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ADAPTING TO CLIMATE
CHANGE IS IMPERATIVE

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IMRAN KHAN GETS INTERIM BAIL
TILL MAY 4 IN 3 CASES

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MARKETS EXTEND GAINS FOR 9TH
SESSION ON FAG-END BUYING

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GT BEAT
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MATCH

Atiq's son Asad killed in STF encounter in Jhansi

Accomplice also shot in encounter

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ/LUCKNOW

Asad Ahmad, son of jailed gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad, and shooter Ghulam Mohammad were killed in an exchange of fire with the UP Special Task Force team in Jhansi on Thursday afternoon, officials said. Both were wanted in the Umesh Pal murder case and carried a reward of ₹5 lakh each. Asad Ahmad was caught on CCTV when Umesh Pal was killed and had been on the run for the past 50 days, police said.

"Sophisticated foreign made weapons were recovered from the accused. Further details are awaited," said Special Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar. He added the UP STF team that gunned down Asad and Ghulam was led by deputy superintendents of police Navendu Kumar and Vimal Kumar.

Atiq Ahmad was in the court of chief judicial magistrate in Prayagraj in connection with the murder case when the news of Asad's encounter broke. He started crying after hearing the news of his son's encounter death. He asked for water and sat down holding his head in the district court premises.

STF officials said Asad and Ghulam were on the run since the murder of Umesh Pal on February 24. Several STF teams were pressed to track them down. On Thursday, they were trying to flee on a motorcycle when they were intercepted by an STF team in Jhansi, the officials said, adding they opened fire on the police and were killed in the retaliatory firing. ADG (STF) Amitabh Yash said, "We knew that they had foreign weapons. We were ready. The way this gang killed Umesh Pal and his two gunners, it was not easy to catch these accused. Both had British Bull Dog revolver and Walther pistol. These weapons are rare. Generally not found."

Visuals showed two bodies lying beside a motorcycle at the site of the alleged encounter. An ambulance later took them away.

With Thursday's encounter in connection with the Umesh Pal murder case, the UP Police have so far gunned down four



The body of jailed mafia Atiq Ahmad's son Asad after he was killed in an encounter by the UP STF in Jhansi on Thursday | PTI

shooters. Earlier Arbaaz was killed in the first encounter on February 27 in Prayagraj. Arbaaz was driving the Creta car in which the assailants had reached Umesh Pal's house. Asad was also in it. The second encounter took place on March 6. In this, Vijay Chaudhary, alias Usman, who fired the first shot at Umesh, was killed.

Umesh Pal, a key witness in the 2005 murder case of then BSP MLA Raju Pal, and his two police security guards were shot dead outside his home in Prayagraj's Dhoomanganj area on February 24 this year.

His wife Jaya Pal had lodged a report on February 25 against Atiq Ahmad, his brother Ashraf, Asad, Ghulam and others.

Reacting to the news of the encounter, Umesh Pal's family thanked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the police administration.

"Whatever they have done is right. He (the chief minister) has punished the killer of his daughter's husband. I express my gratitude. He is like a father. Justice has been done," Jaya told the media, adding she hoped strict action would be taken against other accused.

Umesh Pal's mother said, "The two gunners who were killed in broad daylight today had committed a sin. They have been punished today. We have faith, we will get complete justice."

The Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party have demanded an investigation into the Jhansi shootout, suggesting that the Special Task Force staged a fake encounter.

Covid 8-month high at 10K+, but just 1 of 1K patients hospitalised

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid warning that Covid cases in the country will peak in the next couple of weeks, India on Thursday recorded a single-day rise of 10,158 new infections, highest in nearly eight months and up by 30 per cent over the previous day, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

However, low hospitalisation has come as a breather. "Currently, the hospitalisation ratio is 1:1,000 and this is not a wave. It may be an endemic cycle of Covid-19," officials in the Union Health Ministry said. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.42 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 4.02 per cent. The active cases now constitute 0.10 per cent of the total infections, as per the Union Health Ministry data.

AIIMS, Delhi, has issued an advisory for its staff to follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour saying that people "must use reusable cloth face cover/surgical mask in the workplace. Ensure proper



cleaning and frequent sanitation of the workplace, particularly of the frequently touched surfaces."

A few AIIMS doctors too have tested Covid positive with a newborn diagnosed with Covid-19 at Delhi's LNJP Hospital.

The number of active cases has increased to 44,998, the data updated on Thursday showed. India had reported 7,830 coronavirus infections on Wednesday. The nationwide Covid-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.71 per cent, according to the Health Ministry website.

The case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

Atiq gets 5-day police remand; wife wants to surrender

Prayagraj: A Prayagraj court on Thursday sent gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf to 14-day judicial custody and also allowed five-day police remand in connection with the Umesh Pal murder case.

Ahmad and Ashraf, alias Khalid Azim, will be kept in judicial custody till April 26, said advocate Vikram Singh, the counsel for Umesh Pal's wife Jaya.

Singh said after arguments on the application submitted by police seeking their custody were completed, the court allowed five-day police remand of the duo which will remain effective till evening of April 17.

He said that the next date of hearing in the case has been fixed for April 26. Meanwhile, sources said Atiq's wife Shaista Parveen wants to surrender before police in order to have access to the last look at her son Asad — who was killed in an encounter with UP STF in Jhansi — before his last rite.

ED books BBC India for foreign funds violations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a case under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) against British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) India for alleged foreign exchange violations.

The agency also summoned BBC staffers for questioning following which its Deputy Managing Editor deposed on Thursday. The ED action came nearly two months after the Income-Tax Department surveyed the BBC India's offices in Delhi and Mumbai on February 14. The survey operation lasted for three days. The FEMA case was registered about two weeks back to essentially probe purported foreign direct investment (FDI) violations by the company and related instances, according to officials.



ITBP and police personnel guard outside the BBC office at KG Marg in New Delhi | File photo | PTI

The ED has called for documents and the recording of statements of some company executives and a team of lawyers representing the company has already submitted some financial documents last week, they added.

K'taka call to end 4% Muslim quota flawed, observes SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing displeasure over the decision of the Karnataka Government to scrap the four per cent reservation for OBC Muslims and raise quotas in government jobs and educational institutions for Vokkaligas and Lingayats by two per cent each, the Supreme Court on Thursday observed the decision prima facie appeared to be on a "highly shaky ground" and "flawed".

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna said from the records tabled before the court it appears that the Karnataka Government's decision is based on "absolutely fallacious assumption".

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Dushyant Dave and Gopal Sankarnarayanan, appearing for members of the Muslim community from



Karnataka said no study was conducted and there was no empirical data available with the Government to scrap the quota for Muslims.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Karnataka, sought some time to file replies to the petitions and assured the bench that no appointments and admissions will be made in the meantime based on the March 24 Government order which has been challenged by the petitioners.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for members of the Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities, said no

interim order should be passed without allowing them to place their response to the petitions.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on April 18 and asked Mehta and Rohatgi to file their responses.

The State Government decided to scrap the four per cent reservation for Muslims in government jobs and educational institutions weeks ahead of the state assembly polls on May 10.

The State Government announced two new categories for reservation and divided the four per cent Muslim quota between the Vokkaligas and Lingayats, the two numerically dominant and politically influential communities. Muslims eligible for quotas were categorised under the economically weaker sections.

The State Government's decision has pushed the reservation limit to around 57 per cent now.

Rahul plea to stay conviction in Modi defamation case: Verdict on Apr 20

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/SURAT

Surat court on Thursday said it would pronounce on April 20 the order on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's plea for a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark, made exactly four years ago during a poll rally.

After hearing arguments from both sides, additional sessions judge RP Mogera said he will pronounce the order on April 20.

A metropolitan magistrate's court in Surat had on March 23 sentenced the former Congress chief to two years in jail after holding him guilty for his remark "how come all thieves have Modi as the common surname", made during an election rally in 2019.

Rahul, who was disqualified as MP after the conviction, filed an appeal before the sessions court here against the verdict.

Pawar meets Kharge; Manjhi-Shah meeting triggers speculation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On a day NCP supremo Sharan Pawar met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi and other top leaders of the Congress in the national Capital for Opposition unity, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's ally Jitan Ram Manjhi set political circles abuzz with a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday.

The development came amid the Janata Dal (United) leader's talks with several Opposition leaders as part of his effort to forge an alliance against the BJP.

Manjhi, however, sought to quell any speculation and reiterated that Nitish has all the qualities to become the country's Prime Minister.

He asserted that he has sworn to remain with Nitish and rejected any possibility of



joining hands with the BJP, saying it has spoken against the existence of small parties like his. During his 2-day Delhi visit, Nitish interacted with Kharge and Rahul and CPI's D Raja, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accompanied by Bihar Deputy CM and RLD leader Tejashwi Yadav during his two days to Delhi.

Queried about his absence from Wednesday's meeting, Pawar said he was asked to join the meeting in Delhi but was unable to do so as he had work in Pune. The leaders are likely to take forward unity talks as more deliberations are expected in the coming days.

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Shri Giriraj Singh
Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India

in the august presence of

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Shri Tusharkanti Behera
Hon'ble Minister of State for Home, Sports & Youth Services, and E&IT, Govt. of Odisha

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Progress of country depends on the progress of women

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the work of development and the campaign to change the lives of the people is going on in the state. The progress of the country lies in the progress of the women. If women move forward, the family will move forward, if the family moves forward, the society will move forward, and if the society moves forward, the country will move forward. The government is continuously working for the welfare of the women. Calling upon all the women of the state, he said that everyone should work together and bring a new era in Madhya Pradesh through a new social revolution. Remove poverty, educate children and take everyone forward.

Chouhan attended the Ladli Bahna Mahasammelan at Niwali in Barwani district on Thursday. The Chief Minister performed bhoomi-pujan and dedicated works worth Rs 371 crore 25 lakh. This includes bhoomi-pujan of 9 works worth Rs 221 crore 72 lakh and dedication of 5 works costing Rs 149 crore 53 lakh. Chouhan also distributed benefits under various schemes. Chouhan said that he is the real brother of all the sisters of the state. I will not let sorrow remain in their lives. I saw injustice and discrimination towards sisters since childhood and made it my life's mission to remove it. Today, many schemes are being run for the welfare of women in the state, due to which there has been a big change in their lives. Today I am feeling blessed and successful in my life because I was able to do something for my sisters. Chouhan said that women have more respect and honour in tribal areas. The sex ratio is high

and 50 percent reservation is being given in the recruitment of teachers. House, land and property in the name of women, have been given 2 percent exemption in registry's stamp duty. Chouhan said that for years it has been my wish to give gifts on Rakhi to all my sisters of the state. Then I thought why this gift should be given only once in a year and not every month. Ladli Bahna Yojana is the result of this thinking, in which sisters will be given Rs 1000 every month. Under the scheme, women in the 23 to 60 age group from poor and middle class families, whose annual income is less than Rs 2.5 lakh, who own land less than 5 acres and there is no four wheeler in the house will be eligible. Forms will be filled for the scheme by April 30 and from June 10th, Rs 1000 will start coming into the accounts of the women.

Chouhan instructed the Collector to ensure that the form of every eligible woman is filled. Chouhan said that a survey will be conducted immediately to reach Narmada water through pipeline in Pansemal. He announced an additional Rs. 2 crore for the development of every Nagar Panchayat of the state. He said that the work of Kajal Mata Irrigation Project, Sindhwa Lift Irrigation and Pansemal Lift Irrigation will also be done. The CM also gave instructions to prepare DPR for 10 different ponds. Chouhan inaugurated the programme with Saraswati Puja and lighting the lamp. He welcomed, greeted and took blessings of the Ladli Bahnas. The sisters welcomed their dear brother Shivraj by applying tilak, tying rakhi and presenting tribal arrows and bows and Anga Vastra.

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Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan being presented a Rakhi during Ladli Bahna Sasmelan in Barwani district of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. Pioneer photo

Temperatures start soaring, Bhopal records around 40 degree

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Temperatures have started soaring with day temperatures recording over 42 degree celsius, state capital recorded close to 40 degree celsius on Thursday, the uneasiness in the nights is felt due to high temperatures. Madhya Pradesh has witnessed temperatures higher than Delhi, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra states in the season. The mercury is highest in Rajgarh. For the third consecutive day, the temperature is running between 42-43 degrees. According to the Meteorological Department, it is the highest in the country. Here, for the first time in Narmadapuram, the night temperature crossed 25 degree celsius. The mercury crossed 21 degree celsius in 15 cities including Ratlam-Satna on Wednesday-Thursday night. Met said that neither the



For the first time in Bhopal, the minimum temperature was recorded at 24.8 degrees. Rajgarh's temperature was recorded at 43 degree Celsius on Wednesday. At the same time, in Damoh-Khajuraho, the mercury crossed 41 degree Celsius. The temperature in Narmadapuram, Ratlam, Guna, Dhar, Mandla, Sagar and Satna remained above 40 degree Celsius. Met said that neither the

Western Disturbance is active nor any trough line is passing through due to which sky is clear. The sun's rays are coming directly to the earth. Due to which the effect of heat has increased. For the first time this season, Bhopal's night was the hottest. The minimum temperature here was recorded at 24.8 degree Celsius on Wednesday. At the same time, the temperature in Indore was 23.5 degree Celsius,

25.8 in Narmadapuram, 23.2 in Sagar-Ratlam, 23 in Sidhi, 22.4 in Rajgarh, 22.2 in Damoh, 22.2 in Raisen, 22.1 in Satna, 21.5 in Chhindwara, 21.2 in Betul, 21.2 in Guna, 21.2 degrees Celsius in Ujjain-Naugaon were recorded. For the first time in Narmadapuram also the night temperature was so high. Monsoon is expected to be normal this time in Madhya Pradesh. There will be less rainfall than normal in Indore, Gwalior, Ujjain, Gwalior and Chambal divisions, that is, there will not be more than normal rainfall in 26 districts of the state this time. In the rest of the districts, the figures will remain normal or around it. This time there is less chance of more rain. The normal rainfall average of the state is 37.3 inches. Last year 46 inches of water fell. However, the weather report will come again in the last week of May.

Poets from Gwalior perform excellently in Nepal

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Laurates of Udbhav Literary Forum gave a sterling presentation of Indian literature at the International Literature Festival organized in Nepal. Along with this, they also succeeded in promoting Indian literature. As per reports the litterateurs from Gwalior were elated by the honor they received on foreign soil. Last week, a two-day International Literature Festival was organized in Tanahun, Nepal. Eight countries participated in the festival. A team of five litterateurs of Udbhav Literary Forum, a unit of Udbhav Sports and Cultural Association of Gwalior, represented the country in the international festival. The festival was held in Tanahun, the birthplace of Vedavyasa, author of Mahabharata, Bhanubhakta



Acharya, the first poet of Nepal and great composer of Nepali songs and poetry Kshetra Pratap Adhikari. During the festival, along with Surendra Pal Singh, Ghanshyam Bharti, Brajendra Pal Singh Kushwaha, Ashok Achanak and Jagdish Mahamana put every effort to strengthen the cultural relations between India and Nepal through poetry recitation. Writers from different countries were also impressed by the effective presentation of the Gwalior poets.

When Udbhav's team met the local people and talked about Indian culture, they found more affinity among the Nepalese people than expected. The Indian team was given a grand and warm welcome in Nepal's cities like Kathmandu, Damauli, Tanahun and Byapani. The litterateurs were overjoyed by this welcome. The litterateurs who returned to their homeland said that the people of Nepal have really imbibed the spirit of Atithi Devo Bhava. Dr. Keshav Pandey, president and Deepak Tomar, secretary of Udbhav Literary Forum respectively congratulated all the members of the forum apart from expressing their gratitude towards the Government of Nepal for honoring the litterateurs.

AIIMS Bhopal organises orientation workshop

Bhopal: An orientation workshop for creating awareness among the Researchers of AIIMS Bhopal regarding the procurement procedures, as defined in GFR was conducted by the Research Cell. In this workshop, awareness of rules, record keeping, provisions and compliance with different GFR rules, were discussed. The hands-on demonstration of process like GeM exploration was also done. Workshop was inaugurated by opening remarks of Executive Director AIIMS Bhopal Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh. Dean (Research) Professor Debasis Biswas also elaborated the purpose of workshop. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Jitendra Singh I/c Admin officer Research cell. Jeya Kumar N from Central Store and ML Jain from Finance were the resource person.

