, 384/2, Plot No. 26/6 & 26/7, Build up Area:1419 sq.ft situated at Johar Mansion, Doormar Talab PH No.104, R.I.C, Raipur, Tehsil & Dist-Raipur (C.G) in the name of Mr. Mohammad Monis Farooqui S/o Mr. Masood Ali Farooqui. Bounded As per actual: On the North by: Jougher Mansion's Open Area, On the South by: Flat No.201, On the East by: Passage, On the West by: Joughar Mansion's Open Area

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the service providers link <https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi> and link provided in Indian Overseas Bank, Branch - Pandri, Secured Creditors Website i.e. www.iob.in [https://www.iob.in/TenderDetails.aspx?Tendertype=E-Auction]. This may also be treated as a Notice under Rule 6(2) and Rule 8(6)/Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about holding of e-auction on the above mentioned date.

Date: 12.04.2023, Place: Raipur

Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

BRIEF



People gather after a footbridge collapsed during the Baisakhi celebration at Beni Sangam, in Udhampur, Friday.

Footbridge collapse

■ **Udhampur (J-K):** Forty people, including several children, were injured on Friday when a footbridge collapsed in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, officials said. The incident took place at Beni Sangam in the Bain village of Chenani block during Baisakhi celebrations, they said. People in large numbers were on the bridge when it collapsed, the officials said.

Odia New Year

■ **Bhubaneswar:** President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday greeted people on the occasion of Odia New Year. "I wish prosperity and happiness to the beloved people of Odisha on the occasion of this Odia New Year; I extend my heartfelt greetings," Murmu wrote on Twitter in Odia language. "Happy Maha Bishuba Pana Sankranti and Odia New Year."

Woman killed

■ **Palghar:** A woman died and two more persons are feared to have been buried after a sand-laden truck overturned and fell into a marshy patch trapping one or two motorcycles in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Friday, fire brigade sources said. The accident took place around 10.30 am on Narangi Road in Virar when the truck carrying the construction material tilted and fell into swampy land while giving way to another vehicle, said Roopesh Patil, chief fire officer of Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation.

Life imprisonment

■ **Ongole (AP):** A court here has convicted and sentenced a woman to life imprisonment for poisoning to death a 4-year-old boy owing to previous enmity with his family. Principal District and Session Court Judge A Bharati handed the life sentence to Velpula Jyothi (31) for poisoning the boy to death. Jyothi had approached the victim on October 27, 2017 at an Anganwadi centre in the district and fed him snack laced with rat poison, according to a release from the district police.

Motorcyclists killed

■ **Gonda (UP):** Two people were killed when their motorcycle was hit by a mini truck here, police said on Friday. Circle Officer (Kernalganj) Naveena Shukla said 26-year-old Rajkumar had gone to Chakraut village with his friend Lalit (18). The mini-truck, while trying to overtake a truck on the Paraspur-Kernalganj Road, collided head-on with their motorcycle.

Raut mocks BJP over plans to stop gathering

Nagpur, Apr 14 (PTI)

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said his party chief Uddhav Thackeray would be attending the Maha Vikas Aghadi's 'Vajramuth' (iron fist) rally in Nagpur on Sunday and alleged hurdles were being set up by the "government and others" to stop the gathering, which meant the Bharatiya Janata Party was afraid in its stronghold.

Nagpur is the headquarters of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and is the largest city of Vidarbha, one of the regions of Maharashtra where the BJP has been strong since the 1980s.

Raut, a key aide of former chief minister Thackeray, was speaking to reporters on Friday



'Uddhav will attend Sunday's 'Vajramuth' rally'

after reviewing preparations for the rally, which will also be addressed by leaders of MVA constituents Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress.

"The government and some other people are trying to stop the rally from taking place, despite it being held with all requi-

site permissions. If you (BJP) are trying to create hurdles to stop the rally, it means you are afraid on your home turf," Raut said.

On being asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's tour of Maharashtra, Raut said he did not have its details.

Uddhav Thackeray and Gandhi will meet for sure and Congress general secretary KC Venugopal will visit Matoshree, the residence of the Thackerays in Mumbai's Bandra, on Monday to discuss on the same, Raut said.

Queried on state BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule's admonition over statements against VD Savarkar, Raut said the ruling party needs to read and understand the late Hindutva ideologue's thoughts and ideas.

Two suspected cow vigilantes arrested over Rajasthan youths' murders in Haryana

Jaipur, Apr 14 (PTI)

The Rajasthan Police has arrested two of the eight accused wanted in the alleged abduction and murder of two Muslim men from Bharatpur in Rajasthan by suspected cow vigilantes in Haryana, an official said on Friday.

Inspector General of Police (Bharatpur) Gaurav Srivastava said that the accused Monu Rana alias Narendra and Gogi alias Monu were detained from an isolated hilly area in Dehradun.

The accused involved in the case have connections with Bajrang Dal as well as other organisations including Haryana Gau Raksha Dal, he said.

Nasir (25) and Junaid alias Juna (35), both residents of Ghatmeeka village in Rajasthan's

Bharatpur district, were allegedly abducted by cow vigilantes on February 15.

Their bodies were found inside a burnt car in Loharu in Bhiwani in Haryana on the morning of February 16.

During the initial interrogation, both the accused revealed that Junaid and Nasir were abducted on suspicion of cow smuggling. They were badly thrashed and when they failed to fetch any information regarding the smuggling from them, they took them to a local police station in Haryana but the policemen refused to take action seeing the condition they were in, the IG said.

"When Haryana police refused to take action against the duo seeing their condition, the accused took Nasir and

Junaid and murdered them. The bodies were put in a vehicle and it was burnt," he said.

On February 17, one of the accused Rinku Saini was arrested and based on his disclosure and other evidence collected by the police, eight others were identified and teams were sent to several states in search of them.

The other six accused, each carrying a cash reward of Rs 10,000 each, are still absconding and being searched.

Apart from them, the police have issued notices to several other suspects including office bearers and members of Haryana Gau Raksha Dal but no one has turned up.

However, the arrest of the two accused will expedite the investigation of the case, IG Srivastava

Maoist bandh hits normal life in some areas of Palamu

Medininagar, Apr 14 (PTI)

A two-day bandh called by the CPI(Maoist) affected normal life in three police station areas of Jharkhand's Palamu district on Friday, an officer said.

Many shops remained shut and few public transport vehicles were visible on the roads in areas under Hariharganj, Pipra and Naudihia police stations.

The bandh, beginning Friday, has been called by the CPI(Maoist) to protest a recent police encounter in which five Maoists were killed, a senior police officer said.

Chhatrapur sub-divisional police officer

(SDPO) Ajay Kumar told PTI, "Markets are almost closed and few vehicles are on the roads. No untoward incident has been reported till evening."

Meanwhile, security forces have been put on high alert in the western districts of the state in view of the bandh call.

The districts that have been asked to be alert are Palamu, Latehar, Garhwa, Chatra, Hazaribag and Lohardaga, the police officer said.

On April 3, five Maoists, including four who were carrying a total bounty of Rs 60 lakh on their heads, were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Chatra district.

NMDC celebrates the 132nd birth anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar

Hyderabad, Apr 14:

NMDC paid its tribute to the Father of Indian Constitution and celebrated the 132nd birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar today at NMDC Head Office in Hyderabad. Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Additional Charge) along with Dilip Kumar Mohanty, Director (Production), Vishwanath Suresh, Director (Commercial) and B. Vishwanath, CVO led the employees in offering their respect to one of the Founding Fathers of the Republic of India.

The event was organized by the mining major in collaboration with NMDC HO SC/ST



Association. B. Hanumantha Rao (President) and B. Pavan Kumar (General Secretary) from the NMDC SC/ST Employees Welfare Association along

with Executive Members and employees were present. The function commenced with dignitaries putting a garland on the portrait of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, followed by a

prayer sung in his memory. Speaking on the occasion, Amitava Mukherjee said, "Dr Ambedkar as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee presented us a Constitution 75 years ago

which is as relevant today as it was then. He gave us a Constitution which can live, breathe and evolve. One of the most forward looking Constitutions, it upholds Universal Human Rights and protects every citizen with the promise of equity. We, at NMDC, derive inspiration from the values on which our founding fathers built the nation."

Citizen Orchestra presented a cultural programme on this occasion remembering Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's contribution in uplifting the society. As a homage to the social reformer, NMDC SC/ST Employee Welfare Association distributed school bags to children.

PROTEST MARCH



Tribals participate in a protest march, in Kolkata, Friday.

Sikkim CM challenges opposition to prove Art 371F is diluted

Gangtok, Apr 14 (PTI)

Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Friday challenged opposition parties to prove that Article 371F of the constitution which guarantees special provisions for the Himalayan state was diluted. Asserting that though the definition of the Sikkimese people has been expanded under a central law, Article 371F remains intact, he said adding that he will resign if proven wrong.

Tamang's predecessor and Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) president Pawan Kumar Chamling recently claimed that people of the northeastern state feel betrayed as Art 371F was "violated".

According to the Article, only the descendants of Sikkim subjects (those who lived in the

state before its merger with India in 1975) whose names were mentioned in the 1961 register are Sikkimese with rights to own land and get state government jobs. They were also exempted from paying income tax.

Chamling had claimed that the Financial Bill, 2023 redefined Sikkimese as any Indian citizen domiciled in Sikkim, extending to them the same benefits as enjoyed by the original inhabitants.

"I challenge all those who are spreading rumours saying that 371F is over," Tamang said while addressing the Ambedkar Jayanti function here.

"If people without Certificate of Identification and Sikkim Subject Certificate apply for the post of Assistant Director (IT) as advertised by Sikkim Public

Service Commission and if those applications are accepted, I will resign along with the entire cabinet," he said.

The SDF of Chamling, Hamro Sikkim Party of legendary footballer Bhaichung Bhutia and the Joint Action Council, a civil society organisation, are opposed to the expansion of the definition of Sikkimese people, alleging that Article 371F has been diluted forever.

Chamling had earlier hinted that this will be an issue in the assembly election due in 2024.

"People are very angry over the issue. We have a very small population of only 6-7 lakh and we fear we will be swamped by settlers within 2-3 years," the SDF president who ruled the state for 25 years had told PTI in an interview earlier this month.

'YOMI QUDUS'



Shia muslims holding placards shout slogans during a protest rally against the Israel to observe the 'Yomi Qudus', in Srinagar, Friday.

Channi slams AAP govt for 'vendetta politics'

Chandigarh, Apr 14 (PTI)

Former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Friday appeared before the Vigilance Bureau in connection with a disproportionate assets matter and was questioned for several hours by the officials even as he described the probe as "totally political".

Ahead of entering the bureau's Mohali office around 11 am, the Congress leader slammed the state's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government over his date of appearance being advanced and claimed that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's regime was indulging in "vendetta politics".

The bureau had initially asked Channi to appear

for questioning on April 12. He, however, requested for another date to join the investigation, which the bureau allowed, asking him to appear on April 20. Later, the Vigilance Bureau advanced it to Friday. The bureau has been inquiring into allegations of Channi amassing assets disproportionate to his known source of income. Last month, the bureau had issued a lookout circular against the former chief minister.

Asked about being questioned in the matter before he entered the bureau's office, Channi rubbished that he had accumulated any disproportionate assets and said, "The probe is totally political. Let them do what they want."

