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Musk makes hostile \$43-bn Twitter bid: 'Must become private company'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

TESLA CEO Elon Musk has launched a hostile attempt to buy Twitter for \$43 billion, saying it needs to be transformed into a private company to become a platform for free speech.

Musk, the company's largest individual shareholder, offered to acquire all of Twitter's remaining common stock at \$54.20 per share in a "non-binding proposal" he sent to Twitter's Board Chairman Bret Taylor on Tuesday.

In his letter to Taylor, the selfdescribed free speech absolutist CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL



LONG PERIOD AVERAGE REVISED TO 87 CM

Monsoon will be normal this year: IMD forecast

I&K, most of N-E, Haryana may see below normal rainfall

ANJALI MARAR & ESHA ROY

PUNE, NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

PREDICTING A "normal" monsoon this year, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), in its first Long Range Forecast (LFR) on Thursday, has said that rainfall will be normal or above normal in most parts of the country, except the North-East, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir.

IMD officials said the onset of the southwest monsoon -which accounts for about 75 per cent of the country's annual rainfall -- over Kerala remains June 1. Every year, IMD releases the long range forecast in two stages -- in April and June.

"The southwest monsoon rainfall during June to

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

UNDER FIRE over senior Punjab

officials meeting AAP chief

Arvind Kejriwal in his absence,

CM Bhagwant Mann hit back at

his critics refuting charges that

his government was being re-

mote-controlled from Delhi. He

said that the officials were sent

by him to meet Kejriwal, adding

that he will continue to send

them to other states to learn

JALANDHAR, APRIL 14

'Will send them again':

Mann defends officials'

meeting with Kejriwal

new things.

Rain-fed economy

WITH India's agriculture being primarily rain-fed, the southwest monsoon is vital for kharif crops. About 78 per cent of the country's gross cropped area is supported by monsoon rainfall. Besides agriculture, the key driver of the country's economy, India's reservoirs and sectors like transport. aviation and power are also monsoon-dependent.

WHAT DOWNGRADE IN AVG MONSOON **RAINFALL MEANS P16**

"I am taking all decisions,"

"Officials used to go Gujarat

Mann told reporters in Jalandhar

and Tamil Nadu for training pur-

poses then why can't they go to

Delhi to learn good things and if

it is required we will send them

while defending the meeting.

September will be normal, and quantitatively, it will be 99 per cent of the Long Period Average

Secretary,

Ministry of Earth Sciences. This is the fourth consecutive year that the IMD is predicting normal rainfall. The seasonal rainfall is considered normal when it is 96-104 per cent of the LPA. The LPA is defined as the average of the last 50 years. Till last year, the average of the period between 1961 and 2011 was taken as the LPA. This year, in a routine revision that happens every decade, the LPA baseline has been changed to 1971-2020.

(LPA) which is 87 cm," said M

Ravichandran,

As a result, the LPA has changed from 88 cm to 87 cm. That means that during 1971-2020, the country as a whole received 87 cm of rainfall every CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CBSE to go back to single board exam

For the 2021-22 academic year, the CBSE had introduced a bifurcated format with two terms: the Term-I board exams were held in November-December last year, while the Term-II exams are scheduled to start on April 26. It is learnt that more weightage will be given to the Term-II exams. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ED QUESTIONS CHANNI IN SAND

MINING CASE

Every govt, every PM has helped take India to current heights: Modi

DIVYAA

NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi said Thursday that every government, every Prime Minister of independent India has contributed to nation building, taking the country to the



next year

SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

THE CENTRAL Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to restore the pre-pandemic singleexam format from the next academic year, which means the Class X and XII board exams are not likely to be split into two parts, according to sources in the Ministry of Education.



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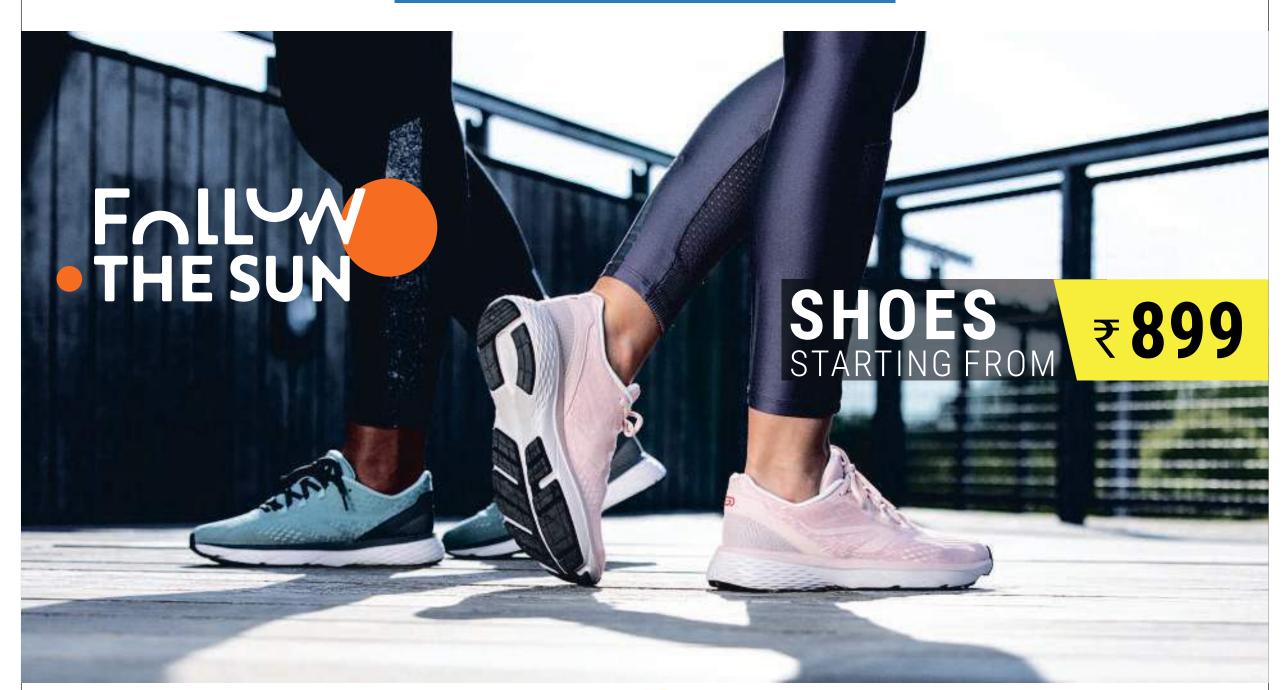
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to Israel too," said Mann, adding: "In coming days, I will send my heights where it is today. He said Narendra Modi and Sonia Gandhi at an event to mark BR officers to Delhi, Gujarat, Andhra barring one or two exceptions --Pradesh and Tamil Nadu...If I find he did not elaborate but it ap-Ambedkar's birth anniversary something good in West Bengal, peared to be a reference to the on Thursday. Anil Sharma **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**





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EXPRESS AUDIO

MP violence, Bengal

Iram Siddique joins host Snigdha Sharma

Khargone and the demolition drive that

to discuss the violence in Madhya Pradesh's

rape-murder, and

Bajrang Muni

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followed the next day.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Monsoon

year on an average during the four-month monsoon season between June and September.

"This is an international practice to verify the seasonal rainfall once in a decade. The decrease in the seasonal rainfall is due to the natural multidecadal epochal variability of wet and dry epochs of India's rainfall. From the rainfall data obtained from 4,132 rain gauges across the country for the 1971-2020 period, it has been observed that the seasonal rainfall has reduced from 88 cm to 87 cm." said IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra.

Similarly, the all-India annual rainfall, which includes rainfall received in the entire year, not just during the monsoon months, has decreased from 117 cm to 116 cm.

According to this year's monsoon forecast, Kerala, Tamil Nadu (except its southernmost areas). Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan (except northern areas), Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Sikkim are expected to receive normal to above normal rainfall. J&K, Haryana and the rest of the North-East are likely to receive below normal rainfall.

Of the annual rainfall that the country receives, about 75 per cent occurs during June to September monsoon season. July and August remain the wettest months of the year, accounting for 70 per cent of the season's total rainfall, with June and September accounting for 15 per cent each.

The prevailing La Nina conditions will continue till at least the first half of the monsoon season. La Nina is the abnormal cooling of the sea surface temperatures observed over the equatorial Pacific region. It is known to favour the Indian monsoon. "The land heating this year has been good and the existing La Nina conditions will favour a good monsoon," M Rajeevan, former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, told The Indian Express

D Sivananda Pai. Director. Institute for Climate Change Studies, Government of Kerala, noted that 2021 and 2022 remained La Nina years, but this was not unusual. There have been instances in the past -- like 1974-1975, 1999-2000 and 2010-2011 -- when La Nina conditions prevailed over two years.

"But one of the deciding fac-

tors for the monsoon's performance in the second half of the season will be the prevailing La Nina," said Pai. The other factor is the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which is likely to remain in its neutral phase till June and later turn negative, which will not be good for the monsoon, said experts.

CBSE

The decision was taken after the board exams for the 2020-21 academic year had to be cancelled due to the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, Students were evaluated on their scores in previous exams, practical exams and internal assessments.

According to a senior official, the board decided to restore the single-exam pattern after receiving representations from schools. "CBSE never announced that the two-term exam format will be continued henceforth. It was a one-time formula. Now that schools are functioning in full capacity, the decision, for now, is to stick to the one-time exam forsaid the official.

However, in terms of syllabus rationalisation, CBSE will stick to the policy it followed over the last two years when syllabus was reduced by 30 per cent. "The NCERT will send us the details of rationalisation based on which an announcement will be made. Schools can teach the reduced syllabus using the existing books,' said the official

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 proposes that all students be allowed to take the board exams on up to two occasions in an academic year -- "one main examination and one for improvement" to "eliminate the high stakes aspect of board exams".

"While the board exams for Grades X and XII will be continued, the existing system of board and entrance examinations shall be reformed to eliminate the need for undertaking coaching classes. To reverse these harmful effects of the current assessment system, board exams will be redesigned to encourage holistic development," states the NEP. There are 26,152 CBSE-affiliated schools across the

Mann

then I will send my officers there. If I find something good in Gujarat, I will send them there

Praising Delhi's education, health and power sector, Mann said that Punjab had a lot to learn from them.

Earlier this week, Kejriwal had met the state chief secretary, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) chief and other Punjab power department officials in the national capital. Mann was not present during this meeting during which the AAP's prepoll guarantees to Punjab voters, including 300 units of free power, were discussed.

After Monday's meeting, the Punjab CM was called a "rubber stamp" by former chief minister Amarinder Singh.

Also, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal had said the meeting between Kejriwal and Punjab government officials was "unconstitutional and unacceptable" and Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa claimed that the people of the state did not vote for the government which was to be "remotecontrolled" from Delhi.

Mann, who was in Jalandhar to pay his tributes to B R Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, also said that all promises made by the AAP to the people before the Assembly elections will be fulfilled. About wheat procurement, he said that the process was going on smoothly and government was working to keep stubble burning in check.

Asked about opposition's allegations that AAP had plans to buy new vehicles for MLAs and Mann said: 'Opposition is spreading such canards in dearth of any issue against the Punjab government. There was no such move by the state government.

Referring to Congress MLA Pargat Singh's remark on the matter, he added: "Show us even a single Fortuner which we are going to purchase or I have given an order to purchase." He quipped that he had a "happy news" for Pargat Singh that the government planned to take back his official

Later, Pargat retorted by putting out a tweet: "I welcome Shri @BhagwantMann's decision to take away my official vehicle. I want to remind him that I have a vehicle in the capacity of an MLA. I hope this is not a case of political vendetta & he shows the willpower to take away the vehicles of all 117 MLAs irrespective of party."

Modi

period of the Emergency -- the country has a "glorious tradition of strengthening democracy in a democratic way".

Inaugurating Pradhanmantri Sanghralaya at Teen Murti Estate in New Delhi, the Prime Minister said the museum is a living reflection of the shared heritage of each government. He recalled how most Prime Ministers came from ordinary families. "It gives confidence to the youth of the country that even a person born in an ordinary family can reach the highest positions in the democratic system of India," he said.

Members of the Gandhi family, who were invited to the event, did not attend. Those present on the occasion included Atal Bihari Vajpayee's daughter Namita Bhattacharya, Lal Bahadur Shastri's son Anil Shastri and grandson Adarsh Shastri. P V Narasimha Rao's grandson N V Subhash, and family members of Charan Singh and Morarji Desai. Also present were Rajya Sabha vice-chairman Harivansh, ministers G Kishan Reddy, Meenakshi Lekhi, Arjun Meghwal and V Muraleedharan.

"Barring one or two exceptions, we have a glorious tradition of strengthening democracy in a democratic way. So it's our responsibility also to strengthen democracy through our efforts," Modi said, Calling India "loktantra ki janani" (the mother of democracy), he said, "The great feature of India's democracy is that it has been continuously changing with the passage of time. In every era, in every generation, there has been an effort to make it more empowered.'

"Desh aaj jis unchayi par hai, wahan tak usse pahunchaane mein swatantra Bharat ke baad bani pratyek sarkar ka yogdaan hai. Maine Lal Qila se bhi yeh baat kayi baar dohraayi hai. Aaj yeh sangrahalaya bhi pratyek sarkar ki sanjha virasat ka jeevant pratibimb ban gaya hai (Every government formed after Independence has contributed in taking India to the heights where it is today. I have said this from the Red Fort several times. This museum is a living reflection of the shared heritage of each government)," he

Inaugurating the museum on Babasaheb B R Ambedkar's birth anniversary, the Prime Minister paid rich tribute. Constitution, of which Babasaheb was the main architect, gave us the basis of the Parliamentary system. The main responsibility of this Parliamentary system is upon the office of the Prime Minister. It is my good fortune that today I

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have got the opportunity to dedicate the Prime Minister's Museum to the nation." he said.

He mentioned that the NDA government had announced November 26 as Constitution Day, and called the museum "the next step in the effort to honour the Constitution of India".

He greeted families of the former Prime Ministers: "Desh ke har pradhan mantri ne samvidhaan sammat loktantra ke lakshvon ki poorti mein bharsak vogdaan diya hai (Every Prime Minister of the country has contributed immensely towards achieving the goals of constitutional democracy)."

To remember them is to know the journey of independent India. People coming here will be familiar with the contribution of the former Prime Ministers of the country, their background, their struggles and creations," he said.

Speaking to The Indian Express on the sidelines of the event, Adarsh Shastri called the museum an "excellent initiative by the PM". He said, "It is important for people to understand the contribution of all PMs, not just one ideology or one family. Such museums exist in many countries but we never had one. This will fill that gap.'

Shastri's family has donated his charkha (which came as a wedding gift), his badminton racquet and some important letters. Morarji Desai's Bhagavad Gita, Gandhi topi, pen and rudraksh mala find place in the gallery dedicated to him, while there are some handwritten diaries by Chandra Shekhar on display, besides Vajpayee's Bharat Ratna medal, spectacles, wrist watch and some letters.

NV Subhash, who is also the Telangana BJP spokesperson, said, "There is space for all PMs here -- whether they were at the top post for six months or six years. It's as if my grandfather has got his due 18 years after his death. For all these years, it felt as if this place

belonged to the Gandhi family;

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now, it belongs to all PMs." Chandra Shekhar's son Neeraj Shekhar, BJP member of Rajya Sabha, in a Twitter post, said "wherever he is, my father would be blessing" Prime Minister Modi and "so would all other Prime Ministers". "Let this museum begin a new culture of statesman-

The 10491 sq-metre museum, built at a cost of Rs 306 crore, has 43 galleries, with a capacity to hold 4.000 visitors at a time. The highlight is Anubhuti, an experiential gallery where visitors can walk with any Prime Minister's hologram, take pictures and their signatures. The space is a mix of physical and digital displays, with a heavy reliance on technology -virtual reality, augmented reality, holograms and audio-visual ele-

The erstwhile Nehru Museum building has been seamlessly integrated with the new museum building. The Nehru Museum is now designated as Block I, and has a completely updated, technologically advanced display on the life and contribution of India's first Prime Minister. A number of gifts received by Nehru from all over the world, but not exhibited so far, have been put on display in the renovated Block I. While the lives and times of

14 former PMs have been showcased, the current PM is not part of the narrative. Nripendra Misra, chairperson of the executive council of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, which has executed the project, told The Indian Express that the museum is a work-in-progress and that in the coming months, glimpses from Modi's first term (2014-19)

Musk

will be added.

said he had invested in Twitter as he believed in its "potential to be the platform for free speech around the globe".

Musk said he realised since making his investment that Twitter in its current form would neither "thrive nor serve" as a tool for free speech — and so it "needs to be transformed as a private company". The SpaceX founder's purchase offer was at a 54 per cent premium over the day before he began investing in Twitter "and a 38 per cent premium over the day before my investment was publicly announced".

"My offer is my best and final offer and if it is not accepted, I would need to reconsider my position as a shareholder. Twitter has extraordinary potential. I will unlock it," he said. Late in the night, Twitter con-

firmed it had received "an unsolicited, non-binding proposal" from Musk and said it would carefully "review the proposal to determine the course of action that it believes is in the best interest of the Company and all Twitter stockholders".

In texts to Taylor, Musk — the world's richest person with a \$273.6 billion fortune according to Forbes — said his position on withdrawing his investment was "not a threat"

"If the deal doesn't work, given that I don't have confidence in management nor do I believe I can drive the necessary change in the public market, I would need to reconsider my position as a shareholder. This is not a threat, it's simply not a good investment without the changes that need to

Politics of freebies won't work:

be made. And those changes won't happen without taking the company private," he said in the

Musk had also told Taylor that he was not "playing the back-and-forth game". "I have moved straight to the end. It's a high price and your shareholders will love

Both the letter and the texts are a part of exhibits placed before the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Earlier this month, Musk revealed through an SEC filing that he had bought a 9.2 per cent stake, worth nearly \$3 billion, in Twitter. This had made him the biggest shareholder in the company, ahead of the 8.8 per cent stake held by the Vanguard Group, 8.4 per cent held by Morgan Stanley, and 2.2 per cent stake held by Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey.

Aday later, on April 5, Twitter's chief executive officer Parag Agrawal had said in a note on the platform that Musk would join the company's board. On April 11, Agrawal sent out

another note saying Musk had decided against this. He had also hinted of "distractions ahead" and that the company executives should "tune out the noise" and stay focused on the work.

The flip flop on Twitter comes at a time when its annual revenue as of December 2021 stood at \$5 billion. The company has targeted achieving \$7.5 million in revenue by 2023. If the deal goes through, it could give the platform more financial muscle to compete with other platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. Twitter has expanded into

newer products such as audio tweets and spaces. The funds from the stake buy may help the platform expand and improve the quality of these services.

Known for his riches, Gujarat Cong leader goes to AAP

GOPAL KATESHIYA

A MERCURIAL politician who was in 2012 the richest MLA in the Gujarat Assembly with declared assets of Rs 122 crore, Indranil Rajyaguru was known to have been considering his options for a while now. However, Rajyaguru left Congress for the Aam Aadmi Party just three weeks after it hoped to have won him over with the post of vicepresident of the Gujarat PCC.

Having won on the Congress



Indranil Rajguru with **Arvind Kejriwal.** Express

ticket from Rajkot (East) in 2012, Rajyaguru, 56, had left the party to then sitting Chief Minister along with Vashram Sagathiya, one of the four sitting Congress corporators in the Rajkot Municipal Corporation.

The son of Congress leader Sanjay Rajyaguru, Indranil had much clout within the party after 2012, despite being only a onetime MLA, as much on account of his political lineage as his wealth. The party avoided checking him despite his frequent run-ins with successive presidents of the

in the aftermath of his 2017 loss Rajkot unit of the Congress.

Vijay Rupani from Rajkot (West). of his political prowess that in the managed to win the bypoll. He joined AAP on Thursday 2017 Assembly elections, it was he who chose to shift from Rajkot (East) to take on Rupani, despite the latter being the incumbent CM and Rajkot (West) being a BJP bastion for decades. Eventually, the BJP handed Rajyaguru a heavy defeat.

In June 2018, Rajyaguru quit the party. After his arch Congress foe Bavaliya himself defected to the BJP in July 2018 and fought a bypoll from Jasdan Assembly seat, Rajyaguru ran a campaign

against him. In another embar-So confident was Rajyaguru rassment for Rajyaguru, Bavaliya

> In the 2019 Lok Sabha election he was not seen and heard much, but around two years ago, Rajyaguru started warming up to Congress. In June 2020, his resort hosted its leaders, as the party tried to hold its flock together to ensure Shaktisinh Gohil's win in a Rajya Sabha contest.

That perhaps eased Rajyaguru's re-entry into the Congress in September 2020. However, he remained distant from the party leadership.

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA GURGAON, APRIL 14

IN AN apparent jibe at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday said that politics of freebies will not work in a state like Punjab, which is reeling under huge debt.

"There are some leaders who have made ulti [wrong] policies.... There is a leader who has made a



Khattar takes swipe at AAP

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar

sit-down policy - who says you sit at home, there is no need to work and I will give you this free, that free," Khattar said. "Ye free baant ke chala nahi payenge [they won't be able to govern by offer-

ing freebies]. This is a disease be-

matter, their situation is already worsening in Punjab; Punjab is under heavy debt."

Without naming any leader, Khattar said: "This person first announces freebies, and the next day goes to the Prime Minister with a bowl to ask for funds to run Punjab. This double-game will not work. This deceit - you first promise freebies and then go to PM—if you have the courage, give things for free; if not, why brag?"

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS

SRI SAI UNIVERSITY (ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE)

Located in the lush green Palampur, Sri Sai University (SSU) Palampur, was established in 2011. It is currently led by CMD, Kanwar Tushar Puni, and MD Tripta Punj. The university fosters excellence in academics from the formative years till the student acquires professional expertise. It aims at creating a better world by adding value to people's lives by honing their personal and professional skills

NFL-NANGAL (DIRECTOR'S JOINING)

Atul B Patil, former Executive Director (Marketing) Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF), Mumbai, with over 32 years of work experience in Marketing and Personnel Management in the Fertilizers Industry, has taken over charge of Director (Marketing) of fertilizer major, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL).



BR Ambedkar, the management, staff and students of Shri Vishwakarma University, held an online programme in collaboration with the DSW and SC, ST, OBC Cell, to mark his birth anniversary





TOYOTA (LAUNCHING)

Deepak Sabherwal Additional Advocate General, Haryana, Pawan Kohli (President Sales - Pioneer Toyota and Chanderkant Thakur, GM, Pioneer Toyota, and Chanderkant Thakur, GM, Pioneer Toyota, presided over the launch of Toyota's much-awaited offering in the hatchback segment, the Toyota Kirloskar Motor T The Cool New Glanza.



BANK OF MAHARASTRA (INAUGURATION)

AS Rajeev, Managing Director and CEO, Bank of Maharashtra (BOM), inaugurated a new branch of the BOM equipped with the state-of-the-art facilities in Himachal Pradesh, bring the tally of the bank's branches to nine, besides seven ATMs and recyclers, in the state



BBMB (AWARD)

SS Dadwal, Chief Engineer/Generation, Bhakra Beas Man agement Board (BBMB) Nangal received the 'Best Hydro Power Generator' Award conferred on the BBMB at the Independent Power Producers Association of India (IPPAI) Power Awards Ceremony 2022, Belgaum, Karnataka.



CURIOSITY KIDS (WORKSHOP)

Participating students aged between three to 11 years got a sneak peak into the 'Chemistry Lab', which was the theme of the second STEM Workshop organized by Curiosity Kids, in Chandigarh. Stuti Sharma and Anuj Sehgal the cofounders of Curiosity Kids were present at the workshops along with Rahat Malhotra, the COO of Curiosity Kids India.



PNB (FOUNDATION DAY)

Punjab National Bank Ludhiana Zone celebrated the Bank's 128th Foundation Day with its serving and retired staff and customers, who were felicitated by Sumanta Mohanty, Zonal Manager for their relationship with the Bank.



THE LEARNING STATION (BAISAKHI CELEBRATIONS)

The Learning Station, a state-of-the-art play school, Hambran Road, held a vibrant commemoration of the Vaisakhi festival for its kids dressed ethnic Punjabi attires, to apprise them of the religious and secular significance of the celebration.

PSPCL (PREVENTION OF FIRES)

The Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has directed all its chief engineers and field officers to ensure appropriate action for prevention of fires involving wheat crop during the harvesting season, besides urging farmers and the public to contact the authorities concerned immediately in case a snag is detected in the power lines.



PEC (PEC FEST)

Punjab Engineering College Chandigarh is organising it's annual flagship event, PECFest from 16th April to 18th April. The organisers have come up with the theme of "A Cosmic Escapade" for the said fest. It is one of the biggest a techno-cultural events in North India that will host a wide range of activities and competitions for participants to showcase their



MGM PUBLIC SCHOOL (BAISAKHI CELEBRATION)

Poems, speeches, Bhangra presentations and 'Gatka' performances marked the Baisakhi celebrations held at MGM Public School. The director of school Sardar Gajjan Singh Thind felicitated the students and encouraged them to be a part of such events

Chandigarh

CELEBRATIONS

THE CITY



Devotees having langar during "Khalsa Sajna Divas" at a gurdwara in Sector 34, Chandigarh on Thursday. Jasbir Malhi

Two men shoot at IT professional, take away car; case filed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MOHALI, APRIL 14

ANOTHER CARJACKING was reported in the city after two armed men snatched the car of a Zirakpur-based IT professional. The incident happened early in the morning of Tuesday. The car owner was seriously injured in the incident and was admitted to Fortis hospital.

The car owner, Ravi Ranjan. was going home after finishing his shift in his Hyundai i20. When he reached near the city centre on the Airport Road, two men signalled him to stop.

Ravi Ranjan stopped the car, following which both the men

"Ravi gave them lift, but after going some distance, both the men started threatening Ravi and asked him to give the keys of his car to them. When Ravi refused, one of the culprits took out

Woman among 20 booked for assaulting tattoo artist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MOHALL APRIL 14

THE SOHANA police booked around 20 people, including a woman, for allegedly assaulting a tattoo artist at Purab Premium Apartments in Sector 88 Thursday.

The complainant, Jaswinder Singh, stated to the police that one of his friends had requested him to arrange a room so that her two women friends could stay for a night.

The complainant told the police that he had agreed to give one of his rooms in his flat, following which two women met him. They introduced themselves as Harshita and Ayesha.

Jaswinder said that he had to stay out of his flat due to work and when he returned, he found that Harshita was in his flat with her another friend.

"I objected to it, following which Harshita left my place. But after some time, she came with around 20 other people who attacked me with hockey sticks and swords," Jaswinder alleged.

Acting on the complaint, the Sohana police registered a case against Harshita, her friends Piyush, Rohit Kumar and their 20 unidentified accomplices under sections 452 (house trespass), 323 (assault), 427 (mischief, damage to property of fifty rupees), 148 (rioting), 149 (unlawful assembly) of the Indian Penal Code.

pistol and threatened Ravi," a police officer said. The officer said that the accused had taken Ravi Ranjan towards Banur where they shot him in the thigh and threw him out of the car near Gian Sagar Hospital on Patiala-Zirakpur

Ravi Ranjan somehow managed to reach the private hospital where he called the police.

The Sohana police registered a case of attempt to murder, snatching and under various provisions of the Arms Act. The police were yet to trace the cul-

The complainant told the police that both the carjackers were speaking in Punjabi and seemed to be familiar with the area.

It is the second incident of carjacking this week. On Sunday, two men had shot at a Roparbased businessman in a bid to snatch the car. Police arrested both the snatchers on Monday.

75-yr-old woman killed after being hit by motorcycle

Chandigarh: A year-old woman was killed in a road accident near Sarangpur police station Wednesday night. The victim, identified as Binda Devi, a resident of Small Flats Dhanas, was hit by a motorcycle bearing Chandigarh registration number.

The incident happened around 11.30 pm. The victim was accompanied by her son Anand Ram, who managed to note down the registration number of the motorcycle. He reported that he along with his mother were out after their dinner when the motorcyclist hit his mother and fled.