FIR registered against Christ memorial school for violating prohibitory orders

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Action of arbitrariness and pressurizing the parents to buy books from specified stores has continued as FIR against the Christ Memorial School Management located in Bairagarh (Sant Hirdaram Nagar), Bhopal has been made and the book store was also closed. The school management was pressurizing the parents to buy books from a book depot only. While sealing the book depot, a case has also been registered against the operator. This action has been taken on another private school within three days. SDM Upadhyay said that a case has been registered in the police station under section 188 for disobeying section 144. Action has been taken against Christ Memorial School Management and the operator of Shankar Book Depot. SDM Upadhyay said that only the books of Christ Memorial School were sold at Shankar Book Depot. According to the information, the temporary shop named Shankar Book Depot in Krishna Plaza Shopping Complex was vacated. It was

open for only one month. Parents had complained in this matter. Due to which this action was taken on Tuesday. Earlier on Tuesday also an FIR was lodged against a private school. Collector Ashish Singh had issued orders under Section 144 on this Monday to end the monopoly of private school operators, publishers and booksellers. Now the operators of private schools will not be able to force the students or parents to buy uniforms, shoes, ties, books, notebooks etc. from the designated shops only. The Collector had instructed the SDM and DEO to take action against such school management. If a complaint is received against any school or institution, then disciplinary action was also taken against it. Due to this, this action has been taken on two schools.

भारत रत्न डॉ बाबा साहेब भीमराव अम्बेडकर जी की जयंती पर समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

अपील: ग्राम पंचायत के समस्त नागरिकों से विनम्र अपील, निम्नलिखित शासकीय योजनाओं का लाभ उठाएं एवं इस हेतु ग्राम पंचायत कार्यालय पर संपर्क करें-

योजनाएं:- 1. स्वच्छ भारत मिशन, 2. प्रधान मंत्री आवास योजना, 3. मनरेगा योजना, 4. सबल योजना, 5. लाइली बहना योजना

श्रीमति रामकृष्णा बाई मानसिंह जनपद अध्यक्ष	श्री मुकेश जैन जनपद C.E.O.	श्रीमति रीना सतीश मालवीय जिला पंचायत अध्यक्ष, इन्दौर	श्रीमति बंदिता शर्मा (अपर कलेक्टर) C.E.O. जिला पंचायत इन्दौर
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सोजन्य से:- जनपद पंचायत सावेर जिला-इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

भारत रत्न डॉ बाबा साहेब भीमराव अम्बेडकर जी की जयंती पर समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

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सोजन्य से:- जनपद पंचायत देपालपुर जिला-इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

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श्री सरदार मालवीय जनपद अध्यक्ष	श्री हेमेश चोहान जनपद C.E.O.	श्रीमति रीना सतीश मालवीय जिला पंचायत अध्यक्ष, इन्दौर	श्रीमति बंदिता शर्मा (अपर कलेक्टर) C.E.O. जिला पंचायत इन्दौर
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भारत रत्न डॉ बाबा साहेब भीमराव अम्बेडकर जी की जयंती पर समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

अपील: ग्राम पंचायत के समस्त नागरिकों से विनम्र अपील, निम्नलिखित शासकीय योजनाओं का लाभ उठाएं एवं इस हेतु ग्राम पंचायत कार्यालय पर संपर्क करें-

योजनाएं:- 1. स्वच्छ भारत मिशन, 2. प्रधान मंत्री आवास योजना, 3. मनरेगा योजना, 4. सबल योजना, 5. लाइली बहना योजना

श्री विश्वजीत सिंह (कान्हा) जनपद अध्यक्ष	श्री गोपाल प्रजापति जनपद C.E.O.	श्रीमति रीना सतीश मालवीय जिला पंचायत अध्यक्ष, इन्दौर	श्रीमति बंदिता शर्मा (अपर कलेक्टर) C.E.O. जिला पंचायत इन्दौर
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सोजन्य से:- जनपद पंचायत इन्दौर जिला-इन्दौर (म.प्र.)



Social activist gets his face painted during a campaign to Save Democracy on the eve of the birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

There is a fear among opposition leaders: Scindia

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has raised questions on the unity of the opposition. He said that nine years ago, Narendra Modi had taken a pledge not to work as the Prime Minister but as 'Pradhan Sevak'.



Commenting on this, Scindia said that there is disturbance in the opposition. That is why meetings are being held late at night. Meetings are not happening in the day time, meetings are happening late at night.

Minister Modi ji. On Congress leader Digvijaya Singh's allegation that seven people in the BJP harbour dreams of becoming the Chief Minister, Scindia said that those who have so much hope in their mind to take that post, perhaps they are giving this statement.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually handed over appointment letters to 71,000 youth. In this series, a special employment fair was organised in Bhopal.

Guv launches mobile health service vehicle

Bhopal: Governor Mangubhai Patel inaugurated the Indian Red Cross Society's mobile medical health service vehicle by flagging it off at Raj Bhavan today.



Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia interacts with BJP State President VD Sharma and BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur during a Rozgar Mela organised to distribute appointment letters to the beneficiaries, at Samanvay Bhawan in Bhopal.



Principal Secretary of MP Tourism and Culture department Sheoshakar Shukla talking to media persons regarding a UNESCO's two-day sub-regional conference scheduled from April 17, 18 in Bhopal on Thursday.

Police in Delhi in paper leak case

In the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) paper leak case, the Kohfiz police has reached Delhi in search of the accused. The police suspect that the employees of the organisation who organised this paper are also involved in the paper leak case.

It may be known that on February 2, the employee and driver of Blue Dart Courier had sold IELTS papers for one lakh rupees. On February 11, the Gurugram-based organisation that conducted the exam came to know about the paper leak.

Chief Minister plants saplings

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Gulmohar, Guava, Champa and Banyan in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. On completion of two years of television channel News 24 MP-CG, the team members of the channel planted saplings. Channel Head Sandeep Bhammar, Reporter Ajay Sharma, Shabbir Ahmed, Amritanshi Joshi and other colleagues participated in tree plantation.

Commission DP Agarwal also participated in plantation. Avni Sharma, daughter of senior journalist Nitendra Sharma, planted a sapling on her birthday. Nitendra Sharma, Aruna Sharma and Suman Sharma participated in the plantation. Along with CM Chouhan, OP Kriplani and Ashima Keswani also planted saplings.

Police constable charged with rape for past 6 months by a 25-year-old woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A police constable posted with Kolar police station has been booked for sexually assaulting and exploiting a 25-year-old woman for the past six years and his brother has been booked for assaulting the woman. The victim lodged a complaint at the Hanumanganj police station a few years ago and during which she met the accused policeman Manish Yadav who was posted as constable.

The victim lodged a complaint at the Hanumanganj police station a few years ago and during which she met the accused policeman Manish Yadav

after the preliminary investigation Hanumanganj police have booked Manish for sexual exploitation while his brother has been booked for assault with the victim girl. Police have started further investigation into the matter. The two accused are yet to be arrested.

BOB GM Girish C Dalakoti accorded farewell

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Farewell on retirement of Girish C. Dalakoti, General Manager, Bank of Barodawas organised. Girish C. Dalakoti, General Manager, Bank of Baroda, on the strength of service spirit, determination, hard work, served as General Manager (Zonal Head) of Bank of Baroda, Bhopal Zone for 2 years and 8 months.



He took many important decisions to keep the bank leading in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Dalakoti retired from the service of the Bank on March 31, 2023. He said that honesty, time management, stress management and discipline towards your work are the key to your success.

leader, the credit goes to each and every one of your team mates. You have unwavering faith in each of your team mates. Despite being a part of the top management of the Bank, the trust you have shown in your team has instilled a sense of confidence in your team and your team members have discharged their responsibilities with full responsibility.

Indian Overseas Bank advertisement including contact details, branch information, and a detailed POSESSSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties) (Rule 8(1)) regarding a mortgage on a commercial shop.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT advertisement for a tender to improve and beautify the area at Bargawan station.

Canara Bank advertisement for an E-Auction sale notice for immovable properties, listing various branches and their respective auction details.

MADHYA PRADESH HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD advertisement for an online percentage rate bids for the following works in registered contractors in centralized system in MP PWD.

Canara Bank advertisement for an E-Auction sale notice for immovable properties, listing various branches and their respective auction details.

This is different India, can meet security challenges: EAM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/KAMPALA, UGANDA

Giving a tough message to Pakistan and China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said this is a "different India" that can meet its national security challenges. He also said Indian soldiers have now the "full backing, they have the right equipment and the infrastructure."



which will meet its national security challenges whether it is Uri or whether it is Balakot." He was referring to the 2016 Uri attack by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) insurgents from Pakistan against an Indian Army brigade headquarters and the 2019 Balakot airstrike conducted by Indian warplanes in Balakot, Pakistan against a terrorist training camp. "Today, the forces which indulged in cross-border terrorism against India for decades and which India tolerated, they now know this is a different India and this India will give them a reply," he said. As regards challenges on

interests and the world will recognise that," he said. Today, he said India's policies are not impacted by any outside pressure. "It is a more independent India," he said. Today, India cannot be put under pressure by countries that will "tell us where we should buy our oil and where we should not buy our oil." "This is an India which will do what is in the interest of its citizens, its consumers," he said. India has been snapping Russian oil available at a discount after the West sanctioned Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine. India continues to buy Russian oil in large quantities. He said some people felt "bad" when India joined the Quad. In November 2017, India, Japan, the US and Australia gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the "Quad" to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence. China has been criticising the formation

of the Quad grouping, saying it was aimed at containing Beijing's rise. In 2007, Jaishankar said Quad had come up but they bent to pressure and gave up. "But this time we are very clear that if the Quad is in global interest and is good for the world it is good for us," he said, adding India will do whatever is necessary for the global interest. Jaishankar said today's India is an Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) country. "Atmanirbhar Bharat at the end of the day is actually a confidence that we are capable of many things. We need a leader who gives us the confidence that we can realise that capability and who can give us the policies that will enable us to go in that direction and it is happening," he said. This is today a different India which will take positions which will be determined by India's national interest and "that is very much that you can actually see in the personality of Prime Minister (Narendra Modi)," he said.

Army, IAF joint exercise in Eastern Theatre to meet any Chinese threat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective of honing their operational readiness in meeting any challenge from China, the strategic forces of the Indian Army including its elite commandos of the Shatruiet Brigade and IAF in the first week of April jointly conducted a multi domain exercise in the Eastern Theatre. China had tried to change the status quo at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh on December nine last year. It led to a clash between the troops from both the sides and some soldiers from both the armies also received injuries. The drill was undertaken to validate joint plans for strategic airlift of specialised forces employing IAF fixed



and rotary wing platforms by landing and dropping in designated areas for undertaking kinetic actions to provide surge to ongoing operations by regular land forces, sources said here on Thursday. Such Special Operations Exercises are a mix of conventional and unconventional military actions that are undertaken by specially designated, selected, trained and equipped units. The C17 Globemaster transport aircraft, Chinooks and Mi 17s helicopters undertook multi-mode insertion into designated greenfield landing zones with surgical precision. Paratroopers from the Shatruiet Brigade conducted special heliborne operations with the aim of validating their ability to rapidly deploy into hostile environment using Chinooks and Mi17 helicopters to augment the capability of the regular ground forces.

Opp slams Govt for omitting Maulana Azad's name from NCERT textbook

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Yet another omission, this time removal of references to freedom fighter and India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad from the new class 11 political science textbook by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), has invited sharp reaction from the Opposition parties. While Congress lashed out at the Government saying there is a concerted attempt to "rewrite" history and pass on a "distorted legacy built on lies", CPI(M) alleged that such "vengeful rewriting of history" is aimed at creating a false narrative to further the RSS "ideological projects". The NCERT has, however, claimed that no curriculum trimming has taken place this year and the syllabus was ratio-



nised in June, last year. As part of its "syllabus rationalisation" exercise last year, the NCERT, citing "overlapping" and "irrelevant" as reasons, dropped certain portions from the course including lessons on Gujarat riots, Mughal courts, Emergency, Cold War, Naxalite movement, among others from its textbooks. The rationalisation note had no mention of any changes in class 11 political science textbook.

"Certain changes not finding mention of in the rationalised content book could be an 'oversight'," NCERT Director Dinesh Saklani reiterated. In the class 11 political science textbook's first chapter, titled 'Constitution - Why and How', a line has been revised to omit Azad's name from the constituent assembly committee meetings. The revised line now reads, "Usually, Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel or BR Ambedkar chaired these Committees." In the tenth chapter of the same textbook, titled "The Philosophy of the Constitution", the reference to Jammu and Kashmir's conditional accession has also been deleted. "For example, the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian union was based on a commitment to safeguard its autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution," says the dropped paragraph.

Tender apology for anti-judiciary remarks: SC orders Lalit Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday came down heavily on ex-IPL commissioner Lalit Modi over his remarks against the judiciary made in social media posts and directed him to tender an unconditional apology on social media platforms and national newspapers. Observing that Modi is not above law and the institution, a Bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar warned any repeat of such conduct will be viewed very seriously. The apex court also directed him to file an affidavit before it tendering an apology and stating no such posts will be made in future which would tantamount, even remotely, to tarnishing the image of the Indian judiciary. "We have



gone through the counter affidavit filed by the respondent (Modi). We are not at all satisfied with the explanation given. We are of the view even the clarification would tarnish the image of the judiciary. "Counsel for respondent AM Singhvi has stated at bar that an unconditional apology would be tendered in all social media where he has followers and leading newspapers at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Madras and Kolkata editions," the Bench said while posting the matter for further hearing on April 24.

ED takes Chanda's statement in land-for-jobs scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday recorded the statement of RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's daughter Chanda Yadav in a money laundering case linked to the land-for-jobs 'scam' in the railway. Chanda Yadav's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) during her deposition before the ED. She is the fourth child of Lalu, a former Railway Minister, to have deposited before the ED in this case till now. Lalu has nine children. On Wednesday, his other daughter Ragini Yadav was questioned. Earlier, his MP daughter Misa Bharti and his son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav have also been questioned at the agency's office here. In March, the agency had searched the premises of



Chanda Yadav, her sisters Ragini Yadav and Hema Yadav, and former RJD MLA Abu Dojana in Patna, Phulwari Sharif, Delhi-NCR, Ranchi and Mumbai. The ED had on Monday questioned and recorded the statement of Tejashwi Yadav in this case. Misa Bharti was similarly questioned by the ED in this case on March 25, the same day Tejashwi Yadav had deposited before the CBI. Both the central agencies recently initiated action in the case, with the CBI questioning Lalu Prasad and his wife and former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi and the ED carrying out raids against the RJD chief's family.

Congressional Caucus meet on Apr 26 to boost US-India ties

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI / WASHINGTON

The Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans has announced a meeting to strengthen US-India partnership by bringing key stakeholders together. It is the first of its kind meeting at the US Congress and will take place on April 26. The meeting has bipartisan support and has gained momentum in the past decade. "I am very excited that leading members of the Indian American community, senior members of the Congress, critical Administration leaders and foreign policy experts will be convening on April 26 to chart out a comprehensive strategy for strengthening US-India partnership," Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna said late Wednesday.

IAF's Rafale's to take part in multilateral Exercise Orion in France



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent will depart on Friday for France to participate in multilateral Exercise Orion at Mont-de-Marsan with IAF Rafale jets for the first time taking part in a drill abroad. The exercise is scheduled at Mont-de-Marsan, an air force base of the French Air and Space Force (FASE). The exercise will be conducted from April 17 to May five. The Indian contingent comprises four French built Rafale jets, two C-17,

two Il-78 aircraft and 165 air warriors. This will be the first overseas exercise for the IAF's Rafale aircraft, officials said here on Thursday. Besides the IAF and the FASE, Air Forces from Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Spain and United States of America would also be flying in this multilateral exercise. Participation in this exercise would further enrich the employment philosophy of the India Air Force, by imbibing the best practices from other Air Forces.

Bengaluru company unveils chip that could revolutionise satellite-based navigation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a development that could revolutionise satellite-based navigation in India and abroad, Elena Geo Systems, a Bengaluru-based space technology company on Thursday unveiled a chip that could form the core of the navigation, positioning and timing applications in India. The chip works using navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) or the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) satellites. Elena Geo Systems founder, Lt Colonel V S Velan handed over the chip to Chief of Defence Staff General (CDS) Anil Chauhan here in the presence of Samir V Kamat, Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). The chip has many cores that service the requirements of



signal acquisition, regeneration, processing and the output interface and hence it is has been named as the NavIC processor. This will enable high precision and accuracy for all the three types of applications such as navigation, positioning and timing, providing India much needed self-reliance in this domain. The company has been pursuing advance technologies to manufacture these chips and modules; some of which have been supplied to the Indian Army and some private entities. Elena Geo Systems, was incubated at IIT-Kharagpur in 2012 and is now a member of the Delhi-based Indian Space Association.

