



BRIEF



A vendor carries balloons on a two-wheeler, in Dehradun, Monday.

Booked

Jaipur: Rajasthan Police has booked Manikanta Rathod, a BJP candidate in upcoming Karnataka assembly poll, and local BJP MLA Madan Dilawar with charges of murder and criminal intimidation for their remarks against Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, a senior officer said on Monday. The FIR has been filed at Sanjay Circle Police Station here at the complaint of Congress state secretary Ram Singh Kaswan.

Exempt

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday directed officials to exempt Gurudwaras from property tax, following a meeting with members of the Sikh faith. A Sikh delegation met the chief minister and requested him to also set up a corporation for the community for effective implementation of government schemes.

Shot dead

New Delhi: A man was shot dead at an advocate's office in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri following a scuffle between two parties over a monetary dispute, police said on Monday. The incident took place on Sunday night when advocate Sushil Gupta called his client Zafrool and Syed Mukkim Raza, with whom he had a monetary dispute of Rs. 4,000, to his office, they said.

Regular bail

New Delhi: Businessman P Sarath Chandra Reddy, an accused in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam, on Monday informed a court here that he has been granted regular bail in the matter by the Delhi High Court. Reddy made the submission before Special Judge M K Nagpal, who was scheduled to hear arguments on his application seeking extension of interim bail granted earlier in the matter.

Stone

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy on Monday laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Movement's Heritage Tower here and announced Rs 25 crore donation towards its construction. Speaking on the occasion, Rao appreciated the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower project and expressed his happiness in participating in the programme.

Weather
High 38 Low 27

MARKET
NIFTY 18,264.40
SENSEX 61,764.25

BULLION
GOLD 60,921
SILVER 77,063

LIQUOR SCAM

'ED allegations false and baseless'

ED is 'agent' of BJP

Raipur, May 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday called the Enforcement Directorate an "agent" of the Bharatiya Janata Party and dubbed the ED's claim of unearthing an alleged liquor scam in the state as false and baseless.



Raipur Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, in connection with an alleged liquor scam. In its remand application filed in a special court here seeking remand of Anwar, the ED claimed there was a "massive scam" in liquor trade in Chhattisgarh by a syndicate, comprising high-level state government officials, private persons and political executives, that

What CM confirmed.....

Baghel said, "The allegation of Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam in the state has been levelled by the ED just to save its reputation after it failed to unearth anything during its raids and investigation. The allegation is completely false, baseless and condemnable." Baghel claimed the ED and other central agencies have been acting as "agent" of the BJP. Their only work is to ensure the BJP benefits in elections, he said.

claimed the ED and other central agencies have been acting as "agent" of the BJP. Their only work is to ensure the BJP benefits in elections, he said.

But, no matter how many conspiracies the central agency hatches, the BJP will not succeed. The Congress government will expose every conspiracy of BJP leaders and the ED, the CM said.

He also termed the ED's claim of decline in revenue collection from liquor in the state as "baseless" and said the data shows a significant rise in revenue collected from liquor sale under the current Congress government as compared to the previous BJP regime.

EXCISE SCAM

Court extends Sisodia's judicial custody

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Monday extended till May 23 the judicial custody of former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam.

Special Judge M K Nagpal extended the custody of the AAP leader after he was produced before the court on expiry of his judicial custody granted earlier.

The court noted the submission of the Enforcement Directorate's Special Public Prosecutor N K Matta, who submitted that the agency has filed a supplementary charge sheet against the accused, which is scheduled for consid-

Till May 23

eration on May 10. The court had earlier dismissed Sisodia's bail plea, saying "the case of economic offences has serious repercussions upon the general public and society at large as the evidence collected during investigation speaks volumes of his involvement in the commission of the said offence". The ED on March 9 arrested Sisodia in the liquor policy case.

Sisodia was arrested by the CBI earlier in its ongoing investigation of a case related to alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. He is currently in judicial custody in both cases.

generated corruption money of more than Rs 2,000 crore between 2019-22. The ED said Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Anil Tuteja was the "kingpin" of the syndicate along with Anwar and the corruption money was also used for electioneering.

Tuteja, a 2003 batch IAS officer, is posted as joint secretary in state's indus-

try and commerce department. Talking to reporters at a helipad in Raipur, Baghel said, "The allegation of Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam in the state has been levelled by the ED just to save its reputation after it failed to unearth anything during its raids and investigation. The allegation is completely false, baseless and condemnable." Baghel

IAF's MiG-21 crashes

Three villagers killed



Locals treat the injured pilot of a MiG-21 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Hanumangarh district, Monday.



Locals gather after a MiG-21 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Hanumangarh district, Monday.

he said. In a statement, the IAF said, "A MiG-21 aircraft of the IAF crashed near Suratgarh during a routine training sortie today morning".

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Second low-intensity blast near Golden Temple



Director General of Police, Punjab, Gaurav Yadav with police personnel at the site after an explosion occurred on Heritage Street near Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Monday.

Amritsar, May 08 (PTI): One person was injured in a low-intensity explosion that took place on a heritage street near the Golden Temple here on Monday morning, close to the spot where a blast was reported on May 6, police said.

No detonator has been found and it appears that the explosive was kept in a container, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said, adding that it is too early to say whether the blast was someone's "mischief" or there's a terror angle to it. Police and forensic teams reached the spot soon after the explosion and security was stepped up in the area. Speaking to reporters here, DGP Yadav, who visited the spot, said one person was injured in the explosion which was reported around 6:15 am. The explosive was very crudely made and assembled. Though no shrapnel was used, there was a loud sound, he said.

MANIPUR RIOTS

Take security, relief measures: SC

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI):

Concerned over the huge loss of life and property, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre and the Manipur government to step up relief and rehabilitation efforts for those hit by ethnic violence in the north-eastern state, besides protecting places of worship, many of which were targeted during the mayhem.

While listing out steps taken to deal with the situation, the Centre told a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud that no untoward incidents have been reported in Manipur in the last two days and the situation there is gradually returning to normalcy. More than 50 people have been killed in violent clashes between the tribals living in the Manipur hills and the majority Meitei community residing in the

Imphal Valley over the latter's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. Over 23,000 people have been rescued and sheltered in military garisons and relief camps.

Terming the aftermath of the violence "humanitarian issues", the apex court emphasised that due arrangements must be made in the relief camps and the people sheltered there be provided with basic amenities like food, ration and medical facilities. "We are concerned very deeply about the loss of lives, about the loss of properties and the government is taking steps...." the bench, also comprising Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, said.

The bench said, having expressed its concerns, it must leave it to the government to take action because ultimately the court can't say that go to this area with so much of

equipment. The top court said it has no reason to doubt what the government is doing to tackle the situation. The bench said the authorities should ensure that due arrangements are made in relief camps for providing all basic amenities, and make endeavour for rehabilitation of those displaced and protect places of religious worship. Mehta informed the bench that 52 companies of the central armed police forces (CAPF) and 105 columns of the Army/Assam Rifles have been deployed in Manipur and flag marches have been conducted in the disturbed areas. He said a senior former police officer has been appointed as security advisor by the state and another senior officer has been repatriated yesterday from central deputation to serve as the chief secretary to the Government of Manipur.

BJP TO EC

'Derecognise Cong, file FIR against Sonia for 'sovereignty' remark'

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI): The BJP on Monday intensified its attack on the Congress over its use of the term "sovereignty" for Karnataka as it moved the Election Commission seeking action against Sonia Gandhi, to whom the opposition party had attributed the remark, and her party's derecognition. The party also demanded an FIR against her.



Union Minister and BJP leader Bhupender Yadav with party leaders Jitendra Singh and Tarun Chugh speaks with the media after meeting the Chief Election Commissioner, outside Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi, Monday.

A BJP delegation headed by Union minister Bhupender Yadav submitted a memorandum to the poll panel in Delhi over the issue.

"Karnataka is a very important member state in the Union of India and any call to protect the sovereignty of a member state of the Union of India amounts to a call for secession and is fraught with perilous and pernicious consequences," the party said.

Speaking to reporters, party leader Tarun Chugh, who was part of the delegation besides BJP MP Anil Baluni and leader Om Pathak, cited the Representation of the People Act and said the Congress party should be derecognised.

SHRADDHA WALKAR MURDER

Court order on charges against Poonawala today

New Delhi: A Delhi court is likely to pronounce on Tuesday its order on framing charges against Aaftab Amin Poonawala, accused of strangling his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar and chopping her body into pieces.

On April 29, Additional Sessions Judge Vishal Pahuja adjourned the order on framing of charges against Poonawala, noting that the judge concerned was on leave. The court also adjourned till May 9 the hearing on an application by the victim's father Vikas Walkar urging the judge that his daughter's remains be handed over to the family for the last rites as required by tradition and culture. Additional Sessions Judge Manisha Khurana Kakkar had on April 15 reserved the order for April 29 after hearing arguments of prosecution lawyers as well as the accused on framing of charges.

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Additional Collector conducts Jandarshan

• Several applications disposed of on the spot

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: Additional Collector Padmini Bhoi Sahu disposed of several applications on the spot during the Jandarshan on Monday. She gave necessary instructions to the concerned officers for speedy disposal of the remaining applications / complaints. A total of 142 applications were received in Collector Jandarshan.

A resident of Khamharia complained about the treatment bills of his daughter at Pulse Hospital Bhilai. He informed that his daughter's entire treat-

ment is being done through Ayushman card, yet Pulse Hospital Bhilai is asking for additional cash deposit and medicines for treatment. The Additional Collector instructed the Chief Health Medical Officer to take necessary action.

All the ward residents of Borsi Bhantha demanded compensation for the houses and shops affected in the widening of the road. Ward residents said that due to the widening of the road in Ward 50 Borsi Bhantha, houses and shops of 28 families have been affected.

They have not received the compensation till date. The Additional Collector instructed Tehsildar Durg to take appropriate action.

Villagers complained about illegal Murum excavation at Bhatha Talab in Gram

Panchayat Dumardih under the MGNREGA project. They informed that earth movers have been landed in the pond for illegal murum excavation. They added that the village Sarpanch is behind this illegal activity and is also making money by selling the Murum. The Additional Collector instructed the concerned officer to investigate the matter.

A resident of Chingri village submitted an application for the amount to be received under the Unorganized Workers Maternity Assistance Scheme run by the Labour Department. She had submitted an application to the concerned department under the Prasuti Sahayata Yojana.

She has not received the amount even after more than six months. In this regard, she also contacted the depart-

ment, but was informed about non-availability of funds. The Additional Collector asked the Labour Department officer to take necessary action.

A resident of Ward No 19 Kailash Nagar Titurdih complained about irregular drain cleaning work. He said that the residents of the ward are facing a lot of problems.

Due to the choked drains, the sewer water of the drain is entering the houses. There has been an adverse effect on the health of locals. Along with this, the fear of insects and spiders also looms large. The Additional Collector instructed the Commissioner of Municipal Corporation, Durg to take action.

Residents of Ruabandha Ward applied for registration and regularisation of

their houses. They said that Ruabandha Basti is a very old slum, where labourers have been living for the past 50 years. Most of the residents work as daily wagers to earn their livelihood. They are expecting to get their houses regularised. The Additional Collector instructed the concerned department to take action.

Demarcation of the Bhelwa pond in Bhatapara Kohka and removal of illegal encroachment, complaint of corruption in road construction between village Anda to Dwarikadeeh, disposal of correction applications in revenue records, cutting of old tree located in Gayabai Higher Secondary School in Gaya Nagar, applications related to slum lease, illegal occupation, land allotment, etc were received at Jandarshan.

Sinter Plant-III sets New Record in Daily Production



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Sinter Plant 3 has created a new record in daily production of sinter. On May 07, 2023, Sinter Plant-III produced 19,039 tonnes of sinter, surpassing previous best day production record of 19,011 tonnes on February 12, 2023.

Director I/c Bhilai Steel Plant Anirban Dasgupta and other senior officers of the Plant congratulated SP-III Team and associated shops and departments for setting a new record in daily production.

It is worth mentioning that Sinter Plant-3 that is equipped with a new sinter machine installed as part of Modex programme

recorded its highest ever annual production of 54,31,425 T of sinter in fiscal year 2022-23 as against previous best of 52,65,400 T produced in 2021-22.

Significantly, in the month of December 2022, Sinter Plant-III had crossed the milestone of 80 million tonne (MT) cumulative sinter production since its commissioning.

Youth gets lifer for raping juvenile girl

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: A Fast Track Special Court in Durg sentenced a youth to rigorous life imprisonment, i.e. confinement for the balance of his natural life, for raping a 10-year-old girl.

Additional District and Sessions Judge, (First, FTSC - POCSO), Sarita Das convicted 25-year-old Parmesh Dhimar of village Savni, PS Patan on Saturday. The girl's mother had lodged a complaint at Patan Police Station on April 27, 2021.

Special Public Prosecutor Rajesh Kumar Sahu informed that the accused and the victim re-

side in the same village. On May 27, 2021, the accused lured the child to come with him on the bike and assured her that he would drop her to the agriculture farms where the victim's mother had gone to work. The accused took the girl to another agricultural field and raped her.

He threatened the girl of not disclosing the incident to anyone. Later when the victim's mother came to know about the incident, she immediately informed the Mitani and the Sarpanch after which an FIR was lodged at Patan Police Station.

After trial, the Special Court found the accused

guilty and awarded different jail terms for Section 363, 506B of IPC and Section 06 of POCSO Act under which the accused was tried.

He was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of five years and Rs 1000 fine under section 363 of IPC; rigorous imprisonment of one year and Rs 1000 fine under section 506B of IPC and rigorous life imprisonment (confinement for the balance of his natural life) and Rs 5000 fine under section 06 of POCSO Act, informed Special Public Prosecutor Rajesh Kumar Sahu. The money collected as fine will be provided to the victim as compensation.

Hard work and struggle refines the artist: Padamshri Usha Barle

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: Department of Journalism and Mass Communication St Thomas College, Bhilai had an interactive session with famous Pandwani Singer and Padamshri Prize winner Usha Barle. She shared her experiences in life and suggested students to do Hard work and struggle to become successful in life.

Administrator of the college, Rev Fr Dr Joshi Varghese congratulated all the members for organizing this session. Principal of the college Dr MG Roymon motivated for conducting this session. Head Incharge of department Dr Reema Dewangan provided her special guidance for conducting the session.

Initially Asst Professor

Zaqir Hussain introduced to Usha Barle. After that Usha Barle was honoured by presenting plant and memento by the Journalism Department. During the discussion students asked questions to Usha Barle and cleared all their doubts. Usha Barle discussed her experience at President's Building during the award ceremony of Padamshri.

During the program by giving respect to President, Prime Minister and other dignitaries she said that she learned the moral values from her family to give proper respects to elders and old persons. And hence instead of individual attention, she gave respect to all at once. During the discussion of her life



struggle she told that in the very small age of 3 year only she got married. Her father threw her in the well just to deviate her interest from Music and singing and for meeting her basic needs she was forced to sell

fruits and vegetables on the road. In between this entire struggle her practice of pandwani, panthi dance and others were continuing. She said that her art

was sharpening only due to hard work and struggle and finally today she got the name, fame and popularity. She remembered her teacher and instructor Padmvibhushan Tijan Bai.

She also presented some steps and songs of Pandwani on the requests of students. She also sung the songs by remembering the former Member of Parliament Mini Mata. She said that many local arts

like bamboo song, Bharthari, Sua Dance are getting obsolete day by day and she wished that state government should provide her the facility of opening the school so that she will give free training of Pandwani and Panthi to new generation so that this art and traditional values will be safe and sustain.

During the program her husband Amardas Barle was also present. At the end vote of thanks was proposed by Asst Professor Chhavi Kiran Sahu. Asst Professor Amitabh Sharma coordinated the program. President of Media Munch Yashraj Yadav directed the program and apart from Secretary Kanishk Mishra, Aditya S Kumar, Sriшти Dubey, Pranjal Tiwari and Sengal Tirkey also gave their special contribution.

SSV organises workshop on Spirituality, Peace & Happiness

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Sec-10, conducted a workshop on spirituality, peace and happiness on May 08, 2023. The workshop started with garlanding and lighting the lamp with Saraswati Vandana presented by Devyani Vyas, Doman Verma and Sanjay Koda.

Esteemed Chief Guest Dr Christie Yu-Ling Chang, Dr Frank Tien and Bipin Deshmukh, Principal SSV X garlanded the portrait of Sri Adi Sankara and Goddess Saraswati. Md Muzahid and Shaique Mizah Siddiqui from KK Modi University also accompanied the guests.

The introduction and welcome speech was given by Madam Anita Verma



followed by bouquet presentation. Sarita Nair welcomed Dr Christie Yu-Ling Chang and Vanaja welcomed Dr Frank Tien, Sarojini Thakur welcomed Principal, Kishori Katekar and Savita Anil

welcomed Md Muzahid and Shaique Mizah Siddiqui.

Dr Christie initiated the program with chanting of mantras and the principles of Buddhism. They basically focused on the

six paramitas to succeed namely Danam, Siya, Khushanti, Vinaya, Meditation and Prasanna to bring happiness and fulfillment.

The Chinese traditions and meditational practices

were demonstrated. Principal, Bipin Deshmukh in his speech asserted that spirituality brings inner happiness and peace. He concluded by saying that the key of Chinese philosophy and Indian philosophy is the Inner Happiness.

A memento was presented to the guests by the Principal. The whole atmosphere reverberated with the presentation given by Dr Christie Yu-Ling Chang and Dr Frank Tien.

The Vote of Thanks was presented by Runa Goswami. V Ramchandraan President, SSES, S Swaminathan, Secretary, SSES, TR Venkatraman, Treasurer, SSES appreciated the programme. The event concluded with National Anthem.

Olympian & Arjun awardee Rajendra Prasad invited as selector For Elite Women's National Boxing Coaching Camp

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: Former Olympian and Arjuna Award-winning boxer Rajendra Prasad, has been invited by the Indian Boxing Federation to serve as a member of the selection committee for the Elite Women's National Boxing Coaching Camp, which will be held at the NSNIS Centre, Patiala from May 9 to 12, 2023.

Currently working as Deputy General Manager, Education & TSD, in SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, Prasad is the only Olympian and Arjuna Award recipient from Chhattisgarh.

Rajendra Prasad is



Rajendra Prasad

Elite Women's National Coaching Camp. This selected team will be travelling abroad to participate in an international competition. Rajendra Prasad had also been invited by Indian Boxing Federation for the selection of male players for the Men's National Boxing Coaching Camp, in the year 2021.

The National Sports Federation of India has made a rule that an Olympian must be included in the selection process before the Indian team's foreign tours, ensuring that the Indian players cannot go without the signature of the Olympian athlete.

Youth stabbed at marriage reception; accused held

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: A youth was stabbed during a marriage reception in village Potia of Nandini Police Station area on Sunday. The victim was rushed to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The incident was the outcome of some old rivalry. Police have arrested the absconding accused.



Accused

Dulamani Sahu, who was also present in the reception party. Meanwhile, a power cut occurred in the area. Taking advantage of darkness, the accused Dulamani Sahu stabbed Gajendra with

a sharp object and escaped from the spot.

Relatives and friends rushed Gajendra to a nearby hospital and thereafter to the District Hospital where he died during treatment. On information, a police team reached the spot and conducted the crime scene investigation.

On the basis of the statements given by the eye witnesses, police started searching for the absconding accused Dulamani Sahu. With sustained efforts, police managed to trap him within a few hours. Further investigations are on.

Shakuntala group organises Adventure Camp for students

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: An "Adventure Camp" was organised at Sharda Vidyalaya, Risali Sector from May 03, 2023 to May 05, 2023. The students of Shakuntala Vidyalaya Ramnagar and Sharda Vidyalaya Risali Sector participated in this camp.

With full courage, gaiety, the students from Class V to XII enjoyed participation in jumping on the rope, crossing the river; jumping on the commando net, archery, shooting, gearing, etc.

The final day of the camp was filled with activities in the night. Star gazing activity, bonfire, variety of games and sports, film viewing etc which stu-



dents fully enjoyed during the night stay in the camp. The camp was full of fun, away from parents, company of friends, new experiences, friendly supervision of teachers.

Director of Shakuntala Group of Schools Sanjay Ojha said that the institu-

tion focuses on the all-round maturity of the students. The institution brainstorms seriously, and makes continuous efforts on what is effective in building the need, interest, skill-level development and future life of the students.



On the concluding day ceremony of the camp, Principal Vipin Kumar (Shakuntala Vidyalaya), Manager Mamta Ojha (Sharda Vidyalaya Risali Sector), V Dubey, Abhay Dubey, Principal Sutapa Sarkar (Sharda Vidyalaya Risali Sector), Aarti Mehra, Vice Principal G

Ranjana Kumar, Anita Nair, Headmistress Pushpa Singh, Senior Mistress Renjini MR, Baljit Kaur and Senior Activity Incharge Pooja Babbar, Rajesh Verma, Prateek Ojha, Vanita Ojha also encouraged the students.

Lormi Nagar Panchayat to be made Nagar Palika: CM

Also declares tourist site in Khudia

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, May 08: The Chief Minister during his 'Bhent-Mulaquat' programme in Gram Khudai of Lormi Vidhan Sabha of Mungeli district, made a declaration to make Nagar Panchayat Lormi as Nagar Palika and make Khudia as Revenue village and it would also be developed as tourist place and a resort will also be constructed. On this occasion he laid stone and dedication development works worth Rs 13.71 cr and out of which dedication work are of Rs 1.20 cr and stone laying work are of Rs 12.51 cr. CM on this occasion took a feedback on the implementation of government schemes. On this occasion Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Ashish Singh, Secretary to CM - Siddharth Komal Pardeshi, Divisional Commissioner Dr Sanjay Alang, IG BN Meena and Collector Rahul Dev, SP Chandramohan Singh and other officers and public representatives were present.

GNV beneficiary said he is preparing for PSC
One of the Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNV) benefi-



Bio-matrix system not useful



CM Bhupesh Baghel asked the villagers about the benefits under Food Assistance Scheme. In

ciary Moti Dutt Kashyap informed that by selling cow-dung he is having an earning of Rs 1000 to Rs 2000 per month for his six-member family and so far he has earned an income of Rs 1.50 lakh. Kashyap informed that he is preparing for State PSC and wants to joint state administrative services.

Seeks help for Cancer treatment

Shankar Patel informed that he is suffering from Cancer for last 6 yrs. CM gave instructions to extend help to him. Raghubir Sahu informed that he is getting medi-

calamity. Governor Mr. Harichandan said that the Chhattisgarh unit of the Indian Red Cross Society is doing commendable work in the health and social sectors. Red Cross organizes voluntary blood donation camps, as well as funds for treatment of poor patients, distribution of free aids and appliances to disabled patients. The work done by Red Cross during Covid is incomparable. Red Cross workers worked as front line workers. He urged the collectors to involve college students in Red Cross in maximum

Red Cross motive is to serve humanity: Governor

Program organised on World Red Cross Day at Raj Bhavan



natural calamity. Governor Mr. Harichandan said that the Chhattisgarh unit of the Indian Red Cross Society is doing commendable work in the health and social sectors. Red Cross organizes voluntary blood donation camps, as well as funds for treatment of poor patients, distribution of free aids and appliances to disabled patients. The work done by Red Cross during Covid is incomparable. Red Cross workers worked as front line workers. He urged the collectors to involve college students in Red Cross in maximum

numbers. By the year 2025, the Governor has appealed to actively participate in the campaign to root out the TB disease from Chhattisgarh and India. With the intention to make 22,000 patients free from TB, in Chhattisgarh, he also appealed to adopt about 100 T.B. patients from Vice-Chancellors of universities, bank staff, industries and other organizations to become Nikshay Mitra.

Doctors and members of Samaj felicitated

On occasion of 300th birth anniversary of Maharaja Jassa Singh Ramgarhdia



Raipur, May 08: The 300th birth anniversary of Maharaja Jassa Singh Ramgarhdia, having the honour of unfurling the 'Kesari' Flag atop the Red Fort on 11 March 1783, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour. On this occasion a medical camp was organised and in this total of 5 doctors examined 150 patients and 'Gyani' performed 'Katha' and 'Kirtan'.

It is notable here that Maharaja Jassa Singh Ramgarhdia, Baghel Singh and Jassa Singh Ahluwalia on 11 March 1783 had defeated the Mughal emperor Shah Alam and Mirza Shikho and won the Red Fort and the very Marble Sihasan from where he used to declare 'Mughalia Farman' was taken out and brought to Amritsar and this 'Takht' is still existing in Ramgarhdia Bunga of Darbar Saheb Amritsar. Being a courageous warrior and far-sighted leader, Maharaja Jassa Singh

Ramgarhdia, 300th birth anniversary was observed. On this occasion members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Samitis and persons of the Samaj were present in large number. On this occasion Gurpreet Singh Bhabara and Maninder Singh Chabdra were felicitated by Jaswinder Singh Rana; Dr Karan Singh Chabdra by Omkar Singh and Dr Ankit Sharma by Atal Singh Hanspal; Dr Nikhil Motiramani by Gurbachan Singh Bhamara; Dr Gaurav Joshi

by Surendra Singh Hanspal; Surendra Pal Singh (Nehru Nagar) by Manjit Singh Panesar and Surendra Singh Chabdra by Harpal Singh Bhamara; Jasbir Singh Ghumman by Sukhdev Singh Note, Rajwant Singh Grewal by Khalwinder Singh and Gurdev Singh Dhillon by Ranjit Singh Panesar; Gurjant Singh by Charanjeet Singh Panesar; Daljit Singh Dhanjal by Hardeep Singh Bhamara. The vote of thanks in this programme was proposed by Amreek Singh Chahal.

Facility of paddy purchase in forest area helped a lot



CM also held talks with the farmers and informed them that in Chparwa it was earlier a wild forest area and now the paddy purchase too has been

ing her introduction in English expressed gratitude towards CM. CM also asked about the caste certificates and added that the state govt has started initiative to provide caste certificate to newly born child, so that in the future

started here. This has boosted the morale of farmers. Sukhmandan Sagar informed that he is receiving the installments under Rajiv Gandhi Nyay Yojana well on time and these installments come handy at the time of farming and agriculture work. Farmer Malikram informed that his loan worth Rs 36000 has been waived off.

Declarations made by CM in Lormi VS

- # Road construction from Dindouri to Navagaon Dayali road.
- # Indoor stadium at the cost of Rs 1 cr in Lormi Nagar Panchayat.
- # To establish 33/11 KVA power sub-station in Navrangpur.
- # Rs 20 lakh each for development works in 5 recently displaced forest villages viz. Bankal, Borkachar, Samratshas, New bahaud and New Jalda.
- # Rs 1 cr to develop garden in Lormi city.
- # Rs 50 lakh for development of 'Devgudias'
- # Blood Bank in Community Health Centre in Lormi
- # Initiative for Mobile tower in ATR area
- # Construction of bridge on Ganiyari river in Gram Rakheli

marks in Class 12th Board. Aarti Dhruv giv-

they do not face any problems.

FAMILY TOGETHER



A person rides on his bike with all in the family together and keeps faces and head well-covered to save them from heat-wave, which has already started in the city.

Organised political syndicate has been formed between BJP and ED: Cong

Raipur, May 08: Congress Communications Department President, Sushil Anand Shukla while talking to media persons said that BJP State President Arun Sao on Monday once again came forward as the spokesperson of ED. Prior to this, when ED's action was taken, ED did not issue its authorized press note, even before that, former Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh issued a press note and presented the details of ED's action, three days later, ED issued Raman Singh's press note. Pressnote was issued by copying the note

exactly. Both these cases are proving that the ED in Chhattisgarh is working according to the political agenda of the BJP. There is an organized political syndicate between BJP and ED. The ED after interrogating some businessmen, officers and allegedly announced that a liquor scam of 2000 crore was done in Chhattisgarh. Arun Sau has claimed that the ED has revealed the sale of liquor directly in liquor shops. ED claims that illegal liquor was sold by putting fake holograms in liquor bottles.

When ED is talking about such a big scam then ED and BJP should answer three questions - 1. Where did they seize how much illegal liquor. 2. How many liquor shops were selling illegal liquor and ED made seizures. 3. How many fake holograms have been seized by the ED. When they have not seized illegal liquor, were not caught selling illegal liquor, could not even seize fake holograms, then on what basis are they talking about scam. This is fictitious story brought forward by them to defame the state government, alleged Congress.

BJP demands quick trial of liquor scam

Bhupesh Baghel left behind even Manmohan gov't in the series of scams: Sao



Raipur, May 08: Bharatiya Janata Party alleged that Bhupesh Baghel government in Chhattisgarh was looting the people of Chhattisgarh to swell the coffers of '10 Janpath'. The press release issued by the ED after the major action has again proved this allegation, said BJP State President Arun Sao, Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel, Raipur Mandal In-charge and MLA Saurabh Singh while addressing a press conference at party office in Ekatma Parisar here today. The liquor scam of Chhattisgarh is the biggest such scam in the country, they said, adding that this is bigger and more serious than Kejriwal's Delhi liquor scam. So far, apart

from the liquor scam, Congress government has looted Chhattisgarh in a more merciless way than even British rulers and the Mughals, said the BJP leaders, pointing out irregularities in coal, rice, cement, sand and transfer. According to them Bhupesh Government has left behind even the Manmohan Singh government in a series of scams.

An organized criminal syndicate was created by Anwar Dhebar on the instructions of the chief, they alleged. The ED release clearly states that these people are not the ultimate beneficiaries of the scam amount; rather after deducting their commission, they used to send the remaining amount to their 'Political Master', they said.

legally, they said, adding that not only the government exchequer was defrauded of billions by this liquor, the lives of the people of the state were also compromised. According to the allegation, liquor made in the factory was being sold directly to the shops and this amount was directly deposited in the 'political treasury'. Bhupesh government has also made the deaths due to spurious liquor an excuse to sell liquor, they said.

Despite increasing the price of liquor by 50 to 80%, a large number of deaths due to raw and other illegal liquor, the government kept showing a decrease in liquor revenue. The truth was that most of the liquor money was directly grabbed by the political gangsters, they said, adding that this is the reason why liquor revenue suddenly increased by 22 percent as soon as the ED took action.

BJYM gheraoes Employment Office

Describes allowance for unemployed as deception



Raipur, May 08: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) gheraoed the employment office here today, raising the grievances of the educated unemployed youth. BJYM workers led by district president Govinda Gupta raised protest against Bhupesh government, charging it with deceiving the unemployed youth. BJYM state president Ravi Bhagat while addressing a rally on the occasion said that the government which came to power by making big

promises at the time of elections, only cheated the youth for the last 4.5 years. Whether it is SI recruitment or PSC recruitment or it is in the name of employment or unemployment allowance, the Congress government has remained just a liar, he alleged. According to him the educated unemployed youth were offered lal-

lipop in form of monthly unemployment allowance of Rs 2500. BJYM Chhattisgarh in-charge and national executive member Alok Dangas, while addressing the youth, praised the BJYM workers for gheraoing employment offices across the state. According to him BJYM has become voice of the youth of the entire state.

Ch'garh players excel in Indian Open Para Athletics event

Raipur, May 08: Chhattisgarh Athletics excelled in the 5th Indian Open Para Athletics International Tournament held recently at Bangalore. Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the Para Sports Association of Chhattisgarh (PSAC) Vice President Prashant Singh Raghuvanshi said that representing Chhattisgarh Chhoti



Mehra won gold medal in the Discus Throw in F-40 category and also won bronze medal in the Shot Put Throw event. Similarly, Ishwari Nishad won

bronze medal in the T-11 category 400 Metres Running and also won silver medal in the 200 Metres running event. Coach Niranjana Sahu, Wasim Raja, Guide Runner Sanjay Paikra provided special assistance to the players during the championship. Secretary Dikesh Tandon and RC Mishra, Suraj Yadav also played significant role in the achievement.

CG Board 10th-12th result to be announced soon

Raipur, May 08: The Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) has almost prepared the 10th-12th board exam results. News regarding the release of board exam results are going on social media. However, it is being claimed by the board that by the second week of May i.e. by May 15, the results can be released. But in the meantime a big update has come regarding the board result. According to the information, the date and time of 10th-12th board exam result will be announced soon on the official website of Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education. Students will be able to check the results of 10th-12th board exams on website cgbse.nic.in and results.cgbse.nic.in. According to the information received, the results of 10th-12th board exams can be declared by May 15. As per the Board of Secondary Education, the work of correction of copies has been completed. Subject-wise marks sheets have



been made from the evaluation centers set up across the state and sent to Board Office at Raipur Marking work is going on in the board office. It is notable that more than six and a half lakh students have appeared in Chhattisgarh in the 10th-12th board exams. 2418 examination centers were set up across the state. In class X, three lakh 37,293 students have appeared, while in class XII, three lakh 27,935 students have appeared in the exam. The board exams were completed on March 31. The correction of copies had also started in the middle of the examinations. Board office is preparing to release the result by the second fortnight of May. Last year also on May 14, the results of class X-XII were released.

Medicine Deptt observes World Thalassaemia Day

● Conducts awareness among the patients

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 08: On the occasion of World Thalassaemia Day, marked every year on May 08, PG students of the Department of Medicine at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Raipur participated in an awareness program conducted in OPD block of Medicine Department in the presence of Professor & HOD Medicine Dr. D. P. Lakra, and consultants Dr. R. L. Khare, Dr. Y. Malhotra, Dr. Himeshwari Verma and Dr. Nemesh Sahu. Patients were enlightened about the disease Thalassaemia and explained about the impor-



tance of genetic testing, prevention, precautions, counseling and management of the same. Queries of patients about the disease were addressed by doctors in an interactive session at the end of the program.

Raoghat rail line project will usher in a golden era of Bastar region devp: Pandey

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, May 08: A delegation of senior BJP leaders from Chhattisgarh met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav under the guidance of BJP state in-charge Omprakash Mathur to start the Raoghat-Jagdalpur rail line project.

MP Santosh Pandey, State General Secretary Kedar Kashyap, former MLA Santosh Bafna as part of this delegation. Vaishnav has given consent to start the work soon. Along with this, it has also asked for survey of Jagdalpur rail line from Dhamtari to Borai, Kondagaon.

Municipal Corporation's Leader of Opposition Sanjay Pandey has expressed gratitude to the Railway Minister along with senior leaders of the state. He said that with the commencement of this much-awaited project, the Bastar region would usher in a golden era of development.

He said that the Railway Minister told the delegation that preparations are on to start the construction work of this 140 kilometer long rail line. The department will prepare the DPR by July 2023, instructions have been given for this.

Along with this, survey of Jagdalpur rail line from Dhamtari to Borai, Kondagaon

is also a big gift for Bastar region. Pandey further said that the benefit of this scheme will be given to the people of remote tribal areas and they will be able to join the main stream of development.

The people of Bastar region were agitating for years for this demand, this has become possible only because of the tireless efforts of senior leaders and the agitation of the general public of Bastar.

Sanjay Pandey said that by fulfilling this demand, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has fulfilled the aspirations of the people, for which he deserves gratitude and we express our gratitude to him.

'Summer camp' is being organized for children

Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, May 08: Summer camp is a programme organized by the schools for the overall development of their students. District Education Officer Arvind Mishra's appeal to the teachers of the district to voluntarily organize 'summer camp' for the children, is now bearing fruits.

With the end of the annual examination, the teachers of the district are voluntarily organizing a summer camp from 8:00 am to 10:30 am for the children in their respective schools by planning for 7 to 15 days. More than 20 schools

in the district have completed it. Many schools are operating it now and are working on planning to operate it. Through this summer camp, the teacher inculcates skills such as imagination, self-confidence, logical thinking, creativity, expression, children's songs, games that develop oral language development and concentration, painting, making paper and clay toys, story making, creative writing and trying to enrich through activities. Children are also enriching their linguistic, mathematical and other skills by celebrating it as 'Anand Utsav' with full enthusiasm and enthusiasm.