Anand Ram called the police control room but before the arrival of cops, he rushed his injured mother to Government Multi-Specialty Hospital (GMSH), Sector 16. Sources said that the woman suffered severe head injuries. Doctors at the emergency ward of the hospital declared her brought dead. In his complaint to the police, Anand Ram mentioned the registration number of the motorcycle involved in the road accident. The body was kept in the mortuary of GMSH-16.

Death in Sector 41: 4 hotel management students booked for abetment to suicide

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, APRIL 14

CHANDIGARH POLICE on Thursday booked four hotel management students under sections of abetment to suicide, and common intention in connection to the death of Swayam Bhardwai, 19, who had allegedly died by suicide at his rented accommodation at Sector 41 on April 7.

The FIR, under Section 306 (abetment to suicide), 34 (common intention) of IPC, was registered at Sector 39 police sta-

The four suspects — including a woman – were the roommates as well as classmates of

As per reports, Swayam, a resident of Delhi, was pursuing the hotel management course from Dr Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management, Sector 42. The suspects named in the FIR were identified as Nikhil, Tanuj, Mohit and one woman. The FIR was registered following the complaint of Swayam's mother, Kusum Bhardwaj.

Kusum, in her complaint, has alleged that her son was forced to kill himself by his roommates who had reportedly made a video clip in which Swayam is shown apologising for an alleged act of sexual harassement done by him on a woman.

One of the three men had then forwarded the video clip to Kusum. The complaint further says that within 36 hours of Kusum receiving the video on her phone, Swayam had taken teh extreme step. Sources said Kusum had submitted the video clip to police along with her complaint.

Sources said that Swayam had even moved out from his old rented accommodation and found a new place in Sector 41, a day before taking the extreme

"We have lodged an FIR based on the statement of the victim's mother, Kusum Bhardwaj. There are many things which are yet to be verified. We want to collect more evidence. The statements of the four suspects will also be recorded," a police officer

Yogesh Bhardwak, the uncle of Swayam, said, "We have been informed about the registration of the FIR against the four people. They pushed Swayam to take the extreme

Uttar Pradesh State Level B.Ed. Joint Entrance Examintaion-2022 Conducted by: Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University, Bareilly

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University, Bareilly is conducting the State Level Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admissions to B.Ed. (two years) program for the academic session 2022-24 in all State Universities of Uttar Pradesh and their affiliated/associated and constituent colleges. The Online Application form and other related guidelines/instructions will be available on the M.J.P. Rohilkhand University, Bareilly website: www.mjpru.ac.in w.e.f. April 18, 2022 onwards.

Registrar

CHANDIGARH

Policy in the works: Dedicated zones for cars, hefty fines for street parking

HINA ROHTAKI CHANDIGARH, APRIL 14

CHANDIGARH Administration has proposed several changes in a new park-

ing policy in the making for the UT, which officials say may be implemented in a month or so. As per details available, the new parking policy will only al-

low cars to be parked at designated spots in each neighbourhood. Parking vehicles outside your homes on the streets will also invite heavy penalties and may also lead to vehicles being towed, as per the new policy that the administration is working on. Apart from this, sources in

the administration said that the new parking policy will also have a provision for congestion pricing that will be introduced initially only at a flat rate — to discourage the use of personal vehicles. At present, cars parked haphazardly on the streets, eating up precious road space, are one of the main causes of congestion of city roads.

Officials estimated that at present, there are houses which have three cars per family on an average, sometimes even more, while having parking space for



lead to vehicles being towed away under the planned parking policy. Express

just one or two vehicles. The cars that do not find parking space inside houses, end up being parked on the streets or footpaths. The new parking policy will look to address this issue by forcing the excess cars to be parked only at designated parking spots.

The previous parking policy for the UT, which was notified in 2020, was never implemented by authorities in the face of widespread protests from residents and RWAs. This prompted UT

Banwarilal Administrator, Purohit, to ask officials to rework the parking policy and introduce 'workable solutions" to update it.

Chandigarh Adviser, Dharam Pal, while speaking to The Indian Express, said, "The previous policy remained unimplemented. So we are having a second look at it. One of the things we are working on is the introduction of designated spaces for parking in each neighbourhood sector, where people who do not have

space in their homes for cars can come and park their vehicles."

He added taht open spaces are being identified in each sector where vehicles can be parked. The Adviser said, "Under teh new policy, street parking will be absolutely banned. If a vehicle found not parked at a designated space then it will be towed and a heavy penalty shall be imposed on it as well. We are working on several modalities."

'No Parking zones' shall be

at all streets and inter-sections, where residents park their vehicles. QR codes will also be set up at the designated spaces, which can be used by residents to scan and make hassle free payments for parking their vehicles. Sources said that a congestion pricing is also being introduced, at a single flat rate, initially.

"The rates will be kept a little steep because it is important to discourage people to take their cars out everywhere they go. We want that the rates to pinch so residents are discouraged to use private vehicles all teh time. It will be a single tax rate initially," another senior official said.

The congestion pricing's single flat rate shall be introduced at all high-density parking demand areas — including commercial, institutional, residential and public or semi public places.

The new parking policy will also make it mandatory for all government or PSU organisations, as well as industrial, and IT companies with more than 50 employees to have a bus service. Shuttle service will be started by various institutions (like IT Park, Industrial Area, hospitals, public offices) to discourage the use of personal vehicles.



TEAMS TO KEEP CHECK FROM **APRIL 15 TILL JUNE 30**

Waste water and risk being fined by MC from today

Washing vehicles with hosepipe, watering lawns not allowed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, APRIL 14

STARTING FRIDAY, Chandigarh civic body will begin its challan drive for the wastage of water during the summer season. The department has said that it has constituted teams to check for water wastage from April 15 till June 30, and violators will have to pay Rs 5000 as a fine.

Due to the expected high demand for water in the summer, watering of lawns, courtyards and washing vehicles using a hosepipe will not allowed. A fine will also be imposed if a house is found to have overflowing water tanks and coolers or if any pipes are found to be leaking.

The special teams will run the drive during morning hours as well as evening hours. If a violator does not pay the challan, the fine will be added to their water bill. The teams will be headed by a Sub Divisional officer who will be giving challans to violators during the drive.

A senior official also said that if somebody posts pictures of someone washing their cars using hosepipes or watering their lawns, a team will issue a challan based on the footage. As per officials, special focus will be put on checking the northern sectors as the civic body had found that their water consumption was significantly higher when compared to the southern sectors.



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Commissioner (DC), Amit

Talwar, is soon set to hold a

 $meeting\,with\,officials\,of\,Greater$

Mohali Area Development

Authority (GMADA) on the is-

sue of lack of civic amenities in

residential colonies of the dis-

stated that the administration

shall look into the issue of lack

of civic amenities for people in

many residential colonies. He

added that there were many il-

legal colonies in the district and

the administration shall take

the issue up with the GMADA.

process of mapping illegal

colonies in the district. In case,

people are found violating

norms and encroaching, action

shall be taken against the

DC's action comes after he re-

ceived complaints from many

areas - mostly in Kharar,

Derabassi and Zirakpur — that

builders were not providing ba-

sic amenities to the residents.

Sources said that the Mohali

The GMADA is already in the

The DC had on Wednesday

DEPUTY

MOHALI, APRIL 14

Violators will be charged

MERCURY SET TO RISE BY 3 DEGREES

The Chandigarh MeT department has predicted a jump in temperature by around two to three degrees Celsius in the next three days. The weather department has also predicted heat wave conditions in isolated places in Punjab and Haryana. On Thursday, a bout of light rain, along with a spell of gusty winds helped bring down the temperature in Chandigarh.



Mayor Amarjit Singh pays homage to Dr BR Ambedkar in Mohali on Thursday. Jasbir Malhi

After third round, city lad Sandhu shares lead with Bangladesh's Mollah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH'S YUVRAJ Singh Sandhu carded a third-round score of seven-under-65 to grab the share of the lead with Bangladesh golfer Zamal Hossain Mollah on the third day of the PGTI Players Championship with an overall score of 14-under-202.

Sandhu, currently second on the PGTI Order of Merit, had a cold start as he missed a short putt for a birdie on the second. However, Sandhu managed to make breakthroughs on the fourth and ninth where he rolled in birdies from five feet. The 25vear-old golfer, then went on to collect five more birdies on the back-nine. Sandhu produced a great second shot from the rough to set up a five-foot birdie conversion on the 12th hole and then nearly holed out his approach on the 15th hole despite the day witnessing less wind.

Sandhu, a two-time winner on the PGTI, said, "I don't remember shooting a bogey-free round previously at my home course. So



Yuvraj Singh Sandhu. Express

that's a big boost for my confidence heading into the final round. The wind wasn't a big factor today so I saw it as a day to capitalise on the calmer conditions and climb up the leaderboard. But the pins were pushed to the edges today so finding those exact yardages off the fairway was a little tough as one was in between clubs. I almost holed out twice today so the ball-striking was good and my putts took off on the backnine. I made a tough two-putt from 70 feet on the par-5 13th hole. I'm also feeling the comfort of playing at home after being on the road for so many weeks. I have the home support and warmth.'

Zamal said, "My driving and chipping continues to be the best part of my game this week. I've been making most of the fairways and greens in regulation. The big disappointments today were my iron shots and putting on the back-nine. Playing errorfree for the last two days has really lifted my confidence ahead of the final round'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE ZIRAKPUR police arrested

three persons who had allegedly

threatened a Baltana-based

businessman by posing as gang-

sters. The accused also de-

manded extortion from the busi-

nessman, Police recovered a car

fied as Balwinder Singh, Manish

alias Sonu and Naresh Kumar.

The accused had demanded Rs

5 lakh from Anil Pandey. In his

compliant to the police, Pandey

Those arrested were identi-

used by the criminals.

MOHALI, APRIL 14

Both second-round leaders Shivendra Singh Sisodia and Kartik Sharma struggled with their driving in the third round but managed to keep themselves in the hunt. Sisodia made an eagle, two birdies and four bogeys while Sharma had an eagle, five birdies and two bogeys.

The two other Chandigarh golfers in the top-ten were defending champion Karandeep Kochhar (68) and Ranjit Singh (69). Karandeep was placed seventh at eight-under 208 while Ranjit was in eighth position at seven-under 209. Chandigarh golfer Abhijit Singh Chadha, who was overnight third, dropped to tied 15th at four-under 212 following a third round score of five-over-77.

men had come to his office at Baltana and gave an envelope to one of his women employees.

gangsters to extort money

3 persons held for posing as

Pandey alleged that the accused had given him a letter saying that they were Tikra Gujjar and is a close associate of Lawrence Bishnoi. Pandey also alleged that the accused had demanded Rs 15 lakh from him.

The police officers said that Pandey's friend Sanjay Badwar had filed a complaint on Thursday that some people had fired gunshots outside his house on March 17.

"We started relating both the

cases. During the investigation. it came to light that the arrested accused had posed as the gangsters and demanded extortion from Pandey. It also came to light that Naresh Kumar had extorted Rs 25,000 while Balwinder Singh had extorted Rs 6 lakh from Pandey," Zirakpur SHO

Inspector Onkar Brar said. . The SHO added that the accused knew that some people had fired gunshots outside the house of Pandey's friend Badwar and they tried to take advantage of the incident to scare Pandey.

Police registered a case against the trio.

UT fire dept marks 56th National Fire Service Day

DEEPAK PANDITA & ANIKET DADHWAL CHANDIGARH. APRIL 14

CHANDIGARH MUNICIPAL Corporation's fire department celebrated the 56th National Fire Service Day at the Sector 17 fire station, honouring the courageous firefighters who lost their lives while performing their duties. The event was held at the

Fire and Service Rescue headquarters and Chandigarh Mayor Sarbjit Kaur was given the guard of honour. The celebrations continued with the mayor unfurling the department's flag and the families of the martyrs being honoured. Senior Deputy Mayor Dalip Sharma and Deputy Mayor Anup Gupta were also present at the event alongside officials from other departments.

J S Sandhu, Station Fire Officer, Sector 17, said, "On this day, all of the seven fire stations in the city attend the celebration and pay homage to those that died in the line of duty. There are safety drills that they perform in order to spread awareness in the city. There are



Mayor Sarbiit Kaur during the function in Chandigarh on Thursday. Express

14 teams made by the department itself to spread awareness through drills.

He took the opportunity to raise awareness regarding the increase in the risk of house fires due to high power consumption and dry air. He said that the department is always ready with fully loaded water containers and that the entire staff is present during the season to respond to emergencies.





अनुसूचित जाति कल्याण अंतिम के साथ, अंतिम से शुरुआत

मुख्यमंत्री विवाह शगुन योजना के तहत अनुसूचित जाति के बी.पी.एल. परिवारों की बेटी की शादी पर 71,000 रुपये शगुन

'आपकी बेटी-हमारी बेटी योजना' के अन्तर्गत अनुसूचित जाति के परिवार में तीन बेटियों के जन्म तक प्रति बेटी 21,000 रुपये की राशि

कानूनी सहायता स्कीम के तहत अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों को अदालतों में पैरवी के लिए 22,000 रुपये

अनुसूचित जातियों के उम्मीदवारों को प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं के लिए मुफ्त कोचिंग सुविधा

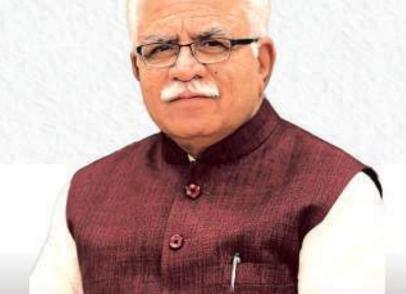
अनुसूचित जाति के किसानों को बायोगैस प्लांट पर 13,000 रुपये तक सब्सिडी

अनुसूचित जाति योजना के तहत मत्स्य पालन पर ६० प्रतिशत तक सब्सिडी

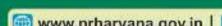
डॉ. बी. आर. अम्बेडकर आवास नवीनीकरण योजना के तहत ४७,५३२ परिवार लाभान्वित



बातें नहीं, बदलाव है



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ED questions Channi in sand mining case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JALANDHAR, APRIL 14

 $FORMER\,PUNJAB\,Chief\,Minister$ Charanjit Singh Channi was questioned by the the Enforcement Directorate for several hours in a money laundering investigation linked to illegal sand mining in the state, officials revealed on Thursday.

Channi appeared before the ED for the first time Wednesday, over two months after his nephew, Bhupinder Singh alias Honey, was arrested in the case ahead of the February 20 Punjab Assembly polls. Honey is still in iail in that case and had applied for bail on Tuesday

In a tweet, Channi said, "I was summoned by the ED yesterday regarding the mining case. I attended and replied to the queries put by them to the best of my knowledge. A challan in this case has already been presented by ED in the Hon'ble court .The authorities have not asked me to come again". ED officials Thursday said that they may summon Channi again, if needed.

After Channi's appearance



Channi and Warring met later in the evening on Thursday. Twitter

before ED was confirmed, former Punjab Congress chief Navjot Sidhu tweeted: "My fight was for Punjab and not for sand ... Those who ran the land, sand and liquor mafia let down Punjab for selfish vested interests by looting the exchequer. It is either Punjab or the Mafia in the present financial scenario! The fight continues." Later in the evening Thursday, PPCC chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring met Channi to discuss future roadmap for the

Warring tweeted: "Met former Chief Minister of Punjab Shri @CHARANJITCHANNI Ji today and discussed various issues

rebuilding of @INCPunjab."

Former PCC chief

gets show-cause

notice from party

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 14

Charanjit Singh Channi.

an FIR against Jakhar over the allegedly

Meanwhile, according to ED sources, the agency questioned Channi about his links with Honey and others and about certain visits his nephew made to the chief minister's office.

He was also questioned about the allegations of certain transfer and posting of officials in the state as part of the illegal sand mining operations, the sources said. The ED action in the case began on January 18 after it conducted raids against Honey and others and seized about Rs 7.9 crore cash from his premises and about Rs 2 crore cash from a person linked to him, identified as Sandeep Kumar. The agency had said that it

recorded statements of

Kudratdeep Singh, Honey, his faobjectionable comments about Dalits ther Santokh Singh and Sandeep that he made in a television interview last week. Though Jahkhar did not Kumar during searches and it was "established" that seized Rs name anyone, his remarks were con-10 crore "belonged to Bhupinder strued to be aimed at Channi. Singh". In its chargesheet against The former Gurdaspur MP had courted controversy in the run-up to the Channi's nephew, ED claimed that he admitted that the money state elections too by labelling Channi a liability and claiming that the party did not seized during raids was earned through sand mining activities choose him as its chief ministerial face as and transfer of officials. he is Hindu.



Jakhar's lonesome blues: One-time

Senior Congress leaders Sunil Jakhar and Charanjit Singh Channi ride a bike to protest in Punjab earlier in 2016. File

Jakhar, however, told The Indian Express that the comments in the televi-

sion interview were not directed at

Channi but at a group of 23 party leaders questioning the Gandhi family's leadership. The remarks were taken out of context and did not have any casteist connotation, he added.

'The Congress is the most secular party. It is an ocean. (Former Congress president) Rahul Gandhi is the most secular leader. But petty-minded leaders have crawled their way up. They misguided the party high command," Jakhar said, refuting the allegation that his comments had caused Hindus to vote against the party in the recent elections.

Jakhar's colleagues in the state unit have, however, not taken kindly to the comments. While Channi met Rahul Gandhi on April 7 to protest against the former state Congress chief, another Dalit leader, Raj Kumar Verka, publicly criticised Jakhar. "Indiscipline will not be tolerated," said new Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring.

Meanwhile, Jalandhar Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Toor told The Indian Express that "a communication had been received in the matter" from the SC panel. The commission's letter to the police chief, however, did not name Jakhar.

Facing public criticism from his party, Jakhar reminded everyone that his father Balram Jahkhar "stood by the Congress and the Gandhi family through all ups and down". Balram Jakhar is the longestserving Lok Sabha Speaker and was also

"He (Balram Jakhar) always stood by the Gandhi family. He was four-time MP and two time MLA. He served as agriculture minister," added the former MP.

The party's action against him was like "shooting the messenger", the

Congress leader added. When Jakhar entered the poll fray in the 2002 Assembly elections, he was 48 years old and was branded a reluctant politician. But he managed to make people sit up and take notice for he neither dressed like a career politician in crisp

white kurta-pyjama nor spoke like one. Not surprisingly, he fought and won the election from his family's pocket borough of Abohar in 2002 and went on to repeat the feat in 2007 and 2012. Between 2012 and 2017, he was the Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly

The last four years have, however, not been kind to the Congress leader's political career. He suffered a surprise defeat in the 2017 Assembly polls at the hands of a local councillor from the BJP but managed to bounce back by getting elected to the Lok Sabha from Gurdaspur in a bypoll that year necessitated by the death of actor-turned-politician Vinod Khanna.

The veteran leader was even chosen to lead the party in Punjab. However, two vears on, he lost to the BIP's Sunny Deol from Gurdaspur in the parliamentary

Dharamsot will be in jail soon, hints Mann

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JALANDHAR, APRIL 14

THE PUNJAB CM on Thursday hinted at action against former Congress minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot in connection with the alleged post-matric scholarship scheme scam.

Before coming to power, AAP had on several occasions called for Dharamsot's arrest in

When asked about what his government was doing in the matter, CM Bhagwant Mann on Thursday said: "Soon Sadhu Singh Dharamsot will be filing an application in the Punjab and Haryana High Court or in the sessions court urging for VIP treat-

Allegations against **Dharamsot**

During former Amarinder Singh's regime, then Administrative Secretary in the Social Justice Department, Kripa Shankar Saroj, had alleged that a scam of Rs 63.91 crore had come to light in the Centre's scheme. He had said while records pertaining to Rs 39 crore were missing, an amount of Rs 16.91 crore was paid to such institutions against whom the audit team had recommended a recovery of Rs 8 crore, thus costing the state exchequer Rs 24.91 crore.

Saroj's report had stated: ...these officials had cost the exchequer Rs 24.91 crore. The minister and his team of officers,



CJI NV Ramana at one of Amritsar's popular eating joint, Kanha Dhaba, on Thursday. Express

Respect, Rights, Opportunities

A Government committed to — inclusive development of Tribal Communities

 $\langle \circ \rangle \langle \circ$

CJI at Partition Museum: Peace only through unity

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. APRIL 14

RECALLING THE horrors inflicted by the divide and rule policies of the colonial forces that ruled India, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana on Thursday said the country "must remain ever vigilant against divisiveness".

The CJI made the comments in the visitors book of the Partition Museum in Amritsar.

"This museum remind us of our tragic past and warns us against divisions of all kinds," the CII wrote.

"It portrays vividly the losses suffered by mankind on an unprecedented scale due to the divide and rule policy of colonial powers. This dark chapter in our history should serve as a lesson to mankind. We must remain ever vigilant against divisiveness. Only through unity can we achieve peace and progress."

On a day-long tour of Punjab, CJI Ramana also visited 'Zero Point' at the India-Pakistan bor-

der, the first sitting CJI to do so. He was accompanied by wife, Sivanala, and other family mem-

Besides paying obeisance at the Golden Temple and the Durgiana Temple in Amritsar, the CJI also visited Jalianwala Bagh. He said the site "manifests the strength and resilience of the people of this country".

"This serene garden is symbolic of the great sacrifice made in the face of tyranny. It serves as a reminder of the heavy price paid for freedom, which we must always cherish and protect," he wrote in the visitors book.

CJI Ramana also paid floral tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar at Town Hall, Amritsar.

He greeted the people on the occasion of Baisakhi and wished the people of Punjab peace and prosperity. "My good wishes for Baisakhi. I am very happy today, my lifetime dream came true as my family members and I reached the Golden Temple. I thank the managing committee," Justice Ramana said.

- Bhagwan Birsa Munda's Jayanti declared as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas'
- Four-fold increase in Union budget for tribal development from ₹21,525 crore in 2013-14 to ₹87,584 crore in 2022-23
- Allotment for Scholarships doubled from ₹978 crore in 2013-14 to ₹2,726 crore in 2021-22
- Five-fold jump in number of Eklavya schools sanctioned in 2014-22 (512), compared to 2004-2014 (90)
- Over one crore tribals screened during project to eliminate Sickle Cell disease

- 10 Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums being set up across India
- Doubling of forest rights from 55 lakh acre in 2006-14 to 103.5 lakh acre in 2014-22
- Mission Van Dhan benefitting 9 lakh people via 52,976 Van Dhan SHGs in 3,110 Vikas Kendra clusters
- Bamboo taken out of regulatory shackles by amending Indian Forest Act, boosting bamboo cultivation and sale
- For the first time ever, Development and Welfare Board for De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities constituted

Our Government has been steadfast in its efforts towards empowerment of our tribal communities and preservation of their traditions. We are working tirelessly to transform the tribal-rural economic system 🥱 - Narendra Modi



कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत धल विकासखंड नगरोटा बगवां तहसील नगरोटा बगवां जिला कांगड़ा (हि. प्र.)

निविदाएं आमंत्रित करने हेतु वित वर्ष २०२२-२३ के लिए पान पंतायत धले विभिन्न कार्यों हेतु निविदाएं आमेतिन करती है । आवेदनकर्ता पर्ज से जिलांग देवु लामची की आयुर्ति देवु लीलबंद लिकाफे में दान के द्वारा ही मानव होगी। जिविदादारा के पास त्रीरसटी नंबर का होगा अति आवश्यक है। दरें निविदा प्रथा में ही भरी गई वरों में ही शामिल होगी। कम दर वाली मिनिया ही रचीवृत्ता की जारणी। मिनिया दिनांक 21 अप्रैल 2022 को शाम 5:00 बजे तक पहुंच जानी चादिए। इसके उपरांत कोई भी निविद्य स्टीकार नहीं होगी। सामग्री हर ब्योज निर्मालीखित है अट. निविद्य

दिनांक २२ अप्रैल २०२२ को कार्यालय पंचायत पर्लु में शुबर ११-०० अने खोली जाएंगी। बजरी करार, रेता करा, बोल्डर पाधर, फाड़ा पाधर, त्वाड़ पाधर, शर्टारंग, परकी डीरे, इंटरलॉक राइल 40/60/80 mm, बोर्ड बलाई, टंबी, कंबीट बेंब, खोमेंट इलाई इत्यादि।

विकट होने पर पंचायत का निर्णय अतिम होगा।

प्रधान/सदिव ग्राम पंचावत धल् ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ

ਬਾ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਮਨਮੋਹਨ ਕੁਮਾਰ

ਤਹਿਸੀਨਦਾਰ ਬਾ ਅਖਰਿਆਰਾਤ

ਸਹਾਇਕ ਕੁਨੈਕਟਰ ਦਰਜਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ

ਜਗਰਾਉ ਜਿਲਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ

ਸਰਬਜੀਤ ਕੋਰ ਵਿਧਵਾ ਦਨਬਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ

ਖੱਤਰ ਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ 2,ਪਿਆਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੱਤਰ

ਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਦੋਨੋਂ

ਵਾਸੀਆਨ ਪਿੰਡ ਸ਼ੇਰਪੁਰ ਕਲਾਂ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ

ਜਗਦੇਵ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ

ਹਰਨੇਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਜ਼ਿਆਮ ਸਿੰਘ 3.

ਕਰਮਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ

ਦਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਗੁਰਦਿਆਨ ਸਿੰਘ 5

ਕਲਾਂ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਜਗਰਾਉ ਜਿਲਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ।

ਕੇਸ ਤਕਸੀਮ ਅਰਾਜੀ ਵਾਕਿਆ ਪਿੰਡ

ਸ਼ੋਰਪੁਰ ਕਨਾਂ ਤਹਿਸੀਨ ਸੜਕਾਉ ਜਿਲਾ

ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ। ਉਕਤ ਮੁਕੱਦਮੇ ਵਿਚ ਅਦਾਨਰ

ਨੂੰ ਪੂਰਾ ਯਕੀਨ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮੁਦੈਅਨਮ

ਦੀ ਮਾਮਲੀ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ ਸਮੰਨ ਉਤੇ ਤਾਮੀਲ

ਹੋਣੀ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਿਲ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮਿਤੀ

27-04-2022 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10 ਵਜੇ ਦੀ

ਭਾਰੀਕ ਪੇਸ਼ੀ ਨੀਸ਼ਰ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ

ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ ਚਾਂਹੀ ਮੁਦੈਅਲਮ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ

ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਕਤ ਤਾਰੀਕ ਉਤੇ

ਆਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵਕੀਨ ਰਾਂਹੀ ਇਸ ਅਦਾਨਤ

ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਤਾਂ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ

ਇਕਤਰਵਾ ਅਮਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਲਿਆਂਦੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਅੱਜ ਮਿਤੀ 04-04-20222 ਨੂੰ ਮੇਰੇ

ਦਸਤਖਤਾਂ ਤੇ ਮੋਹਰ ਅਦਾਨਤ ਨਾਲ ਇਹ

ਸਹਾਇਕ ਕੁਸੈਕਟਰ

ਦਰਜਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ

ਜਗਰਾਉ।

ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ।

ਨੰਸ਼ਰ 200/ਰੀਡਰ

ਮਿਤੀ 04-04-2022

ਬੋਤਰਵਾਦੀਆਨ

ਮਿਸਲ ਨੰਬਰ 66 ਤੋਂ 70/ਤਹਿ

ਜਗਰਾਉ ਜਿਲਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ।

WATCO OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO. Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan H.B. Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India Telefax:- +91-674-2391444 E-mail: ceowatcoodisha@gmail.com INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) 2Bid Identification No. WATCO (W) - 01/2022-23 Dtd. 12:04:2022 WATCO No. 1439 Date: 12,04,2022 Construction of 2nd & 3rd floor and Addition and Alteration of Odjsha Water Academy at Basuaghai, Shubaneswar. 2. Construction of 2nd floor and Addition and Alteration of A & B type quarters at Rs. 920.00 Lakh and Rs. 707.00 From 11.00 AM of Dt. 04.05 2022 to 5.00 PM of 18.05.2022. Date & time of availability of old document in the portal Last date / time of receipt of 5.00 PM of 18.06.2022 bids in the portal Date & time of ope 12:30 PM of 19:06:2022 Chief Executive Officer, WATCO Telefax: - 0674-2571444. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid 8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only Further details can be seen from the web site www.tenderodisha.gov.in

State must release Rs 800 cr dues of cane farmers: Bajwa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, APRIL 14

LEADER OF Opposition in Punjab Vidhan Sabha and Congress MLA ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ 2. ਪਰਮਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪੁਰਵੀ from Qadian Partap Singh Bajwa on Thursday said that the Punjab government should give directions to both the co-operative ਪੁੱਤਰ ਈਸ਼ਰ ਸਿੰਘ 4.ਜਤਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ mills and private mills to release nearly Rs 800 crore due to sugar-ਕਰਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਹਰਮੋਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੱਤਰ cane farmers of Punjab. ਮਹਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਦੇ ਵਾਸੀਆਨ ਪਿੰਡ ਸ਼ੋਰਪਰ

"On March 22, I had written to the Chief Minister regarding the release of almost Rs 800 crore to sugarcane farmers of Punjab. Till date I have received no response or acknowledgement of the same," Bajwa said in a written statement on Thursday.