Data on attacks on Christians not correct, Centre tells SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday disputed in the Supreme Court the figure pertaining to alleged attacks on Christian institutions and priests, terming the data "wrong" and claiming the petitioners wanted to keep "the pot boiling" to sully the image of the country abroad. The apex court was hearing a PIL filed by Rev. Peter Machado of the National Solidarity Forum, Rev. Vijayesh Lal of Evangelical Fellowship of India, and others claiming violence against Christians. A Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud was earlier told by the PIL petitioners that from 2021 to May 2022, 700 cases of violence against Christians were reported and a majority of those arrested were followers of the faith. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, referred to a report containing the case data

received from Bihar and Chhattisgarh and said most of them related to disputes involving neighbours and, coincidentally, one of the parties happened to be a Christian. He said the Bench, also including Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala, had taken note of the matter based on the figures provided by the PIL petitioners which were wrong. "The petitioner claimed that there are some 500 incidents where Christians were attacked. We sent everything to the State Governments. We collated all the information we got. The figure given by them, which obviously persuaded your lordships, was not correct," said Mehta, citing that Union Home Ministry has collated the responses from all the States. Altogether 38 such incidents were reported from Bihar, and as per the report, they pertained to fights between two neighbours of whom one happened to be a Christian.

Delhi HC speeds up appeal process in 2G scam cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Speeding up the appeal process in 2G scam cases, the Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the CBI, ED, former Telecom Minister A Raja and others to file their submissions in the appeals challenging the acquittal by the trial court. Justice DK Sharma said the parties shall file brief written submissions not exceeding five pages. The CBI demanded day-to-day hearings and its counsel urged the court to list the matter on an early date when he would argue on the aspect of granting leave to appeal, the judge fixed the matter for May 22 and 23. The CBI and ED filed appeal against the trial court's verdict acquitting all accused persons on March 2018, five years ago. There were 95 listings and seven judges presided on the appeal process. At one point Justice Najmi Waziri in mid 2018, fined some accused for delaying the process and

ordered them to plant 16,000 trees at Delhi Ridge forest area. "The matter requires urgent hearing. Fix anytime of the day for conducting day-to-day hearing in the matter," the CBI counsel submitted. Though the CBI had earlier concluded its submissions on the issue of leave to appeal, it will have to argue the matter afresh due to change of the judge. Leave to appeal is a formal permission granted by a court to a party to challenge a decision in a higher court. Earlier, the case was being heard on a day-to-day basis by Justice Brijesh Sethi, who retired on November 30 and had released the matter from his board on November 23 owing to paucity of time. Before retiring, Justice Sethi had decided various petitions and applications filed by the acquitted individuals and firms in the three cases arising out of the 2G scam probe lodged by the CBI and ED.



Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur with Sports Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi and CEO of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, G K Rao at an event 'Paving the Path For Clean Sports - A Dialogue with stakeholders on risk associated with use of nutritional supplements by NADA' on Thursday. PTI

IMD warns of heatwave in 4 States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday issued a heatwave warning for four states - West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar - over the next three to four days. Earlier this month, the IMD predicted above-normal maximum temperatures for most parts of the country from April to June, except parts of the northwest and the peninsular regions. According to the IMD, heatwave conditions are likely in isolated pockets of Gangetic West Bengal until April 17, north coastal Andhra Pradesh and Odisha until April 15, and in Bihar from April 15 to 17. The IMD said that the maximum temperatures in several parts of the western Himalayan region and northeast India, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha,



coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala are three to five notches above normal. Above-normal heatwave days are expected in most parts of central, east, and northwest India during this period. The maximum temperatures in central and north peninsular India are hovering in the range of 40 to 42 degrees Celsius at present. At present, certain regions of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, interior

announced the closure of schools till 16 April in the wake of "intense heat wave conditions" in the state. The IMD said maximum temperatures are three to five notches above normal in many parts of the western Himalayan region and northeast India, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. In an extended-range forecast, the IMD said heatwave conditions are likely over parts of Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh on some days between April 20 and April 26. A heat wave is declared if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, at least 37 degrees in coastal areas and at least 30 degrees in hilly regions, and the departure from normal is at least 4.5 degrees.

DISCONTENT OVER CHOICE OF KARNATAKA POLL CANDIDATES BJP brass try to calm those denied tickets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the release of two lists of 212 candidates out of total 224 Assembly seats in Karnataka, the disgruntlement among those denied tickets has made the party leadership anxious with the central leaders and Chief Minister Basavraj Bommai and Lingayat strongman BS Yediyurappa trying to mitigate the problem through consultations and mediation.



MLAs denied tickets have resigned from the party.

Some of the sitting BJP MLAs, denied tickets, have resigned from the party. The latest list of nominees does not include Hubli-Dharwad Central segment, from where former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar wants to contest. It also does not include a candidate for the Shivamogga city segment, where sitting MLA and former minister K S Eshwarappa has announced his retirement from electoral politics. Eshwarappa wanted his son to be nominated on his seat.

The BJP on Tuesday announced its first list of 189 candidates and a second list of 23 on Wednesday night. The party is yet to name contestants for 12 seats even as the process of filing nominations has already begun and to end by April 20. Elections in Karnataka are scheduled on May 10.

Mudigere BJP MLA M P Kumaraswamy and Haveri MLA Nehru Olekar on Thursday announced their resignation from the primary membership of the party, after they were denied tickets.

“Some aspirants and legislators have announced their resignation, a few have resigned. We are speaking to

workers and leaders and things will be resolved by and large. I’m speaking to seniors (who are disgruntled), also our high command will be speaking to them. I’m confident things will be resolved,” Chief Minister Basavraj Bommai said in Mangaluru.

Bommai maintained that things would be resolved in some time. On former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi announcing that he was quitting the party, Bommai said, “... He will also have to safeguard the trust of the people of the constituency from whom he will be under pressure. So it will take some time, but it will be resolved.”

It is speculated that Savadi is in touch with the Congress leaders and may move to their side. Stating that candidates had been selected based on “survey reports”, the Chief Minister said he would also speak to Mudigere MLA Kumaraswamy and try to ensure that he remained in the party.

Cong in Catch-22 situation over Pilot’s fast against Gehlot

‘Sachin will neither join BJP nor AAP’

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI



After going to town over a fast against Sachin Pilot for observing a daylong fast to protest against his own government led by Ashok Gehlot, the Congress has now found itself in a Catch-22 situation.

On the other hand sources close to the rebel leader Sachin Pilot refuted speculations that he may go to BJP neither he is ‘bargaining’ with Aam Admi Party (AAP) which is eyeing to set its foot in Rajasthan which so far has seen the toss of power game only between Congress and BJP with BSP making a significant presence. “But he is mentally prepared if any action is taken then the former Union Minister in Congress led UPA governments will float his own outfit which will not damage Congress but BJP only,” a close aide of Pilot told The Pioneer. Sources said Pilot has been

trying to convey to the central leadership that he did not defy the party since his fast was an internal matter.

Sources mentioned that when Gehlot was let scot free despite his complete disobedience to the directives of the then President Sonia Gandhi to take over the reins of the grand old party then Pilot has done nothing as his protest pertains to corruption in Vasundhara Raje led BJP government.

Pilot has stationed himself in the national Capital after his one day fast on Tuesday and seeking a meeting with top party leadership.

Sources said neither the Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, nor former chief Rahul Gandhi or General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi have met him so far. Pilot’s last rebellion



when he along with his supporters had lodged in a Gurugram resort two years ago was pacified by Priyanka with whom he is considered to be very close.

While the Congress general secretary in-charge for Rajasthan Sukhjinder Randhawa has held several rounds of meetings including that on Thursday with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi for the second time in two days as the party continues to grapple with the situation arising after Pilot’s fast in defiance of the central leadership, sources in the grand old party said the Congress leadership is caught in a peculiar situation as it neither wants Pilot to quit the party nor it wants to be seen condoning his action.

Will prefer begging from State’s people to pleading before Centre: Mamata

They won’t release funds till 2024 Lok Sabha polls but I will manage, says Didi



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the BJP Government blocking release of MNREGA and other funds pertaining to various social welfare schemes, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said that she better be going around to beg from door to door than submitting before New Delhi with a begging bowl.

An apparently emotional Banerjee said, “I have tried to serve you (the people) with best of my capacity and have still been doing so though the Centre has blocked State’s funds,” adding the people not to misconstrue her.

“There have been problems in implementation of projects on account of fund crunch ... I will request you not to misunderstand me or my intention

to serve you,” Banerjee, a bevy of whose ministerial colleagues and senior party functionaries have landed in jail in connection with a plethora of scams said. Banerjee was speaking at the inaugural function of Dhana Dhanya, a state-of-art auditorium constructed at the cost of ₹440 crore at plush Alipore in South Kolkata. The auditorium resembles a giant-turquoise-and-white conch shell.

Alleging that the Centre had not been releasing funds worth thousands of crores meant for clearing wages under the 100-days’ work scheme, Banerjee said “they (BJP) are thinking that I will go begging before them but I will not ... I have reports that they will not release the funds before 2024 (general elections).”

Shah reviews security arrangements ahead of G-20 meet in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of G20 meeting in Srinagar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday reviewed the functioning of the security grid and all security-related aspects in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by the top brass of security and intelligence units. At the security review meeting, attended by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha among others, Shah took stock of the functioning of the security grid and various aspects related to security, an official statement said.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairs a high-level meeting to review security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, in New Delhi on Thursday

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, J&K DGP Dilbag Singh, IB Chief Tapan Kumar Deka, RA Chief Samant Goel also attended the high-level security review meet chaired by the Home Minister.

Shah also reviewed the preparations for a G20 meeting to be held in Srinagar next month and directed all relevant agencies to work in coordination for successful conduct of the event. India is hosting a

meeting of the G20 Tourism Working Group in Srinagar in May while a youth engagement group meeting is scheduled to take place in Leh later this month.

The Home Minister reiterated the Modi government’s unflinching resolve to the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism. He also reviewed the area domination plan, zero terror policy, law and order situation, matters related to UAPA and other security-related issues.

Shah appreciated the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir administration and security agencies for significant reduction in cross-border infiltration and improvement in law-and-order situation and stressed on strengthening routine policing.

Man held for marriage with minor, tampering with her date of birth on Aadhaar card

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a classic case of the groom of a “Balika Badhu” landing in trouble within hours of their marriage, the Mumbai police have arrested a 23-year-old man for entering into a court marriage with a minor girl after allegedly tampering with her real date of birth on her Aadhaar card to prove that she was a major.

The fraud came to light within hours after they got married in a civil marriage on Tuesday (April 11) at the office of Marriage Registrar at Bandra in north-west Mumbai, when the boy and girl visited the Dahisar Police Station to complete the mandatory legal formalities.

Suspecting foul play, the police summoned the girl’s father Sabajit Pal, a tailor, to ascertain facts about the bride’s age. Pal told the police that his

daughter’s date of birth had been tampered with allegedly by the boy to prove that she was 18 years, an age criterion for Court Marriage.

Under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Court Marriage age for a boy is 21 years and the Court Marriage age for a girl is 18 years. On his part, Pal produced his daughter’s original birth certificate, as submitted to a local school as proof of the real date of birth. The girl also admitted that the groom had committed the fraud with her knowledge.

Immediately afterwards, Pal later lodged a complaint against the boy with the Dahisar police.

Taking serious cognisance of the complaint, the police registered an FIR against the accused “groom” — Gaurav Makwana, booked him on charges of kidnapping, cheating, forgery and child marriage.

SC quashes Calcutta HC order for CBI probe into attack on Union Min Pramanik’s convoy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday set aside a Calcutta High Court order for a CBI probe in the alleged attack on Union Minister Nisith Pramanik’s convoy during a visit to his constituency in West Bengal in February and directed fresh adjudication of the PIL filed by BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari on the issue.

The top court also rejected the vehement submissions of Adhikari, the leader of the opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, for a “status quo” on the probe into the incident by the state police which, otherwise, will proceed with a “lightening speed” in view of the fact that they have not given the case files to the CBI as directed by the high court. “No we

cannot pass such an order,” a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J P Pardiwala said.

The top court referred to the fresh affidavit filed by the West Bengal police before it with regard to the actions taken so far in the incident and set aside the high court judgement ordering a CBI probe, saying the “the High Court has not noticed any of the facets”.

“However, the narration which is set out in the earlier part of the judgement (of the high court) have a bearing on the fact that the high court did not apply its mind to the entirety of the material which was produced before it by the petitioners on whether a proper investigation was being conducted (by the state police),” the bench said.

Appoint child marriage prohibition officers in all dists: SC to Centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre to ensure appointment of child marriage prohibition officers in every district and directed it to specify the policy steps it has taken for enforcement of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala asked the Ministry of Women and Child Development to furnish data after collecting them from all states on the number of cases registered under the 2006 law and steps taken for its enforcement.

“The Union government shall engage with state government and ensure appointment of child marriage prohibition officers in every district



and that they are not given multifarious duties,” the bench said.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by NGO ‘Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action’ which has claimed the Act was not being enforced in letter and spirit.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said a bill was moved in Parliament seeking raising the marriageable age of women to 21 years. The bill is currently before a select committee, the ASG said.

PACS to get priority in allotment of petrol/diesel dealerships, purchase of ethanol

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Now Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in the country will get priority in allotment of new petrol/diesel dealerships and purchase of ethanol produced by cooperative sugar mills. They will also be able to apply for LPG distributorship and have the option to convert existing Wholesale Consumer Licensed PACS into retail out-

lets. This was decided at a meeting held between Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri here in the national Capital on Wednesday.

The move was taken with an aim to strengthen the PACS as well as pave a way for them to convert into multipurpose economic units, which will provide regular sources of income to crores of farmers of

the country and hence realize the goal of ‘Sahakar se Samardhi’ as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Giving details, a senior official from the Cooperation Ministry said that Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas agreed to convert existing wholesale petrol and diesel dealership licensed under Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) into retail outlets, provided they fulfil all the requirements for setting up

retail outlets in rural areas, including statutory approvals and other permissions.

The decision also aims to give priority to PACS in the allotment of new petrol and diesel dealerships. Now, PACS have been made eligible to get LPG distributorship as well.

As per an official from the Union Ministry of Cooperation, the existing PACS will be given a one-time option to convert their wholesale consumer pumps into retail outlets.

With the eligibility for LPG distributorship, the PACS will become the economic hub of rural development, the official said, adding that the PACS will become a strong empowered entity after the option to convert existing wholesale consumer-licensed PACS into a retail outlet. In addition to the above, rules will also be changed by the Ministry of Petroleum to make PACS eligible for LPG distributorship.

Also, under the Ethanol

Blending Program, the Ministry of Petroleum will ensure that cooperative sugar mills are given priority for ethanol procurement at par with other private companies, explained the officials.

It has also been decided that PACS will be considered under the Combined Category -2(CC 2) along with the freedom fighter and sports quota in the allotment of new petrol/diesel dealerships, he said.

‘Will those who burnt 2 men in Hry also be killed in encounter’

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Attacking the BJP for conducting encounters “in the name of religion”, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday sought to know whether those who burnt to death the two youth in Haryana would also be killed in an encounter.



Owaisi, who was addressing a gathering at Nizamabad in Telangana, referred to the killing of Junaid and Naseer in Haryana, allegedly by cow vigilantes in February this year.

“Whose government is in power in Haryana? Are houses not being bulldozed? Are encounters not done by firing bullets?... Will you shoot at those who killed Junaid and Naseer?” he asked. “... You do encounter in the name of religion.

Can you eliminate the killers of Junaid and Naseer? You will not do. So far, one has been caught and nine disappeared,” he said.