Children taking interest in these activities

Singing dozens of children's songs (Hindi and English) with gestures (an old woman sowed seeds, there was a tree on the hill, Rats! Meow is sleeping, We saw three things, Shyama's doll has no hands, Aha tomatoes are big, Funny, Mummy open the door, Five little monkeys...I had nine ducks, swimming in the water etc.) Making butterfly and various things from origami paper, making hat from old newspaper, Drawing-painting by choice And in its context, write your experience in 5 to 10 sentences, teach to make a story and in continuation of this, make a different story

from the children, interesting games of language and mathematics like - number game, number jump, eat aloo fan, word trap soil. Making, coloring and labeling toys. The camps in other schools is being organised voluntarily with the help of the members of Azim Premji Foundation present in all the four blocks.

Officers of the district and development block level education department, DIET lecturers, etc. are participating in this along with the package coordinator and are also appreciating the work of the teachers and children by participating in these summer camps.

Along with encouraging them, we are appealing to the teachers to voluntarily

participate in this event in maximum numbers. District's DMC Narendra Verma and development block level education department officers, DIET lecturers and package coordinators are also engaged in making this scheme successful.

They are planning to enroll interested schools or teachers from their cluster and involve them in the day-to-day activities of the summer camp. For which the Azim Premji Foundation is engaged in the preparation with academically nominated teachers in the process. Similarly by the end of this month more and more schools are planning to join the process.

Claim objections raised in Gram Sabha regarding Economic Survey

Central Chronicle News

Kareli Badi, May 08: The Economic Survey 2023 of Gram Panchayat Kareli Badi was conducted in a special Gram Sabha Samrasata. The camp was attended by the Sarpanch, Panch, Anganwadi workers, and survey enumerators. During the Gram Sabha, many issues and problems faced by the villages were raised, and claims and objections were made.

One of the major concerns of the villagers was confirming kutcha housing. A large number of beneficiaries raised objections to the survey work conducted by the enumerators. The enumerators had counted the names of



the beneficiaries of the ward-wise economic survey, and an application was made to the Sarpanch to confirm kutcha houses. The Gram Sabha in-charge Employment Assistant, OP Ahirwar, read out the problem, and the economic survey enumerators provided quick solutions to satisfy the beneficiaries.

Jageshwar Nishad, the Survey in-charge, said that the claim objections have been received and the problem will be solved soon after the edit option comes in the software. Additionally, applications were submitted for ration cards, dilapidated roofs, new washerman buildings, pensions, wash-rooms, and housing.

Sarpanch Domar Singh Sahu, Panch Yadram Nishad, Daneshwar Sinha, Nakul Bharti, Parvati Nishad, teacher Ghanshyam Sahu, employment assistant Omprakash, and others were present at the event. The meeting was attended by many villagers who shared their concerns and grievances.

Stone laying ceremony held in Gram Damkadih

District Panchayat President lauds CM's efforts in Education Sector

Central Chronicle News

Magarlod, May 08: Stone laying ceremony was organised in Gram Damkadih, graced by the presence of District Panchayat President Tarini Neelam Chandrakar as Chief Guest. Amidst the event's festivities, Chandrakar took a moment to laud Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's efforts in revolutionizing the education sector in the state.

Thanks to the Baghel administration's tireless work, schools have been connected with education, and Hindi-medium schools have transitioned into English-medium institutions. This has allowed children from economically weaker sections to study in English-medium schools,



thereby leveling the playing field. Furthermore, the government's record-breaking efforts to replace dilapidated school buildings with new ones has gone a long way in enhancing the quality of education.

Chandrakar expressed his satisfaction that the long-standing demand for improved education in

rural areas had been met after five years. The fruits of the government's labours are evident in the success of children from rural areas who have excelled in the field of education. The district panchayat president also emphasized the importance of unity and cooperation in furthering village development.

In a show of support, Chandrakar announced a donation of 10 lakhs for the construction of a shed. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Sarpanch Kaushalya Ashutosh Verma, Toshan Kisan, Chandrasah Sahu, Devbala Sahu, Bhola Sahu, Motim Nishad, and Rupa Yadav Cheman Dhuvra.

Illegal wood cutting in nursery continues on war-footing



Central Chronicle News

Magarlod, May 08: In Mahanadi Kareli Badi, several hectares of area is covered with Sheesham trees and illegal felling of trees continue here unabated and this include illegal felling by the villagers for large quantity of firewood.

In the summer season from 6 to 7 in the morning, a large number of women for wood cutting villagers are reaching the site and even after this the Forest Department, Gram Panchayat are not taking action against the people involved in this illegal work. Illegal felling of trees

has been going on here for the last two years. The media has also penned about this issue, but the forest department, people's representatives and the police team arrive and take stock of the supply of food, but the people involved in illegal felling run away before their arrival.

It is since April, May, that illegal felling of trees is going on and even after this the forest department, people's representative, forest president are also not able to do anything. Due to continuous felling of trees, the existence of the nursery has come to an end.

Movement for the protection and conservation of forest was launched, but even after this, the villagers here are not aware about the Forest protection.

It is due to the protection of the forests that at people are able to breathe freely and it brings good wind and rain for human life. Instead of cutting trees, people should plant trees. Not only this, now slowly people are encroaching in the nursery premises as well.

Sarpanch Domar Singh Sahu said that in addition to continuous declaration not to cut the trees, people are being made aware, cooperation is also being sought from the Forest Department and Police, to stop illegal felling. Destruction of forests worsens the environmental balance.

Lottery process for admission in Swami Atmanand School on May 10

Bemetara, May 08: Swami Atmanand Shivalal Rathi English Medium School and Swami Atmanand English Medium School Singhori, Bemetara will be given admission in various classes through lottery process on May 10. at 10.00 am. The process of lottery for admission in various classes for the session 2023-24 will be organized in front of public representatives and eye-lids. In which all the applicants and parents can attend the concerned school.

Accused in molestation case of a minor nabbed



Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, May 08: In a rape case with a minor on May 6, the police nabbed the accused Hemchand alias Lal Navrang S/o Bhulau Navrang (24) R/o Minimata Chowk, Kawardha and sent him on judicial remand after producing him in the Court.

A minor girl was molested by a youth when she left for morning toilet taking a torch in her hand to nearby farm and all other family members were sleeping at that time. When she reached farm, here

Hemchand alias Lal Navrang forcefully closed her mouth and molested her and threatened her with life if she disclosed it to other. On coming back she did not disclose about the event, but on Monday she developed severe pains in her abdomen area and disclosed entire details to her mother. On this a case under section 376, 376 (3) and 506 of IPC and 4 of POCSO Act was filed against the accused. The Kabirdhaam Police investigated into the matter and was able to nab the accused involved and sent him to jail.

Oppn unable to digest CM's popularity: Dwarkadheesh

Central Chronicle News

Bagbahra, May 08: The Opposition party in the state is unable to digest massive popularity of the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and adopting low-level strategies is trying to play politics with CM and which is sheer violation of decorum for his post and position, says Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Dwarkadheesh Yadav in context of Bajrang Dal issue.

Coming down heavily against the Opposition on the methods adopted, MLA Dwarkadheesh said that the party encashing in the name of Lord Shri Ram is the present-day op-

position in the state and even after 15 yrs of rule, they never thought about the Lord Shri Ram's 'Nanihal'. Kaushalya Dhaam and for Ramayan. Neither they got Ramayan performed in any part of the state, nor took any efforts for Lord Shri Ram's 'Nanihal'.

Whereas the Chief Minister of State Bhupesh Baghel in last four years got a world-level identity to Shri Ram's Nanihal i.e. Kaushalya Dhaam Chandrakhuri and organised Ramayan right from Panchayat to state-level and it was done regularly every year. In this regard the erstwhile BJP government never thought about



Dwarkadheesh Yadav

it. Yadav informed that after the 2018 VS poll, the people of the state got a CM who is the son of a farmer and understands the pain of farmer and the decisions he took in favour of the farmers would be

written in golden letter in the field of agriculture in entire country.

This type of our leader and head of State CM Baghel has now become public leader and to which the opposition party is unable to digest and are trying to play politics in the name of Bajrang Dal.

Yadav charged that the Opposition party using a minor boy as member of Bajrang Dal and the very act of asking him to scold most popular leader CM Baghel is strongly condemnable.

The farmers in the state remain united in the name of our party leader and CM Bhupesh Baghel and he is also symbol of

Chhattisgarhia prestige, because it was he (CM) who got popularity to state's art, culture, cuisine and festival massive promotion at national and world-level and this could not be done by any leader till date.

It is amidst all these issues that CM Baghel is the centre of attraction and respect in entire state and to get his scolded is something like scolding to prestige and respect of Chhattisgarhi people. For this the party would take necessary action and would also lodge complaint of RSS Chief, BJP State Chief and Bajrang Dal chief with Child Protection Commission.

SXHS Mungeli celebrates the birthday of MD Dr Patnaik

Distributes fruits among the patients



School Principal Subhendu Mandal distributing fruit to the patient.



Dr Patnaik

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, May 08: Birthdays are important milestones for children of all ages. St. Xavier's high school Mungeli celebrated the birthday of M.D. of St.

Xavier's Chain of school G.S Patnaik. All over India the organization holds 67 branches and every year on this day all the branches celebrates his birthday. On this auspicious day St. Xavier's, Mungeli along with with

Principal visited the District Hospital Mungeli and distributed food among the patient. The Principal met with Dr. M.K Rai (civil surgeon), Dr. Sandeep Patil (RMO), Mrs Shila Kharkur (Metran) and Mrs Divya Masih (Nursing Sister) and appreciated the behavior and treatment of them.

Ward residents submit memo to Nawaz Khan

Demanding opening of closed under-bridge

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, May 08: The public representatives and ward residents are regularly making request to the railway administration to start the railway under-bridge on Parmar Bada- Kalkapara main road, which is lying closed for last 3 yrs.

After submission of the memorandum to MP Santosh Pandey to open the life-line for the residents of the city and general public, the ward corporators and residents, they submitted a memorandum in the name of CM Bhupesh Baghel to Congress leader and District Co-op Bank President Nawaz Khan.

On this occasion Nawaz assured all the ward residents that he would put forth the demand of opening of under-bridge and views of the residents before CM Baghel very



strongly.

On the other hand, LS MP's rep Parwider Singh Monti assured that the on behalf of LS MP Santosh Pandey, in line with the Rajnandgaon city, efforts will be made to get sanction for mini under-bridge for residents of Dongargarh.

Set aside this, under

it was assured on part of the railway administration that report for opening of railway under-bridge will be sent to the Railway Administration.

Memo submitted during 'Buddha Poonima' prog.:

It was at the stone laying ceremony on occasion of Buddha Poonima, the DCCB President Nawaz Khan was submitted memorandum by Palika President Sudesh Meshram and affected corporators and ward residents.

Among those who signed on the memorandum included Palika V-P Uma Mahesh Verma, leader of Oppn Amit Chabba, ward corporator Alka Jayash Sahare, Anita Lokesh Indurkar, Kajal Dongre, Kusum Markam, Ropchand Khobragade, Virendra Soni, Pawan Laro Kar, Vinod Bopche and other ward residents.

Salik Ram Gedam appointed village head



Salik-RamGedam

Dongargarh, May 08: A senior citizen of Ayurveda Gram Belgaon Salik Ram Gedam has been appointed as Gam Pramukh (Head of Village) by all the villagers with mutual consent. As per the traditions for last many years, it is in a meeting that Head of the village is selected. In celebration of festivals like Dussehra, Diwali, Mandai and solving of small and minor problems of the village, the head of the village plays an important role. As working committee member Deva Lahe, Phulchand Kanwar were appointed as Vice-President and Shailendra Agrawal as Treasurer; Khem Das Lahare as Secretary. The others as members are- Giridhari Kanwar, Ram Singh Kanwar and others.

SBI State Bank of India

RACPC- ZONAL OFFICE, BYRON BAZAR, RAIPUR (C.G) Ph:-0771-4040349 | Fax: 0771-4040334

DEMAND NOTICE

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower(s) (Borrower) and (Co-borrower) have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known address, but they have been returned unreturned and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower/Guarantor No. & Address	Details of Properties / Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice of NPA	Amount Outstanding (As on the date of notice)
1.	BORROWERS- MR PAWAN KUMAR TRIPATHI S/O MR BANKE BIHARI TRIPATHI, ADD- H NO 40/228, SANJAY NAGAR, KESHRI LASSI CENTRE, RAIPUR (CG)	L.I.G-261, SITUATED AT MOUJA UNDER C.G HOUSING BOARD COLONY, GATAPAR, ABHANPUR, DISTRICT RAIPUR (CG) BOUNDRIES: NORTH-LIG, SOUTH-ROAD, EAST-LIG, WEST-LIG	08.05.2023 11.03.2023	Rs. 2,35,976.00 + Int. + other charges as on 08.05.2023
2.	BORROWERS- MR ABDUL SALAM S/O MR ABDUL SATTAR & MR SHEIKH ABDUL NADEEM S/O MR ABDUL SALAM, Both of their Add- Flat No- 48/3, khasra No-146/19, Ph No-109, Area-2310 Sqft, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla Ward No-26, Raja Talab, Pandri Tarai, RIC-1, Teh-Arang, Distt -Raipur, Boundries: North- Road, South- Land of Mr Ilyias, Pandri Tarai, RIC-1, Tehsil-Arang, Distt -Raipur	Plot No 48/3, Khasra No-146/19, Ph No-109, area-2310 Sqft, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla Ward No-26, Raja Talab, Pandri Tarai, RIC-1, Teh-Arang, Distt -Raipur, Boundries: North- Road, South- Land of Mr Ilyias, Pandri Tarai, RIC-1, Tehsil-Arang, Distt -Raipur	05.04.2023 04.04.2023	Rs. 29,62,820.00 + Int. + other charges as on 05.04.2023
3.	BORROWERS- MR DEVASHISH MALLICK S/O MR PADMACHARAN MALLOIC ADD-INDIRA AWAS YOJNA, TRIMURTI NAGAR, WARD NO-23, RAIPUR	Khasra No-288(part), H. No. H-01, Indira Awas Colony Devendra Nagar, Mouja- Fafadhi Laxmi Bai Ward No 23, PH No-10/38/48, area-344.32 Sqft, Teh + District Raipur, Boundries: North-H No-H-02, South-Road, East-Road, West-H No-H-32	31.03.2023 23.02.2023	Rs. 14,85,796.00 + Int. + other charges as on 31.03.2023
4.	BORROWERS- 1. MRS GAURI YADAV W/O MR RAMDEO YADAV, 2. MR RAMDEO YADAV S/O MR KISHAN YADAV, Both of their Add- Flat LIG No- 54/2, Third Floor, Block No 34, Deendayal Awas Yojna, Boriyalkala, Raipur.	Flat LIG No- 54/2, Third Floor, Block No. 34, Deendayal Awas Yojna, Boriyalkala, Area- 487 Sqft, Raipur, Tah & Dist-Raipur (CG), Boundries: North-LIG-541, South-Open Space, East-LIG-544, West-LIG-528.	26.04.2023 19.04.2023	Rs. 6,83,085.00 + Int. + other charges as on 26.04.2023
5.	BORROWERS- MR GHULAM MURTUZA S/O MOHD WARIS HASAN, ADD- FLAT NO 301, GULSHAN APARTMENT, RAJA TALAB, BESIDE NEW SHUBHAM SAREE, TEHSIL + DISTRICT - RAIPUR (CG)	Flat No 288(part), H. No. H-01, Indira Awas Colony Devendra Nagar, Mouja- Fafadhi Laxmi Bai Ward No 23, PH No-10/38/48, area-344.32 Sqft, Teh + District Raipur, Boundries: North-H No-H-02, South-Road, East-Road, West-H No-H-32	06.05.2023 05.05.2023	Rs. 14,11,734.00 + Int. + other charges as on 06.05.2023
6.	BORROWERS- Mrs. MUSKAN AARIF ALI W/O MR SAYYAD AARIF ALI & Mr. SAYYAD AARIF ALI S/O SAIYYAD SHAKIR ALI, ADD-JAI HIND CHOWK BEHAR ATTA CHAKKI RAJA TALAB RAIPUR, CG	House On Plot Area 650 Sq Feet, Kh No 325/601 Mathpura Teh + District Raipur (CG), Boundries: North- Sami Ahmed House, South- Rikhiram House, East- Palash Sihan Plot, West-Road	12.04.2023 08.04.2023	Rs. 20,34,018.00 + Int. + other charges as on 12.04.2023
7.	BORROWERS- Mrs. PINKY DUBEY W/O MR JEEWAN DUBEY & MR. JEEWAN DUBEY S/O LAXMI NARAYAN DUBEY, ADD-SAI VIHAR COLONY, NEAR SAI MANDIR, RAWATPURA COLONY RAIPUR, CG	Khasra No 295/71, Rawatpura Phase 2, mauja Mathpura, P.H. No. 61, Ward 52, R.M. Tehsil + District Raipur (CG) Boundries: North- Property of Bhogwan, South-Property of Mr. Shukla, East- Road, West-Property of Mr. Makhija	12.04.2023 10.04.2023	Rs. 29,39,913.00 + Int. + other charges as on 12.04.2023
8.	BORROWER- MRS PRIYANKA SONI W/O MR TUSHAR PATEL, ADD: H NO-68, KHASRA NO, 57A/1, SHIVAM VIHAR, MADHAV RAO SAPRE WARD, NO-68, RAIPURA P H NO-104/35/57, AREA-728 SQFT, TAH & DIST-Raipur (CG)	H No-68, Khasra No-57A/1, Shivam Vihar, Madhav Rao Sapre Ward No-68, Raipura, P H No-104/35/57, Area-728 Sqft, Distt + Teh-Raipur, Boundries: North- Road, South - land of Sanjay Jha, East - land of Deepak Dewangan, West - Road	13.04.2023 10.04.2023	Rs. 25,65,323.00 + Int. + other charges as on 13.04.2023
9.	BORROWER- MR SUBIR KUMAR ROY S/O MR LALAN ROY ADD - PLOT NO-LIG-128, UNDER THE SCHEME OF SELF FINANCING SCHEME ON BUILDING, SITUATED AT DHANSULI, ARANG, RIC-1, TAH & DIST-Raipur (CG)	Plot No-LIG-128, under The Scheme of Self Financing Scheme on Building, Situated At Dhansuli, Arang, RIC-1, Area-948.38 Distt + The Raipur Boundries: North-LIG-113, South-Road, East - LIG-127, West-Road	15.04.2023 01.04.2023	Rs. 7,03,620.00 + Int. + other charges as on 15.04.2023
10.	BORROWER- MR UTTAM KARMAKAR S/O MR SUDHIR KARMAKAR, ADD- KHASRA NO 196/6, CHAURASIYA COLONY, VILL-MATHPURENA, PH NO-105, CHANDRASEKHAR AZAD WARD NO 52, AREA- 525 sqft, RAIPUR, TAH & DIST-Raipur (CG)	Khasra No 196/6, Chaurasiya Colony, Vill-Mathpurena, P.H. No-105, Chandrasekhar Azad Ward No 52, Area- 525 Sqft, Raipur, Tehsil & Dist- Raipur (CG), Boundries: North-House Of Govind, South- Plot Of Razzak, East-Road, West-Open Land	26.04.2023 22.04.2023	Rs. 2,19,567.00 + Int. + other charges as on 26.04.2023
11.	BORROWERS- 1. MR HEMANT KUMAR BORAL S/O MR PANCHANAN BORAL & 2. MRS GOURI BORAL W/O HEMANT KUMAR BORAL, BOTH OF THEIR Add-Flat No-A-806 Eight Floor, Harsh Horizon, Daldal Seoni Mowa, Raipur	Flat No-A-806, Block A, Eighth Floor Harsh Horizon, Kushabhau Thakrey Ward No-26, Ph No 109, Daldal Seoni, Area-1060 sqft, Teh + District Raipur (CG), Boundries: North-Open Area, South- Flat No-A-801, East-Open Area, West-Flat No-A-805	08.05.2023 07.05.2023	Rs. 34,69,760.00 + Int. + other charges as on 08.05.2023

The steps are taken to get substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and/or their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 09.05.2023, Place: Raipur Authorized Officer, State Bank of India

Ward residents lodge complaint standing beneath bended pole



- Pole erected for last 40 yrs; not being replaced by the deptt
- Posing threat to nearby residents and demand its replacement soon

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, May 08: An electrical pole existing for last 40 yrs ahead of Jaistambh Chowk in Satmani Mohalla in Gram Choubeybandha, is now fully corroded and it is dangerous to those passing and living nearby and can cause major incident some day. The people of the locality are living in state of fear.

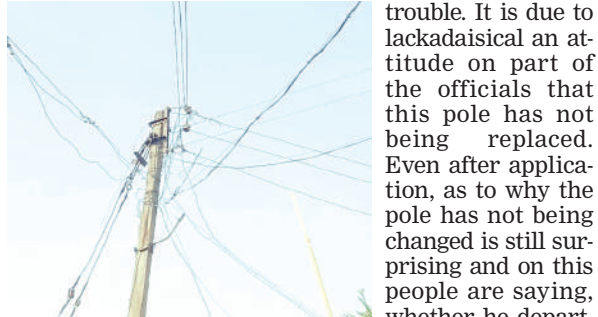
Ward Panch's rep Santosh Chelak has given application to Electricity Deptt Rajim two years back, but still no action has been taken. On the other hand, Sarpanch Dulichand Aande too has urged the department to change the pole in view of its present condition and has got only assurances in return.

So to start novel protest, the residents of the ward stood near the delicate and corroded pole on Sunday morning and made a request to the electricity deptt officers to change it at

the earliest. With pole bending on one side, the wires are literally touching the ground. There are pucca houses built near the pole and in case of any incident, the live wires may touch the house and can harm anyone. The need at the moment is to replace the old pole and re-align the wires. In front of this pole, a person is getting a house constructed and he is always in state of fear over the likely outcome if the pole bends down. Be it young children, women, youth and residents of the ward, all have urged to replace the old pole and has urged MLA Amitesh Shukla to take up the same with the electricity department.

Danger spread due to lackadaisical attitude of officers...

The residents of the locality informed that last when the electricity came the village in 1982, at that time this pole was erected and placed. Since then the same pole is still existing and it is now in the state of bending and it has become corroded and has lots of cracks in it. Anytime any major incident can take place and it cannot be denied. It is worthwhile to mention here that the locality has good population and the width of the lane is narrow and one has to pass with lot of precau-



trouble. It is due to lackadaisical an attitude on part of the officials that this pole has not been replaced. Even after application, as to why the pole has not been changed is still surprising and on this people are saying, whether he department is waiting for some major accident to take place.

What officer says
On the other hand, In-charge officer Electricity Board Mahadev Dewangan said that he got the condition of the pole checked from a lineman and mason and it has been okayed. The wires have turned into loop and it will be realigned, so that nobody is under any threat.

tions in this locality. Even if one make a slight mistake, he or she can land in



ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat- 362286 Branch Address- Sky Park, unit Nos.402 & 403, 4th Floor, Adjacent G E Road, Ravi Nagar, Opp. Rani Sati Mandir, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001.

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

APPENDIX IV(See Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) POSSESSION NOTICE(for Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued a Demand notice dated 21-02-2023 calling upon the borrowers Kanchan Santvani, Kanchan Frame, Suresh Santvani seeking repayment of the amount mentioned in the notice being of Rs.62,98,883.53/- (Rupees Sixty Two Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Three and Fifty Three Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 08th Day of May of the year, 2023. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited for an amount of Rs.62,98,883.53/- (Rupees Sixty Two Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Three and Fifty Three Paise Only) and interest thereon. Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section 8 of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

All That Piece And Parcel Of Khasra No. 147/31, 147/32, Admeasuring 1010 Sq. Ft. I.E., 93.86 Sq. Mtrs., And 1010 Sq. Ft., Totally Measuring 2020 Sq. Ft., Khata No. 737, Ph No 110/40, Khata No 697, Village V. V. Vihar Shankar Nagar, Raipur, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Ward No. 27, Behind Vip Karishma, Raipur, Chhattisgarh India - 492001 And Bounded As: North: Open Plot, South: Road, East: Others Plot, West: House Of Anchal Lalwani.

Date: 08.05.2023
Place: Raipur

Authorized Officer
Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, Vijay Agarwal S/o Mahavir Prasad Agarwal Resident of Flat No. G-402, Fourth Floor, Shree Ram Heights, Kailash Nagar, Bhilai, Tehsil and Distt. Durg, Chhattisgarh have changed my old name Vijay Agarwal S/o Mahavir Prasad Agarwal, so in future, I should be recognized by my new name that is Vijay Kumar Agarwal S/o Mahavir Prasad Agarwal in all Government and other documents.

Vijay Kumar Agarwal
Flat No. G-402, Fourth Floor, Shree Ram Heights, Kailash Nagar, Bhilai, Tehsil & Distt. Durg, Chhattisgarh

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069
Raipur Branch : 1A & 1B, 2nd Floor, Shyam Plaza, Pandari, Raipur-491001, Chhattisgarh
Authorised Officer : Prakash Kurrey, Mob. :- 9827402009

PROPERTY FOR SALE UNDER PROVISIONS OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002 THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY

Whereas the Authorised Officer, Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) has taken the Possession u/s 13(4) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the property ("the Secured Asset") given below The Authorised Officer has received offer of Sale from some interested party against the above mentioned Secured Asset under the SARFAESI Act for recovery of the Secured Debt. Now, the Authorised Officer is hereby giving the Notice to Sale of the above said property through Private Treaty in terms of rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The Details of the Account are as follows:

Loan Code No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Reserve Price (RP)	Total Outstanding Loan Amount as on date (31-03-2023)	Description of the Secured Asset
(App. No. 00052844/ Raipur Branch)	Shambhu Kumar (Borrower), Sadhana Mishra (Co-Borrower)	08-06-2021 ₹ 4,21,706/-	₹ 3,40,000/- (Rs. Three Lakh Forty Thousand Only)	₹ 4,33,014/-	All that Piece and Parcel of the property bearing, Ews-Block No. - 41 Flat No. - 05, H. B. Colony Nr Radha Swami Satsang Bhawan, Dharampura, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001. Boundaries - East : EWS 41/8, West : Road, North : EWS 41/6, South : Open Area.

The Authorised officer will hold auction for sale of the Secured Asset on 'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is basis' and 'Whatever is there is basis'. AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the said property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept or reject the offer without assigning any reason whatsoever and sale will be subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. On the acceptance of offer of proposed buyer, he/she is required to deposit 25% of accepted price inclusive adjustment of Earnest Money Balance immediately and the balance amount shall be paid by the purchaser within 15 (fifteen) days from date of acceptance of Offer by the Secured Creditor. The proposed buyer is to note that in case of failure of payment of balance amount by him/her within the time specified, the amount already deposited shall stand forfeited and property will be resold accordingly.

This is 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the above described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and to the amount due to Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.

If the Borrower(s), Co-borrower(s) has any buyer who is ready to purchase the mortgage property/secured asset at price above the given reserve price of then Borrower(s), Co-borrower(s) must intimate to AHFL on or before 08-06-2023, AHFL shall give preference to him. If Borrower(s), co-borrower(s) fails to intimate on or before 08-06-2023 the AHFL will proceed sale of property at above given reserve price.

The Date of Auction is fixed for 08-06-2023.

Place : Raipur
Date : 09-05-2023

(Authorised Officer)
For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

BRIEF



Farmers at Jantar Mantar in support of wrestlers protesting against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, in New Delhi, Monday.

Bus ride

Bengaluru: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday interacted with college students and working women here ahead of the May 10 Assembly elections in Karnataka. The former party chief stopped for a cup of coffee at a 'Cafe Coffee Day' outlet on Cunningham Road.

Shot dead

Noida: A man was shot dead in Birampur village here on Sunday and police suspect that his father and brother were involved in the killing, officials said. The victim's maternal uncle has lodged a complaint against three unknown people and a case has been registered, they said. The deceased has been identified as Kapil.

Watery grave

Sonbhadra: An 11-year-old girl and her cousin brother drowned while bathing in a pond in a village here, police said on Monday. The incident took place in Chapki village under the Babbhi police station area on Sunday evening, they said.

Road crash

Barabanki: A speeding truck rammed into a van in Dewa area here, leaving five people returning from a marriage function dead and three others injured, police said on Monday.

Spl flight

Patna: The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar will bring back all students of the state stranded in violence-hit Manipur, an official said here on Monday.

10-yr RI

Thane: A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced a 35-year-old man to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting and torturing his wife's minor sister. Special Judge V V Virkar, hearing cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in the order passed on May 6 also imposed a fine of Rs 8,000 on the accused.

Low pressure

Bhubaneswar: A low-pressure area was formed on Monday over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining South Andaman Sea, the India Meteorological Department. This was confirmed by IMD Director General Mrunujay Mohapatra.

Budaun: Ten children were hospitalised following complaints of vomiting and stomach ache after consuming food at a wedding function here, a health department official said on Monday.

Kerala govt orders judicial probe

● Into tourist boat tragedy

Malappuram, May 08 (PTD)

A day after the tragic tourist boat accident that claimed the lives of 22 people including women and children, Kerala government on Monday announced a judicial probe into the matter and decided to give a compensation of Rs ten lakh to the kin of the deceased.

Addressing the media here after visiting

Tirurangudi Taluk hospital and the Kunnummel family which lost 12 members, Vijayan termed the accident as a "tragedy" and said the government will bear the expense of those under treatment.

Vijayan announced the probe and the compensation after an all-party meeting held at Tanur in which senior opposition leaders also participated.

"The all-party meeting has decided for a judicial inquiry in this matter. The probe will cover the technical issues related to the

boat's safety among other matters. A judicial commission comprising technical experts will be formed. A Special investigation team of the Kerala police will also probe the matter," Vijayan told the media.

He also announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to the family of the deceased.

The CM said the government had earlier set up a safety protocol for tourist boats and will examine whether they were followed or not in connection

with the incident.

He also informed that two out of the ten admitted in the hospital have been discharged and eight persons were under treatment.

The boat had capsized near an estuary close to the Thoovaltheeram beach in the Tanur area around 7:30 pm on Sunday.

The state government has announced a day of mourning on Monday and cancelled all official events as a mark of respect to those who lost their lives in the accident.

FAKE VIDEOS ON LABOURERS

SC refuses to entertain plea of jailed Bihar YouTuber

● Against invoking of NSA

New Delhi, May 08 (PTD)

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea of jailed Bihar YouTuber Manish Kashyap against whom the stringent National Security Act (NSA) has been invoked for allegedly circulating fake videos of migrant labourers being attacked in Tamil Nadu.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, however, granted Kashyap the liberty to challenge the invocation of the NSA at an appropriate judicial forum.

It also rejected the plea for clubbing all 19 FIRs against him and their transfer to Bihar. "We are

not inclined to entertain the plea," the bench said while rejecting the vehement submissions of senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Kashyap who is presently lodged in Madurai jail of Tamil Nadu. Earlier, the top court had granted time to the Tamil Nadu government, represented by lawyer Amit Anand Tiwari, to respond to the amended plea of Kashyap against whom the stringent NSA was invoked for allegedly circulating the videos. The arrested YouTuber faces several FIRs and out of them, three have been lodged in Bihar. The top court had on April 11 issued notice to the Centre, the Tamil Nadu and Bihar governments on Kashyap's plea seeking clubbing of the FIRs lodged against him and their transfer to his native state.

The Delhi High Court on Monday questioned jail authorities over recovery of four knives from Tihar premises where gangster Tillu Tajpuriya was stabbed to death allegedly by inmates belonging to a rival gang.

The court asked why no preventive or remedial action was taken by authorities when the incident took place as the entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed in jail premises. Justice Jasmeet Singh issued notice to the Director General of Prisons (Delhi), Delhi government and Commissioner of Police on a petition filed by Tajpuriya's father and brother seeking an investigation by the CBI into the "brutal murder" inside Tihar Jail premises on May 2.

HC asks jail authorities why no remedial action taken

New Delhi, May 08 (PTD)

The petitioners, represented through senior advocate Maninder Singh, said they are DTC drivers and sought adequate security for themselves.

The high court directed the Delhi Police to ensure safety and security of both the petitioners, who are father and brother of the deceased, and listed the matter for further hearing on May 25.

It directed the Tihar jail authorities to file an affidavit as to how four knives were found in prison and asked the jail superintendent concerned to be present in the court on the next date of hearing. A CCTV video from Tihar Jail which emerged on social media purportedly showed Tajpuriya

being attacked in front of security personnel and also when they were carrying him away after he was stabbed.

Tajpuriya was assaulted with improvised weapons allegedly by four members of the Gogi gang inside the high-security prison on May 2.

The accused attacked him for a second time when he was being carried away by security personnel, according to the footage. In the footage, it appears that the security personnel are mute spectators while the assailants kept repeatedly attacking the gangster.

According to jail officials, seven personnel of the Tamil Nadu Special Police (TNSP), who were on duty at a Tihar prison cell when Tajpuriya was stabbed to death, have been suspended following the incident.

A CCTV video from Tihar Jail which emerged on social media purportedly showed Tajpuriya

SIBAL TO PM FOR 'SHAHI PARIVAR' DIG Nation saw Indira, Rajiv 'bleed' for India

New Delhi, May 08 (PTD)

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his "shahi parivar" dig at the Congress and cited the example of former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, asserting that the nation saw them "bleed" for India.

In a tweet, Sibal said, "PM said: Congress Shahi Parivar wants Karnataka to 'secede' from India. But Modiji: The nation saw them 'bleed' for India. Indira Gandhi, Rajiv

FREE MEDICINE DISTRIBUTION



Health workers give free medicine to people from violence-hit areas of Manipur at a relief camp setup by the Assam Government, in Cachar district of Assam, Sunday.

Pharmacist suspended for clicking pictures

● With President's chopper

Bhubaneswar, May 08 (PTD)

Even as the row over the power disruption at President Droupadi Murmu's programme in Odisha's Baripada continues, the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) of Mayurbhanj has suspended a pharmacist for taking photos with the President's helicopter, an official said on Monday. CDMO Dr Rupabhanu Mishra suspended pharmacist Jashobanta Behera for clicking pictures with the President's chopper and posting them on Facebook, the official said.

Behera was deployed in a medical team of the President during her visit to Simlipal National Park on May 5. "I posted a few photos on my Facebook account only for the sake of memory and fun. I had no other intention of doing so. However, I took verbal permis-

sion from some air force personnel engaged to guard the helicopter. As such a great personality like the President Madam had come to the district and I was on duty at the helipad, I wanted to keep the photos as a memory," the pharmacist said. He claimed that he has deleted the pictures from his Facebook account. The incident had taken place on May 5 when the President had gone to Simlipal National Park in the district on her second day of the tour. The photographs were taken on mobile phones near the helicopter. Meanwhile, the issue relating to power disruption at the President's programme at the Maharaja Sriramachandra Bhanja Deo University convocation has taken a political row with the opposition BJP demanding an apology from the chief minister for keeping the first citizen of the country in darkness for about nine minutes while she was delivering the convocation address.

BJP worker shot dead

● While waiting for wife

Valsad, May 08 (PTD)

A local BJP functionary was shot dead allegedly by unidentified persons on Monday morning when he was waiting in his Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) for his wife to return from a temple near Vapi town in Gujarat's Valsad district, police said.

The motorbike-borne assailants came near the SUV of Shailesh Patel in Kocharva village and fired three-four rounds at him, an official from Dungara police station said.

Shailesh Patel was vice president of the BJP's

Vapi taluka unit, its president Suresh Patel said while expressing grief over the incident.