"This situation is untenable as the sugarcane farmers' of the state have not been paid since February. Farm unions held a rail roko at Beas on March 27 demanding the release of dues and later protested on the Pathankot-Jalandhar highway for the same. Yet till date there has been no response from the state government," Bajwa said. The Punjab Officers Co-operative House Building Society Ltd.
Patiala-NH at Banur (Mohall).

Amount of work is: Rs. 775.69 Lacs

Professor

Associate Professor

Assistant Professor

Visit www.cup.edu.in for details

Last date to apply online: 29.05.2022 (by 05.00 hrs)

CORRIGENDUM

The closing date of Tender notice which was published on 08.04.2022 in Indian Express and Daily Chardi Kala, is now hereby Extended up to 18.04.2022. The Revised approximate

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB RECRUITMENT NOTICE-TEACHING & NON-TEACHING POSTS (Advt. No.CUPB/22-23/002 Date: 13.04.2022)

> Librarian

> Deputy Librarian

Medical Officer (Female)

REGISTRAR

Online applications are invited from the prospective & eligible candidates for following vacant Teaching & Non-teaching posts on regular basis:

VPO Ghudda, District-Bathinda-151401 (Punjab), Email: recruitment@cup.edu.in

विज्ञापन का हिंदी रुपान्तर विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 811) of the Security Interest Enforcement Roles, 2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the HDFC Bank Ltd. under th

ecuritization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act

2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security

Interest (Enforcement) Pules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 21.01.2022 calling upon the

barrowerlol T. M/s. Kashesir Handkoom Handkoreft (borrower): Throught Its Proprietor Mr

Rajesh Bupta: Address: Kashinir Handleon Handicraft Emperium: Pinkhoe, Jaminu, Jaminu 6

Keshmir 180001, 2. Mr. Rojesh Gupta Iguarantor & Mortgagor). Sir Sh. Suraj Prakush Gupta Address: Lane No. 3, Sector 7, Extresion, Channi, Himmor Dook, Tehni & Distrijanena, J. & K.

Mrs. Monika Gapta (guaranter) Wila Mr. Bajesh Gapta Address: Lane No. 3, Sector

Extension, Chansi, Hannat Deel, Tebal & Distr. Januari, JSKI 1s pay the amount mendiosed in the notice St., 1,41,88,847i | Repeat Deel Cress Forty One Labra Eighty Sin Thousand Eight

the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein

below in exercise of powers confirmed on him under sub section 4 of section 13 of the Act med

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with th

property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge at HDFC Bank Ltd. for or amount Rx. 1,41,86,847) (Rupocs One Crore Forty One Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Eight

Hundred and Forty Seven Only) and interest thereon together with expenses and charges etc. less

Description Of The Immuvable Preparty: Property Comprising Of A Hause As Well As The Land

Underneath And Appurtment Thirtte Measuring DT Kassi & G6 Marias Underlying Khewat No. 1

Khata No. 1 & Khazra No. 816 Min Situated At Deels, Jammur 180011 Belanging To Reject Kurnar

rower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (E) of section 13 of the Act, i

Authorized officer, HDFC Bank Ltd.

Hundred and Forty Seven Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The horrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the horrower(s) and

with rule 6 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 08.04.2022

rspect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 08.84.2022 Place:Jammu

Sto Sh. Suraj Parkush Gupta Rio 852 eg. Mast Garh. Jain Bacaar, Jammu.

Bajwa demaned that Punjab govt should direct co-operative and private mills to release the money due to the farmers at earliest

"The Aam Aadmi Party came to power on a platform of change with a stated goal of listening to the people of Punjab. Yet, it has been almost a month since I highlighted this issue and various farmers have begun protesting and there seems to be no visible action on the same. Crop diversification is the need of the hour in Puniab and the inaction of the government over this issue will irrevocably harm diversification efforts and our farmers. The government must treat this issue as most urgent and give directions to both the co-operative mills and private mills to release these funds immediately. The economic distress faced by our farmers must be a priority issue for the government," he said.

TALWANDI SABO

Centre trying to take over SGPC by 'various means', says Sukhbir

Sukhbir Singh Badal and Harsimrat Kaur attend a gathering at Sri Damdama Sahib at

Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda, on the ocassion of Baisakhi on Thursday. Gurmeet Singh

RAAKHIJAGGA LUDHIANA, APRIL 14

SHIROMANI AKALI Dal (SAD) president, Sukhbir Singh Badal, on Thursday said that after taking over the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, the Centre was now trying to take over the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) through "various means".

Sukhbir, addressing his first political conference in Talwandi Sabo after his party was routed in the recent Punjab Assembly polls, said, "A month ago, the Centre took control of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee by various covert means. Now their target is Gurdwara Shiromani Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), which was formed by our forefathers 100 years ago after giving many sacrifices. They think that Khalsa panth will again not be able to do anything. However, we will not let them succeed. There can be some shortcomings in me or even in our senior leader Sikander Singh Maluka and others, But there is no shortcomings in the Akali Dal. This is your own house, it is a community's heritage. We will not let them over-

power us." The SAD leader's comments on Thursday came while he was addressing the Baisakhi conference organised by the party.

The Baisakhi conference, which used to be an annual affair earlier, was organised after a gap of three years this time around. In 2019, the conference couldn't be held owing to the code of conduct being in force for the Lok Sabha polls. In 2020 and 2021, Covid played spoilsports and saw restrictions -including cancellation of most public events — necessitated the cancellation of the Baisakhi conferences.

On Thursday, SAD's Amritsar unit also organised a political conference for the occasion of Bisakhi. Meanwhile, AAP CM Bhagwant Mann paid obeisance at Takht Damdama Sahib

APRIL 13: Hyundai

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first smart mobility

Zonal

Bok

Earlier in the day, Bathinda MP Harsimrat Badal, in her speech, had targeted the AAP, stating, "We are a party who takes care of the interests of Punjabis. We fight for them. I resigned from the Union ministry for the sake of farmers. We will never bow before Delhi darbaar as is being done by the present AAP government there.'

Sukhbir added, "If there are any problem related to our community, neither Arvind Kejriwal nor Amit Shah will fight for us. The SAD is the only party which will stand for the masses. We are very simple people. We don't tell lies, but these people are experts in lying. They have lied after taking Gutka Sahib's oath (as done by Captain Amarinder Singh) or seeking 'ek mauka' (as done by the AAP). Now they are seeking ek mauka in Himachal and Gujarat by saying they ended corruption in Punjab in 10 days.'

Sukhbir went on to add, "Both SGPC and the SAD are over a century old. The SAD is not anyone's personal property. This party has been formed after sacrifices of our elders. However, our rivals have only one target to make the Khalsa panth's party weak. They have a wide network of propaganda, they have people and agencies involved in publicity of fake information 24x7. Their only target is to make efforts to weaken the Akali Dal and

take control of the gurdwaras." On the occasion, the SAD also passed a resolution on behalf of the party that the Centre should be asked to release Sikh prisoners Devinderpal Singh Bhullar, Balwant Singh Rajoana, Jagtar Singh Hawara – who have

SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami, speaking on the ocassion, added,"It is high time that religious people like us talk about politics. The SGPC has formed SAD and hence we will support them to the end."

completed their jail terms.

Harsimrat Badal added, "About a month ago, Punjab gave a massive mandate to one party. However, within a month's time we have seen how they handled the Chandigarh issue. In Rajya Sabha, the AAP couldn't say anything on the issue."

Echoing Harsimrat, Sukhbir said,"Power cuts are being imposed this month. One can now imagine what happens during the paddy season. the farmers should stock up on diesel from

'Kejriwal remote controlling Punjab's

Later in the day, Sukhbir Badal addressed a panthic gathering at Takth Damdama Sahib on the occasion of Baisakhi on Thursday, and alleged that Punjab CM, Bhagwant Singh Mann, had surrendered his powers to AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, who was not only taking meetings of Punjab officers in the absence of the CM, but also ordering the postings of senior superintendents of police and

deputy commissioners. The SAD president said Kejriwal had not only taken control of the administration in Punjab, but was also was using its resources like the state's helicopter for electioneering in Himachal Pradesh. "Even 90 commandos of the Punjab Police have been deputed for the protection of the Delhi Chief Minister".

The SAD President also stressed that the AAP government should protect the interests of the state, while highlighting how the five Raiva Sabha members from the AAP did not raise their voices against the Centre for trying to dilute Punjab's claim on Chandigarh or release of Sikh prisoners who had completed their iail terms. "It was left to former Union minister. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, to raise these issues in the Pparliament", he added.

Badal also asked the AAP government to immediately announce a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal for farmers who were facing huge losses due to low wheat yields.

Chola

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

WATCO

OPR-13194/11/0006/2223

Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001

Chandigarh Branch: SCO No 218-219, First Floor, Backside Entry Of ICICI Bank Sector 34A Chandigarh-160022 Panipat Branch: S.C.O-9 Sector 25, Transport Nagar, behind Malik Petrol Pump, Panipat-132103 Karnal Branch: S.C.O 193 Sector 12, Huda Market Opposite City Park, Karnal-132001

POSSESSION NOTICE - Under Rule 8 (1)

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13[12] read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column [E] herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column [F] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13[4] of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column[E] below an

any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount nentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges. Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all

costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale

SL. NO	NAME AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER/S & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	DETAILS OF PROPERTY POSSESSED	DATE OF POSSESSION
Α	В	С	D	E	F
1.	Loan Account No X0HEPAN00002033890 Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- 1. RAJU KUMAR, 2. SANGEETA RANI 3. SONU KUMAR, 4. SANJANA RANI (Residing at) # 105 Balmiki Basti, Gharaunda, Pincode-132114 5. M/S HANUMAN WOOD WORKS (Residing at) S.C.O 104, Ward No 1, Gharaunda-132114	07/06/2021	Rs. 22,47,061.00- as on 05-06-2021 with further interest thereon.	All that piece and parcel of the Property House No.105, Situated at Purana Ward No 6, New Ward No 08, Balmiki Mohalla, Gharunda, Tehsil Gharunda And District Karnal Measuring 143 sq. yds (approx) registered vide Transfer Deed No. 3224/1 Dated 16/12/2014 in favour of MR. RAJU	13/04/2022
2.	Loan Account No X0HEKHE00000459516 Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- All The Legal Heirs Of Fateh Singh Saini 1. Saroj Saini Wo Late Sh. Fateh Singh Saini 2. Yatinder Singh Saini S/o Late Sh. Fateh Singh Saini 3. Ravinder Singh Saini S/o Late Sh. Fateh Singh Saini 4. Bharti Saini D/o Late Sh. Fateh Singh Saini 5. Poonam Chaudhary D/o Late Sh. Fateh Singh Saini 6. Savita Saini D/o Late Sh. Fateh Singh Saini (Residing at) House No. 111,SUKHDEV NAGAR, PANIPAT 132103		Rs. 1,22,71,065.11/- as on 12-07-2021 with further interest thereon.	Property measuring 243.3 sq.yds Plot No. 111, Scheme No 06 of Panipat Improvement Trust, Situated at Sukhdev Nagar Panipat, Tehsil and District Panipat	13/04/2022

Sd- Authorized Officer CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED Dated: 15.04.2022

Կ թո**ե punjab national bank**

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) All of you the under mentioned persons (Borrower/ Guarantor(s)), were sent Registered Demand Notices under section 13(2) of SARFAESI-2002 of dates mentioned there against hereunder by the 'Authorised Officer' of the Bank calling upon you all, to pay the amount of demand notice mentioned against account, as on date of notices with further the secured creditor Bank has reasons to believe that all of you can not be served with the demand notice ordinarily except by

mode of substituted service. Hence each of you is hereby called upon through this public notice to pay the below mentioned amount with further interest upto the date of payment due against you with in 60 (Sixty) days from the date of this publication failing which the Bank shall proceed under section 13(4) of the said Act 2002 for taking possession of ecured Assets mentioned herein below and thereafter to sell the same so as to realise the dues with further interest till ealization with cost. Guarantor Mortgagor(s) due to non payment of dues by the Borrower guarantee given by them ir

Name of the Branch. RISHI NAGAR BRANCH
r) M/s Pritam Pyara industries,

RISHI NAGAR BRANCH

Date of NPA **Description of** Property 1. Hypothecation of entire current assets of the company

15.03.2022 Rs. 41,81,883.17

hrough prop. S. Jiwan Jyot Singh Factory – including stock. 2. Equitable fifty six thousand seven hundred thirty arbans Kaur W/o Late Sh. Manjit Singh R/o 39//6/2min, khata no. 98/104, days From the Date of notice

117, Atam Nagar, C-42, Focal point, Ludhiana. **S.** khasra no. 38//1/1(2-0), 1/2 (2-16), khata no. 184/197-198, khasra no. **Jiwan Jyot Singh S/o Late S. Manjit Singh** R/o 38//10min(5-6), 11/2(2-13), 39//7/1(0-9), 14/2/2(0-14), 15/1 (2-13), 117,Atam Nagar, C-42, Focal point, Ludhiana. 38//1/3(3-4), 10min(2-14), 39//5/2/2(5-10)as per jamabandi for the ear 2006-2007-Mouja Lakhowal, Hadbast no.190 vide title deed no. 1421 dated 10.02.2010, standing in the name of

 1. Hypo of P&M, Stock and Other Movable Assets of the
 16.03.2022
 Rs. 21,95,619.56/

 29.06.2021
 Twenty One Lac

 RISHI NAGAR BRANCH M/s N.P. Trading Company Off: #7836/1A & B, Other Movable Assets of the Street no. 10, New janta Nagar, ATI Road Firm. 2. EM of property Ninety five thousand Six Hundred Ludhiana (Borrower) Sh. Pardeep Kumar Situated at 7836/1-B, Street inheteen rupees and fifty six paisa Vashisht S/o late Sh. Budh Ram R/o #7836/1A No. 10, new janta nagar, ATI lonly. with further interest w.e.f & B, Street no. 10, New janta Nagar, ATI Road Road, Ludhiana Being 16.03.2022 and other charges if less udhiana (Guarantor) Smt. Kamla Wati W/o (Factory , land and Building) recovery any until payment in full

1980-1981 khata no. 1308/1791,1309/1792 as per jamabandi for the year 2010-2011, taraf gill no. 2, recorded in book no.1 vol no. 647, page no. 175 in the year 26.11.1987 in the name of Smt. KamlaVati W/o Late Sh. Budh Ram At sub egistrar Ludhiana. 3. EM of property situated at 7836/1-A, Street No. 10, New Janta Nagar, ATI Road. Ludhiana being factory, Land and building) measuring 100 sq. yds. Bearing title deed no 3633 dt 28.05.1987, khasra no. 637-651, khata

1. Hypothecation of entire

M/s Ananya Exports Kohara Road, Lakhowall, current assets of the company near Bhagwati Spinning & Cotton Mills opp including stock. 2. Equitable 01.06.2021 & Forty one lac 31.03.2021 eighty one power house VPO Lakhowal Distt. Ludhiana-mortgage of property, which is thousand Eight hundred eighty three mortgaged in M/s Pritam and seventeen paisa only) with further Jaspal Singh R/o h. no. 283 urban estate , Payara Industries measuring 2 interest and other charges until phase-2, DugriLudhiana. (Partner) Smt. Arvind Kaur W/o Sh. Jiwanjyot Singh R/o h. no. 146, Block B, 1st floor Rajgurunagar, Ludhiana. 38//1/1(2-0), 1/2 (2-16), khata no. 184/197-198, khasra no.

(Partner)Smt. Nishi Goyal W/o Sh. Hukam 38//10min(5-6), 11/2(2-13), 39//7/1(0-9), 14/2/2(0-14), 15/1 (2-Chand Goyal R/o H. no. 3113, Urban Estate, 13),38//1/3(3-4), 10min(2-14), 39//5/2/2(5-10) as per jamabandi for the Phase-2 Dugri, Ludhiana. (Partner) Sh. Sameer year 2006-2007-Mouja Lakhowal, Hadbast no.190 vide title deed no. Goyal S/o Sh. Hukam Chand Goyal R/o H. No. 1421 dated 10.02.2010, standing in the name of Smt. Harbans Kaur 3113, Urban Estate, Phase-2, Dugri Ludhiana. W/o Late Sh. Manjit Singh

(Guarantor) Smt. Harbans Kaur W/o Late Sh. Manjit Singh R/o H. no. 117, Atam Nagar, Ludhiana.

Please take notice that in terms of section 13(13) of the said Act, you shall not, after receipt of this notice, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured assets above referred to, without prior written consent of the Bank. You are also put on notice that any contravention of this statutor injunction/restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence. The Bank reserves its rights to call upon you to repay the liabilities that may arise under the outstanding Bills Discounted

Bank Guarantees and Letter of Credit issued and established on your behalf as well as other contingent liabilities. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other applicable provision of law.

advised to collect the original notice/cover addressed to you and returned by postal authorities, from the indersigned for more complete details and to pay the Bank's dues within 60 days from the date of notice/publication as

entioned above to avoid further action under the SARFAESIACT.

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MARKET BUZZZ TRICITY HAPPENING DIARY

solutions provider, inaugurated a new Rural Sales Outlet 'Berkeley Hyundai' at Derabassi, Punjab, on Wednesday, Anish Agarwal, Hyundai Business Head-North, Yoon Hwang, Hyundai Group Advisor-North, Anurag Zonal Parts and Service Head - North,

Gaurav Goswami, Regional Sales Head and promoter Ashu Dahuja, inaugurated the outlet, spread across a total built up area of 15000 square feet. Hyundai's Zonal Business Head (North) Anish Agarwal said that Puniab is a key market for Hyundai. "We are glad to inaugurate a new Hyundai Outlet of - 'Berkley Hyundai' in Dera Bassi. We believe this outlet will further strengthen our presence to meet the growing demand for Hyundai products. Being a Sales and Service facility, it will provide prompt and efficient sales and service to our valued customers for a happy experience," he

Chandigarh

EVENTS, LAUNCHES, CELEBRATIONS

EXPRESS NETWORK

IN 14 DAYS

Punjab breaks 15-yr record, procures 17L tonnes wheat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH, APRIL 14

WHEAT PROCUREMENT in the ongoing Rabi season reached 17 lakh metric tonnes so far in Punjab, registering a record purchase of

crop in the last 15 years. The total purchase of wheat touched 17 lakh MT on April 13 which was the highest purchase on this date in the last 15 years," said an official spokesperson.

The spokesperson further said this year the state government has already credited payment worth Rs 828 crore into the bank accounts of farmers for wheat purchase. Additional payment worth Rs 871 crore has been cleared and will be credited into the accounts of farmers, he said.

The spokesperson further said wheat purchase by private players has reached 1 lakh MT.

Punjab has made arrangements for procuring 135 lakh MT of wheat in the ongoing season.

Notably, the procurement of wheat was briefly halted on Tuesday after state agencies and coordination committee went on a strike while stating that the crop being procured did not meet the Central government's specifications and hence the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has rejected many samples. The government later rushed a team of scientists to take samples and the issue was sorted out.



Labourers use a tarpaulin to protect freshly-harvested wheat crop from rain at the grain market near Sirhind road in Patiala on Thursday. Harmeet Sodhi

KEY ATTRACTIONS



A display that allows visitors to fly over upcoming projects.

■The Pradhanmantri

Sangrahalaya (Prime

Ministers Museum) was

Thursday. The erstwhile

integrated with the new

museum building. The

Nehru Museum is now

Nehru Museum has been

thrown open to the public on

designated as Block I, and has

a technologically advanced

display on India's first PM.

■Two new galleries have

floor of Block I -

been added on the ground



Guide to Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya

A levitating national Abhinav Saha



lights Abhinav Saha nuclear test.



An immersive display on Pokhran

IN NUMBERS

of immersive content Constitution Gallery and

7.5 hours

India at Independence: British Legacy. ■ In Block II, the lower ground floor has been dedicated to immersive

experiences. The 'Time

Machine' helps you relive

the past, while 'Anubhuti' is an engagement zone which offers a walk with the hologram of any PM, a photograph with PMs and a signed letter.

■ The ground floor has galleries dedicated to 8 PMs

- Gulzarilal Nanda, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, PV Narasimha Rao, IK Gujral, HD Deve Gowda, Manmohan Singh and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

■ The first floor has the other 5 PMs' galleries - Rajiv Gandhi, VP Singh, Chandra Shekhar, Morarji Desai and Charan Singh.

■ Glimpses of PM Narendra Modi's 1st term (2014-2019) will be added in coming Compiled by Divya A months.



The ticket is priced at ₹100 for Indian citizens and ₹750 for foreign nationals. There is a light and sound show that can be viewed for an additional charges of ₹50.



4,000 visitors

at a time capacity

TIMINGS: 10 am to 6 pm (March to October); 10 am to 5 pm (November to February). Closed on Mondays and gazetted holidays.

Training drone pilots to come up in Haryana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, APRIL 14

A TRAINING institute to train drone pilots, under the aegis of Drone Imaging and Information Service of Harvana Limited (DRI-ISHYA), would be set up in the state to support capacity devel-

The institute is expected to cater to various training needs of personnel of DRIISHYA and other organizations too.

A decision in this regard was taken during the second Board of Directors meeting of DRI-ISHYA chaired by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, here on

Haryana is the first state to create a separate Corporation to faster the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) driven governance application.

"This is a unique beginning in the State as now with the help of drones, illegal encroachments can also be controlled along with detecting of expansion of area as earlier manual surveys were conducted at regular intervals which were very time consuming, costly and required more manpower," Khattar said.

Directing the officers to ensure quick disposal of various types of surveys and imaging work, Khattar said, "Besides the revenue department, the use of drones should also be ensured in other departments such as Urban Local Bodies, Power, Disaster Management, Mining, Forest, Traffic, Town and Country Planning, Agriculture, etc, as it would help in mapping, land records, disaster management and emergency services, development planning in the urban

KV admission under MP quota, institute for other special provisions on hold

SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

ADMISSION TO Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) under "special provisions", including the quota for Members of Parliament (MPs), has been put "on hold". weeks after the Centre told Parliament that a decision on scrapping or retaining the quota would be taken after consulta-

tions with MPs

The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education which runs these schools, communicated the decision to the principals of KVs across the country on April 12.

"As per the directions of KVS headquarters, New Delhi, you are hereby informed that no admission should be done under special provisions till further orders," it said in a circular sent to

An official of the KVS said the decision was taken "as the list of special provisions has grown too long". "The MPs' quota has not been scrapped. Like all the other special provisions, it has been put on hold for the time being,'

According to data furnished by the Ministry of Education in Lok Sabha, 1,75,261 admissions took place in KVs through 21 special provisions in 2021-22. This included 7,301 through the MPs' quota, under which each MP can recommend 10 cases for admission in Classes I to IX at the beginning of each academic year. Under the rules, the 10 names have to be confined to children whose parents belong to his/her constituency.

The MPs -- 543 in Lok Sabha and 245 in Rajya Sabha -- can collectively recommend up to 7,880 admissions per year. The quota was introduced in 1975 as a special dispensation scheme. It was withdrawn at least twice in the past, only to be restored. Such is the demand that in 2018-19. 8.164 admissions were made under the MPs' quota, over-

shooting the cap. Incidentally, in 2021-22, there were no admissions under the education minister's discretionary quota, which is one of the special provisions, In 2019-20 and 2020-21, there were 9,411 and 12,295 admissions respec-

tively in this category. The other special provisions include children and dependent grandchildren of MPs and serving or retired KV employees; children of recipients of Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra; recipients of the National Bravery Award: 100 children of employees of the Ministry of Education; 15 children of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) employees; children orphaned due to Covid-19: children of central government employees who died in harness; children who have shown special talent in fine

There are 1,248 KVs across the country, in which around 14.35.562 students are enrolled. The admissions made under the special provisions are over and above the designated class strength.

The issue of MPs' quota in KVs came up during the recent Budget Session of Parliament, with some members saying the provision should be scrapped as it distorts the student-teacher ratio and lacks transparency. But many members, cutting across party lines, spoke in favour of its continuation and demanded an increase in the quota.

New Covid-19 cases rise in Gurgaon, Faridabad, addl chief secy calls meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, APRIL 14

IN VIEW of the fresh surge in Covid-19 infections in Haryana, especially in Gurgaon and Faridabad districts, Haryana's Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Raieev Arora will chair a meeting of the officials con-

cerned in Gurgaon Friday. Haryana's daily Covid-19 positivity rate had touched 3.05 per cent on Wednesday, which came down to 2.72 per cent on Thursday evening. A total of 5,955 samples were tested on Thursday out of which 170 samples were found positive of Covid-19.

According to the state health department officials, there is no case of a new variant of Covid-19 detected in the state so far.

"Although the number of new cases are not very alarming, it needs to be seen why there is a surge in Gurgaon and Faridabad districts while all the other districts across Haryana are showing either nil or one or two cases daily. Adequate measures will be taken to curb the fresh surge," a senior health department officer told The Indian Express.

Out of the 170 new cases don Thursday, 147 were found in Gurgaon and 19 in Faridabad, while three cases were detected in Panchkula and one in Fatehabad. No death due to Covid was reported.

Contractor's death: Karnataka Minister finally decides to quit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, APRIL 14

TWO DAYS after he was named as an accused in a case registered over the "unnatural death" of a civil contractor, Karnataka Minister and senior BJP leader K S Eshwarappa announced that he would be resigning from the State Cabinet on Friday.

"I have worked as Rural Development Minister in the Bommai government. I have decided today that I will resign as Minister tomorrow," Eshwarappa told reporters in a short media briefing in Shivamogga on Thursday.

The Minister said he was quitting "to prevent embarrassment to the BJP" and would submit his resignation to Bommai in Bengaluru. The contractor, Santhosh

Patil (40), was found dead in a lodge in the Udupi region on Tuesday morning. He is suspected to have consumed poison and the police are investigating it as a suspected case of suicide

Prior to his death, the conhad tractor Eshwarappa and his associates of not releasing payments for road work worth Rs 4 crore that he had carried out at Hindalga village in Belagavi, and "demanding a commission of 40 per cent".

On Monday night, Patil had purportedly sent messages to journalists and friends in Belagavi, where he hailed from, alleging that Eshwarappa should be held responsible for his death.

manufacturing or importing this

The problem is mainly with non-urea fertilisers. Their MRPs are decontrolled in theory, with the Centre only paying manufacturers/importers a fixed pertonne subsidy based on nutrient content. But in practice, compa-

nies have not been allowed to

freely set MRPs of these "decon-

sated for their higher cost of

DAP, MOP and the popular '20:20:0:13' NPKS fertiliser are currently being retailed at Rs 27,000, Rs 34,000 and Rs 28,000 per tonne, respectively. Companies are further getting per-tonne concessions of Rs . 33,000, Rs 6,070 and Rs 15,131, respectively, on these fertilisers-- translating into a gross realisa-

trolled" fertilisers.

commence from June.

The country's opening stocks

as on April 1 are estimated at

around 2.5 million tonnes (mt)

of di-ammonium phosphate

(DAP), 0.5 mt of muriate of

potash (MOP), and one mt of

complex fertilisers containing

varying proportions of nitrogen,

phosphorous, potash and sul-

India annually consumes 9-

10 mt each of DAP and NPKS

complexes, besides 4.5-5 mt of

MOP. Roughly 45 per cent of sales

happen during April-September

and 55 per cent in the balance

marketing of their rabi (winter-

spring) crop. They will require

fertilisers before kharif sowing

takes off with the arrival of the

southwest monsoon rains. The

Government has to ensure an

adequate level of stocks towards

end-May/ early-June," said in-

There is no availability issue

at least during the kharif sea-

son — in urea, where India pro-

duces 24-25 mt out of its yearly

consumption of 34-35 mt. Also,

while urea is sold at a controlled

basic maximum retail price

(MRP) of Rs 5,360 per tonne,

companies are fully compen-

dustry sources.