Reacting to the killing of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed’s son during an exchange of fire with the UP police today, he said the law

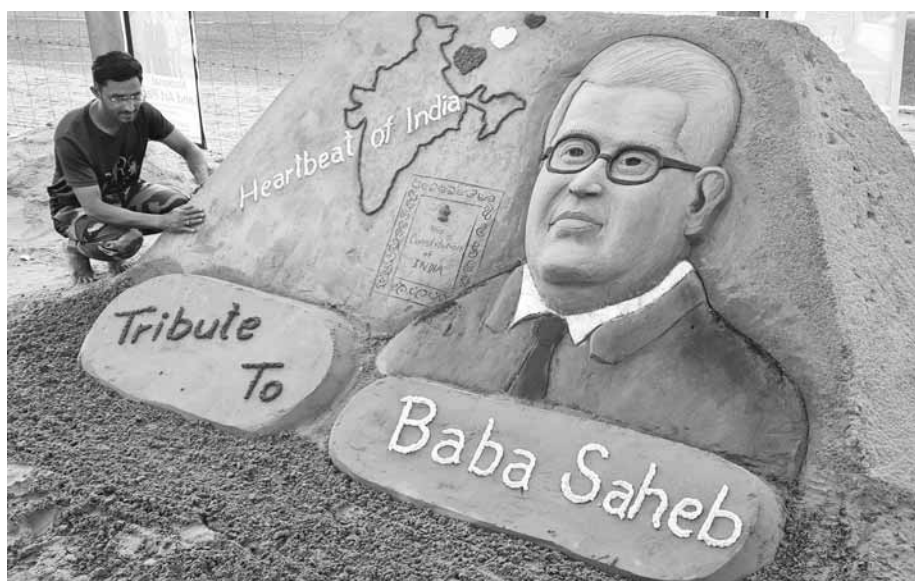
Another soldier dies of gunshot wound in Bathinda Military Station

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Hours after four Indian Army soldiers were killed in their sleep by unidentified assailants, another soldier at the Bathinda Military Station in Punjab died of a gunshot wound Wednesday evening. Meanwhile, a search is going on for the two men who killed the four jawans while they were sleeping. As per the Army, the case purportedly seems to be of attempted suicide and has no connection with the incident which took place earlier in the day in the same military sta-

tion. The incident took place around 4.30pm Wednesday evening but was made public only Thursday morning even as he was evacuated immediately to the Military Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. He had returned from leave a day ago on 11 April, the Army said.

“Bathinda is a huge military station and the location of this incident was nowhere close to where the earlier incident took place,” a source said, adding that “he might have been facing some domestic issues.”



Sand artist Ajay Rawat creates a sand sculpture of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on the eve of his birth anniversary, in Ajmer on Thursday

Covid-19 surge: Maha records 1,086 new cases, one death; active tally 5,700

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra on Thursday recorded 1,086 Covid-19 cases and one death, which took the tally to 81,53,377 and the toll to 1,48,471, a health official said.

It is the second consecutive day when the addition to the tally was above the 1000-mark,

Mumbai accounted for 274 cases, followed by 85 in Thane, 76 in Nagpur and 65 in Pune, while the sole death took place in Dhule, the official said.

The recovery count increased by 806 in the last 24 hours and touched 79,99,206, leaving the state with an active caseload of 5,700, he said.

Shah on tour of Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Goa from today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit four states in the three days from Friday as he spearheads the BJP’s drive to tone up its organisation machinery and boost public outreach in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls next year. Party leaders said Shah

will visit Birbhum in West Bengal on Friday followed by Bharatpur in Rajasthan and Goa on Sunday.

He will lay the foundation stone of a party office and address a rally in Birbhum and address a meeting of booth presidents in Rajasthan, they said.

Don’t know who Suresh Chandrasekhar is: BRS’ Kavitha

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader K Kavitha on Friday said she does not know who Suresh Chandrasekhar, the alleged common accused of extorting Rs 200 crore from the wife of a prominent businessman, is.

Rubbishing reports in a section of media linking her with Chandrasekhar, Kavitha said some media organizations have been deliberately spreading false news against the Telangana government, BRS party, and most importantly, her.

In a statement issued here, she lambasted BJP leaders saying that based an anonymous letter by a “financial criminal,” the saffron party was carrying out the smear campaign against her.

“I am not even familiar with the real Suresh Chandrasekhar. I don’t even know who he is. But regardless of the facts, some media outlets are zealous and persistent in publishing false news,” said the BRS MLC.

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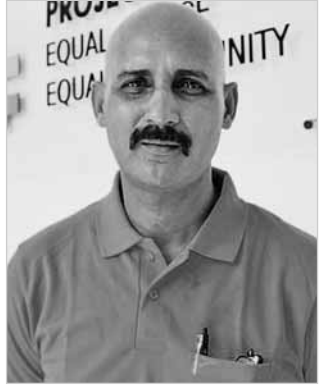
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Systemic failure

A 12-year-old was tried for murder, convicted, and spent his best years on death row

Niranaram Chetanram Chaudhary is a living testament to the pathetic state of our police and justice systems. In 1994, he was 12 years old — and tried for murder on the presumption that he was 22. This happened because somehow he got dragged into a murder case in Pune, in which five women and two children were knifed to death. After class three he ran away from his school at Bikaner in Rajasthan, went to Pune, and began working in a tailoring shop. He doesn't remember why he ran away from his home or with whom, nor could any of his brothers. Some cop misspelled his name as Narayan instead of Niranaram, leading to his trial, conviction, and death sentence. What is startling and heartrending is the fact no one in the system — from cops of various ranks and lawyers to judges at different levels in the judicial hierarchy — could even notice that a child was being on trial. A junior police officer may have misspelled the name, but could he tell a 12-year-old kid from a 22-year-old youngster? And what about the senior officers? And the prosecuting lawyers and defence counsels? And judges in the trial and appeal courts? A 42-year-old man, if he abuses his own body, may look 52; and a 52-year-old man, who takes good care of his body, may pass off as 42. But how on earth can a 12-year-old boy be mistaken as 22 years of age? Even if he did commit the crime, he could not have been imprisoned for more than three years, as per the juvenile law in effect at that time.



Justice is said to be blind, but those responsible for dispensing it are not supposed to be blind; their cognitive and cogitative faculties ought to be sound. In Chaudhary's case, all these were found wanting — and he paid a terrible price. He had to spend 28 long years in prison, and on death row to boot. The best years of his life — adolescence and most of his youth — were spent behind bars. "When you are on death row, every hope is broken. You just try to get through the day," he recently told a newspaper after his release, adding that he now feels blessed to look at the stars on a dark night after spending years confined to four walls under the glare of lights. In prison, he studied a lot, getting a master's degree in sociology. It was at this time that he realised that he was much younger than the prison records showed. The Supreme Court ended his ordeal in March when it concluded that Niranaram was 12 years and six months old at the time of the murders. School documents and medical examination proved that. The exercise was carried out as part of the National Law University's Project 39A which works on death penalty reform. This episode proves, if any proof is needed, that India's justice and police systems urgently need reforms. Our political masters, however, have not shown great zeal for reforms in the justice system. People like Niranaram Chetanram Chaudhary continue to suffer.

PICTALK



Students perform 'Bhangra' during Baisakhi celebrations, at a wheat field on the outskirts of Amritsar

Adapting to climate change is imperative

For a country like ours, which experiences almost extreme weather conditions every year, resilience building must be given top priority



AS MITTAL

The agriculture sector is highly vulnerable to climate change and is a big challenge for the agrarian economy. Food-bowl Punjab and Haryana farmers' fetish for unsustainable big cereal wheat this time has begun to hurt, as returns diminish due to climate challenges. The climate challenge farmers faced this time was erratic rainfall at the end of March, while crops were ready to harvest, likely to affect the yield significantly. In the case of Punjab, the initial deliberation by the agriculture department has indicated that at least 40 per cent of 35 lakh hectares of wheat sown is impacted by rain, winds, and hailstorms.

The serious challenges from climate change-induced impacts of erratic rainfall and the heat waves are not just a threat to our food security and nutrition as well as to the livelihood of 45 per cent of the country's population that depends on farming. It has an impact on their crop loan cycle to return on time to get fresh lending and to invest back into their farms.

Policy-makers, agri-scientists and farmers must come together to confront the challenge of climate change. Various climate change policies are established at international, national and state levels to address the impacts of climate change. Traditionally, the focus of such policies remained on mitigation instead of adaptation measures. Adaptation actions are needed to respond to climate change as these actions help reduce vulnerabilities.

Overuse of resources like water, soil, fertilisers and pesticides to boost yield resulted in Green-House Gases Emissions (GHGs). Take the example of Punjab, after the implementation of the Food Security Act; the nation is again looking toward Punjab, but Punjab farmers need to conserve its soil and water management along with adopting diversification in agriculture.

Why are the funds dwindling? However, the National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC) seeks to build a dynamic knowledge system that would inform



and support action for responding effectively to the objective of ecologically sustainable development making agriculture climate resilient.

The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) was established in 2015 to meet the cost of adaptation for the States but why are the funds dwindling to address this serious challenge? The grants released under NAFCC fell from ₹350 crore in 2015-16 to ₹27.76 crore in 2022-23, while the sub-committee of the Ministry of Finance estimates the cumulative expenditure for adapting to climate change at ₹ 85.60 lakh crore by 2030.

Research and development is the bedrock of climate resistance agriculture but the minuscule investments in R&D impede the ability of science and technology research to tackle multiple challenges. As per the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, around 85 per cent of their budget goes towards salaries and other administrative/establishment expenditures, with little left for research. The same is with state agriculture universities facing a financial crunch for R&D work. The total R&D expenditure in India as a percentage of agricultural GDP has been



POLICYMAKERS, AGRI-SCIENTISTS AND FARMERS MUST COME TOGETHER TO CONFRONT THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE. VARIOUS POLICIES ARE IN PLACE AT INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND STATE LEVELS TO ADDRESS THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

stagnant at 0.3 to 0.5 per cent in the last two decades. It is much lower than in the US (2.8 per cent), China (2.1 per cent), South Korea (4.3 per cent), and Israel (4.2 per cent).

For a country that experiences almost extreme weather every year, adaptation and resilience building must be a priority. India needs more granular risk analysis that can help target appropriate adaptation action locally while making new infrastructure climate resilient and strengthening early warning systems.

An analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water found the frequency and intensity of extreme climate events increasing by almost 200 per cent since 2005 and three out of four districts of India are facing extreme climate change. Experts' analyst estimates show that climate change might reduce global agriculture productivity by 17 per cent by 2030. According to a study by the World Meteorological Organisation, India is estimated to have suffered an average annual loss of more than ₹6 lakh crore from climate-induced changes.

The way forward: To face these risks, adaptation is the key factor. Farmers

should start promoting sustainable integrated agriculture practices that could enable them to lower their vulnerabilities by higher crop diversity from staples to high-value crops, fruit and vegetables. Integrated farming with the inclusion of dairy, poultry, beekeeping, fisheries and mushroom cultivation can give additional high-energy food without affecting the production of food grains. There are four sustainable ways farmers can produce more food.

First, Farmers need hand-holding in the early phases. Support them for knowledge exchange with skill-intensive practices. Second, support technology innovation and adaptation to minimise their vulnerability. Third, Instead of input-based subsidies for fertiliser and power, incentivising outcome-based support could encourage innovation. Fourth, and the most significant, is enhanced research and development for impact studies compared with conventional farming across agro-climatic zones.

(The writer is vice-chairman of Sonalika Group, and vice-chairman (Cabinet Minister rank) of Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUPREME COURT NOD TO RSS MARCH

Sir — The tussle between the Tamil Nadu Government and the RSS began when the former denied permission to organise route marches and public gatherings to the latter in September 2022. The government cited that since the Government of India's decision to ban PFI under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the law-and-order situation is not conducive to organising marches. The single-judge Bench also reprimanded the Tamil Nadu police as it observed that there was nothing adverse in the intelligence reports cited by them. The Supreme Court has given a green signal to the RSS Route March in Tamil Nadu.

CKR Nathan | Trichy

CONSOLATION FOR YASH DAYAL

Sir — It is really heartening to see that left-arm pacer Yash Dayal, who was hammered for five consecutive sixes by Rinku Singh in the final over to seal the game for KKR, has been receiving consolation messages from all around, including from his father. It is all the more encouraging that the entire KKR team reached out to the GT bowler with a moving post, backing him to bounce back from the setback. KKR's message for Dayal read: "Chin up, lad. Just a hard day at the office happens to the best of players in cricket." No doubt, these words will lift the morale of the bruised bowler and come up strongly in the remaining matches. Yash Dayal can take solace from England's Stuart Broad, who is still respected as one of the great fast bowlers in the world despite he was taken to the cleaners by Yuvraj Singh in the 2007 T20 world cup. Sport is a great leveller, and it always gives a second chance for a player to come good.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

SACHIN ON PILOT'S FLIGHT ROUTE?

Sir — Now that Sachin (the pure) Pilot is set on steering the Rajasthan Congress aircraft to his own chosen course against instructions of central control, it is like-

Ambedkar's views on religion



Dr BR Ambedkar had asserted "I tell you, religion is for man and not man for religion". Perhaps his words have turned "antique" and so immediately require to be junked! Currently, man is for religious shrines, epic and mythological figures, mythical unseen rivers

urgently in need of 'rejuvenation', "holy" animals and "sacred" books! Today, religion is not for married couples even, rather matrimonial bonds are for religion; with divine love getting interpreted as "jihad" of sorts!

So by ignoring all 'stories' revolving around poverty-malnutrition-hunger-illiteracy-child labour-human trafficking-unemployment, let's invest all our energy, time and resource to commemorate epic figures monopolised by the 'religious' brigade and revolve our precious lives around myths, rituals and "sanctity" of animals! Grand temples and glittering corridors should be our "national pride"; never mind if billions of fellow citizens remain deprived of minimum dignity and rights entitled to human beings!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

ly that he has laid his hands on the same route map taken earlier by Jyotiraditya Scindia. And his landing destination may well be the same. In which case, it befits Pilot to be left to handle Civil Aviation and for Scindia to take over the Shipping portfolio. After all, he is from the lineage of the Maharaja of Gwalior who set up the Scindia Shipping way back in 1914. The BJP is decidedly generous in disbursing landing rights to carriers flying colours other than their own.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

CROREPATI, TAINTED LEADERS AS CM

Sir — The citizen is not at all surprised to read that 29 of the current 30 Chief Ministers are crorepatas, or 13 (43 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against them. Based upon the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report, it was revealed that money power and muscle power have a large bearing on the outcome of the election results. If not, then how Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is the richest CM in the country with ₹510 crore assets, whereas he with 38 cases, including 35 serious offences (non-bailable offences with over five years of

imprisonment), stood third among the CMs with the highest number of cases booked against him? Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao faces the highest number of criminal cases (64), including 37 serious offences and financial liability.

Actually, being a crorepati is not a huge thing as any property even in a village will command close to ₹1 crore. Moreover, it may be true in case of white money, but as soon as you talk about total money, I'm sure West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee is the only CM (who is not a crorepati) would move close to other crorepati CMs. Interestingly, we are talking about the current 30 CMs, but what about all the Ministers who are not in power or who have already made the loot and are now sitting silently? Unfortunately, our law is so blind that in the defamation case a lawmaker, if found guilty, not only lost his seat but also won't contest an election for the next eight years. But politicians with huge money and muscle power rule the country freely. Truly, 'Mera Naya Bharat Mahan'!

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Tailored corporate courses in demand

A growing number of companies are now opting for flexible training courses that allow executives to attend sessions as per their comfort



YAJULU MEDURY

Continuous learning is essential in the business world to keep up with the constantly changing landscape. Executive education programs provide tailored courses to meet the specific needs of professionals and organisations. The demand for such courses is global and not limited to specific industries or regions.

Upskilling employees to adapt to new technologies and building leadership and management skills to tackle organisational changes are some examples of the specific challenges that executives face. A skills-based approach can make an organization achieve greater diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI) advantages. Providing the right opportunities and enabling employees to learn skills that the company finds necessary for its future growth can help employees grow individually and the organization collectively.

Flexible training courses that allow learners to attend sessions as per their comfort, and choose offline, on-campus, or online learning options are being preferred by



corporates. As an executive, every individual and their organisation needs to focus on upskilling and reskilling. Deeper analytical insights can also be provided by executive learning programs apart from the skills that are in demand.

With digital automation making existing technologies go obsolete rapidly, upskilling or reskilling can also be instrumental in ensuring that a person remains relevant and effective in the current role, even in the future. As per a global study by Deloitte, about 86% of organizations are aware of this need, but just 10% find themselves ready to address them.

The need for executive education programs is growing as businesses face rapid changes in technology and the global market. Executives need to continually upgrade

their skills and knowledge to keep up with the demands of their industry. Organizations are looking for courses that are not only relevant to their industry but also address the specific challenges they are facing, such as upskilling employees to adapt to new technologies or building leadership and management skills to tackle organisational changes. With digital automation making existing technologies obsolete rapidly, upskilling or reskilling can also be instrumental in ensuring that a person remains relevant and effective in their current and future roles.