Addressing a press conference before he reached

the bureau's office, Channi launched a scathing attack on the state's AAP government and said he "may be tortured, arrested or even killed", but he is prepared to face it.

"Hang me if even one person says Channi was indulging in any corrupt practice," the former CM said breaking down in tears. Channi said ahead of the Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll, he has raised some issues. He alleged that the AAP government has been rattled by the questions he raised including those relating to Dalits, "on what the chief minister said about Akal Takht Jathedar", about justice in sacrilege cases and farmers' issues. "And when someone speaks the truth, the one who is a liar feels the pinch — that is

what has happened with the AAP government," he alleged.

The former chief minister was flanked by senior party leaders, including the Congress' Punjab unit chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Harish Chaudhary and Partap Singh Bajwa. Channi thanked the Congress leadership for standing behind him. He said he will go to the VB office alone and added he does not fear arrest. About the probe against Channi, Warring dubbed it as "a conspiracy to suppress Channi's voice". Meanwhile, Channi also slammed the AAP government over his date of appearance being advanced and alleged it was part of the dispensation's "vendetta politics".

India ready to take its 'time-tested' relationship with Mozambique to new level: EAM Jaishankar

Maputo, Apr 14 (PTI):

India is ready to take its "time-tested" relationship with Mozambique to a new level, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, underscoring that New Delhi's policies will be guided by the priorities and interests of its partners in their quest for development.

Addressing the Indian community here on Thursday, Jaishankar said the bilateral relationship in the past seven years has changed profoundly.

"This is a very time-tested relationship. It is a historic relationship. It is a relationship that goes back to the time when Mozambique was fighting for its freedom. For many decades, our leaders, our people, and our societies have shared a lot, we have bonded very deeply," the minister, who arrived here on his maiden offi-



cial visit, said.

And even today as the two nations pursue their developmental paths there is a lot that the two can do for each other, he said.

The strong sense of solidarity between the two nations is the defining characteristic of the bilateral relationship, he said.

Jaishankar said developing nations have the responsibility to make sure other countries can take benefit from their experiences.

He said there are examples of this today in the

field of security.

"If Mozambique faces challenges from terrorists, as a country, which has itself been sold deeply impacted, it is our moral obligation today to help another country which is going through this," Jaishankar stressed.

Recalling a speech by Prime Minister Modi during his trip to Uganda in 2018, Jaishankar said in his address, the Prime Minister said that "we will be guided by what are the priorities and the interests of our partners

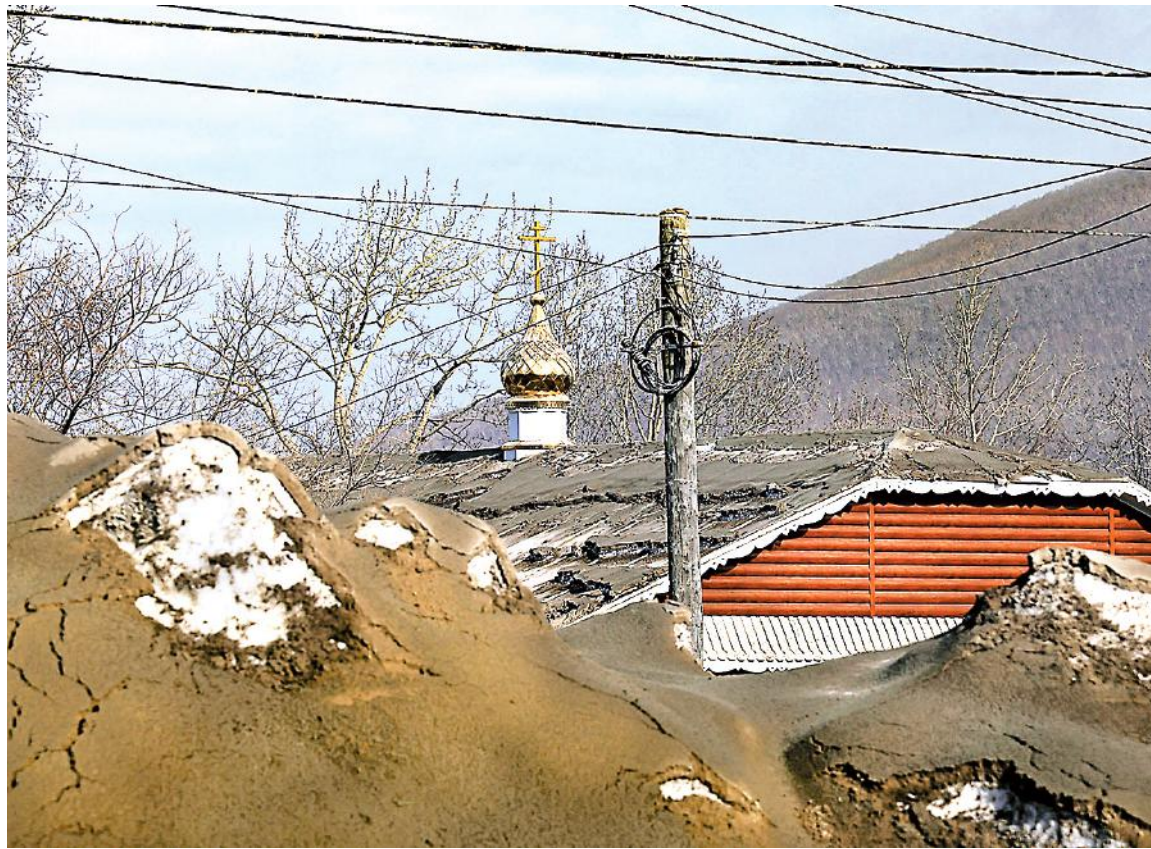
and that we will ask you..you please tell us what is important for you." "And if we can do it, if we have something there which is of value, we will be very honoured to do it. So what has defined India's growing relationship with Africa, which is very very visible in Mozambique, because Mozambique is among the most important and substantive relationships in Africa, is whatever we are doing," he stressed.

What value India can bring has given it a different standing in the world.

He said sharing development experiences and standing with each other in crisis is the centre-piece of India's approach to its G-20 Presidency.

He said India assuming the G-20 presidency is a very big responsibility because the world is going through a very difficult period.

VOLCANIC ASH COVERED HOUSES



Volcanic ash covers the ground and houses after the Shiveluch volcano's eruption in Klyuchi village on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia. Shiveluch, one of Kamchatka Peninsula's most active volcanoes, started erupting early Tuesday, spewing ash more than 300 miles (500 kilometers) northwest. Several Russian villages were covered in grey volcanic dust in the largest fallout in nearly 60 years.

UAE approves additional \$1bn funding to Pakistan: FM Dar

Islamabad, Apr 14 (PTI):

Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday announced that the UAE has approved USD 1 billion in financial support, taking the cash-strapped nation a step closer to unlocking the crucial IMF bailout.

Pakistan is tackling a major economic crisis as it awaits a much-needed USD 1.1 billion tranche of funding from the Washington-based International Monetary Fund, part of a USD 6.5 billion bailout package the IMF approved in 2019.

Finance Minister Dar said the Gulf nation has confirmed its commitment to the International Monetary Fund, paving way for the staff-level agreement to unlock a USD 1.1 billion loan by the global lender. "UAE authorities

have confirmed to IMF for their bilateral support of USD 1 billion to Pakistan," Dar said in a tweet, adding that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) was now "engaged for needful documentation for taking the said deposit from UAE authorities".

The UAE rolled over its deposits of USD 2 billion in January this year too, providing critical support to cash-starved Pakistan's depleting foreign exchange reserves.

In another tweet, Dar announced that the apex bank is getting the third and last disbursement from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), worth USD 300 million, out of its USD 1.3 billion loan.

"Out of Chinese bank's ICBC approved facility of USD 1.3bn (which was earlier repaid by Pakistan),

State Bank of Pakistan would receive back third and last disbursement today in its account amounting to USD 300mn," the finance minister tweeted. The ICBC approved a rollover of a USD 1.3 billion loan for Pakistan on March 3 and made the first payment of USD 500 million on the same day, while the second payment of the same amount was made on March 17. The IMF lowered its forecast for Pakistan's economic growth rate days ago 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.

The new development brought debt-struck Pakistan closer to signing the staff-level agreement with the IMF and getting access to multilateral loans.

India, Japan and France launch common platform for Sri Lankan debt restructuring programme

Washington, Apr 14 (PTI):

India, Japan and France have announced a common platform for talks among creditors to address the debt restructuring programme of Sri Lanka which is grappling with its worst economic crisis.

The representatives of the three creditor countries, including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, held a press briefing on the margins of the annual spring meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington on Thursday.

"The purpose of the event was to demonstrate the multilateral cooperation regarding the debt restructuring process among the creditors, together with Sri Lanka," said an official statement.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participates in a panel discussion on 'Empowering Women as Entrepreneurs and Leaders', in Washington DC, USA.

Finance Minister Sitharaman expressed India's commitment to supporting Sri Lanka in deal-

ing with its current economic crisis.

She emphasised that collaboration among creditors

was important to ensure transparency and equality in the debt restructuring discussions.

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe joined the conference virtually.

Japanese Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki described the launch of the common platform as a historical development.

"To be able to launch this negotiation process gathering, such a broad-based group of creditors, is a historical outcome," he told reporters at the news conference.

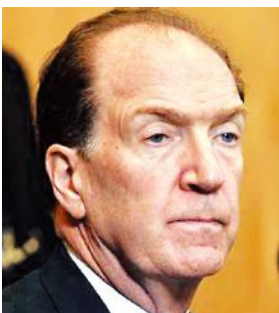
"This committee is open to all creditors," he added, voicing hope that China, Sri Lanka's biggest creditor, will join the initiative launched by Japan, this year's G7 chair.

World Bank President Malpass praises India for empowering women

Washington, Apr 14 (PTI):

The world is leapfrogging in women's empowerment, World Bank President David Malpass has said and praised India's efforts, especially that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he is "deeply interested and concerned."

Participating in a panel discussion on "Empowering Women as Entrepreneurs and Leaders" organised by the World Bank on the sidelines of its spring meetings here on Thursday, Malpass and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with other panelists, discussed the development and empowerment of



women in India and the world.

"We should continue all that we are doing now for women," Sitharaman said in response to a question as she explained in detail the steps the Modi Government has undertaken for the economic empowerment of women in India.

Malpass commended the efforts of Prime Minister Modi in India, where the World Bank has a massive programme.

The prime minister, he said, is "deeply interested and concerned and pushing on this issue."

The world is leapfrogging in empowerment, the World Bank president said. For women to be able to communicate, to have digital transactions without having to go to the bank where there might be a male clerk, that doesn't really receive them well, is

hugely empowering, he said. "And also just the source of information that women can get on how other women are operating in other parts of the world, that's huge. And so, I think we should push that along as fast as we can," Malpass said.

"I'll give you the example of skilling programmes, which are happening in India wherein, I don't know what I can make out of this. If a hundred people are trained and they're trained in such skills which are useful for em-

ployment, immediate recruitment potential, 68 per cent of all those who have been recruited are women.

"It just says a lot more about how women are ready once they have the skills in their hands to get going," Sitharaman said.