Suresh Patel said the deceased had gone to the temple with his wife to offer prayers. After praying, he came out and was waiting in his SUV for his wife. He also claimed there were four assailants who arrived at the spot on two motorbikes. The incident took place at around 7:30 am when Patel was waiting in his vehicle for his wife to return after offering prayers at the temple, the police said. When Patel's wife heard the noise, she rushed to the spot and found him lying in a pool of blood and called for help.

INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacts with students at a bus stop, in Bengaluru, Monday.

SIBAL TO PM FOR 'SHAHI PARIVAR' DIG Nation saw Indira, Rajiv 'bleed' for India

New Delhi, May 08 (PTD)

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his "shahi parivar" dig at the Congress and cited the example of former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, asserting that the nation saw them "bleed" for India.

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HEARTBREAKING STORY

Sunday boat ride turns into tragedy for two families

Malappuram (Kerala), May 08 (PTD)

Shahul Hameed, an auto driver, rushed to the Thoovaltheeram beach in his three-wheeler on Sunday night on hearing of the tragic boat accident and as rescuers piled into his vehicle some children fished out from the water, he never realised they were his sister's kids.

His sister and her three children were among 12 members of his family, hailing from Parappanangadi here, who died in the tragedy that claimed 22 lives, majority of whom were women and children.

"I rushed to the beach in my auto on hearing of the accident. When I reached there, rescuers put some children taken out of the water in my auto and I rushed them to the nearest hospital.

"It is on reaching the hospital that I realised that they were my sister's children. My sister and her three children died in the accident," he told a news channel.

Five others from his sister's family and three rela-

tives also died in the tragedy which brings to the fore several violations of the rules governing boat rides by the owner of the vessel and those who were operating it.

A similar heartbreaking story came from Chettipadi village here where four members of a family, a mother and her three children, died in the accident.

Two others of the family are reportedly hospitalised in a critical condition.

Being a Sunday and also school vacation season, many families like that of Hameed and the one from Chettipadi had gone to the Thoovaltheeram for the boat ride — the closest amusement spot from their homes.

While it turned into a distressing incident for those two families and many others, some escaped with their lives after deciding not to board the boat at the last moment.

Two brothers, Isaac and Ibrahim, from Kondotty here, who had gone to the area with their families for a good time on a week-



Relatives react after a boat capsized near Thoovaltheeram beach killing at least 22 people, in Malappuram district, Monday.

end holiday and it was a difference of opinion among them — over how safe the boat ride would be — that resulted in them avoiding the same fate of the 22 who died in the accident.

The brothers told a news channel that they were there only for the children to enjoy at the amusement park, but someone pointed out that there were boat rides also which the adults could enjoy.

"However, there was a difference of opinion

among us about its safety and therefore, we decided to avoid it. We went back to the area where the children can play and while there we heard a boat had overturned in the river.

"Later when people were brought ashore in smaller boats did we realise it was the same vessel that we were supposed to board that had sank," they said.

They also said that the boat was "overcrowded" and "packed beyond capacity" and that the per-

son operating it was exhorting more people to board it by saying it was the last trip.

While it did turn out to be the last trip for many, Shamsudeen and his family group of eight too managed to avoid the tragedy.

Shamsudeen told a TV channel over the phone that when the boat in question was coming back for its last trip, he saw that the boat was tilting to one side and at that moment he decided to cancel the four tickets he had brought.

"I pointed out the problem to the person operating the boat and he said there was nothing to worry about. He also said that there was no need for taking a ticket for the children. There were five children in our group.

"But I decided not to board the boat anyway," he said.

Local residents of the area also told news channels that the boat was packed beyond its capacity of 20 persons and that its operators did not heed warning of onlookers that the vessel was tilting to one side.

"It was a tragedy which was invited. It could have been avoided if the boat was not overcrowded or if it had not been operated beyond the permissible time. When the boat reached a bend in the river, it overturned as it was already tilting to one side," local residents said.

Another resident said there was no government machinery or infrastructure, like lights and ropes, available in time for rescue operations and it was the local fishermen who came with these items for rescuing people from the water.

He also said that many more who could have escaped to safety could not do as the boat was covered with glass on all sides and there were only two doors out of which people could come out.

This is what one of the one of the survivors of the incident, Tanur-native Shefeeq, also said.

Shefeeq, who had gone on the boat ride with some friends, said as he was sitting atop the boat's roof, when it tilted he was thrown clear.

"Those who were inside the boat, however, could not escape as there were only two exit doors, all the windows were covered with glass and many of them being children, they could not hold their breath underwater for long," he told a news channel.

He said he and his friends tried to rescue as many people as possible and hauled them on to the boats which came to rescue the passengers.

"We gave CPR to many, most of them children who had swallowed water and were lifeless. It was so tragic. We did all we could. I suffered an injury to my leg and was taken with the survivors to the hospital," he said.

While 22 people died in the tragedy, 8 others were rescued and are undergoing treatment at various hospitals, district officials said.

The boat, which was carrying more than 30 people, capsized near an estuary close to the Thoovaltheeram beach in the Tanur area around 7:30 pm on Sunday, officials said.

BRIEF



Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales tries her hand at archery while taking part in the Big Help Out, during a visit to the 3rd Upton Scouts Hut in Slough, England, Monday.

Turkish rally

Istanbul: More than a dozen people have been detained over violence against an opposition election rally in Turkey's eastern city of Erzurum over the weekend, the country's justice minister said Monday. Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu of the main opposition Republican People's Party, CHP, was speaking atop a campaign bus Sunday afternoon when a large group of roughly 200 protesters began throwing rocks. Imamoglu was campaigning on behalf of CHP leader and presidential candidate Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the main opponent to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, days before the May 14 presidential and parliamentary elections.

Afghan dialogue

Islamabad: Afghanistan's interim Taliban regime Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has asked Pakistan and the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to sit together for a dialogue, amid a sharp increase in deadly attacks on Pakistani security forces in recent months. "It is requested that Pakistan and TTP sit together for dialogue," Muttaqi, who is here on a four-day visit to Pakistan to attend bilateral and trilateral dialogues, said while addressing an event in Islamabad on Monday, Geo News reported. Pakistan had held several rounds of talks - brokered by the Afghan Taliban - with the TTP but the negotiations failed last year after which the militant group resumed terror activities. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in TTP violence since the militant group formally ended the ceasefire on November 28.

Police deployment

Belgrade: Police on Monday deployed in schools throughout Serbia in an effort to restore a shaken sense of security following two mass shootings last week including one in a primary school that left 17 people dead and 21 wounded, many of them children. The shootings last Wednesday in Belgrade and a day later in a rural area south of the capital left the nation stunned. The shootings also triggered calls to encourage tolerance and rid society of widespread hate speech and a gun culture stemming from the 1990s wars. Opposition parties urged citizens to come to a march against violence in central Belgrade later on Monday.

Ukraine shoots down 35 drones over Kyiv as attacks kill 4

Kyiv, May 8 (AP)

Ukraine air defences shot down 35 Iranian-made drones over Kyiv in Russia's latest nighttime assault, as attacks across Ukraine by the Kremlin's forces killed four civilians, officials said on Monday.

The bombardments came as Moscow enforced tight security on the eve of traditional Red Square commemorations marking the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II.

Russian media counted at least 21 Russian cities that cancelled military parades the staple of Victory Day celebrations across Russia on May 9 for the first time in years. Regional officials cited "security concerns" or vaguely referred to "the current situation."

Parades will go ahead in Russia's largest cities, Moscow and St.



Police inspect an apartment building damaged by a drone, that was shot down during a Russian overnight strike, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday.

Petersburg. But the use of drones has been banned in both cities ahead of Victory Day.

In St. Petersburg, which is often referred to as "northern Venice" for its network of rivers and canals, using jet skis in certain parts of the city

has also been prohibited until May 10.

In the Russian capital, car sharing services have been temporarily barred from the city centre drivers will not be able to start or finish rides there.

Five people in the capital were injured by falling

drone debris, according to Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv City Military Administration. Air raid alarms sounded for more than three hours during the night.

Drone wreckage struck a two-story apartment building in Kyiv's western Svyatoshynskiy district, while other debris struck a car parked nearby, setting it on fire, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said in a Telegram post.

Facing economic sanctions and limits on its supply chains due to its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russia has routinely turned to Iranian Shahed drones to bolster its firepower.

Russian shelling of 127 targets across northern, southern and eastern parts of Ukraine killed three civilians, the Ukrainian defense ministry said.

Nepal police arrest 10 Indians for illegally acquiring citizenship cards

Kathmandu, May 8 (PTD)

Ten Indian nationals, including three women, have been arrested here for allegedly acquiring Nepali citizenship cards illegally by producing fake documents, police said.

A Kathmandu Valley Crime Investigation Office team apprehended the Indian nationals, all hailing from Bihar, from various parts of Kathmandu on Saturday.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Ravindra Regmi said.

Of those arrested, seven were males, while three were females. The Kathmandu Valley Police Office revealed their identities at a press conference at its office on Sunday.

The Indian nationals were found to have obtained

the Nepali citizenship certificates on different dates from the district administration offices of Rupandehi, Bara and Parsa districts by producing fake documents, Regmi said.

Police said those arrested have lived in Nepal for a long time, some since as far back as 2006. The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

The arrests took place after a three-month-long investigation, and those apprehended were engaged in the business of making sweets and ran sweet shops in Nepal. MyRepublica newspaper quoted the police as saying, Nepali citizenship certificates, voter identity cards, Indian passports and Aadhar cards were also seized from those arrested, police said.

Iran hangs 2 in rare blasphemy case as executions surge

Dubai, May 8 (AP)

Iran hanged two men Monday convicted of blasphemy, authorities said, carrying out rare death sentences for the crime as executions surge across the Islamic Republic following months of unrest.

Iran remains one of the world's top executioners, having put to death at least 203 prisoners since the start of this year alone, according to the Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights. But carrying out executions for blasphemy remains rare, as previous cases saw the sentences reduced by authorities. The two men executed, Yousef Mehrad and Sadrollah Fazeli Zare, died at Arak Prison in central Iran. They had been arrested

in May 2020, accused of being involved in a channel on the Telegram message app called "Critique of Superstition and Religion," according to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. Both men faced months of solitary confinement and could not contact their families, the commission said. The Mizan news agency of Iran's judiciary confirmed the executions, describing the two men as having insulted Islam's Prophet Muhammad and promoted atheism. Mizan also accused them of burning a Quran, Islam's holy book, though it wasn't clear whether the men allegedly did that or such imagery was shared in the Telegram channel.

Indian-American man charged in US for wiring money to IS women in Syria

Washington, May 8 (PTD)

A 33-year-old Indian-American man has been charged in the US state of Virginia for transferring thousands of dollars to Islamic State women, hoping to smuggle them out of a Syrian refugee camp, a media report said.

Mohammed Azharuddin Chhipa used social media to raise funds for IS women in the al-Hol refugee camp in Syria and voiced his support for violent jihad online, The Washington Post newspaper reported on Friday.

The report, citing an FBI filing, said that in 2019

Chhipa began using social media to raise funds for "sisters" in the al-Hol refugee camp in Syria, which "is assessed to be a stronghold of ISIS ideology," claiming the money was for "shelter," the FBI said. The FBI said that "thousands of videos, pictures, essays, books, notes, and search histories about extremist ideology, jihad, ISIS, and violent propaganda on multiple devices" turned up during a search of Chhipa's home in 2019. Chhipa, being held in jail after making an initial appearance in a Virginia court on Friday, faces up to 20 years in

prison if convicted for providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organisation, the report said.

According to Chhipa's financial records obtained by the federal agency from 2019 to 2022, he purchased USD 172,000 in virtual currency and collected USD 15,000 in digital funds from others. More than USD 18,000 allegedly "went to wallets known to be used by ISIS women located in Syria," while the total funds Chhipa sent to smuggle IS women out of the camp could be much higher, the FBI said in a court filing.

US to propose new rules for airline cancellations, delays

Washington, May 8 (AP)

The Biden administration is working on new regulations that would require airlines to compensate passengers and cover their meals and hotel rooms if they are stranded for reasons within the airline's control.

The White House said President Joe Biden and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg would announce the start of the rule-making process Monday. The rulemaking pledge continues a push by the Democratic administration to require airlines to improve customer service, and it comes just weeks before the start of the peak summer travel season. The aim of the rules would be, for the first time, to require airlines to pay compensation beyond a ticket refund and to cover expenses that con-

sumers incur, including re-booking on another flight, if the airline causes a cancellation or significant delay.

"When an airline causes a flight cancellation or delay, passengers should not foot the bill," Buttigieg said in a statement.

Currently, when an airline cancels a flight for any reason, consumers can demand a refund of the unused part of their ticket and certain extras that they might have paid to the airline, such as fees for checking a bag or getting a seat assignment.

Airlines often try to persuade consumers to accept a travel voucher instead of a refund. After widespread flight disruptions last summer, the Transportation Department posted an on-line dashboard that was designed to pressure the airlines to improve customer service.

SC resumes hearing pleas against act curtailing chief justice's powers

Islamabad, May 8 (PTD)

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday resumed the hearing on the pleas challenging the newly enacted law aimed at clipping the powers of the chief justice.

The bill, titled the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023, was aimed at depriving the office of the CJP of powers to take suo motu notice in an individual capacity.

The draft law was initially passed by both houses of Parliament in March and sent to President Arif Alvi for his assent. However, the president sent it back, saying that the proposed law travelled "beyond the competence of Parliament". The bill was subsequently adopted by a joint session of Parliament on April 10 albeit with some amend-

ments. The top court while hearing three petitions challenging the then-bill in an "anticipatory injunction" on April 13, barred the government from enforcing the draft law, saying the move would "prevent the imminent apprehended danger that is irreparable" as soon as it became an act of parliament.

An eight-member larger bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial is hearing the pleas on Monday.

At the outset of Monday's hearing, Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan informed the court that a plea had been filed for the formation of a full court to hear the case. "The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has also filed a petition for the formation of a full court," he said.

EVACUATION DRIVE



Yemeni evacuees disembark the Saudi HMS Abha ship, traveling from Port Sudan, after docking at Jeddah port, Saudi Arabia.

First ChatGPT arrest in China over fake train crash news

Beijing, May 8 (PTD)

Chinese police have detained a man for allegedly generating fake news of a train crash and disseminating it online using artificial intelligence technology, in what was reported to be China's first arrest for misuse of ChatGPT.

Police in northwestern Gansu province said in a statement on Sunday that a suspect surnamed Hong had been detained for "using artificial intelligence technology to concoct false and untrue information".

The case first caught the attention of the cyber division of a county police bureau when they spotted a fake news article that claimed nine people had been killed in a local train accident on April 25, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Monday.

The cybersecurity officers in Kongtong county found the article simultaneously posted by more than 20 accounts on Baijiahao, a blog-style platform run by Chinese

search engine giant Baidu. The stories had received more than 15,000 clicks by the time it came to authorities' attention, it said.

The Gansu public security department said Hong was suspected of the crime of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", a charge that normally carries a maximum sentence of five years. But in cases that are deemed especially severe, offenders can be jailed for 10 years and given additional penalties, the Post reported.

This is the first time the public has been made aware of an arrest by Chinese authorities after Beijing's first provisions to regulate the use of "deepfake" technology officially took effect in January, it said.

The police said they traced the origins of the article to a company owned by the suspect Hong, which operated personal media platforms registered in Shenzhen in Guangdong province in southern China. Some 10 days later a police team

searched Hong's home and his computer and detained him.

The statement said Hong confessed to bypassing Baijiahao's duplication check function to publish on multiple accounts he had acquired. He input the elements of trending social stories in China from past years into ChatGPT to quickly produce different versions of the same fake story and uploaded them to his Baijiahao accounts, it said.

While ChatGPT is not directly available to Chinese IP addresses, Chinese users can still access its service if they have a reliable VPN connection.

China closely monitors its social media through firewalls, especially Sina Weibo, which has over 592 million users to ensure no critical content against the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC).

Indian woman among nine killed in mass shooting incident in US

Houston, May 8 (PTD)

A 27-year-old Indian woman, who was working in the US as a project engineer, was among nine people killed when a gunman opened fire at a crowded mall in Dallas in Texas, authorities said on Monday.

Aishwarya Thatikonda, of McKinney, was shopping with a friend when they were shot by gunman Mauricio Garcia at the Allen Premium Outlets in Dallas, the New York Post newspaper reported.

The shooting erupted



Emergency personnel respond to a fatal collision in Brownsville, Texas.

around 3:30 pm on Saturday as throngs of shoppers filled the outdoor mall. The shooting killed at least eight people before

Mauricio Garcia, a 33-year-old gunman, was shot dead by a police officer.

Aishwarya, daughter of a district judge in Ranga

Reddy district court in India, worked as a project engineer at Perfect General Contractors LLC.

A family representative confirmed to the WFAA television station that Thatikonda was also among the dead from the senseless gun violence.

Aishwarya had spoken to her family members before the incident on Saturday, and when they called her back after learning about the shooting they did not get any response, according to the judge's friend.



Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Excellence Award 2023

The Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communications) invites online nominations for **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Excellence Award 2023** from the citizens of India and institutions registered in India or created by the Central/State governments/Union Territories for their notable and exceptional contributions during the last 3 years in the areas of Telecom Innovations, Skilling, Services, Manufacturing, Applications in deploying telecom dependent sectoral solutions for different fields such as agriculture, commerce, health, education etc.

- Each Award shall carry a shawl, citation, plaque and a cash amount of rupees Two Lakh per awardee. Not more than five Awards shall be given in a year, subject to suitable candidate/s being selected by the Award Committee.
- The awardees will be reimbursed airfare towards travelling to/from his place to the station where the Award Function is held and will also be paid a lump sum amount towards incidental expenses.
- The nominations are being received online at National Award Portal, i.e., <https://www.awards.gov.in>. The last date of receipt of nominations is 15th June, 2023 up to 2359 hours.
- For more details, please refer the "Regulations" at the website <https://www.awards.gov.in>

For more information please contact:

Director (SD&E), DOT, Room No 216, 2nd floor, Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Old Minto Road, New Delhi- 110002, Mobile: 9868114666, email: dirdsde-dot@gov.in



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Patents and Innovation

Revolutionizing Make in India through Patent Driven Innovation

Central government's recent announcement of simplifying the Indian Patent Act and making it more research-friendly to foster product-oriented results is a praiseworthy step towards attaining self-reliance through indigenous innovation. However, the number of patents granted annually in India is meager in comparison to China's figures, with only 23,000 patents being granted in a year as opposed to China's 5 lakh patents. The low volume of patents in India is attributed to the absence of a culture of patent filing and taking it to its logical conclusion, according to Dr. Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Adviser at the Department of Science and Technology. He also highlighted that the duration of patent filing and granting in India is more than the global average of two years, which is three years. Innovation growth over the past 100 years has been driven by diverse technologies, with digital-related innovation having grown 172% faster than all patents in the past five years. Entrepreneurs, researchers, consumers, and policymakers have a dynamic interaction in deciding the direction of innovation, as stated in the "World Intellectual Property Report 2022: The Direction of Innovation" by WIPO, Geneva. A study conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development revealed that a one percent increase in trademark protection leads to a 3.8% increase in foreign direct investment (FDI). Similarly, a one percent improvement in patent protection and copyright protection results in a 2.8% and 6.8% increase in FDI, respectively. The National Education Policy 2020 plans to merge all research funding agencies into a single entity, the National Research Foundation (NRF), to catalyze basic research and high-quality innovation. The government's allocation of Rs 2,000 crore in the Union Budget for 2023-24 for the proposed NRF has generated hope for the creation of a robust ecosystem of research in the country. The outlay for NRF is proposed to be Rs 50,000 crore over five years, and the budget allocation for the current fiscal year must increase proportionately for the proposed umbrella body to become operational at the earliest. The fact that only 35% of patents in India are filed by domestic entities while 65% of patents are filed by foreign entities highlights the poor awareness of intellectual property rights in the country. The filing of IPRs by MSMEs is quite low in the country due to a lack of awareness about the significance of IPRs as a major business tool for furthering innovation and competition for generating more profits and revenue. The procedural issues in obtaining a patent application and the high investment in converting a patent into a final product and marketing it, also deter the MSME sector from focusing on IPRs. Simplifying the procedures of patent filing and granting and raising awareness about IPRs among MSMEs will be crucial to achieving the end objectives of the proposed NRF. Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat are not merely about boosting domestic production to reduce import dependency but also about developing indigenous technologies and securing patents for them instead of sourcing them from other countries. The industry needs to play a proactive role in supporting R&D activities for technology innovation and inventions by collaborating with academia and the government. Even after simplification of the procedures and building awareness of patent filing, the flow and quantum of funds for R&D activities need to increase exponentially for the desired volume of patent filings to be achieved. Collaboration among the central and state governments, industry, and academia is necessary to create an ecosystem that boosts research and patent filing. Nurturing organic ideas of inventions and innovation among Indian students and youth and building awareness of patent filing with a handholding approach is the way forward.

Grim Reality

Unemployment Remains Despite Economic Recovery

According to the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate in India has been on the rise for some years, even before the pandemic. While there has been some recovery in GDP since its trough, the unemployment rate remains high, presenting a grim picture. In 2017-18, the unemployment rate was 4.7%, which increased to 6.3% in 2018-19, and shot up to 9.1% during the pandemic-related lockdown in December 2020. Although it has come down slightly since then, it remains high at 7.8% in March 2023, the latest month for which CMIE data is available. Despite the GDP estimate for 2022-23 being 8.4% higher than in 2019-20 and 12.95% higher than in 2018-19, the unemployment rate is higher at 7.8% compared to 6.3% in 2018-19. This suggests that employment per unit of GDP has come down between 2018-19 and 2022-23, which could not have happened through significant technical changes in such a short period. Instead, it is likely due to the recovery occurring primarily in sectors that are not employment-intensive, while the petty and small-scale sectors that are employment-intensive have been left out. Additionally, significant layoffs have occurred in response to reduced demand or austerity measures. CMIE data provides direct evidence of layoffs, estimating a decline in the actual number of employees from 409.9 million in February to 407.6 million in March 2023. This is a grim scenario where not only are there no additional jobs being created to absorb additions to the workforce, but the existing number of jobs has declined in absolute terms. However, government spokespeople claim an improvement in the employment situation, presenting two arguments. Firstly, they suggest that CMIE data is untrustworthy and at variance with the official Periodic Labour Force Surveys, which suggest an improvement in the employment situation. Secondly, they point to the decline in demand for employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) as indicative of such an improvement. Both these arguments lack substance. The major difference between the PLFS and CMIE data on employment is that the former includes unpaid work in domestic economic activities within the term "employment," which the latter does not. However, when there are layoffs or reduced employment possibilities outside, PLFS will not show any increase in unemployment, as family members are forced to remain at home sharing whatever work is available within the household. The CMIE measure provides a reasonably accurate proxy for the overall unemployment scenario. Moreover, the decline in the MGNREGS demand is not a reliable indicator of the unemployment rate, as some people have returned to towns after being forced to live in villages due to the pandemic-related lockdown. Additionally, wage arrears on the MGNREGS have built up because of the central government's unwillingness to make timely wage payments, leading to reduced demand for work. It is ironic that while the union government delays wage payment to MGNREGS workers, leading to reduced demand for work, it claims an improvement in the employment situation. Despite the economic recovery in India, the grim unemployment scenario remains unchanged. It is essential to prioritize employment-intensive sectors and prevent further layoffs to address this issue.

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@editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

TAGORE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

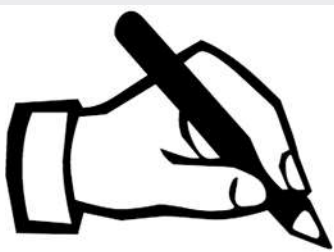


Students of Rabindra Bharati University garland a statue of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore on the eve of his birth anniversary, at his ancestral house 'Jorasanko Thakurbari', in Kolkata, Monday.

Cholas are back with a bang!



VASISHT.M.C



In the ancient and medieval history of India, we come across many dynasties, such as the Mauryas, Guptas, Sultanate, Mughals, etc. These are known as pan-Indian political powers that had control over various territories of the Indian subcontinent. There were also important political powers located in the southern region of the Vindhya mountains, such as the Cholas and the Vijayanagara. However, people from North India are not very familiar with the history of the Cholas or the Vijayanagara.

The movies Ponniyin Selvan -1 and Ponniyin Selvan -2 provide an opportunity for people in India to re-learn the history of the mighty Cholas. Both movies are based on Murthy's popular novel with the same title, which is undoubtedly the most popular literary piece in Tamil.

Two Chola dynasties existed in the history of Tamil Nadu/South India. They were the Cholas of the early historic period (BC 300-400 AD) and the later Cholas (850-1278 CE). There is no evidence to link the early Cholas with the later Cholas. The headquarters of the early Cholas were at

Uraiyur, and the headquarters of the later Cholas were at Thanjavur, both in central Tamil Nadu and on the banks of the river Kaveri. The early Cholas are generally referred to as ancient Cholas, and the later Cholas as medieval Cholas.

Medieval Cholas were actually the feudatories of the Pallavas. In around 850 AD, they defeated the Pallavas and captured power. During the period of medieval Cholas, a mighty Chola empire was created. Two Chola kings were largely responsible for the creation of a Chola empire that crossed the seas. These two Chola kings were Rajaraja Chola (985-1014 A.D) and Rajendra Chola (1014-1044 A.D). The Cholas were the first Indian political power to cross the seas and earn military victories in Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia, and the Maldives.

Rajendra Chola crossed the Vindhya mountains and conquered the north Indian regions and adopted the title Gangaikonda Chola, meaning the one who conquered the Ganges. In order to commemorate his victories in North India, he built a new capital city known as Gangaikonda

Cholapuram. A new temple was also constructed at his capital city in the line of Brihadishvara temple at Thanjavur.

The movies PS-1 and PS-2 are set in the background of later Cholas, in fact in the background of Chola history from 955 CE to 985 CE, the most crucial and complicated phase of medieval Chola history, the period from Parantaka Chola I to the accession of the throne by Rajaraja Chola I in 985 AD.

In 955 CE, Parantaka Chola I died, and his second son, Gandaradhitya Chola, came to power. But his reign lasted for a short period. After Gandaradhitya Chola, the next legal heir to the Chola kingdom was his son Uttama Chola. At that time, Uttama Chola was a minor, and the throne went to Ariyana Chola, the brother of Gandaradhitya Chola. After the death of Ariyana Chola (958 AD), his son Parantaka Chola II, also known as Sundara Chola, came to power in 958 AD. The movie PS-1 and PS-2 are set in the background of this confused period of Chola history.

The period of the Cholas, one of the most powerful dynasties in South India, is the subject of two movies, PS-1 and PS-2, based on the historical novel "Ponniyin Selvan" by Kalki Krishnamurthy. The movies are set during the last days of Sundara Chola, and focus on the struggle for power between various contenders, including Veera Pandya, the defeated Pandya king; Uttama Chola, Sundara Chola's ambitious custodian of the Chola

treasury and commander of Thanjavur fort; and the chiefs of the Chola kingdom. The main characters are Adithya Karikalalan, the elder son of Sundara Chola; Kundavai, Sundara Chola's daughter; Arulmozhi Varman (Ponniyin Selvan), the younger son of Sundara Chola who later became known as Raja Raja Chola; and Vanthiyathevan, commander of the Chola army.

In 969 A.D, Aditya Karikalala Chola died, leaving the throne to his brother Ponniyin Selvan. However, Ponniyin Selvan abandoned the throne, and it passed to Uttama Chola, also known as Madhurantakan. While the movies focus on male characters, they also have powerful women characters in the form of Nandhini and Kundavai, showing that women played a significant role in the power struggle.

The Chola period was also marked by the presence of Vaishnava saints known as Alvars and Shaiva saints known as Nayanars. The movies feature a character of an Alvar saint who even involved in political issues. Additionally, the movies highlight the historic ties between the Cholas and Sri Lanka.

Overall, the movies highlight the power struggle that existed in the Chola kingdom. Some of the characters are fictitious, but both movies successfully highlight the political and military history of the Cholas. Thus, these movies strengthen the concept of history for national integration. The Cholas are back with a bang, reminding us of their legacy and impact on South Indian history.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brute Dictatorship

China's political situation under the leadership of Xi Jinping is concerning. For far too long, China has been ruled by a brute dictatorship that suppresses free speech and dissent. Unfortunately, Xi Jinping's recent efforts to strengthen his "permanent, life-time presidency" are a clear indication of his intentions to maintain absolute, unchallenged power. Dictatorship is not the solution for efficient government, as former US President Harry Truman once opined. In fact, it is the exact opposite of democracy, which allows for a fair and transparent process where the voices of the people are heard. It is high time for China to rethink its political system and embrace democracy, where the voices of all citizens are heard and respected.

Srikumar Nair, Kannur, Kerala

Police Brutality

Brutal behaviour of the Delhi police towards the wrestlers who were protesting against sexual harassment are concerning. The police not only denied them the basic right to shelter from the rain but also allegedly abused them and physically assaulted some of them, including wrestler Bajrang Punia's brother-in-law. It is appalling to see the very people who are meant to uphold the law and protect citizens resort to such violent tactics. The fact that there were no women constables present during the incident raises serious concerns about the Delhi police's commitment to gender equality and safety. Given their behaviour, it is hard to believe that the Delhi police will conduct a fair inquiry into the sexual harassment case. The authorities must take immediate action against the police officers responsible for this brutal behaviour and ensure that justice is served.

Krishna Kumar Menon, Kollam, Kerala

Centre's Overbearing Attitude

I write to express my concerns over the recent decision by the Centre to grant Sanjay Kumar Mishra an extension for the third time as ED chief. This decision is a clear indication of the autocratic attitude of the Centre, which is unfortunately becoming increasingly common. It is worth noting that no one is indispensable, and the country has made significant progress since the death of Jawaharlal Nehru. The Centre's stubborn stance is a vulgar display of its majority in Parliament, especially in the absence of a strong Opposition. I also wonder why Mishra himself did not refuse an extension to show respect for the apex court's order. Such actions would have gone a long way in promoting accountability and democratic principles. I urge the Centre to reconsider its decision and prioritize the greater good of the country over individual interests.

MK Nair Raipur

The Path to Sustainable Growth: India's Revival of Tourism Industry and Future Prospects



Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

India's tourism industry is on the path to recovery after being hit hard by the pandemic. The provisional estimates by the government suggest that there has been a 107% increase in foreign exchange earnings from tourism, from a ₹65,070 crore in 2021 to ₹1,34,543 crore in 2022. The country has also witnessed a significant increase in foreign tourist arrivals during 2022, with 6.19 million tourists visiting as compared to 1.52 million in 2021.

The Indian government has been supporting the development of tourism-related infrastructure and facilities across the country through various schemes, such as Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD, and Assistance to Central Agencies. Additionally, a 24x7 multilingual tourist info-helpline has been set up to provide support services to tourists in distress.

The Indian tourism industry is moving towards sustainable tourism practices, with the government and private sector entities taking measures to promote responsible tourism that focuses on preserving people, nature, and culture. India is expected to contribute \$250 billion to the global economy through tourism by 2030, creating 137 million jobs and earning \$56 billion in foreign exchange. The travel and tourism sector in India is predicted to create 78 jobs per million rupees of investment, which is higher than the manufacturing sector's job creation rate.

The industry is expected to grow to \$125 billion by FY27, providing around 53 million

jobs by 2029. Sustainable tourism development will involve promoting niche tourism products such as adventure, medical, wellness, golf, polo, cruise, MICE, pilgrimage and spiritual travel, film tourism, eco, wildlife, and caravan tourism.

India's travel and tourism sector is rapidly emerging as one of the world's top destinations, making it a key driver of development in the coming years. The fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the importance of tourism in driving growth during the Budget Session underscores the enormous potential of this sector.

With the launch of Budget 2023 at the start of the period of robust growth known as Amrit Kaal, the path to developing tourism in mission mode has been outlined. The Indian government is taking a mission-mode approach to develop the tourism sector by creating 50 new tourism destinations across the country and making 59 new air routes operational to boost tourism.

The focus is on developing experiential tourism attrac-

tions that benefit local communities and strengthen inclusive economic growth. However, it is important to ensure that tourism development does not harm the country's physical, cultural, and environmental heritage.

India aims to become a \$1 trillion tourism economy with 100 million international visitors by 2047, the centenary year of its Independence. To achieve this goal, the government is focusing on various initiatives under Public-Private Partnership mode. The emphasis is on projecting domestic tourism in a mission-mode approach and maximizing the potential of the tourism sector.

The government is observing 'Vision India-2023' this year, a program that invites the world to explore India. India offers a diverse range of experiences, including 40 UNESCO World Heritage sites, ancient archaeological remains, national parks with wildlife, stunning mountain ranges, beaches, and a rich cultural heritage. Each state has unique places of worship and heritage sites, with cities

such as Varanasi and Bodhgaya offering spiritual experiences. Tourism in India supports and sustains local economies, creating economic opportunities and employment for local communities. The government aims to empower local communities through tourism, meet Sustainable Development Goals, and promote sustainable tourism practices.

The power of sustainable tourism lies in its potential to generate employment by imparting skills to local people. The government also aims to leverage digitisation to provide "Ease of Tourism" for both domestic and international tourists.

Overall, the government's focus on sustainable tourism and digitisation is expected to have a positive impact on the tourism sector in India. By promoting responsible tourism practices and providing better services to tourists, the sector can contribute to India's economic growth, generate employment opportunities, and help to preserve the country's physical, cultural, and environmental heritage.

BRIEF

Appointment



New Delhi: Global automotive group Stellantis on Monday said it has appointed Aditya Jairaj as the Deputy Managing Director with effect from May 4. Jairaj will also lead the Jeep brand's operations in the country. Stellantis India CEO & Managing Director Roland Bouchara said Jairaj brings a proven track record of value creation. "The India strategy is a key pillar for the group as an important element of localisation efforts in the region and transforming the mobility landscape in India through our two-pronged brand approach," he added.

Financial bids

New Delhi: The government may soon invite financial bids for strategic sale of defence PSU BEML after its non-core business got listed on the bourses last month. In January 2021, the government invited preliminary bids for selling 26 per cent stake in BEML along with the management control. It received multiple expressions of interest (EOIs) for the sale. Following that, in October last year, BEML demerged its non-core businesses into BEML Land Assets and listed the new company on the bourses on April 19, 2023. "The listing of land and other non-core assets is complete. Now we will soon invite financial bids for the core assets, which is construction and defence related," an official told PTI. BEML is a diversified company supplying product, services and support to defence & aerospace, mining & construction, and rail & metro for clients within and outside India.

Beauty store



Kolkata: Retail major Shoppers Stop is planning to open the country's largest beauty-related store in Kolkata during the upcoming festive season, according to a top company official. The store will be more of a concept than a traditional outlet, with details being kept under wraps for now. Shoppers Stop Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Venu Nair said at the MCCI organised Retail Summit on Saturday. "...in the next few months, we would be opening the biggest beauty store in the country in Kolkata. This will be during October-November," he said. He did not share the detailed contours of the proposed concept store.

Indian financial system well protected, regulated: Seth

New Delhi, May 08:

Indian financial system is well protected and regulated despite the daunting global financial situation, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said on Monday. Briefing media on the meeting outcome of the 27th Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Seth said "The Indian financial sector is well protected, well regulated but at the same time, we have to be cautious and be on our toes as soon as early warning indicators are there".

There are a set of indicators which provide early warning indicators so that the stresses are noticed well in time to take the corrective measures, he said. Asked if the spillover of the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank and liquidity pressure faced by Credit Suisse was discussed, he said, it was not specifically



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman during the 27th Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Monday, May 8.

brought but there's no spillover coming. About the Government Securities (G-Sec) market, he said the effort is to have a seamless experience for potential with the use of technology. "Whether they (potential investors) come through the RBI infrastructure... or the Sebi infrastructure route, hitherto which was not possible but today with the use of

technology (it) is possible," he noted. On the G-sec market, he said, "With the use of technology, how a seamless experience can be provided to potential investors, whether they come through the RBI infrastructure, which is the market infrastructure route, or the Sebi infrastructure route, hitherto which was not possible but today with the use of tech-

nology is possible". So all stakeholders should work in a time-bound manner to create a seamless environment for investment, he added.