To stay ahead of the curve, businesses need to identify the right skill sets that will keep their workforce proficient and in sync with evolving technologies such as AI automation and SaaS-driven activities. Flexible training courses that allow learners to attend sessions as per their comfort, and choose offline, on-campus, or online learning options are being preferred by corporates.

Executives themselves feel the need to retain their competitive edge and acquire skills that will help them take

up new and more complex leadership roles in the times ahead. By joining learning and development programs aimed at specific areas, employees can acquire skills that make them leaders in their areas of expertise and achieve better growth in terms of corporate hierarchy and remuneration. To achieve greater diversity, equity and inclusivity advantages, organizations should focus on providing opportunities for employees to learn skills that the company finds necessary for its future growth. Executive learning programs can provide deeper analytical insights apart from the skills that are in demand.

In conclusion, executive education is necessary to keep up with the ever-changing business landscape. Organizations must identify the right skill sets and provide flexible training courses to keep their workforce proficient and in sync with evolving technologies. Executives themselves need to focus on upskilling and reskilling to retain their competitive edge.

(The writer is Vice Chancellor, Mahindra University)

FIRST COLUMN

MANAGING EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE IS THE KEY

Companies must invest in staff, listen to feedback and prioritise work-life balance



KARAN JAIN

The success or failure of a business ultimately hinges on the productivity and work quality of its workforce. The workforce is truly the foundation of every corporate and industry, and understanding their experiences within an organization is crucial. This is where employee experience comes into play, as it enables organisations to gain valuable insights into the needs and sentiments of their people.

The unprecedented changes the world of work has gone through have severely impacted and shaped how employees act and what they expect. The workforce is fluid and diverse which makes each of them have a different 'want'. There exists a common underlying tone to their expectations making work-life balance, employee engagement and productivity vital elements for HR to decide what kind of experience they are gaining.

If it becomes complex and opaque, employee experience management (EXM) could become the key to improving the overall situation.

Build better understanding for the employees: The pillar of EXM is based on how much HRs or CXOs understand their people or teams. Build a workspace where your employees feel much appreciated and assured.

Bring dynamic leaders: Dynamic leaders know the way, go the way, and show the way to their people — a famous quote by author John C Maxwell. Without good leaders, it is more challenging to establish a great company culture and a more positive working atmosphere.

Create more learning opportunities: A workplace should be a place for learning and development for the employees. Offer your employees more learning, skilling, and reskilling opportunities. These opportunities give more confidence to your employees to take on new challenges, improve their skill set, and get career maturity within an organisation.



Continuous feedback and evaluation: Employee experience management is an ongoing process. The HR department should continuously identify the issues and improve them regularly to ensure employee satisfaction and a transparent workplace setting.

Offer smooth onboarding: Onboarding is a vital period for both; new employees and HR. Offer an optimised and smooth onboarding to new hires by providing information regarding their job and tasks, the right tools and software, and a lot of training and guidance to avoid frustration.

Accept inclusion and diversity: If an organisation has a diverse workforce, its culture, policies and hiring practices must support diversity and inclusion. Ignoring these critical components could lead to stereotyping, disrespect among employees, and stress.

Priority to work-life balance: Employees have realised the essentiality of work-life balance. An organisation must necessitate changes in their office programs and policy to offer flexible workspace, remote work options, more breaking hours, and prioritise employees' mental and physical health.

Notice the departing employees: Employees leave organisations regardless of what kind of employee experience they get. It is necessary to know what motivates them to quit.

Recognise and reward performers: Reward and recognition are salient components of employee experience. It is a good way to motivate other employees by gratifying the performers with gifts or rewards. It imbues gratitude and inspiration.

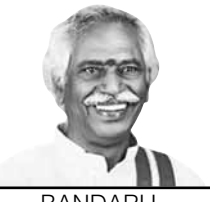
Get rid of micromanagement: The less micromanagement, the more employee experience. Employees don't feel very comfortable with nagging from seniors or management. Micromanagement spreads a feeling of insecurity among the workforce.

Focus on employee retention: An organisation should keep high-performers and talented workers for success and avoid frequent turnovers. To make employees stay, compensate them fairly, focus on engaging them.

Organisations can start investing in their employees, listening to their feedback, bridging the gap between leaders and team members, and prioritising work-life balance.

(The writer is founder, HROne)

Importance of being Dr BR Ambedkar



BANDARU DATTATRAYA

Our true homage on his jayanti would be to resolve to end poverty and ensure justice and equality for all by sharing national opportunities and facilities

For centuries, we as a nation struggled to cope with untouchability and caste-based discrimination. Such inhuman practices demeaned a vast section of Hindus, who were categorized as untouchables. From time to time, great souls tried to salvage us from the repercussions of various social evils. Some of them were Sant Shiromani Ravidas, Sant Chokhama, Sant Kabir Das, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Ram Krishna Paramhans and Sant Tukaram to name a few.

At the fag-end of the 19th century, a boy full of promises was enjoying his classroom teaching the school. One day he was made to sit at the back of the classroom when it was found that he was untouchable. Once he was travelling to his maternal uncle's village along with his brother and cousin. The cart man dropped them midway when he came to know that they were untouchables. One day the boy was going somewhere. In between, he stopped to drink water from a public tap. He was beaten as untouchables were not allowed to use the facility.

The boy was none other than Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, born to Ramji Maloji Sakpal, father, and Bhimabai Murbadkar Sakpal, mother, on April 14, 1891, in Mhow Army Cantonment. He was the 14th child of his parents. His tryst with social evils as worse as untouchability, caste-based persecution and discrimination during his childhood left an indelible mark on his life and thought process.

His own experience from the incidents in his life made him realize how deeply casteism, untouchability, insults and humiliation were rooted in Hindu society. Even the cruelty of fate did not spare him. He lost his mother when he was just six years old. Notwithstanding the trauma of discrimination and discrimination, he did not give up and continued his struggle and studies against all odds. It was an incredible example of exemplary grit, determination and a never-say-die spirit.

Dr Ambedkar did his matriculation in 1908 from Elphinstone High School. His father gave him good sanskrit and used to share stories and thoughts of great saints like Tukaram, Gyaneshwar, teachings of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. He studied Economics and Political Science at Elphinstone College. In 1912, he got a degree from Bombay University. With a scholarship from Maharaja of Baroda, he went to Columbia University, New York City where he got a Master's degree in June 1915 after successfully completing his thesis on 'Ancient Indian Commerce'.

In 1916, he went to the London School of Economics and worked on his doctoral thesis - "The problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and its solution". He took Rs 5000 as a loan from Chhatrapati Shahu ji Maharaj for his further studies. In 1920, received the D Sc from London University! He also went to the University of Bonn, Germany. In June 1927, he was awarded a Doctorate by the University of Columbia. He was a rare Indian politician of his time who studied at Columbia University, LSE and the University of Bonn.

Dr Ambedkar was worried about the fate of poor people, and untouchables. Dr Ambedkar wanted them to be independent. He established the Depressed Classes Society under the presidency of Baroda Maharaj. In 1920, he started The Mooknayak, a Marathi publication that enabled him to criticize the rigid Hindu



DR AMBEDKAR WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE FATE OF POOR PEOPLE AND UNTOUCHABLES. HE WANTED THEM TO BE INDEPENDENT

(The writer is the Governor of Haryana. The views expressed are personal)



beliefs and Bahishkrit Bharat, also a Marathi magazine in 1927, to highlight the issues and aspirations of depressed sections of society. He was so passionate about eradicating the practice of caste discrimination in India that led him to establish Bahishkrit Hitakarni Sabha. In 1936, he founded the Independent Labour Party. He contested the 1937 Bombay election to the Central Legislative Assembly for 13 reserved and four general seats and won 11 reserved and three seats respectively. For him, democratic values were of paramount importance!

After completing his studies and defying all hardships, Dr Ambedkar dedicated his life to the cause of the downtrodden, their emancipation and empowerment. Hence, the struggle became an integral part of his life. In 1927, Dr Ambedkar led a peaceful agitation by drinking water from Chowdar tank in Mahad, Raigad district in Maharashtra along with thousands of his followers when untouchables were not allowed to access water from the tank despite a 192 resolution moved by CK Bole and adopted by the Bombay government, allowing all untouchables to use public watering places, wells and Dharamshala, which were maintained through public funds.

Dr Ambedkar led a movement on March 3, 1930, to secure the entry of all Hindus to Kalaram temple in Nasik. He was in favour of a complete overhauling of Hindu

society and Hindu theology and securing equal rights for all Hindus. He was a votary of inclusivity. Casteism and untouchability go against the spirit of Hinduism, the Vedas. Its essence lies in quality, justice, fraternity and brotherhood. He was surprised that Hinduism is so accommodating and yet treats a vast chunk of Hindus as untouchables, even worse than animals. This was his pain.

He was not inimical to Hindutva. He had resentment against Hinduism but he was not opposed to Hinduism. His acceptance of Buddhism on October 14, 1956, is a case in point as Buddhism is very much rooted in Bharatiya culture. He did not embrace any other religion though Islamic and Christian scholars tried their best to influence him. It is said that when Dr Ambedkar met Mahatma Gandhi during the second Round Table Conference, he told him that he could not accept a religion that treats humans as cats and dogs, and he will embrace a religion that is less harmful to Hinduism.

The versatility of Dr Ambedkar's personality was matchless. His ability to listen to his critics was simply brilliant. Notwithstanding his differences with Veer Savarkar and Mahatma Gandhi on a number of issues, they were unanimous in their views of achieving the goal of social equality and freeing society from abominable evils such as untouchable. Dr Ambedkar did never sup-

port armed struggle but always favoured unity among oppressed social groups to get their socio-political and economic rights. He wanted downtrodden and oppressed sections of society to stay united and acquire knowledge and education so that they are not oppressed.

As the architect of our Constitution, Dr Ambedkar has given us the mantra and roadmap to build a stronger, healthier and more inclusive society. His commitment to the cause of social equality and social justice is a guiding force for all those who are part of public life. He is not only the leader for the oppressed and depressed. He is the leader of 135 crore people in our country - India. He was a true nationalist leader, a true patriot. He has achieved an eternal place in people's hearts. His contributions cannot be estimated but can only be felt and lived by all.

Our true homage to Dr BR Ambedkar on his Jayanti would be to resolve to end poverty and ensure justice and equality for all by sharing national opportunities and facilities. We have rejected untouchability but still, a lot needs to be done to end social disparities in totality. Those who are deprived have to be holistically empowered. By rising above the petty considerations of caste, creed, region and religion, we have to make India Vishwa Guru. Let noble thoughts come from all sides, and let us spread them across the globe in Amrit Kaal!

The top MedTech trends to watch out for in 2023

Increased demand for treatment facilitated by technology is driving the innovation in the MedTech industry as it would improve access to health equity

The combination of rapid advances in revolutionary healthcare technology and increased demand for treatment has continued to spur innovation in the MedTech industry.



CHANDRA GANJOO

Many leading healthcare experts predict 2023 to be a pivotal year for the Medtech Industry, as the rapid adoption of virtual care and demographic fads, such as an ageing population, rising chronic diseases, and health worker shortages, sustain demand for MedTech-enabled solutions.

Recent research indicates that the market for medical technologies is valued at around \$19.65 billion. The market is anticipated to reach \$22.84 billion by 2027, with a CAGR of 3.83 per cent. Innovators and regulators

(The writer is Group Chief Executive Officer, Trivitron Healthcare)

in life sciences and healthcare are also looking to MedTech to improve access to care and health equity. From Robotics to Next-Gen Sequencing, let's delve into the list of MedTech trends offering new chances in this dynamic business. The field is rapidly advancing, and new trends and innovations are emerging each year. Here are some of the top MedTech trends to expect in 2023:

Telemedicine: Telemedicine, or remote medical consultations, is becoming increasingly popular due to the comfort and accessibility it offers. With telemedicine, patients can acquire medical care from the convenience of their own homes. In 2023, telemedicine is expected to become more prevalent as tech improves

and more healthcare providers adopt this mode of care.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI is transforming the healthcare industry in numerous ways. It is used to analyse patient data, diagnose and develop personalised treatment plans. In 2023, we can expect AI to become even more advanced, and it will likely play a bigger role in healthcare decision-making. AI will also be used to develop new drugs and therapies.

Next-Gen Sequencing (NGS) technology: It is a rapidly evolving field that has revolutionised the way genetic information is analysed. In 2023, the trend in NGS is expected to continue to advance with an emphasis on improving sequencing speed, accuracy, and cost-effectiveness. The use of NGS in precision medicine is expected to grow as the technology provides a way to analyse large amounts of genetic information quickly and accurately to inform the development of targeted treatments for individual patients. Additionally, the integration of NGS with other technologies, such as CRISPR-Cas9, will continue to expand the possibilities for genetic research and biotechnology.

Newborn Screening (NBS): It is a diagnostic test performed in newborns or infants who are tested for certain genetic or metabolic disorders shortly after birth. In 2023, the trend in newborn screening is expected to continue to focus on improving these tests' accuracy, speed, and cost-effectiveness. This

will likely involve implementing new, more advanced screening technologies to develop new, more comprehensive screening panels. Additionally, there may be a growing emphasis on incorporating genomic information into newborn screening to enable earlier detection and diagnosis of genetic disorders.

Another trend in newborn screening is the increasing use of digital technologies, such as electronic health records (EHRs) and telemedicine, to improve the efficiency and accessibility of screening services. This will likely involve the integration of screening results into EHRs and telemedicine to provide remote consultations and follow-up care to families and infants. Overall, these trends

aim to ensure that all newborns have access to high-quality, effective, and timely screening services to detect and treat genetic and metabolic disorders as early as possible.

Surgical robots: Investments in robotic surgical firms have been one of the primary drivers of the increase in venture capital funding for medical technology. In addition, many experts assert that the employment of robotic technology during COVID-19 is particularly advantageous because it helps reduce human-to-human physical contact.

As MedTech evolves, the industry will face both obstacles and possibilities. Better patient care solutions that can enhance outcomes and lower

costs will face fewer impediments to implementation. Consequently, this will create further chances to deliver value to healthcare services worldwide and challenge the status quo for inpatient and outpatient care standards.

Providing a more promising future for healthcare: Trivitron Healthcare, a leading global MedTech organisation, is establishing sustainable goals and has created numerous advancements in Medical Imaging, In-vitro Diagnostics, Next Generation Sequencing, Newborn Screening, Critical Care, and Radiation Protection. Following the mission to deliver efficient and advanced care, Trivitron positively influences people's lives through collaboration, advancement, and innovation.

Japan to counter China with like-minded countries

PTI ■ BEIJING

Japan has unveiled a new plan to provide "like-minded" countries especially in Asia with military aid as it looks to expand its influence in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China's aggressive push over Taiwan and the South China Sea issues.

The guidelines announced by Tokyo early this month included a new programme to strengthen the militaries of like-minded countries by providing "official security assistance" - a move that breaks with its previous policy of avoiding the use of development aid for military purposes other than disaster relief, the Japan Times reported.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said the Philippines will be one of the first beneficiaries of Overseas Security Assistance (OSA), with Malaysia, Bangladesh and Fiji also among those being considered, the report said.

Japan, a member of the

Quad alliance consisting of the US, India and Australia, is actively pursuing the Indo-Pacific strategy which China claims aimed at countering its rise.

Tokyo's decision to use international aid for military purposes is a 'paradigm shift' but won't lead to an arms race in Asia, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Thursday.

The move will not only build up the defence capabilities of Asian nations amid 'changing security dynamics', but boost the competitiveness of Japan's defence sector, it said.

Japan's new policy of defence aid to neighbours was announced after this month's visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi to China.

In his talks with Hayashi on April 2, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang said Japan should not "help a villain do evil", apparently referring to Tokyo's close ties with

China rolls out new wartime military recruitment rules

Beijing (PTI): China has released a new set of revised rules for military recruitment in wartime, including giving priority to the veterans, drafting high-calibre soldiers and optimising conscription procedures, which an analyst described as combat readiness for a war over Taiwan.

A set of revised rules regarding military recruitment has been released by the State Council and the Central Military Commission (CMC) - the high command of the Chinese military headed by President Xi Jinping - aiming to provide institutional guarantees for consolidating national defence and building strong armed forces, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Wednesday. The new regulation, with 74 articles in 11 chapters, focuses on recruiting more high-calibre soldiers, standardising and optimising conscription procedures, and improving the system's efficiency, it said in a brief report. The new rules will come into effect next month.