"So, we have to invest in skilling women and legislative support is something which is very important

for countries like India. For instance, we had given 12 weeks of paid maternity leave for women, but now we have enhanced it to 26 weeks so that till 26 weeks, you are completely paid, you can take care of maternity duties, and then of course you can, we also have this thing now paternity leave also being provided," she said.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग खण्ड गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही जिला - गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही (उ.ग.)

"निविदा निरस्तीकरण"

जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही की ओर कार्यपालन अभियंता/सदस्य सचिव, जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु प्रपत्र 'अ' (प्रतिशत दर) आनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित किया गया था। जिसे अपरिहार्य कारणों से निविदा निरस्त किया जाता है। जिसका विवरण निम्नानुसार है-

क्र.	निविदा सूचना क्र./दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	ग्राम का नाम	विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में)	जी.क्रमांक
1	169/29.09.2022	110805	कटरा	मरवाही	250.71	94740/2
2	173/01.10.2022	111008	देवरगांव	गौरेला	194.84	94774
3	205/19.11.2022	115175	धनौली	गौरेला	220.48	96027/3
4	211/25.11.2022	115603	बेलपत	गौरेला	127.24	96232
5	226/27.12.2022	118510	मुसुर	पेण्ड्रा	157.58	97127
6	233/29.12.2022	118809	हराडीह	पेण्ड्रा	64.78	97226/2

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लो.स्वा.यां.खण्ड गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही
जिला गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही

G-00214/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HASDEO CANAL W/M DIVISION, JANJGIR DISTT. JANJGIR-CHAMPA (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> (FIRST CALL)

System Tender No. 129186 NIT No.: 01/SAC/2023-24,
Dated : 12-04-2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to
03-05-2023 at 17:30 Hour

Name of work : REPAIR & MAINTENANCE OF CHIEF ENGINEER
OFFICE BUILDING AND KUUDAND, NUTAN,
SAKRI WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
COLONY AND CONSTRUCTION OF SUB DIVISION
OFFICE BUILDING IN BILASPUR.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 291.92 Lakhs

(Rates are enforced as per S.O.R. Dated 01-08-2014 and rates Amendment dated 22-08-2022)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 19-04-2023, at 17.31 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

G-00201/2

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
HASDEO CANAL W/M DIVISION JANJGIR
DISTT. JANJGIR-CHAMPA (C.G.)

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D. KANKER CIRCLE KANKER (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Online tenders are invited for Construction Of Building work,
up to Date 25/04/2023

Sr No.	NIT No.	System Tender No.	Name of work	Probable Amount of Contract.	Tender Downloaded upto
1	2	3	4	5	6
01	02	130389	Construction of Thasil Office Building at Mardapal. Dist. Kondagaon.	63.37 Lakh	25.04.2023
02	03	130391	Construction of Thasil Office Building at Chhotedonger, Dist. Narayanpur.	63.93 Lakh	

All Documents related to Tender are to be submitted by Tenderers online only, failing which the tenderer can not participate in the bidding, for tender details please visit <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

Note-1" Call
Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. Kanker Circle
Kanker

G-00238/2

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No- DyCEE-GSU-R-OTP-23-24-02, Date: 13.04.2023

Work: Electrical (G) portion of work for - (1) Electrical work at Bhatapara (BYT) station under Amrit Bharat scheme. (2) Electrical work at Hathbandh(HN) station under Amrit Bharat scheme (3) Electrical work a Bilha (BYL) station under Amrit Bharat scheme. (4) Electrical work at Nipania (NPI) station under Amrit Bharat scheme. (5) Electrical work at Tilda (TLD) station under Amrit Bharat scheme (6) Electrical work at Mandirhasaud (MNDH) station under Amrit Bharat scheme. (7) Electrical work for Urkura (URK) station under Amrit Bharat scheme.

Tender Value: Rs.5,59,95,641.00
EMD: Rs.4,30,000.00 Submission of tender: upto 11.45 hours on 12.05.2023

For Further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the DyCEE/ GSU/R or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers are not allowed against these tender and any such manual offers received shall be rejected.

Dy. CEE/GSU/R
Divl. Railway Manager, (Elect-G)
Raipur
PR/R/GSU/AP/16
f South East Central Railway @seccrail

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम विलासपुर (जोन क्र.01)

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

क्र./01/न.या.नि./जो01/लो.नि.वि./2023-24 दिनांक 13/04/2023

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सभ्य श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दिनांक 28.04.2023 समय 17.30 Hours (IST) तक ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

सिस्टम नंबर	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में)	अमानत राशि
130546	CONSTRUCTION OF DOG STERILIZATION CENTER AT GOKUL NAGAR WARD NO.04 (2nd call)	89.71	67300.00

निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, अमानत राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से दिनांक 13/04/2023 से डाउनलोड/देखी जा सकती है।
अधिकार अभियंता
Green City, Clean City, Dream City. नगर पालिक निगम, विलासपुर (उ.ग.)

संचालनालय स्वास्थ्य सेवायें, छत्तीसगढ़

विभागाध्यक्ष, ब्लॉक एक, नृतीय तल, इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला रायपुर

क्रमांक: एफ 01-02/2022/विज्ञाप/77 रायपुर, दिनांक 06/04/2023

अनुबंध अनुसार पदस्थापना उपरांत पदांकित स्थान पर कार्यभार ग्रहण करने हेतु अंतिम अवसर प्रदाय करने के संबंध में सूचना (पी.जी. छात्र/चिकित्सक)

चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, मंत्रालय महानदी भवन द्वारा प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित छत्तीसगढ़ राजपत्र (असाधारण), जो स्नाकोत्तर प्रवेश नियम से संबंधित है। जिसके कडिका 11 के तहत आपके द्वारा पी.जी. प्रवेश के समय निष्पादित अनुबंध अनुसार आपको सविदा आधार पर दो वर्ष की कालावधि तक शासकीय सेवा करना अनिवार्य है। जिसमें तारतम्य में आपके संदर्भित आदेश के माध्यम से सविदा आधार पर 02 वर्ष हेतु पदांकित किया गया था। संदर्भित आदेश के सविदा नियुक्ति की शर्तों की कडिका 09 अनुसार आपको पदांकन स्थल पर तत्काल कार्यभार ग्रहण करना अनिवार्य था। संबंधित जिले के नियंत्रणकर्ता से प्राप्त जानकारी के अनुसार संबंधित पी.जी. अनुबंधित चिकित्सकों द्वारा उक्त पदस्थापना स्थल में आज दिनांक तक उपस्थिति नहीं दी गई है।

2/ संबंधित चिकित्सा अधिकारी द्वारा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग के मध्य बंधपत्र निष्पादित किया गया है, जिसके अनुसार 02 वर्ष की ग्रामीण सेवा या बॉड की राशि जमा किया जाना था परंतु संबंधित चिकित्सा अधिकारी द्वारा न ही 02 वर्ष ग्रामीण सेवा हेतु अपने पदस्थापना स्थल में अपनी उपस्थिति दी गई है और न ही बॉड की राशि जमा की गई है।

3/ निर्देशानुसार आप उक्त पदस्थापना स्थान में पत्र जारी होने के दिनांक से 05 दिवस के भीतर उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करें। यदि निर्धारित समय सीमा में पदांकित स्थान पर कार्यभार ग्रहण नहीं किया जाता है तो ऐसी स्थिति में आपसे चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, मंत्रालय महानदी भवन द्वारा प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित छत्तीसगढ़ राजपत्र (असाधारण), जो छत्तीसगढ़ चिकित्सा स्नाकोत्तर प्रवेश नियम के कडिका 11 की परिशिष्ट-चार 'क' की कडिका 4 का अनुपालन नहीं करने के लिए बॉण्ड की संपूर्ण राशि की वसूली की कार्यवाही भू-राजस्व की बकाया राशि के रूप में उपरोक्त परिशिष्ट-चार "क" की कडिका 5 के अनुसार की जाएगी। ऐसे अग्रार्थों को नियम 11 के परिशिष्ट चार (क) की कडिका (6) में यथा उल्लेखित अनापत्ति प्रमाण पत्र तब तक प्रदान नहीं किए जाएंगे, जब तक कि सम्पूर्ण देय राशि की वसूली नहीं हो जाती।

उपरोक्तानुसार पदस्थापना स्थान में पत्र जारी होने के दिनांक से 05 दिवस के भीतर उपस्थित नहीं होने पर समस्त कार्यवाही के लिए आप स्वयं जिम्मेदार होंगे। अतः उपरोक्त सूचना स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग के विभागीय वेबसाइट www.cghealth.nic.in से अवलोकन किया जा सकता है।

G-00245/1
संचालक
स्वास्थ्य सेवायें, छत्तीसगढ़

← मार्क पहनें, 2-यज की दूरी अपनाएं, साबुन से हाथ धोएं →



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Battle Ready

Testing Combat Readiness on China Border

India is in a state of high alert due to continuing tensions with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Eastern Ladakh. To ensure that the country is prepared for any eventuality, India has been conducting joint exercises involving the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) to test its combat readiness. The latest joint exercise, which took place in the eastern sector, aimed to validate plans for a strategic airlift of special forces in a mountainous and high-altitude terrain. The exercise involved IAF planes and helicopters landing and dropping troops in designated areas to carry out operations to provide a surge to the existing land forces. The aim was to validate integrated operations in a hostile environment and to demonstrate the speed and agility of the special forces, showcasing their ability to be rapidly deployed. The troops were given tasks to secure landing zones and engage the enemy with precision and speed in a battle scenario. Air Force's C17-Globemaster planes and Chinook and Mi-17 helicopters carried out the insertion into designated landing zones with surgical precision. The paratroopers from the 50th Parachute Brigade carried out the helicopter-borne operations to validate their ability to rapidly deploy into a hostile environment, along with the jointness of the Para-Brigade and regular troops of the Eastern Command. The exercise was carried out in designated areas of the eastern sector. Such exercises are a mix of conventional and unconventional military actions undertaken by specially designated, selected, trained, and equipped units of the Army. The purpose is to test and improve India's combat readiness in a high-altitude and mountainous terrain, which poses unique challenges for the troops. One of the main challenges is the lack of trust between the two countries. The border dispute is rooted in historical and territorial issues, and both countries have their own version of the events. This has led to a lack of trust and mutual suspicion, making it difficult to find a common ground. Moreover, China's aggressive posturing in the region has only added to India's concerns and made it harder to reach a peaceful settlement. Another challenge is the strategic importance of the border region. The border region is critical for both countries as it provides access to important trade routes and strategic military locations. Any compromise on the border could have serious implications for both countries' strategic interests, making it harder to find a solution. The recent statement by Bhutan that it was ready to draw out a line demarcating the boundary with China has raised fears in India over the Chinese presence at Doklam plateau. In response, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan visited forward areas in north Bengal and Sikkim to review infrastructure development and operational and logistics preparedness. India is concerned that Bhutan, while resolving its boundary issue with China, could cede Doklam plateau and retain the areas to its north. This would mean China getting ensconced on Doklam plateau, allowing it a clear view of the sensitive Siliguri corridor in north Bengal, which is a narrow tract of land connecting mainland India with the north-eastern states. In Arunachal, the two sides were involved in a clash on December 9 last year along the disputed section of the LAC at Yangtse. This was the first physical clash between the two armies since August 2020. The Chinese have been trying to get access to the top of a 17,000-foot-high peak that provides a commanding view on both sides of the LAC. India is in firm control of the top. The joint exercise involving the Army and IAF is part of its strategy to ensure that it is prepared for any eventuality on the China border. The country has been increasing its military presence in the region and upgrading its infrastructure to be able to respond effectively to any aggression by China. India has been investing heavily in improving its military capabilities in recent years. The country is one of the largest importers of military equipment in the world and has been modernizing its armed forces with advanced weapons systems and technologies. One of the most significant upgrades to India's military capabilities has been the acquisition of the Rafale fighter jets from France. The Rafales are among the most advanced fighter jets in the world and have significantly enhanced India's air power. The jets are capable of carrying out a wide range of missions, including air-to-air and air-to-ground strikes. Recent joint exercise exercise showcases India's combat readiness and its ability to rapidly deploy its troops in a hostile environment. However, while such exercises are important, they are not a substitute for a peaceful resolution to the border dispute. India and China need to engage in meaningful dialogue and take steps to build trust and confidence between the two countries. Only then can they find a lasting solution to the border dispute and ensure peace and stability in the region.