"Farmers are now busy with

October-March period.

phur (NPKS).

Rs 43,131, respectively. According to the industry, these realisations are too low to manufacture or import at today's international prices. The quoted price (cost plus freight) of DAP imported to India is about \$1,250 (Rs 95,000) per tonne -- it is \$700-750 (Rs 53,200-57,000) per tonne for MOP and \$780 (Rs 59,280) per tonne for '20:20:0:13'. The gross realisations, thus, don't cover even the

landed cost of imports.

tion of Rs 60,000, Rs 40,070 and

"Adding 5 per cent customs duty, 5 per cent GST and other costs (stevedoring, bagging, storage, primary rail and secondary road freight, interest, insurance, dealer margins and profit) will take the total DAP price close to Rs 110.000/tonne. Why will anyone import if it means losing Rs 50,000 on every tonne?" sources said. Nor will the Centre allow the MRP to go up by Rs 50,000 per tonne.

67L families in Haryana enrolled under Parivar Pehchan Patra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

SO FAR, over 67 lakh families in Haryana are registered under Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) while the government on Thursday said that it has linked 443 services and schemes integrated with 43 departments that are active with PPP scheme.

"Increasing the domain of verification of PPP along with maintaining security of the data is our priority. Through PPP, the government is reaching the doorstep of every beneficiary seeking welfare services of the government. Also, now 443 services and schemes integrated with 43 departments which active with PPP and 120 services and schemes are under discussion." said Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar while presiding over the fourth meeting of Haryana PPP authority on Thursday.

Shame wrestling, archery has been excluded from **CWG Games: Vij**

Chandigarh: Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij on Thursday said it is unfortunate that the state's pride wrestling and archery has been excluded from the Commonwealth Games.

Vij tweeted, "Unfortunate to exclude Haryana's pride Wrestling and Archery from Commonwealth Games Commonwealth Games Federation should reconsider it."

Vij shared Haryana's wrestling is very famous in the world and for this, the state government's sports policy is being praised by all. Many players of the state have made their name and got laurels in India and abroad. He said that keeping in view the encourage ment of the players, international level facilities have been prepared in many parts of the state and players are also leaving no stone unturned in practice. ENS

राजेन्द्र विश्वनाथ आर्लेकर



हिमाचल दिवस पर माननीय राज्यपाल का सन्देश

प्रिय प्रदेशवासियो,

हिमाचल प्रदेश के अस्तित्व के 75वें वर्ष पर प्रदेशवासियों को मेरी हार्दिक शभकामनाएं।

हिमाचल प्रदेश के इतिहास में 15 अप्रैल, 1948 का दिन बहुत महत्त्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि इस दिन 30 पहाड़ी रियासतों के विलय से हिमाचल प्रदेश अस्तित्व में आया था। इन 74 वर्षों में इस छोटे से पहाडी प्रदेश ने विकास के नये आयाम स्थापित किए और देश के अन्य राज्यों के लिए विकास का आदर्श बनकर उभरा है। विकास के इस सफर में प्रदेश के ईमानदार, कर्मठ और प्रगतिशील लोगों ने अपना महत्त्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है।

हिमाचल को वीर भूमि भी कहा जाता है। राज्य के कई सपूतों ने रक्षा सेवाओं में वीरता का प्रदर्शन कर प्रदेश का नाम ऊँचा किया है। उनके बलिदान से जहां हम अपने आपको गौरवान्वित अनुभव करते हैं वहीं आज के दिन हम उन वीरों को श्रद्धापूर्वक नमन करते हैं।

आज का यह पावन दिवस प्रदेशवासियों को राज्य के प्रति उनके दायित्व का बोध भी करवाता है। प्रकृति ने राज्य को हरित आवरण के रूप में भरपूर सींदर्य और स्वच्छ पर्यावरण प्रदान किया है। पर्यावरण संरक्षण और विशिष्ट सांस्कृतिक धरोहर को सुरक्षित व संरक्षित रखने के लिए विशेष प्रयास करने की आवश्यकता है। युवा पीढ़ी को नशे की बुराई से बचाना होगा। प्रदेश में सामाजिक समरसता कायम कर देश में एक अनुठा उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करने की आवश्यकता है। हम तेजी से प्राकृतिक कृषि राज्य की ओर अग्रसर हो रहे हैं। इस लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति के लिए हमें किसानों व बागवानों को जहर मुक्त खेती की ओर मोडना है।

इस पावन अवसर पर हम सभी प्रतिज्ञा लें कि राज्य के सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए समर्पित होकर रचनात्मक योगदान दें।

मैं कामना करता हैं कि यह दिवस सभी हिमाचलवासियों के जीवन में नई उमंग और खुशियां लाए।

(राजेंद्र विश्वनाथ आर्लेकर)

EXPRESS NETWORK

Militant freed during IC 814 hijack declared 'terrorist' now

New Delhi: After designating relatives of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar as terrorists under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), the Centre has now designated Kashmir resident Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar as a terrorist under the law. Zargar, 52, fom from Srinagar, was among three terrorists released by India in exchange for hostages in the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight 814 in 1999.

"Zargar is a threat to peace, not only to India, but across the world, with his contacts and proximity to radical terrorist groups like the and Mohammed... The Central Government believes Mushtag Ahmed Zargar alias Latram is involved in terrorism and said Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar is to be notified as a terrorist under the said Act." said a gazette notification issued Wednesday by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

According to the notification Zargar is founder and chief comof Al-Umarmander Mujahideen, a proscribed organisation under UAPA, and was affiliated with Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front earlier.

Heckled, Bengal varsity ex-VC back at JU

Kolkata: A fortnight after being heckled and threatened by an expelled leader of Trinamool Congress's students' wing and his followers, former vice-chancellor of Aliah University, Mohammad Ali, returned to the familiar confines of Chemistry department at Jadavpur University (JU) in Kolkata. Ali said he is "happy and relieved" to be back at JU and will focus on academics and research in the coming days.

Ali said he did not want to extend his tenure as V-C of Aliah after completion of his lien period for four years and had officially communicated this to the government. Abu Taher Kamruddin, president of West Bengal Board of Madrasa Education, has been appointed the interim V-C. **ENS**

lst step towards introducing UCC taken: Dhami

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE DEHRADUN, APRIL 14

UTTARAKHAND CHIEF Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Thursday said the first step towards introducing Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state had been taken as the Cabinet gave its approval to set up a committee to

Addressing the 63rd foundation day of the Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) here, which coincided with Ambedkar Jayanti, Dhami said there was a provision for UCC for all citizens in Article 44 of the Constitution and even the Supreme Court had endorsed its introduction in its rulings from time to time. "Keeping our prepoll promise, we cleared a proposal to constitute a committee to draft UCC at the first Cabinet meeting," he said.

Karnataka temple continues tradition of kicking off festival with Quran recitation

DARSHAN DEVAIAH BP BENGALURU, APRIL 14

THE HISTORIC Chennakeshava temple in Belur continued with its age-old tradition of kicking off the rathotsava (chariot festival) after reciting passages from the Quran, despite opposition from right-wing activists.

The state's endowment department allowed the temple authorities to go ahead with the practice on Wednesday. The annual celebrations started Wednesday under strict vigil of the district police. Hundreds of people from across the state thronged the Chennakeshava temple to witness the two-day festival.

"Reading excerpts from the Quran is a tradition but this year, there was a confusion as the temple authorities had initially issued a notice barring Muslim traders from setting up stalls. However, the endowment de-

NADIA GANGRAPE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A TEAM of the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) on Thursday

visited the family of alleged gan-

grape victim in West Bengal's

Nadia district and inspected the

spot where the purported crime

of "excessive bleeding" the next

day. The team broke open the

lock of the wooden gate to the

property where the "crime" took

place to gain entry. The main ac-

cused, Braj Gopal Gayali, alias

Sohel (21) used to visit his fam-

ily-owned property where he

had invited the girl for his birth-

Laboratory (CFSL) team accompa-

nying the CBI officials collected

"samples and circumstantial evi-

dences" from the spot. The West

A Central Forensic Science

day party, it is learnt.

The 14-year-old girl had died

KOLKATA, APRIL 14

took place on April 4.

 $partment\,took\,the\,suggestion\,of$ various priests and decided to go ahead with the tradition," an official from the Endowment department told The Indian Express. According to the tradition, a

day one of the rathotsava. Express

Maulvi Syed Sajjad Basha chants verses from the Quran on

the Quran to mark the beginning of the celebrations at the Chennakeshava temple.

maulvi reads out excerpts from

Recently, as the spectre of

bed-sheet, the victim's clothes

and her mobile phone before the

central agency took over the case on the Calcutta High Court's order.

Gopal's

Samarendra Gayali is a local

Trinammol strongman and a

panchayat member. Interestingly,

Prabhakar Poddar, who is the only

person to be arrested in the case

as of now, has not been named in

the FIR. Three members of the

victim's family, including her fa-

ther, have been named in the po-

lice FIR for alleged "destruction of

evidence" as the girl's body was

 $cremated\,without\,a\,complaint\,or$

death certificate, cops had said.

CBI team reached the spot late

evening, there was a blackout in

the area due to power cut. There

was "load shedding" in the area

for about an hour. The officials

used torch batteries to search the

premises. They also inspected

the victim's home and adjoining

Meanwhile, as soon as the

Brai

father

CBI team meets victim's

family, collects samples

communal tension loomed large over Karnataka, right-wing activists had urged the district administration and temple authorities to bar Muslim traders from taking part in the festival. However, the state endowment department had directed the temple administration not to bar any non-Hindu traders and al-

according to senior officials of the department. "Accordingly, around 15 Muslim traders had set up their shops," a senior official told The Indian Express.

Maulvi Syed Sajjad Basha chanted verses from the Quran on day one of the rathotsava on Wednesday before the chariot was pulled. Speaking to The Indian Express, Basha, a maulvi from Doddamedur village in Hassan district said, "The recital of verses from the Ouran before starting the chariot festival has been a tradition for generations by my ancestors. This year too I recited verses from the Quran, in a symbol of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood. Both Hindus and Muslims should live united with the blessings of God.'

Chennakeshava Swamy Temple executive officer Vidvulatha had

business near the temple. "As per the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (HCRE) Act, a notice had been issued to non-Hindu traders. Now, as per the directions by the endowment department, the non-Hindu traders were allowed to do business during the festival," Vidyulatha told The Indian Express

Speaking to The Indian Express, Rahil, a non-Hindu trader doing business near the Channakeshava temple for the last 40 years, said, "I am happy that the administration allowed us to do business. Our family has been doing business at the commercial complex for the last 40 years near the temple and our family is dependent on it."

There were no untoward incidents during the temple event although earlier a few representatives of the pro-Hindutva groups had urged the district administrafrom taking part in the festival.

on the same issue in two days, Baghel wrote that the state will face losses to the tune of Rs 5,000 crore in the next financial year if the Centre stops GST compensa-

Referring to the meeting called by the Finance Minister on December 29 last year, and attended by chief ministers of several states, Baghel reminded Modi that several states had discussed problems they would face if the GST compensation stops. He also said that the demand then was to extend the compensation for the coming five years.

He requested a 10-year ex-

for at least another decade.

In his second letter to the PM

Four militants

killed in J&K

Three soldiers die, five injured in

accident on way to site of gunfight

Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). A search

operation was on in the area, the

police said in a tweet, quoting

were killed and five injured when

their vehicle met with a accident.

According to the police, soldiers

of 44 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) were

traveling in a Tama Sumo from

Chowgam camp in Shopian to

the encounter site at Badigam

when the vehicle skidded off the

road at Kanipora village.

Meanwhile, three soldiers

IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar.

encounter

BASHAARAT MASOOD

FOUR MILITANTS were killed in

a gunfight in south Kashmir's

Shopian on Thursday while

three soldiers were killed and

five injured when their vehicle

met with an accident on way to

team of J&K Police, Army and

CRPF cordoned off Badigam vil-

Police sources said a joint

SRINAGAR, APRIL 14

the encounter site.

an official said Vishwa Singh and Ashish Prasad, who were responsible for the custody of Sahil Shah alias Flacko, who surrendered before the NCB in January, did not provide proper details during his court hearing. "Even though Shah was wanted in more than one case, the same was not brought to the attention of the court following which he managed to secure bail within a day," a source said.

Wankhede, who had been 'loaned" to NCB from the DRI after the Sushant Singh Raiput case in 2020, was asked to report back to DRI from January this year. While initially he was asked to report in Delhi, he was later posted back to the directorate's Mumbai unit.

lage Thursday afternoon after re-"The driver lost control over issued a notice to non-Hindu tion to ban non-Hindu traders ceiving inputs about the presthe vehicle due to some technilowed them to set up stalls and traders, asking them not to do ence of militants in the village cal fault and it skidded off the As the forces were zeroing in on road," the police said in a tweet. the target, the hiding militants A defence spokesman said Extend GST relief opened fire and tried to break the vehicle met with an accident the security cordon. because of "wet road condifor a decade: In the gunfight that followed, The police denied rumours of four militants were killed. The Baghel to PM stone pelting by protesters on police said the killed militants the Army personnel at Kanipora. **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** RAIPUR, APRIL 14 Gawate is NCB Mumbai's CHHATTISGARH CHIEF Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday full-time zonal director wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting that GST compensation be continued additional charge of the unit. On the reason for the transfers,

MUMBAI, APRIL 14

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A DAY after two officials associated with the Mumbai Zonal Unit (MZU) of the NCB were suspended for dereliction of duty, he acting zonal director of the bureau was divested of his charge and a full-time zonal director appointed in his place. Amit Gawate, a 2008-batch IRS officer, who was formerly the zonal director of NCB's Bengaluru unit, has been appointed as the new M7I I director

After controversial officer Sameer Wankhede's tenure with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) ended in December 2021, Brijendra Choudhary was given

"We must practice tolerance

"the petitioner is trying to draw an

incorrect and absurd inference by

isolated passages disregarding the

court "has time and again reiter-

ated that commitment to free-

dom of expression demands that

it cannot be suppressed unless the

situation created by allowing the

freedom are pressing and the

community interest is endan-

gered. The anticipated danger

should not be remote... The ex-

pression of thought should be in-

trinsically dangerous to the public

interest which is not the case in in-

Thursday claimed that a group,

The affidavit said the apex

main theme and its message".

India, France agree to boost

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

THE 20TH edition of India-France Joint Staff talks focused on new initiatives in defence cooperation, the government said

on Thursday. The two-day talks concluded

in Paris on Wednesday. "The meeting was conducted in a friendly, warm and cordial atmosphere. The discussions focused on new initiatives under the ambit of existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanism and strengthening ongoing defence engagements," the Defence

Ministry said in a statement. The India-France Joint Staff talks has been established to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries through regular talks at the strategic and operational levels.

The two-day meet was cochaired by Assistant Chief of Integrated Staff, Int-C (Military Cooperation), Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (HO IDS) Air Vice Marshal B Manikantan and Head of Bilateral Cooperation South/Staff

HQ Brigadier General Eric Peltier. It came close on the heels of India and France inking a roadmap to enhance bilateral exchanges on the blue economy during Foreign Minister S Jaishankar's visit to France in February. The roadmap aims to forge a common vision of ocean governance based on the rule of law and to cooperate on sustainable and resilient coastal and

"India and France intend to make the blue economy a driver of progress of their respective societies while respecting the environment and coastal and marine biodiversity. Both countries aim to contribute to scientific knowledge and ocean conservation and ensure that the ocean remains a global common, a space of freedom and trade, based on the rule of law," the External Affairs Ministry had said.

waterways infrastructure.

Chandigarh

area with torches and car lights. Bengal Police had seized a stained Winds of change in Bihar Congress: New chief soon

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, APRIL 14

THE CONGRESS is all set to appoint a new Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee (BPCC) president to replace Madan Mohan Iha, according to sources in the party's central leadership.

Jha's meeting with former Congress president Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Thursday triggered talk of impending changes in the party in the eastern state. Iha had offered to step aside after his three-year term ended last September but the high command told him to continue.

"My term has ended. Moreover. I offered to resign more than six months ago. Even if I do not submit my resignation, the high command can replace me anytime. So. I do not know why there is this big talk about my res-



Mohan Jha

ignation," the Bihar Congress leader told The Indian Express.

Sources in the state unit said that while Kutumba MLA Rajesh Ram, a Dalit leader, was the front-runner to take over from That the names of senior leader Viiav Shanker Dubev and former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student leader Kanhaiya Kumar, who joined the party last

year, were also doing the rounds. Asked if Gandhi had discussed with him the names of candidates to take charge of the Pradesh Congress Committee, Jha said, "All that was not discussed." -WITH ENS DELHI INPUTS

DELHI POLICE, which investigated

complaints of hate speech at a meet organised by the Hindu Yuva Vahini here on December 19, 2021, has told the Supreme Court that "no hate was expressed" at the event as alleged

NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

In an affidavit filed in the court, the police said, "...no hate was expressed in the event at Delhi against group, community, ethnicity religion or faith".

"(The) speech was about empowering one's religion to prepare itself to face the evils which could endanger its existence, which is not even remotely connected to call for genocide of any particular religion," the affidavit said.

The affidavit was filed in response to the notice issued by the court on a petition that sought probe into allegations of hate speech at the Dharam Sansad in

Haridwar and the subsequent munity as alleged or otherwise. the purposes mentioned in Article Delhi event last year.

No hate speech at Delhi event: Cops to SC

MR AND MRS KAPOOR

Actors Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor make their first public

appearance after tying the knot, in Mumbai on Thursday. ANI

The police said they had received three complaints alleging that open calls were made for genocide of Muslims. The complaints also referred to a speech by Suresh Chavanke, editor of news channel Sudarshan News, and claimed it contained instances of what can be termed as hate speech. "All the... complaints were consolidated and an inquiry was initiated," the police said. "After that deep inquiry was conducted, evaluation of video etc, then the answering respondent did not find any substance in the video as per allegation levelled by the complainants," the affidavit said.

"In the video clip of the Delhi incident, there is no utterance against any particular community. Hence, after inquiry and after evaluation of the alleged video clip, it was concluded that the alleged speech did not disclose any hate words against a particular com-

Bare perusal of the complaints made, the statements, which are alleged to be offensive, would divulge that no specific words against a particular community or any community were uttered by the gathering or any other person in that event," it said. "In view thereof, the complaints were closed vide inquiry report dated 13.03.2022.

any religion, caste or creed".

It also pointed to the law on

19(2), and the restriction must be justified on the anvil of necessity and not the quirks and of convenience and expediency". to the views of others. Intolerance is as much dangerous to democracy as to the person himself," the afficiavit said. The police said the

The affidavit said that "none of the words which were spoken during the events in any manner whatsoever overtly and explicitly described Indian Muslims as usurpers of land territory, as predators of land, livelihoods and of Hindu women, and nothing was said or done which could create an environment of paranoia amongst

free speech and said "it is trite law that the fundamental freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a)can be reasonably restricted only for

CONTRACTOR DEATH CASE

in rape case now after Eshwarappa: Jarkiholi

BENGALURU. APRIL 14

A FESTERING political rivalry between former BIP minister Congress chief D K Shivakumar seems set to be rekindled in the wake of the mysterious death of a civil contractor in the Udupi region of the state on April 12.

Jarkiholi, however, on

Team that framed me "The lack of confidence in the

Belagavi. The state unit of the Congress has demanded Eshwarappa's arrest.

in 2021 was behind the contractor's death. "I will hold a press meet on Monday and tell what led to Patil's death. The same team that was involved in my case is involved in this conspiracy against Eshwarappa. We will discuss with the party high command and speak," Jarkiholi said in Belagavi after visiting Patil's family. "Eshwarappa should not quit

as a minister for any reason till a probe is carried out. I have suffered for a year after being accused in a false case. The same thing must not happen with Eshwarappa. If the probe finds him involved, let him be punished by court," Jarkiholi said.

CJI at Partition Museum: Peace only through unity

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

RECALLING THE horrors inflicted by the divide and rule policies of the colonial forces that ruled India, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana on Thursday said the country "must remain ever vigilant against divisiveness".

The CJI made the comments in the visitors book of the Partition Museum in Amritsar. "This museum remind us of

our tragic past and warns us against divisions of all kinds," the

"It portrays vividly the losses suffered by mankind on an unprecedented scale due to the divide and rule policy of colonial powers. This dark chapter in our history should serve as a lesson to mankind. We must remain ever vigilant against divisiveness. Only through unity can we achieve peace and progress."

On a day-long tour of Punjab, CJI Ramana also visited 'Zero Point' at the India-Pakistan border, the first sitting CJI to do so. He was accompanied by wife, Sivanala, and other family mem-

Besides paying obeisance at the Golden Temple and the Durgiana Temple in Amritsar, the CJI also visited Jalianwala Bagh. He said the site "manifests the strength and resilience of the people of this country".

"This serene garden is symbolic of the great sacrifice made in the face of tyranny. It serves as a reminder of the heavy price paid for freedom, which we must always cherish and protect," he wrote in the visitors

The Chief Justice of India also paid floral tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar at Town Hall. Amritsar.

Laws structured to discriminate against poor: Orissa High Court CJ gal aid do not really have a choice.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 14

ORISSA HIGH Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar on Thursday said laws are structured to discriminate against the poor and that the system works unequally for the poor and the rich.

"There are many barriers to accessing justice that a marginalised person faces. The laws and processes are mystifying even for an educated literate person. The laws are themselves structured to discriminate against the poor," he said, addressing a lecture organised by Community for the Eradication of Discrimination in Education and Employment on 'Appearing in Court: Challenges in Representing the Marginalised".

"The system works differently for the poor. The beggars' courts. the Juvenile Justice Boards and the



Mahila Magistrate courts are the first point of encounter for the poor with the legal system." Discussing the statistics, Chief

Justice Muralidhar said 21% of the undertrial population of 3.72 lakh in India and 21% of the convict population of 1.13 lakh belong to the Scheduled Caste. Similarly, 37.1% of convicts and 34.3% of the undertrials belong to OBCs. The corresponding percentage for Muslims - 17.4% and 19.5%, respectively. Raising concern over the qual-

ity of legal aid, he said the marginalised who are the recipients of le-

the general approach to welfare services by the providers and the perception that this is an act of dignity rather than the right of the person who receives such service. icall it the ration shop syndrome. The poor believe that if you get any service for free or it is substantially subsidised, then you cannot demand quality," he said, adding that a study found that lawyers belonging to Dalit and Adivasi communities working on human rights cases risk being labelled as Maoist/Naxalite lawyers. Stating that Constitution ac-

legal aid lawyer is a reflection of

knowledges persons who by birth, descent, caste and class have been denied justice over generations, he said it also envisages the State to come up with affirmative actions to redress such historic injustices.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

comprising a "Mahanayak", that tried to frame him in a rape case Ramesh Jarkiholi and Karnataka

The contractor, Santhosh Patil, 40, died after accusing Rural Development Minister K S Eshwarappa of reneging on payments for road work implemented in Hindalga village of

India finally on board, but Trincomalee oil farm now waits for economic crisis to lift



NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN TRINCOMALEE, APRIL 14

THIS IS the deal: 85 decrepit oil tanks in 850 acres of dense jungle, and a strategic natural harbour. The foliage is so thick that the place is now home to several species of animals and birds, and cutting down the trees needs government permission. One day, it could be key to Sri Lanka's energy security while



A barge being filled with marine gasoline at Lanka Indian Oil Corporation jetty in China Bay harbour. Nirupama Subramanian



giving India additional capacity for reserves. India's prized agreement with Sri Lanka for the joint development of the Trincomalee Oil Tank farm, signed earlier this year after a 35-year wait, may take years to turn around and at least a 100

million dollars. The twin economic and political crises in Sri Lanka carry their own risks.

On April 12, Sri Lanka officially announced that it was temporarily suspending repayment of external debts worth \$51 billion. It is now seeking a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other multilateral organisations. It does not have the dollars to repay these debts.

Officials driving the Trinco oil storage project said they are keeping their fingers crossed and have "maximum optimism" that with the IMF negotiations set to begin, "things will start falling in place" for the Sri Lankan economy. With a ballpark cost of \$75-100 million for the entire development, the project will need to borrow from international lenders, who will take into account both Sri Lanka's

political and economic stability. The agreement gives India a strategic footprint on Sri Lanka's eastern coast, with access to the China Bay harbour, said to be the finest natural harbour in Asia. It was after years of indecision amid opposition from worker unions at Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) that the Sri Lankan stateowned oil company signed off on the agreement with Lanka Indian Oil Corporation (LIOC) on January 18, paving the way for the formation of the joint venture called Trinco Petroleum Terminals Ltd (TPTL). Under the agreement, CPC will develop 24 of the tanks, and TPTL will develop the remaining 61.

The joint development was first mentioned in the 1987 India-Sri Lanka accord. An agreement was nearly reached in 2003, but was never finalised. While negotiations had been going on for a year, it was after former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa's December 2021 visit to Delhi with a request for financial assistance to help Colombo cope with its economic meltdown, that the agreement was fasttracked. After being set up, the TPTL board has met four times, and an international tender has been floated for a consultant to prepare a detailed feasibility report. "When

we approach financial institutions we need the DFR. It is the most crucial document," said Manoj Gupta, Managing Director of LIOC. When IOC first entered Sri Lanka in 2003 as LIOC for retail operations, it also got the lease for a portion of the Trincomalee storage called the Lower Tank Farm.

It has since refurbished the 14 tanks in it, and uses them to supply petrol and diesel across Sri Lanka Tankers are filled at the terminal and head out to LIOC-operated petrol pumps in Colombo and elsewhere. A lubricant blending tank is in operation at the Lower Tank Farm. LIOC also uses its setup to provide bunkering or mid-sea refuelling from Trincomalee.

MEGA - E-AUCTION

SALE NOTICE

Home Secy in **Kashmir for** Amarnath Yatra preparations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 15

UNION HOME Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Thursday embarked on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir to take stock of preparations for Amarnath Yatra, which will take place in June.

Sources said Bhalla is accompanied by Intelligence Bureau chief Arvind Kumar and IB special director Tapan Deka, as well as additional secretary (Kashmir) Piyush Goyal.

Sources said Bhalla is holding meetings with top officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, as well as officers of the BSF and the CRPF. Sources said the main focus of the review meetings is to ensure that the Yatra is conducted smoothly, with no untoward incident taking place

The Amarnath Yatra had been suspended for the past two years due to the Covid 19 pandemic. In 2019, the yatra was cut short due to the impending announcements of bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories and the removal of its special status.

PERSONAL

I, Rakesh Kumar, S/o- Shri Tilak Raj, R/o- House No- 114, Gali Dinanagar, Gurdaspur Punjab- 143531, have changed my name to Rakesh Mahajan.

0040610069-2 Urmil Gupta, W/o-Shri Rakesh Mahajan, R/o House Sarafan Dinanagar, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143531, have changed my name to Urmil Mahajan.

0040610069-1

LOST & FOUND

I, KRISHNA KUMAR, S/O late Sh. ATTAR SINGH, R/o D-22 Sector-9, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, have lost the Allotment letter no. GMADA-EO/2015/ 37173 dated 01/09/ 2015 for plot no. C-2173 Aerocity, Mohali. If found, contact at- 9999927768.