The regulations said recruitment should "focus on preparing for war" and increase efficiency by calling up "high calibre" recruits, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post newspaper reported. For the first time, a separate chapter on wartime recruitment has been included in the regulations, which state that ex-servicemen would be prioritised and expected to join their original units or similar positions.

Washington.

This was the first visit by the Japanese Foreign Minister to China since 2019.

China and Japan have a long-festering dispute over uninhabited East China Sea islands controlled by Japan but claimed by China.

The islands are known as the Senkakus by Japan, while China named them as Diaoyu.

Taiwan also claims the islands but has forged agreements with Japan to avoid any conflict as Tokyo maintains close defence ties with Taipei.

The purpose of Tokyo's new initiative is to "contribute to the creation of a desirable security environment for Japan," while maintaining Japan's "basic principles as a peaceful nation," according to the Japanese ministry statement.

The OSA is being presented as an expansion of Japan's official development assistance (ODA) - one of the world's largest foreign aid programs - to cover projects "for the benefit of

armed forces and other related organisations," the Japan Times report said.

The new framework was revealed as Tokyo moves away from a strict non-military approach to ties with its neighbours and looks to realise its vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), it said.

According to its fiscal 2023 budget, the Japanese government has set aside two billion Japanese Yen (USD15 million) for OSA. Funding will be separate from the Yen 570.9 billion in economic and social development assistance that Tokyo provides to developing countries.

While this year's modest OSA budget appears largely symbolic, especially compared with the ODA funds, experts say the decision to launch the program is significant, as it marks another step in Japan's march toward a more robust and proactive defence posture that could ultimately allow it more leeway in defence transfers, Japan Times report said.

China's exports see unexpected growth in March

Beijing (AP): China's exports rebounded unexpectedly to growth in March despite a decline in US and European demand following interest rate hikes to cool inflation.

Exports rose 14.8 per cent over a year earlier to USD 315.6 billion, recovering from a 6.8 per cent decline in January and February, customs data showed Thursday. Imports sank 1.4 per cent to USD 227.4 billion, a smaller contraction than the 10.2 per cent slide in the previous two months.

China's politically sensitive global trade surplus widened by 82 per cent over a year earlier to USD 88.2 billion. Exports to the United States and the 27-nation European Union, China's biggest foreign markets, declined after the Federal Reserve and other central banks raised rates to slow consumer and business activity.

That was offset by double-digit gains in sales to Canada, Indonesia, Russia and other markets. "The current external environment still is severe and complex," said a government spokesperson, Liu Daliang, at a news conference.

Trade weakness adds to complications for President Xi Jinping's government, which is trying to revive economic growth that sank last year to 3 per cent, the second-weakest since the 1970s. The ruling Communist Party set this year's growth target at "around 5 per cent." In the first three months of the year, exports edged up 0.5 per cent over the same period of 2022 to USD 821.8 billion, the General Administration of Customs of China reported. Total imports contracted 7.1 per cent to USD 617.1 billion. A revival in Chinese demand would be a boost to global suppliers, replacing weak US, European and Japanese sales. China is the

NY fraud lawsuit: Trump set to give 2nd deposition

New York (AP): Former President Donald Trump was expected to visit the offices of New York's attorney general Thursday for his second deposition in a legal battle over his company's business practices.

The Republican was scheduled to meet with lawyers for Attorney General Letitia James, who sued Trump last year. Her lawsuit claims Trump and his family misled banks and business associates by giving them false information about his net worth and the value of assets such as hotels and golf courses. The lawsuit is unrelated to the felony criminal charges filed against Trump by the Manhattan district attorney, which led last week to his historic arraignment, the first for a former president.

Trump and his lawyers have said the Democrat's lawsuit against him is politically motivated and legally baseless. He and the company have denied doing anything wrong. James declined to answer a question about the planned

deposition at a news conference on an unrelated matter Wednesday.

Trump previously met with James' lawyers Aug. 10, but refused to answer all but a few procedural questions, invoking his Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination more than 400 times.

"Anyone in my position not taking the Fifth Amendment would be a fool, an absolute fool," he said in the session, which was recorded on video and later released publicly. Trump predicted a "renegade" prosecutor would try to make a criminal case out of his answers, if he gave them. "One statement or answer that is ever so slightly off, just ever so slightly, by accident, by mistake, such as it was a sunny, beautiful day, when actually it was slightly overcast, would be met by law enforcement at a level seldom seen in this country, because I've experienced it," he said. A trial for the lawsuit is scheduled for October.

North Korea fires missile that may have been new type of weapon

Seoul (South Korea): North Korea on Thursday conducted its first intercontinental ballistic missile launch in a month, possibly testing a new more mobile, harder-to-detect missile for the first time, its neighbours said, as it extends its provocative run of weapons tests.

Japan briefly urged residents on a northern island to take shelter in an indication of its vigilance over North Korea's evolving missile threats.

The missile was launched on a high angle from near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and fell in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan following a 1,000-kilometre (620-mile) flight, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

It described its range as medium or longer. The US National Security Council



A TV screen is seen reporting North Korea's missile launch with file footage during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, on Thursday.

called it a long-range missile and Japan's government said it likely had an intercontinental range. South Korea's military believes North Korea launched a new type of ballistic missile, possibly using solid fuel, a defense official said under the condition of anonymity because of office rules.

If the launch involved a solid-fuel ICBM, it would be the North's first test of such a weapon. North Korea's known

ICBMs all use liquid propellants that must be fuelled before launches.

But the fuel in a solid-propellant weapon is already loaded, allowing it to be moved easier and fired faster.

A solid-fuel ICBM is one of the key high-tech weapons that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to build to better cope with what he calls US military threats.

He also wants a multiwarhead missile, a nuclear-powered submarine, a hypersonic missile and a spy satellite. Kim Dongyub, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said the launch may have involved a new intermediate- or long-range missile powered by solid propellants, or be linked to North Korean preparation to launch a spy satellite.

GOVERNMENT OF GOA
Medical Store Depot (MSD),
Directorate of Health Services, Campal,
Panaji, Goa 403 001
 Email: msdhs.goa@yahoo.in Ph. Nos. 2225646/5540/5668
NO. 96/DHS/MSD/PT/2023-24/40 dated, 12/04/2023
E-tendering mode only
 E-tenders are invited on behalf of the Governor of Goa for purchase of **laboratory reagents/chemicals/consumables kits/drugs and surgicals** for Directorate of Health Services, Campal, Panaji Goa.
 The Tender Notice with Terms and Conditions are available online on the website: <https://eprocure.gov.in>
 The last date for uploading the tender documents is 10/05/2023 upto 5.00 p.m. and the Tenders (Technical Bids) will be opened on 12/05/2023 at 10.30 a.m.
 The right to reject any tender is reserved.
 Sd/-
Dr. Rupa Naik
Dy. Director (Public Health)/
Di/Advt/2022-23/88/210 I/c MSD

Syria, Saudi move toward restoring embassies, flights

AP ■ BEIRUT

Syria and Saudi Arabia are moving toward reopening embassies and resuming flights between the two countries for the first time in more than a decade, the countries said on Thursday in a joint statement. The announcement followed a visit by Syria's top diplomat to the kingdom, the first since Saudi Arabia cut off diplomatic relations with Syria in 2012.

Syria was widely shunned by Arab governments over Syrian President Bashar Assad's brutal crackdown on protesters, and later civilians, in an uprising turned civil war that began in 2011.

The breakdown in relations culminated with Syria being ousted from the Arab League. However, in recent years, as Assad has consolidated control over most of the



country, Syria's neighbors have begun to take steps toward rapprochement.

The overtures have picked up pace since the massive February 6 earthquake in Turkey and Syria, and the Chinese-brokered reestablishment of ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, regional rivals that had backed opposing sides in the Syrian conflict.

A delegation headed by Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mikdad, at the invitation of Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud arrived in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for talks about bilateral relations between the two countries, state media from the two countries reported.

Biden to stress shared ties in address to Irish Parl

AP ■ DUBLIN

After spending most of a day on a whirlwind countryside tour of his ancestry, President Joe Biden is turning back to diplomacy on Thursday, with an address to the Irish parliament and meetings with the country's leaders, with Ukraine high on the agenda.

On his first stop of the day, Biden will meet with President Michael D. Higgins at the president's Dublin residence and will ring the Peace Bell, unveiled in 2008 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland.

Biden also will participate in a tree planting ceremony, with his Irish oak close to the one planted by then-President Barack Obama.

Biden will then meet with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar,

Ireland's prime minister, before a speech to parliament in which "he'll be reflecting on the long, close and shared history between the United States and Ireland," said Amanda Sloat, the National Security Council's senior Europe director.

In the meetings with leaders, Ireland's continued support of the US-led effort to help Ukraine in the war against Russia will be a focal point, particularly on humanitarian and security assistance. Biden arrived in the Republic of Ireland after an appearance Wednesday in Northern Ireland. Crowds lined five-deep and waited for eight hours to catch a glimpse of Biden in the towns of Carlingford and Dundalk, where the Democratic president toured a castle, gazing out over the sea where his ancestors sailed, and gave an address in a local pub. Along the streets of Dundalk, photos of the president and huge welcome signs were plastered along shop fronts.

Children hung out of windows to wave at the president and display the US flag.

From inside a packed old pub with a sticky wooden floor, Biden acknowledged that his ancestors emigrated to the United States to escape famine, but he added, "When you're here, you wonder why anyone would ever want to leave."

And he jokingly delivered bad news, saying: "We'll be back. There's no way to keep us out." Biden's mother's family comes from County Louth, and the president was elated by the dive into his Irish heritage, which he often cites as a driving force in his public and private life. According to the Irish Family History Centre, Biden "is among the most Irish" of all US Presidents.

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD.
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 /w Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that the below described immovable property, mortgaged with THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD., the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD., will be sold by way of an E-Auction, on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis, on 8th May 2023

The said E-Auction is for the recovery of 19,78,786.23 due as on 10-Apr-23 to THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD. from Gaurav Panwar & Sakshi Gandas.

Name of the Borrowers.	Description of Property with Sq. Ft.	Reserve Price	EMD (10% of Reserve Price)
Gaurav Panwar and Sakshi Gandas	Apartment K-801, admeasuring about 1226 Square Feet Super area alongwith open parking No. 241 in Umang Monsoon Breeze (Earlier Known as Canary Residency), Sector 78 Gurgaon, Haryana	42,66,480/- (Forty Two Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred Eighty only)	426648/- (Four Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Six Three Hundred Forty Eight Only) EMD Date & time: 2nd May 2023 before 4 pm Account Detail: A/C Number 010 909968 042 Beneficiary Name - E-Auction EMD Suspense account number IFSC Code: HSBC0400002
Inspection Date & time	Inspection Date & time: 25th Apr 2023 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM		

Notice is hereby given that the said property shall be sold by e-auction and bidding shall take place through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://www.bankauctions.com> (E Auction house website) on **8th May 2023**. The detailed terms and conditions of sale are available on the E Auction house website (www.bankauctions.com/) / HSBC website (www.hsbc.co.in)

The property will be sold on an "As is where is" "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" condition. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The intending bidders are required to do their own due diligence. The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the sale without assigning any reason thereof.

For any details, support, help regarding the procedure of online bidding by way of the-auction, prospective bidders may contact: **Mr. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile No. 9813887931, Email Id :delhi@c1india.com**

Date: 14th April 2023
 Place: Delhi

Authorised Officer

US Prez to expand migrant access to health plans

Washington: President Joe Biden is set to announce that his administration is expanding eligibility for Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act's health insurance exchanges to hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the US illegally as children, according to two US officials briefed on the matter.

The action will allow participants in the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, to access government-funded health insurance programs. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the matter before the formal announcement on Thursday.

The 2012 DACA initiative was meant to shield from deportation immigrants brought to the US illegally by their parents as young children and to allow them to work legally in the country. However, the immigrants were still ineligible for government-subsidised health insurance programs because they did not meet the definition for having "lawful presence" in the US That's what Biden's Department

of Health and Human Services will aim to change by the end of the month.

The White House action comes as the DACA program is in legal peril and the number of people eligible under the program is shrinking.

An estimated 580,000 people were still enrolled in DACA at the end of last year, according to US Citizenship and Immigration Services. That number is down from previous years. Court orders currently prevent the US Department of Homeland Security from processing new applications. The DACA program has been mired in legal challenges for years, while Congress has been unable to reach consensus on broader immigration reforms. DACA recipients can work legally and pay taxes, but they don't have legal status and are denied many benefits available to US citizens and foreigners living in the US in recent years, millions of people in the US signed up for Medicaid, the program that provides health care coverage for the poorest Americans, during the COVID-19 pandemic. AP

Oxford Univ, SII tie-up delivers 'high efficacy' malaria vaccine

London (PTI): A University of Oxford developed and Serum Institute of India (SII) manufactured and scaled up "high efficacy" malaria vaccine has been licensed for use in Ghana by Africa's Food and Drugs Authority, the university announced here on Thursday.

The R21/Matrix-M vaccine, leveraging Novavax's adjuvant technology, has been approved for use in children aged 5 to 36 months - the age group at the highest risk of death from malaria. It marks the first regulatory clearance for the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine for use in any country. "This marks a culmination of 30 years of malaria vaccine research at Oxford with the design and provision of a high efficacy vaccine that can be supplied at adequate scale to the countries who need it most," said Professor Adrian Hill, Chief investigator of the programme and Director of the Oxford University's Jenner Institute at the Nuffield Department of Medicine.

Norway expels 15 Russian diplomats for 'spying'

Norway's government said Thursday that it was expelling 15 Russian diplomats from the country, saying they were suspected of spying while working at the Russian Embassy in Oslo.

Norway's domestic security agency PST for details. The government said the activities of the expelled diplomats were "incompatible with their diplomatic status."

tries in the past year have expelled hundreds of Russian intelligence officers under diplomatic cover. At the same time, she stressed that the government in Oslo wants "normal diplomatic relations with Russia, and that Russian diplomats are welcome in Norway."

Ukraine stands firm on Crimea

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's foreign minister said Thursday his country wouldn't budge from its demand that Russia withdraw its forces from Crimea, as well as from other parts of Ukraine that Moscow illegally annexed more recently.



Ukrainian soldiers chat in war-hill Bakhmut Ukraine on Wednesday. AP/PTI

any other part of our territory, you have to know one thing: Ukraine categorically disagrees with these statements," he said at the Black Sea Security Conference.

rejected those demands and won't hold talks with Russia until Moscow's troops pull back from all occupied territories.

US lawmakers write to USCIS on immigrants impacted by job layoffs

Expressing concern over the large-scale layoffs in the tech industry, a group of lawmakers from Silicon Valley has written to the US immigration agency to ensure that the highly-skilled immigrants on H-1B visas, the most sought-after by Indian IT professionals, can remain in the country even after losing their jobs.

nearly 200,000 IT workers have been laid off since November last year. Industry insiders say that between 30 to 40 per cent of them are Indian IT professionals, a significant number of whom are on H-1B and L1 visas.

SC notices to Pakistan government, political parties on Chief Justice bill

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday heard petitions against the bill curtailing the country's chief justice's power and issued notices to the federal government and political parties, amidst a raging row between the ruling coalition and the judiciary.

that he had the utmost respect for parliament, the Dawn newspaper reported. An eight-judge bench of the apex court heard the petitions against the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023, which seeks to curtail the Chief Justice of Pakistan's powers to initiate suo motu proceedings and constitute benches on his own.

Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed. During the hearing on Thursday, the court issued notices to the political parties, the federal government, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan, Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan and other respondents in the case.

He stated that ever since the National Assembly was restored in April last year, the political divide and crisis had increased. He further argued that the federal government and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) were not willing to hold elections, thus the court itself had to take notice of the matter and order the ECP to conduct polls.

Russia identifies suspect in war blogger's killing

Russia's top security agency on Thursday accused a Ukrainian man of involvement in a bombing that killed a well-known Russian military blogger at a St. Petersburg cafe.

a discussion at a riverside cafe in the historic heart of St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city. Over 50 people were injured.

Sweden shuts down Pak embassy

Islamabad (PTI): Sweden has announced closing its embassy in Pakistan "indefinitely" due to the prevailing "security situation" in the crisis-hit country's capital.

ferent cases. "Due to the current security situation in Islamabad, the Embassy of Sweden is closed for visitors. The Migration Section is not, at the moment, able to handle requests of any kind," a notice on the embassy's website reads.