The council also deliberated on early warning indicators for the economy and our preparedness to deal with them, reducing the compliance burden on the regulated entities in the financial sector by improving regulatory quality, debt levels of corporates and households in India, simplification and streamlining of KYC framework to meet the needs of Digital India, he said.

Besides, the seamless experience for retail investors in government securities, Bimakrit Bharat-Unique Value Proposition to take insurance to the last mile and support required in terms of resolving inter-regulatory issues for GIFT IFSC to play a strategic role in Atmanirbhar Bharat was also discussed.

FSDC for a special drive to help people get unclaimed deposits



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, Finance Secretary of India (Department of Expenditure) TV. Somanathan, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India V. Anantha Nageswaran and other officials during the 27th Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Monday, May 8.

New Delhi, May 08: High-powered Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday underlined the need of launching a drive to help people get their unclaimed deposits in banks and other financial institutions. Briefing reporters about the discussions in the meeting, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth also said there is no spillover effect of the failure of

American banks on the Indian financial system, which is "well protected". The 27th meeting of the FSDC was attended by all financial sector regulators, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. The secretary also said there was a view that the government should expedite the required legislative changes to give effect to the proposals announced in the Union Budget. On the unclaimed deposits matter, Seth said the FSDC was of the view

that a drive should be undertaken to ensure people get their unclaimed deposits lying with financial institutions. About Rs 35,000 crore unclaimed deposits as of February 2023 were transferred to the Reserve Bank by public sector banks (PSBs) in respect of deposits, which have not been operated for 10 years or more. These unclaimed deposits belong to 10.24 crore accounts transferred to the RBI as of the end of February 2023.

Over 19 lakh PACL investors get their money back: Sebi

New Delhi, May 08:

More than 19 lakh PACL investors with claims of up to Rs 17,000 have received Rs 920 crore in refunds, markets regulator Sebi said on Monday.

The regulator had found that PACL Ltd, which had raised money from the public in the name of agriculture and real estate businesses, collected more than Rs 60,000 crore through illegal collective investment schemes (CISs) over 18 years.

A panel headed by retired Justice RM Lodha had initiated the process of refunds in phases for investors, who had invested in PACL. "As on date,

the committee has successfully effected refunds in respect of a total number of 19,61,690 eligible applications with outstanding (principal) amount up to Rs 17,000 aggregating to Rs 919.91 crore," according to a statement available on Sebi website.

The committee, in February, had called for original PACL certificates from investors whose outstanding (principal) amount with PACL was more than Rs 15,000 and up to Rs 17,000 in order to refund the money to them after verification of original certificates. The window for accepting original certificates was kept open from February 27 to March 20, 2023.

Insurance penetration cannot be done by merely crowding market with large number of players: AIIEA gen secy Mishra

Chandigarh, May 08:

The government and insurance industry regulator IRDAI have been pitching for a greater insurance penetration but it cannot be done by merely crowding the market with a large number of players, AIIEA General Secretary Shreekanth Mishra said.

"The government and IRDAI have been arguing that there is a need for greater insurance penetration and every Indian should have an insurance by year 2047. "But it has to be realised that insurance penetration cannot be increased by merely crowding the market with



a large number of players. Insurance penetration essentially depends on the level of disposal income, which is unfortunately rather low in India," Mishra said.

At the same time, he also said the country's insurance penetration is higher than in even some

of developed nations and credit for this goes to LIC and general insurance companies in the public sector. The All India Insurance Employees' Association general secretary told reporters here that AIIEA is the largest and oldest trade union in the public sector insurance industry and represents around 85 per cent of employees in LIC and public sector general insurance companies throughout the country.

Protecting and strengthening the public sector industry while taking care of the interest of the employees has been the basic objective of AIIEA, he said.

India coal imports surge to 162 MT in FY23

Inbound coking coal shipment grows to 54 MT

New Delhi, May 08:

India's coal imports increased by 30 per cent to 162.46 million tonnes in the 2022-23 financial year against 124.99 MT in the year-ago period, according to a report.

The import of coking coal rose 5.44 per cent to 54.46 MT over 51.65 MT in FY22, mjunction said in its latest report. In March alone, the non-coking coal import stood at 13.88 MT against 12.61 MT in the same month last year. Coking coal imports were 3.96 MT against 4.76 MT imported in March 2022. India is among the top five coal-producing countries in the world. However,

some parts of its coal requirement are met through imports as the country is also among the major consumers of the dry fuel.

For coking coal — a key raw material used in steel making — the country remains heavily dependent on imports. "The persistently high demand for steam coal in India coupled with the weakening of seaborne prices led to increased volumes during March. This trend is likely to continue in coming months in view of the above-normal average temperature expected this summer," mjunction MD & CEO Vinaya Varma said.

Canara Bank consolidated net profit jumps 74 pc to Rs 3,337 cr in March qtr

Mumbai, May 08:

State-owned Canara Bank on Monday reported a 74 per cent jump in March quarter consolidated net profit to Rs 3,336.51 crore, helped by higher core income and lower provisions.

The Bengaluru-based lender had reported a net profit of Rs 1,918.80 crore in the year-ago period. For FY23, its post tax profit grew to Rs 11,254.75 crore from Rs 6,124.83 crore in FY22.

In the latest March quarter, the lender's core net interest income grew 23 per cent to Rs 8,617 crore. This was due to a 17 per cent growth in advances and a 0.14 per cent expansion in the net interest margin to 3.07 per cent. Its other in-

come grew 7 per cent to Rs 4,776 crore but was also hit by a 72 per cent decline in the treasury income. Canara Bank's managing director and chief executive K Satyanarayana Raju said the bank will aim to grow its overall loan book in double-digit in FY24, and denied it being a moderation, saying the lender believes in over-delivering. Raju said the bank registered a corporate loan book expansion of over 20 per cent in FY23, and has a sizeable pipeline of loans in various sectors like infrastructure where it is witnessing a healthy demand.

According to him, loans worth Rs 22,000 crore have been sanctioned for various projects that are yet to start. Contrary to some

sections of the industry, which is witnessing an impact in home loan demand due to the rising interest rates, Raju said the bank is not experiencing any such trend and is aiming to better on the 14 per cent growth observed in FY23.

Interestingly, Raju said the demand has held up well in the affordable or lower-priced loans segment, and added that it would like to increase penetration in the premium segment where the ticket size is over Rs 2 crore.

The bank reported an improvement in the asset quality with the gross non-performing assets ratio improving to 5.35 per cent from 7.51 per cent in the year-ago period and 5.90 per cent three months ago.

Skoda Auto focuses on Safety to further grow the brand in India

Mumbai, May 08:

Skoda Auto India announced it will continue keeping its foot on the accelerator when it comes to safety of its customers. Globally, Skoda Auto has a 50-year-old legacy with crash tests and safety. A Skoda 100 L is the first documented crash test in Prague-Ruzyně in former Czechoslovakia in 1972. Currently, the company has a world-class, state-of-the-art Polygon test centre in Uhelnice, which has been awarded Crash Laboratory of the year 2020 by the Automotive Testing Technology International trade journal. And every global Skoda since 2008 has been rated 5-star by Euro NCAP.

On Skoda's international record with safety,



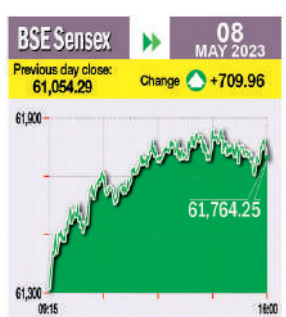
Johannes Neft, Skoda Auto Board Member for Technical Development said, "At Skoda, we use all our expertise in technical development to consistently improve the active and passive safety of our vehicles. Even our entry-level models offer numerous assistance systems that are usually only available in

vehicles from higher vehicle classes. At the same time, our state-of-the-art crash laboratory Polygon Uhelnice provides the ideal setting to thoroughly test the safety of our models. This allows us to incorporate our findings into vehicle development at a very early stage. Achieving the highest

score of 5-stars in the NCAP reference test and the Global NCAP test for crash safety for all Skoda model series tested since 2008 is an outstanding success."

Christian Cahn von Seelen, Executive Director, Sales, Marketing and Digital, Auto Volkswagen India said, "We are proud to have raised the bar in terms of safety standards with each new vehicle we introduce. The common thread that binds all our products is the exceptional packaging in terms of dynamic drive, features that matter, comfortable ride and most importantly, unparalleled safety. In Skoda Auto's 2-decade legacy in India, the MQB-A0-IN platform is the first ever that was specifically developed for the country."

Sensex, Nifty rebound over 1 pc amid rally in global markets



Mumbai, May 08: Equity benchmark BSE Sensex rebounded more than 1 per cent while Nifty reclaimed the 18,200 level on Monday, boosted by heavy buying in banking, financial and auto stocks amid a rally in global stock markets. Besides, continuous foreign fund inflows further bolstered sentiment, traders said. The 30-share

BSE Sensex rallied 709.96 points or 1.16 per cent to settle at 61,764.25. During the day, it jumped 799.9 points or 1.31 per cent to 61,854.19. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 195.40 points or 1.08 per cent to end at 18,264.40. Among the Sensex firms, IndusInd Bank jumped 5.08 per cent. The other winners were Tata Motors, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, Maruti and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Value buying in index heavyweights Reliance, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank added to the momentum. Sun Pharma, Larsen & Toubro and Nestle were the laggards.

Samsung launches 2023 Neo QLED TVs in India

New Delhi, May 08:

Samsung, global number one TV brand for the last 17 years, today launched the newest generation of its ultra-premium 2023 Neo QLED 8K TVs and Neo QLED 4K TVs in sizes ranging from 50-inches to 98-inches. Besides breathtaking picture quality and stunning design, this year's lineup focuses on enhanced connectivity, advanced personalization, ultimate gaming experience and everyday sustainability by decreasing its carbon footprint throughout its product lifecycle, offering a "More Wow than Ever" experience.

"In 2023, we are pushing boundaries of innovation to offer consumers more



than just premium picture quality, but a holistic, premium device experience tailored to what they need and want out of their connected home.

Our latest Neo QLED TVs are 'More Wow than Ever'. They are beautiful, accessible and sustainable with eco-conscious technologies, offer immersive gaming and with SmartThings, our ad-

vanced technology is seamless and intuitive, making life more convenient and enjoyable everyday. With these ultra-large screens, 8K resolution and next-level image and sound quality, we are confident that Neo QLED TVs will strengthen our leadership in the premium TV market in India," said Mr. JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia.

India, Canada trade ministers to review progress in talks on free trade agreement

New Delhi, May 08:

Trade ministers of India and Canada will review the progress in talks on the proposed free trade agreement between the two countries besides discussing ways to strengthen economic ties, an official statement said on Monday.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, Government of Canada, will co-chair the discussions for the sixth India-Canada Ministerial

Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI) on Monday in Ottawa.

MDTI is a bilateral mechanism which provides institutional mechanisms to discuss a broad spectrum of trade and investment related issues and cooperation areas. The discussions will focus on various themes including strengthening the bilateral trade relationship, investment promotion, green transition including critical minerals, it said. "The ministers will also review India-Canada CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) negotiations," it added.



Sony TV artists talk about how laughter is the best medicine

Life is better when you're laughing! Raising awareness about the numerous therapeutic advantages of laughing out loud, World Laughter Day is observed around the world every year on 7th May. And there's none better than the stars of Sony Entertainment Television's The Kapil Sharma Show to talk about the significance of laughter in their lives. The show's in-house talents, Kiku Sharda (Gudiya Laundrywali), Krushna Abhishek (Sapna) and Laughter Queen Archana Puran Singh, shed some light on the importance of laughter on this World Laughter Day. Archana Puran Singh shares, "Laughter is one of the purest expressions of emotion in human beings and for me, it is the finest manifestation of the sheer joy of being alive. For millions, it is an escape from

reality and a letting go of inhibitions that bind us socially and culturally. Comics, perhaps the world's greatest illusionists, create for us a haven of relief, amusement, mirth joy and happiness even amidst the gravest of times. We are forever grateful to comedy greats like Laurel and Hardy, Charlie Chaplin, Mehmood saab, Johnny Walker and so many others who have given us one of mankind's biggest gifts, the gift of Laughter. On this Laughter Day, I wish for all of us to always have a reason to laugh and celebrate the joy of being alive and to also learn to laugh at ourselves before laughing at anyone or anything else."

Tune in to watch The Kapil Sharma Show every Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m. only on Sony Entertainment Television.

Singer Shaan to make his acting debut with musical 'Music School'

Bollywood singer Shaan is all set to step into the acting world with filmmaker Paparao Biyyala's upcoming musical 'Music School'.

Expressing his delight and gratitude, Shaan said: "When I first began working on a song for 'Music School', I had no idea I would end up starring in it as well. When I was recording the song, the director of the film Paparao Biyyala felt I would be the perfect match for the character they were looking at and proposed the idea to cast me."

He added: "I had an idea of the story as I was recording the song, but when Paparao sir narrated the script I was instantly on board. It was an extremely beautiful journey shooting for the film, we majorly shot in Goa and it added to the beauty and lively experience. I am extremely thankful to Paparao sir for giving me this opportunity and making me a part of his passion project."

Director Paparao Biyyala shared they were looking for a flamboyant, energetic and lively



person for the character but had no luck in finding the perfect match. "I then saw Shaan recording one of the songs from the film,

he was so excited and happy, he was literally dancing while recording and I immediately felt we found our guy. Shaan is not just a brilliant singer but also an effortless actor and most importantly a wonderful person. His positive aura and charming attitude convinced me to cast him in Music School."

Shaan has recorded an original song in the film that is set to be released this week and he plays a pivotal role in the film which also stars Shriya Saran, Sharman Joshi as the lead along with an ensemble cast comprising respected and experienced senior actors as well as a bunch of talented newcomers as child artists.

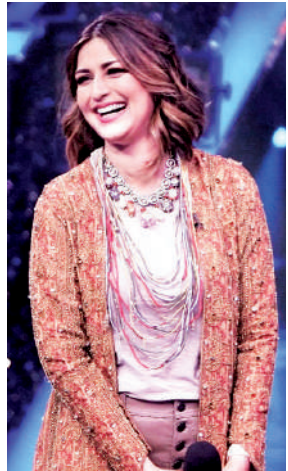
'Music School' is a musical narration of the sensitive and prevailing concern of academic pressure subjected to young students by the society, parents and teachers. With 11 songs in the film, three of them have been recreated from 'The Sound of Music', situationally woven beautifully in the film to suit the sensibilities of the Indian audience.

Sonali Bendre: I am a very scared dancer, but always wanted to learn

Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre has made a shocking revelation that she is a very scared dancer.

In the 'Best Ka Pehla Test', while the contestants will give a spectacular tribute to Bollywood in a filmy way, contestant Hansvi Tonk and her choreographer Anuradha will leave everybody startled with their spine-chilling act on the iconic song 'Aami Je Tomar' in the Manjulika and Anjulika avatar.

Judge Sonali Bendre complimented the dance act saying: "This was not only an act for me, but on the stage of 'India's Best Dancer 3' it was a really good scene that I witnessed. This was a well-detailed scene with proper character details and a plot narrative which you performed as a dance act." "It looked so simple as if you are



just talking about it as you stand but when you do a scene in real life that is also choreographed, the actors are told to do things. You have done all of that through dance. It was so smooth, like someone was

walking and I do not think there is a bigger compliment that I can give. Amazing Hansvi, god bless you. You keep your mother's faith in you alive and I am sure she is proud whenever you come on stage to perform."

Talking about the fabulous choreography by Anuradha, Sonali shared, "I am a very scared dancer but I have always wanted to learn dance. I wish I was choreographed by you because the scene is so wonderfully choreographed."

"This scene I wish I would have been able to do. A choreographer should understand the scene, and the story and choreograph the dance accordingly. I wish you choreograph me one day!"

'India's Best Dancer 3' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

Vivek Agnihotri: 'The Kerala Story' team will get 'unimaginable hate'

Filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri on Saturday told cast and crew of 'The Kerala Story' that their lives will not be the same as they "will receive unimaginable hate".

Taking to Twitter, the filmmaker posted a note telling the team of 'The Kerala Story' about the "bad news."

"I grew up listening to great filmmakers and cinema critics that the only purpose of art is to provoke people into questioning their own beliefs and biases. I also grew up listening that cinema reflects the reality of a society. I was told that cinema must destroy old Gods and create new Gods," Vivek started the thread on Twitter.

"I have come to realise that in modern times, cinema has the power to do what media and politics can't do. It can present uncomfortable reality, correct history, fight culture war and also become the soft power of a nation for larger interest. In India, making such cinema is not easy."

"I tried it with Buddha in A Traffic Jam, The Tashkent Files and The Kashmir Files. I have been physically, professionally,



socially and psychologically assaulted." He said that his forthcoming film 'The Vaccine War', a positive film, celebrating India's greatest achievement, is constantly being attacked.

"Mostly by the same people who taught me all the above. When it releases, later this year, I can guarantee they will attack it

with a new design because they don't want India to succeed. Because Truth must not be told. Bharat must not be celebrated," added the filmmaker.

Lending support, he added: "Dear Vipul Shah & @sudiptoSENTlm, @adah_sharma and team of #TheKeralaStory, first let me

congratulate you for the brave effort. At the same time, let me also give you the bad news that from here on, your lives will not be the same. You will receive unimaginable hate. "You will feel suffocated. Many times you may get confused and demoralised. But remember, God tests the shoulders on which he can put the responsibility of becoming the change agents," he tweeted.

"If cinema is a medium to follow your course of Dharma, never stop. Let the community of Indic storytellers grow. Help new, young talented, Indic storytellers. Let this Indic Renaissance become the guiding light of a New Bharat. And whenever you feel nobody is understanding you, remember Gurudev's lines: Ekla Chalo Re. Best. Always. With love, VRA," concluded his post. 'The Kerala Story' has been written and directed by Sudipto Sen and stars Adah Sharma, Yogita Bihani, Siddhi Idnani and Sonia Balani.

It got into controversy after the trailer of the film stated that 32,000 girls from the state went missing and later joined the terrorist group, IS.

Rakul Preet Singh take cryotherapy in minus 15 degrees Celsius



Ice ice baby! Bollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh took a dip in icy-cold water in minus 15 degrees temperature.

Rakul took to Instagram, where she shared a video of her taking a quick dip amidst snow-capped mountains.

In the clip, Rakul is seen wearing a blue bikini as she runs from her cabin located in the middle of snowy locale and then takes a dip in icy cold water.

Rakul captioned: "Cryo in -15 degrees anyone?"

Cryotherapy is the local or general use of low temperatures in medical therapy. Cryotherapy may be used to treat a variety of tissue lesions. It can be a range of treatments from the application of ice packs or immersion in ice baths, to the use of cold chambers.

On the work front, Rakul will next be seen in 'Indian 2'. She was last seen in 'Chhatriwali', a film revolving around sex education.

'Lata Mangeshkar is my singing inspiration'

Dhruvi Mangeshkar is currently seen in Star Bharat's show 'Aashao Ka Savera...Dheere Dheere Se'. She portrays the character of Bhavana's daughter 'Aanchal' in the show. Dhruvi has been working the television industry since the age of 6 and has done many tv shows. She loves acting and wishes to grow her career in the same. Dhruvi

Mangeshkar who is also studying right now in class 9th speaks about her passion for singing and considers Lata Mangeshkar her idol. She says, "I like singing as much as I love acting, I idolize Late Lata Mangeshkar Ji and consider her my idol. I got introduced to her songs due to my parents as they listen to her songs and later, I started listening to her

songs and tried to sing like her. I try to manage my acting, studies and my singing simultaneously so that I don't miss out on anything so I do my practice for singing early morning and I study during my breaks on sets on the show." Stay tuned to watch 'Aashao Ka Savera...Dheere Dheere Se' every Monday-Friday at 9:30 pm only on Star Bharat.



Chrome Pictures launches new initiative 'Paying It Forward'

Chrome Pictures, founded by Director-Producers Amit Sharma, Hemant Bhandari and Aleya Sen, is known for its innovative approach to entertainment, producing both quirky and thought-provoking commercials and cutting-edge films such as 'Badhaai Ho.'

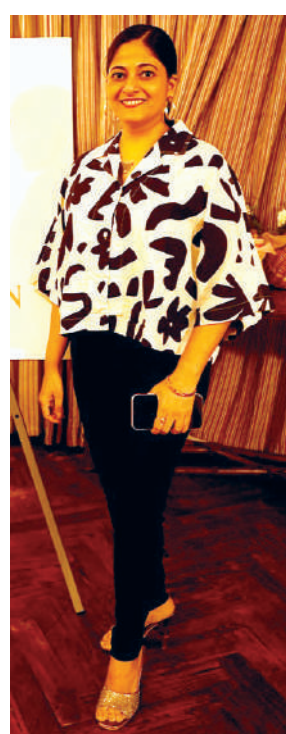
'Crimsen Tales' is a dynamic creative hub that goes beyond the world of cinema. It offers a wide range of artistic pursuits, including literature, music, folk culture, architecture and designing, culinary arts and more. It's a vibrant community of talented individuals who come together to share their passion and creativity. It's a place where anything and everything is possible and the only limit is your imagination! The first panel, 'Women at the

Table,' featured some of India's top Women Producers, who shared their experiences and provided valuable insights to the attendees. The panel included an illustrious line-up of producers: Shobha Sant (Head of Content and Alliances, Jio Studios), Apurva Bakshi (Producer Awedacious Originals), Amita Madhvani (Producer RMF & Equinox), Monisha Advani (Producer Emmay Entertainment) and Sahira Nair (Senior Creative Producer). It was moderated by Sidharth Jain (Story Ink and House of Talikes)

Aleya Sen shared her vision of 'Paying it Forward' stemmed out of a life lesson learnt from her father-mentor, Late Mr. Niloy Sen. The best possible way to 'Pay Back' is to 'Pay it

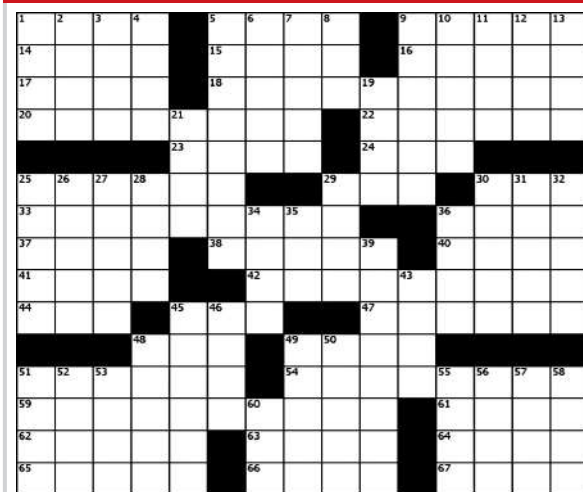
Forward'. Supporting this mission Amit Sharma expressed being overwhelmed with the success of their first event. Bringing it all together was an excited and feisty team headed by Prachi Thadhani, Creative Producer.

Chrome Pictures is all set for its next release, Trial Period, directed by Amit R Sharma's 'Maidaan' starring Ajay Devgn. Crimsen Tales is already gearing up to host their next event very soon. Stay tuned for what's next on the horizon! But wait, it gets even better - this is just the beginning! Crimsen Tales is already gearing up to host their next events very soon. Stay tuned for what's next on the horizon!



CROSSWORD

639



ACROSS

- Flows back
- Pinup ____ Hayworth
- Skating hill
- Venture
- Adam's garden
- TV Host ____ O'Brien
- Somber
- Recreation area
- Locomotive driver
- Girls
- A cinch

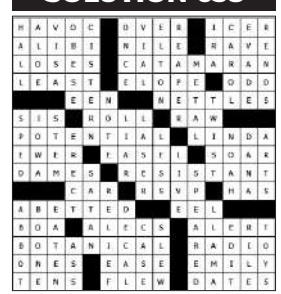
DOWN

- Border
- Horse's home
- Ship's prison
- Teamster's rig
- Did again
- Loiter
- Visibly upset
- Whichever one
- Skin abrasion
- Unattached
- Burden
- Window glass
- Discontinues
- Pleased
- Cozy place
- Spring month
- Move smoothly
- Loathed
- Out of port
- Bloodhound's clue
- Internet access device

- Scratch
- Andean animals
- Browning's "always"
- List entry
- Thinly scattered
- Hogwash
- Disassembles (2 wds.)
- Skating arena
- Wonderland girl
- Initial wager
- Burn-soothing plant
- Subtleties
- Dandelion, for one
- Stitches

- Sports stadium
- Annoying ones
- Lion's sound
- Manchester's country (abbr.)
- Papa's spouse
- Gave in
- Shade sources
- Untidy conditions
- Real
- Build
- Foolish
- Rich dessert
- Celebrity
- Ashen
- Similar
- Historic periods
- African river
- Winter forecast
- Supplements
- Dog's foot

SOLUTION 638



Alcaraz set to return to No.1 after retaining Madrid title

Madrid, May 08 (AP):

Carlos Alcaraz is paving his way back to the top of the world rankings after a second-straight Madrid Open title.

Alcaraz beat lucky loser Jan-Lennard Struff 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the Spanish capital on Sunday to guarantee his return to the No. 1 spot by playing at least one match at the upcoming Italian Open in Rome.

The 20-year-old Spaniard converted on his first match point after a hard-fought battle against Struff to secure his fourth title of the year and 10th of his impressive young career. He had also successfully defended his title in Barcelona two weeks ago.

"To defend the title here in Madrid, on the verge of regaining the No. 1 ranking, these are very big achievements for me," Alcaraz said.

"I feel very proud of the



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, holds the winner's trophy after defeating Jan-Lennard Struff, of Germany, in the men's final at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid.

work that I've put in and of what I've been achieving. I'm an ambitious guy and I'm going for more in Rome."

It was Alcaraz's 29th win of the season, and 21st straight in Spain going back to a loss to Rafael Nadal in Madrid on his

18th birthday two years ago.

He joined Nadal as the only consecutive Madrid champion in tournament history, and is the youngest player to successfully defend a Masters 1000 title since Nadal at Monte Carlo and Rome in 2005-06.

"For me it is so, so special," Alcaraz said.

"To lift the trophy here in Madrid. In my country. In front of my home crowd, my family, my friends. Everyone close to me. For me it is a special feeling that I will never forget."

Alcaraz's other titles this year came in Buenos Aires and Indian Wells. He is the first player to win two Masters 1000 trophies this season. It was the fourth Masters 1000 title overall for last year's U.S. Open champion.

"It was a really tough match," Alcaraz said.

"Jan was playing great, really aggressive. In the second set I had a lot of chances to break his serve and I didn't take it and it was tough for me to lose it. I told myself that I had to be positive all the time and that I would have my chances and I think I did it in the third set."

Hockey India names 20-member women's team for Australia tour

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI): Hockey India on Monday named a 20-member national women's team for a three-match series in Australia, to be held in Adelaide from May 18. They will also play two games against Australia 'A'. The tour will be part of the team's preparations ahead of the all-important Hangzhou Asian Games.

The Indian team will be led by ace goalkeeper Savita who was recently bestowed with the Balbir Singh Sr Hockey India Player of the Year (2022) Award. She will be assisted by Deep Grace Ekka as the team's vice captain.

Bichu Devi Kharibam is the second goalkeeper named in the squad with defenders Deep Grace Ekka, Nikki Pradhan, Ishika Chaudhary, Udita and Gurjit Kaur. The mid-fielders include Nisha, Navjot Kaur, Monika, Salima Tete, Neha, Navneet Kaur, Sonika, Jyoti, and Baljeet Kaur.

Cricketer Shubman Gill to voice for Indian Spider-Man in 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse'

Mumbai, May 08 (PTI):

Young batter Shubman Gill will lend his voice to Indian Spider-Man in the upcoming animated movie "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse", the makers announced Monday.

The film, slated to be released by Sony Pictures Entertainment India across the country, marks the big-screen debut of Pavitr Prabhakar, the Indian Spider-Man.

Gill, who is currently playing for Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League, said Spider-Man is "one of the most relatable superheroes". The 23-year-old will voice the Hindi and Punjabi versions of the film.

"Since the movie will be debuting the Indian Spider-Man for the first time on screen, getting to be the voice of our Indian Spider-Man, Pavitr Prabhakar, in the Hindi



and Punjabi languages was such a remarkable experience for me. Already, I feel superhuman. I am eagerly anticipating the release of this movie," the cricketer said in a statement. June 2 will indeed be a momentous occasion for all Spider-Man fans across the country, and we are sure that everyone will

show the same love on this film as they did on Spider-Man: No Way Home", said Shony Panjikaran, General Manager and Head of Sony Pictures Releasing International (SPRI) India.

"We are so excited to collaborate with Shubman Gill, as he's not only a youth icon but also a true hero, having represented our country so well in international cricket while enthralled millions of fans with his on-ground heroics," Panjikaran added. "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" will hit the Indian screens in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi and Bengali on June 2.

The film is the sequel to 2018's "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" and is set in a shared multiverse of alternate universes called the "Spider-Verse".

'Have worked on improving my strike-rate during this IPL'

Mumbai, May 08 (PTI):

His opening partner Virat Kohli's approach in the middle overs has been criticised in some quarters but Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Faf du Plessis is satisfied with his own game as he has been able to switch gears effectively at an increased strike-rate.

Du Plessis, who is the current Orange Cap holder with 511 runs in 10 games, has scored his runs at a strike-rate of 157.72 whereas his career IPL strike-rate is a mid-dling 133.58 in 126 games so far. In a chat with 'RCB Bold Diaries', Du Plessis said that he was focussed on playing with a higher strike rate since the start of the tournament and now also wants to play big innings for RCB. "I have really been quite intentional about trying to get



hundreds, finding gears I can work through mid-innings period and try and get to innings as we can get 75 plus (in middle overs)," stated du Plessis during RCB Bold Diaries. Du Plessis boundary count has improved as he

has hit 40 fours and 29 sixes in the 10 games so far and he has certainly been a better enforcer compared to 'King Kohli' in the middle overs for RCB.

"In the past, I always felt like I had a decent attacking game but I felt like there was another gear in terms of taking your strike rate from 130 to 150 at least and then sometimes 160-170 so, I have worked on that a lot," the former Proteas skipper said.

"But it is also important for me to try and play as much cricket as possible just to try and stay on top of my game," concluded du Plessis.

RCB are currently fifth in the table with 10 points from 10 games and will like to win against MI at the Wankhede on Tuesday in order to keep their play-off hopes alive.

Kishan named as Rahul's replacement in WTC final squad



Mumbai, Mar 08:

India's wicket-keeper batter Ishan Kishan has been named as replacement for the injured KL Rahul in India's WTC final squad.

In a statement posted on their Twitter handle, BCCI wrote: "The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Ishan Kishan as KL Rahul's replacement. Rahul

suffered an injury to his right upper thigh while fielding during Match 43rd of IPL 2023 between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bangalore on 1st May. After consultations with specialists, it has been decided that Rahul will undergo surgery at the earliest followed by rehab at the National Cricket Academy for the same. He is ruled out of the upcoming ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia.

"Jaydev Unadkat sustained a left shoulder injury by tripping over the side rope while bowling in the nets.

A specialist consultation has been sought and the left-arm fast bowler is currently at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru undergoing strength and rehab sessions for his shoulder. A decision on his participation in the WTC final will be taken at a later stage. India face Australia in the WTC final on June 7 at The Oval in London.

Sachin makes winning start on World Championships debut

Tashkent, May 08 (PTI):

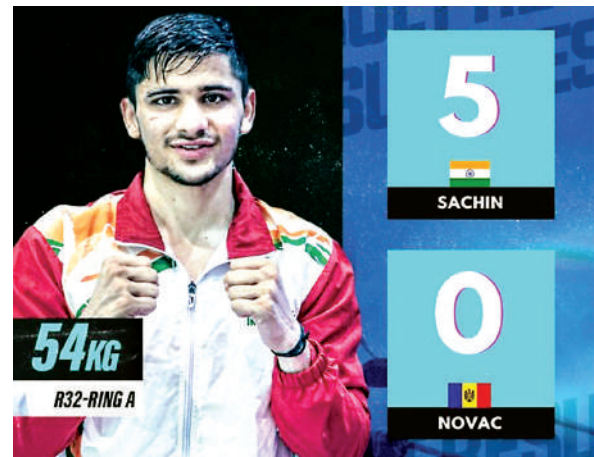
Indian boxer Sachin Siwach (54kg) made a winning start to his maiden World Championships campaign, dispatching Serghei Novac of Moldova with a facile victory here on Monday.

The former World Youth champion showcased his technical prowess to register a 5-0 unanimous decision win and cruise to the bantam weight pre-quarterfinals.

Sachin took charge of the proceedings from the word go as he relentlessly attacked Novac in the round of 32 bout.

Using his height advantage and long reach, the 23-year-old relied on a combination of punches to take the first round.

The second round followed a similar script Sachin landed a flurry



punches, the most impressive being a combination of a straight jab, a left and then a right hook. His defence was as strong as his attack as he danced around the ring, ducking his opponents punches.

Despite the first two rounds ruled in his favour, Sachin did not

hold back his punches in the final three minutes. He continued pummeling the helpless Moldovan with a range of punches including the upper cut to claim a comprehensive win.

Indian pugilists Govind Sahani (48kg) and Naveen (92kg) will be in action later in the day.

'If you get going, don't change your tempo'

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI):

Former India coach Ravi Shastri on Monday advised Virat Kohli that he must not drop the tempo of his innings after getting a start as his consistent 'bat-deep' approach triggered a debate if such batting style is suited for T20 cricket.

Kohli's approach was questioned after he made 55 off 46 balls in a losing cause against Delhi Capitals at the Feroz Shah Kotla on Saturday night.

It was his sixth fifty plus score of the season but the pace of his innings probably cost the team another 20 runs. Asked if the under-performing RCB middle-order is forcing Kohli to play deep, Shastri told ESPNcricinfo that the Indian super star doesn't



need to worry about the form of other batters.

"Once you gain tempo, don't change, don't worry about the others. That will be my message to Virat. Let them do their job. In a T20 game, you don't need that many batsmen. If you are hot keep that going.

Prime example of that was Phil Salt. You saw the way he batted. Once he got into the groove he didn't let go.

"It took the pressure off the other batsmen. Having said, even they were hampering whether it was Marsh or Roussow. So that is something that could be

there from Virat's point of view. If he gets going don't change your tempo, try and up the ante," said Shastri referring to Phil Salt's match winning 87 off 45 balls for Delhi.

Former Australia cricketer Tom Moody feel with the introduction of 'impact player', the game has really moved on from that style (bat deep) of cricket.

"That's why we are seeing so many totals go to 200+. There is no such role. We all need to be going here at 150+ without a doubt because we have the comfort of depth," Moody, former Sunrisers Hyderabad coach, said.

Kohli, after his 44-ball 61 against Lucknow Super Giants, had defended his batting style, saying playing the anchor role was important.

Rohit's form a concern for MI ahead of crucial RCB clash

Mumbai, May 08 (PTI):

With the race for play-offs intensifying, captain Rohit Sharma's form with the bat and bowling in the death overs will be a huge concern for hosts Mumbai Indians when they meet Royal Challengers Bangalore in a mid-table IPL clash here on Tuesday.

With 184 runs in 10 matches at a forgettable average of 18.39 and a solitary half-century, Sharma is enduring a second consecutive poor season with the bat.

For the sixth-placed Mumbai Indians to move up in the points table, it is



imperative that their best batter in the line-up fires.