Celebrations and Introspection

AAP's National Party Status

Yash pal Raihan

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has recently been granted the status of a national party by the Election Commission, which is a remarkable achievement for the relatively young political party. This recognition brings several benefits to the party, including a reserved symbol, additional airtime during election campaigns, and a higher number of star campaigners. The AAP's success in ruling over two states and gaining momentum in other states has helped it achieve this recognition. However, the party still faces many hurdles before it can become a credible national alternative. One major issue is that the party is too closely identified with one leader, Arvind Kejriwal, which may hinder its ability to expand its presence in other states. Additionally, the AAP needs to establish a more robust presence in states where it wishes to make a mark by enlisting local leaders of substance. This is crucial for the party to be seen as different from other political parties. Furthermore, there are concerns that the AAP's governance in Punjab is being run on Delhi's instructions, which contradicts the objective of decentralization of power that the party should be striving for. Therefore, the recognition as a national party must be a time for introspection, not just celebration. The party needs to reevaluate its role and objectives if it wishes to become a part of the national opposition or an alternative to all existing national political parties. The AAP has lost its tag of being a different political party as it chose a candidate for a parliamentary bye-election who had been in the Congress party just a day before. This move may have damaged the party's credibility and given rise to questions about its commitment to its founding principles. Kejriwal's old habit of making false claims has also hurt the party's image. Recently, he raised the unnecessary issue of Prime Minister Modi's education, which was not well-received by the public. Such actions distract from the party's main agenda and diminish its credibility. Despite these challenges, the AAP is likely to win the next assembly elections in Punjab and Delhi. The party has a significant cushion margin of victory, with 92 seats in Delhi and 59 seats in Punjab. However, the party must be cautious not to become complacent and continue to work towards expanding its reach and establishing itself as a credible national alternative. The worst loser in the recent shakeup is the Communist Party of India (CPI), which has lost its status as a national party since 1951. The party's failure to adapt to changing times and connect with younger voters has contributed to its decline. The AAP, on the other hand, has successfully connected with young voters and capitalized on their dissatisfaction with the existing political establishment. AAP's recognition as a national party is a significant achievement, but it must use this as an opportunity for introspection and self-evaluation. The party needs to reevaluate its objectives, expand its reach, and establish a more robust presence in states where it wishes to make a mark. If it can do so, the AAP has the potential to become a credible national alternative and a force to be reckoned with in Indian politics.

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.

SUMMER CHILL

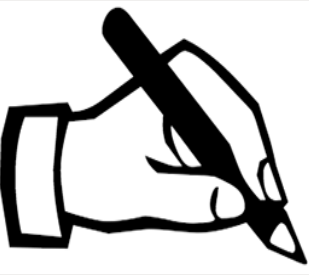


Children take a bath to cool off in a pond on a hot summer day, in Nadia, Friday, April 14.

Constitutional Provisions for Learning, Equity & Social Judgement



PROF. SUNIL GOYAL



The Indian Constitution enacted in 1949 and adopted in 1950 enshrines equity and societal judgment as the cardinal principles of the Indian democratic system. The unique feature of the Indian Constitution is that while it upholds the principle of equity before law, it provides for affirmative discriminatory actions to uplift the social, economic and learning well being of disadvantaged groups. The Constitution recognizes the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and learning Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Minorities and Women as disadvantaged groups. The ultimate objective of the Constitution Framers was to establish a casteless society within the framework of a welfare state by gradually eliminating caste hierarchy, caste distinction and caste stigma and thus to ensure the dignity of the individual and equity of status among all the citizens of India. The Preamble of the Constitution assures Justice, social, economic and political,

as well as Equity of status and of opportunity with a view to promoting among all citizens Fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. These ideals are clearly reflected in different clauses of the Constitution. Article 14 guarantees equity before the law and the equal protection of law to all persons. Article 15(1) prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex. Article 16(1) guarantees equity of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State. In order to make the Fundamental Rights referred to above meaningful to the socially disadvantaged people of this country, particularly those who had been badly maltreated and subjugated to social injustices for centuries, the Constitution makers made several provisions in the constitution to raise their level so that they may live with dignity and respect.

Article 17 provides for abolition of untouchability, and the enforcement of any disability arising from it was made punishable as an offence according to law.

Article 15(4) was not there initially in the Constitution when it was enacted and was introduced as a first amendment to the Constitution. It enabled the government to make special provisions for the advancement of backward classes including the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). As per Article 16(4), the Government can make reservations in favour of any backward class of citizens.

Political representation was guaranteed for SCs and STs through the proportionate reservation of seats in all elected legislative bodies from Parliament to Village Councils. Not only that, the Government of India instituted a program of 'Compensatory discrimination', an Indian version of affirmative action, which provides for 15% reservation to SCs and 7.5% reservation to STs in all public services as well as in admissions to all public universities and colleges. Article 46 of the Constitution clearly states that the State shall promote with special care the learning and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the SCs and the STs, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. The 86th Amendment to the

Constitution inserting Article 21 A, in 2002, making elementary learning a fundamental right is going to make positive impact on the learning of SCs, STs, OBCs and women.

Besides, the National Policy on Learning (1968/1992) calls for strenuous efforts to correct regional imbalances and inter-group disparities in learning. Reinforcing the 1968 Resolutions, the National Policy on Education and Program of Action (1968/1992) lay emphasis on the removal of disparities and equalization of learning opportunities by attending to the specific needs of those who have been denied equity so far. Both the Policies have dealt with the learning needs of the SCs, STs, Women and Minorities in great detail with a special concern for neglected groups like nomadic tribes and de-notified tribes. Based on the constitutional commitment and policy directives, planned efforts have been made since independence to promote learning development in equitable manner. Consequently, there has been considerable improvement in the learning status of the deprived groups.

(Writer is an Eminent Social Scientist, Dean and Chairman – Board of Studies, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (MHOW), Madhya Pradesh. Can be contact Mobile 9340538466 (Calling), 9425382228 (WhatsApp). Views are personal).



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IMD warning

The recent IMD warning on monsoon highlights the need for a more holistic approach to agricultural planning. While a normal monsoon is expected to boost agricultural production, concerns about its timing and distribution due to climate change could impact the economy as a whole. As Khushi from Chandigarh rightly points out, we need to embrace innovation and collaboration to adapt to these new realities. To ensure food security and economic stability, it is imperative to take into account not just the monsoon but also other factors such as soil health, crop diversity, and water management. We cannot rely solely on a 'normal' monsoon anymore. Agricultural planning needs to be rethought, and policies need to be put in place to mitigate the impact of climate change on the sector.

Naveena, Raipur

Protecting Tourists from Cyber Fraud

The rise of cyber fraud is a significant concern for tourists as cyber thugs use sophisticated tactics to steal personal and financial information. Phishing scams, fake websites, and malware are among the methods used to defraud unsuspecting travellers. Once criminals have access to this information, they can steal identities, make fraudulent purchases or drain accounts. To protect themselves, tourists should take precautions such as avoiding public Wi-Fi, using strong passwords, and monitoring financial accounts regularly. Governments and tourism organisations must raise awareness and implement measures to prevent such crimes. By working together, we can ensure that tourists can travel with confidence and without the fear of cyber fraud.

Navneet Nair, Raipur

Manja string still being used extensively

Even though National Green Tribunal has imposed a ban on the "manja" string it is still widely and boldly being used in many states. Because "manja" is coated with glass, metal, and other sharp materials, these strings act as good conductors of electricity, making it more likely that a cut manja cord will snag on power lines, keep kite flying and passers by away. Mangia maims and kills thousands of pigeons, crows, owls, endangered vultures and other birds each year, tearing their wings and sometimes cutting off their legs. Humans are not safe from deathcode either. Many people have had their throats cut while walking, riding a motorcycle or scooter, or getting into a car with their head stuck out the window. Also, when one of his power lines is cut by Manja, it can affect thousands of people. According to reports, it's hard to believe the authorities are still allowing manja in the country. Without laws banning their production, sale, and use, no one is safe from deadly sharp lines.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur,

Vaisakhi' is a festival to symbolise National Integration and love



Rajender Kumar Sharma

The word Vaisakhi or Baisakhi having similar meaning and derived from the word Vaishakhi, which in Bengali is pronounced as 'Boishakhi'. The literal meaning of Vaisakhi or Vaishakhi is derived from Vaisakh month and Vishakha Nakshatra. Vaisakhi is celebrated as a harvest festival or agricultural festival in the spring season across North India.

Bathing in holy rivers on the day of Baisakhi also has

special importance in almost all the communities. The Punjabi New Year also begins from this day. Rabi crops are fully ripened on Baisakhi, which gives an immense pleasure to the farmer. This festival marks the harvest of fully ripened crop. Baisakhi is the of foundation of Sikhism. a festival celebrated as a symbol of the establishment of Sikhism. Both things make this festival special for all the people of Punjab and the farmers of the country.

Vaisakhi had witnessed many historical events also. On 13 April 1699, the 10th Guru of the Sikh Panth, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji established the Khalsa Panth. Later, Ranjit Singh was proclaimed as the Maharaja of the Sikh Empire on 12 April 1801. And in 1919, the massacre of people by the British rulers in Jallianwala Bagh, in which many people were martyred, etc. are prominent. On the day of Vaisakhi, Sikhs conduct kirtans, visit local gurudwaras, community fairs, or-

ganize nagar kirtan processions, raise the Nishan Sahib flag, and organize mass feasts, langar etc.

Hindus bathe in holy rivers like the Ganges, Jhelum, and Kaveri on this occasion. The river Ganges is believed to have descended from heaven to earth on the day of Vaisakhi. That is why a large Vaisakhi fair is held at Haridwar, a major religious site, on this occasion. For some Hindus, the first day of Vaisakh marks the traditional solar new year. It is a symbol, visiting temples, donating pitcher, seasonal fruits and hand fans also have special significance. Organization of fairs at Hindu pilgrimage sites, processions of deities of the temple also add to the beauty of this festival. The most spectacular form of Vaisakhi fair takes place at Thakurdwara of Bhagwan Narayanji in Pandori Mahatan village of Gurdaspur district of Punjab, where the fair lasts for three whole days.