0040610014-1

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ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਭਵਨ, ਸੈਕਟਰ 65-ਏ, ਮੋਹਾਲੀ

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Date & Time of Inspection of Property: 26.04.2022 11.00 Hrs to 16:00 Hrs E –Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable/Immovable Assets under the Securitizing and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice s hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) and guarantor(s) that the below described immovab mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor. Constructive/Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officers of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, Will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", AND "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" on 30.04.2022 fo ecovery of dues (mentioned below) to the State Bank of India, SARB, Jalandhar from the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) (Mentioned below). The

Public Notice For E-Auction for sale of Movable/ Immovable Property/ies on 30.04.2022, 11.00 Hrs to 13.00 Hrs

Last Date & Time of Submission for EMD & Documents (On Line): 28.04.2022, 16:00 Hrs

reserve price and Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned against each property. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. **DESCRIPTION OF MOVABLE /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES**

,	Name of the Borrower(s)			Reserve Price	Data/Tima	Details of Authorized officer/
	/ Guarantor(s) / Owner(s)	Amount Outstanding	Detail of the Property/ies	EMD	Date/Time of e-Auction	Contact Person(s)
υ.	/ Guarantor(s) / Owner(s)	Possession Date		Bid increase amt.	or e-Auction	Contact Ferson(s)
	M/s Mahavir Rice &	Total Dues Rs. 28113890	Rice Shellar Land and building		30.04.2022	J S Kajla (Authorised Officer)
	General Mills through its	as on 25.10.2018 with further	constructed there on	24.22 Lacs	11.00 am to	(9417048184)
	partners 1,Sh Rajneesh	interest at agreed rate and	measuring 19K19M situated	Rs. 100,000/-	13: 00 Hrs	Umesh (Manager) (9779585609)
	Aggarwal s/o Sh Prem	other charges, expenses and	at Panidhera Jagatoura Road	The Phillaur Dist	t Jalandhar in t	he name of M/s Aggarwal Rice
1.	Kumar 2,Smt Chander	costs as applicable and less	&General Mills through prop	rietor Sh Prem I	Kumar Aggarwa	l vide Vashika No 302 dated
	Bala w/o Sh Prem Kumar	credits if any Physical	26/04/1972 comprising in Khas	ra No 24//22(7-6),	24//23/1/2(1-18),32//2/2(10-15)
	resident of Grain Market	Possession on 23.05.2018		, ,,		,
	Phillaur Distt Jalandhar Gua	arantor(s) Sh Prem Kumar Ag	ggarwal S/o Sh Hira Lal r/o Gra	in Market Phillaur	Distt Jalandhar (Owner: M/s Aggarwal rice and
	General Mills through its p	roprietor Sh. Prem Kumar Aç	ggarwal.			
	Borrower(s) : M/s H.L	Total Dues Rs. 4230364.87	Equitable mortgage of	47.83 Lacs	30.04.2022	J S Kajla (Authorised Officer)
			commercial property	4.79 Lacs	11.00 am to	(9417048184)
			measuring 4K-2M situated at	Rs. 10,000/-	13: 00 Hrs	Umesh (Manager) (9779585609)
	s/o Sh Hira Lal resident of	other charges, expenses and	Jagatpura Road Vill Panidher	a Tehsil Phillaur D	istt Jalandhar ir	the name of M/s Ganesh Rice
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		All that part & parcel of the		30.04.2022	J S Kajla (Authorised Officer)
s/o Sh. Janak Raj	on 25.11.2019 with further	residential property measuring	2.15 Lacs	11.00 am to	
resident of 1134, Prime	interest at agreed rate and	8.55 Marlas (46'-6"x 50')	Rs. 10,000/-	13: 00 Hrs	Umesh (Manager) (9779585609)
enclave, Kapurthala	costs as applicable and less	comprised in Khata No.113/115, K	hasra No.19//2/2, 3,	9/2, 12/2, 13, 8 si	ituated at Plot no. 5, Prime Enclave
Road Jalandnar,	credits if any deemed	Extension-I, Basti Bawa Khel, Hadt	ast No.311, Jalandh	ar, standing in the i	name of Sh. Kunal S/o Sh. Janak Raj
Owner(s) : Sn. Kunai	Physical Possession on	vide Sale Deed number 2018-19/1	87/1/4568 Dated 29	.01.2019, register	ed in the office of the Sub Registrar,
	19.03.2020	Jalandhar-II and bounded as und	er: North: Open Plot	, South: Road, Ea	st: Plot No. 6, West: Road.
Borrower(s): Sh	Total Dues Rs. 404787 as	EM of residential building	41.23 Lacs	30.04.2022	J S Kajla, Authorised Officer
Gurmail Singh S/o Sh	on 07.12.2018 with further	measuring0K-13M being	4.13 Lacs	11.00 am to	(9417048184) Jaswinder Singh
Sucha Singh and Smt	interest at agreed rate and	13/160 share out of land	Rs. 10,000/-	13: 00 Hrs	Dy Manager (9855021262)
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Chander Bala w/o Sh Prem Kumar Aggarwal r/o Dana Mandi Phillaur Jalandhar Owner(s): M/s Ganesh Rice & General Mills / Smt Chander Bala W/o

Suknwinder Kaur, W/o other charges, expenses and measuring 08K comprised in khasra No. 7092/2027/0-2, 2028/6-7, 7094/2029/1-11 kitta s Sh Gurmail Singh, costs as applicable and less khatta No. 1990/2398 jamabandi for the year 2005-06 HB No. 74 situated at Mohalla Shajheer Owner(s): Sukhwinder | Credits if any Physical | Udham Singh Nagar, Bhaagatpura, Kot Rani Road, Phagwara Distt Kapurthala sale deed no 1126 dated 22.06.2011 Borrower(s): Sh Jaspal Total Dues Rs. 3394984 as Residential House measuring Parmar S/o Sh Kailash on 01.10.2015 with further Nath Parmar and Smt Shivani Parmare W/o Sh Jaspal Parmar, Owner(s) E Sh. Jaspal Parmar S/o Sh Kailash Parmar S/o Sh Sh Zaish Sh Zaish

1065/274(1-11), 1078/269(2-9). **ii Land measuring** 3/4 Marlas being 3/596 share out of land neasuring 7K-9M comprised in khata No.2/2, khasra No. 612(3-2), 1061/613(4-7) situated at Village Chak Hakima, Phagwara in the name of Sh Jaspa

	Borrower(s) : M/s R L	Total Dues Rs.	Rice sheller land and building	81.00 Lacs		Sh. Balbir Raj Authorised Office
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	Krishan Gopal and	other charges, expenses	and Krishan Gopal vide title dee	ed no. 1436 dated 2	24.02.2010	
			ss credits if any Physical Posse		018	
	Borrower(s) : Pitamber	Total Dues Rs. 17.19 Lacs	Residential plot measuring 9	9.21 Lacs	30.04.2022	J S Kajla, Authorised Officer
	Kumar & Smt Kamaliit	as on 16.10.2015 with	Marla-2 Sarsahi comprised in	0.93 Lacs	11.00 am to	(9417048184) Jaswinder Singl
				D 40 000/	40 00 11	/

further interest at agreed khata No. 307/343, khasra No. Rs. 10,000/-

Pitamber Kumar & Smt. rate and other charges, Kamaljit Kaur. rate and other charges, Small rate and Small rate Panidhera Teh Phillaur Distt Jalandhar, jamabandi for the year 2007-08, vide w on 17.05.2016

(1) Borrower(s): M/s B.M. Total Dues Rupees. Enterprises, Dhangu 7,94,87,032.98 as on Road, Pathankot. 15.04.2021 with further 25.70 Lacs 11.00 am to (9503643038) Rs. 100,000/- Rs. 100,000/-Pathankot, as per Jamabandi for the year 2013-14 and **bounded as under:- East**: Ashwani Mehta, **West**: Madhu Malhotra, **North**: Dr. Kukreja & Stree **South**: Birnal Joshan School. **2.** All part & parcel of Commercial Building as per sale deed no. 2018-19/44/1748 registered on 15.06.2018 in the name of Sh

Raman Mehta measuring 11-1/2 Marla, comprised in Khasra No. 408/421 min (0-17), 408/241 min (0-8), 408/241 min (4-14), 408/241 min (2-13), 408/241 min (2-0), 408/241 min (0-6), 408/241 min (6-15) Kita 7 Total measuring 17Kanal-13Marla share 11/353 i.e. 11Marla and Khasra No. 407/241 min (3-0), 407/241 (2-0), 408/241 min (3-4) Kita 3 Total 8Kanal 13Marlas share 1/346 i.e. 1/2 Marla, total 11-1/2 Marla situated at Village Sraian, Hadbast Number 335, Tehsil and istrict Pathankòt, as per Jamabandi for the year 2013-14 and bounded as under:- East: Dr.Kukreja & Street, West: Sunil Mehta North: Dr. Kukreja & Stree

 (2) Borrower(s): M/s B.M.
 Total Dues Rupees. Showroom comprising of two Enterprises, Dhangu
 310.00 Lacs

 Road, Pathankot.
 15.04.2021 with further
 1. All part & parcel of

 Road, Pathankot.
 15.04.2021 with further

Guarantor(s): 1. Raman interest at agreed rate and Mehta S/o Bikramjit Mehta other charges, expenses 2. Sajan Gandhi S/o Satpal and costs as applicable and Gandhi 3. Bharat Gandhi less credits if any Physical S/o Sajan Gandhi S/o Satpal less credits if any Physical S/o Sajan Gandhi S/o Satpal less credits if any Physical S/o Sajan Gandhi S/o Satpal less credits if any Physical S/o Sajan Gandhi S/o Sajan Gandhi. Owner: Possession on 09.11.2021 West: Property of Sajan Gandhi, North: Property of Rimpy, South: Property of Rakesh Gandhi, 2. Bharat Gandhi S/o Sajan Gandhi 2. Sajan Gandhi Harat Gandhi S/o Sajan Gandhi 2. Sajan Gandhi S/o Sajan Gandhi S/o Sajan Gandhi 2. Sajan Gandhi S/o Sajan Gandhi S/o Sajan Gandhi 2. Sajan Gandhi S/o Sajan Gandhi S/o Sajan Gandhi 2. Sajan Gandhi S/o Sajan Gandhi S/o Sajan Gandhi 2. Sajan Gandhi S/o Sajan Gan name of Sh.Sajan Gandhi, land measuring 3.83 Marla comprised in Khasra No.408/241(17-13).

405/241(4-2) Kita 2 Total Area 15Marlas, situated at Village Sraian, Hadbast Number 335, Tehsil and District Pathankot, bounded as under:- East: Bhara Gandhi, West: Property of Rimpy, North: Property of Rimpy, South: Property of Rakesh Gandhi Mr. Manjit Singh S/o Sh. Total Dues Rs. 26,55,623/- All part & parcels of 17.60 Lacs Joga Singh & Seema as on 31.07.2020 with further Residential Building 01.76 Lacs
Bansal W/o Manjit Singh interest at agreed rate and measuring 1K-1M i.e 21/640 Rs. 10,000/-

Umesh (Manager) (9779585609) o. No. 241, Darvesh Pind, Other charges, expenses share out of 32K comprised in Khasra No. 57(8-0), 58(8-0), 59(8-0), 60(8-0), khata No. 306/307, Phagwara, Dist Kapurthala and costs as applicable and khatoni no. 440 situated at Village Darvesh Teh Phagwara, Dist Kapurthala ess credits if any Symbolic Possession : 06.01.2016 dated 27.01.2014.

Mr. Rajan Sharma S/o Total Dues Rs. 29,47,123/- All part & parcel of Residential 8.20 Lacs Sh.Ram Murti Sharma & son 31.07.2020 with further House measuring 5-314 0.82 Lacs 11.00 am to interest at agreed rate and Sh.Rajan Sharma C/o Mee Enterprises, Khera and costs as applicable and Road, Phagwara, Distti Kapurthala 10 on the charges, expenses of total land measuring 8K-0M comprised in khasra No. 129/8-0, khata No. 114/187 as per Fard-Damabandi for the year 2003-04 situated at Urmil Enclave Village Narangshah Pur Phagwara in the name of Smt Meenu Sharma, sale deed No. 3550 dated 26.11.2007.

Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/ Amount as per 13(2) Rs House No. 47 situated at Owner: Mr. Jatinder Handa 4 5 4 8 8 4 0 . 9 2 as on Harsimran Enclave, Wariana, O9.10.2013 with further interest at agreed rate and other Jalandhar in the name of SH. St. Chander Kishore Handa registered vide sale deed No. 6195/1 dated caredities from Physical Possession 1.01.2014

credits if any Physical Possession: 01.02.2014 28.12.2010 comprised in hadbast No. 315, khata no. 139/205, 476/631, 632, 633 khasra No 33/10(8-0), 32//27(0-10), 33//24/1(3-0), 28(0-16), 41//4/1(0-12), 7/2(0-7), 32//16/1(3-0), 33//18min(4-0), 19min(4-0), 20(7-18), 21/2(3-0), 22(7-18), 23(7-17), 32//16//1(3-0), 33//18min(4-0), 20(7-18), 21/2(3-0), 22(7-18), 23(7-17), 32//18min(4-0), 20(7-18), 21/2(3-0), 22(7-18), 23(7-18), 2

41//2/2(3-0), 3(7-18), 32//6(8-0), 7/1(2-4), 14/2(3-0), 15(7-8), 33//8/2(6-12), 9/2(4-9), 11(8-0), 12(8-0), 13/1(6-12), 18min(4-0), 19min(4-0). Borrower(s)Jaya Amount as per 13(2) Rs House No. 87 situated at 11.77 Lacs Construction Co. 4548840.92 as on Harsimran Enclave, Wariana, 1.17 Lacs 30.04.2022 | Sh. Maniit Mahey (Authorised Office) (9503643038) Sh. Nippu Parsad

/Guarantor(s)/Owner: Mr. 09.10.2013 with further Jalandhar in the name of SH. Rs. 10,000/- 13: 00 Hrs (Asst.Manager) 9815969920 Jatinder Handa interest at agreed rate and Jatinder Handa S/o Sh. Chander Kishore Handa registered vide sale deed No. 6295/1 dated other charges, expenses and costs as applicable and less | 03.01.2014.comprised in hadbast No. 315, khata no. 139/205, 476/631, 632, 633 khasra No credits if any Physical Possession 01.02.2014 | 33/10(8-0), 32//27(0-10), 33//24/1(3-0), 28(0-16), 41//4/1(0-12), 7/2(0-7), 32//16/1(3-0) credits if anyPhysical Possession 01.02.2014 33//18min(4-0), 19min(4-0), 20(7-18), 21/2(3-0), 22(7-18), 23(7-17), 41//2/2(3-0), 3(7-18), 32//6(8-0), 7/1(2-4), 14/2(3-0), 15(7-8), 33//8/2(6-12), 9/2(4-9)

> THIS PUBLICATION IS ALSO 15 DAYS NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 TO THE ABOVE BORROWERS & GUARANTORS

Measurement of the above properties, however, be verified by the bidders at site and also from the records of revenue authorities prior to participating n auction. TERMS & CONDITIONS: The e-Auction will be conducted through Bank's approved service provider: M/s MSTC Ltd. through its auctic site https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. E-Auction Tender documents containing online e auction bid form, Declaration General Terms & Conditions of online auction sale are available in https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. The interested bidde hall submit their EMD through Web Portal; https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.isp (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by egistering name with https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp) through login ID & Password. The EMD will be payable through NEFT t pidder's own wallet registered with MSTC Ltd. on its auction site Please note that the EMD must be deposited in the wallet registered with the M/ MSTC Ltd. by before 28.04.2022 before 16.00 Hrs. There are no encumbrances on the property/ies known to the secured creditors. However, the intendir idders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claims/rights/dues/effecting the property orior to submitting their bid. The e-auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deeded to constitute any commitment or any representation of th ank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditc shall not be responsible anyway for misprinting error or any third party claims / rights / dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under th

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After the war: Russia, the West, and India



In conversation



Dr. C Raja Mohan Visiting Research Professor, National University of Singapore

Associate Editor The Indian Express

No matter how the war in Ukraine ends, Europe and the world will not be the same. Post Cold War relationships have been fundamentally -- perhaps permanently -- altered.

If Vladimir Putin remains in power, the United States will have to decide how to deal, in bilateral and multilateral fora, with the man it has called a war criminal.

In the United Nations, four members of the P5+1 will have to coordinate their strategy against the two remaining veto-wielding members of the Security Council, whom the war in Ukraine has brought very close in a shared hostility towards the West. Where does all of this leave India?

Its delicate tightrope walk between Russia and the West has already been frowned upon by important allies. It has crucial relationships on both sides, with far reaching economic and strategic implications.

What are the contours of the diplomatic challenge India faces in the coming years, and what choices can it be forced to make?









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The Indian EXPRESS

Himachal Pradesh sets New Parameters of Development

IMACHAL PRADESH has completed 74 years of its excompleted /-tycaro cious occasion, I extend my heartiest greetings to people of the state and express my gratitude for their support in making Himachal Pradesh a peaceful, progressive and prosperous state

Itwason 15th April 1948, exactly eight months after the Independence of the country, our beautiful hill state came into existence as the centrally administered Chief Commissioner's Province by the amalgamation of 30 small and bighilly princely states. This is a special day to pay homage to the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters of Himachal Pradesh, the valor of its brave soldiers and the people. Besides, it is an occasion to celebrate and to be proud of our rich cultural and traditional heritage and saluting the people for their hard work.

At the time of formation of the state, there was a huge scarcity of basic facilities in Himachal Pradesh. Due to its difficult geographical conditions and lack of resources, it was a big challenge to take the state forward on the path of development. Basic facilities like drinking water, electricity, roads, educational and health institutions were almost negligible. Despite all odds, the hardworking and honest people of the state played a pivotal role in making Himachal Pradesh a developed and prosperous state

Âfter its formation, Himachal Pradesh has made rapid progressive strides and today stands as a model of development amongst big states of the country. On this occasion, I express my gratitude to the founder and first Chief Minister of Himachal PradeshDr, YashwantSinghParmar for his vision and contribution for initiating development. I also take this opportunity to thank all the former Chief Ministers of the State who led Himachal Pradesh on the path of progress. It was their unforgettable contribution that helped this hilly state to carve out its distinct identity. With the blessings and support of the people, I have also got the opportunity to serve the state for last more than four years. As soon as our government was formed, we took a resolve to work for the betterment of the state and its people. We have not only fulfilled the promises made to the people by adopting BJP's election manifesto as our policy document but our government launched many welfare schemes and developmental programmes to benefit every section of the society.

Ourgovernmenthasfocused on ofthepeopleandensuringrapidand balanced development of the state. Himachal also faced hard times due to Corona pandemic but with the wholehearted support of the people, we were able to control the situation and also simultaneously ensured to maintain the pace of development. The State Government is making every effort to ensure transparent and accountable governance

The senior citizens play a vital roleinthesocietyanditisourdutyto give them due respect. The stategovernment in its very first Cabinet meeting, reduced the age criteria for providing old age pension from 80 years to 70 years without any income limit, which has now further been reduced to 60 years. With this decision, about one lakh people will get the benefit of old age pension this year. The present state government has sanctioned pension to 2.21 lakh people. When the BJP government came to power in the year 2017, about Rs. 436 crore were being spent on social security pension whereas today more than Rs. 1300 crore are being spent on it

We realized that people had to run one government office to another to get their works done or for redressal of their grievances wasting both money and time. In order to provide relief to the people, the state government took unique initiative of hosting Jan Manch for redressal of their grievances at their door-step. It is a matter of pride that this programme has become so popular that so far, 25 Jan Manch have been organized at 244 places and out of 54,565 complaints received, ore than ninety percent have been resolved.

Moving one step ahead in this direction, we started 'Mukhva Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline-1100'. Any person can register his complaint from any corner to get his issues redressed within a stipulated time period. So far, about 3.55 lakh complaints have been received on this helpline number, out of which 3.41 lakh have been settled. The 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' of the Union government came as a boon to the women folk and provided them much needed relief from traditional chullahs and collecting fire-wood by providing free gas connections. On similarlines, our government started 'Mukhya Mantri Grihini Suvidha Yoina' for the eligible families of the state who could not be covered under Ujjwala Yojna. Under this scheme, three cylinders including free gas connection are being provided to 3.25 lakh families besides 1.37 lakh families have been provided free gas connections under 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna' as well. Now, we have decided to provide one more additional free cylinder to the beneficiaries under both these schemes from this financial year. Himachal Pradesh has become the first state of the country to be declared smoke-free.

The state government also started 'Mukhya Mantri Shagun Yojna' for marriage of daughters belonging to families living below poverty line. The financial assistance of Rs. 31 thousands is being provided under the scheme for their marriage. 'Mukhya Mantri Kanyadan Yojna' has also proved to be beneficial in providing financial assistance for the marriage of destitute women and girls. Our government has started 'HIMCARE' scheme from January, 2019 under which five members of the beneficiary family are being provided free treatment facility up to Rs. 5 lakh per year. Till date, about 5.40 lakh families have been registered under HIMCARE and a sum of Rs. 218 crore has been spent on cashless treatment of 2.40 lakh patients. Besides, 4.28 lakh families of the state are registered under the Center Government's Ayushman Bharat scheme and Rs. 154.16 crore has been spent on providing treatment facility to 1,26 lakh patients.

In order to provide financial assistance to the economically weaker sections suffering from serious ailments, the state government has started 'Mukhya Mantri Sahara Yojna'. Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 3,000 is provided to them every month. So far, Rs. 60.50 crore has been provided to about 18 thousand beneficiaries under this scheme.Underthe'MukhyaMantri Nishulk Dawai Yojna', 1374 types of medicines are being made available free of cost in all the government hospitals of the state. The government has spent more than Rs. 216 crore on this scheme. Apart from this.free treatment is being provided to the poor people suffering from serious diseases in all government hospitals of the state as well as in PGI Chandigarh, AIIMS Delhi and Government Hospital located in Sector-32 in Chandigarh through 'Mukhya Mantri Chikitsa Kosh'.

Minister Shri Narendra Modi, AIIMS has been set up at Kothipura in Bilaspur district, a satellite center of PGI in Una and three medical colleges as announced by the Union Government, The Government of India has also approved a Medical Device Park at Nalagarh in which fivethousand crore rupees will be invested and 10 thousand people will getdirectand indirect employment,

The government is committed to provide clean drinking water to all the people of State. So far, 8.42 lakh 42 tap connections have been given under the Jal Jeevan Mission launched by the government of India whereas only 7.63 lakh connections were given in the last 72 vears. The roads are considered to be the life line of the state's economy. Taking this in to consideration, the government focused on strengthening of road infrastructure in the state over last four years. We have constructed 3527 Kilometers of motorable roads, 268 Kilometers of jeepable roads and 268 bridges so far. The Union government has approved 13 world class ropeways and several national highways for the state which will help in boosting economy of the state rapidly.

Our government is also committed to provide maximum employment opportunities to the youth of the state. To achieve this ob-'Mukhya Mantri jective, Swavalamban Yojna' has been started which has proved very effective in this direction. Under this, 25 percent subsidy is being given to the youth for investing in machinery, equipment and industrial plant (up to one crore rupees) for start ups. From this year, we have increased the subsidy for women from 30 percentto35 percent and for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and specially-abled from 25 to 30 percent underthescheme. As of today, 3758 units with an investment of about Rs. 624 crore have been established in which more than 10 thousand youth have got employment opportunities. Keeping in view the importanceofinvestment in the economic development of the state, the present state government has taken numerous initiatives to attract investment by its proactive policies,

incentives and Ease of Doing Business. It was for the first time that a mega Global Investors Meet was organized in Dharamshala in November, 2019 in which 703 MoUs with an investment of Rs 96.721 crore were signed. A month later, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shahdidgroundbreakingof240 projects amounting to Rs. 13,656 crore in the first ground breaking cer-

emony held in Shimla. The second such ground breaking ceremony was performed by the Prime Minister at Mandi on 27 December, 2021 on the occasion of completion offouryear's tenure of the state government in which 287 projects worth Rs. 28,197 crore were grounded. It is a matter of great pleasure for us that the state's ranking has gone up from 16th position to 7th in Ease of Doing Business. When it comes to the agriculture and allied sectors, the state government has started many new schemes so as to increase the income of farmers and

orchardists besides providing them



better irrigation and marketing facilities and to protect their crops from wild animals. State Government's 'Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan Yojna' has proved effective in giving a new dimension to the agriculture sector. More than 1.68 lakh progressive farmers have adopted this scheme. Similarly, under Mukhya Mantri Khet Sanrakshan Yojna', the state government is providing subsidy for solar fencing of farms individually and collectively.

With the implementation of Integrated Horticulture Mission in the state, subsidies are being provided for purchase of equipment for horticulture development, water storage tanks and protected cultivation of flowers etc. Under this mission, 16 thousand 850 farmers have been benefitted by spending Rs. 135.54 crore 54. HP SHIVA Yojna is also being implemented for the development of horticulture in the plain areas of the

Besides taking electricity facility to every house, the government has decided to make electricity free up to 60 units and from 61 to 125 units at the rate of rupee one per unit. Electricity rate for farmers has been fixed at 30 paise per unit, About 11 lakhdomesticelectricity consumers of the state will be benefited with this

Under 'Mukhya Mantri Roshni Yojna', 12,837 poor families have been provided free electricity connections. In this financial year, five thousand additional eligible families will be given such free connections. The state government is committed to provide shelter to poor people and has provided financial assistance to 6,356 beneficiaries at the rate of Rs. 1.50 lakh per household unit under

'Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojna' to the B.P.L. families. Similarly, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) about 7100 houses have been sanctioned in the last four years and 7,404 houses have been constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) to poor families. In order to encourage tourism sector in the state, our government has sanctioned Rs. 200 crore under the 'Nai Rahein-Nai Manzilien' schemeunderwhichvarioustourist destinations are being developed in the state.

The state government is providing financial assistance to the economically weak meritorious students for coaching of medical, engineering and other competitive examinations after 12th and graduation, Anincentive amount of rupees one lakh is being provided to 100 meritorious students who secured highest marks in class 10th fortraininginvocational ortechnical courses. This year, five cow sanctuaries and GauSadans will be established in the state and a farm will also be set up

decided to increase the grant given for cows in private cow sheds from Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 per month. The minimum wage of unskilled daily wagers has been increased by Rs. 50 toRs.350 perday. During the tenure of the present government, daily wage has been increased by Rs. 140. The honorarium of Anganwadi workers has been enhanced to Rs. 1700, ASHA workers and SMC to Rs. 1825. The honorarium of teachers has been increased by Rs. 1700. Similarly, the honorarium of employees working in various departments has also been increased by Rs. 900 permonth. Being committee to welfare of the employees, the government has given benefits of revised pay scale to its employees and pensioners as well. From the year 2018 to 2022, financial benefits of Rs. 7 thousand 801 crore have been

for the conservation of Himachali hill

cow. The state government has also

Wearegetting full support of the Center government in the develop-

ployees and pensioners.

given to the state government em-

Narendra Modi has a special attachment towards Himachal Pradesh and under his leadership the state hasgotprojectsworththousandsof crores. The construction of Atal Tunnel Rohtangandrailwayexpansion has been possible only with the help of the Center Government.

Wehavemadesincereefforts to makeHimachalPradeshself-reliant state. Iam sure that with the full support of people and the efforts of the government, Himachal Pradesh will scale new heights of development in the coming future.

Onthis special occasion, I would like to urge all of you to extend your support in keeping all-round development of our state uninterrupted while preserving the rich cultural and natural heritage of the state.

I once again extend my warm greetings to all of you on the auspicious occasion of Himachal Day.