Sharma's role in this IPL has been to provide brisk starts at the top, and

at times he has had some success too, but consistency has deserted the right-arm batter whose early dismissal in huge chases

has only added pressure on a relatively new batting line-up, which fortunately, from MI's point of view, has delivered too.

Mumbai Indians' head coach Mark Boucher admitted a few games ago that consistency could get compromised if any batter goes out of his way to look for runs, but for Sharma, one of the highest run-getters in the IPL, it is becoming a pattern.

In last year's IPL, which also was MI's poorest in terms of performance as they finished last, Sharma averaged a little over 19 while scoring 268 runs in 14 matches.

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Five-time MLA Yogeshwara vs JD(S)'s Kumaraswamy

Channapatna (Katak), May 08 (PTI)

"There's a tight fight" is the oft-repeated comment of many voters in this segment known for its wooden toys and sericulture, on the election scene in this high profile Assembly constituency.

Channapatna in Ramanagara district is witnessing a high-stake battle between JD(S) leader and two-time Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy and BJP's C P Yogeshwara. Both belong to the dominant Vokkaliga community in the region.

The Congress has fielded Gangadhar S as its candidate.

Yogeshwara has been elected five times from the segment since 1999 as an independent, and also from the Congress, BJP and Samajwadi Party (SP). He faced defeat in the 2018 polls, with Kumaraswamy entering the fray in Channapatna.



then defeated Yogeshwara by 21,530 votes.

In the 2013 polls, Yogeshwara as an SP candidate defeated Kumaraswamy's wife Anitha Kumaraswamy (JD(S) by 6,464 votes.

Both Kumaraswamy and Yogeshwara had links to the film industry. While Kumaraswamy had been a film producer, distributor and exhibitor, Yogeshwara had acted in a few films.

Most of the voters in the segment that PTI spoke to seemed as though they

were not willing to openly express their choice, as they maintained, there is a "tight fight" between Kumaraswamy and Yogeshwara.

Some sound- ed confused between the two, who enjoy a lot of goodwill among the people. While Yogeshwara is popular as a local and is hugely credited in the segment for his developmental works like irrigation, filling up of lakes and tanks; the people here also don't want to lose an opportunity of electing Kumaraswamy, the "fu-

ture Chief Minister" as their candidate.

Kumaraswamy, on getting elected from Channapatna and Ramanagara in 2018, retained Channapatna; he then went on to head the JD(S)-Congress coalition government as the Chief Minister for about 14 months.

Raghu, a silk farmer who was at the silk market in Channapatna said, either of them — Kumaraswamy or Yogeshwara — can win, and it will be 16,000-odd undecided voters, who will be holding the key.

"Both of them have about 58,000-60,000 votes each, and it is the fence-sitters who will decide this election," he said, adding that if the Congress gets more votes, it will damage Yogeshwara's prospects.

Kempgowda, a senior citizen in Dodda Mallur known for its Aprameya Swamy temple, favoured Yogeshwara, as he is from Channapatna.

ROAD CLEARANCE



A villager clears snow from a road following fresh snowfall in Koksar village of Lahaul & Spiti district, Monday.

SEWING LIVELIHOODS

Women of rural Latur keep dying art of quilting alive

Latur, May 08 (PTI)

The humble traditional quilt "godhadi" has become an assured source of livelihood for women in some remote villages of Maharashtra's Latur district. A project, which was started in 2017 on an investment of Rs 50,000 by the self-help group Ruma, short for rural Maharashtra, is now providing women a monthly income of Rs 8,000, an official said. What began as a small enterprise has since

grown to employ 35 women in the age group of 18 to 60 years (some of them speech and hearing impaired) from Ansarwada and surrounding hamlets in Nilanga tehsil. Godhadi, the main product of the self-help group, is hand sewn by women by layering colourful cloth scraps to make beautiful patterns.

The project came into being on March 8, 2017 with an aim to provide women of Ansarwada steady wages and keep the

traditional handicrafts alive, Ruma project president Rukmini Pastalge said.

The project was started under the guidance of one Madhuvanti Mohan, who was working with a few NGOs in the district, she said.

The women who are part of the collective have been keeping the dying art of quilting alive with their new and innovative designs, an official from UMED Rural Livelihood Mission said.

'Long COVID linked with self-perceived cognitive deficits'

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI)

Symptomatic long COVID may be associated with self-perceived cognitive difficulties such as memory problems, according to a study.

Long COVID is described as experiencing persistent symptoms of the disease more than four weeks after initial infection.

Researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the US noted that over one in three people experiencing long COVID symptoms perceived such cognitive deficits, which have been found to be related to anxiety and

depression. The findings, published recently in the journal JAMA Network Open, show that psychological issues such as anxiety or depressive disorders may play a part in some people who are experiencing long COVID, technically known as post-COVID-19 condition, or PCC.

"This perception of cognitive deficits suggests that affective issues in this case anxiety and depression appear to carry over into the long COVID period," said study senior author Neil Wenger, a professor at UCLA.

"This is not to say that long COVID is all in one's

head, but that it is likely not a single condition and that for some proportion of patients there is likely a component of anxiety or depression that is exacerbated by the

NEW STUDY

disease," Wenger said in a statement.

The researchers surveyed 766 patients who had confirmed symptomatic COVID infection and had either been hospitalised at UCLA or at one of 20 health care facilities in the US or were referred to the programme by a primary care physician and been treated as outpatients.

Patients were surveyed by telephone at 30 days, 60 days and 90 days following hospital discharge or, in the case of non-hospitalised patients, after the date of a positive COVID test to ascertain if they felt their health was back to normal. The researchers found that 276 (36.1 per cent) of the patients surveyed perceived during the acute illness or the following weeks that they had cognitive difficulties.

The study also found that these patients were twice as likely as those without perceived cognitive deficits to report experiencing physical symptoms at 60 and 90 days. The researchers ac-

knowledged some limitations to the findings. These include a lack of objective cognition measures because the survey relied on subjective responses about cognitive deficits.

They also did not have data on participants' possible cognition, depression, and anxiety prior to COVID infection.

The findings may not apply to other patient cohorts given that participants were treated at an academic medical centre and were referred to the programme based on physicians' belief that the patients were at clinically high risk for cognitive deficits, the researchers added.

Court to inquiry into Tejashwi's 'only Gujaratis can be thugs' remark

Next hearing on May 20

Ahmedabad, May 08 (PTI)

A court here on Monday said it would inquiry into a criminal defamation complaint filed against Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav over his alleged remark that "only Gujaratis can be thugs", and is likely to examine witnesses on May 20 as part of the process.

The complaint against Yadav (33) has been filed by Haresh Mehta, 63, a social worker and businessman, under Indian Penal Code sections 499 and 500 (defamation with criminal defamation). The court of

Additional Metropolitan Magistrate DJ Parmar in Ahmedabad would conduct an inquiry against the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader under section 202 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) before deciding on issuing summons to him. The CrPC section 202 deals with inquiry for the purpose of issuing process (summons) based on material against the accused.

The court will examine the authenticity of evidence in the form of a CD (compact disc) and a pen drive containing the alleged remark of Yadav submitted by the complainant, Mehta's lawyer PR Patel said. It will also examine people who heard the said

remark in the next hearing slated on May 20, Patel said. Mehta had filed his complaint in the court of metropolitan magistrate and submitted the proof of Yadav's statement made before the media in Patna on March 21.

"Only Gujaratis can be thugs in the present situation, and their fraud (crime) will be forgiven. Who will be responsible if they run away with the money belonging to LIC or banks?" the Bihar Deputy CM had allegedly said. The complainant said the statement calling the entire Gujarati community as "thug" defames and humiliates all Gujaratis in public.

Watermelon growers in Konkan blame Goa-Mumbai highway expansion

For dip in their sales

Sindhudurg, May 08 (PTI)

Farmers growing watermelons at a village in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district have claimed the sales of their produce have dipped following the expansion of the Goa-Mumbai National Highway in the last two years.

A farmer from Bibavane village here in the Konkan region said he now earns just about Rs 1,500 per day from the sale of watermelons along the highway compared to Rs 5,000 per day earlier.

A legislator from the area also said he has received such complaints from farmers and that he was looking into the matter.

Bibavane village is located five kilometres away from Kudal town in Sindhudurg on the national highway.

"The construction of the highway is a bane for us. From the time wider roads with divider in between have been constructed, the watermelon business has dipped," farmer Krishnakant Gopal Pundurkar, who has been in the trade for over a decade now, told PTI. Pundurkar is among the

several farmers who have been making their living through the sale of watermelons by setting up make-shift stalls on this stretch of the Goa-Mumbai highway.

The business flourished for three decades before the highway expansion began, he said.

Pundurkar recalled how local resident Arun Rege had set up the first stall along with the highway at Bibavane. The highway was narrower then and had trees on both sides.

People travelling to Goa or Mumbai used to halt for some time to enjoy the nature and buy

watermelons. "The number of stalls then increased. There are now at least 30 stalls in this area," he said.

Then came the expansion of the national highway in 2021-22. Trees were felled and a smoother highway with four lanes and a divider was constructed.

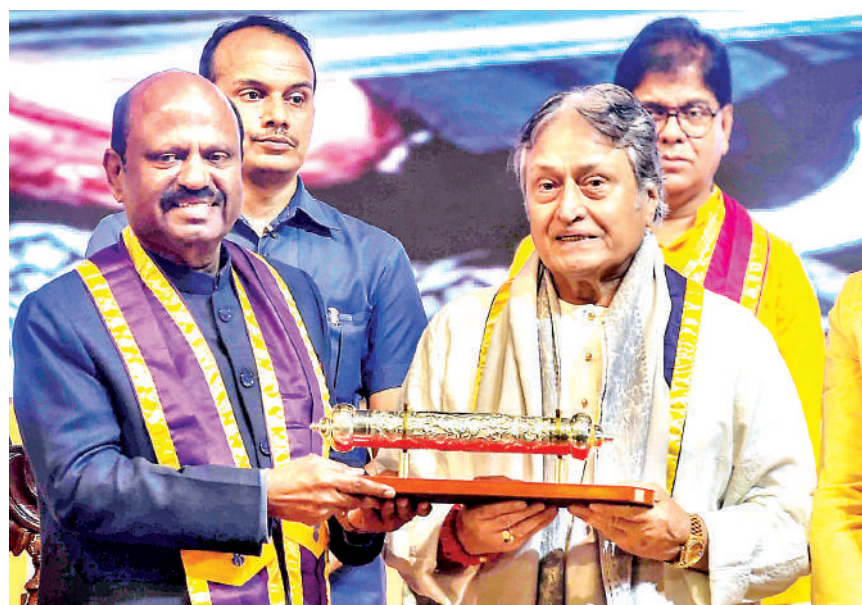
"People who used to halt

under the shade of trees now zoom past the smooth national highway," said Pundurkar.

He claimed that earlier he used to earn around Rs 5,000 per day. "The income has now dipped to mere Rs 1,500," he said.

The trade of watermelons along the national highway is a symbol of community farming.

VARSITY CONVOCATION



West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose presents the honorary Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) to sarod player Ustad Amjad Ali Khan during the convocation of Sister Nivedita University, in Kolkata, Monday.

Guwahati, May 08 (PTI)

The Assam Police have drawn up a list of over 650 personnel who are purportedly habitual drinkers or obese, and those found unfit for duty will be offered voluntary retirement after a thorough review, director general of police GP Singh said here on Monday.

The exercise to get rid of "deadwood" from the police will be undertaken in all organisations and wings of the force, the DGP said at a press conference here.

"We already have a list of about 680 persons. However, to ensure that no name is added without logical basis, we have formed committees in battalions and districts, which will be headed by a



GP Singh

deputy commandant or an additional SP-rank of ficer," Singh said.

These committees will give their reports to the district superintendents of police (SPs) or battalion commandants, who will then "after due diligence on their part" submit it to the police head-quarter, he said.

The list will again be reviewed by a committee which will have people

from training and armed police wings as well as law and order and administration. The committee will then finally prepare the list of personnel who will be offered the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), Singh said.

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BRIEF



A vendor carries balloons on a two-wheeler, in Dehradun, Monday.

Booked

Jaipur: Rajasthan Police has booked Manikanta Rathod, a BJP candidate in upcoming Karnataka assembly poll, and local BJP MLA Madan Dilawar with charges of murder and criminal intimidation for their remarks against Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, a senior officer said on Monday. The FIR has been filed at Sanjay Circle Police Station here at the complaint of Congress state secretary Ram Singh Kaswan.

Exempt

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday directed officials to exempt Gurudwaras from property tax, following a meeting with members of the Sikh faith. A Sikh delegation met the chief minister and requested him to also set up a corporation for the community for effective implementation of government schemes.

Shot dead

New Delhi: A man was shot dead at an advocate's office in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri following a scuffle between two parties over a monetary dispute, police said on Monday. The incident took place on Sunday night when advocate Sushil Gupta called his client Zafrool and Syed Mukkim Raza, with whom he had a monetary dispute of Rs. 4,000, to his office, they said.

Regular bail

New Delhi: Businessman P Sarath Chandra Reddy, an accused in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam, on Monday informed a court here that he has been granted regular bail in the matter by the Delhi High Court. Reddy made the submission before Special Judge M K Nagpal, who was scheduled to hear arguments on his application seeking extension of interim bail granted earlier in the matter.

Stone

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy on Monday laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Movement's Heritage Tower here and announced Rs 25 crore donation towards its construction. Speaking on the occasion, Reddy appreciated the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower project and expressed his happiness in participating in the programme.

Weather
High 38 Low 27

MARKET
NIFTY 18,264.40
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BULLION
GOLD 60,921
SILVER 77,063

LIQUOR SCAM

'ED allegations false and baseless'

ED is 'agent' of BJP

Raipur, May 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday called the Enforcement Directorate an "agent" of the Bharatiya Janata Party and dubbed the ED's claim of unearthing an alleged liquor scam in the state as false and baseless.



Raipur Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, in connection with an alleged liquor scam. In its remand application filed in a special court here seeking remand of Anwar, the ED claimed there was a "massive scam" in liquor trade in Chhattisgarh by a syndicate, comprising high-level state government officials, private persons and political executives, that

What CM confirmed....

Baghel said, "The allegation of Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam in the state has been levelled by the ED just to save its reputation after it failed to unearth anything during its raids and investigation. The allegation is completely false, baseless and condemnable." Baghel claimed the ED and other central agencies have been acting as "agent" of the BJP. Their only work is to ensure the BJP benefits in elections, he said.

claimed the ED and other central agencies have been acting as "agent" of the BJP. Their only work is to ensure the BJP benefits in elections, he said.

But, no matter how many conspiracies the central agency hatches, the BJP will not succeed. The Congress government will expose every conspiracy of BJP leaders and the ED, the CM said.

He also termed the ED's claim of decline in revenue collection from liquor in the state as "baseless" and said the data shows a significant rise in revenue collected from liquor sale under the current Congress government as compared to the previous BJP regime.

EXCISE SCAM

Court extends Sisodia's judicial custody

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Monday extended till May 23 the judicial custody of former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam.

Special Judge M K Nagpal extended the custody of the AAP leader after he was produced before the court on expiry of his judicial custody granted earlier.

The court noted the submission of the Enforcement Directorate's Special Public Prosecutor N K Matta, who submitted that the agency has filed a supplementary charge sheet against the accused, which is scheduled for consid-

Till May 23

eration on May 10. The court had earlier dismissed Sisodia's bail plea, saying "the case of economic offences has serious repercussions upon the general public and society at large as the evidence collected during investigation speaks volumes of his involvement in the commission of the said offence". The ED on March 9 arrested Sisodia in the liquor policy case.

Sisodia was arrested by the CBI earlier in its ongoing investigation of a case related to alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. He is currently in judicial custody in both cases.

generated corruption money of more than Rs 2,000 crore between 2019-22. The ED said Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Anil Tuteja was the "kingpin" of the syndicate along with Anwar and the corruption money was also used for electioneering.

Tuteja, a 2003 batch IAS officer, is posted as joint secretary in state's indus-

try and commerce department. Talking to reporters at a helipad in Raipur, Baghel said, "The allegation of Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam in the state has been levelled by the ED just to save its reputation after it failed to unearth anything during its raids and investigation. The allegation is completely false, baseless and condemnable." Baghel

IAF's MiG-21 crashes

Three villagers killed



Locals treat the injured pilot of a MiG-21 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Hanumangarh district, Monday.



Locals gather after a MiG-21 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Hanumangarh district, Monday.

he said. In a statement, the IAF said, "A MiG-21 aircraft of the IAF crashed near Suratgarh during a routine training sortie today morning".

MANIPUR RIOTS

Take security, relief measures: SC

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI):

Concerned over the huge loss of life and property, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre and the Manipur government to step up relief and rehabilitation efforts for those hit by ethnic violence in the north-eastern state, besides protecting places of worship, many of which were targeted during the mayhem.

While listing out steps taken to deal with the situation, the Centre told a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud that no untoward incidents have been reported in Manipur in the last two days and the situation there is gradually returning to normalcy. More than 50 people have been killed in violent clashes between the tribals living in the Manipur hills and the majority Meitei community residing in the

Imphal Valley over the latter's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. Over 23,000 people have been rescued and sheltered in military garisons and relief camps.

Termining the aftermath of the violence "humanitarian issues", the apex court emphasised that due arrangements must be made in the relief camps and the people sheltered there be provided with basic amenities like food, ration and medical facilities. "We are concerned very deeply about the loss of lives, about the loss of properties and the government is taking steps...." the bench, also comprising Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, said.

The bench said, having expressed its concerns, it must leave it to the government to take action because ultimately the court can't say that go to this area with so much of

equipment. The top court said it has no reason to doubt what the government is doing to tackle the situation. The bench said the authorities should ensure that due arrangements are made in relief camps for providing all basic amenities, and make endeavour for rehabilitation of those displaced and protect places of religious worship. Mehta informed the bench that 52 companies of the central armed police forces (CAPF) and 105 columns of the Army/Assam Rifles have been deployed in Manipur and flag marches have been conducted in the disturbed areas. He said a senior former police officer has been appointed as security advisor by the state and another senior officer has been repatriated yesterday from central deputation to serve as the chief secretary to the Government of Manipur.

SHRADDHA WALKER MURDER

Court order on charges against Poonawala today

New Delhi: A Delhi court is likely to pronounce on Tuesday its order on framing charges against Aaftab Amin Poonawala, accused of strangling his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar and chopping her body into pieces.

On April 29, Additional Sessions Judge Vishal Pahuja adjourned the order on framing of charges against Poonawala, noting that the judge concerned was on leave. The court also adjourned till May 9 the hearing on an application by the victim's father Vikas Walkar urging the judge that his daughter's remains be handed over to the family for the last rites as required by tradition and culture. Additional Sessions Judge Manisha Khurana Kakkar had on April 15 reserved the order for April 29 after hearing arguments of prosecution lawyers as well as the accused on framing of charges.

BJP TO EC

'Derecognise Cong, file FIR against Sonia for 'sovereignty' remark'

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI): The BJP on Monday intensified its attack on the Congress over its use of the term "sovereignty" for Karnataka as it moved the Election Commission seeking action against Sonia Gandhi, to whom the opposition party had attributed the remark, and her party's derecognition. The party also demanded an FIR against her.



Union Minister and BJP leader Bhupender Yadav with party leaders Jitendra Singh and Tarun Chugh speaks with the media after meeting the Chief Election Commissioner, outside Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi, Monday.

A BJP delegation headed by Union minister Bhupender Yadav submitted a memorandum to the poll panel in Delhi over the issue.

"Karnataka is a very important member state in the Union of India and any call to protect the sovereignty of a member state of the Union of India amounts to a call for secession and is fraught with perilous and pernicious consequences," the party said.

Speaking to reporters, party leader Tarun Chugh, who was part of the delegation besides BJP MP Anil Baluni and leader Om Pathak, cited the Representation of the People Act and said the Congress party should be derecognised.

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Second low-intensity blast near Golden Temple



Director General of Police, Punjab, Gaurav Yadav with police personnel at the site after an explosion occurred on Heritage Street near Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Monday.

Amritsar, May 08 (PTI): One person was injured in a low-intensity explosion that took place on a heritage street near the Golden Temple here on Monday morning, close to the spot where a blast was reported on May 6, police said. No detonator has been found and it appears that the explosive was kept in a container, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said, adding that it is too early to say whether the blast was someone's "mischief" or there's a terror angle to it. Police and forensic teams reached the spot soon after the explosion and security was stepped up in the area. Speaking to reporters here, DGP Yadav, who visited the spot, said one person was injured in the explosion which was reported around 6:15 am. The explosive was very crudely made and assembled. Though no shrapnel was used, there was a loud sound, he said.

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Additional Collector conducts Jandarshan

• Several applications disposed of on the spot

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: Additional Collector Padmini Bhoi Sahu disposed of several applications on the spot during the Jandarshan on Monday. She gave necessary instructions to the concerned officers for speedy disposal of the remaining applications / complaints. A total of 142 applications were received in Collector Jandarshan.

A resident of Khamharia complained about the treatment bills of his daughter at Pulse Hospital Bhilai. He informed that his daughter's entire treat-

ment is being done through Ayushman card, yet Pulse Hospital Bhilai is asking for additional cash deposit and medicines for treatment. The Additional Collector instructed the Chief Health Medical Officer to take necessary action.

All the ward residents of Borsi Bhantha demanded compensation for the houses and shops affected in the widening of the road. Ward residents said that due to the widening of the road in Ward 50 Borsi Bhantha, houses and shops of 28 families have been affected.

They have not received the compensation till date. The Additional Collector instructed Tehsildar Durg to take appropriate action.

Villagers complained about illegal Murum excavation at Bhatha Talab in Gram

Panchayat Dumardih under the MGNREGA project. They informed that earth movers have been landed in the pond for illegal murum excavation. They added that the village Sarpanch is behind this illegal activity and is also making money by selling the Murum. The Additional Collector instructed the concerned officer to investigate the matter.

A resident of Chingri village submitted an application for the amount to be received under the Unorganized Workers Maternity Assistance Scheme run by the Labour Department. She had submitted an application to the concerned department under the Prasuti Sahayata Yojana.

She has not received the amount even after more than six months. In this regard, she also contacted the depart-

ment, but was informed about non-availability of funds. The Additional Collector asked the Labour Department officer to take necessary action.

A resident of Ward No 19 Kailash Nagar Titurdih complained about irregular drain cleaning work. He said that the residents of the ward are facing a lot of problems.

Due to the choked drains, the sewer water of the drain is entering the houses. There has been an adverse effect on the health of locals. Along with this, the fear of insects and spiders also looms large. The Additional Collector instructed the Commissioner of Municipal Corporation, Durg to take action.

Residents of Ruabandha Ward applied for registration and regularisation of

their houses. They said that Ruabandha Basti is a very old slum, where labourers have been living for the past 50 years. Most of the residents work as daily wagers to earn their livelihood. They are expecting to get their houses regularised. The Additional Collector instructed the concerned department to take action.

Demarcation of the Bhelwa pond in Bhatapara Kohka and removal of illegal encroachment, complaint of corruption in road construction between village Anda to Dwarikadeeh, disposal of correction applications in revenue records, cutting of old tree located in Gayabai Higher Secondary School in Gaya Nagar, applications related to slum lease, illegal occupation, land allotment, etc were received at Jandarshan.

Sinter Plant-III sets New Record in Daily Production



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Sinter Plant 3 has created a new record in daily production of sinter. On May 07, 2023, Sinter Plant-III produced 19,039 tonnes of sinter, surpassing previous best day production record of 19,011 tonnes on February 12, 2023.

Director I/c Bhilai Steel Plant Anirban Dasgupta and other senior officers of the Plant congratulated SP-III Team and associated shops and departments for setting a new record in daily production.

It is worth mentioning that Sinter Plant-3 that is equipped with a new sinter machine installed as part of Modex programme

recorded its highest ever annual production of 54,31,425 T of sinter in fiscal year 2022-23 as against previous best of 52,65,400 T produced in 2021-22.

Significantly, in the month of December 2022, Sinter Plant-III had crossed the milestone of 80 million tonne (MT) cumulative sinter production since its commissioning.

Youth gets lifer for raping juvenile girl

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: A Fast Track Special Court in Durg sentenced a youth to rigorous life imprisonment, i.e. confinement for the balance of his natural life, for raping a 10-year-old girl.

Additional District and Sessions Judge, (First, FTSC - POCSO), Sarita Das convicted 25-year-old Parmesh Dhimar of village Savni, PS Patan on Saturday. The girl's mother had lodged a complaint at Patan Police Station on April 27, 2021.

Special Public Prosecutor Rajesh Kumar Sahu informed that the accused and the victim re-

side in the same village. On May 27, 2021, the accused lured the child to come with him on the bike and assured her that he would drop her to the agriculture farms where the victim's mother had gone to work. The accused took the girl to another agricultural field and raped her.

He threatened the girl of not disclosing the incident to anyone. Later when the victim's mother came to know about the incident, she immediately informed the Mitranin and the Sarpanch after which an FIR was lodged at Patan Police Station.

After trial, the Special Court found the accused

guilty and awarded different jail terms for Section 363, 506B of IPC and Section 06 of POCSO Act under which the accused was tried.

He was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of five years and Rs 1000 fine under section 363 of IPC; rigorous imprisonment of one year and Rs 1000 fine under section 506B of IPC and rigorous life imprisonment (confinement for the balance of his natural life) and Rs 5000 fine under section 06 of POCSO Act, informed Special Public Prosecutor Rajesh Kumar Sahu. The money collected as fine will be provided to the victim as compensation.

Hard work and struggle refines the artist: Padamshri Usha Barle

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: Department of Journalism and Mass Communication St Thomas College, Bhilai had an interactive session with famous Pandwani Singer and Padamshri Prize winner Usha Barle. She shared her experiences in life and suggested students to do Hard work and struggle to become successful in life.

Administrator of the college, Rev Fr Dr Joshi Varghese congratulated all the members for organizing this session. Principal of the college Dr MG Roymon motivated for conducting this session. Head Incharge of department Dr Reema Dewangan provided her special guidance for conducting the session.

Initially Asst Professor

Zaqir Hussain introduced to Usha Barle. After that Usha Barle was honoured by presenting plant and memento by the Journalism Department. During the discussion students asked questions to Usha Barle and cleared all their doubts. Usha Barle discussed her experience at President's Building during the award ceremony of Padamshri.

During the program by giving respect to President, Prime Minister and other dignitaries she said that she learned the moral values from her family to give proper respects to elders and old persons. And hence instead of individual attention, she gave respect to all at once. During the discussion of her life



struggle she told that in the very small age of 3 year only she got married. Her father threw her in the well just to deviate her interest from Music and singing and for meeting her basic needs she was forced to sell

fruits and vegetables on the road. In between this entire struggle her practice of pandwani, panthi dance and others were continuing. She said that her art

was sharpening only due to hard work and struggle and finally today she got the name, fame and popularity. She remembered her teacher and instructor Padmvibhushan Tijan Bai.

She also presented some steps and songs of Pandwani on the requests of students. She also sung the songs by remembering the former Member of Parliament Mini Mata. She said that many local arts

like bamboo song, Bharthari, Sua Dance are getting obsolete day by day and she wished that state government should provide her the facility of opening the school so that she will give free training of Pandwani and Panthi to new generation so that this art and traditional values will be safe and sustain.

During the program her husband Amardas Barle was also present. At the end vote of thanks was proposed by Asst Professor Chhavi Kiran Sahu. Asst Professor Amitabh Sharma coordinated the program. President of Media Munch Yashraj Yadav directed the program and apart from Secretary Kanishk Mishra, Aditya S Kumar, Sriшти Dubey, Pranjal Tiwari and Sengal Tirkey also gave their special contribution.

SSV organises workshop on Spirituality, Peace & Happiness

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Sec-10, conducted a workshop on spirituality, peace and happiness on May 08, 2023. The workshop started with garlanding and lighting the lamp with Saraswati Vandana presented by Devyani Vyas, Doman Verma and Sanjay Koda.

Esteemed Chief Guest Dr Christie Yu-Ling Chang, Dr Frank Tien and Bipin Deshmukh, Principal SSV X garlanded the portrait of Sri Adi Sankara and Goddess Saraswati. Md Muzahid and Shaique Mizah Siddiqui from KK Modi University also accompanied the guests.

The introduction and welcome speech was given by Madam Anita Verma



followed by bouquet presentation. Sarita Nair welcomed Dr Christie Yu-Ling Chang and Vanaja welcomed Dr Frank Tien, Sarojini Thakur welcomed Principal, Kishori Katekar and Savita Anil

welcomed Md Muzahid and Shaique Mizah Siddiqui.

Dr Christie initiated the program with chanting of mantras and the principles of Buddhism. They basically focused on the

six paramitas to succeed namely Danam, Siya, Khushanti, Vinaya, Meditation and Prasanna to bring happiness and fulfillment.

The Chinese traditions and meditational practices

were demonstrated. Principal, Bipin Deshmukh in his speech asserted that spirituality brings inner happiness and peace. He concluded by saying that the key of Chinese philosophy and Indian philosophy is the Inner Happiness.

A memento was presented to the guests by the Principal. The whole atmosphere reverberated with the presentation given by Dr Christie Yu-Ling Chang and Dr Frank Tien.

The Vote of Thanks was presented by Runa Goswami. V Ramchandraan President, SSES, S Swaminathan, Secretary, SSES, TR Venkatraman, Treasurer, SSES appreciated the programme. The event concluded with National Anthem.

Olympian & Arjun awardee Rajendra Prasad invited as selector For Elite Women's National Boxing Coaching Camp

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: Former Olympian and Arjuna Award-winning boxer Rajendra Prasad, has been invited by the Indian Boxing Federation to serve as a member of the selection committee for the Elite Women's National Boxing Coaching Camp, which will be held at the NSNIS Centre, Patiala from May 9 to 12, 2023.

Currently working as Deputy General Manager, Education & TSD, in SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, Prasad is the only Olympian and Arjuna Award recipient from Chhattisgarh.

Rajendra Prasad is



Rajendra Prasad

Elite Women's National Coaching Camp. This selected team will be travelling abroad to participate in an international competition. Rajendra Prasad had also been invited by Indian Boxing Federation for the selection of male players for the Men's National Boxing Coaching Camp, in the year 2021.

The National Sports Federation of India has made a rule that an Olympian must be included in the selection process before the Indian team's foreign tours, ensuring that the Indian players cannot go without the signature of the Olympian athlete.

Youth stabbed at marriage reception; accused held

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: A youth was stabbed during a marriage reception in village Potia of Nandini Police Station area on Sunday. The victim was rushed to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The incident was the outcome of some old rivalry. Police have arrested the absconding accused.



Accused

Dulamani Sahu, who was also present in the reception party. Meanwhile, a power cut occurred in the area. Taking advantage of darkness, the accused Dulamani Sahu stabbed Gajendra with

a sharp object and escaped from the spot.

Relatives and friends rushed Gajendra to a nearby hospital and thereafter to the District Hospital where he died during treatment. On information, a police team reached the spot and conducted the crime scene investigation.

On the basis of the statements given by the eye witnesses, police started searching for the absconding accused Dulamani Sahu. With sustained efforts, police managed to trap him within a few hours. Further investigations are on.

Shakuntala group organises Adventure Camp for students

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 08: An "Adventure Camp" was organised at Sharda Vidyalaya, Risali Sector from May 03, 2023 to May 05, 2023. The students of Shakuntala Vidyalaya Ramnagar and Sharda Vidyalaya Risali Sector participated in this camp.

With full courage, gaiety, the students from Class V to XII enjoyed participation in jumping on the rope, crossing the river; jumping on the commando net, archery, shooting, gearing, etc.

The final day of the camp was filled with activities in the night. Star gazing activity, bonfire, variety of games and sports, film viewing etc which stu-



dents fully enjoyed during the night stay in the camp. The camp was full of fun, away from parents, company of friends, new experiences, friendly supervision of teachers.

Director of Shakuntala Group of Schools Sanjay Ojha said that the institu-



tion focuses on the all-round maturity of the students. The institution brainstorms seriously, and makes continuous efforts on what is effective in building the need, interest, skill-level development and future life of the students. On the concluding day

ceremony of the camp, Principal Vipin Kumar (Shakuntala Vidyalaya), Manager Mamta Ojha (Sharda Vidyalaya Risali Sector), V Dubey, Abhay Dubey, Principal Sutapa Sarkar (Sharda Vidyalaya Risali Sector), Aarti Mehra, Vice Principal G

Ranjana Kumar, Anita Nair, Headmistress Pushpa Singh, Senior Mistress Renjini MR, Baljit Kaur and Senior Activity Incharge Pooja Babbar, Rajesh Verma, Prateek Ojha, Vanita Ojha also encouraged the students.

Lormi Nagar Panchayat to be made Nagar Palika: CM

Also declares tourist site in Khudia

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, May 08: The Chief Minister during his 'Bhent-Mulaquat' programme in Gram Khudai of Lormi Vidhan Sabha of Mungeli district, made a declaration to make Nagar Panchayat Lormi as Nagar Palika and make Khudia as Revenue village and it would also be developed as tourist place and a resort will also be constructed. On this occasion he laid stone and dedication development works worth Rs 13.71 cr and out of which dedication work are of Rs 1.20 cr and stone laying work are of Rs 12.51 cr. CM on this occasion took a feedback on the implementation of government schemes. On this occasion Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Ashish Singh, Secretary to CM - Siddharth Komal Pardeshi, Divisional Commissioner Dr Sanjay Alang, IG BN Meena and Collector Rahul Dev, SP Chandramohan Singh and other officers and public representatives were present.

GNY beneficiary said he is preparing for PSC
One of the Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNY) benefi-



Bio-matrix system not useful



CM Bhupesh Baghel asked the villagers about the benefits under Food Assistance Scheme. In

ciary Moti Dutt Kashyap informed that by selling cow-dung he is having an earning of Rs 10000 to Rs 20000 per month for his six-member family and so far he has earned an income of Rs 1.50 lakh. Kashyap informed that he is preparing for State PSC and wants to joint state administrative services.

Seeks help for Cancer treatment

Shankar Patel informed that he is suffering from Cancer for last 6 yrs. CM gave instructions to extend help to him. Raghubir Sahu informed that he is getting medi-

calamity. Governor Mr. Harichandan said that the Chhattisgarh unit of the Indian Red Cross Society is doing commendable work in the health and social sectors. Red Cross organizes voluntary blood donation camps, as well as funds for treatment of poor patients, distribution of free aids and appliances to disabled patients. The work done by Red Cross during Covid is incomparable. Red Cross workers worked as front line workers. He urged the collectors to involve college students in Red Cross in maximum

Red Cross motive is to serve humanity: Governor

Program organised on World Red Cross Day at Raj Bhavan



calamity. Governor Mr. Harichandan said that the Chhattisgarh unit of the Indian Red Cross Society is doing commendable work in the health and social sectors. Red Cross organizes voluntary blood donation camps, as well as funds for treatment of poor patients, distribution of free aids and appliances to disabled patients. The work done by Red Cross during Covid is incomparable. Red Cross workers worked as front line workers. He urged the collectors to involve college students in Red Cross in maximum

numbers. By the year 2025, the Governor has appealed to actively participate in the campaign to root out the TB disease from Chhattisgarh and India. With the intention to make 22,000 patients free from TB, in Chhattisgarh, he also appealed to adopt about 100 T.B. patients from Vice-Chancellors of universities, bank staff, industries and other organizations to become Nikshay Mitra.