In other parts of the coun-

try, it is celebrated as Bohag Bihu in Assam, Pohela Boishakh in West Bengal and Bangladesh, Maha Vishuba Sankranti in Odisha, Joor Sheetal in Mithila, Bisu in Karnataka, Puthandu in Tamil Nadu. Celebrated as the new year of the calendar. The Dogra community celebrates it as the new year of the Shastri or Dogra-Pahari calendar. In brief, one can say the Vaisakhi is not the festival of a state or two, it is festival of whole nation, celebrated by the people in different ways to express their joy & pleasure to symbolise the National Integration. We Indian live in different cultures, we speak different languages, our dressing may be different, but the way to our joy and pleasure is same.

Baisakhi is celebrated with great grandeur and enthusiasm in Punjab and Haryana. In the villages of Punjab, on Baisakhi, men and women together perform bhangra and giddha to the beat of drums.

The festival of Baisakhi or

Vaisakhi will be celebrated on 14th April, but this year's Baisakhi may not be as encouraging for the farmers as in other years. The festival of Baisakhi is celebrated as a harvest festival. Especially in North India, in the month of March, wheat and mustard crops are ripe and ready in the barns, it is time for the farmer to get the result of his hard work.

But this year, in the month of March, when the crop was ripe and ready for harvesting, the rain at that time caused heavy damage to the crop of thousands of hectares of land. This unseasonal rain ruined the expectations of the farmer. This year, where the Ministry of Agriculture had estimated a record wheat production of 10.62 tonnes, it would hardly be completed. Still farmers and other people will celebrate Vaisakhi with great love, joy and enthusiasm.

(Columnist & Educationist, Dehradun, Uttarakhand)

BRIEF

Joint manufacturing



■ **Mumbai:** Iran on Thursday pitched for joint manufacturing activities with India across industries, saying there are a lot of opportunities for the two countries. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Relation Mehdi Safari also sounded hopeful of an enhanced bilateral trade with India this year. "There are a lot of opportunities... (that) they have in the products and industries, are complementary to each other. Especially in high technology, India is very good and we are very good in (the area of) bio, nano, and kinetic (technology)," Safari told PTI here.

According to him, this is a joint and common area in which both countries can have common manufacturing in India or Iran and promote exports to other countries.

SIPU launched



■ **Chandigarh:** Punjab's Finance and Excise and Taxation Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Thursday launched State Intelligence and Preventive Unit (SIPU) and GST Prime — an analytical tool for state GST officers to analyse and monitor the tax collection and compliance in their jurisdiction. Cheema said that the existing mobile wings of the taxation department at Amritsar, Bathinda, Fazilka, and Shambu in Patiala, Ludhiana and Jalandhar have been now converted to State Intelligence and Preventive Units (SIPUs), besides creating 3 new SIPUs. "The three new SIPUs will be at Madhopur in Pathankot, Mohali and Central Unit at Head Office, Patiala. The Central Unit and SIPUs will work directly in coordination with Tax Intelligence Unit, Patiala," he said in a statement here.

Startups



■ **Jaipur:** Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said that in the last nine years, the number of startups in the country increased to 90,000 due to promotion of the startup culture by the Modi government. He said the central government is trying to make Rajasthan the first IT hub of the country but it is possible when the state government also cooperates on this front, according to a release.

India to protect interests of farmers, dairy sector in free trade agreement with EU: Goyal

Rome, Apr 14:

India will completely protect the interests of farmers and dairy sector in the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal has said. He was here on an official visit to hold discussions with leaders and the private sector on ways to further enhance trade and investment ties between the countries. The minister also went to Paris for the India-France business summit. Goyal said that Italy and France have offered unstinted support for the early conclusion of negotiations for the India-EU trade agreement. During the meetings in Italy and France, he said, India has emphasised about the different economic conditions and per



capita income in the two regions. But the kind of business opportunities which India provides for EU businesses are huge and "nobody can provide those in the world", he added. "Keeping all this in mind, we would do the FTA... We will protect the interests of farmers and dairy sector... We have done that with UAE and Australia trade pacts also," Goyal has said. Chief negotiators of India and the European Union (EU) are scheduled to meet

from June 19-23 in New Delhi for the fifth round of negotiations. India and the 27-nation bloc resumed negotiations on June 17 last year after a gap of over eight years on the proposed agreements on trade, investments and Geographical Indications (GI). Top officials at the commerce secretary level would meet in August to review the progress of talks.

India had started negotiations for a trade pact with the EU in 2007 but the talks stalled in 2013 as both sides failed to reach an agreement on key issues, including customs duties on automobiles and spirits and the movement of professionals. India's merchandise exports to EU member countries stood at about USD 65 billion in 2021-22, while imports aggregated USD 51.4 billion.

Disinvestment process of RINL is under progress: Steel Ministry

New Delhi, Apr 14:

There is no freeze on the disinvestment process of RINL, the Steel Ministry clarified on Friday. Clarifying some media reports regarding the hold on the disinvestment process of the state-owned steel maker, the ministry, in a statement, said that the disinvestment process of RINL is in progress. "There is no freeze on the disinvestment process of RINL," the statement said. However, efforts are being made by the company to improve the performance of RINL, it added. Under the Ministry of Steel, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam owns and operates a steel

plant with an annual capacity of about 7 million tonnes (MT) located at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. RINL's Vizag steel plant is the country's first shore-based plant where the company manufactures various special products.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on January 27, 2021, gave its 'in-principle' approval for 100 per cent disinvestment of the government stake in RINL, also called Visakhapatnam Steel Plant or Vizag Steel, along with RINL's stake in its subsidiaries/joint ventures through strategic disinvestment by way of privatisation.

New Delhi, Apr 14:

Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi on Thursday chaired a meeting with heads of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and financial institutions, and urged them to push various financial inclusion schemes, including Jan Suraksha and Mudra Yojana.

The day-long review meeting was also attended by senior officials from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. Joshi exhorted the PSBs to achieve the targets allocated to them under the various schemes for financial inclusion in a time-bound manner, the finance ministry said in a statement. To achieve saturation under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

Sitharaman attends high-level meeting on Sri Lankan debt issues

Washington, Apr 14: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended a high-level meeting on Sri Lankan debt issues and expressed India's commitment to support Colombo in dealing with its current economic crisis. She emphasised that a collaboration among creditors is important to ensure transparency and equality in treatment of all creditors in the debt restructuring discussions. The high-level meeting took place on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)- World Bank (WB) Spring Meetings here on Thursday.

Japan Finance Minister Suzuki Shunichi, Sri Lanka State Finance Minister Shehan Semasinghe and Emmanuel Moulin, Director General of the Treasury, France were present in the meeting. Sri Lanka President Ranil



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das and others during the second meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) under the Indian G20 Presidency, in Washington DC, USA, Thursday, April 13, 2023.

Wickremesinghe participated virtually, an official statement said. The purpose of the event was to demonstrate the multilateral cooperation regarding the debt restructuring process among the creditors, together with Sri Lanka, it said. In the event, the ministers announced the launch of the debt restructuring negotiation process on Sri Lanka

PRESS BRIEFING

under the three Co-Chairs: India, Japan, and France, to lead coordinated debt restructuring of Sri Lanka, it said. Sri Lanka was hit by an unprecedented financial crisis in 2022, the worst since its independence from Britain in 1948, due to a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves, sparking political turmoil in the country which led to the ouster of

the all-powerful Rajapaksa family. The IMF in September last year approved Sri Lanka a UD 2.9-billion bailout package over 4 years pending Sri Lanka's ability to restructure its debt with creditors — both bilateral and sovereign bondholders. With assurances from creditors, the USD 2.9 billion facilities could get the IMF board approval in March.

Finance ministry holds review meeting with heads of PSU banks

New Delhi, Apr 14:

Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi on Thursday chaired a meeting with heads of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and financial institutions, and urged them to push various financial inclusion schemes, including Jan Suraksha and Mudra Yojana.

The day-long review meeting was also attended by senior officials from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. Joshi exhorted the PSBs to achieve the targets allocated to them under the various schemes for financial inclusion in a time-bound manner, the finance ministry said in a statement. To achieve saturation under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

(PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), the ministry has also launched a three-month campaign. PMJJBY offers life insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh in case of death due to any reason to people in the age group of 18-50 years having a bank or post office account, who give their consent to join or enable auto-debit of premium. On the other hand, PMSBY offers insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh for accidental death or total permanent disability and Rs 1 lakh for partial permanent disability to people in the age group of 18-70 years with a bank or post office account, who give their consent to join or enable auto-debit of premium. Banks have been advised to leverage their banking correspondents network for outreach and enrolling potential beneficiaries, the statement said. The finance services sec-

retary also requested banks to conduct awareness campaigns about these schemes in regional or vernacular languages. In a bid to give a push to micro insurance schemes, the Secretary had a meeting with chief secretaries and senior officials of all states and union territories and officials from 10 central ministries and departments, including those from labour and employment, housing and urban affairs, agriculture and farmers welfare, and rural development earlier this week. The meeting, also attended by Chairman NABARD and CEO of NPCI, reviewed the progress of StandUp India and PM SVANidhi Schemes. In order to promote entrepreneurship at the grass-root level, banks have sanctioned more than Rs 40,700 crore to over 1.80 lakh beneficiaries under StandUp India Scheme in seven years.

CIL coking coal output grows 17 pc to 56.6 MT in FY23

New Delhi, Apr 14:

The production of coking coal by Coal India Ltd (CIL) rose by 17.2 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to 54.6 million tonnes (MT) in 2022-23. The state-owned miner had produced 46.6 MT coking coal during the preceding 2021-22 fiscal, it said in a statement. "The quantum leap was a whopping 8 MT. This assumes significance at a time when the Ministry of Coal has asked CIL to elevate the output of this category of coal to 105 MT by 2030 in a bid to reduce its imports and forex outgo," it said.

Subsidiary companies Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL) and Central Coal Fields (CCL) together accounted for almost the entire output of 54.3 MT in

2022-23. While BCCL produced nearly 33.7 MT during FY23, CCL contributed 20.6 MT. Coking coal is an important feedstock in steel making. In India, its mineable reserves are scarce and also its quality inadequacy for direct use in steel making necessitates washing. During FY23 coking coal imports were to the tune of 56 MT, down by 1.1 MT compared to 57.1 MT in FY22. CIL has set out a roadmap to produce 12 MT per annum of washed coking coal by 2030 with ash content of 18-19 per cent. CIL has commissioned 2 new coking coal washeries and renovated 3 older ones. It also plans to add 9 more washeries at an investment of around Rs 4,000 crore.

India not to import butter, other dairy products; to tap domestic sector to improve supplies: Rupala

New Delhi, Apr 14: Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala on Friday made it clear that the country will not import dairy products like butter and the supplies will be improved with the help of huge untapped domestic sector. Rupala's statement comes even as his ministry's top official had last week stated that the stocks of dairy products, especially butter and ghee etc., were lower than previous year and the country might import if the need arises. The ministry official had also said that the country's milk production is estimated to be static in 2022-23 due to lumpy skin disease in cattle and rebound in post-COVID-19 demand. When asked about meeting the shortages of dairy products through imports, Rupala said: "There is no truth in it (shortage of dairy



products). No import will take place." There is no shortage of milk in the country and the government is regularly monitoring, he said on the sidelines of the launch of two animal health initiatives here. "The demand has increased. We have a huge untapped area, we will try to tap that... We will manage it properly and there is no need to worry," he said and urged farmers and consumers not to worry about it. On the rise in retail

prices of dairy products, the minister said there is no need to worry about the prices. Farmers are getting good rates. In 2021-22, India's milk output stood at 221 million tonnes, while it was 208 million tonnes in the previous year, according to official data. Last week, former agriculture minister and NCP leader Sharad Pawar had written to the government urging it not to consider import of dairy products, saying it will directly affect the income of the domestic milk producers. India last imported dairy products in 2011. Earlier, Rupala launched two animal health initiatives — the Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI) and the World Bank-funded Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH) in order to control zoonotic diseases transmitted from animals to humans.