> **JAIRAM THAKUR** CHIEFMINISTER



अनुसूचित जनजाति का हो रहा चहुँमुखी विकास कृतसंकल्पित है हिमाचल सरकार

- कुल राज्य योजना की राशि का 9 प्रतिशत भाग जनजातीय समुदाय के कल्याण के लिए निर्धारित
- जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में 4 एकलव्य आदर्श विद्यालय खोले गए
- 552 अनुसूचित जनजाति के विद्यार्थी कर रहे इन विद्यालयों में शिक्षा ग्रहण
- 20 सूत्रीय कार्यक्रम के तहत गत चार वर्षी में 23,510 अनुसूचित जनजाति परिवार हुए लाभान्वित
- जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में सड़कों, पुलों व भवन निर्माण पर ₹470.92 करोड़ रुपये किए गए खर्च
- लाहौल व पांगी में वर्षभर आबागमन की सुविधा के लिए अटल टनल का शुभारम्भ
- 20 सूत्रीय कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत 23,510 परिवार लाभान्वित



सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार

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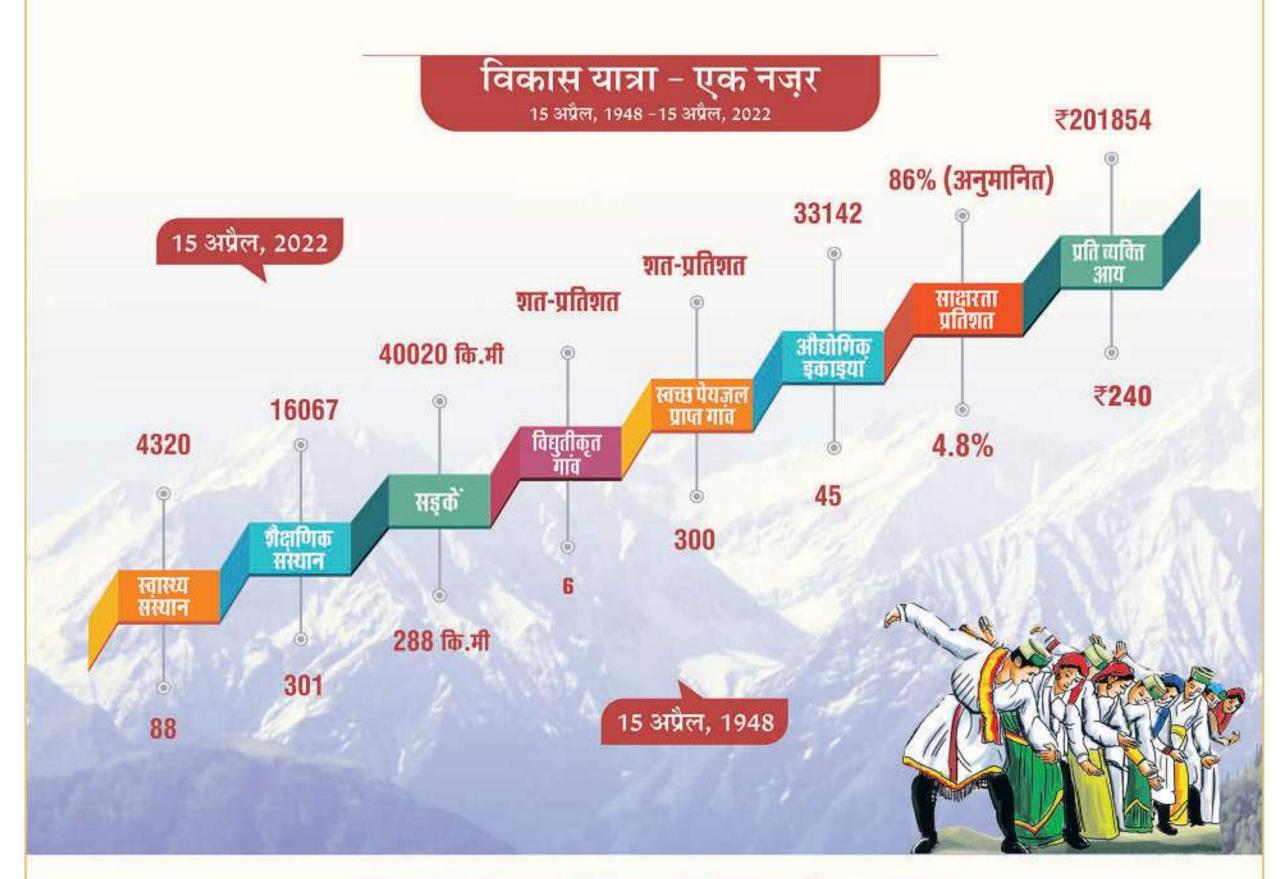






"हिमाचल दिवस पर राज्य के सभी निवासियों को मेरी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं । प्राकृतिक सुंदरता और मनमोहक पर्यटन स्थलों के लिए प्रसिद्ध यह प्रदेश विकास के नित नए मानदंड गढ़ता रहे और देश की उन्नति में अपना योगदान देता रहे।" नरेंद्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

हिमाचल दिवस हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

HOW CAN YOU GOVERN A COUNTRY WHICH HAS 246 VARIETIES OF CHEESE?

— CHARLES DE GAULLE

The Indian EXPRESS

∽ FOUNDED By ∽

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

SOUR LESSON

Spike in price of lemons underlines it: Key to reducing mismatch between supply and demand lies in boosting storage capacity

ITH A SINGLE lemon retailing at anywhere between Rs 10 and Rs 15, across the country, lemon prices are squeezing household budgets. Reportedly, the supply of lemons has fallen due to a decline in overall production. Lemon orchards are very sensitive to excess moisture and the supplies took a hit after exceptionally heavy rains in September and October last year. Chances of a quick correction in prices are low because the next crop will come in only by October. From the policymaking perspective, however, it would be a mistake to view this spike in lemon prices in isolation. It would be equally erroneous to imagine that the solution lies in boosting production alone.

High food inflation as well as wild fluctuation in food prices are fairly chronic events in India. The commodities keep changing through the year but the phenomenon remains the same. The most recent example of this came earlier in the week when overall inflation rose by 7 per cent, driven primarily by a spike in the prices of food items. Food inflation rose by almost 8 per cent, Often, it is the prices of perishables such as fruits and vegetables that are the leading contributors to price rise. While high prices draw attention primarily because they hurt consumers, there is another side of the story — of excess supply and the resultant crash in prices, which, in turn, bring financial ruin to farmers. Breaking this cycle of supply gluts and shortages will benefit both consumers and producers. The key lies in boosting India's storage capacity as it can reduce the frequent mismatch be-

It is now widely accepted — a January paper from the RBI reiterates it — that "wastage of food products due to inefficient post-harvest practices is one of the important factors behind high food inflation in India". The wastage happens for a variety of reasons but the lack of proper storage facilities is particularly important. If one looks at the warehousing stock per capita (measured in square meters), India at 0.02 lags far behind other big economies such as China (0.8), the UK (1.09) and the US (4.4). Not only is India comparatively deficient, but the existing warehousing is inefficiently distributed as well. According to the RBI, nearly 70 per cent of the country's total capacity is limited to four states — Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab and Gujarat — whereas states like Maharashtra and Karnataka, which have large export potential as well, do not have adequate facilities. Further, almost 70 per cent of all cold storage is for storing potatoes while only 30 per cent is used for multi-commodity storage, resulting in poor utilisation of existing capacity. Lastly, boosting cold storage capacity would be incomplete without a well-developed cold chain involving various stages from pre-cooling, pack-houses, refrigerated transport to refrigerated marketing display. This is where both the government and private sector need to invest to find a sustainable solution to repeated fluctuations and surges in the prices of everyday food items.

THE CENTRE FRAYS

Notwithstanding the results of the ongoing election, France under Emmanuel Macron has become more polarised

N 2017, EMMANUEL Macron was a relative outsider who held out the hope that in France in particular, and in Europe as a whole, the centre would hold. After the first round of the presidential election earlier this week — the run-off poll between the president and leader of the far-right National Rally, Marine Le Pen, will take place on April 24 — it is clear that Macron's term in office has only polarised the French polity further. Macron received around 28 per cent of the vote, Le Pen 23 per cent and the Left candidate, Jean-Luc Melenchon was a close third, with 22 per cent. Both the far-right and the left have gained ground. And while Melenchon's call to his supporters to ensure that Le Pen does not gain the presidency may ensure that Macron becomes the first French presidential incumbent since Jacques Chiraq in 2002 to win a second term, his pro-market, pro-EU centre-right plank has fewer takers than before.

Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine is only the latest challenge to surface during Macron's presidency. Domestically, the gilets jaunes or "yellow vests" protests against income inequality, price rise and tax breaks for the wealthy that rocked France began in 2018, and have flared sporadically ever since. The killing of school teacher Samuel Paty deepened another cleavage in French society and Macron announced a programme to "strengthen French values" and introduced laws that are seen to target Muslims. The rise of China and Britain's exit from the EU have made it all the more important for France to take a leadership role in Europe. Unfortunately, the far-right — especially Le Pen — have made pro-Putin statements and continue to be sceptical of the EU and NATO. Macron has tilted right whenever he has been under siege politically. Given that he has made combating Putin's Russia a policy priority, and his opponent has called for a "reset" of NATO-Russia relations, the election results will have far-reaching geopolitical implications.

Most opinion polls predict a close race between Le Pen and Macron in this election. Data also points to apathy with the political system as a whole and Macron in particular among the young and rural working classes. In 2017, Macron promised a centrist "revolution". Now, his hope is to chip away supporters from both the right and left, by becoming the default candidate for those fearful of a xenophobic Le Pen presidency. Given the fragile European unity, and the need for an outward-looking France in that context, the election results on April 24 will be closely watched in Brussels and beyond.

Mere star ki shaadi

The Big Fat Bollywood Wedding offers distraction from lemon prices and other distressing things

IRST, THERE IS the teaser. They make appearances in each other's family photos. Next, the trailer, the intimate roka, followed by the close-friends-and-family-only engagement, top-secret mehendi and hush-hush sangeet, with all the photos ending up, accidentally-on-purpose, on MissBollyGossip.com. And finally, release day. The lead couple, dressed in the finest Sabya or Manish by the costume department, stares dreamily into each other's eyes and/or laughs together as directed by the celebrity photographer hired to take exclusive images of the mega event. And an enraptured audience of a few million, which has been tweeting undying love for #RaAlia or #VicKat or whoever the couple of the moment is, sits back to enjoy the climax of yet an-

The Big Fat Bollywood Wedding is, in the immortal words of the Hindi film critic, a "family entertainer". It has something for everyone: Drama, unforgettable clothes, and good, oldfashioned sentiment — all breathlessly live-tweeted. Admittedly, some of the appeal is in the thrill of seeing two beautiful and wealthy people come together in holy matrimony and everyone secretly hopes - immediately generate fodder for the gossip mills with baby rumours, feuding in-laws and even conscious uncouplings. But the real reason anyone cares about these weddings is the same as why they watch a Bollywood film: Escape. With its glamorous cast - including guest and special appearances - extravagant outfits and gorgeous locations, a lavishly-produced Bollywood wedding guarantees a distraction from such distressing things as a pandemic, political mudslinging and the high price of lemons.

And the best part of all this? There will always be sequels. Because, as they say in the biz, picture abhi baaki hai, mere dost. Wedding bhi.

Calling out hate

Hate speech must be condemned not merely because it can lead to violence but because it is, in itself, violent



SY Quraishi

WHAT IS TO be done when the Indian republic, committed to working within the framework of constitutional democracy and the rule of law, starts to accommodate elements that are stridently anti-constitutional and anti-secular? What once belonged to the fringes of Indian society now has increasingly become mainstream, their disruptive actions being registered in the public sphere more frequently and viciously. Hate speech is at the root of many forms of violence that are being perpetrated and has become one of the biggest challenges to the rule of law and to our democratic conscience.

One of the most visible consequences of hate speech is increased electoral mobilisation along communal lines which is also paying some electoral dividends.

Hate speech must be unambiguously condemned and the law must take its course, although not merely because it can lead to events of violence in the future. Hate speech, in itself, must be understood and treated as a violent act and urgently so, for it has become an indispensable resource for the ruling powers. No wonder, during the elections, it becomes louder.

Several instances of hate speech and religious polarisation have been reported in Yogi Adityanath's poll campaign in the recently concluded UP elections, for instance. In 2019, the Supreme Court reprimanded the Election Commission, calling it "toothless" for not taking action against candidates engaging in hate speech during the election campaigns in UP. The Commission responded by saying that it had limited powers to take action in this matter. So far, the Supreme Court does not appear to have acted decisively in response to allegations of hate speech in electoral campaigns, indicating that the EC must assume more responsibility and the EC has argued that in matters of hate speech, it is largely "powerless". In any case, the EC's role is confined to the election period. So who is responsible for the non-election times?

Is the state powerless? Not at all. There are a whole bunch of laws meant to curb hate speech. The Indian Penal Code, as per Sections 153A, 295A and 298, criminalises the promo-

While examining the scope of hate speech laws in India, the Law Commission in its 267th report published in March 2017, recommended introduction of new provisions within the penal code that specifically punish incitement to violence in addition to the existing ones. In my view, any recommendation for more laws is a red herring and provides an excuse for inaction. It's the lack of political will, blatant inefficiency and bias of the administration and shocking apathy of the judiciary that is killing the secular spirit of the Constitution.

tion of enmity between different groups of people on grounds of religion and language, alongside acts that are prejudicial to maintaining communal harmony. Section 125 of the Representation of People Act deems that any person, in connection with the election, promoting feelings of enmity and hatred on grounds of religion and caste is punishable with imprisonment up to three years and fine or both. Section 505 criminalises multiple kinds of speech, including statements made with the intention of inducing, or which are likely to induce, fear or alarm to the public, instigating them towards public disorder; statements made with the intention of inciting, or which are likely to incite, class or community violence; and discriminatory statements that have the effect or the intention of promoting inter-community hatred. It covers incitement of violence against the state or another community, as well as promotion of class hatred.

While examining the scope of hate speech laws in India, the Law Commission in its 267th report published in March 2017, recommended introduction of new provisions within the penal code that specifically punish incitement to violence in addition to the existing ones. In my view, any recommendation for more laws is a red herring and provides an excuse for inaction. It's the lack of political will, blatant inefficiency and bias of the administration and shocking apathy of the judiciary that is killing the secular spirit of the Constitution.

Another watchdog should have been the media. In recent years, hate speech in all its varieties has acquired a systemic presence in the media and the internet, from electoral campaigns to everyday life. Abusive speech directed against minority communities, particularly Muslims, and disinformation campaigns on media networks have made trolling and fake news significant aspects of public discourse. By desensitising the citizenry with a constant barrage of anti-minority sentiments, the ethical and moral bonds of our democracy are taking a hit.

This epidemic of "mediatised" hate speech is, in fact, a global phenomenon. According to the Washington Post, 2018 can be considered

as "the year of online hate". Facebook, in its Transparency Report, disclosed that it ended up taking down 3 million hateful posts from its platform while YouTube removed 25,000 posts in one month alone.

On April 2, amidst unconcerned police officials and cheering crowds, Mahant Bajrang Muni Udasin, the chief priest of the Badi Sangat Ashram in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district, publicly threatened sexual violence against Muslim women and against Muslims in general — "you and your pigsty will cease to exist". Although this particular video went viral recently, and he has now been arrested by the Sitapur police, Udasin has had a long history of spewing hate and stoking communal polarisation with apparent impunity. In the past, Udasin celebrated Dara Singh, a Bajrang Dal member who is currently serving a life sentence for leading a mob on January 23, 1999 in Orissa and setting fire to the wagon in which the Christian missionary Graham Staines and his two sons were burnt to death. Likening Dara Singh to a godman, Udasin appealed to Hindu monks to declare him a Shankaracharya. With this, Udasin joins the ranks of a multitude of "holy" men and women, most prominent among them being Yati Narsinghanand, Pooja Shakun Pandey and Jitendra Tyagi, who have been at the forefront of the politics of fear and hatred.

With elected members currently sitting in the legislative assemblies and Parliament giving political sanction to these self-styled mahants, and ordinary citizens mobilised into mob violence and complicit public officials, hate speech is becoming the dominant mode of public political participation. Two people died in the Ram Navami violence recently while many were arrested across states. Shocking images also surfaced from JNU of students injured during a face-off between two groups on Ram Navami on campus.

This should prick the conscience of the nation. Enough damage has been done. We cannot wait another day to address this growing challenge

> The writer is former Chief Election Comissioner

THE COURTESY OF CREDIT

Why Grammy winner Arooj Aftab needs to acknowledge those who came before

SUANSHU KHURANA

MOHABBAT KARNE WALE kam na honge, teri mehfil mein lekin hum na honge. (There won't be a dearth of those who will cherish you, but in that gathering of your admirers, I won't

For over half a century, this Hafeez Hoshiarpuri ghazal was brought to life by Pakistani ghazal maestro Mehdi Hassan. He presented it with such nuance and tenderness that for years, the pangs of separation in this piece have transcended even the geopolitics of the Subcontinent. The ghazal became so popular that it was sung by other greats such as Farida Khanum, Iqbal Bano and Jagjit Singh. But it was Hassan who etched this ghazal along with "Ranjish hi sahi" — in our common consciousness. For "Mohabbat karne wale", he used *Tilang*, the raga that stems from the folk melodies of Rajasthan, where Hassan was born and learned music.

So, when Brooklyn-based Pakistani musician Arooi Aftab walked away with a Grammy earlier this month — a first for any Pakistani woman - in the Best Global Music Performance category for the "neo-Sufi" version of this ghazal which she calls "Mohabbat" in her 2021 album Vulture Prince (New Amsterdam Records), it became a moment to cherish for the Subcontinent.

The ghazal was first read in 1929 by Hoshiarpuri at Lahore's famed Government College.

But for "Mohabbat", which has musical influences from diverse worlds of jazz, Hindustani music, Sufi and folk music, Aftab does not acknowledge — either in the album's This isn't a new composition. It's the same tune sung with different orchestration. Because she is trained in western forms of music, she's stripped the ghazal of classical ornamentations and created a new setting for it. Hoshiarpuri's words give context to her pain. This is why credit is necessary.

digital versions or in her acceptance speech the poet or the composer, even though the basic tune is used in its entirety. The only difference is pace, orchestration and of course, Aftab's voice and style. The Recording Academy's award is for her performance of the ghazal but the onus to acknowledge its origins is on Aftab. Vulture Prince, Aftab's third album, came

at the back of years of struggle in Pakistan amid a family that enjoyed musical baithaks at home but preferred their daughter to not make music. In it, she pairs the pain of famous ghazals with hushed orchestral arrangements created with the harp, flugelhorn, double bass, violins and synth. She sings Mirza Ghalib's "Diya hai" where the poignance of the poet's words finds release through her voice — the last song she and her brother shared before he passed away $during \, the \, making \, of \, the \, album. \, The \, elegy \, and \,$ its pain aren't lost on the listener. There is also Sudarshan Fakir's "Kuch toh duniya ki inaayat", which found itself with Begum Akhtar back in the day. Ghalib, Fakir and Begum Akhtar aren't credited either. She gives a new tune to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's famed "Suroor", but Anwar Farrukhabadi, the poet, does not find himself anywhere in the seven-track album. The album, however, does advertise a perfume oil created by Dana El Masri, inspired by the music. As of now, the oil is sold out.

Barack Obama picked "Mohabbat" as one of his favourites for 2021 and the piece was called one of the best songs of 2021 by the New York Times. But I'd rather listen to Hassan's version. Mostly because of its quality

but also because of its sincerity. He would almost always credit the poet. "Ye Hafiz Hoshiarpuri saab ki ghazal hai..

Aftab hasn't put out any statement or explanation. But she shared a post by a friend on her Facebook page that read: "For those who are asking Arooj Aftab to give credits... either they are jealous or they do not understand that you can pick up any old poetry and compose it yourself, then there is no cover left." This isn't a new composition. It's the same tune sung with different orchestration. Because she is trained in western forms of music, she's stripped the ghazal of classical ornamentations and created a new setting for it. Hoshiarpuri's words give context to her pain. This is why credit is necessary.

In 2018, at Lahore's Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature, an 89-year-old Farida Khanum sat in a wheelchair and sang the same ghazal, diving into Hoshiarpuri's anguish and sarcasm. Musician and author Ali Sethi, who was in conversation with her, was visibly awed. So were those present. But before Khanum began, she said, "Ye Mehdi bhai (Hassan) ne gaaya hai. Aur badi gayaki ke saath gaaya hai. Maine isko light music ki tarah gaaya hai". (Mehdi bhai has sung this. And has sung it with a lot of dexterity. I have sung it like light music). Even though Khanum's version is immaculate, she does not let the moment go without that mention.

While Khanum's reference is deferential, all we want from Aftab is some courtesy.

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INDIAN EXPRESS

APRIL 15, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

HOSTAGE DRAMA

TWO-ARMED YOUTH HOLDING five persons hostage for nine hours in the South Avenue flat of Congress MP Dalbir Singh were overpowered by policemen in a swift 20-minute operation. The five hostages, including two former members of the Madhya Pradesh assembly, were freed. The youth have been identified as Ram Narayan Kumar and Kumaraswamy from Andhra Pradesh.

West Asia Strike

AT LEAST 10 countries in West Asia and millions of Muslims elsewhere observed a day's

strike to protest against the killing of two Palestinians near the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem by an Iraqi soldier. The strike was called by King Khaled of Saudi Arabia. An exception was South Yemen, where the Marxist government of President Ali Nasser Mohammed ordered a double-shift work day to raise money for the Palestinians.

CHARAN RELENTS

THE LOK DAL chief Charan Singh will make a re-entry into politics on April 15, when he presides over the meeting of his party's national executive convened especially for the May 19 "mini general elections".

M S RETURNS MONEY

CELEBRATED CARNATIC MUSICIAN M S Subbulakshmi has decided to return the government a cheque of Rs 34,873 sent to her as remuneration for her inaugural concert at the Festival of India in London. In a letter to the chairman of the advisory committee of the festival, her husband T Sadasivam said, "it will be neither correct nor in keeping with our way of life to crave remuneration for a glorious service that Subbulakshmi was asked to render on behalf of our great nation".

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"In Washington's eyes, whether a country has 'human rights' and whether it is 'democratic' depends on whether it is obedient to the US and whether it cooperates with the ubiquitous hegemonic tentacles of the US in geopolitics." - GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Widening data divide

Government expands its powers

City beautiful, historical wrong

Intransigence of Indira Gandhi government prevented transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab. Centre must correct this anomaly, and also reconsider status of other Union Territories



Madhay Godbole

I AM SURPRISED that it took so long for Punjab to reiterate its legitimate demand for Chandigarh. The usual political drama of the legislative assembly of Haryana holding a special session to oppose the demand was only to be expected. The question is whether the leadership of the BJP is prepared to do justice to Punjab, or deny it only because the AAP is now in power in Punjab and would get the credit. I have argued for some time that Indira Gandhi had done injustice to Punjab by denying its claim to Chandigarh.

In my book, Indira Gandhi: An Era of Constitutional Dictatorship (2018), I referred to what Zail Singh had written in his book, Memoirs of Giani Zail Singh — The Seventh President of India: "On my return from tour of the three foreign countries, I was met by Swaran Singh (who was asked by the government to negotiate with the Akalis), who gave me the tidings that an understanding had been reached between the government and the Akalis. It was, inter alia, agreed upon by the two sides that the Anandpur Sahib Resolution would be referred to a parliamentary committee and the contentious city of Chandigarh would be transferred to Punjab... I was told by Swaran Singh that the central government had accepted these propositions and was about to make an announcement to this effect... The Akali Party had also accepted the arrangement. But the government changed its stance and sprang a surprise. An altogether different statement was made by home minister, P C Sethi, in Parliament... I came to know later that it was due to the intransigent attitude of Darbara Singh... who took the oft-repeated line, that if these solutions were accepted, things would go out of his control. He also thought that if Swaran Singh got the credit for solving the tangle, it would lower the prestige of the state government. Obviously, the Punjab state leaders were more interested in their prestige than in finding an acceptable solution to the long-standing problem."

I have given this long quotation to bring out the inner workings of the state and central governments. It also bears out the criticism of opposition leaders that Indira Gandhi was not able to assert herself in finding a lasting solution to the Punjab problem. Indira Gandhi in her last term as prime minister was quite a contrast of what she was prior to 1977. In spite of a resounding popular mandate, India was let down by Indira Gandhi in tackling the Punjab problem. More importantly, she paid for it with her own life.

For years the Chandigarh question has become linked with the Fazilka-Abohar area. This is because of Indira Gandhi's insistence that Chandigarh can be given to Punjab only if Punjab agrees to give the Fazilka-Abohar area to Haryana, as compensation. A G Noorani in his essay "A White Paper on a Black Record", included by Patwant Singh and others in Punjab – The Fatal Miscalculation, brought out several aspects that have rarely come into public discussion. When the linguistic states were created in 1956, only two states were



Blue Star could have been avoided.

It is unfortunate that even after Indira Gandhi's assassination, this issue has remained unaddressed. A new beginning should be made by announcing the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and building a new capital for Haryana. As for the future of other Punjabi and Hindi speaking areas in dispute, a boundary commission may be appointed with a clear guideline that, as in all other cases so far, village should be adopted as the unit, subject to the other usual criteria such as contiguity, communications, cultural ties etc.

I have urged in my latest book, *India* – A Federal Union of States: Fault Lines, Challenges and Opportunities, that the continuance of other UTs needs to be considered afresh. At present, there are eight UTs. The justification for the continuance of these UTs has never been examined so far. I am sure Delhi would have to be continued as a UT, whichever political party comes to power at the Centre. For strategic considerations, Andaman and Nicobar, and Ladakh would have to continue as UTs. Kashmir valley and Jammu region, which were converted into a UT in 2019, should be upgraded and given statehood soon after the delimitation question is addressed. The remaining UTs should be merged with the adjoining states. In view of its history as a French colony, Puducherry should be made a separate district of Tamil Nadu to maintain its identity.

The writer is a former Union Home Secretary

as custodian of data, but limits access to citizens and stakeholders



LEKSHMI PRASAD AND SABIR AHAMED

DATA CAN IMPROVE people's life in myriad ways, yet political factors thwart its dissemination and public usage. For example, data on migrants, meticulously collected during the pandemic, could have been used for effective public policy on migrants. While this year's Economic Survey focuses on improving the quality and quantity of data for better and quicker assessment of the state of the economy, it pays little attention to access to the data by citizens, ignoring the criticality of data for a healthy and informed public discourse on issues of policy relevance.

Amassing of data by the government in itself will not lead to improvements, but its use by different stakeholders will. The mere fact that people have access to data is likely to act as a threat to the government to improve performance in many areas. However, generation of data doesn't guarantee seamless access to people whose lives matter most in a democracy. Informed public discourse in any democracy is critical for accountable and transparent governance. The Right to Information is a useful instrument for citizens to access data, however it seems to be losing its teeth gradually.

The Indian state has been proactively strengthening the data architecture in the name of tackling corruption and better targeting of beneficiaries. Since 2014, the scope of UIDAI has seen a huge expansion. What we now know as JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) has private details of citizens, breaching their fundamental right to privacy. When such integration of databases was questioned in court, the government resorted to artificial barriers and restrictions in accessing public services for those who are unwilling to share their details.

In short, the government is sufficiently empowered to collect and use information about its citizens touching all the spheres of their life. For example, an enormous amount of data was harvested by the government during the pandemic and immunisation process, conveniently overlooking privacy concerns and the risk of misuse.

Along with traditional instruments such as the Census, sample surveys and registers of various departments, the government is now armed with real time data. However, the citizen's right to accessing relevant data for quality public discussion seems to be gradually eroding. In this process, the government has refused to hold itself accountable. This is evident from repeated events of delayed release of various survey data.

The effectiveness of state policies can be judged from the data produced by the statistical wings of the government, which have a reputation for being independent and credible. However, recent events have se-

verely dented this perception. The government is increasingly intervening in the everyday functioning of data production for political convenience. For example, data from the consumption survey 2017-18 has not yet been released. The leaked summary results of the survey suggest some disturbing facts that may not be politically comforting for the government. Similarly, the first Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS 2017-18) was released only after the 2019 general

Further, instead of relying on the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), a systematically designed survey for estimation of industrial sector GDP, the government has started to depend on self-reported, unverified data submitted to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs since 2011, muddling the actual status of Indian industry. Now that ASI is nearly redundant for official estimation purposes, the future of this database is uncertain. To date, ASI is the most reliable and in-depth data for research on productivity and regional patterns of the industrial sector.

Another example of undermining the scientific database is the delay in the release of Water and Sanitation Survey data 2018. The prime minister declared India open defecation free in October 2019 while the data was released much later depriving people of an opportunity to assess the status of the Swachh Bharat mission in a scientific

The information gaps in the area of migration are well documented. While the JAM architecture and pandemic induced tracking tools allow for the mapping of individuals, researchers and the civil society do not have access to that information, which is useful to ascertain the level and prevalence of migration across regions within the country. The last NSS survey on migration is of

The indifference of the state towards the bottom half of the population is easy to gauge when one sees no effort by the government to produce data on the incidence of poverty and deprivation since the pandemic. In addition, the government has suppressed information on pandemic induced deaths.