Doctors and members of Samaj felicitated

On occasion of 300th birth anniversary of Maharaja Jassa Singh Ramgarhdia



Raipur, May 08: The 300th birth anniversary of Maharaja Jassa Singh Ramgarhdia, having the honour of unfurling the 'Kesari' Flag atop the Red Fort on 11 March 1783, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour. On this occasion a medical camp was organised and in this total of 5 doctors examined 150 patients and 'Gyani' performed 'Katha' and 'Kirtan'.

by Surendra Singh Hanspal; Surendra Pal Singh (Nehru Nagar) by Manjit Singh Panesar and Surendra Singh Chabda by Harpal Singh Bhamara; Jasbir Singh Ghumman by Sukhdev Singh Note, Rajwant Singh Grewal by Khalwinder Singh and Gurdev Singh Dhillon by Ranjit Singh Panesar; Gurjant Singh by Charanjeet Singh Panesar; Daljit Singh Dhanjal by Hardeep Singh Bhamara. The vote of thanks in this programme was proposed by Amreek Singh Chahal.

Facility of paddy purchase in forest area helped a lot



CM also held talks with the farmers and informed them that in Chparwa it was earlier a wild forest area and now the paddy purchase too has been

Declarations made by CM in Lormi VS

- # Road construction from Dindouri to Navagaon Dayali road.
- # Indoor stadium at the cost of Rs 1 cr in Lormi Nagar Panchayat.
- # To establish 33/11 KVA power sub-station in Navrangpur.
- # Rs 20 lakh each for development works in 5 recently displaced forest villages viz. Bankal, Borkachar, Samratshas, New bahaud and New Jalda.
- # Rs 1 cr to develop garden in Lormi city.
- # Rs 50 lakh for development of 'Devgudias'
- # Blood Bank in Community Health Centre in Lormi
- # Initiative for Mobile tower in ATR area
- # Construction of bridge on Ganiyari river in Gram Rakheli

marks in Class 12th Board. Aarti Dhruv giv-

ing her introduction in English expressed gratitude towards CM. CM also asked about the caste certificates and added that the state govt has started initiative to provide caste certificate to newly born child, so that in the future

started here. This has boosted the morale of farmers. Sukhmandan Sagar informed that he is receiving the installments under Rajiv Gandhi Nyay Yojana well on time and these installments come handy at the time of farming and agriculture work. Farmer Malikram informed that his loan worth Rs 36000 has been waived off.

they do not face any problems.

FAMILY TOGETHER



A person rides on his bike with all in the family together and keeps faces and head well-covered to save them from heat-wave, which has already started in the city.

Organised political syndicate has been formed between BJP and ED: Cong

Raipur, May 08: Congress Communications Department President, Sushil Anand Shukla while talking to media persons said that BJP State President Arun Sao on Monday once again came forward as the spokesperson of ED. Prior to this, when ED's action was taken, ED did not issue its authorized press note, even before that, former Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh issued a press note and presented the details of ED's action, three days later, ED issued Raman Singh's press note. Pressnote was issued by copying the note

exactly. Both these cases are proving that the ED in Chhattisgarh is working according to the political agenda of the BJP. There is an organized political syndicate between BJP and ED. The ED after interrogating some businessmen, officers and allegedly announced that a liquor scam of 2000 crore was done in Chhattisgarh. Arun Sao has claimed that the ED has revealed the sale of liquor directly in liquor shops. ED claims that illegal liquor was sold by putting fake holograms in liquor bottles.

When ED is talking about such a big scam then ED and BJP should answer three questions - 1. Where did they seize how much illegal liquor. 2. How many liquor shops were selling illegal liquor and ED made seizures. 3. How many fake holograms have been seized by the ED. When they have not seized illegal liquor, were not caught selling illegal liquor, could not even seize fake holograms, then on what basis are they talking about scam. This is fictitious story brought forward by them to defame the state government, alleged Congress.

BJP demands quick trial of liquor scam

Bhupesh Baghel left behind even Manmohan gov't in the series of scams: Sao



Raipur, May 08: Bharatiya Janata Party alleged that Bhupesh Baghel government in Chhattisgarh was looting the people of Chhattisgarh to swell the coffers of '10 Janpath'. The press release issued by the ED after the major action has again proved this allegation, said BJP State President Arun Sao, Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel, Raipur Mandal In-charge and MLA Saurabh Singh while addressing a press conference at party office in Ekatma Parisar here today. The liquor scam of Chhattisgarh is the biggest such scam in the country, they said, adding that this is bigger and more serious than Kejriwal's Delhi liquor scam. So far, apart

from the liquor scam, Congress government has looted Chhattisgarh in a more merciless way than even British rulers and the Mughals, said the BJP leaders, pointing out irregularities in coal, rice, cement, sand and transfer. According to them Bhupesh Government has left behind even the Manmohan Singh government in a series of scams.

An organized criminal syndicate was created by Anwar Dhebar on the instructions of the chief, they alleged. The ED release clearly states that these people are not the ultimate beneficiaries of the scam amount; rather after deducting their commission, they used to send the remaining amount to their 'Political Master', they said.

legally, they said, adding that not only the government exchequer was defrauded of billions by this liquor, the lives of the people of the state were also compromised. According to the allegation, liquor made in the factory was being sold directly to the shops and this amount was directly deposited in the 'political treasury'. Bhupesh government has also made the deaths due to spurious liquor an excuse to sell liquor, they said.

BJYM gheraoes Employment Office

Describes allowance for unemployed as deception



Raipur, May 08: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) gheraoed the employment office here today, raising the grievances of the educated unemployed youth. BJYM workers led by district president Govinda Gupta raised protest against Bhupesh government, charging it with deceiving the unemployed youth.

BJYM state president Ravi Bhagat while addressing a rally on the occasion said that the government which came to power by making big promises at the time of elections, only cheated the youth for the last 4.5 years. Whether it is SI recruitment or PSC recruitment or it is in the name of employment or unemployment allowance, the Congress government has remained just a liar, he alleged. According to him the educated unemployed youth were offered lal-

lipop in form of monthly unemployment allowance of Rs 2500. BJYM Chhattisgarh in-charge and national executive member Alok Dangas, while addressing the youth, praised the BJYM workers for gheraoing employment offices across the state. According to him BJYM has become voice of the youth of the entire state.

CG Board 10th-12th result to be announced soon

Raipur, May 08: The Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) has almost prepared the 10th-12th board exam results. News regarding the release of board exam results are going on social media. However, it is being claimed by the board that by the second week of May i.e. by May 15, the results can be released. But in the meantime a big update has come regarding the board result. According to the information, the date and time of 10th-12th board exam result will be announced soon on the official website of Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education. Students will be able to check the results of 10th-12th board exams on website cgbse.nic.in and results.cgbse.nic.in. According to the information received, the results of 10th-12th board exams can be declared by May 15. As per the Board of Secondary Education, the work of correction of copies has been completed. Subject-wise marks sheets have



been made from the evaluation centers set up across the state and sent to Board Office at Raipur Marking work is going on in the board office. It is notable that more than six and a half lakh students have appeared in Chhattisgarh in the 10th-12th board exams. 2418 examination centers were set up across the state. In class X, three lakh 37,293 students have appeared, while in class XII, three lakh 27,935 students have appeared in the exam.

Ch'garh players excel in Indian Open Para Athletics event

Raipur, May 08: Chhattisgarh Athletics excelled in the 5th Indian Open Para Athletics International Tournament held recently at Bangalore.



Mehra won gold medal in the Discus Throw in F-40 category and also won bronze medal in the Shot Put Throw event. Similarly, Ishwari Nishad won

bronze medal in the T-11 category 400 Metres Running and also won silver medal in the 200 Metres running event. Coach Niranjana Sahu, Wasim Raja, Guide Runner Sanjay Paikra provided special assistance to the players during the championship. Secretary Dikesh Tandon and RC Mishra, Suraj Yadav also played significant role in the achievement.

Medicine Deptt observes World Thalassaemia Day

● Conducts awareness among the patients

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 08: On the occasion of World Thalassaemia Day, marked every year on May 08, PG students of the Department of Medicine at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Raipur participated in an awareness program conducted in OPD block of Medicine Department in the presence of Professor & HOD Medicine Dr. D. P. Lakra, and consultants Dr. R. L. Khare, Dr. Y. Malhotra, Dr. Himeshwari Verma and Dr. Nemesh Sahu. Patients were enlightened about the disease Thalassaemia and explained about the impor-



tance of genetic testing, prevention, precautions, counseling and management of the same. Queries of patients about the disease were addressed by doctors in an interactive session at the end of the program.

Raoghat rail line project will usher in a golden era of Bastar region devp: Pandey

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, May 08: A delegation of senior BJP leaders from Chhattisgarh met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav under the guidance of BJP state in-charge Omprakash Mathur to start the Raoghat-Jagdalpur rail line project.

MP Santosh Pandey, State General Secretary Kedar Kashyap, former MLA Santosh Bafna as part of this delegation. Vaishnav has given consent to start the work soon. Along with this, it has also asked for survey of Jagdalpur rail line from Dhamtari to Borai, Kondagaon.

Municipal Corporation's Leader of Opposition Sanjay Pandey has expressed gratitude to the Railway Minister along with senior leaders of the state. He said that with the commencement of this much-awaited project, the Bastar region would usher in a golden era of development.

He said that the Railway Minister told the delegation that preparations are on to start the construction work of this 140 kilometer long rail line. The department will prepare the DPR by July 2023, instructions have been given for this.

Along with this, survey of Jagdalpur rail line from Dhamtari to Borai, Kondagaon

is also a big gift for Bastar region. Pandey further said that the benefit of this scheme will be given to the people of remote tribal areas and they will be able to join the main stream of development.

The people of Bastar region were agitating for years for this demand, this has become possible only because of the tireless efforts of senior leaders and the agitation of the general public of Bastar.

Sanjay Pandey said that by fulfilling this demand, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has fulfilled the aspirations of the people, for which he deserves gratitude and we express our gratitude to him.

Claim objections raised in Gram Sabha regarding Economic Survey

Central Chronicle News

Kareli Badi, May 08: The Economic Survey 2023 of Gram Panchayat Kareli Badi was conducted in a special Gram Sabha Samrasata. The camp was attended by the Sarpanch, Panch, Anganwadi workers, and survey enumerators. During the Gram Sabha, many issues and problems faced by the villages were raised, and claims and objections were made.

One of the major concerns of the villagers was confirming kutcha housing. A large number of beneficiaries raised objections to the survey work conducted by the enumerators. The enumerators had counted the names of



the beneficiaries of the ward-wise economic survey, and an application was made to the Sarpanch to confirm kutcha houses. The Gram Sabha in-charge Employment Assistant, OP Ahirwar, read out the problem, and the economic survey enumerators provided quick solutions to satisfy the beneficiaries.

Jageshwar Nishad, the Survey in-charge, said that the claim objections have been received and the problem will be solved soon after the edit option comes in the software. Additionally, applications were submitted for ration cards, dilapidated roofs, new washerman buildings, pensions, washrooms, and housing.

Sarpanch Domar Singh Sahu, Panch Yadram Nishad, Daneshwar Sinha, Nakul Bharti, Parvati Nishad, teacher Ghanshyam Sahu, employment assistant Omprakash, and others were present at the event. The meeting was attended by many villagers who shared their concerns and grievances.

Illegal wood cutting in nursery continues on war-footing



Central Chronicle News

Magarlod, May 08: In Mahanadi Kareli Badi, several hectares of area is covered with Sheesham trees and illegal felling of trees continue here unabated and this include illegal felling by the villagers for large quantity of firewood.

In the summer season from 6 to 7 in the morning, a large number of women for wood cutting villagers are reaching the site and even after this the Forest Department, Gram Panchayat are not taking action against the people involved in this illegal work. Illegal felling of trees

has been going on here for the last two years. The media has also penned about this issue, but the forest department, people's representatives and the police team arrive and take stock of the supply of food, but the people involved in illegal felling run away before their arrival.

It is since April, May, that illegal felling of trees is going on and even after this the forest department, people's representative, forest president are also not able to do anything. Due to continuous felling of trees, the existence of the nursery has come to an end.

Choti Mehra wins gold medal for India

Kawardha, May 08: A 'Divyang' sports player from Chhattisgarh, Choti Mehara secured a gold medal to India in Discuss Throw in the International Para-Athletics Championship being held in Bengaluru (Karnataka). Defeating players from 16 countries taking part in this Para-Athletics, Choti Mehara threw the Discuss Throw to her best at 14 meters.



Adivasi Cong president celebrates B'Day with lepers



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 08: Adivasi Congress Raipur President Bhavani Singh Markam celebrated his birthday on May 07 with the lepers of 'Ganga Kusht

Basti' under Raipur(N) VS. He also met PCC Chief Mohan Markam at his Bastar Bada residence and shared his birthday happiness. He also observed his birthday at Hemu Kalani

Ward and distributed food stuff among lepers and also cut the cake. Those present on the occasion were Gulab Janghel, Manoj Thapa, Pramod Sahu, Babu Khan, and others.

'Summer camp' is being organized for children

Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, May 08: Summer camp is a programme organized by the schools for the overall development of their students. District Education Officer Arvind Mishra's appeal to the teachers of the district to voluntarily organize 'summer camp' for the children, is now bearing fruits.

With the end of the annual examination, the teachers of the district are voluntarily organizing a summer camp from 8:00 am to 10:30 am for the children in their respective schools by planning for 7 to 15 days. More than 20 schools

in the district have completed it. Many schools are operating it now and are working on planning to operate it. Through this summer camp, the teacher inculcates skills such as imagination, self-confidence, logical thinking, creativity, expression, children's songs, games that develop oral language development and concentration, painting, making paper and clay toys, story making, creative writing and trying to enrich through activities. Children are also enriching their linguistic, mathematical and other skills by celebrating it as 'Anand Utsav' with full enthusiasm and enthusiasm.

Children taking interest in these activities

Singing dozens of children's songs (Hindi and English) with gestures (an old woman sowed seeds, there was a tree on the hill, Rats! Meow is sleeping, We saw three things, Shyama's doll has no hands, Aha tomatoes are big, Funny, Mummy open the door, Five little monkeys...I had nine ducks, swimming in the water etc.) Making butterfly and various things from origami paper, making hat from old newspaper, Drawing-painting by choice And in its context, write your experience in 5 to 10 sentences, teach to make a story and in continuation of this, make a different story

from the children, interesting games of language and mathematics like - number game, number jump, eat aloo fan, word trap soil. Making, coloring and labeling toys. The camps in other schools is being organised voluntarily with the help of the members of Azim Premji Foundation present in all the four blocks.

Officers of the district and development block level education department, DIET lecturers, etc. are participating in this along with the package coordinator and are also appreciating the work of the teachers and children by participating in these summer camps.

Along with encouraging them, we are appealing to the teachers to voluntarily

participate in this event in maximum numbers. District's DMC Narendra Verma and development block level education department officers, DIET lecturers and package coordinators are also engaged in making this scheme successful.

They are planning to enroll interested schools or teachers from their cluster and involve them in the day-to-day activities of the summer camp. For which the Azim Premji Foundation is engaged in the preparation with academically nominated teachers in the process. Similarly by the end of this month more and more schools are planning to join the process.

Stone laying ceremony held in Gram Damkadih

District Panchayat President lauds CM's efforts in Education Sector

Central Chronicle News

Magarlod, May 08: Stone laying ceremony was organised in Gram Damkadih, graced by the presence of District Panchayat President Tarini Neelam Chandrakar as Chief Guest. Amidst the event's festivities, Chandrakar took a moment to laud Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's efforts in revolutionizing the education sector in the state.

Thanks to the Baghel administration's tireless work, schools have been connected with education, and Hindi-medium schools have transitioned into English-medium institutions. This has allowed children from economically weaker sections to study in English-medium schools,



thereby leveling the playing field. Furthermore, the government's record-breaking efforts to replace dilapidated school buildings with new ones has gone a long way in enhancing the quality of education.

Chandrakar expressed his satisfaction that the long-standing demand for improved education in

rural areas had been met after five years. The fruits of the government's labours are evident in the success of children from rural areas who have excelled in the field of education. The district panchayat president also emphasized the importance of unity and cooperation in furthering village development.

In a show of support, Chandrakar announced a donation of 10 lakhs for the construction of a shed. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Sarpanch Kaushalya Ashutosh Verma, Toshan Kisan, Chandrasah Sahu, Devbala Sahu, Bhola Sahu, Motim Nishad, and Rupa Yadav Cheman Dhuvra.

Lottery process for admission in Swami Atmanand School on May 10

Bemetara, May 08: Swami Atmanand Shivalal Rathi English Medium School and Swami Atmanand English Medium School Singhori, Bemetara will be given admission in various classes through lottery process on May 10. at 10.00 am. The process of lottery for admission in various classes for the session 2023-24 will be organized in front of public representatives and eye-lids. In which all the applicants and parents can attend the concerned school.

Accused in molestation case of a minor nabbed



Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, May 08: In a rape case with a minor on May 6, the police nabbed the accused Hemchand alias Lal Navrang S/o Bhulau Navrang (24) R/o Minimata Chowk, Kawardha and sent him on judicial remand after producing him in the Court.

A minor girl was molested by a youth when she left for morning toilet taking a torch in her hand to nearby farm and all other family members were sleeping at that time. When she reached farm, here

Hemchand alias Lal Navrang forcefully closed her mouth and molested her and threatened her with life if she disclosed it to other. On coming back she did not disclose about the event, but on Monday she developed severe pains in her abdomen area and disclosed entire details to her mother. On this a case under section 376, 376 (3) and 506 of IPC and 4 of POCSO Act was filed against the accused. The Kabirdhaam Police investigated into the matter and was able to nab the accused involved and sent him to jail.

Oppn unable to digest CM's popularity: Dwarkadheesh

Central Chronicle News

Bagbahra, May 08: The Opposition party in the state is unable to digest massive popularity of the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and adopting low-level strategies is trying to play politics with CM and which is sheer violation of decorum for his post and position, says Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Dwarkadheesh Yadav in context of Bajrang Dal issue.

Coming down heavily against the Opposition on the methods adopted, MLA Dwarkadheesh said that the party encasing in the name of Lord Shri Ram is the present-day op-

position in the state and even after 15 yrs of rule, they never thought about the Lord Shri Ram's 'Nanihal'. Kaushalya Dhaam and for Ramayan. Neither they got Ramayan performed in any part of the state, nor took any efforts for Lord Shri Ram's 'Nanihal'.

Whereas the Chief Minister of State Bhupesh Baghel in last four years got a world-level identity to Shri Ram's 'Nanihal' i.e. Kaushalya Dhaam Chandrakhuri and oragnised Ramayan right from Panchayat to state-level and it was done regularly every year. In this regard the erstwhile BJP government never thought about



Dwarkadheesh Yadav

it.

Yadav informed that after the 2018 VS poll, the people of the state got a CM who is the son of a farmer and understands the pain of farmer and the decisions he took in favour of the farmers would be

written in golden letter in the field of agriculture in entire country.

This type of our leader and head of State CM Baghel has now become public leader and to which the opposition party is unable to digest and are trying to play politics in the name of Bajrang Dal.

Yadav charged that the Opposition party using a minor boy as member of Bajrang Dal and the very act of asking him to scold most popular leader CM Baghel is strongly condemnable.

The farmers in the state remain united in the name of our party leader and CM Bhupesh Baghel and he is also symbol of

Chhattisgarhia prestige, because it was he (CM) who got popularity to state's art, culture, cuisine and festival massive promotion at national and world-level and this could not be done by any leader till date.

It is amidst all these issues that CM Baghel is the centre of attraction and respect in entire state and to get his scolded is something like scolding to prestige and respect of Chhattisgarhi people. For this the party would take necessary action and would also lodge complaint of RSS Chief, BJP State Chief and Bajrang Dal chief with Child Protection Commission.

SXHS Mungeli celebrates the birthday of MD Dr Patnaik

Distributes fruits among the patients



School Principal Subhendu Mandal distributing fruit to the patient.



Dr Patnaik

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, May 08: Birthdays are important milestones for children of all ages. St. Xavier's high school Mungeli celebrated the birthday of M.D of St.

Xavier's Chain of school G.S Patnaik. All over India the organization holds 67 branches and every year on this day all the branches celebrates his birthday. On this auspicious day St. Xavier's, Mungeli along with with

Principal visited the District Hospital Mungeli and distributed food among the patient. The Principal met with Dr. M.K Rai (civil surgeon), Dr. Sandeep Patil (RMO), Mrs Shila Kharkur (Metran) and Mrs Divya Masih (Nursing Sister) and appreciated the behavior and treatment of them.

Ward residents submit memo to Nawaz Khan

Demanding opening of closed under-bridge

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, May 08: The public representatives and ward residents are regularly making request to the railway administration to start the railway under-bridge on Parmar Bada- Kalkapara main road, which is lying closed for last 3 yrs.

After submission of the memorandum to MP Santosh Pandey to open the life-line for the residents of the city and general public, the ward corporators and residents, they submitted a memorandum in the name of CM Bhupesh Baghel to Congress leader and District Co-op Bank President Nawaz Khan.

On this occasion Nawaz assured all the ward residents that he would put forth the demand of opening of under-bridge and views of the residents before CM Baghel very



strongly.

On the other hand, LS MP's rep Parwider Singh Monti assured that the on behalf of LS MP Santosh Pandey, in line with the Rajnandgaon city, efforts will be made to get sanction for mini under-bridge for the close under-bridge for residents of Dongargarh.

Set aside this, under

leadership of local MLA Bhuneswar Baghel and in the presence of Congress party workers, memorandum was submitted to railway administration in this regard many times earlier.

Just few days back only, a massive demonstration was staged by ex-MLA and Nawaz Khan and party workers and in this,

it was assured on part of the railway administration that report for opening of railway under-bridge will be sent to the Railway Administration.

Memo submitted during 'Buddha Poonnima' prog.:

It was at the stone laying ceremony on occasion of Buddha Poonnima, the DCCB President Nawaz Khan was submitted memorandum by Palika President Sudesh Meshram and affected corporators and ward residents.

Among those who signed on the memorandum included Palika V-P Uma Mahesh Verma, leader of Oppn Amit Chabda, ward corporator Alka Jayash Sahare, Anita Lokesh Indurkar, Kajal Dongre, Kusum Markam, Roopchand Khobragade, Virendra Soni, Pawan Laro Kar, Vinod Bopche and other ward residents.

Salik Ram Gedam appointed village head



Salik-RamGedam

Dongargarh, May 08: A senior citizen of Ayurveda Gram Belgaon Salik Ram Gedam has been appointed as Gam Pramukh (Head of Village) by all the villagers with mutual consent. As per the traditions for last many years, it is in a meeting that Head of the village is selected. In celebration of festivals like Dussehra, Diwali, Mandai and solving of small and minor problems of the village, the head of the village plays an important role. As working committee member Deva Lahe, Phulchand Kanwar were appointed as Vice-President and Shailendra Agrawal as Treasurer; Khem Das Lahare as Secretary. The others as members are- Giridhari Kanwar, Ram Singh Kanwar and others.

Target to free Ch'garh from Corneal Opacity by 2025

Over 1.35 lakh cataract operations performed in state in a year

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 08: Director of Health Services Bhim Singh reviewed National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI) with senior departmental officers at a meeting here today.

He praised the State Nodal Officer and the Nodal Officers of all the districts for successful service delivery and 100% achievement in the field of eye services in the state and encouraged them to do more operations in the current financial year 2023-24.

Singh informed in the meeting that a target had

been set to make Chhattisgarh a corneal opacity free state by the year 2025. Director of National Health Mission Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan, Director of Epidemic Control and State Nodal Officer of Blindness Control Programme Dr Subhash Mishra and senior officials of Health Department and expert doctors from different districts also participated in the meeting.

State Programme Officer informed about the action plan for the current financial year and the requirement of resources. Instructions were given to increase the quality of eye services.

Health department officials informed in the meeting that in the last financial year, a total of one lakh 35 thousand 113 cataract operations were performed in the state.

This number is the highest among the cataract operations performed in the state so far in a year, they said.

The actual target of cataract operation was kept at 1 lakh 7 thousand 800 by the Government of India and 1 lakh 25 thousand at the state level. With this, 32 thousand 603 operations for other eye diseases have also been done.

Raipur district stood first, Surajpur second and Balodabazar-Bhatapara third in maximum number of cataract operations against the expected target. All these three districts were honoured for this achievement. District hospitals were also honoured with mementoes for carrying out highest number of cataract operations. Among them Dhamtari stood first, Raigarh second and Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara third.

Contractors doing below-standard work under JJM



Villagers charged that many works left incomplete, including road repair work

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, May 08: The pace of work under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is very slow and even the quality is below standard. It is taking government scheme lightly, the contractors are openly violating the norms and involved in low-quality works.

In the name of laying of pipeline, the digging for road has been done and

left incomplete and this posing lots of problems to the villagers.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the central government's prestigious scheme that of 24 hours water supply under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has landed in large scale corruption.

In the works being carried out in majority of the village Panchayats out of total 126 Gram Panchayat, the contractors are using below-quality materials and are not adhering to the standards laid for such work as per the rule book.

Villagers charged that the Engineer, Sub-engineer are not carrying out

supervision properly and showing carelessness in implementation of work and passing-on the benefits to the contractor. In villages of Mungeli Janpad viz. Gram Setganga, Nagopahari, Semarkona, Tarvarpur and other dozen villages, the contractors involved in JJM are not carrying out work as per quality standards laid.

The finishing work of the platform in front of many persons house is incomplete and in some houses two connections have been given. On the other hand, there are tap connection, where platform has been constructed, but the pipeline has not being laid. On the other hand, villagers charged that digging of the good quality and smooth road in the entire village has been done.

In order to check the water supply in the pipes, for last many months the digging of road has been left uncovered and due to which the villagers are made to face lots of problems. The villagers have urged the senior officers to get the road repaired before arrival of monsoon.



Pole erected for last 40 yrs; not being replaced by the deptt
Posing threat to nearby residents and demand its replacement soon

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, May 08: An electrical pole existing for last 40 yrs ahead of Jaistambh Chowk in Satnami Mohalla in Gram Choubeybandha, is now fully corroded and it is dangerous to those passing and living nearby and can cause major incident

some day. The people of the locality are living in state of fear.

Ward Panch's rep Santosh Chelak has given application to Electricity Deptt Rajim two years back, but still no action has been taken. On the other hand, Sarpanch Dulichand Aande too has urged the department to change the pole in view of its present condition and has got only assurances in return.

So to start novel protest, the residents of the ward stood near the delicate and corroded pole on Sunday morning and made a request to the electricity deptt officers to change it at the earliest. With pole bend-

ing on one side, the wires are literally touching the ground.

There are pucca houses built near the pole and in case of any incident, the live wires may touch the house and can harm anyone. The need at the moment is to replace the old pole and re-align the wires. In front of this pole, a person is getting a house constructed and he is always in state of fear over the likely outcome if the pole bends down.

Be it young children, women, youth and residents of the ward, all have urged to replace the old pole and has urged MLA Amitesh Shukla to take up



the same with the electricity department.

Danger spread due to lackadaisical attitude of officers...

The residents of the locality informed that last when the electricity came the village in 1982, at that time this pole was erected and placed. Since then the same pole is still existing and it is now in the state of bending and it has become corroded and has lots of

cracks in it.

Anytime any major incident can take place and it cannot be denied. It is worthwhile to mention here that the locality has good population and the width of the lane is narrow and one has to pass with lot of precautions in this locality.

Even if one make a slight mistake, he or she can land in trouble. It is due to lackadaisical attitude on part of the officials that this pole has not being replaced.

Even after application, as to why the pole has not being changed is still surprising and on this people are saying, whether he department is waiting for some major accident to take place.

What officer says

On the other hand, In-charge officer Electricity Board Mahadev Dewangan said that he got the condition of the pole checked from a lineman and mason and it has been okayed. The wires have turned into loop and it will be re-aligned, so that nobody is under any threat.

Illegal excavation, transportation of 'murrum' going on

Central Chronicle News

Berla, May 08: The work of illegal excavation of murrum in Berla block is going on unabated and it is not possible without the protection of the offices from Mineral Department of the district. It is working in nexus with the officers of the department that this illegal excavation is being carried out, with no action against the accused till date. In this illegal excavation and transportation work, the hand of the local public reps, departmental officers cannot be denied.



As per information in this regard, M/S Upadhyay Construction is carrying out digging and excavation in the pond in Gram Khisora in Berla

block. On asking about the permission for excavation, they show the Transportation Pass issued by the Mineral Department. In this permis-

sion, the Mineral Department has granted permission for Transportation and its permission is valid from March 24 to June 23, 2023. The mining company is carrying out excavation from a day-to-day use pond using a chain-mounted machine and for transportation, 7-8 Hywa trucks have been deployed, by which the Murrum is being transported from Khisora to Maniyari, Saldah road construction work.

Complete freedom for illegal excavation, loading in the excavation work going on

in the pond of Gram Khisora, it is clearly visible that without the involvement of the local public reps and department officials, this excavation cannot be done. The excavation work in the pond is going on and set aside this full permission is granted for over-loading of Hywas and which is causing damage to the roads.

What Official says

What permission Mining people have given, would be known only after checking the documents and I will get it checked. Vyake Urvasha-SDM-Berla.

Regional Office - Bilaspur, 1st floor, TR Complex, Opposite SBI, RAJKISHORE NAGAR BRANCH, LINGIYADIH, BILASPUR - 495006 (C.G.), PH: 07752-310203

Public Notice For kind attention of our customers

In our endeavor to consolidate and strengthen our services for our customer, following Branch is to be shifted to its new premises as per detail given below.

Sr. No.	Name and address of old Branch premises	Name and address of New Branch Premises	Date of Shifting
01	Column No. - 1 Branch - Mungeli Road Branch Narmada Nagar, Mangla Chowk, Mungeli Road, Bilaspur (C.G.) - 495001	Column No. - 2 Column No. - 3 Branch - Mungeli Road Branch Plot No. H228 & H229, Shiksha Coaching Building, Near Bachpan School, Mangla Chowk, Mungeli Road, Bilaspur, CG-495001	Column No. - 4 12.06.2023

We further like to inform our customer / Stake holders to avail services from the new address of Branch (mentioned in column No. 3) instead of existing address of branch (mentioned in column No. 2) after the date of shifting mentioned in column No. 4 respectively in appended table.

We sincerely regret the inconvenience cause to you in this regard and assure you best of our services.
Date: 08.05.2023, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.)
Deputy Regional Head

BRIEF



Farmers at Jantar Mantar in support of wrestlers protesting against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, in New Delhi, Monday.

Bus ride

Bengaluru: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday interacted with college students and working women here ahead of the May 10 Assembly elections in Karnataka. The former party chief stopped for a cup of coffee at a 'Cafe Coffee Day' outlet on Cunningham Road.

Shot dead

Noida: A man was shot dead in Birampur village here on Sunday and police suspect that his father and brother were involved in the killing, officials said. The victim's maternal uncle has lodged a complaint against three unknown people and a case has been registered, they said. The deceased has been identified as Kapil.

Watery grave

Sonbhadra: An 11-year-old girl and her cousin brother drowned while bathing in a pond in a village here, police said on Monday. The incident took place in Chapki village under the Babhni police station area on Sunday evening, they said.

Road crash

Barabanki: A speeding truck rammed into a van in Dewa area here, leaving five people returning from a marriage function dead and three others injured, police said on Monday.

Spl flight

Patna: The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar will bring back all students of the state stranded in violence-hit Manipur, an official said here on Monday.

10-yr RI

Thane: A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced a 35-year-old man to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting and torturing his wife's minor sister. Special Judge V V Virkar, hearing cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in the order passed on May 6 also imposed a fine of Rs 8,000 on the accused.

Low pressure

Bhubaneswar: A low-pressure area was formed on Monday over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining South Andaman Sea, the India Meteorological Department. This was confirmed by IMD Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra.

Budaun

Ten children were hospitalised following complaints of vomiting and stomach ache after consuming food at a wedding function here, a health department official said on Monday.

Kerala govt orders judicial probe

● Into tourist boat tragedy

Malappuram, May 08 (PTI)

A day after the tragic tourist boat accident that claimed the lives of 22 people including women and children, Kerala government on Monday announced a judicial probe into the matter and decided to give a compensation of Rs ten lakh to the kin of the deceased.

Addressing the media here after visiting

Tirurangudi Taluk hospital and the Kunnummel family which lost 12 members, Vijayan termed the accident as a "tragedy" and said the government will bear the expense of those under treatment.

Vijayan announced the probe and the compensation after an all-party meeting held at Tanur in which senior opposition leaders also participated.

"The all-party meeting has decided for a judicial inquiry in this matter. The probe will cover the technical issues related to the

boat's safety among other matters. A judicial commission comprising technical experts will be formed. A Special investigation team of the Kerala police will also probe the matter," Vijayan told the media.

He also announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to the family of the deceased.

The CM said the government had earlier set up a safety protocol for tourist boats and will examine whether they were followed or not in connection

with the incident.

He also informed that two out of the ten admitted in the hospital have been discharged and eight persons were under treatment.

The boat had capsized near an estuary close to the Thoovaltheeram beach in the Tanur area around 7:30 pm on Sunday.

The state government has announced a day of mourning on Monday and cancelled all official events as a mark of respect to those who lost their lives in the accident.

FAKE VIDEOS ON LABOURERS

SC refuses to entertain plea of jailed Bihar YouTuber

● Against invoking of NSA

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI)

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea of jailed Bihar YouTuber Manish Kashyap against whom the stringent National Security Act (NSA) has been invoked for allegedly circulating fake videos of migrant labourers being attacked in Tamil Nadu.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, however, granted Kashyap the liberty to challenge the invocation of the NSA at an appropriate judicial forum.

It also rejected the plea for clubbing all 19 FIRs against him and their transfer to Bihar. "We are

not inclined to entertain the plea," the bench said while rejecting the vehement submissions of senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Kashyap who is presently lodged in Madurai jail of Tamil Nadu. Earlier, the top court had granted time to the Tamil Nadu government, represented by lawyer Anand Tiwari, to respond to the amended plea of Kashyap against whom the stringent NSA was invoked for allegedly circulating the videos. The arrested YouTuber faces several FIRs and out of them, three have been lodged in Bihar. The top court had on April 11 issued notice to the Centre, the Tamil Nadu and Bihar governments on Kashyap's plea seeking clubbing of the FIRs lodged against him and their transfer to his native state.

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI)

The Delhi High Court on Monday questioned jail authorities over recovery of four knives from Tihar premises where gangster Tillu Tajpuriya was stabbed to death allegedly by inmates belonging to a rival gang.

The court asked why no preventive or remedial action was taken by authorities when the incident took place as the entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed in jail premises.

Justice Jasmeet Singh issued notice to the Director General of Prisons (Delhi), Delhi government and Commissioner of Police on a petition filed by Tajpuriya's father and brother seeking an investigation by the CBI into the "brutal murder" inside Tihar Jail premises on May 2.

HC asks jail authorities why no remedial action taken

The petitioners, represented through senior advocate Maninder Singh, said they are DTC drivers and sought adequate secu-

TILLU TAJPURIYA MURDER

urity for themselves.

The high court directed the Delhi Police to ensure safety and security of both the petitioners, who are father and brother of the deceased, and listed the matter for further hearing on May 25.

It directed the Tihar jail authorities to file an affidavit as to how four knives were found in prison and asked the jail superintendent concerned to be present in the court on the next date of hearing.

A CCTV video from Tihar Jail which emerged on social media purportedly showed Tajpuriya

being attacked in front of security personnel and also when they were carrying him away after he was stabbed.

Tajpuriya was assaulted with improvised weapons allegedly by four members of the Gogi gang inside the high-security prison on May 2.

The accused attacked him for a second time when he was being carried away by security personnel, according to the footage.

In the footage, it appears that the security personnel are mute spectators while the assailants kept repeatedly attacking the gangster.

According to jail officials, seven personnel of the Tamil Nadu Special Police (TNSP), who were on duty at a Tihar prison cell when Tajpuriya was stabbed to death, have been suspended following the incident.