ISUZU Motors India updates its product range for BSVI Phase II norms

New Delhi, Apr 14:

Isuzu Motors India has updated its entire range of pick-up vehicles and SUVs, to conform to the new BS-VI Phase II emission norms. It has refreshed its product portfolio by adding new features on select models, to deliver enhanced styling, safety, comfort, efficiency and emission control. The ISUZU D-MAX V-Cross Z 4x2 AT variant now ups its style quotient. A vibrant new colour 'Valencia Orange' has been added for the personal vehicle range's colour palette. ISUZU D-MAX Regular Cab and S-CAB models are equipped with A-SCR (Active Selective Catalyst



Reduction) added to the set of After Treatment Devices including LNT (Lean NOx Trap), DPD (Diesel Particulate Diffuser) to effectively manage treatment of the exhaust gases and particulate matter. The Isuzu D-

MAX Regular Cab and S-CAB are the only vehicles in the segment with an electronically controlled Hot & Cold EGR (Exhaust Gas Recirculation) for optimal treatment management. Both the models and their variants now come

with Advanced MID (Multi-Information Display) cluster with Silver Inserts that display DPD (Diesel Particulate Diffuser) indicator and sub-menu to indicate 'Level', Automatic Regeneration, or alert the driver for manual 'Regeneration' operation. A new sub menu shows the range level indication for the DEF (Diesel Exhaust Fluid), fuel range to empty and instant / average mileage. It also has GSI (Gear Shift Indicator) that enables the driver to use the ideal gear in any driving condition ensuring best of the vehicle in terms of torque, fuel management and drivetrain durability.

Pvt Equity inflow in real estate flat at USD 4.2 bn in FY23; NCR gets 32 pc of investment: Anarock

New Delhi, Apr 14:

Private equity investment in real estate remained stable in the last fiscal at USD 4.2 billion, of which 22 per cent contribution came from domestic investors, according to Anarock. Delhi-NCR market received 32 per cent of the total investment, while office assets garnered 40 per cent of inflows. Foreign investors' contribution stood at more than 75 per cent. Real estate consultant Anarock's arm Anarock Capital in its report FLUX has tracked capital flows in the sector during 2022-23 financial year ended March.

Private Equity (PE) investments have remained stable during 2022-23 at USD 4.2 billion. PE inflows stood at USD 4.2 billion in

2021-22, USD 7.2 billion in 2020-21, USD 6.3 billion in 2019-20, and USD 5.3 billion in 2018-19, the report showed. Domestic investors were significantly more active in FY23, with investment value increasing by 50 per cent in FY23 (USD 0.9 billion) over FY22 (USD 0.6 billion).

Inflows from foreign investors declined 7 per cent to USD 3.2 billion in FY23, from USD 3.4 billion in FY22. Consequently, the share of domestic PE investors increased to 22 per cent in FY23 from 14 per cent in FY22.

The average ticket size declined from USD 86 million in FY22 to USD 72 million in FY23 due to increased activity in residential real estate where deal sizes tend to be smaller. NCR markets were a

key attraction for PE players with 32 per cent of total PE inflows in FY23, up from a share of 18 per cent in FY22.

Chennai's share increased to 8 per cent from 1 per cent. NCR, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad witnessed increased activity levels in FY23, while MMR (Mumbai Metropolitan Region), multi-city deals and other cities witnessed lower activity levels than in FY22.

According to the report, equity investment is preferred by PE investors with healthy share of 67 per cent in FY23 but down from 80 per cent in the previous year. Increased activity in residential segment is reflected in higher share of debt at 33 per cent in FY23 compared to 20 per cent in FY22.

Hyundai to launch entry level SUV Exter in second half of 2023



New Delhi, Apr 14:

Hyundai Motor India Ltd on Friday said it plans to launch its new entry level SUV Exter in the second half of this year. The new model will join the company's line-up of existing SUVs that include Venue, Venue N Line, Creta, Alcazar, Kona Electric, Tucson and IONIQ 5, Hyundai Motor India Ltd said in a statement. The Exter will be positioned below the Venue, which is currently the company's entry level

SUV. It will be launched in the second half of the year.

"Hyundai Exter is the 8th model in our line-up with a SUV body style and we are confident that this new member to our family will provide further fillip to our growth in SUV sales," Hyundai Motor India Ltd COO Tarun Garg said.

This all-new SUV will enable customers with smart mobility experiences, targeting Gen Z customers, the company said.

Tata Motors to hike prices of its passenger vehicles next month



New Delhi, Apr 14: Tata Motors on Friday said it will increase prices of its passenger vehicles from May 1 to partially offset increase in input costs. The weighted average increase will be 0.6 per cent, depending on the variant and model, Tata Motors said in a statement. This will be the second price hike by the company for its PVs after it had increased in February. "Tata Motors has been absorbing a significant portion of the increased costs on account of regulatory changes and rise in overall

input costs and is hence compelled to pass on some proportion through this hike," it said. The company sells a range of passenger vehicles, including cars such as Tiago, Tigor and Altroz; and SUVs such as Punch, Nexon, Harrier and Safari, with prices ranging from Rs 5.54 lakh and Rs 25 lakh. Earlier in February this year, the company had increased prices across its internal combustion engine (ICE) portfolio of passenger vehicles at an average of 1.2 per cent.



Rhea Chakraborty, the Bollywood actress and former girlfriend of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, has made her return to the sets after nearly three years. Rhea has been laying low since the untimely demise of Sushant Singh Rajput, in which she was accused of abetment to suicide and money laundering. The actress was recently announced as one of the gang leaders for MTV Roadies season 19. She took to Instagram to share a video, where she can be seen getting her make-up done and expressing her joy at being back on set. "I haven't shot in three years and I am back on set. Vanity van is feeling all new, hair and makeup hasn't happened in a while," she said. "Strangely enough when I shot three years ago, it was on this very set, in this vanity van for Chehre. I am back here after three years... Overwhelming and excited, welcome back to me." Rhea's post on Instagram was filled with gratitude and a sense of excitement. She wrote, "Being back on set, back to work is a joy I can't describe. Heart full of gratitude, raring to go. Thank you to all of you for your love and support. Times have been hard, but your love has been real. BRB - crying happy tears. #rhenew #resilience."

Rhea Chakraborty was accused of abetment to suicide and money laundering by Sushant Singh Rajput's father in 2020, which led to a nationwide uproar. She has been keeping a low profile since then and has been away from the public eye. Her return to the sets after three long years is a major event in the industry and has left fans eagerly waiting to see what she has in store for them. It remains to be seen what Rhea has planned next, but her return to the sets is a sign of hope and resilience for the actress and her fans alike.

Rhea Chakraborty makes comeback on set after three years

Actors' wish list of World Heritage Sites they wish to visit

World Heritage Day is observed on April 18 to raise awareness of historical monuments and sites. Moreover, the day emphasises the importance of preserving national heritage. On this occasion, &TV artists Micckie Dudaaney (Varun Sharma, Doosri Maa), Gazal Sood (Kate Singh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Imran Nazir Khan (Timmy, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) share their wish list of World Heritage sites they wish to explore.

Gazal Sood, aka Kate from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "Most of us have a bucket list of places we would like to visit someday; mine was to see the epitome of love, the Taj Mahal. During college, I always fantasized about clicking a picture by posing while holding the Taj Mahal's onion dom. The seventh wonder of the world looks more beautiful at night and after experiencing it in the morning with my friends, we went to see it at night under a full moon. It looked beautiful. The Heritage sites are our legacy from the past and we must preserve them. On World Heritage Day, I urge everyone to do their bit to preserve these historical treasures." Imran Nazir Khan, aka Timmy, from Bhabiji Ghar



Par Hai, shares, "I visited Madhya Pradesh last year and fell in love with the historic and infrastructural beauty of the Indian heart. It is the state home to many UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Eversince I saw that TV advertisement 'Agar Madhya Pradesh aaye aur Khajuraho nahi dekha toh kya dekha?'. I decided to experience it someday, which

was finally fulfilled last year. All Khajuraho temples are worth visiting for their sculpture and architectural symbolism in the Nagara style."

Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 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!

Ayushmann Khurrana to perform live in Chandigarh and Dubai

Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana, who is known for his versatile acting and singing skills, is all set to perform live in concert in his hometown Chandigarh and Dubai. The actor took to his Twitter handle and shared two pictures from his jamroom session in which he can be seen rehearsing and having fun working along with his fellow musicians.

Ayushmann, who made his acting debut with the hit film 'Vicky Donor', has since then delivered memorable performances in films such as 'Article 15', 'Bareilly Ki Barfi', and



'Andhadhun'. His singing talent is also widely acknowledged, and his song 'Paani Da Rang' is still a fan favorite. The actor

tweeted, "Jam room. Two gigs lined up. 16th April in Chandigarh. 23rd April in Dubai (sic)".

Ayushmann's career graph has been on a steady rise since his debut, and he has also won several awards for his performances. On the cinema front, the actor is currently busy with 'Dream Girl 2', which is set to release in theaters on July 7, 2023.

Fans of the multi-talented star are eagerly looking forward to his live performances, and with his jamroom session pictures going viral, it's clear that Ayushmann is leaving no stone unturned in preparing for his concerts.

TV actors talk about the sweet & sour relationships with siblings

Having a sibling is one of the best blessings in life. The special sibling bond is undeniable. Siblings are our best friends and worst enemies since they push us to be our best selves, embarrass us, and serve as our strongest motivators and competitors. The National Siblings Day on April 10th celebrates this bond. Celebrating this bond, &TV artists Mayank Mishra (Arvind, Doosri Maa), Sanjay Chaudhary (Kamlesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Charrul Malik (Rusa, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) talk about the sweet and sour relationships they share with their siblings. Charrul Malik, aka Rusa, shares, "I am blessed with a twin sister named Parul. She has always been a source of inspiration



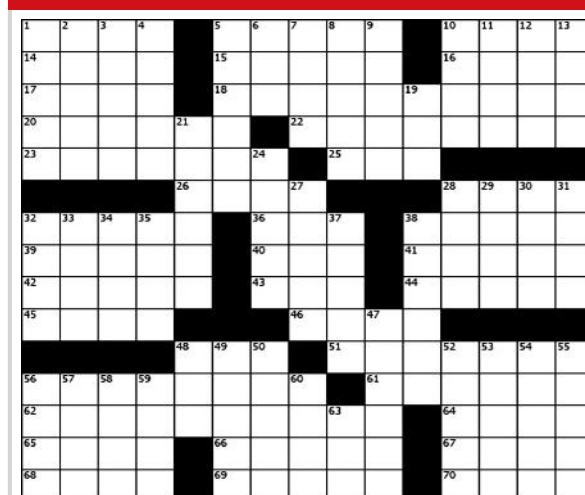
for me. I took fine arts as a subject in college, although I was not good at drawing and painting. And it was my sister who stayed up late and com-

pleted all my assignments for me. In exchange, I helped her with other work. She always helped me study well. Everyone used to call us Charrul and Parul, but no one ever took her name first, for which she never felt offended. Her capacity for kindness, patience, and support for me is limitless. She has always supported me in all the big and small decisions I have made in my life. It is whether they were professional or personal. I am incredibly grateful that she is a part of my life."

Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 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

616



ACROSS

- Wood strip
- Woman's title
- Action word
- Saga
- Love greatly
- Egg-shaped
- Office acronym
- Monotonous
- Zodiac twins
- Painted

- Wearing away
- Swiss mountain
- Complain
- Shucks!
- Journalist _____ Sawyer
- Snaky swimmer
- Math proportion
- Highway curves
- Poetic "before"
- Secretly marry
- Sheep's cry
- Actor _____ Robbins

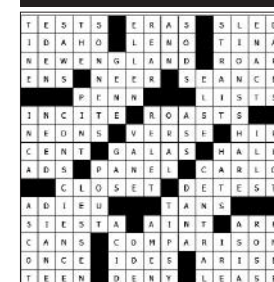
- Ward off
- Small rip
- Bound
- Had breakfast
- Most tidy
- Students
- Safe to eat
- Happening by chance
- Pained sound
- Spring flower
- Sister's daughter
- Fascinated by
- Discourteous
- Urban drainpipe
- Color changer

DOWN

- Phase
- _____ beam
- Texas landmark
- Moderately warm
- Boat basin
- Summer cooler
- Idiot
- Sports site
- Copper, e.g.
- Cast a ballot
- Corrupt
- Speak wildly
- Rascal, as dye
- Ran, as
- Friendliest
- Welcome
- Jeopardy
- Valley
- Above

- Ready to eat
- Christmas song
- IOU
- Capri or Wight
- Yachting
- Adjacent
- Citrus fruit
- Enjoy a book again
- Kitchen gadget
- Moreover
- Adolescents
- Tennessee _____ Ford
- Fainthearted
- Keyboard wood
- List of candidates
- Male voice
- Hideout
- Unbleached color
- Amino _____
- Go up
- Hearty soup
- Air hero

SOLUTION 615



Rasha is a proud daughter as mother Raveena wins Padma Shree



Revelling in the victory of her mother, proud daughter Rasha Thadani penned a heartwarming note on her social media commemorating the prestigious honour of Padma Shree conferred on Raveena Tandon. On 5th April, iconic and talented actor Raveena Tandon was bestowed with the fourth highest civilian honour Padma Shree Award in Delhi. Ruling the silver screen for decades, Raveena Tandon continues to inspire millions with her impactful and impressive performances across platforms and languages, celebrating the same, the actor was honoured for her achievements with the prestigious award. Beaming with joy and pride, Rasha Thadani not only accompanied her mother to the event but also congratulated her with a heartwarming post on social media. The young and

upcoming actor, Rasha Thadani wrote, "The Padma Shree award, one of the most prestigious awards of the republic of India. What a year this has been for you. You keep saying it's Nana's doing, that he's helping you achieve what you're achieving, and I don't doubt that, but it's also all your hard work. You deserve all the success, love and respect you're receiving. I couldn't be a prouder daughter, watching you and your work getting honoured in front of the most respected people of our community. This is a victory for you mama. Your humility, grace and kindness inspires Ranbir and I to work harder and to be our best selves. The sky is your limit, can't wait to see what you do next."

Truly, Raveena Tandon and Rasha Thadani are mother-daughter goals!

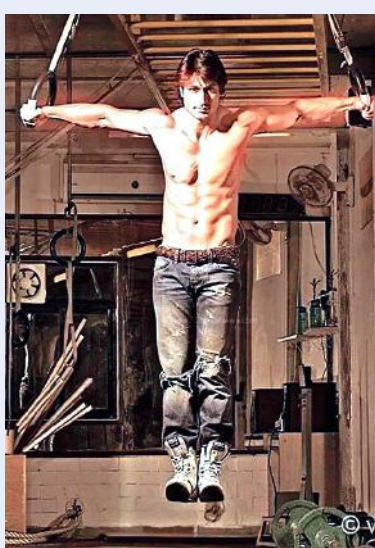
Vidyut Jammwal raises the fitness bar with new calisthenics tricks

Bollywood action star Vidyut Jammwal redefined fitness goals as he flaunted calisthenics in a video on social media, leaving many stunned.

Vidyut, who is currently busy shooting for his next 'Crakk - Jeethegaa Toh Jiyegaa' took to Instagram, where he shared a video performing calisthenics, an exercises that doesn't rely on anything but body weight.

In the clip, the actor is seen in grey loose pants and is shirtless as he showcases his perfectly chiselled body and washboard abs. He then, with the help of metal poles, performed the stunt.

"My newest stunt double," he captioned the video, which in just hours of posting received over 616,000 views. Fans could not stop gushing at the picture.



One wrote: "It is very hot in Mumbai stop killing us with this

hotness." "Naam hi kaafi hai yeh ehsaas dilaane ke liye ki there is no body double in his movies," said another. A user said that there is nothing impossible for Vidyut. "You are a Commando, a one man army. Aapko kisi ki zaroorat nahi." One user gave a 'Pushpa' spin said: "Vidyut naam sunke light samjha kya. Fire hai main."

On the work front, Vidyut will next be seen in 'IB71', which revolves around a two-front war between Indian intelligence agencies and the Pakistani establishment. The film is directed by Sankalp Reddy.

He will also be seen in 'Crakk - Jeethegaa Toh Jiyegaa' directed by Aditya Datt. The film follows the journey of a man from the slums of Mumbai to the world of underground extreme sports.

WPL to be held in February with bigger window, home and away format

Shubman Gill will dominate world cricket for next decade: Matthew Hayden



Mumbai, Apr 14 (PTI): The Women's Premier League will be played in the home-away format from the next edition onwards with a bigger window, most likely in February, a source in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) informed on Friday. The inaugural edition of the tournament was held here from March 4-26 across two venues in Mumbai. Earlier this month, IPL chairman Arun Dhimal had told PTI that WPL will remain a five-team tournament for the next three seasons and it will be staged in the home and away format as that was "important for building a fan base". The BCCI source however said it would be tough to take the league to tier-2 cities such as Indore, which doesn't have a WPL franchise named after it. The source added that the ongoing discussions also include postponing the WPL to later in the year, around Diwali, but nothing has been finalised.

BCCI chairman of selectors to be announced before Afghanistan series

The BCCI is hopeful of appointing the chairman of selectors for the Indian cricket team before the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan, which is expected to be held after the ICC World Test Championship final between India and Australia in June at The Oval. The post has been lying vacant since the resignation of Chetan Sharma in February this year. The post is usually determined on seniority, as currently former India opening batter Shiv Sundar Das is the acting chairman post Sharma's resignation. For the WTC final, India's national coaching staff under Rahul Dravid and a few players who would have no role to play in the knockout stage of the IPL will travel to England early to bolster the preparations, the source added.

BCCI confident that Bumrah will be fit for World Cup

The BCCI is confident that the ace India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah, out of action due to a back injury, will be fit in time for the World Cup 2023. India will host the 50-over tournament later this year in October-November and the schedule is expected to be declared soon. The source made it clear that the board will continue with its policy of not allowing any active Indian players to take part in various other T20 leagues around the world, including the proposed T20 league in Saudi Arabia. However, the franchises can have their presence like they have made in other competitions such as SA20 and International League T20. The source added that the ICC revenue model will be decided in the next meeting in South Africa but the dates for the same are yet to be finalised.



New Delhi, Apr 14 (PTI):

With a penchant for making big scores, the supremely gifted Shubman Gill is set to dominate world cricket for the next decade, feels legendary Australian opener Matthew Hayden.

The 23-year-old Gill, who has already scored two hundreds in Tests, four in ODIs and one in T20 Internationals, once again showed his class en route to a sublime 67 off 49 balls in Gujarat Titans' six-wicket win over Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Hayden is one of the many to have been im-

pressed by Gill's ability to control the proceedings.

Speaking to Star Sports, Hayden said, "Gujarat Titans needed someone to take responsibility and bat deep in this run chase against a quality Punjab Kings bowling attack, and Shubman Gill did just that." "Some of the shots that he played were pleasing to the eyes. He's such a class player and he's going to dominate world cricket for the next decade or so."

From GT's point of view, it was extremely important that Gill stayed on till the end, especially after the dismissal of captain Hardik Pandya with the team still 48 runs away from victory in 34 balls.

PBKS look to fix batting woes, LSG eye top spot

Lucknow, Apr 14 (PTI):

Let down by below-par batting in their recent twin defeats, Punjab Kings will want their batters to improve their dot-ball count when they take on a rampaging Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL here on Saturday.

After a flying start to the new season with two wins, Punjab endured two back-to-back losses following their failure to post good totals on the board.

If skipper Shikhar Dhawan was left to carry the team on his shoulders against Sunrisers Hyderabad, the day he failed the other batters could only manage 153 for 8 against Gujarat Titans, mainly because of Shahrux Khan's nine-ball 22.

The main reason behind PBKS's underwhelming total was their failure to push the scoring in the middle overs between 10 and 15. They ended up playing 56 dot balls, an area where the team will



Lucknow Super Giants captain KL Rahul with coach Andy Flower during a practice session.

have to get better.

While the batters disappointed, the bowling unit, led by young Arshdeep Singh, has looked in fine fettle.

It was Arshdeep and England's Sam Curran, who took the game to the last ball while defending a modest total on a belter of a wicket before Rahul Tewatia intervened on

Thursday.

Among spinners, Harpreet Brar has used his resources well, while Rahul Chahar remains a wily customer but to be fair to the bowlers, they just didn't have enough runs to play with.

The Super Giants, on the other hand, have won their last two games, and another win on Saturday

Indo-Pak World Cup venue and Asia Cup still being discussed

The BCCI will wait for the directives from the Indian government on their participation in the

Asia Cup 2023 as well as on Pakistan's matches in India during the World Cup, the source added, saying that all members are currently discussing the matter and a final call will be made after that. It was reported by PTI

earlier that Pakistan are most likely to play a bulk of their World Cup matches in Chennai and Kolkata as the team has felt safe' at these two venues during their previous tours.

Winless Delhi Capitals need to fire in unison

Bengaluru, Apr 14 (PTI):

Winless in the tournament so far, Delhi Capitals need to fire as a unit if they have to effect a turnaround as they gear up to clash with Royal Challengers Bangalore in their IPL match here on Saturday. The Capitals are enduring a poor start to the season as they have lost all their four games to remain pointless in the tournament so far.

Nothing is going right for the David Warner-led side and the team's think-tank is struggling to stem the rot that has set in. Warner and his deputy Axar Patel have carried the team's batting attack with all others failing miserably.

Axar's comeos have been the only silver lining for Delhi this season.

Warner is second in the leading run getters' list but his strike rate of 114.83 is a concern. He has been struggling to score runs at rapid rate and DC losing wickets in heaps has

Match starts: 3.30pm IST



Delhi Capitals players during a practice session ahead of the IPL 2023 cricket match against RCB.

only made the Australian's task harder.

RCB, on the other hand, will look to get back to winning ways. After making a winning start, RCB lost their way, falling to back-to-back defeats.