The increasing gap in accountability of is stark in India. The autonomy of statistical agencies is compromised for immediate political gains at the cost of sustainability and quality of democratic governance. The Indian state is fast acquiring the characteristics of a surveillance state that collects data in an aggressive manner but hesitates in dis-

This data divide between the state and its citizens is a potential threat to the smooth functioning of a democracy. While the government has significantly expanded its scope as the custodian of data, it is increasingly limiting the scope of access to it by responsible citizens and stakeholders. Without bridging this data gap, the scope of modern technology for tracking development cannot be realised.

Siddiqui and Prasad are associated with Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala and Sabir Ahamed works with Pratichi (India) Trust

for Chandigarh continued to be overlooked. On 22 January 1984, some 150 eminent Punjabis highlighted that Chandigarh was built to compensate Punjab for the loss of its capital, Lahore. There was no reason for that decision to be altered. B R Ambedkar was fond of saying that boundary marking is the job of a surveyor;

excluded from it, namely, East Punjab and

Bombay. Later, after prolonged agitation,

Bombay city was given to Maharashtra and

the separate states of Maharashtra and

Gujarat were formed. But Punjab's demand

boundary making is the task of a statesman. This is amply brought out by the Chandigarh imbroglio. At no time the decision of the Centre to link it up with Fazilka and Abohar was justified. There was no justification for making Chandigarh a Union Territory (UT). A new capital could easily have been constructed for Haryana. The latest example is that of Andhra Pradesh where Chandrababu Naidu, with his astute leadership and commendable statesmanship, decided to build a green-field capital for the state at Amaravati. Even in this case, suggestions were made to declare Hyderabad a UT, and following the example of Chandigarh, make it the capital of both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Fortunately, wiser counsels prevailed.

If Indira Gandhi had taken a reasonable position on the subject and Chandigarh given to Punjab, the Punjab agitation would have taken a different and a more conciliatory turn. For all that I know, even Operation It is unfortunate that even after Indira Gandhi's assassination, this issue has remained unaddressed. A new beginning should be made by announcing the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and building a new capital for Haryana. As for the future of other Punjabi and Hindi speaking areas in dispute, a boundary commission may be appointed with a clear guideline that, as in all other cases so far, village should be adopted as the unit, subject to the other usual criteria such as contiguity, communications, cultural ties etc.

Babasaheb's warnings

He was prescient in noting the fragility of democracy

Harish K Puri

AS WE CELEBRATED the 131st birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar, several interesting and conflicting perceptions of his role as one of the makers of modern India came to mind. He is one leader from the pre-independence times who has gained phenomenal after-life recognition, respect and popularity, not only as a messiah of the Dalits but also as one of the greatest Indians of the modern age. He was a nation-builder with a difference. Unlike Gandhi, Nehru, Subhas Bose and Bhagat Singh, he didn't fight against British imperialism. In fact, he supported British rule and until mid-1946 struggled to ensure that the British did not leave India so early.

His primary fight was against the evil of untouchability and casteism in the Hindu community. He was a severe critic of Mahatma Gandhi and the politics of the Indian National Congress for fighting only the external evil of foreign rule while ignoring the cancerous disease within the Hindu community. In his very first meeting with Gandhi, Ambedkar told him that he had no faith in great leaders and mahatmas. "History tells that mahatmas, like fleeting phantoms, raise dust, but raise no level." Gandhi, on his part, expressed "the highest regard" for Ambedkar, and added, "He has every right to be bitter. That he does not break our head is an act of self-restraint on his part".

The central question for Ambedkar was: Why was it that during their whole history, the Hindus did not feel ashamed about the practice of untouchability? Why did the great men of that faith not rise in revolt against such abominable caste inequality? Following a deep study of Hindu religious texts, he came to the conclusion that because of the religious sanctity provided to casteism, it was not possible to remove it. His undelivered lecture. later published as The Annihilation of Caste, was a severe critique of Hinduism. In 1935, he declared that though he was born a Hindu, he would not die a Hindu and indeed a few months before his death he led his flock of more than 4.00.000 to convert to Buddhism. But he remained deeply concerned that India was internally divided, that Hindu society was undemocratic and that it emphasised inequality and exclusion. He was worried that "if Hindu Rai does become a fact, it will, no doubt, be the greatest calamity for this country". Indeed, it was his effort to make this country a better place that underlay his

labour in drafting the Constitution of India. The role of chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution of India came to him as a pleasant surprise. He believed that law was a powerful instrument for social change and he brought to his task the vision of a new social order. Ambedkar worked to embed the objectives of liberty, equality and fraternity and the concept of dignity of the individual at the heart of the Constitution. He could not carry through some of his strongly-

held ideas. He had to compromise on several

issues; even nursing a resentment about having to work as a hack, and do what he was asked to do in the larger interests of the nation. In the end, though, the Constitution's text, as it was finally passed, carried his stamp.

In his final speech in the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, a day before it was adopted on November 26, 1949, he exuded a great sense of achievement. One of Ambedkar's most important contributions, however, was a set of sharp, categorical warnings. His first warning was, "In politics, we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality... We must remove this contradiction at the earliest moment, or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy which this Assembly has so laboriously built up".

The second problem he highlighted was the complete absence of the principle of fraternity in our country: "How can people divided into several thousand castes be a nation?" Respect for the dignity of the individual is central to a good society. As a member of the Nehru Cabinet, Ambedkar felt that the prime minister was more focused on issues of economic development and not as much on social reconstruction. Rights are protected not by law, but by the social and moral conscience of the society.

Another warning was against the peculiar Indian habit of devotion or hero-worship of leaders, that is bhakti. As he emphasised, "Bhakti, in religion, may be a road to the salvation of the soul. But in politics, bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship."

Given his deep sense of history and culture, Ambedkar was worried that there was a danger in India that democracy may give place to dictatorship. As he underlined, "It is quite possible for this new-born democracy to retain its form, but give place to dictatorship in fact. If there was a landslide of popular support, the danger of that possibility becoming an actuality is much greater". It seemed almost prophetic. Critics are taking note of Indian democracy turning into electoral autocracy. The cumulative effect of corporate power, increasing inequality, communal hatred and the allowance given to mobs to humiliate others, poses a real danger.

Babasaheb warned that we need to recognise the evils that lie across our path and 'which induce people to prefer government for the people to government by the people". He asked us to be on guard against these evils and said "that is the only way to serve the country". This warning from Babasaheb is particularly relevant now. Garlanding his statues or his ritual worship and ignoring his warnings would be hypocrisy.

The writer is retired professor of political science and head, BR Ambedkar Chair, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO IMPOSITION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Speaking for ourselves' (IE, April 14). In a country as diverse as India with dozens of languages and dialects, making one language compulsory militates against our heterogeneity. Hindi is the first among equals but by no means the only important language in India. There is no particular merit to making Hindi compulsory in a plural society such as ours, and only downsides to doing so. Mandating Hindi will be seen as an imposition, especially as it is being pushed vigorously by a government whose diehard views on language and culture are well known. We have managed well enough without Hindi being made compulsory and can continue to do so. The status quo must prevail.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

MISSING QUALITY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A fuller learning' (IE, April 14). The wisdom of allowing students to pursue two degrees simultaneously is questionable. The emphasis seems to be on quantity rather than enhancing the quality of our undergraduate and postgraduate degrees which should be job-oriented and in tune with the current needs of the country. Providing such options since students cannot be accommodated on physical campuses will dilute the quality of the degrees handed out and lead to an increase in the number of "educated but unemployed" youth. There are already a huge number of youth who have acquired degrees in the online mode due to the pandemic

and may lack ideal skills.

SS Paul, Nadia

DANGEROUS SILENCE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A constant simmer' (IE, April 13). Let alone any firm action, there has been "pregnant silence" from the top regarding the episodic flareups of communal nature which are now happening with sickening regularity. Under such circumstances, it would not be wrong to ask: Is there a method to this madness? While the deepening fault lines in society are electorally exploited by political parties if the trend continues unchecked the road ahead is fraught with danger. The BJP's top brass must step in to let sanity prevail.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

INFLATION LOOMS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Price of things' (IE, April 14). Headline, as well as core inflation, are crossing the safe limits. Although rising oil prices are beyond the RBI's control, it must remember its primary function is inflation control. From the revival-oriented accommodative monetary policy after the pandemic, the RBI will have to take a "U" turn and increase the Repo Rate. The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Reserve Ratio (SLR) also need to be increased to signal to banks and the economy at large that the days of cheap money are over. Tighten your belts. The government will have to shoulder the burden of growth.

Shishir Sindekar, Nasik

14 THE WORLD



MEANWHILE

JOHNNY DEPP OPENS CASE AGAINST EX-WIFE

Lawyers for Hollywood star Johnny Depp on Tuesday gave a jury an overview of his U.S. defamation case against his ex-wife Amber Heard, the latest chapter in a long-running legal fight between the two Hollywood stars. Depp alleges Heard defamed him when she penned a December 2018 opinion piece in the Washington Post about being a survivor of



Hi at the house. AF

NORTH KOREA Kim gives 'Pink Lady' a luxury home

Seoul: Ri Chun Hi, North Korea's famous state TV anchor, has announced major events for decades, including nuclear and missile tests and the death of a leader, with an instantly identifiable, passionate voice. The anchor, dubbed the "pink lady" abroad for her bright traditional Korean attire, became the topic of official North Korean media herself Thursday after leader Kim Jong Un gave her a luxurious residence and asked her to continue to serve as the voice of his ruling Workers' Party. Experts say Kim is providing special treatment to elite to boost their loyalty as he grapples with the pandemic, a troubled economy and a stalemate in nuclear diplomacy with the US.

UNITED STATES

New York subway shooting suspect to remain in jail

New York: A US federal judge ordered the man accused of this week's mass shooting in a New York City subway car to remain in custody on Thursday after prosecutors said. Frank James, 62, is accused of injuring 23 people and faces a federal charge of violently attacking a mass transit system. He was represented by two public defenders in his appearance at the US District Court in Brooklyn who requested he undergo a psychiatric evaluation. **REUTERS**

IS 'Beatles' cell member convicted

Washington: A member of a group of Islamic State militants who beheaded American hostages in Iraq and Syria, and were nicknamed "The Beatles" for their British accents, was found guilty of terrorism offences in a US court on Thursday. A jury found El Shafee Elsheikh, 33, guilty on all counts following a trial in Alexandria, Virginia, just outside Washington, on charges including lethal hostage-taking and conspiracy to commit murder. The charges against Elsheikh carry a potential death sentence, but US prosecutors have advised British officials that they will not seek the death **REUTERS** penalty.

WARSHIP SERIOUSLY DAMAGED, RUSSIA CLAIMS FIRE ON BOARD

Ukraine says hit Russian flagship

ADAM SCHRECK KYIV, APRIL 14

THE RUSSIAN military sustained a major blow on Thursday when the flagship of the country's Black Sea fleet was badly damaged and its crew evacuated. Ukrainian officials said their forces hit the vessel with missiles, while Russia acknowledged a fire aboard the Moskva but no attack

The warship named for the Russian capital was 60 to 65 nautical miles south of Odesa when the fire ignited, and the vessel was still battling flames hours later while heading east, according to a Pentagon official. The loss of the ship would be a major military setback and a devastating symbolic defeat for Moscow as its troops regroup for a renewed offensive in eastern Ukraine after retreating from much of the north, including Kyiv.

Despite an early report from one Ukrainian official saying the ship had sunk, the Moskva was still moving on its own power, at least for now, a senior US defence official said. The official said the Pentagon could not confirm what caused the fire.

Russia said the fire aboard the ship, which would typically have 500 sailors on board, forced the entire crew to evacuate. It later said the fire had been contained and that the ship would be towed to port with its guided missile launchers intact.

The ship can carry 16 longrange cruise missiles, and its removal from combat would greatly reduce Russia's firepower in the Black Sea. Regardless of the extent of the damage, any attack would represent a huge blow to

Russia accuses Ukraine of border airstrikes

RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES have accused Ukrainian forces of launching air strikes on the Russian region of Bryansk, which borders with Ukraine, the latest in a series of allegations of cross-border attacks by Kyiv on Russian territory. Russia's **Investigative Committee** alleged that two Ukrainian military helicopters entered Russia's air space on Thursday and, "moving at low altitude, acting deliberately, they carried out at least six air strikes on residential buildings in the village of Klimovo," about 11 kilometers away from the Russian border.

Russian prestige in a war already widely seen as a historic blunder.

Satellite photos from Planet Labs PBC show the Moskva steaming out of the port of Sevastopol on the Crimean Peninsula on Sunday. But cloud cover on Thursday made it impossible to use satellite images to locate the ship or determine condition. Maksym Marchenko, the governor of the Odesa region, across the Black Sea to the northwest of Sevastopol, said the Ukrainians struck the ship with two Neptune missiles and caused 'serious damage.

Russia's Defence Ministry said ammunition on board detonated as a result of a fire, without saying what caused the blaze.



A complex converted to a temporary shelter for people fleeing Russia's invasion in Dnipro on Thursday. Reuters

UK imposes asset freeze on two Abramovich associates

REUTERS

LONDON, APRIL 14

BRITAIN ON Thursday sanctioned two close associates of owner Roman Chelsea Abramovich in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, saying the men had been subjected to the largest asset freeze ever imposed by the government. Chelsea Football Club direc-

tor Eugene Tenenbaum and another Abramovich business associate, David Davidovich, were targeted. Davidovich will also face a travel ban, meaning he will be refused the right to enter or remain in Britain.

The government said it had imposed a freezing order on \$10 billion worth of assets linked to the two men, who were being sanctioned for their close association with Abramovich.

Russia warns of nuclear deployment if Sweden, Finland join NATO

REUTERS LONDON, APRIL 14

ONE OF Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest allies warned NATO on Thursday that if Sweden and Finland joined the US-led military alliance then Russia would deploy nuclear weapons and hypersonic missiles in an exclave in the heart of Europe.

Finland, which shares a 1,300-km (810-mile) border with Russia, and Sweden are considering joining the NATO alliance. Finland will decide in the next few weeks, Prime Minister Sanna Marin said on Wednesday

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, said should Sweden and Finland join NATO then Russia would have to strengthen its land, naval and air forces in Baltic Sea.

Medvedev also explicitly raised the nuclear threat by saying that there could be no more talk of a "nuclear free" Baltic where Russia has its Kaliningrad exclave sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania.

Medvedev said he hoped Finland and Sweden would see sense. If not, he said, they would have to live with nuclear weapons and hypersonic missiles close to home.

Lithuania said Russia's threats were nothing new and that Moscow had deployed nuclear weapons to Kaliningrad long before the war in Ukraine. NATO did not immediately respond to Russia's warning.

Pak Army debunks **Imran conspiracy** charge, says Russia visit 'embarrassing'

AGENCIES ISLAMABAD, APRIL 14

CONTRADICTING OUSTED prime minister Imran Khan,

who had accused the US of hatching a conspiracy to topple his government, the Pakistan Army said on Thursday that the word "conspiracy" was not used in a statement issued after a meeting of the National Security Committee last month.

Major General Babar Iftikhar, Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan Army, also described as "embarassing" Khan's presence in Russia when it invaded Ukraine but acknowledged that the Army was aware of the visit.

Iftikhar was addressing a press conference three days after Opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif was sworn-in as Pakistan's Prime Minister following the ouster of Khan in a no-confidence vote.

Responding to a question on Khan's allegation of a US conspiracy, Iftikhar said: "As far as military response about NSC meeting is considered, that stance in that meeting was fully given, and then a statement was issued... which says what was concluded in that meeting. The words used are in front of you...as I said...the words used are clear. Is there any word such as conspiracy used in it? I think not."

He said the minutes of the NSC meeting can be declassified if the new government decides to do so.

Asked about Khan's Russia trip, he said: "There was institutional input that he should go. It was in no one's wildest dreams that they [Russia] would announce war when the Prime

Imran lost Army support THE POWERFUL Pakistan

Army has wielded considerable power in security and foreign policy. Khan, who was ousted early this week, was said to have lost support of the Army after he delayed the appointment of the ISI spy agency chief last year. According to reports, Khan wanted to keep Lt Gen Faiz Hameed as the spy chief but the Army high command appointed him Corps Commander in Peshawar.

Minister was there, which was obviously very embarrassing." Iftikhar also told reporters

that the former PM had approached the Army chief to help find a solution to the political crisis. "It is unfortunate that our political leadership was not ready to talk. So the Army chief and DG ISI went to PMO and three scenarios were discussed," he said.

He recalled that one solution was that the no-confidence motion should be held as it was. The others were that the PM should resign, or the no-confidence motion should be retracted and the assemblies dissolved. "No option from the establishment was given," Iftikhar said.

The ISPR chief also said the Army has "nothing to do with politics" and will remain apolitical in the future, and asserted that its chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa was not seeking an extension and will neither accept one.

Europe drafts import ban on Russian oil and its potential to disrupt polimonth transition period. as the details of the ban, and is

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSELS, APRIL 14

EUROPEAN UNION officials are drafting the most contested measure yet to punish Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, an embargo on Russian oil products.

The bloc has long resisted a ban on Russian oil because of its enormous costs for Germany

tics around the region and increase energy prices.

But EU officials and diplomats say the union is now moving toward adopting a phased-in ban designed to give Germany and other countries time to arrange alternative suppliers. The union took a similar approach earlier this month when it banned Russian coal, providing for a four-

The oil embargo would not be put up for negotiation among the EU member states until after the final round of the French elections, on April 24, to ensure the impact on gas prices does not help the right-wing populist candidate Marine Le Pen and hurt President Emmanuel Macron's chances of re-election, officials said.

The timeline is as important

indicative of the brinkmanship required to convince all 27 EU countries to agree to take the previously unthinkable step, as Russia prepares its renewed offensive in eastern Ukraine.

But officials and diplomats said there was a growing sense that the measure would be taken even in the absence of more revelations like the atrocities in Bucha.

Lanka's Opp party JVP to hold march against govt

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO, APRIL 14

SRI LANKA'S Opposition party Ianatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) will hold a massive public march for three days next week to support the ongoing protest against the Rajapaksa government, as it accused the government of "stubbornly" trying to stay in power by using various tactics without lis-

tening to people's demands. JVP General Secretary Tilvin Silva at a press conference on Wednesday said the "largest public march in the country's history" will be held from April 17 to 19 to take "this struggle to victory", the Colombo Page news portal reported. The march will start from Beruwala in Kalutara District on April 17 at 9am and

Shanghai sees 27k new cases as Xi UK plan to fly asylum-seekers reiterates urgency of Covid curbs

The Russian missile cruiser Moskva, the flagship of Russia's

Black Sea Fleet anchored in Black Sea port of Sevastopol. File

REUTERS

SHANGHAI, APRIL 14

CHINA'S FINANCIAL hub Shanghai reported over 27,000 coronavirus cases on Thursday, a new high, a day after President Xi linging said the country must continue with its strict "dynamic Covid clearance" policy and pandemic control measures.

Wider curbs to stop the spread of Omicron variant have led to logistical and supply chain disruptions that are taking a growing economic toll, adding to expectations that China's central bank will soon announce more stimulus measures.

An April 7 study by Gavekal

Dragonomics found 87 of China's 100 largest cities by GDP have imposed some form of quarantine.

Shanghai residents, meanwhile, have taken to social media to vent frustration over the difficulties of getting enough food and China's policy that requires anyone testing positive, symptomatic or not, to be centrally quarantined, where many people have complained about poor conditions.

Raising hopes for a shift in policy, on Wednesday the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a guide on home quarantining on its social media. Shanghai authorities also gave no hint of any change in approach during a Thursday briefing.

Pfizer: Booster ups protection in kids aged 5-11

New York: A third dose of the Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer Inc and BioNTech produced significant protection against the Omicron variant in healthy children ages 5 to 11, the companies said on Thursday. Blood serum analysis of 30 pediatric participants who received a booster dose in a study showed a 36-fold increase in Omicron neutralizing antibodies, the drugmakers said. Health experts called the data "promising" but cautioned that the study size was small and there was need for more data, **REUTERS**

JILL LAWLESS LONDON, APRIL 14

BRITAIN'S CONSERVATIVE government has struck a deal with Rwanda to send some asylumseekers thousands of miles away to the East African country, a move that opposition politicians and refugee groups condemned as inhumane, unworkable and a waste of public money.

Home Secretary Priti Patel visited the Rwandan capital, Kigali, on Thursday to sign what the two countries called an "economic development partnership." The plan will see some people who arrive in Britain as stowaways on trucks or in small



to Rwanda draws outrage

A group of people thought to be migrants are brought in to Dover on Thursday. AP

boats across the English Channel picked up by the UK government and flown 4,000 miles to Rwanda, apparently for good.

Migrants have long used northern France as a launching point to reach Britain, either by hiding on trucks or ferries, or –

tered the U.K. on small boats last year, up from 8,500 in 2020. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said action was needed to stop

'vile people smugglers (who) are abusing the vulnerable and turning the Channel into a watery graveyard." In a speech near the Channel coast, Johnson said "anyone entering the UK illegally .. may now be relocated to Rwanda."

increasingly since the pandemic

shut down other routes in 2020.

More than 28,000 people en-

The Rwandan government said the agreement would initially last for five years, and Britain had paid 120 million pounds (\$158 million) up front to pay for housing and integrating the migrants.

reach Colombo on April 19. "We are ready to give a new impetus to the struggle and turn it into a people's power that will end victoriously," Silva said.

"Artists, lawyers and experts from all walks of life have joined the people's struggle and are urging this government to go home. The government is stubbornly trying to stay in power," he said.

MARCOS JR, WHO HAS SPENT POLITICAL CAREER TRYING TO REHABILITATE FAMILY NAME, IS FRONT-RUNNER IN UPCOMING POLLS

Philippines toppled one Marcos, now his son may become President

SUI-LEE WEE & CAMILLE

ELEMIA MANILA, APRIL 14

THEY BOPPED along to the beat of a martial law anthem updated into a pop tune. They cheered when an A-list celebrity proclaimed that the spirit of Ferdinand E Marcos, the former dictator, was alive. And when Marcos' son and namesake held up the peace sign made popular by his father a generation ago, the shrieking crowds mirrored it

It is election season in the Philippines, and history is being rewritten, one campaign rally at

a time. Ferdinand Marcos Jr has spent decades defending his family's name against accusations of greed and corruption and downplaying the legacy of his father's brutal rule. During his presidential campaign, he has portraved himself as a unifier, while false narratives online reimagine his father's regime as a "golden era" in the nation's history.

Now, as patriarch of the Marcos dynasty, Marcos is expected to be the first person to win the presidential election in the Philippines by a majority in more than three decades.

The race is being cast as a competition between those who remember the past and those who are accused of trying to distort it, the last chapter in a brazen attempt to absolve the Marcoses of wrongdoing and quash any effort to hold the family accountable. Five years of President Rodrigo Duterte – a strong Marcos ally known for his bloody war on drugs and for jailing his critics – may have presaged a Marcos family comeback.

"It will determine not just our future but our past," said Maria Ressa, a journalist and Nobel Prize winner.

The Marcoses are accused of looting as much as \$10 billion from the government before fleeing to Hawaii in 1986, when the peaceful "People Power" protests



presidential campaign in Santa Rosa in March. NYT

toppled the Marcos regime. The family returned to the country

shortly after the death of the elder Marcos in 1989.

Despite the exile, the Marcos name never truly left the political establishment.

Marcos, known by his boyhood nickname, "Bongbong," served as vice-governor, governor and congressman in Ilocos Norte, the family stronghold, for most of the period between the 1980s and 2010. That year, he entered the national political scene when he was elected senator. Imelda Marcos, his 92-year-old mother, ran for president twice and lost in the 1990s.

Rehabilitating the family name has been a recurring theme. Over the decades, the Marcoses have sought to target young voters with no memory

of martial law or the torture and killing of political prisoners. Fifty-six percent of the voting population in the Philippines is aged between 18 and 41, and most did not witness the atrocities of the Marcos regime - ideal circumstances for the spread of disinformation, opponents say.

In Ianuary, Twitter said it had removed more than 300 accounts promoting Marcos' presidential bid for violating rules on spam and manipulation. The influential Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines said in a statement that it was appalled by the "historical revisionism" in the election, and "the attempt to delete or destroy our collective memory through the seeding of lies and false narratives." Marcos' spokesman, Vic

Rodriguez, said there was "no certainty" that the Twitter accounts belonged to his supporters.

Several groups have sought to disqualify Marcos' candidacy, pointing to a 1995 tax evasion conviction and the \$3.9 billion in estate taxes that his family still owes the government. Marcos, 64, has brushed off the attacks as "fake news," and refused to participate in nearly all presidential debates.

Instead. Marcos has used social media to reach a captive audience online, reviewing viral TikTok dances and agreeing to makeovers

⊗ \$99.86

③ ₹69,179

SENSEX: 58,338.93 ▼ 237.44 (0.41%) NIFTY: 17,475.65 ▼ 54.65 (0.31%) NIKKEI: 27,172.00 ▲ 328.51 HANG SENG: 21,518.08 ▲ 143.71 FTSE: 7,586.81 ▲ 6.01 DAX: 14,160.52 ▲ 84.08

SECTOR WATCH BANKING

IDBI Bank waves 'pvt sector' tag to seek 10 times rise in CEO pay

GEORGE MATHEW MUMBAI, APRIL 14

THE PAY package of IDBI Bank MD and CEO Rakesh Sharma is likely to surge by over 10 times with the bank putting a resolution for postal voting by shareholders. The bank's board has proposed a hike of nearly 10 times in Sharma's salary, from Rs 2.62 lakh per month to Rs 20 lakh per month – Rs 2.4 crore annually — with effect from March 19, 2022. Besides, the other perquisites include semi-furnished accommodation, club membership, car for official purposes, entertainment expenses, leave and leave fare concession, PF, gratuity, annuity policy and other retirement benefits, according to the resolution moved by the

There are also stock options and variable pay as may be decided by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the IDBI Bank board and subject to the RBI approval. As a result, Sharma's total package is expected to go up further.

bank for postal voting.

When compared to this, the salary of Dinesh Khara, who became Chairman of SBI. India's largest bank, on October 7, 2020, was Rs 38.12 lakh (Rs 3.17 lakh per month) in 2020-21, according to SBI Annual Report. Punjab National Bank's former MD and CEO Mallikarjuna Rao received a total salary of Rs 31.22 lakh (Rs 2.6 lakh per month) in FY21, says the PNB Annual Report. According to the bank's Annual Report for 2020-21, Sharma's salary was Rs 2,62,548 per month. This included Rs 2,24,400 salary and applicable DA (presently 17 per cent) of Rs 38.148.

IDBI Bank is controlled by the government directly and indirectly. Public sector LIC holds 49.24 per cent stake in the bank. The total promoter including LIC and the government stake, was 94.71 per cent, as of December 2021. However, according to the bank, it has been categorised as a 'Private Sector Bank' for regulatory purposes by the Reserve Bank of India, with effect from January 21, 2019, consequent upon Life Insurance Corporation acquiring 51 per cent of the total paid-up equity

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE?

■Explaining the rationale for the salary hike, the bank said, "the November 2019 circular of RBI on compensation of Whole Time Directors in private sector banks is applicable to WTDs in IDBI Bank also."

■The Annual Report of IDBI Bank for 2020-21, says, "Pay and allowances for employees is presently based on structured pay scale in alignment with the structure prevailing in public sector banks.

share capital of the bank. Explaining the rationale for

the salary hike, the bank said: The November 2019 circular of RBI on compensation of Whole Time Directors (WTD) in private sector banks is applicable to WTDs in IDBI Bank also." "The current salary drawnbytheMD&CEOofIDBI Bank is based on the approval given by RBI for FY20-21, in terms of RBI guidelines on compensation of Whole Time Directors in private sector banks. The reappointment of MD & CEO has also been approved by RBI for a period of three years," the bank said in a statement to The Indian Express.

However, the Annual Report of IDBI Bank for 2020-21 says, "Pay and allowances for employees is presently based on structured pay scale in alignment with the structure prevailing in public sector banks." Sharma actually retired from Canara Bank in July 2018. He was appointed as IDBI bank MD and CEO in October 2018. He has now been given a three-year extension.

tion which started on April 6 will end on May 5, 2022.