FREE MEDICINE DISTRIBUTION



Health workers give free medicine to people from violence-hit areas of Manipur at a relief camp setup by the Assam Government, in Cachar district of Assam, Sunday.

Pharmacist suspended for clicking pictures

● With President's chopper

Bhubaneswar, May 08 (PTI)

Even as the row over the power disruption at President Droupadi Murmu's programme in Odisha's Baripada continues, the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) of Mayurbhanj has suspended a pharmacist for taking photos with the President's helicopter, an official said on Monday. CDMO Dr Rupabhanu Mishra suspended pharmacist Jashobanta Behera for clicking pictures with the President's chopper and posting them on Facebook, the official said.

Behera was deployed in a medical team of the President during her visit to Similipal National Park on May 5. "I posted a few photos on my Facebook account only for the sake of memory and fun. I had no other intention of doing so. However, I took verbal permis-

sion from some air force personnel engaged to guard the helicopter. As such a great personality like the President Madam had come to the district and I was on duty at the helipad, I wanted to keep the photos as a memory," the pharmacist said. He claimed that he has deleted the pictures from his Facebook account. The incident had taken place on May 5 when the President had gone to Similipal National Park in the district on her second day of the tour. The photographs were taken on mobile phones near the helicopter. Meanwhile, the issue relating to power disruption at the President's programme at the Maharaja Sriramachandra Bhanja Deo University convocation has taken a political row with the opposition BJP demanding an apology from the chief minister for keeping the first citizen of the country in darkness for about nine minutes while she was delivering the convocation address.

INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacts with students at a bus stop, in Bengaluru, Monday.

SIBAL TO PM FOR 'SHAHI PARIVAR' DIG

Nation saw Indira, Rajiv 'bleed' for India

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI)

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his "shahi parivar" dig at the Congress and cited the example of former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, asserting that the nation saw them "bleed" for India.

In a tweet, Sibal said, "PM said: Congress Shahi Parivar wants Karnataka to 'secede' from India. But Modiji: The nation saw them 'bleed' for India. Indira Gandhi, Rajiv

Gandhi." "Is the NCERT going to efface those facts from textbooks?" he said.

Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were both assassinated in 1984 and 1991 respectively.

Sibal, who was a Union minister during UPA 1 and 2, quit the Congress May last year and was elected to the Rajya Sabha as an Independent member with the Samajwadi Party's support.

He recently floated a non-electoral platform 'Insaaf' aimed at fighting injustice.

HEARTBREAKING STORY

Sunday boat ride turns into tragedy for two families

Malappuram (Kerala), May 08 (PTI)

Shahul Hameed, an auto driver, rushed to the Thoovaltheeram beach in his three-wheeler on Sunday night on hearing of the tragic boat accident and as rescuers piled into his vehicle some children fished out from the water, he never realised they were his sister's kids.

His sister and her three children were among 12 members of his family, hailing from Parappanangadi here, who died in the tragedy that claimed 22 lives, majority of whom were women and children.

"I rushed to the beach in my auto on hearing of the accident. When I reached there, rescuers put some children taken out of the water in my auto and I rushed them to the nearest hospital.

"It is on reaching the hospital that I realised that they were my sister's children. My sister and her three children died in the accident," he told a news channel.

Five others from his sister's family and three rela-

tives also died in the tragedy which brings to the fore several violations of the rules governing boat rides by the owner of the vessel and those who were operating it.

A similar heartbreaking story came from Chettipadi village here where four members of a family, a mother and her three children, died in the accident.

Two others of the family are reportedly hospitalised in a critical condition.

Being a Sunday and also school vacation season, many families like that of Hameed and the one from Chettipadi had gone to the Thoovaltheeram for the boat ride — the closest amusement spot from their homes.

While it turned into a distressing incident for those two families and many others, some escaped with their lives after deciding not to board the boat at the last moment.

Two brothers, Isaac and Ibrahim, from Kondotty here, who had gone to the area with their families for a good time on a week-



Relatives react after a boat capsized near Thoovaltheeram beach killing at least 22 people, in Malappuram district, Monday.

end holiday and it was a difference of opinion among them — over how safe the boat ride would be — that resulted in them avoiding the same fate of the 22 who died in the accident.

The brothers told a news channel that they were there only for the children to enjoy at the amusement park, but someone pointed out that there were boat rides also which the adults could enjoy.

"However, there was a difference of opinion

among us about its safety and therefore, we decided to avoid it. We went back to the area where the children can play and while there we heard a boat had overturned in the river.

"Later when people were brought ashore in smaller boats did we realise it was the same vessel that we were supposed to board that had sank," they said.

They also said that the boat was "overcrowded" and "packed beyond capacity" and that the per-

son operating it was exhorting more people to board it by saying it was the last trip.

While it did turn out to be the last trip for many, Shamsudeen and his family group of eight too managed to avoid the tragedy.

Shamsudeen told a TV channel over the phone that when the boat in question was coming back for its last trip, he saw that the boat was tilting to one side and at that moment he decided to cancel the four tickets he had brought.

"I pointed out the problem to the person operating the boat and he said there was nothing to worry about. He also said that there was no need for taking a ticket for the children. There were five children in our group.

"But I decided not to board the boat anyway," he said.

Local residents of the area also told news channels that the boat was packed beyond its capacity of 20 persons and that its operators did not heed warning of onlookers that the vessel was tilting to one side.

"It was a tragedy which was invited. It could have been avoided if the boat was not overcrowded or if it had not been operated beyond the permissible time. When the boat reached a bend in the river, it overturned as it was already tilting to one side," local residents said.

Another resident said there was no government machinery or infrastructure, like lights and ropes, available in time for rescue operations and it was the local fishermen who came with these items for rescuing people from the water.

He also said that many more who could have escaped to safety could not do as the boat was covered with glass on all sides and there were only two doors out of which people could come out.

This is what one of the one of the survivors of the incident, Tanur-native Shefeeq, also said.

Shefeeq, who had gone on the boat ride with some friends, said as he was sitting atop the boat's roof, when it tilted he was thrown clear.

"Those who were inside the boat, however, could not escape as there were only two exit doors, all the windows were covered with glass and many of them being children, they could not hold their breath underwater for long," he told a news channel.

He said he and his friends tried to rescue as many people as possible and hauled them on to the boats which came to rescue the passengers.

"We gave CPR to many, most of them children who had swallowed water and were lifeless. It was so tragic. We did all we could. I suffered an injury to my leg and was taken with the survivors to the hospital," he said.

While 22 people died in the tragedy, 8 others were rescued and are undergoing treatment at various hospitals, district officials said.

The boat, which was carrying more than 30 people, capsized near an estuary close to the Thoovaltheeram beach in the Tanur area around 7:30 pm on Sunday, officials said.

BRIEF



Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales tries her hand at archery while taking part in the Big Help Out, during a visit to the 3rd Upton Scouts Hut in Slough, England, Monday.

Turkish rally

Istanbul: More than a dozen people have been detained over violence against an opposition election rally in Turkey's eastern city of Erzurum over the weekend, the country's justice minister said Monday. Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu of the main opposition Republican People's Party, CHP, was speaking atop a campaign bus Sunday afternoon when a large group of roughly 200 protesters began throwing rocks. Imamoglu was campaigning on behalf of CHP leader and presidential candidate Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the main opponent to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, days before the May 14 presidential and parliamentary elections.

Afghan dialogue

Islamabad: Afghanistan's interim Taliban regime Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has asked Pakistan and the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to sit together for a dialogue, amid a sharp increase in deadly attacks on Pakistani security forces in recent months. "It is requested that Pakistan and TTP sit together for dialogue," Muttaqi, who is here on a four-day visit to Pakistan to attend bilateral and trilateral dialogues, said while addressing an event in Islamabad on Monday, Geo News reported. Pakistan had held several rounds of talks - brokered by the Afghan Taliban - with the TTP but the negotiations failed last year after which the militant group resumed terror activities. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in TTP violence since the militant group formally ended the ceasefire on November 28.

Police deployment

Belgrade: Police on Monday deployed in schools throughout Serbia in an effort to restore a shaken sense of security following two mass shootings last week including one in a primary school that left 17 people dead and 21 wounded, many of them children. The shootings last Wednesday in Belgrade and a day later in a rural area south of the capital left the nation stunned. The shootings also triggered calls to encourage tolerance and rid society of widespread hate speech and a gun culture stemming from the 1990s wars. Opposition parties urged citizens to come to a march against violence in central Belgrade later on Monday.

Ukraine shoots down 35 drones over Kyiv as attacks kill 4

Kyiv, May 8 (AP)

Ukraine air defences shot down 35 Iranian-made drones over Kyiv in Russia's latest nighttime assault, as attacks across Ukraine by the Kremlin's forces killed four civilians, officials said on Monday.

The bombardments came as Moscow enforced tight security on the eve of traditional Red Square commemorations marking the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II.

Russian media counted at least 21 Russian cities that cancelled military parades the staple of Victory Day celebrations across Russia on May 9 for the first time in years. Regional officials cited "security concerns" or vaguely referred to "the current situation."

Parades will go ahead in Russia's largest cities, Moscow and St.



Police inspect an apartment building damaged by a drone, that was shot down during a Russian overnight strike, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday.

Petersburg. But the use of drones has been banned in both cities ahead of Victory Day.

In St. Petersburg, which is often referred to as "northern Venice" for its network of rivers and canals, using jet skis in certain parts of the city

has also been prohibited until May 10.

In the Russian capital, car sharing services have been temporarily barred from the city centre drivers will not be able to start or finish rides there.

Five people in the capital were injured by falling

drone debris, according to Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv City Military Administration. Air raid alarms sounded for more than three hours during the night.

Drone wreckage struck a two-story apartment building in Kyiv's western Svyatoshynskiy district, while other debris struck a car parked nearby, setting it on fire, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said in a Telegram post.

Facing economic sanctions and limits on its supply chains due to its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russia has routinely turned to Iranian Shahed drones to bolster its firepower.

Russian shelling of 127 targets across northern, southern and eastern parts of Ukraine killed three civilians, the Ukrainian defense ministry said.

Nepal police arrest 10 Indians for illegally acquiring citizenship cards

Kathmandu, May 8 (PTD)

Ten Indian nationals, including three women, have been arrested here for allegedly acquiring Nepali citizenship cards illegally by producing fake documents, police said.

A Kathmandu Valley Crime Investigation Office team apprehended the Indian nationals, all hailing from Bihar, from various parts of Kathmandu on Saturday.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Ravindra Regmi said.

Of those arrested, seven were males, while three were females. The Kathmandu Valley Police Office revealed their identities at a press conference at its office on Sunday.

The Indian nationals were found to have obtained

the Nepali citizenship certificates on different dates from the district administration offices of Rupandehi, Bara and Parsa districts by producing fake documents, Regmi said.

Police said those arrested have lived in Nepal for a long time, some since as far back as 2006. The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

The arrests took place after a three-month-long investigation, and those apprehended were engaged in the business of making sweets and ran sweet shops in Nepal, MyRepublica newspaper quoted the police as saying. Nepali citizenship certificates, voter identity cards, Indian passports and Aadhar cards were also seized from those arrested, police said.

Iran hangs 2 in rare blasphemy case as executions surge

Dubai, May 8 (AP)

Iran hanged two men Monday convicted of blasphemy, authorities said, carrying out rare death sentences for the crime as executions surge across the Islamic Republic following months of unrest.

Iran remains one of the world's top executioners, having put to death at least 203 prisoners since the start of this year alone, according to the Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights. But carrying out executions for blasphemy remains rare, as previous cases saw the sentences reduced by authorities. The two men executed, Yousef Mehrad and Sadollah Fazeli Zare, died at Arak Prison in central Iran. They had been arrested

in May 2020, accused of being involved in a channel on the Telegram message app called "Critique of Superstition and Religion," according to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. Both men faced months of solitary confinement and could not contact their families, the commission said. The Mizan news agency of Iran's judiciary confirmed the executions, describing the two men as having insulted Islam's Prophet Muhammad and promoted atheism. Mizan also accused them of burning a Quran, Islam's holy book, though it wasn't clear whether the men allegedly did that or such imagery was shared in the Telegram channel.

Indian-American man charged in US for wiring money to IS women in Syria

Washington, May 8 (PTD)

A 33-year-old Indian-American man has been charged in the US state of Virginia for transferring thousands of dollars to Islamic State women, hoping to smuggle them out of a Syrian refugee camp, a media report said.

Mohammed Azharuddin Chhipa used social media to raise funds for IS women in the al-Hol refugee camp in Syria and voiced his support for violent jihad online, The Washington Post newspaper reported on Friday.

The report, citing an FBI filing, said that in 2019

Chhipa began using social media to raise funds for "sisters" in the al-Hol refugee camp in Syria, which "is assessed to be a stronghold of ISIS ideology," claiming the money was for "shelter," the FBI said. The FBI said that "thousands of videos, pictures, essays, books, notes, and search histories about extremist ideology, jihad, ISIS, and violent propaganda on multiple devices" turned up during a search of Chhipa's home in 2019. Chhipa, being held in jail after making an initial appearance in a Virginia court on Friday, faces up to 20 years in

prison if convicted for providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organisation, the report said.

According to Chhipa's financial records obtained by the federal agency from 2019 to 2022, he purchased USD 172,000 in virtual currency and collected USD 15,000 in digital funds from others. More than USD 18,000 allegedly "went to wallets known to be used by ISIS women located in Syria," while the total funds Chhipa sent to smuggle IS women out of the camp could be much higher, the FBI said in a court filing.

Indian woman among nine killed in mass shooting incident in US

Houston, May 8 (PTD)

A 27-year-old Indian woman, who was working in the US as a project engineer, was among nine people killed when a gunman opened fire at a crowded mall in Dallas in Texas, authorities said on Monday.

Aishwarya Thatikonda, of McKinney, was shopping with a friend when they were shot by gunman Mauricio Garcia at the Allen Premium Outlets in Dallas, the New York Post newspaper reported.

The shooting erupted

EVACUATION DRIVE



Yemeni evacuees disembark the Saudi HMS Abha ship, traveling from Port Sudan, after docking at Jeddah port, Saudi Arabia.

First ChatGPT arrest in China over fake train crash news

Beijing, May 8 (PTD)

Chinese police have detained a man for allegedly generating fake news of a train crash and disseminating it online using artificial intelligence technology, in what was reported to be China's first arrest for misuse of ChatGPT.

Police in northwestern Gansu province said in a statement on Sunday that a suspect surnamed Hong had been detained for "using artificial intelligence technology to concoct false and untrue information".

The case first caught the attention of the cyber division of a county police bureau when they spotted a fake news article that claimed nine people had been killed in a local train accident on April 25, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Monday.

The cybersecurity officers in Kongtong county found the article simultaneously posted by more than 20 accounts on Baijiahao, a blog-style platform run by Chinese

search engine giant Baidu. The stories had received more than 15,000 clicks by the time it came to authorities' attention, it said.

The Gansu public security department said Hong was suspected of the crime of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", a charge that normally carries a maximum sentence of five years. But in cases that are deemed especially severe, offenders can be jailed for 10 years and given additional penalties, the Post reported.

This is the first time the public has been made aware of an arrest by Chinese authorities after Beijing's first provisions to regulate the use of "deepfake" technology officially took effect in January, it said.

The police said they traced the origins of the article to a company owned by the suspect Hong, which operated personal media platforms registered in Shenzhen in Guangdong province in southern China. Some 10 days later a police team

searched Hong's home and his computer and detained him.

The statement said Hong confessed to bypassing Baijiahao's duplication check function to publish on multiple accounts he had acquired. He input the elements of trending social stories in China from past years into ChatGPT to quickly produce different versions of the same fake story and uploaded them to his Baijiahao accounts, it said.

While ChatGPT is not directly available to Chinese IP addresses, Chinese users can still access its service if they have a reliable VPN connection.

China closely monitors its social media through firewalls, especially Sina Weibo, which has over 592 million users to ensure no critical content against the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC).



Emergency personnel respond to a fatal collision in Brownsville, Texas.

around 3:30 pm on Saturday as throngs of shoppers filled the outdoor mall. The shooting killed at least eight people before

Mauricio Garcia, a 33-year-old gunman, was shot dead by a police officer.

Aishwarya, daughter of a district judge in Ranga

Reddy district court in India, worked as a project engineer at Perfect General Contractors LLC.

A family representative confirmed to the WFAA television station that Thatikonda was also among the dead from the senseless gun violence.

Aishwarya had spoken to her family members before the incident on Saturday, and when they called her back after learning about the shooting they did not get any response, according to the judge's friend.

US to propose new rules for airline cancellations, delays

Washington, May 8 (AP)

The Biden administration is working on new regulations that would require airlines to compensate passengers and cover their meals and hotel rooms if they are stranded for reasons within the airline's control.

The White House said President Joe Biden and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg would announce the start of the rule-making process Monday. The rulemaking pledge continues a push by the Democratic administration to require airlines to improve customer service, and it comes just weeks before the start of the peak summer travel season. The aim of the rules would be, for the first time, to require airlines to pay compensation beyond a ticket refund and to cover expenses that con-

sumers incur, including re-booking on another flight, if the airline causes a cancellation or significant delay.

"When an airline causes a flight cancellation or delay, passengers should not foot the bill," Buttigieg said in a statement.

Currently, when an airline cancels a flight for any reason, consumers can demand a refund of the unused part of their ticket and certain extras that they might have paid to the airline, such as fees for checking a bag or getting a seat assignment.

Airlines often try to persuade consumers to accept a travel voucher instead of a refund. After widespread flight disruptions last summer, the Transportation Department posted an on-line dashboard that was designed to pressure the airlines to improve customer service.

SC resumes hearing pleas against act curtailing chief justice's powers

Islamabad, May 8 (PTD)

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday resumed the hearing on the pleas challenging the newly enacted law aimed at clipping the powers of the chief justice.

The bill, titled the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023, was aimed at depriving the office of the CJP of powers to take suo motu notice in an individual capacity.

The draft law was initially passed by both houses of Parliament in March and sent to President Arif Alvi for his assent. However, the president sent it back, saying that the proposed law travelled "beyond the competence of Parliament". The bill was subsequently adopted by a joint session of Parliament on April 10 albeit with some amend-

ments. The top court while hearing three petitions challenging the then-bill in an "anticipatory injunction" on April 13, barred the government from enforcing the draft law, saying the move would "prevent the imminent apprehended danger that is irreparable" as soon as it became an act of parliament.

An eight-member larger bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial is hearing the pleas on Monday.

At the outset of Monday's hearing, Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan informed the court that a plea had been filed for the formation of a full court to hear the case. "The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has also filed a petition for the formation of a full court," he said.



Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Excellence Award 2023

The Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communications) invites online nominations for **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Excellence Award 2023** from the citizens of India and institutions registered in India or created by the Central/State governments/Union Territories for their notable and exceptional contributions during the last 3 years in the areas of Telecom Innovations, Skilling, Services, Manufacturing, Applications in deploying telecom dependent sectoral solutions for different fields such as agriculture, commerce, health, education etc.

- Each Award shall carry a shawl, citation, plaque and a cash amount of rupees Two Lakh per awardee. Not more than five Awards shall be given in a year, subject to suitable candidate/s being selected by the Award Committee.
- The awardees will be reimbursed airfare towards travelling to/from his place to the station where the Award Function is held and will also be paid a lump sum amount towards incidental expenses.
- The nominations are being received online at National Award Portal, i.e., <https://www.awards.gov.in>. The last date of receipt of nominations is 15th June, 2023 up to 2359 hours.
- For more details, please refer the "Regulations" at the website <https://www.awards.gov.in>

For more information please contact:

Director (SD&E), DOT, Room No 216, 2nd floor, Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Old Minto Road, New Delhi- 110002, Mobile: 9868114666, email: dirdsde-dot@gov.in

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Patents and Innovation

Revolutionizing Make in India through Patent Driven Innovation

Central government's recent announcement of simplifying the Indian Patent Act and making it more research-friendly to foster product-oriented results is a praiseworthy step towards attaining self-reliance through indigenous innovation. However, the number of patents granted annually in India is meager in comparison to China's figures, with only 23,000 patents being granted in a year as opposed to China's 5 lakh patents. The low volume of patents in India is attributed to the absence of a culture of patent filing and taking it to its logical conclusion, according to Dr. Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Adviser at the Department of Science and Technology. He also highlighted that the duration of patent filing and granting in India is more than the global average of two years, which is three years. Innovation growth over the past 100 years has been driven by diverse technologies, with digital-related innovation having grown 172% faster than all patents in the past five years. Entrepreneurs, researchers, consumers, and policymakers have a dynamic interaction in deciding the direction of innovation, as stated in the "World Intellectual Property Report 2022: The Direction of Innovation" by WIPO, Geneva. A study conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development revealed that a one percent increase in trademark protection leads to a 3.8% increase in foreign direct investment (FDI). Similarly, a one percent improvement in patent protection and copyright protection results in a 2.8% and 6.8% increase in FDI, respectively. The National Education Policy 2020 plans to merge all research funding agencies into a single entity, the National Research Foundation (NRF), to catalyze basic research and high-quality innovation. The government's allocation of Rs 2,000 crore in the Union Budget for 2023-24 for the proposed NRF has generated hope for the creation of a robust ecosystem of research in the country. The outlay for NRF is proposed to be Rs 50,000 crore over five years, and the budget allocation for the current fiscal year must increase proportionately for the proposed umbrella body to become operational at the earliest. The fact that only 35% of patents in India are filed by domestic entities while 65% of patents are filed by foreign entities highlights the poor awareness of intellectual property rights in the country. The filing of IPRs by MSMEs is quite low in the country due to a lack of awareness about the significance of IPRs as a major business tool for furthering innovation and competition for generating more profits and revenue. The procedural issues in obtaining a patent application and the high investment in converting a patent into a final product and marketing it, also deter the MSME sector from focusing on IPRs. Simplifying the procedures of patent filing and granting and raising awareness about IPRs among MSMEs will be crucial to achieving the end objectives of the proposed NRF. Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat are not merely about boosting domestic production to reduce import dependency but also about developing indigenous technologies and securing patents for them instead of sourcing them from other countries. The industry needs to play a proactive role in supporting R&D activities for technology innovation and inventions by collaborating with academia and the government. Even after simplification of the procedures and building awareness of patent filing, the flow and quantum of funds for R&D activities need to increase exponentially for the desired volume of patent filings to be achieved. Collaboration among the central and state governments, industry, and academia is necessary to create an ecosystem that boosts research and patent filing. Nurturing organic ideas of inventions and innovation among Indian students and youth and building awareness of patent filing with a handholding approach is the way forward.

Grim Reality

Unemployment Remains Despite Economic Recovery

According to the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate in India has been on the rise for some years, even before the pandemic. While there has been some recovery in GDP since its trough, the unemployment rate remains high, presenting a grim picture. In 2017-18, the unemployment rate was 4.7%, which increased to 6.3% in 2018-19, and shot up to 9.1% during the pandemic-related lockdown in December 2020. Although it has come down slightly since then, it remains high at 7.8% in March 2023, the latest month for which CMIE data is available. Despite the GDP estimate for 2022-23 being 8.4% higher than in 2019-20 and 12.95% higher than in 2018-19, the unemployment rate is higher at 7.8% compared to 6.3% in 2018-19. This suggests that employment per unit of GDP has come down between 2018-19 and 2022-23, which could not have happened through significant technical changes in such a short period. Instead, it is likely due to the recovery occurring primarily in sectors that are not employment-intensive, while the petty and small-scale sectors that are employment-intensive have been left out. Additionally, significant layoffs have occurred in response to reduced demand or austerity measures. CMIE data provides direct evidence of layoffs, estimating a decline in the actual number of employees from 409.9 million in February to 407.6 million in March 2023. This is a grim scenario where not only are there no additional jobs being created to absorb additions to the workforce, but the existing number of jobs has declined in absolute terms. However, government spokespeople claim an improvement in the employment situation, presenting two arguments. Firstly, they suggest that CMIE data is untrustworthy and at variance with the official Periodic Labour Force Surveys, which suggest an improvement in the employment situation. Secondly, they point to the decline in demand for employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) as indicative of such an improvement. Both these arguments lack substance. The major difference between the PLFS and CMIE data on employment is that the former includes unpaid work in domestic economic activities within the term "employment," which the latter does not. However, when there are layoffs or reduced employment possibilities outside, PLFS will not show any increase in unemployment, as family members are forced to remain at home sharing whatever work is available within the household. The CMIE measure provides a reasonably accurate proxy for the overall unemployment scenario. Moreover, the decline in the MGNREGS demand is not a reliable indicator of the unemployment rate, as some people have returned to towns after being forced to live in villages due to the pandemic-related lockdown. Additionally, wage arrears on the MGNREGS have built up because of the central government's unwillingness to make timely wage payments, leading to reduced demand for work. It is ironic that while the union government delays wage payment to MGNREGS workers, leading to reduced demand for work, it claims an improvement in the employment situation. Despite the economic recovery in India, the grim unemployment scenario remains unchanged. It is essential to prioritize employment-intensive sectors and prevent further layoffs to address this issue.

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

TAGORE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

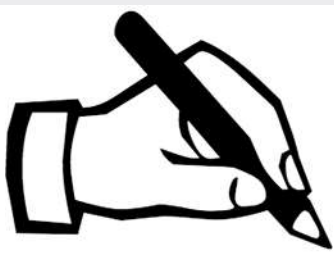


Students of Rabindra Bharati University garland a statue of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore on the eve of his birth anniversary, at his ancestral house 'Jorasanko Thakurbari', in Kolkata, Monday.

Cholas are back with a bang!



VASISHT.M.C



In the ancient and medieval history of India, we come across many dynasties, such as the Mauryas, Guptas, Sultanate, Mughals, etc. These are known as pan-Indian political powers that had control over various territories of the Indian subcontinent. There were also important political powers located in the southern region of the Vindhya mountains, such as the Cholas and the Vijayanagara. However, people from North India are not very familiar with the history of the Cholas or the Vijayanagara. The movies Ponniyin Selvan -1 and Ponniyin Selvan -2 provide an opportunity for people in India to re-learn the history of the mighty Cholas. Both movies are based on Murthy's popular novel with the same title, which is undoubtedly the most popular literary piece in Tamil. Two Chola dynasties existed in the history of Tamil Nadu/South India. They were the Cholas of the early historic period (BC 300-400 AD) and the later Cholas (850-1278 CE). There is no evidence to link the early Cholas with the later Cholas. The headquarters of the early Cholas were at Uraiyur, and the headquarters of the later Cholas were at Thanjavur, both in central Tamil Nadu and on the banks of the river Kaveri. The early Cholas are generally referred to as ancient Cholas, and the later Cholas as medieval Cholas. Medieval Cholas were actually the feudatories of the Pallavas. In around 850 AD, they defeated the Pallavas and captured power. During the period of medieval Cholas, a mighty Chola empire was created. Two Chola kings were largely responsible for the creation of a Chola empire that crossed the seas. These two Chola kings were Rajaraja Chola (985-1014 A.D) and Rajendra Chola (1014-1044 A.D). The Cholas were the first Indian political power to cross the seas and earn military victories in Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia, and the Maldives. Rajendra Chola crossed the Vindhya mountains and conquered the north Indian regions and adopted the title Gangaikonda Chola, meaning the one who conquered the Ganges. In order to commemorate his victories in North India, he built a new capital city known as Gangaikonda

Cholapuram. A new temple was also constructed at his capital city in the line of Brihadishvara temple at Thanjavur.

The movies PS-1 and PS-2 are set in the background of later Cholas, in fact in the background of Chola history from 955 CE to 985 CE, the most crucial and complicated phase of medieval Chola history, the period from Parantaka Chola I to the accession of the throne by Rajaraja Chola I in 985 AD.

In 955 CE, Parantaka Chola I died, and his second son, Gandaradhitya Chola, came to power. But his reign lasted for a short period. After Gandaradhitya Chola, the next legal heir to the Chola kingdom was his son Uttama Chola. At that time, Uttama Chola was a minor, and the throne went to Ariyanga Chola, the brother of Gandaradhitya Chola. After the death of Ariyanga Chola (958 AD), his son Parantaka Chola II, also known as Sundara Chola, came to power in 958 AD. The movie PS-1 and PS-2 are set in the background of this confused period of Chola history.

The period of the Cholas, one of the most powerful dynasties in South India, is the subject of two movies, PS-1 and PS-2, based on the historical novel "Ponniyin Selvan" by Kalki Krishnamurthy. The movies are set during the last days of Sundara Chola, and focus on the struggle for power between various contenders, including Veera Pandya, the defeated Pandya king; Uttama Chola, Sundara Chola's ambitious custodian of the Chola

treasury and commander of Thanjavur fort; and the chiefs of the Chola kingdom. The main characters are Adithya Karikalalan, the elder son of Sundara Chola; Kundavai, Sundara Chola's daughter; Arulmozhi Varman (Ponniyin Selvan), the younger son of Sundara Chola who later became known as Raja Raja Chola; and Vanthiyathevan, commander of the Chola army.

In 969 A.D, Aditya Karikalala Chola died, leaving the throne to his brother Ponniyin Selvan. However, Ponniyin Selvan abandoned the throne, and it passed to Uttama Chola, also known as Madhurantakan. While the movies focus on male characters, they also have powerful women characters in the form of Nandhini and Kundavai, showing that women played a significant role in the power struggle.

The Chola period was also marked by the presence of Vaishnava saints known as Alvars and Shaiva saints known as Nayanars. The movies feature a character of an Alvar saint who even involved in political issues. Additionally, the movies highlight the historic ties between the Cholas and Sri Lanka.

Overall, the movies highlight the power struggle that existed in the Chola kingdom. Some of the characters are fictitious, but both movies successfully highlight the political and military history of the Cholas. Thus, these movies strengthen the concept of history for national integration. The Cholas are back with a bang, reminding us of their legacy and impact on South Indian history.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brute Dictatorship

China's political situation under the leadership of Xi Jinping is concerning. For far too long, China has been ruled by a brute dictatorship that suppresses free speech and dissent. Unfortunately, Xi Jinping's recent efforts to strengthen his "permanent, life-time presidency" are a clear indication of his intentions to maintain absolute, unchallenged power. Dictatorship is not the solution for efficient government, as former US President Harry Truman once opined. In fact, it is the exact opposite of democracy, which allows for a fair and transparent process where the voices of the people are heard. It is high time for China to rethink its political system and embrace democracy, where the voices of all citizens are heard and respected.

Srikumar Nair, Kannur, Kerala

Police Brutality

Brutal behaviour of the Delhi police towards the wrestlers who were protesting against sexual harassment are concerning. The police not only denied them the basic right to shelter from the rain but also allegedly abused them and physically assaulted some of them, including wrestler Bajrang Punia's brother-in-law. It is appalling to see the very people who are meant to uphold the law and protect citizens resort to such violent tactics. The fact that there were no women constables present during the incident raises serious concerns about the Delhi police's commitment to gender equality and safety. Given their behaviour, it is hard to believe that the Delhi police will conduct a fair inquiry into the sexual harassment case. The authorities must take immediate action against the police officers responsible for this brutal behaviour and ensure that justice is served.

Krishna Kumar Menon, Kollam, Kerala

Centre's Overbearing Attitude

I write to express my concerns over the recent decision by the Centre to grant Sanjay Kumar Mishra an extension for the third time as ED chief. This decision is a clear indication of the autocratic attitude of the Centre, which is unfortunately becoming increasingly common. It is worth noting that no one is indispensable, and the country has made significant progress since the death of Jawaharlal Nehru. The Centre's stubborn stance is a vulgar display of its majority in Parliament, especially in the absence of a strong Opposition. I also wonder why Mishra himself did not refuse an extension to show respect for the apex court's order. Such actions would have gone a long way in promoting accountability and democratic principles. I urge the Centre to reconsider its decision and prioritize the greater good of the country over individual interests.

MK Nair Raipur

The Path to Sustainable Growth: India's Revival of Tourism Industry and Future Prospects



Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

India's tourism industry is on the path to recovery after being hit hard by the pandemic. The provisional estimates by the government suggest that there has been a 107% increase in foreign exchange earnings from tourism, from ₹65,070 crore in 2021 to ₹1,34,543 crore in 2022. The country has also witnessed a significant increase in foreign tourist arrivals during 2022, with 6.19 million tourists visiting as compared to 1.52 million in 2021.

The Indian government has been supporting the development of tourism-related infrastructure and facilities across the country through various schemes, such as Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD, and Assistance to Central Agencies. Additionally, a 24x7 multilingual tourist info-helpline has been set up to provide support services to tourists in distress.

The Indian tourism industry is moving towards sustainable tourism practices, with the government and private sector entities taking measures to promote responsible tourism that focuses on preserving people, nature, and culture. India is expected to contribute \$250 billion to the global economy through tourism by 2030, creating 137 million jobs and earning \$56 billion in foreign exchange. The travel and tourism sector in India is predicted to create 78 jobs per million rupees of investment, which is higher than the manufacturing sector's job creation rate.

The industry is expected to grow to \$125 billion by FY27, providing around 53 million

jobs by 2029. Sustainable tourism development will involve promoting niche tourism products such as adventure, medical, wellness, golf, polo, cruise, MICE, pilgrimage and spiritual travel, film tourism, eco, wildlife, and caravan tourism.

India's travel and tourism sector is rapidly emerging as one of the world's top destinations, making it a key driver of development in the coming years. The fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the importance of tourism in driving growth during the Budget Session underscores the enormous potential of this sector.

With the launch of Budget 2023 at the start of the period of robust growth known as Amrit Kaal, the path to developing tourism in mission mode has been outlined. The Indian government is taking a mission-mode approach to develop the tourism sector by creating 50 new tourism destinations across the country and making 59 new air routes operational to boost tourism.

The focus is on developing experiential tourism attrac-

tions that benefit local communities and strengthen inclusive economic growth. However, it is important to ensure that tourism development does not harm the country's physical, cultural, and environmental heritage.

India aims to become a \$1 trillion tourism economy with 100 million international visitors by 2047, the centenary year of its Independence. To achieve this goal, the government is focusing on various initiatives under Public-Private Partnership mode. The emphasis is on projecting domestic tourism in a mission-mode approach and maximizing the potential of the tourism sector.

The government is observing 'Vision India-2023' this year, a program that invites the world to explore India. India offers a diverse range of experiences, including 40 UNESCO World Heritage sites, ancient archaeological remains, national parks with wildlife, stunning mountain ranges, beaches, and a rich cultural heritage. Each state has unique places of worship and heritage sites, with cities

such as Varanasi and Bodhgaya offering spiritual experiences. Tourism in India supports and sustains local economies, creating economic opportunities and employment for local communities. The government aims to empower local communities through tourism, meet Sustainable Development Goals, and promote sustainable tourism practices.

The power of sustainable tourism lies in its potential to generate employment by imparting skills to local people. The government also aims to leverage digitisation to provide "Ease of Tourism" for both domestic and international tourists.

Overall, the government's focus on sustainable tourism and digitisation is expected to have a positive impact on the tourism sector in India. By promoting responsible tourism practices and providing better services to tourists, the sector can contribute to India's economic growth, generate employment opportunities, and help to preserve the country's physical, cultural, and environmental heritage.

BRIEF

Appointment



New Delhi: Global automotive group Stellantis on Monday said it has appointed Aditya Jairaj as the Deputy Managing Director with effect from May 4. Jairaj will also lead the Jeep brand's operations in the country. Stellantis India CEO & Managing Director Roland Bouchara said Jairaj brings a proven track record of value creation. "The India strategy is a key pillar for the group as an important element of localisation efforts in the region and transforming the mobility landscape in India through our two-pronged brand approach," he added.