Public Notice

My clients Mr. Pramod Kumar Jain S/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal Jain & Smt. Neelam Jain W/O Pramod Kumar Jain both R/o A-205, Jyoti Super Gardenia, AhinsaKhand-II, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014 have debarred their son Vasu Jain and his wife Swati Jain from their all movable immovable properties due to their misconduct, misbehaviour.

NORTHERN RAILWAY (E-Auction Notice)

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-Auction through IREPS (https://ireps.gov.in/) for allotment of contracts of Advertisement/Parking at following railway stations/locations:

Table with columns: No., E-Catalogue, Type of Media, Location/Station, Date & Time for e-auction. Includes entries for DLI/ADVT, Sleeping Pods, RDN-51" LED TV, etc.

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen https://ireps.gov.in/ (E-Auction-Leasing)

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfill following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids: - Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055; Email:publicitycellndi@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE. No. CE/R&B/ACCTS-77/22/107. Name of the Work: "Widening of Existing Bitumen Road from Cabin Market Square to Central School Square".

Public Notice. My clients Mrs. Anu Jain W/o Sh. Anshul Jain D/o Sh. Pramod Kumar Jain R/o 7/118, Sector-2, Rajendra Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005 have debarred their brother Vasu Jain and his wife Swati Jain due to their misconduct, misbehaviour and she has no concern with the matrimonial life of her brother and his wife.

Public Notice. It is informed that the applicant Nikhat Khatoon wife Mohammad Ali, resident of Address B-6, Sector-108, Noidia, District Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. The registry of his said plot has been executed on date 31.12.2018 in the same No.-1, Volume No.-2278, Page Number-431 to 480, Number 9545 in Deputy Registrar-II, Noidia. Whose original Lease Deed has been lost somewhere and could not be found even after a lot of searching. In future, if I get the said original documents, I will not misuse them.

Public Notice. This is to inform general public that Smt. Sahant Kaur has acquired the Ground Floor rights, built-up Property bearing no. WZ-7-A/1, Plot no. 46, area measuring 62 sq. yards, out of rectangle no. 15, Kila no. 231, in the area of Village Chauchandi, Colony known as Sant Gadh Estate, New Delhi-110018 Side Sale Deed dated 09.08.2016, Document No. 7664, That, Smt. Sahant Kaur has misplaced the below mentioned documents. a)Original Sale Deed dated 22.12.2005 executed by Sh. Manojit Singh & Sh. Anamji Singh in favour of Smt. Manjit Kaur in respect of Built-up Ground Floor without roof rights, Plot bearing no. 46, New No. WZ-7-A/1, area measuring 62 sq. yards, out of rectangle no. 15, Kila no. 231, B)Original Side Sale Deed dated 09.08.2016 executed by Smt. Manojit Singh in favour of Smt. Sahant Kaur in respect of Ground Floor without roof rights, built-up Property bearing no. WZ-7-A/1, Plot no. 46, area measuring 62 sq. yards, out of rectangle no. 15, Kila no. 231 and the same was duly registered with the sub-registrar. II Basai Darapur New Delhi, as Document No. 7664, Volume No. 22842, Book no. 1, Page No. 178-188, on 11.08.2016. Anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Suryoday Small Finance Bank. Now, Smt. Sahant Kaur is intending to sell the said property to Mrs. Renu Kaur and further Mr. Manojit Singh and Mrs. Manu Kaur are mortgaging the above said property with Suryoday Small Finance Bank & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhawan/Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-TL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 906870172/9818228636 (M).

NOTICE SRF LIMITED (SRF) Selenium Tower-8, 6th Floor, Plot No.31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Hyderabad - 500 032 (Telangana State). Notice is hereby given that the Certificate(s) for the under mentioned Equity Shares of the Company have been lost / misplaced and the holder(s) / purchaser(s) of the said Equity Shares have applied to the Company to issue duplicate Share Certificate(s). Any person who has a claim in respect of the said Shares should lodge the same with the Company at its Registered Office within 21 days from the date else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate(s) to the aforesaid applicants without any further intimation.

Imran Khan gets interim bail till May 4 in 3 cases

Lahore (PTI): An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Thursday extended interim bail to Imran Khan till May 4 in three cases related to the clashes between his supporters and the police during an operation to arrest the former premier in the Toshakhana corruption case last month.



After hearing arguments, the judge allowed Khan to mark his attendance in court through a video link and extended his pre-arrest bail till May 4, a court official said. The Lahore police had booked Khan and hundreds of his party workers in three terrorism cases during clashes with police last month in an operation to arrest him in the Toshakhana case.

कार्यालय : अधिशासी अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, खटीमा. ई-निविदा संशोधन सूचना. इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 352/ई-निविदा/2022-23 दिनांक 23.03.2023 द्वारा खटीमा नगरीय पेयजल योजना के अन्तर्गत वार्ड नं-7 एवं 8 (अमाउ) में पेयजल योजना के निर्माण हेतु नलकूप छिद्रण, ऊर्ध्वजलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाईन एवं लक्समन्ची कार्य हेतु आमंत्रित ई-निविदा (रू. बिड सिस्टम) में उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान एवं उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम में पंजीकृत फर्म / ठेकेदार प्रतिभाग कर सकते हैं। निविदा की शेष शर्तें एवं नियम पूर्ववत् रहेंगे। अधिशासी अभियन्ता

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE. Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems). 1. N.I.T. No. GSU-DLI-NIT-02-2023-24. 2. Name of work with its location: Extension of diesel Shed Bogie Shop including track and other allied works in c/w development of infrastructure facilities for maintenance of Electric Locomotive at TKD Shed.

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA) (RAILWAY BOARD) No. 2022/RS(WTA)-149/TENDER/532 New Delhi, dated 13/04/2023. C-CORRENUM NO.7 to the Tender No. WTA-532. Sub - 1. E-Tender No. WTA-532 due on 27.04.2023 for "Manufacturing cum Maintenance of 100 nos. of New Generation Energy Efficient Vande Bharat Trains with Concentrated Power System including upgradation of the Government Manufacturing Units & Trainset Depots."

NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system. Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

Table with columns: S. No, Tender No, Brief Description, Qty, Closing Date. Includes items like RUBBER PAD FOR LONGITUDINAL BUMP STOP, GEAR BOX CASE (MACHINED) FOR WAP-5 LOCO, SECONDARY SPRING (INNER), BRAKE CYLINDER 355 MM, etc.

Markets extend gains for 9th session on fag-end buying

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ticked higher for the ninth straight session on Thursday, buoyed by fag-end buying in banking, financial and realty stocks amid encouraging domestic retail inflation data.



Weak trends in IT counters and fall in the overnight US equity markets triggered by fresh concerns over recession, however, put a check on markets' uptrend.

In a largely subdued session, the 30-share BSE Sensex went up marginally by 38.23 points or 0.06 per cent to settle at 60,431. During the day, it hit a high of 60,486.91 and a low of 60,081.43.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 15.60 points or 0.09 per cent to finish at 17,828.

"After the flat start, pressure in the IT majors pushed the Nifty lower however buying in select heavyweights especially from the banking pack trimmed all the losses and helped index to close flat," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Among the Sensex firms, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak

Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and Tata Motors were the biggest winners.

Infosys, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, NTPC, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Wipro and UltraTech Cement were among the major laggards.

Shares of Infosys fell by nearly 3 per cent ahead of its quarterly earnings announcement later in the day.

The country's largest IT services exporter TCS on Wednesday reported a 14.8 per cent increase in March quarter net profit at Rs 11,392 crore but flagged worries from its key market of North America.

"Indian shares experienced

Services.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.33 per cent and midcap index advanced 0.16 per cent.

Bankex rallied 1.38 per cent, realty jumped 1.17 per cent, financial services climbed 0.97 per cent and auto went up by 0.35 per cent.

However, IT fell by 2.05 per cent, teck (1.94 per cent), capital goods (0.57 per cent), oil & gas (0.55 per cent), energy (0.32 per cent) and telecommunication (0.23 per cent).

In nine trading days, the BSE benchmark has jumped 2,817.28 points or 4.88 per cent.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Japan and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Shanghai settled lower.

European equity markets were trading on a mixed note during the afternoon trade. The US markets had ended lower on Wednesday.

"Global stock markets were mixed on Thursday as investors digest key inflation data out of the US released on Wednesday and prediction of the US Fed members about a mild recession in the US later this year," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.



Direct tax mop up skyrockets 173% to over ₹19.68 lakh cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's gross direct tax collection increased 173 per cent to over Rs 19.68 lakh crore in 10 years to 2022-23.

On a net basis, after adjusting refunds, direct tax collection zoomed 160 per cent since the 2013-14 fiscal to over Rs 16.61 lakh crore in 2022-23.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has released Time-Series data as updated up to fiscal 2021-22 and also provided provisional data for 2022-23.

Direct Tax Buoyancy at 2.52 in FY 2021-22 is the highest Direct Tax Buoyancy recorded over the last 15 years. The direct tax to GDP ratio has increased from 5.62 per cent in 2013-14 to 5.97 per cent in 2021-22.

"I am delighted to share

'India's exports up 6% to \$ 447 billion in 2022-23'



PTI ■ ROME

India's expanding our international footprints," he added.

The overall imports of goods and services have touched USD 892 billion and it reflects that the country's economic activities are growing and that has supported the exports.

Talking to reporters here, Goyal said that the growth in exports would help in containing the current account deficit.

In the services sector, there is a healthy growth in areas including IT, accounting and business processing. In the goods segment, sectors which recorded growth include oil meals, electronic goods, tobacco, oil seeds, rice, coffee, fruits and vegetables, leather goods, ceramic, pharma, marine products, chemicals, and ready-made garments of textiles.

Services imports are estimated at USD 178 billion in 2022-23 as against USD 147 billion a year ago.

Goyal said that the exports of goods and services has increased by about USD 100 billion to cross USD 770 billion in such challenging times, when the world is seeing softening and slowing of international trade, recessionary conditions in the developed world, and unprecedented high inflation in many developed countries.

with you the outstanding export performance for 2022-23, with India's overall exports scaling new heights at USD 770 billion, registering 14 per cent growth over the previous year and all-time high record growing from USD 500 billion in 2020-21 to USD 676 billion in 2021-22," the minister told reporters here.

Goyal is on a three-day visit to France and Italy from April 11-13 to hold a series of meetings with leaders and top CEOs in these two countries to further boost trade and investment ties.

The country's imports also grew by 16.5 per cent to USD 714 billion in 2022-23 as against USD 613 billion in 2021-22.

He said that the exports of goods and services together scaled "new heights" and has increased by 14 per cent to USD 770 billion in 2022-23 as against 676 billion in 2021-22.

The country's exports rose by about 6 per cent to a "record" USD 447 billion during 2022-23 on account of healthy growth in the outbound shipments of sectors such as petroleum, pharma and chemicals and marine, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

IN BRIEF

MARUTI SIGNS MOU WITH IDFC
New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India Limited has announced the signing of a MoU with IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. As part of this collaboration, the bank will offer personalised finance options across New Car Loans, Pre-Owned Car Loans and Commercial Vehicle Loans to customers looking to purchase Maruti Suzuki vehicles. The MoU was signed in the presence of senior management from Maruti Suzuki and IDFC FIRST bank, from MSIL Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing and Sales amongst others and from IDFC FIRST bank Vaidyanathan, MD and CEO and firms top executives were present.

ANDAMAN CHAMBER OBSERVES BANDH
New Delhi: Andaman observed a full-day bandh, under which all shops, establishments, and transportation along with auto, jeep & private buses were non-functional. The call for this trade bandh was given by the Joint Action Committee of the Andaman Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI) comprising all trade, industry, and commercial establishments. ACCI said that the strike was called over several issues, including a steep hike in power tariff, arbitrary increase in circle rates of land, non-registration of flats, and demand for better infrastructure and ease of doing business.

NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA MOU
New Delhi: Union Ministry of Jal Shakti signed an MoU with Amity University, Uttar Pradesh, for National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) efforts in the presence of Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, NMCG DG G Asok Kumar, AICTE Chairman TG Sitharam, and Amity Education Group founder president Ashok K Chauhan.

TRAINING IN AVIATION SECURITY IN NE
New Delhi: Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI) has decided to set up eight "Centres of Excellence" for training in State Capitals of North-East. CAPSI chairman Kunwar Vikram Singh the organisation also plans to start three Drone Pilot Training Academies in the N-E. The Centre of Excellence will impart training in Aviation Security as per global standards, Singh said.

PATIENT GETS TREATMENT IN DELHI HOSPITAL
New Delhi: CK Birla Hospital in Punjab Bagh area successfully treated a 33-year-old Australian patient suffering from cervical spinal stenosis for the past two years under the guidance of Dr Ashwani Maichand, Director Department of Orthopaedics. Vipul Jain, Chief Business Officer, CK Birla Hospital said the hospital is committed to achieve the goal of providing global standards of healthcare by using advanced medical innovations and techniques. The hospital said it is committed to achieve goal of providing global standards of healthcare.

P-notes investment declines to ₹88,398 cr in Feb

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investment in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes dropped to Rs 88,398 crore month-on-month in February amid higher valuation of domestic markets.

This was the third consecutive monthly decline in the investment level. Before this, investment through the route had been on an increasing trend since July 2022 because of a slump in the oil and other commodities prices and the relative outperformance of Indian equity markets.

Participatory notes (P-notes) are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who

wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.

According to Sebi data, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets — equity, debt, and hybrid securities — stood at Rs 88,398 crore at the end of February compared to Rs 91,469 crore in January-end.

Prior to that, the investment level through the route was Rs 96,292 crore at the end of December 2022 and Rs 99,335 crore at the end of November 2022. It was Rs 97,784 crore at October-end last year.

Investment via P-notes normally moves in line with FPI investment. When there is a



global risk to the environment, investment through this route increases and vice-versa.

"Last several months have seen a steady decline in investments through P-notes. This is because Foreign Portfolio Investment has seen outflows,

particularly since the beginning of 2023. P-notes normally follow the trend in FPI flows. The trend through P-note investment may increase in April since FPI inflows have started looking up," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Market experts said FPIs are finding Indian markets as expensive compared to other emerging markets. Indian market could probably be the only one where they would have made profits last year. Now, it is a good opportunity for them to book profits and look for cheaper valuations elsewhere.

Of the total Rs 88,398 crore invested through this route till February this year, Rs 78,427 crore was invested in equities, Rs 9,851 crore in debt and Rs 119 crore in hybrid securities.

Meanwhile, FPIs pulled out Rs 5,294 crore from the Indian equities in February and Rs 28,852 crore in January.



Insolvency resolution requires innovation; over regulation not solution: IBBI chief

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IBBI is the key institution under the IBC.

He was speaking at the conference on 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code - Evolving Paradigms and Reforms' organised by industry body CII along with National Foundation for Corporate Governance (NFCG) and the IBBI in the national capital.

In the last six-and-a-half years, Mital said the IBC has done about 650 resolutions, adding that the IBC has led to the settlement of cases even without resolution or without admission or with withdrawals.

The IBBI Chairperson said IIM Ahmedabad has been asked to conduct a study to find out whether these resolutions have led to a change in the economy, adding that the report is expected to come out in the next two months.

"I have seen the preliminary figures that they have collected and I find that sales (of companies) have increased or turnover has increased manifold after the resolution, EBITDA, Profit after tax, market cap have increased manifold... These things have not been documented, these things are not in public domain.

"So, I hope that in next two months, once this report comes out, we will have a better understanding of what the IBC has achieved in terms of resolutions," Mital said.

EBITDA refers to Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation.

Mid instances of long delays in insolvency resolution process of various companies, IBBI chief Ravi Mital on Thursday said resolution requires innovation and "over regulation is not a solution".

Around 650 resolutions of debt-ridden corporates have happened since the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in late 2016. While acknowledging that the IBC has issues related to delays and haircuts, among other things, Mital said the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) did an analysis which showed that the IBC is for resolutions but it is being evaluated on the basis of performance or haircuts.

Resolution is a thing which requires innovations. Resolution professionals are the best to do such innovations with the help of the Committee of Creditors (CoC).

"We should encourage innovation and desist from over-regulation and writing everything in the Act," he said.

Mital said the Chennai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) recently passed an order where it said a part of Hindustan Photo Films can go into resolution and another part can go into liquidation. "This is an innovation... I am not saying that it can be done in every case but that is an innovation that we should encourage," he added.