The likes of Virat Kohli and Faf

du Plessis have contributed with the bat and would be eyeing another good show come Saturday. Glenn Maxwell being back amongst runs is also a good sign for the hosts. Mohammed Siraj has been exceptional with the new ball but death bowling woes con-

tinue to plague RCB as their bowlers have leaked runs at an alarmingly high rate. Star spinner Wanindu Hasaranga has linked up with the squad and is expected to walk right into the playing XI, strengthening the bowling department..

ECB probing McCullum's betting advertisements

London, Apr 14 (PTI):

England head coach Brendon McCullum's appearance in online betting advertisements has landed him in a fix with the country's cricket board (ECB) probing if it is in breach of the governing body's anti-corruption rules.

The former New Zealand captain had appeared in online advertisements after joining betting organisation '22Bet' as an ambassador in January. He had shared a video on his Facebook page on March 27 promoting 22Bet's markets on the Indian Premier League.

"We are exploring the matter and are in discussions with Brendon around his relationship with 22Bet," the ECB was quoted as saying by the BBC. "We have rules in place around gambling and will always seek to ensure these are followed." The ECB, however, clarified that McCullum is not currently under any investigation. New Zealand's Problem Gambling Foundation had complained to the ECB about the adverts last week.

According to ECB's anti-discrimination code "directly or indirectly soliciting, inducing, enticing, instructing, persuading, encouraging, facilitating or authorising any other party to enter into a bet in relation to the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any match or competition" is an offence.

Man United draws 2-2 with Sevilla



Manchester, Apr 14 (AP):

Two goals up and seemingly cruising toward the Europa League semi-finals, Manchester United is now counting the cost of a late meltdown against Sevilla.

Own goals from Tyrell Malacia and Harry Maguire in the 84th and 92nd minutes on Thursday left the quarterfinals in the balance at 2-2 ahead of next week's second leg in Spain.

Meanwhile, injuries to center backs Raphael Varane and Lisandro Martinez added to a bad night for Erik ten Hag.

The United manager is already without injured leading scorer Marcus Rashford at a critical point of the season. Bruno Fernandes is also suspended for the second leg after picking up his third yellow card of the competition.

"We had the game in our hands, we were 2-0 up and should have scored three or four, then we had some unlucky moments with injuries," Ten Hag said. "I know we can do better in the last part of the game, we have to be more composed. We were a little bit unlucky defensively. It wasn't a nice night."

Musetti sends Djokovic to another early exit at Monte Carlo

Monaco, Apr 14 (AP):

For the third year in a row, Novak Djokovic has been knocked out early at the Monte Carlo Masters.

Playing in only his second match on clay this season after a one-month pause, the top-ranked Serb lost 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 against Lorenzo Musetti. Still adapting to the slow surface, Djokovic struggled with his movement in a sloppy display, dropped his serve eight times and could not find a solution to counter his Italian rival's solid baseline shots. "Well, (my) feeling is terrible after playing like this, honestly," said Djokovic, who is expected to resume his preparations for the French Open next week at the Srpska Open in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A two-time champion at Monte Carlo, Djokovic lost his opening match on the French Cote d'Azur last year and exited the tournament in the third round in 2021. Djokovic got off to a strong start but lost control of the match in the second set when he was broken five times as both players struggled with accuracy in windy conditions.

Djokovic led 4-2 but could not hold onto his lead as Musetti's mix of clever drop shots and deep groundstrokes put the 22-time Grand Slam winner on the back foot. Djokovic was broken at love in the 11th game and was furious at the changeover, stomping on his racket and destroying it. Musetti kept his cool in the next game to serve out the set and force a decider.

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'Give us 35 plus LS seats from Bengal in 2024, TMC govt won't complete term'

Suri (WB), Apr 14 (PTD):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday appealed to the people to ensure BJP's victory in 35 seats out of the 42 in West Bengal in the next Lok Sabha polls, saying that the TMC government would not survive beyond 2025 if the target is achieved.

While lashing out at the Mamata Banerjee government for running a "Hitler-like regime", Shah said if the BJP returns to power in 2024 by winning more than 35 seats in the state, "no one would dare to attack Ram Navami rallies in the state". Violence



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President Sukanta Majumdar, Suvendu Adhikari and others during a public meeting at Suri in Birbhum district, Friday.

broke out in various places of the state during the Ram Navami celebration earlier this month.

"Let me say it clearly that Narendra Modi will

be the country's Prime Minister again. In 2024 Lok Sabha polls, give us more than 35 seats from West Bengal, and I can assure you that the Mamata

Banerjee government won't survive beyond 2025," Shah said while addressing a rally here in Birbhum district.

The Mamata Banerjee

government is scheduled to complete its third term in 2026. "Mamata Banerjee might dream of making her nephew the next CM, but the next Chief Minister of West Bengal will be from the BJP. Only the BJP can fight and defeat the corrupt TMC," he said.

Banerjee's nephew Abhishek is TMC's national general secretary and an MP. The BJP won 18 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal in the 2019 elections. Shah's comments drew sharp reactions from the TMC, which termed it as "undemocratic and unconstitutional".

FIRE SERVICE WEEK



Director of Fire and Emergency Services, Jammu and Kashmir, Alok Kumar inspects the equipment during fire service week, in Jammu, Friday.

Fresh tussle between Delhi govt and LG office over power subsidy

New Delhi, Apr 14 (PTD):

Delhi Power Minister Atishi said power subsidy to nearly 46 lakh people in the city will cease from Friday onwards as Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena is yet to clear the file to extend the subsidy to consumers. However, the LT Governor's office said the power subsidy extension for the year 2023-24 has been approved by Saxena and accused Atishi of levelling false allegations.

In what could emerge as the latest flashpoint between the city government and the LT Governor office, the minister said she has sought a meeting with Saxena over the issue but there has been no response.

"The subsidy we give to 46 lakh people will stop from today. From Monday onwards, people will get inflated bills without subsidy," she said in a press conference here.

The minister said the Delhi Cabinet has approved the extension of power subsidy for the year 2023-24 but the file is still pending in the LG office. "Till the file is approved we can't give subsidy. I even sought time from the LG office to discuss the matter but it's been more than 24 hours and I have not been given time. The file has also not come back yet," she alleged.

Atishi said that the file was sent a few days back and a response is still awaited. "The budget for this subsidy has

been passed by the Vidhan Sabha. The government has money for subsidy but we cannot spend it," she said.

Reacting to her allegations, an LG House official said, "The power minister is advised to refrain from unnecessary politicking and baseless false allegations against the LG. She should stop misleading people with false statements. If at all she and the CM should answer the people of Delhi as to why was a decision in this regard kept pending till April 4 when the deadline was April 15? Why was the file sent to LG on April 11? And what was the need for a drama on April 13 by writing a letter and then a press conference today?"

'Rahul must apologise for remarks against Savarkar before entering Maharashtra'

Nagpur, Apr 14 (PTD):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi must apologise and take back all his remarks against late Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar before entering Maharashtra, BJP state chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule said here on Friday. Bawankule was responding to queries from journalists on talks of Gandhi's likely visit to Mumbai to meet former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray. The faction led by Thackeray, the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) had formed the government in Maharashtra under the banner of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) until it was brought down by a rebellion led by Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde last year. Shinde then joined hands with the BJP to become the CM.

Oting killing : Centre denies prosecution sanction against 30 Army men

Kohima, Apr 14 (PTD):

The Centre has denied sanction to prosecute 30 Army men who were allegedly involved in the December 2021 killing of 13 civilians in a botched ambush at Oting in Nagaland's Mon district, an official said. This has been communicated by Nagaland police to the Mon district and sessions judges court, where the charge sheet has been filed, as required by law, IGP of CID, Nagaland, Roopa M said in a release here on Thursday.

"The competent authority (Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Government of

India) has conveyed its denial to accord sanction for prosecution against all the 30 accused," she said.

The sanction by the Government of India is mandatory for initiating legal suit against any personnel of the security forces for any action taken by them while discharging their duties under section 197(2) Cr.PC and Section 6 of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), the release said.

The charge sheet in the case was filed by Nagaland police on May 30, 2022, Roopa said. The Army had set up a court of inquiry on the incident but the findings have not been

made public.

At least six daily wage earners returning home in a vehicle from Tiru valley coal mine bordering Assam were gunned down allegedly by the security forces in a failed counter-insurgency operation at Oting village in Mon district on December 4, 2021.

Seven more villagers were shot dead later reportedly by the security forces following a scuffle with a group of villagers who had found the bodies in an army vehicle.

The SIT of Nagaland Police was constituted by the state home department the very next day. The SIT after completing the probe

on March 24, 2022 had sought the sanction for prosecution from the department of military affairs of the defence ministry against the accused security forces personnel who were involved in the incident, the IGP said.

It had reported involvement of 30 Army men - a major, two subedars, eight havildars, four naiks, six lance naiks and nine para-troopers of 21 Para security Force. But their wives approached the Supreme Court for a stay of the proceedings in the case. The apex court in an interim order dated July 19, 2022, stayed further proceedings in the case, Roopa said.

'Climate change pitting humans and wildlife against each other'

New Delhi, Apr 14 (PTD):

Climate change is increasing the intensity of wildfires, reducing vegetation and making poor people more reliant on forests, resulting in an increase in conflict between wildlife and humans over habitat and resources, conservationists said on Friday.

In its latest all-India tiger estimation report, released recently by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) highlighted the "silent and surmounting" threats of climate change-



A sign warns of construction of a new sea wall involving tetrapods in Kochi.

related impacts on habitats and the loss of the quality of forests over time. It said climate change threatens the survival of tigers in the

Sunderbans and is one of the major challenges facing the wildlife in the Western Ghats. While the big cat population in the Sunderbans is steady, it

has come down substantially in the Western Ghats where 824 tigers were recorded in 2022 as against 981 in 2018.

Mohammad Sajid Sultan, the NTCA's assistant inspector general of forests, said the wildlife is being affected by climate change with new pests and diseases emerging. "Rain patterns are also changing subtly and gradually rather than all at once. Reports have emerged of tigers moving to higher altitudes and overlapping territories with snow leopards, which has never happened before.



Akhilesh alleges Constitution under threat

'UP government carrying out encounters with eye on polls'

Mhow (MP), Apr 14 (PTD):

The Bharatiya Janata Party government in Uttar Pradesh was carrying out encounters with an eye on polls, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Friday a day after gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad's son Asad and an associate were killed by an STF team in Jhansi there.

Ahmad, his son and several others are accused in the Umesh Pal murder case in UP, the fallout of which made Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath swear in the Assembly that he would wipe out the mafia there.

Speaking to reporters after paying tribute to eminent jurist and social reformer Babasaheb Ambedkar at his birthplace Mhow on his birth anniversary, Yadav said the Constitution, of which the former was the chief architect, was under threat.

"Institutions are being finished one after the

other and (Bharatiya Janata Party) governments (at the Centre and UP) are working to destroy the Constitution Babasaheb gave us," Yadav said. Queried about Thursday's encounter, Yadav said, "From the very first day, (the Uttar Pradesh) BJP government is indulging in fake encounters with an eye on polls."

However, on being asked about allegations that Atiq Ahmad had con-

nections to Pakistani elements, Yadav just said "what can I say about the connections he has and with whom".



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