Financial bids

New Delhi: The government may soon invite financial bids for strategic sale of defence PSU BEML after its non-core business got listed on the bourses last month. In January 2021, the government invited preliminary bids for selling 26 per cent stake in BEML along with the management control. It received multiple expressions of interest (EOIs) for the sale. Following that, in October last year, BEML demerged its non-core businesses into BEML Land Assets and listed the new company on the bourses on April 19, 2023. "The listing of land and other non-core assets is complete. Now we will soon invite financial bids for the core assets, which is construction and defence related," an official told PTI. BEML is a diversified company supplying product, services and support to defence & aerospace, mining & construction, and rail & metro for clients within and outside India.

Beauty store



Kolkata: Retail major Shoppers Stop is planning to open the country's largest beauty-related store in Kolkata during the upcoming festive season, according to a top company official. The store will be more of a concept than a traditional outlet, with details being kept under wraps for now. Shoppers Stop Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Venu Nair said at the MCCI organised Retail Summit on Saturday. "...in the next few months, we would be opening the biggest beauty store in the country in Kolkata. This will be during October-November," he said. He did not share the detailed contours of the proposed concept store.

Indian financial system well protected, regulated: Seth

New Delhi, May 08:

Indian financial system is well protected and regulated despite the daunting global financial situation, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said on Monday. Briefing media on the meeting outcome of the 27th Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Seth said "The Indian financial sector is well protected, well regulated but at the same time, we have to be cautious and be on our toes as soon as early warning indicators are there".

There are a set of indicators which provide early warning indicators so that the stresses are noticed well in time to take the corrective measures, he said. Asked if the spillover of the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank and liquidity pressure faced by Credit Suisse was discussed, he said, it was not specifically



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman during the 27th Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Monday, May 8.

brought but there's no spillover coming. About the Government Securities (G-Sec) market, he said the effort is to have a seamless experience for potential with the use of technology. "Whether they (potential investors) come through the RBI infrastructure... or the Sebi infrastructure route, hitherto which was not possible but today with the use of

technology (it) is possible," he noted. On the G-sec market, he said, "With the use of technology, how a seamless experience can be provided to potential investors, whether they come through the RBI infrastructure, which is the market infrastructure route, or the Sebi infrastructure route, hitherto which was not possible but today with the use of tech-

nology is possible". So all stakeholders should work in a time-bound manner to create a seamless environment for investment, he added.

The council also deliberated on early warning indicators for the economy and our preparedness to deal with them, reducing the compliance burden on the regulated entities in the financial sector by improving regulatory quality, debt levels of corporates and households in India, simplification and streamlining of KYC framework to meet the needs of Digital India, he said.

Besides, the seamless experience for retail investors in government securities, Bimakrit Bharat-Unique Value Proposition to take insurance to the last mile and support required in terms of resolving inter-regulatory issues for GIFT IFSC to play a strategic role in Atmanirbhar Bharat was also discussed.

FSDC for a special drive to help people get unclaimed deposits



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, Finance Secretary of India (Department of Expenditure) TV. Somanathan, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India V. Anantha Nageswaran and other officials during the 27th Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Monday, May 8.

New Delhi, May 08: High-powered Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday underlined the need of launching a drive to help people get their unclaimed deposits in banks and other financial institutions. Briefing reporters about the discussions in the meeting, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth also said there is no spillover effect of the failure of

American banks on the Indian financial system, which is "well protected". The 27th meeting of the FSDC was attended by all financial sector regulators, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. The secretary also said there was a view that the government should expedite the required legislative changes to give effect to the proposals announced in the Union Budget. On the unclaimed deposits matter, Seth said the FSDC was of the view

that a drive should be undertaken to ensure people get their unclaimed deposits lying with financial institutions. About Rs 35,000 crore unclaimed deposits as of February 2023 were transferred to the Reserve Bank by public sector banks (PSBs) in respect of deposits, which have not been operated for 10 years or more. These unclaimed deposits belong to 10.24 crore accounts transferred to the RBI as of the end of February 2023.

Over 19 lakh PACL investors get their money back: Sebi

New Delhi, May 08:

More than 19 lakh PACL investors with claims of up to Rs 17,000 have received Rs 920 crore in refunds, markets regulator Sebi said on Monday.

The regulator had found that PACL Ltd, which had raised money from the public in the name of agriculture and real estate businesses, collected more than Rs 60,000 crore through illegal collective investment schemes (CISs) over 18 years.

A panel headed by retired Justice RM Lodha had initiated the process of refunds in phases for investors, who had invested in PACL. "As on date,

the committee has successfully effected refunds in respect of a total number of 19,61,690 eligible applications with outstanding (principal) amount up to Rs 17,000 aggregating to Rs 919.91 crore," according to a statement available on Sebi website.

The committee, in February, had called for original PACL certificates from investors whose outstanding (principal) amount with PACL was more than Rs 15,000 and up to Rs 17,000 in order to refund the money to them after verification of original certificates. The window for accepting original certificates was kept open from February 27 to March 20, 2023.

Insurance penetration cannot be done by merely crowding market with large number of players: AIIEA gen secy Mishra

Chandigarh, May 08:

The government and insurance industry regulator IRDAI have been pitching for a greater insurance penetration but it cannot be done by merely crowding the market with a large number of players, AIIEA General Secretary Shreekanth Mishra said.

"The government and IRDAI have been arguing that there is a need for greater insurance penetration and every Indian should have an insurance by year 2047. "But it has to be realised that insurance penetration cannot be increased by merely crowding the market with



a large number of players. Insurance penetration essentially depends on the level of disposal income, which is unfortunately rather low in India," Mishra said.

At the same time, he also said the country's insurance penetration is higher than in even some

of developed nations and credit for this goes to LIC and general insurance companies in the public sector. The All India Insurance Employees' Association general secretary told reporters here that AIIEA is the largest and oldest trade union in the public sector insurance industry and represents around 85 per cent of employees in LIC and public sector general insurance companies throughout the country.

Protecting and strengthening the public sector industry while taking care of the interest of the employees has been the basic objective of AIIEA, he said.

India coal imports surge to 162 MT in FY23

Inbound coking coal shipment grows to 54 MT

New Delhi, May 08:

India's coal imports increased by 30 per cent to 162.46 million tonnes in the 2022-23 financial year against 124.99 MT in the year-ago period, according to a report.

The import of coking coal rose 5.44 per cent to 54.46 MT over 51.65 MT in FY22, mjunction said in its latest report. In March alone, the non-coking coal import stood at 13.88 MT against 12.61 MT in the same month last year. Coking coal imports were 3.96 MT against 4.76 MT imported in March 2022. India is among the top five coal-producing countries in the world. However,

some parts of its coal requirement are met through imports as the country is also among the major consumers of the dry fuel.

For coking coal — a key raw material used in steel making — the country remains heavily dependent on imports. "The persistently high demand for steam coal in India coupled with the weakening of seaborne prices led to increased volumes during March. This trend is likely to continue in coming months in view of the above-normal average temperature expected this summer," mjunction MD & CEO Vinaya Varma said.

Canara Bank consolidated net profit jumps 74 pc to Rs 3,337 cr in March qtr

Mumbai, May 08:

State-owned Canara Bank on Monday reported a 74 per cent jump in March quarter consolidated net profit to Rs 3,336.51 crore, helped by higher core income and lower provisions.

The Bengaluru-based lender had reported a net profit of Rs 1,918.80 crore in the year-ago period. For FY23, its post tax profit grew to Rs 11,254.75 crore from Rs 6,124.83 crore in FY22.

In the latest March quarter, the lender's core net interest income grew 23 per cent to Rs 8,617 crore. This was due to a 17 per cent growth in advances and a 0.14 per cent expansion in the net interest margin to 3.07 per cent. Its other in-

come grew 7 per cent to Rs 4,776 crore but was also hit by a 72 per cent decline in the treasury income. Canara Bank's managing director and chief executive K Satyanarayana Raju said the bank will aim to grow its overall loan book in double-digit in FY24, and denied it being a moderation, saying the lender believes in over-delivering. Raju said the bank registered a corporate loan book expansion of over 20 per cent in FY23, and has a sizeable pipeline of loans in various sectors like infrastructure where it is witnessing a healthy demand.

According to him, loans worth Rs 22,000 crore have been sanctioned for various projects that are yet to start. Contrary to some

sections of the industry, which is witnessing an impact in home loan demand due to the rising interest rates, Raju said the bank is not experiencing any such trend and is aiming to better on the 14 per cent growth observed in FY23.

Interestingly, Raju said the demand has held up well in the affordable or lower-priced loans segment, and added that it would like to increase penetration in the premium segment where the ticket size is over Rs 2 crore.

The bank reported an improvement in the asset quality with the gross non-performing assets ratio improving to 5.35 per cent from 7.51 per cent in the year-ago period and 5.90 per cent three months ago.

Skoda Auto focuses on Safety to further grow the brand in India

Mumbai, May 08:

Skoda Auto India announced it will continue keeping its foot on the accelerator when it comes to safety of its customers. Globally, Skoda Auto has a 50-year-old legacy with crash tests and safety. A Skoda 100 L is the first documented crash test in Prague-Ruzyně in former Czechoslovakia in 1972. Currently, the company has a world-class, state-of-the-art Polygon test centre in Uhelnice, which has been awarded Crash Laboratory of the year 2020 by the Automotive Testing Technology International trade journal. And every global Skoda since 2008 has been rated 5-star by Euro NCAP.

On Skoda's international record with safety,



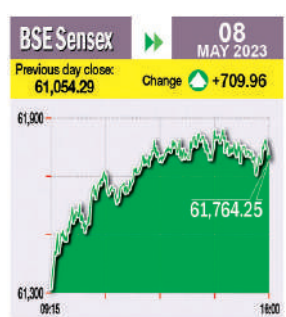
Johannes Neft, Skoda Auto Board Member for Technical Development said, "At Skoda, we use all our expertise in technical development to consistently improve the active and passive safety of our vehicles. Even our entry-level models offer numerous assistance systems that are usually only available in

vehicles from higher vehicle classes. At the same time, our state-of-the-art crash laboratory Polygon Uhelnice provides the ideal setting to thoroughly test the safety of our models. This allows us to incorporate our findings into vehicle development at a very early stage. Achieving the highest

score of 5-stars in the NCAP reference test and the Global NCAP test for crash safety for all Skoda model series tested since 2008 is an outstanding success."

Christian Cahn von Seelen, Executive Director, Sales, Marketing and Digital, Auto Volkswagen India said, "We are proud to have raised the bar in terms of safety standards with each new vehicle we introduce. The common thread that binds all our products is the exceptional packaging in terms of dynamic drive, features that matter, comfortable ride and most importantly, unparalleled safety. In Skoda Auto's 2-decade legacy in India, the MQB-A0-IN platform is the first ever that was specifically developed for the country."

Sensex, Nifty rebound over 1 pc amid rally in global markets



Mumbai, May 08: Equity benchmark BSE Sensex rebounded more than 1 per cent while Nifty reclaimed the 18,200 level on Monday, boosted by heavy buying in banking, financial and auto stocks amid a rally in global stock markets. Besides, continuous foreign fund inflows further bolstered sentiment, traders said. The 30-share

BSE Sensex rallied 709.96 points or 1.16 per cent to settle at 61,764.25. During the day, it jumped 799.9 points or 1.31 per cent to 61,854.19. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 195.40 points or 1.08 per cent to end at 18,264.40. Among the Sensex firms, IndusInd Bank jumped 5.08 per cent. The other winners were Tata Motors, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, Maruti and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Value buying in index heavyweights Reliance, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank added to the momentum. Sun Pharma, Larsen & Toubro and Nestle were the laggards.

Samsung launches 2023 Neo QLED TVs in India

New Delhi, May 08:

Samsung, global number one TV brand for the last 17 years, today launched the newest generation of its ultra-premium 2023 Neo QLED 8K TVs and Neo QLED 4K TVs in sizes ranging from 50-inches to 98-inches. Besides breathtaking picture quality and stunning design, this year's lineup focuses on enhanced connectivity, advanced personalization, ultimate gaming experience and everyday sustainability by decreasing its carbon footprint throughout its product lifecycle, offering a "More Wow than Ever" experience.

"In 2023, we are pushing boundaries of innovation to offer consumers more



than just premium picture quality, but a holistic, premium device experience tailored to what they need and want out of their connected home.

Our latest Neo QLED TVs are 'More Wow than Ever'. They are beautiful, accessible and sustainable with eco-conscious technologies, offer immersive gaming and with SmartThings, our ad-

vanced technology is seamless and intuitive, making life more convenient and enjoyable everyday. With these ultra-large screens, 8K resolution and next-level image and sound quality, we are confident that Neo QLED TVs will strengthen our leadership in the premium TV market in India," said Mr. JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia.

India, Canada trade ministers to review progress in talks on free trade agreement

New Delhi, May 08:

Trade ministers of India and Canada will review the progress in talks on the proposed free trade agreement between the two countries besides discussing ways to strengthen economic ties, an official statement said on Monday.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, Government of Canada, will co-chair the discussions for the sixth India-Canada Ministerial

Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI) on Monday in Ottawa.

MDTI is a bilateral mechanism which provides institutional mechanisms to discuss a broad spectrum of trade and investment related issues and cooperation areas. The discussions will focus on various themes including strengthening the bilateral trade relationship, investment promotion, green transition including critical minerals, it said. "The ministers will also review India-Canada CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) negotiations," it added.

Alcaraz set to return to No.1 after retaining Madrid title

Madrid, May 08 (AP):

Carlos Alcaraz is paving his way back to the top of the world rankings after a second-straight Madrid Open title.

Alcaraz beat lucky loser Jan-Lennard Struff 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the Spanish capital on Sunday to guarantee his return to the No. 1 spot by playing at least one match at the upcoming Italian Open in Rome.

The 20-year-old Spaniard converted on his first match point after a hard-fought battle against Struff to secure his fourth title of the year and 10th of his impressive young career. He had also successfully defended his title in Barcelona two weeks ago.

"To defend the title here in Madrid, on the verge of regaining the No. 1 ranking, these are very big achievements for me," Alcaraz said.

"I feel very proud of the



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, holds the winner's trophy after defeating Jan-Lennard Struff, of Germany, in the men's final at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid.

work that I've put in and of what I've been achieving. I'm an ambitious guy and I'm going for more in Rome."

It was Alcaraz's 29th win of the season, and 21st straight in Spain going back to a loss to Rafael Nadal in Madrid on his

18th birthday two years ago.

He joined Nadal as the only consecutive Madrid champion in tournament history, and is the youngest player to successfully defend a Masters 1000 title since Nadal at Monte Carlo and Rome in 2005-06.

"For me it is so, so special," Alcaraz said.

"To lift the trophy here in Madrid. In my country. In front of my home crowd, my family, my friends. Everyone close to me. For me it is a special feeling that I will never forget."

Alcaraz's other titles this year came in Buenos Aires and Indian Wells. He is the first player to win two Masters 1000 trophies this season. It was the fourth Masters 1000 title overall for last year's U.S. Open champion.

"It was a really tough match," Alcaraz said.

"Jan was playing great, really aggressive. In the second set I had a lot of chances to break his serve and I didn't take it and it was tough for me to lose it. I told myself that I had to be positive all the time and that I would have my chances and I think I did it in the third set."

Hockey India names 20-member women's team for Australia tour

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI): Hockey India on Monday named a 20-member national women's team for a three-match series in Australia, to be held in Adelaide from May 18. They will also play two games against Australia 'A'. The tour will be part of the team's preparations ahead of the all-important Hangzhou Asian Games.

The Indian team will be led by ace goalkeeper Savita who was recently bestowed with the Balbir Singh Sr Hockey India Player of the Year (2022) Award. She will be assisted by Deep Grace Ekka as the team's vice captain.

Bichu Devi Kharibam is the second goalkeeper named in the squad with defenders Deep Grace Ekka, Nikki Pradhan, Ishika Chaudhary, Udita and Gurjit Kaur. The mid-fielders include Nisha, Navjot Kaur, Monika, Salima Tete, Neha, Navneet Kaur, Sonika, Jyoti, and Baljeet Kaur.

Cricketer Shubman Gill to voice for Indian Spider-Man in 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse'

Mumbai, May 08 (PTI):

Young batter Shubman Gill will lend his voice to Indian Spider-Man in the upcoming animated movie "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse", the makers announced Monday.

The film, slated to be released by Sony Pictures Entertainment India across the country, marks the big-screen debut of Pavitr Prabhakar, the Indian Spider-Man.

Gill, who is currently playing for Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League, said Spider-Man is "one of the most relatable superheroes". The 23-year-old will voice the Hindi and Punjabi versions of the film.

"Since the movie will be debuting the Indian Spider-Man for the first time on screen, getting to be the voice of our Indian Spider-Man, Pavitr Prabhakar, in the Hindi



and Punjabi languages was such a remarkable experience for me. Already, I feel superhuman. I am eagerly anticipating the release of this movie," the cricketer said in a statement. June 2 will indeed be a momentous occasion for all Spider-Man fans across the country, and we are sure that everyone will

show the same love on this film as they did on Spider-Man: No Way Home", said Shony Panjikaran, General Manager and Head of Sony Pictures Releasing International (SPRI) India.

"We are so excited to collaborate with Shubman Gill, as he's not only a youth icon but also a true hero, having represented our country so well in international cricket while enthralled millions of fans with his on-ground heroics," Panjikaran added. "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" will hit the Indian screens in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi and Bengali on June 2.

The film is the sequel to 2018's "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" and is set in a shared multiverse of alternate universes called the "Spider-Verse".

'Have worked on improving my strike-rate during this IPL'

Mumbai, May 08 (PTI):

His opening partner Virat Kohli's approach in the middle overs has been criticised in some quarters but Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Faf du Plessis is satisfied with his own game as he has been able to switch gears effectively at an increased strike-rate.

Du Plessis, who is the current Orange Cap holder with 511 runs in 10 games, has scored his runs at a strike-rate of 157.72 whereas his career IPL strike-rate is a mid-dling 133.58 in 126 games so far. In a chat with 'RCB Bold Diaries', Du Plessis said that he was focussed on playing with a higher strike rate since the start of the tournament and now also wants to play big innings for RCB. "I have really been quite intentional about trying to get



hundreds, finding gears I can work through mid-innings period and try and get to innings as we can get 75 plus (in middle overs)," stated du Plessis during RCB Bold Diaries. Du Plessis boundary count has improved as he

has hit 40 fours and 29 sixes in the 10 games so far and he has certainly been a better enforcer compared to 'King Kohli' in the middle overs for RCB.

"In the past, I always felt like I had a decent attacking game but I felt like there was another gear in terms of taking your strike rate from 130 to 150 at least and then sometimes 160-170 so, I have worked on that a lot," the former Proteas skipper said.

"But it is also important for me to try and play as much cricket as possible just to try and stay on top of my game," concluded du Plessis.

RCB are currently fifth in the table with 10 points from 10 games and will like to win against MI at the Wankhede on Tuesday in order to keep their play-off hopes alive.

Kishan named as Rahul's replacement in WTC final squad



Mumbai, Mar 08:

India's wicket-keeper batter Ishan Kishan has been named as replacement for the injured KL Rahul in India's WTC final squad.

In a statement posted on their Twitter handle, BCCI wrote: "The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Ishan Kishan as KL Rahul's replacement. Rahul

suffered an injury to his right upper thigh while fielding during Match 43rd of IPL 2023 between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bangalore on 1st May. After consultations with specialists, it has been decided that Rahul will undergo surgery at the earliest followed by rehab at the National Cricket Academy for the same. He is ruled out of the upcoming ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia.

"Jaydev Unadkat sustained a left shoulder injury by tripping over the side rope while bowling in the nets.

A specialist consultation has been sought and the left-arm fast bowler is currently at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru undergoing strength and rehab sessions for his shoulder. A decision on his participation in the WTC final will be taken at a later stage. India face Australia in the WTC final on June 7 at The Oval in London.

Sachin makes winning start on World Championships debut

Tashkent, May 08 (PTI):

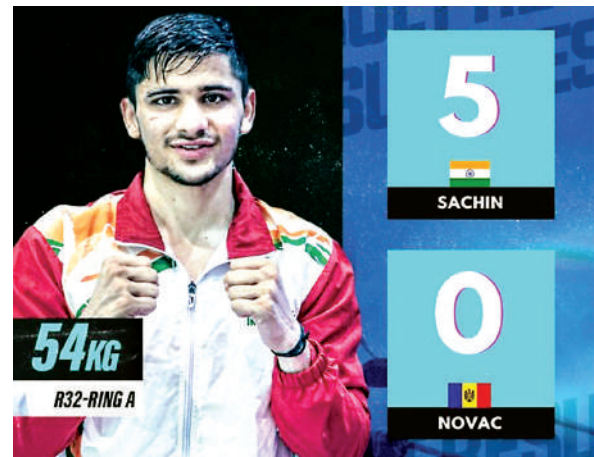
Indian boxer Sachin Siwach (54kg) made a winning start to his maiden World Championships campaign, dispatching Serghei Novac of Moldova with a facile victory here on Monday.

The former World Youth champion showcased his technical prowess to register a 5-0 unanimous decision win and cruise to the bantam weight pre-quarterfinals.

Sachin took charge of the proceedings from the word go as he relentlessly attacked Novac in the round of 32 bout.

Using his height advantage and long reach, the 23-year-old relied on a combination of punches to take the first round.

The second round followed a similar script Sachin landed a flurry



punches, the most impressive being a combination of a straight jab, a left and then a right hook. His defence was as strong as his attack as he danced around the ring, ducking his opponents punches.

Despite the first two rounds ruled in his favour, Sachin did not

hold back his punches in the final three minutes. He continued pummeling the helpless Moldovan with a range of punches including the upper cut to claim a comprehensive win.

Indian pugilists Govind Sahani (48kg) and Naveen (92kg) will be in action later in the day.

'If you get going, don't change your tempo'

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI):

Former India coach Ravi Shastri on Monday advised Virat Kohli that he must not drop the tempo of his innings after getting a start as his consistent 'bat-deep' approach triggered a debate if such batting style is suited for T20 cricket.

Kohli's approach was questioned after he made 55 off 46 balls in a losing cause against Delhi Capitals at the Feroz Shah Kotla on Saturday night.

It was his sixth fifty plus score of the season but the pace of his innings probably cost the team another 20 runs. Asked if the under-performing RCB middle-order is forcing Kohli to play deep, Shastri told ESPNcricinfo that the Indian super star doesn't



need to worry about the form of other batters.

"Once you gain tempo, don't change, don't worry about the others. That will be my message to Virat. Let them do their job. In a T20 game, you don't need that many batsmen. If you are hot keep that going.

Prime example of that was Phil Salt. You saw the way he batted. Once he got into the groove he didn't let go.

"It took the pressure off the other batsmen. Having said, even they were hampering whether it was Marsh or Roussow. So that is something that could be

there from Virat's point of view. If he gets going don't change your tempo, try and up the ante," said Shastri referring to Phil Salt's match winning 87 off 45 balls for Delhi.

Former Australia cricketer Tom Moody feel with the introduction of 'impact player', the game has really moved on from that style (bat deep) of cricket.

"That's why we are seeing so many totals go to 200+. There is no such role. We all need to be going here at 150+ without a doubt because we have the comfort of depth," Moody, former Sunrisers Hyderabad coach, said.

Kohli, after his 44-ball 61 against Lucknow Super Giants, had defended his batting style, saying playing the anchor role was important.

Rohit's form a concern for MI ahead of crucial RCB clash

Mumbai, May 08 (PTI):

With the race for play-offs intensifying, captain Rohit Sharma's form with the bat and bowling in the death overs will be a huge concern for hosts Mumbai Indians when they meet Royal Challengers Bangalore in a mid-table IPL clash here on Tuesday.

With 184 runs in 10 matches at a forgettable average of 18.39 and a solitary half-century, Sharma is enduring a second consecutive poor season with the bat.

For the sixth-placed Mumbai Indians to move up in the points table, it is



imperative that their best batter in the line-up fires.

Sharma's role in this IPL has been to provide brisk starts at the top, and

at times he has had some success too, but consistency has deserted the right-arm batter whose early dismissal in huge chases

has only added pressure on a relatively new batting line-up, which fortunately, from MI's point of view, has delivered too.

Mumbai Indians' head coach Mark Boucher admitted a few games ago that consistency could get compromised if any batter goes out of his way to look for runs, but for Sharma, one of the highest run-getters in the IPL, it is becoming a pattern.

In last year's IPL, which also was MI's poorest in terms of performance as they finished last, Sharma averaged a little over 19 while scoring 268 runs in 14 matches.

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Five-time MLA Yogeshwara vs JD(S)'s Kumaraswamy

Channapatna (K.Taka), May 08 (PTI)

"There's a tight fight" is the oft-repeated comment of many voters in this segment known for its wooden toys and sericulture, on the election scene in this high profile Assembly constituency.

Channapatna in Ramanagara district is witnessing a high-stake battle between JD(S) leader and two-time Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy and BJP's C P Yogeshwara. Both belong to the dominant Vokkaliga community in the region.

The Congress has fielded Gangadhar S as its candidate.

Yogeshwara has been elected five times from the segment since 1999 as an independent, and also from the Congress, BJP and Samajwadi Party (SP). He faced defeat in the 2018 polls, with Kumaraswamy entering the fray in Channapatna.



then defeated Yogeshwara by 21,530 votes.

In the 2013 polls, Yogeshwara as an SP candidate defeated Kumaraswamy's wife Anitha Kumaraswamy (JD(S) by 6,464 votes.

Both Kumaraswamy and Yogeshwara had links to the film industry. While Kumaraswamy had been a film producer, distributor and exhibitor, Yogeshwara had acted in a few films.

Most of the voters in the segment that PTI spoke of seemed as though they

were not willing to openly express their choice, as they maintained, there is a "tight fight" between Kumaraswamy and Yogeshwara.

Some sound- ed confused between the two, who enjoy a lot of goodwill among the people. While Yogeshwara is popular as a local and is hugely credited in the segment for his developmental works like irrigation, filling up of lakes and tanks; the people here also don't want to lose an opportunity of electing Kumaraswamy, the "fu-

ture Chief Minister" as their candidate.

Kumaraswamy, on getting elected from Channapatna and Ramanagara in 2018, retained Channapatna; he then went on to head the JD(S)-Congress coalition government as the Chief Minister for about 14 months.

Raghu, a silk farmer who was at the silk market in Channapatna said, either of them — Kumaraswamy or Yogeshwara — can win, and it will be 16,000-odd undecided voters, who will be holding the key.

"Both of them have about 58,000-60,000 votes each, and it is the fence-sitters who will decide this election," he said, adding that if the Congress gets more votes, it will damage Yogeshwara's prospects.

Kempgowda, a senior citizen in Dodda Mallur known for its Aprameya Swamy temple, favoured Yogeshwara, as he is from Channapatna.

ROAD CLEARANCE



A villager clears snow from a road following fresh snowfall in Koksar village of Lahaul & Spiti district, Monday.

SEWING LIVELIHOODS

Women of rural Latur keep dying art of quilting alive

Latur, May 08 (PTI)

The humble traditional quilt "godhadi" has become an assured source of livelihood for women in some remote villages of Maharashtra's Latur district. A project, which was started in 2017 on an investment of Rs 50,000 by the self-help group Ruma, short for rural Maharashtra, is now providing women a monthly income of Rs 8,000, an official said. What began as a small enterprise has since

grown to employ 35 women in the age group of 18 to 60 years (some of them speech and hearing impaired) from Ansarwada and surrounding hamlets in Nilanga tehsil. Godhadi, the main product of the self-help group, is hand sewn by women by layering colourful cloth scraps to make beautiful patterns.

The project came into being on March 8, 2017 with an aim to provide women of Ansarwada steady wages and keep the

traditional handicrafts alive, Ruma project president Rukmini Pastalge said.

The project was started under the guidance of one Madhuvanti Mohan, who was working with a few NGOs in the district, she said.

The women who are part of the collective have been keeping the dying art of quilting alive with their new and innovative designs, an official from UMED Rural Livelihood Mission said.

'Long COVID linked with self-perceived cognitive deficits'

New Delhi, May 08 (PTI)

Symptomatic long COVID may be associated with self-perceived cognitive difficulties such as memory problems, according to a study.

Long COVID is described as experiencing persistent symptoms of the disease more than four weeks after initial infection.

Researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the US noted that over one in three people experiencing long COVID symptoms perceived such cognitive deficits, which have been found to be related to anxiety and

depression.

The findings, published recently in the journal JAMA Network Open, show that psychological issues such as anxiety or depressive disorders may play a part in some people who are experiencing long COVID, technically known as post-COVID-19 condition, or PCC.

"This perception of cognitive deficits suggests that affective issues in this case anxiety and depression appear to carry over into the long COVID period," said study senior author Neil Wenger, a professor at UCLA.

"This is not to say that long COVID is all in one's

head, but that it is likely not a single condition and that for some proportion of patients there is likely a component of anxiety or depression that is exacerbated by the

NEW STUDY

disease," Wenger said in a statement.

The researchers surveyed 766 patients who had confirmed symptomatic COVID infection and had either been hospitalised at UCLA or at one of 20 health care facilities in the US or were referred to the programme by a primary care physician and been treated as outpatients.

Patients were surveyed by telephone at 30 days, 60 days and 90 days following hospital discharge or, in the case of non-hospitalised patients, after the date of a positive COVID test to ascertain if they felt their health was back to normal. The researchers found that 276 (36.1 per cent) of the patients surveyed perceived during the acute illness or the following weeks that they had cognitive difficulties.

The study also found that these patients were twice as likely as those without perceived cognitive deficits to report experiencing physical symptoms at 60 and 90 days. The researchers ac-

knowledged some limitations to the findings. These include a lack of objective cognition measures because the survey relied on subjective responses about cognitive deficits.

They also did not have data on participants' possible cognition, depression, and anxiety prior to COVID infection.

The findings may not apply to other patient cohorts given that participants were treated at an academic medical centre and were referred to the programme based on physicians' belief that the patients were at clinically high risk for cognition deficits, the researchers added.

Court to inquiry into Tejashwi's 'only Gujaratis can be thugs' remark

Next hearing on May 20

Ahmedabad, May 08 (PTI)

A court here on Monday said it would inquiry into a criminal defamation complaint filed against Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav over his alleged remark that "only Gujaratis can be thugs", and is likely to examine witnesses on May 20 as part of the process.

The complaint against Yadav (33) has been filed by Haresh Mehta, 63, a social worker and businessman, under Indian Penal Code sections 499 and 500 (dealing with criminal defamation). The court of

Additional Metropolitan Magistrate DJ Parmar in Ahmedabad would conduct an inquiry against the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader under section 202 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) before deciding on issuing summons to him. The CrPC section 202 deals with inquiry for the purpose of issuing process (summons) based on material against the accused.

The court will examine the authenticity of evidence in the form of a CD (compact disc) and a pen drive containing the alleged remark of Yadav submitted by the complainant, Mehta's lawyer PR Patel said. It will also examine people who heard the said

remark in the next hearing slated on May 20, Patel said. Mehta had filed his complaint in the court of metropolitan magistrate and submitted the proof of Yadav's statement made before the media in Patna on March 21.

"Only Gujaratis can be thugs in the present situation, and their fraud (crime) will be forgiven. Who will be responsible if they run away with the money belonging to LIC or banks?" the Bihar Deputy CM had allegedly said. The complainant said the statement calling the entire Gujarati community as "thug" defames and humiliates all Gujaratis in public.

Watermelon growers in Konkan blame Goa-Mumbai highway expansion

For dip in their sales

Sindhudurg, May 08 (PTI)

Farmers growing watermelons at a village in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district have claimed the sales of their produce have dipped following the expansion of the Goa-Mumbai National Highway in the last two years.

A farmer from Bibavane village here in the Konkan region said he now earns just about Rs 1,500 per day from the sale of watermelons along the highway compared to Rs 5,000 per day earlier.

A legislator from the area also said he has received such complaints from farmers and that he was looking into the matter.

Bibavane village is located five kilometres away from Kudal town in Sindhudurg on the national highway.

"The construction of the highway is a bane for us. From the time wider roads with divider in between have been constructed, the watermelon business has dipped," farmer Krishnakant Gopal Pundurkar, who has been in the trade for over a decade now, told PTI.

Pundurkar is among the

several farmers who have been making their living through the sale of watermelons by setting up make-shift stalls on this stretch of the Goa-Mumbai highway.

The business flourished for three decades before the highway expansion began, he said.

Pundurkar recalled how local resident Arun Rege had set up the first stall along with the highway at Bibavane. The highway was narrower then and had trees on both sides.

People travelling to Goa or Mumbai used to halt for some time to enjoy the nature and buy

watermelons. "The number of stalls then increased. There are now at least 30 stalls in this area," he said.

Then came the expansion of the national highway in 2021-22. Trees were felled and a smoother highway with four lanes and a divider was constructed.

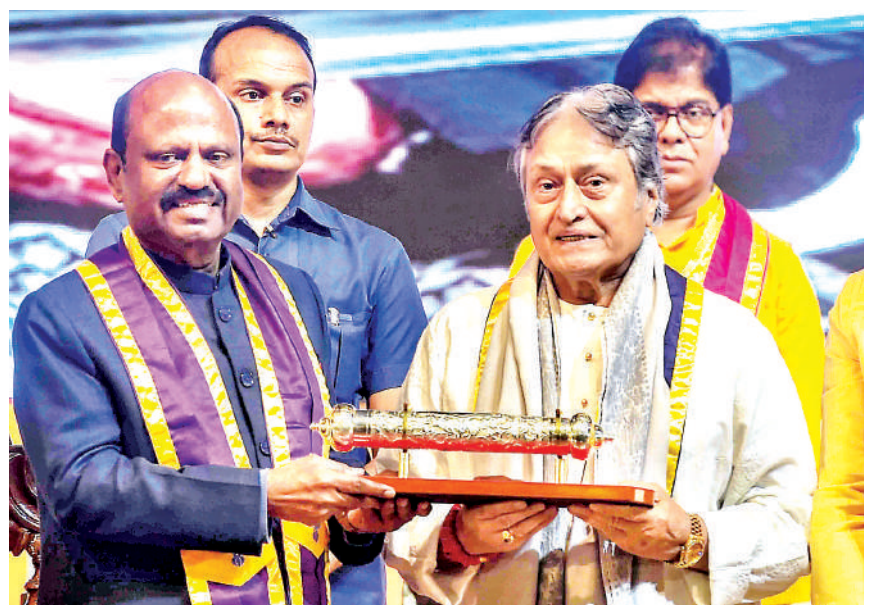
"People who used to halt

under the shade of trees now zoom past the smooth national highway," said Pundurkar.

He claimed that earlier he used to earn around Rs 5,000 per day. "The income has now dipped to mere Rs 1,500," he said.

The trade of watermelons along the national highway is a symbol of community farming.

VARSITY CONVOCATION



West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose presents the honorary Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) to sarod player Ustad Amjad Ali Khan during the convocation of Sister Nivedita University, in Kolkata, Monday.

Guwahati, May 08 (PTI)

The Assam Police have drawn up a list of over 650 personnel who are purportedly habitual drinkers or obese, and those found unfit for duty will be offered voluntary retirement after a thorough review, director general of police GP Singh said here on Monday.

The exercise to get rid of "deadwood" from the police will be undertaken in all organisations and wings of the force, the DGP said at a press conference here.

"We already have a list of about 680 persons. However, to ensure that no name is added without logical basis, we have formed committees in battalions and districts, which will be headed by a



GP Singh

deputy commandant or an additional SP-rank officer," Singh said.

These committees will give their reports to the district superintendents of police (SPs) or battalion commandants, who will then "after due diligence on their part" submit it to the police headquarter, he said.

The list will again be reviewed by a committee which will have people

from training and armed police wings as well as law and order and administration. The committee will then finally prepare the list of personnel who will be offered the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), Singh said.

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