Wagering barred in all forms, be it game of skill or chance: MoS IT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Online gaming rules do not need to get into the nuances of chance or skills as wagering is barred in all forms of games irrespective of the nature of the game, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said in a tweet on Thursday.

The minister of state for electronics and IT was responding to an editorial, which said that the online gaming rules avoid dealing with nuances of games of chance versus games of skill.

Chandrasekhar said that wager is a well-defined expression in contract law, and decisions have clearly held the meaning of wager.

"There is no need in this framework to get into "nuances" of chance or skill, bcz the harm of wagering is directly being prohibited - regardless of the nature of the game," the minister tweeted.

The Centre had last week notified norms to regulate the online gaming sector, wherein real money games involving wagering or betting have been prohibited.

"The ITRules for OnlineGaming hv been developed after extensive consultation, are quite clear n deal with every aspect. This framework liberates startups from multiple conflicting state laws, court decisions etc n establishes clarity n growth," Chandrasekhar said. The government has opted for a self-regulation model for the online gaming sector and will initially notify three self-regulatory organisations that will approve the games that can operate in the country as per the rules.

Under the notified rules, SROs will have to publish a framework to safeguard users against



the risk of gaming addiction, financial loss and financial fraud on its website.

Chandrasekhar said real money games, involving prize money, are permitted, but real money games with wagering are not.

"SROs will evolve framework on how to deal with addictive n harmful gaming as they develop capacity," the minister said. As per the rules, the online games will be regulated by SROs, which will include the industry, gamers and other stakeholders and not the government.

The SROs, as per the rules, should also include an educationist, an expert in the field of psychology or mental health, an individual who is or has been a member or officer of an organisation dealing with the protection of child rights etc.

The online gaming rules have been included as an amendment in the IT Rules of 2021.

According to the rules, the online gaming self-regulatory body may declare an online real money game as a permissible online real money game if the online real money game does not involve wagering on any outcome".

'Rupee trade arrangement to help cut transactions cost'

PTI ■ ROME

International trade in the domestic currency will help reduce transaction cost for the industry and several countries are in discussion with the RBI on this, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Last year, the RBI and finance ministry asked the top management of banks and representatives of trade bodies to push export and import transactions in the rupee. They want banks in India to connect with their foreign counterparts for opening special rupee vostro accounts to facilitate cross-border trade in the Indian currency rather than the popular mode of the US dollar.

Goyal said that today several countries are realising that in trade, there is a need for change in currency for that and it involves a conversion cost, which in turn increases transactions cost also.

"We can address these issues through rupee trade (arrangement)," he told reporters here, adding that several countries are under discussions with the RBI



on the subject.

Several banks, including HDFC Bank and UCO Bank, have opened special vostro accounts as of date to facilitate overseas trade in the rupee.

Sberbank and VTB Bank — the largest and second-largest banks of Russia, respectively — are the first foreign lenders to receive the approval after the RBI announced the guidelines on overseas trade in the rupee in July last year.

Another Russian bank Gazprom, which does not have its unit in India, has also opened this account with Kolkata-based UCO Bank.

The move to open the special vostro account clears the deck for settlement of payments in rupee for trade between India and Russia, enabling cross-border trade in the Indian currency, which the RBI is keen to promote.

SAT reduces Sebi's penalty on former Maars Software MD to ₹10 lakh in GDR case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has slashed the penalty imposed on the former MD of Maars Software International to Rs 10 lakh from Rs 1 crore in a case related to manipulation in the issuance of global depository receipts. Maars Software International Ltd (MSIL) came out with a global depository receipts (GDRs) issue on August 10, 2007.

Pravin Champalal Jain was the former managing director of MSIL.

"While affirming the order of Sebi's Adjudicating Officer (AO) for the violations committed by the company, we reduce

the penalty from Rs 1 crore to Rs 10 lakhs.

"In our opinion, the penalty imposed is excessive and disproportionate to the violation and is also discriminatory," the tribunal said in its ruling on Tuesday.

The verdict came after Jain challenged the order passed by Sebi in July 2020.

Sebi's AO had imposed Rs 10.25 crore on MSIL, Rs 1 crore on Jain and Rs 10 lakh each on Harshwardhan S Rathore and Nikunj Babul Choradiya for flouting Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices rules. Rathore and Choradiya were also the directors of MSIL.

'India Inc's topline growth in Q4FY23 to halve to 10-12%'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India Inc is likely to report a halving of revenue growth in the fourth quarter of FY23, a credit rating agency said on Thursday, as companies start reporting their financials.

The revenue growth will come down to 10-12 per cent as against 22.8 per cent for the January-March period in the year-ago, Crisil's Market Intelligence and Analytics arm said.

For the full fiscal FY23, revenue is estimated to have grown 19-21 per cent, which is slower than over 27 per cent growth registered in FY22, it

said, adding that operating margin is likely to have moderated by 3 percentage points.

The continuing headwinds to exports which have had an impact on volume growth, and the high-base were cited as the main reasons which will cause the sharp slowdown in topline growth for Q4FY23, Crisil, which analysed 300 companies across 47 sectors to arrive at the expectations, said.

It said revenues of commodities and export-oriented sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, and information technology-enabled services, declined on-year.

Coal India boosts coking coal output, production up 17%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Coal India Ltd, the world's largest coal miner, on Thursday reported a 17.2 per cent rise in production of coking coal, helping cut on imports of the fuel that is an essential input for production of iron and steel.

In a statement, Coal India said coking coal production has risen to 54.6 million tonnes in 2022-23, up 17.2 per cent year-on-year growth compared to 46.6 million tonnes in FY'22 (April 2021 to March 2022).

"The quantum leap in the year was a whopping 8 million tonnes," it said, adding the output was 107.3 per cent of the target. This assumes significance at a time when the Ministry of



Coal has asked the company to raise the output of this category of coal to 105 million tonnes by 2030 in a bid to reduce its imports and forex outgo.

BCCL and CCL, the two Jharkhand-based subsidiaries of CIL, are major producers of coking coal and together accounted for almost the entire output of 54.3 million tonnes in 2022-23.

"BCCL alone produced

nearly 62 per cent or 33.7 million tonnes during the year, posting 16 per cent growth over 29 million tonnes of FY'22. Whereas, CCL clocked around 20 per cent growth at 20.6 million tonnes," it said.

Mineable reserves of coking coal, which is an important feedstock in steel making, in India are scarce. Also its quality inadequacy for direct use in steel making necessitates washing. This forces imports.

During FY'23 coking coal imports were 56 million tonnes, down by 1.1 million tonnes compared to 57.1 million tonnes in FY'22.

Apart from the meagre availability, Indian coking coal has high ash content requiring washing for use in steel mills.



**सामाजिक न्याय के प्रणेता
भारत के संविधान निर्माता
भारत रत्न, बाबा साहेब
डॉ. भीमराव अम्बेडकर को
कोटि-कोटि नमन...**



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



मंगुभाई पटेल, राज्यपाल



शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

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132वाँ जयंती समारोह

14 अप्रैल, 2023

मुख्य अतिथि
मंगुभाई पटेल
राज्यपाल, मध्यप्रदेश

अध्यक्षता
शिवराज सिंह चौहान
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

डॉ. अम्बेडकर स्मारक भवन, डॉ. अम्बेडकर नगर (महू) • दोपहर 12:00 बजे
बुड्डी जीन, महेश्वर • अपराह्न 1:30 बजे

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Pushkar Singh Dhama
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

SANKALP NAYE UTTARAKHAND KA

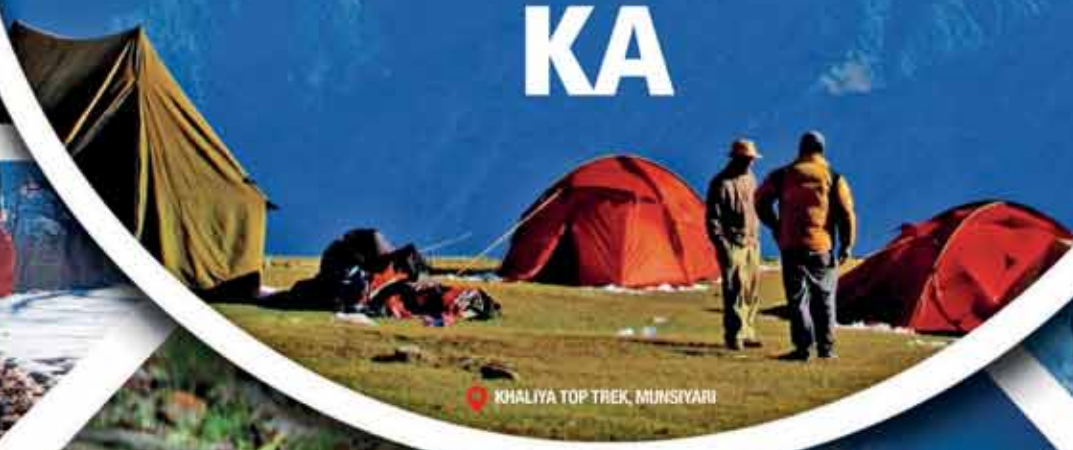
ROPE CLIMBING, SAAT TAAL



TREKKING, KANA TAAL



KHALIYA TOP TREK, MUNSIYARI



JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK, RAMNAGAR



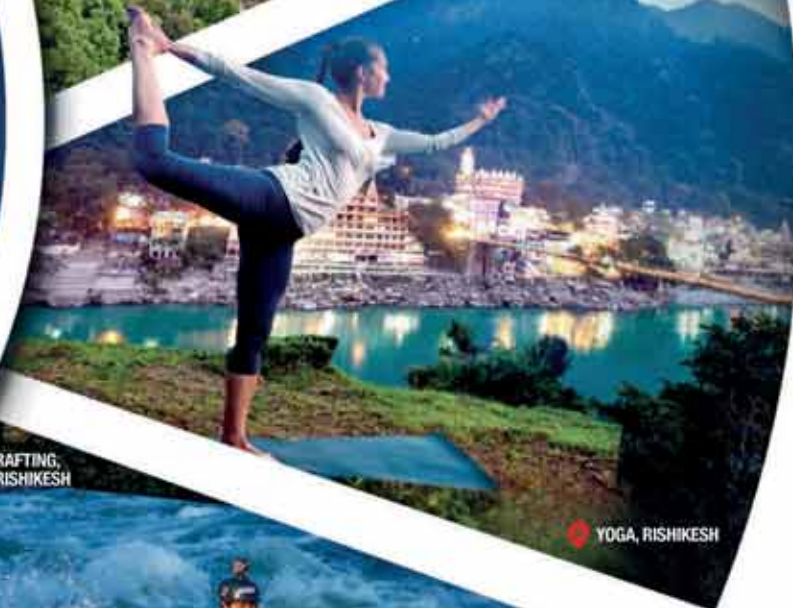
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Destination — Uttarakhand —

INCREDIBLE & AMAZING UTTARAKHAND

Besides being 'Devbhoomi', the 'Abode of Gods', Uttarakhand, is a land blessed with nature's bounties — those of fast flowing rivers, lakes, and majestic mountains, where the aspirations of tourists from world over for adventure activities are taken care of. With the advent of double engine governments at the state as well as at the centre, there have been tremendous improvements in the facilities and infrastructure of tourism in Uttarakhand. This is the reason that the number of tourists visiting the state has increased manifold

PARAGLIDING, PITHORAGARH



NEW UTTARAKHAND IS FULL OF ADVENTURE

EMPOWERED UTTARAKHAND @ 25
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has predicted that the third decade of the 21st century would be of Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has been leading the state and working on the road map to make an empowered Uttarakhand @25 Multi-faceted development of tourism facilities is part of the proposed roadmap.

ADVENTURE TOURISM
Uttarakhand which has a unique place on the tourism map of the world has become a focal point of adventure tourism activities. The state government besides promoting religious tourism has taken several initiatives in adventure tourism also. The tourists visiting Rishikesh in the state can enjoy bungee jumping, flying fox, river crossing and paragliding and other adventure tourism activities. The Tehri Lake nestled in the mountains has become a favourite tourist destination, being liked by tourists. The tourists can

VANASUR FORT, CHAMPAWAT



enjoy floating house, Shikara boat and cruise ride, boating, jet speed boating, water skiing, banana boat ride, bandwagon boat ride, hot air balloon ride and paragliding at Tehri Lake.

ENJOYING HIMALAYAN CULTURE WHILE STAYING AT A HOMESTAY
There are many tourist places situated in the remote rural areas which are known for their natural beauty and cultural heritage. These places are now being enjoyed by local and foreign tourists through homestay facilities at these places. The state Tourism department through its Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Homestay Development Scheme has granted 50 per cent subsidy (maximum Rs 15 lakh) in the hills and 25% subsidy in the plain areas (maximum of Rs 7.50 lakh) for development of homestay facilities. A total of 530 persons

have been provided subsidy under the scheme. More than 4680 units have also been registered under Guest House registration Scheme and more than 14,000 people have been provided employment directly or indirectly.

HOMESTAYS ON TREKKING ROUTE
To give a new experience, Uttarakhand government has started Trekking Traction centre Homestay Scheme. This

HOMESTAY, CHAMOLI



unique initiative has given home-like facilities and sense of security to the tourists on the trekking routes besides giving self-employment and a gift of development to the local people. Under the Trekking Traction centre Homestay Scheme, 15 such Trekking Traction centres have been notified in Uttarkashi, Tehri, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Rudrapur districts of the state. Till date 215 beneficiaries have been chosen. The Pushkar Singh Dhama led state government is giving financial help for building homestay facilities in the villages within two kilometres of the Trekking Traction centres.

JIM CORBETT TRAIL
The world-famous Jim Corbett National Park of Uttarakhand gives a special kind of experience to lovers of jungle safari. To make jungle safari more adventurous and secure, the Uttarakhand government has started developing Jim Corbett Trail in Champawat Forest division. This trail is being developed in Champawat, Bagh Barudi, Talla Desh, Khet Baman Goan, Thulakot, Boom-Kaldunga - Chuka-Tak, Devidhura-Pati-Dhunaghat, Panar Valley, Durga Pipal-Ladhia and Durga Pipal-Chalthi. The presence of variety of animals, flora and fauna makes it an ideal eco-tourism destination.

ROPEWAY AS A FACILITY & ADVENTURE ALSO
The 'Parvatmala' project describes aptly the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. To develop ropeway facilities in the mountains, Parvatmala Project has been initiated. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Gaurikund-Kedamath and Govindghat-Hemkund sahib ropeway project while Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated the Siddhpeeth Surkanda Devi temple ropeway. The length of Gaurikund-Kedamath ropeway is 9.7 kms to be built at a cost of Rs 1267 crore through which the difficult climb of six to seven hours could be finished within half an hour's time. The length of Govindghat-Hemkund sahib ropeway project is 12.40 kilometres estimated to cost Rs 1163 crore through which the treacherous trek of a whole day could be completed within 45 minutes. The process to start Ranibagh-Nainital ropeway, Panchkoti-New Tehri ropeway, Khaliya Top-Munsiyari ropeway, Rishikesh-Neelkanth ropeway projects are underway.

THE FIRST CARTOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF THE COUNTRY
The first cartographic museum of the country is ready to attract tourists at hill resort of Mussoorie. Built at a cost of Rs 4.55 crore at Sir George Everest House, this modern cartographic museum, houses the papers of Sir George Everest used to decipher the height of Mount Everest and other equipment. The documents of great cartographer



Nain Singh Rawat, surveyor Kishan Singh Negi and mathematician Radhanath would be on display. The tourists would also be able to know about working of modern GPS systems and other geographical information through globe installed at the museum.

BEST FILM-FRIENDLY STATE
Uttarakhand provides best destination for film shooting besides being a tourist destination. The state government in a bid to attract film makers to shoot their films in exotic location of the state has come up with Film policy 2022. The policy provides special incentives/ awards/recognition to the film makers and actors. The film makers have been provided with single window facilities with financial incentives. The Pushkar Singh Dhama Government has decided to build a film city in Dehradun. During the 53rd International Film Festival knowledge series held at Goa, a discussion on "Shooting in Uttarakhand" was also held. Praseon Joshi, Chairman of the Central Film censor Board said that Uttarakhand has a positive climate for film making and the state is being prepared as a film destination under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama. The music, art, and culture of 'Devbhoomi' Uttarakhand is different from others and the number of films being shot in Uttarakhand are on the rise.