The bank's plan to hike the CEO salary follows the government's proposal to privatise the bank by selling part of its stake, LIC, which is also the promoter of the bank, is also likely to sell part of its stake in the bank in the privatisation process.

BOEING 737 MAX SIMULATOR HAD MALFUNCTIONING STICK SHAKER

'SpiceJet knew about faulty gear, still continued training'

Malfunction found on Mar 30, says DGCA official

PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

SPICEJET DECIDED to continue training its pilots at a Boeing 737 MAX simulator facility near Delhi despite knowing that equipment at the said training centre was faulty, official sources told The Indian Express. Aviation safety regulator DGCA, which barred 90 pilots of the airline from flying the 737 MAX model till they undergo retraining on a compliant simulator. has served a show-cause notice to SpiceJet and Canadian flight training service provider CAE, whi-

ch manages the simulator facility. According to a senior official at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), during a routine inspection on March 30 it was found that the Boeing 737 MAX simulator had a malfunctioning 'stick shaker' on the co-pilot seat. A stick shaker is a mechanical device that warns the pilots of an imminent aerodynamic stall by shaking The said piece of equipment had been out of service since March 17. Notably, specific pilot training

for the Boeing 737 MAX is mandatory for airlines operating the plane model to make pilots understand the new flight control system in the aircraft called MCAS, or manoeuvring characteristics aug-

mentation system. This system was at the heart of the two crashes of this aircraft type that together killed 346 people, leading to a global grounding of the plane. Upon discovery of the faulty

equipment at the CAE-managed training facility in Noida, the DGCA inspectors reached out to Boeing seeking the American airframe maker's view on whether training could be conducted with a malfunctioning stick shaker on co-pilot seat. "Boeing replied that such training should not be conducted. Reply was then sought from SpiceJet regarding this issue, to which they replied that they have taken in house measure to continue such training. However, the OEM (Boeing) was not consulted by the operator (SpiceJet)", the DGCA official said. "The simulator training was stopped by DGCA ... and the credit of training for 90 pi-

SPICEJET: NO OPS **COMPROMISED**

THE AIRLINE shall submit its reply within the specified period...: SpiceJet spokesperson

lots was nullified. Further, SpiceJet was informed not to utilise these pilots for B737 MAX flight operations," the official added.

Additionally, the DGCA also served show-cause notices to Spicelet and CAE for conducting the training that was in violation of the rules laid down by the regulator – specifically mentioning that a flight simulation training device with missing, malfunctioning or inoperative component "that is required to be present and correctly operate for the satisfactory completion of that maneuver, procedure, or task" should not be used or be allowed for use.

In response to a query from The Indian Express seeking comment on why the airline decided to continue training at a faulty simulator facility, a SpiceJet spokesperson said: "We have received a communication from the regulator on the

its reply within the specified period. We would like to reiterate that safety and security of our operations and passengers are of utmost importance which is manifested in our outstanding track record. None of our operations are

compromised and are in line with

international safety standards".

CAE responded via mail saying: "As the simulator is owned by Boeing, please speak to Boeing. We are working closely with all parties involved including Boeing and the DGCA to ensure the maintenance and operation of this specific device complies with all regulatory requirements. We are committed to ensuring our customers receive high quality simulation experiences in accordance with all regulations". In a similarly worded response to a query sent by this newspaper, Boeing in India said: "We are working closely with all parties involved including our supplier and the DGCA to ensure the maintenance and operation of this specific device complies with all regulatory requirements. We are committed to ensuring our customers receive high quality simulation experiences in accordance

CONSORTIUM ALSO INCLUDES MUBADALA

BlackRock-led group to buy stake in Tata Power arm for ₹4K cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, APRIL 14

TATA POWER Company and a BlackRock Real Assets-led consortium, including Mubadala Investment Company, have entered into a binding agreement to invest in Tata Power's renewable energy subsidiary Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd.

BlackRock Real Assets, together with Mubadala, will invest Rs 4,000 crore by way of equity or compulsorily convertible instruments for a 10.53 per cent stake in Tata Power Renewables, translating to a base equity valuation of Rs 34,000 crore. The final shareholding will range from 9.76 per cent to 11.43 per cent on final conversion.

This newly created platform will consist of five distinct businesses delivering long-term, customer-oriented solutions. It will house all renewable energy businesses of Tata Power. The broad-based portfolio of assets ensures diversified yet stable revenue sources including 25year fixed-price PPAs for grid connected utility scale projects, Tata Power said.

Tata Power Renewables' vertically integrated operations cur-



■ BlackRock Real Assets, together with Mubadala. will invest Rs 4,000 crore by way of equity or compulsorily

convertible instruments for a 10.53% stake in Tata **Power Renewables**

rently have approximately 4.9 GW of renewable energy assets.

Over the next five years, Tata Power Renewables aims to achieve a portfolio of over 20 GW of renewables assets and a market-leading position in the rooftop and electric vehicle charging space across India, the

'Tech, BFSI firms account for 51% of office leasing in Jan-Mar' Technology companies and BFSI firms drove office space

demand, with 51% share in total leasing in the segment in January-March, a CBRE report said



dominated absorption during the quarter, accounting for almost two-thirds of the transaction activity, as per the 'CBRE India

SHARE OF VARIOUS SECTORS IN OFFICE LEASING DURING FIRST QUARTER OF 2022:

■ Technology corporates: 34% ■ BFSI (Banking, Financial Services and Insurance) firms:

■ Flexible space operators: 13% ■ Engineering & manufacturing: 12%

Research, consulting & analytics firms: 11%

Office leasing activity in India in Q1 2022 grew 97% year-on-year to 11.4 million square feet

NEW FEATURES: REACTING TO MESSAGES, CALLING UP TO 32 MEMBERS To help users organise groups, WhatsApp to launch Communities

NANDAGOPALRAJAN

WHATSAPP IS expected to roll out Communities, an innovation to manage groups better and have more meaningful conversations, later this year. Communities would be like a "directory of groups", a WhatsApp spokesperson said, adding that the feature will let anyone "run a community of their

The person said this was "based on feedback that people get lost

Anyone will be able to create a community and invite multiple groups to join in, but the groups will become part of the community only if their respective admins accept the invite. However, only those in a particular group will be able to see the messages in that group and will have no visibility on either the messages or the phone numbers of users in other groups within their community. The community

though has a broadcast option to message everyone across groups, allowed these messages. There are some other features being pushed as part of this new rollout. For instance, users will be able to react to messages like they do on Facebook and Instagram. Also, they will be able to get on an audio call with all members in a group provided that number is below 32. Plus, the limit for file sizes is now up to 2GB.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

'Neu' super app likely to offer non-Tata brands in future

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI. APRIL 14

with all regulations."

SETTING THE stage for a tough competition with players like Amazon, Flipkart and Reliance Retail in the e-commerce space, the Tata group's ambitious super app, Tata Neu, is expected to go beyond Tata models and offerings "at some point" based on the customer demand.

Sons Chairman Tata N Chandrasekaran said the super app's evolution will be customerdriven, not contracts. "We will go beyond Tata offerings and the evolution of the Tata Neu app will be customer-driven, it will be determined by the consumers," he said dressing the media in Mumbai. The app has already registered 2.2 million enrolments within a week of the launch. "This is the first version of the app. We are working on a number of categories and innovation and tech innovation which includes AI driven personal assistant for the consumer. We're overwhelmed by the response in terms of downloads and transactions," he said.

Chandrasekaran said the app



Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran in Mumbai. Pradip Das

has brought together all Tata brands like Big Basket, Air Asia, Croma and 1mg under the Tata Neu platform. "We have a roadmap about the app architecture. It will be a continuous process. Tata Neu pass (app's loyyond the Tata group at some point," he said. "It's a value proposition to simplify the life of Indian customers. We will certainly drive a lot of strong financial outcomes, including profits and revenues," Chandrasekaran said, "You will see us launch new product categories over the next 1-2 years," said Pratik Pal, CEO Tata Digital.

On the hiccups faced by the app after its launch last week, an official said, "We had unprecedented demands, glitches were there only for the first 3 hours on the first day of launch. We will be constantly updating the app and it's an ongoing journey. We are extremely passionate about this, and see significant ments going ahead.'

Tata Neu's NeuPass will offer various loyalty programmes across Tata group's consumer brands under a single platform. It entitles members to a minimum of 5 per cent additional NeuCoins every time they shop on the app, in addition to other benefits. NeuCoins are rewards a customer earns when transacting on the Tata Neu app or at any brand stores or hotels.

BRIEFLY —

\$5-tn target

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry said the focus on capex will boost manufacturing and tax revenue collections. and keep India on track to be a \$5 trillion economy. PTI

Hyundai IONIQ

New York/Seoul: Hyundai's all-electric crossover IONIQ 5 won big at the 2022 World Car Awards at the New York International Auto Show, as it won overall World Car of the Year, World Electric Vehicle of the Year and World Car Design of the Year. ENS

M&M price hike

New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) raised prices of its entire range by 2.5%. It will hike ex-showroom prices by ₹10,000-63,000.

Honda hybrid EV

New Delhi: Honda Cars will enter the mainstream strong hybrid EV segment in India by launching City e:HEV sedan next month. PTI

US jobless claim

Washington: Jobless claims rose by 18,000 to 185,000 last week, the US Labor Department said, but still stayed near a half-century low. AP

Bank of India moves NCLT against FRL

Thursday said Bank of India (BoI) against it in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

slipped into the non-performing asset(NPA)bucket in January and the 40 per cent provisions taken against that account will show in banks' O4FY22 financial results.

"Please be informed that Bank of India has served an advance intimation of filing an application under Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, against the company for default on non-payment of monies due in terms of the Framework Agreement entered into between the Company and Bank of India. We have received a copy of the petition and are in the process of taking legal advice," FRL said in a notification to the exchanges. FE

Mumbai: Future Retail (FRL) on

has moved an insolvency petition

As per banking sources, FRL

NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

mean for India's UPI ecosystem? **SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**

own with diverse groups yet hav-

ing some common linkages".

META'S INSTANT messaging app WhatsApp has received clearance from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to add 60 million users to its UPI-based payments service WhatsApp Pay. This will take the total permissible number of users on the platform to 100 million. In a statement, Manesh Mahatme, director-payments, WhatsApp India, said the platform has planned significant investments in 'payments on WhatsApp' across India including - "Indiafirst" features.

What does this mean for WhatsApp?

As a result of this clearance from NPCI, WhatsApp will be able

WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ON RIVALS

What does NPCI nod to WhatsApp

WHATSAPP WILL be able to add 60 million users to its UPI service and take on heavyweight rivals such as Walmart-backed PhonePe and Google Pay, which command a majority of the transactions



to add 60 million users to its UPI service and take on heavyweight EXPLAINED

rivals such as Walmartbacked PhonePe and Google Pay, which command a majority of the transactions that happen on UPI. However, the NPCI has

ensured that WhatsApp's ability to skew the level-playing field is limited given

that the messaging app has over 500 million users and granting it

permission to offer UPI service to all the users at once could impact competition. The company, on its part, though, is learnt to have asked NPCI's permission to expand its

payments to all of its users with-

What does the move mean for other players?

The NPCI has mandated that no platform should handle more

than 30 per cent of total transaction volumes of UPI on a threemonth rolling period basis. However, for bigger players like PhonePe, which commanded a 49 per cent market share in

terms of value of transactions in March and, Google Pay, which had a 35 per cent market share, it has allowed them time until the end of 2022 to comply with the directive. So, even as these players could continue commanding a significant market share till the end of this year, the increasing clearance to WhatsApp and the mandate for the others to restrict their share could result in a less skewed market.

> Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Textiles PLI: Nod to 61 cos' proposals worth ₹19K cr

New Delhi: The Centre on Thursday approved proposals by 61 companies, including Kimberly Clark India Pvt Ltd. Arvind Ltd and HP Cotton Textile Mills Ltd, to receive financial incentives under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles.

The 61 companies are set to invest Rs 19,077 crore for the production of MMF (man-made fibre) apparel, fabrics and technical textiles. The proposals are estimated to lead to the generation of over 2.4 lakh jobs, the Textiles Ministry said. "In the approved 61 applications, the proposed total investment expected from the applicants is Rs 19,077 crore and a projected turnover is Rs 1,84,917 crore with a proposed employment of 2,40,134 people," said Textiles Secretary UP Singh. **ENS**

IMF: Ukraine war 'sending shockwaves'

Washington: The war in Ukraine is prompting the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to cut global growth estimates for 2022 and 2023 as higher food and energy prices pressure fragile economies. IMFMD Kristalina Georgieva said.

She said the Ukraine invasion was "sending shockwaves throughout the globe" and dealing a massive setback to nations struggling to recover from Covid. REUTERS

RailTel/Northern Region invites E-tender eligible bidders for following works : 1. Trenching, laying for shifting/rectification of OFC in 5 sections of NER

Tender Opening Date: 06-05-2022 15:30 Hrs at www.ireps.gov.in

2. Zonal Rate Contract for OFC laying and LAN ring related works as per SOR under Territory o TM/DLI-NCR/ RailTel

stimated cost : ₹ 3,47,08,559.57 Tender Opening Date: 09-05-2022 15:30 Hrs at

available on www.railtelindia.com. Addendum corrigendum will be uploaded in RailTe

Chandigarh

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tender is Re-invited for the supply of following items. (1) 73047

Note: For more details, log on to website https://mahatenders.gov.in.

PRO/AAM(M)/11/2022 **GENERAL MANAGER**

ECB sticks to stimulus rollback plan; US bond yields up On Wall Street, the Dow rose

REUTERS FRANKFURT/LONDON, APRIL 14

THE EUROPEAN Central Bank

(ECB) stuck to plans on Thursday to finally end its stimulus programme in the third quarter but gave no further clues on its schedule, stressing uncertainties

inked to the war in Ukraine. The statement pushed euro

zone bond yields and the euro lower as markets trimmed expectations for the extent of rate hikes later this year. "We will maintain optionality, gradualism and flexibility in the conduct of our monetary policy," ECB president Christine Lagarde told reporters.



ening may hurt the economy.

The benchmark 10-year US Treasury yield jumped on a flurry of economic data and as the ECB signalled less aggressive tightening plans than expected.

fell, while bond yields in the US 0.09 per cent to 34,595.09, while and the dollar rose as investors the S&P 500 lost fell 0.57 per cent. feared aggressive US policy tightto 4,421.09 and the Nasdaq by 1.29 per cent to 13,467.39. Brent futures rose \$1.91, or

1.76 per cent, at \$110.69 a barrel, while US WTI futures rose \$1.63, or 1.56 per cent, to \$105.89 a barrel at 1:43 pm ET.

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

What downgrade in average monsoon rainfall means

ANJALI MARAR

PUNE, APRIL 14

IN ITS first-stage long range forecast for the 2022 southwest monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast normal rainfall during the season. It has, however, downgraded the Long Period Average (LPA) for all-India monsoon rainfall from 88.06 cm cm to 87 cm, effective from June this year. A look at how rainfall is distributed across the country through the year, and what the downgrade means:

How much rainfall does India receive on average in a year?

Based on trends for 1961-2010, India's normal annual rainfall is about 1176.9mm. Of this, nearly 74.8%, or 880.6 mm (88.06 cm), occurs during the Southwest monsoon from June to September. This is the LPA rainfall for the monsoon, the figure that has been revised.

Before the revision, the distribution of the rest of the rainfall was 3.4% during winter (January-February); 11.2% in the pre-monsoon season (March-May), and 10.5% during the post-monsoon season (October-December).

When is the LPA revised?

It is an international convention to verify

the quantum of annual and seasonal monsoon rainfall once in a decade. The monsoon season's LPA rainfall acts as a baseline figure calculated over a 50-year period. The LPA is revised, if required, depending on any variations observed from the rainfall data obtained from the network of rain gauges.

In 2002, the IMD operated 1,963 rain gauges located across 523 districts. As of 2020. rainfall data was being collected from 4,132 rain gauges spread uniformly across 703 districts.

Between 2005 and 2010, India's LPA was taken at 89.04 cm. Between 2011 and 2015, the IMD revised it to 88.75 cm. It was 88.06 cm between 2018 and 2021. From the upcoming monsoon the revised LPA will be 87 cm.

Why has it been downgraded?

"The monsoon season rainfall shows an epochal behaviour, wherein the monsoon can shift between dry and wet epochs (30-to-50year periods) in certain decades. The reduction in the rainfall is thus due to the natural multi-decadal rainfall variability," said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general, IMD.

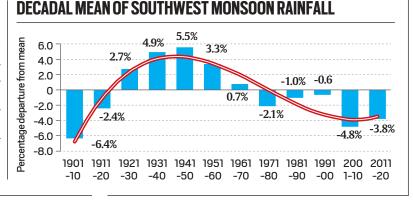
The decadal variability between 1901 and 2020 shows the southwest monsoon rainfall underwent a dry epoch between 1901 and 1921. This was followed by a wet epoch that prevailed till 1970. From 1971, the monsoon

5,78,02,182

4,01,10,045

SEASON-WISE RAINFALL VARIATIONS (mm)

SEASON	1971-2020	1961-2010
Winter (Jan-Feb)	39.8	40.8
Pre-monsoon (March-May)	130.6	131.7
Monsoon (June-Sept)	868.6	880.6
Post-monsoon (Oct-Dec)	121	123.8
Source: IMD		



has been passing through a dry epoch that persists till date.

"The dry epoch started in 1971 and has continued for five decades; thus the decadal mean rainfall values have remained negative The decadal all-India southwest monsoon rainfall has been thus reducing by 1 cm. For 2011-2020, this value is minus 3.8, below normal," said Pulak Guhathakurta, head, Climate Research Division at IMD, Pune.

But the peak of this dry epoch has been surpassed with the monsoon set to revive, Mohapatra said. "The future trend suggests that the decadal mean value will reach near normal during 2021-2030. It will then turn positive, meaning that the decade 2031-2040 will be the beginning of a wet epoch," he said.

The decadal mean value for the ongoing

decade is predicted to be around minus 1.4 to Normally, the realised monsoon rainfall remains below normal for most years in a

decade during a dry epoch. On the other hand, rainfall is normal or above normal during most of the years in a decade when it is a wet

So, has the all-India quantitative rainfall

There is indeed a decrease in normal monsoon rainfall between 1961-2010 (880.6 mm) and 1971-2020 (868.6 mm). The all-India annual rainfall, too, has decreased from 1176.9 mm (based on 1961-2010) to 1160.1 mm (based on 1971-2020).

"But spatially or seasonally, the rainfall distribution has not undergone significant change, except some decrease during the southwest monsoon season," said Mohapatra. Rainfall variations are natural over a country as large as India, and often non-uniform. Across the country, the number of dry spells and extreme rain events during short time-spans have been on the rise, Met officials said.

Rainfall over the Northeastern region has been on the decline since the 1950s, particularly in the past three decades. "Normal rainfall over Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura recorded during 1971-2020 was less than during 1961-2010," Mohapatra said.

Guhathakurta said: "On regional scales, the shifting of rainfall patterns and reduction in rainfall is due to climate change which is observed over Northeast India.'

With the shifting of rainfall, the otherwise dry and arid west-central India regions covering Kutch-Saurashtra, Rajasthan and parts of west Madhya Pradesh are reporting a higher number of wet days than normal. These areas had more rainfall during 1971-2020 than during 1961-2010, the IMD chief said.

"There is a positive change in western India regions with research showing an increase in days with light to moderate intensity rainfall increasing over Raiasthan." he said.

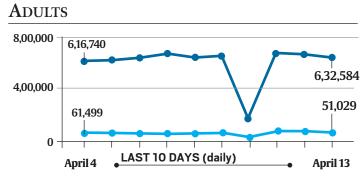
However, on an all-India basis, rainfall reduction in some areas and increase in other areas do not contribute in a large difference in the total quantum.

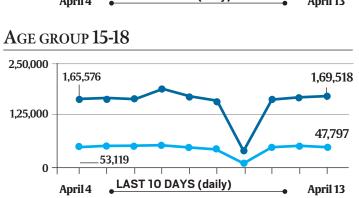
DASHBOARD, AS ON APRIL 13 **TOTAL DOSES** 186,22,76,304 First dose Second dose **Adult** Age group 15-18

91.36.45.502 80,20,53,842

AGE GROUP12-14 1st dose 2,36,92,551 2nd dose 30,964

PRECAUTIONARY 60+ 2,48,78,535 **PRECAUTIONARY 15-59** 62,683 15,69,805 Doses On April 13 Doses On April 12 16,37,883







Celebrating Ambedkar

SIMPLY PUT

Why is the AAP laying claim to Babasaheb Ambedkar's legacy? How have Dalits voted in states where polls are due? How have the RSS and BJP negotiated their relationship with Ambedkar and Dalits over the years?

SHYAMLAL YADAV NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

THE NEW AAP government in Punjab has decided to display pictures of Dr B R Ambedkar, along with freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, in government offices. Earlier this year, the AAP government of Delhi made a similar announcement. While Babasaheb has always been admired as a national icon and chief draftsman of the Constitution, the renewed rush among parties like the AAP and BJP to claim for themselves the legacy of the man whose 131st birth anniversary was celebrated on April 14 can be understood in the context of India's significant Dalit vote that now appears more than ever to be without a natural 'home'.

The Dalit vote

Assembly elections are due in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh later this year and in Haryana in 2024, After winning Delhi twice and Puniab with huge majorities, the AAP sees an opportunity in all three states.

In the 2011 Census, Dalits were 31.94% of the population of Punjab, the highest percentage in the country. They were 20.17% in Haryana, 25.19% in Himachal Pradesh, 6.74% in Gujarat, and 16.7% in Delhi. In India as a whole, Dalits, who have a special reverence and deep affection for Ambedkar, are 16.6%.

Data from recent Assembly elections show that Dalit voters in Himachal, Gujarat, and Harvana have mostly gone with the traditional players, BJP and Congress. The BSP's footprint has been tiny: in Himachal, it got 0.49% in 2017 and 1.17% in 2012; in Gujarat, 0.69% and 1.25% respectively; and in Haryana, 4.14% in 2019 and 4.37% in 2014. Despite Punjab's large Dalit population, the BSP got just 1.77% of the vote in 2022; in 2017, it had got 1.52%. In Delhi, it got 0.71% of the votes in 2020, and 1.30% in 2015.

However, in 2007, the year the BSP won a thumping majority in UP, the party did better in Punjab as well, getting 4.13% of the vote. In the elections in Delhi in 2008, the BSP polled as much as 14.05%. As AAP emerged as a powerful force, the BSP's vote share in Delhi shrank to 5.35% in 2013.



flowers on Ambedkar's statue on his birth anniversary. PTI

NCC cadets in

Bikaner sprinkle

Ambedkar in politics

Starting from the 1980s, Kanshi Ram, the BSP's founder, began to take away a large part of the Congress's traditional Dalit vote and damaged the party heavily, especially in UP. Kanshi Ram, who denounced Dalit leaders of other parties as "stooges", launched his book The Chamcha Age in September 1982.

The chamchas, he said, were "tools, agents and stooges of the high caste Hindus", adding: "The oppressed and exploited people of India who are about 85 per cent of India's total population are a leaderless lot. The high caste Hindus have succeeded in creating leadernessness amongst them."

The launch of the book coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Poona Pact between Mahatma Gandhi and Ambedkar.

In 1981 Kanshi Ram founded the social organisation 'DS-4', short for Dalit Shoshit Samaj Sangharsh Samiti, Three years later, on Ambedkar's birth anniversary, he dissolved it and founded the BSP. The aim, as he had articulated in his book, was to bring together 85% of the country's population — including the SCs, STs. OBCs, and minorities. A popular slogan that he gave later captured this political project: "Jiski jitna sankhya bhaari, uski utni bhaagidari (The greater the numbers, the bigger the share)."

Kanshi Ram had predicted the end of the "Chamcha Yug" in 10 vears. However, even as the Congress haemorrhaged Dalit support, other parties and politicians reacted to the challenge. In March 1990, the VP Singh government, in which social justice leaders such as Ram Vilas Paswan and Sharad Yadav were ministers, conferred the Bharat Ratna on

Ambedkar posthumously.

But Kanshi Ram's plan to organise "85 per cent" of the population was successful to some extent only in UP. In 1993, he joined hands with the Samaiwadi Party of Mulayam Singh Yadav to oust the BJP from power ("Mile Mulayam Kanshi Ram, hawa mein ud gaye Jai Shri Ram"). But their alliance collapsed in June 1995, and a very long period of hostility between the two parties followed. An attempt by Akhilesh Yaday and Mayawati to build an alliance against the BJP ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections lasted for just a few months. In Bihar, Lalu Prasad emerged as a vote-catcher among not just the OBCs and Muslims, but also Dalits.

RSS and Ambedkar

The RSS has spoken of "Hindu unity" since its birth in 1925, but its leadership has traditionally been dominated by upper castes, in particular Brahmins. On Vijayadashami in 1956, Ambedkar embraced Buddhism along with nearly half a million followers in Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur, the headquarters of the RSS, but it wasn't until 1981, when hundreds of lower-caste Hindus converted to Islam in Meenakshipuram in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district, that the Sangh began its Dalit outreach.

The late RSS ideologue Dattopant Thengdi wrote four books on Ambedkar, praising his efforts for "samajik samrasta". Sahsarkaryawah Dr Krishna Gopal, who was until last year in charge of coordination with the BJP, too has written a book on Ambedkar.

In 1989, the centenary year of the first

Sarsanghchalak K B Hedgewar, every shakha was asked to run at least one education centre in Dalit localities in its area. Behind this strategy were then Sarsanghchalak Balasaheb Deoras and Sarkaryawah H V Sheshadri; this was followed by the establishment of sewa vibhags to organise such activities.

In 1990, the RSS marked the centenary year of Ambedkar and death centenary year of social reformer Jyotiba Phule. The Akhil Bhartiya Pratinidhi Sabha, the highest decision-making body of the RSS, passed a resolution that read: "These two great leaders dealt deadly blows to the evil practices and conventions prevailing in Hindu society, and successfully persuaded Hindu society to do away with all the injustices it had perpetrated on its own members."

On October 22, 2015, in his annual Vijayadashami speech, Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat praised Ambedkar and ended with the slogan, "Hindu Hindu ek rahen, bhed-bhav ko nahin sahen (Hindus must stay together, reject discrimination).

Modi and Dalits

Until a few years ago, the Dalit vote bank emained largely out of reach of the BIP, which was still trapped in its image of an upper-caste party. Speaking in Kochi in February 2014. Narendra Modi promised his government would give Dalits, OBCs, and most-backwards their due. In 2015, the BJP celebrated Ambedkar's 125th birth centenary year down to the level of its small party units. The central government got re-printed the Collected Works of Dr Ambedkar once it was freed from copyright after December 6, 2016. Until around 2018, the Prime Minister repeatedly invoked Ambedkar in speeches.

UP Assembly elections of 2022, schemes such as Ujjwala, PM Awas, and free rations brought the BJP huge benefits. A large number of beneficiaries of these welfare schemes are Dalits. In the UP elections this year, a large percentage of Dalit voters are believed to have shifted their nearly three-decade-old loyalty for the BSP to the BJP. The BJP asked Union and state ministers, MPs, and MLAs to attend local events on Ambedkar Jayanti on Thursday in all districts of the state.

In the Lok Sabha elections of 2019 and the

EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

How inflation impacts households, and what to do with your savings



SANDEEP SINGH

INFLATION HAS emerged as a major concern over the last few months. CPI inflation for March, released Tuesday, was at a 17month high of 6.95%. The Reserve Bank of India too has been keeping an eye on inflation: Its Monetary Policy statement, released last week, signalled a shift in focus from reviving growth to mitigating risks posed by inflation. Although it has kept the policy rates unchanged for now, it indicated a possible hike in repo rates going forward.

"In the sequence of priorities, we have

now put inflation before growth. Time is appropriate to prioritise inflation ahead of growth," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said after unveiling the bi-monthly Policy

Impact on households

The high inflation has been driven by rise in prices of fuel and food items such as cereals and vegetables. Rising fuel and food prices not only directly impact the household budget of families that are slowly coming out of the shadow of Covid, but also threatens to put them under further pressure on account of the expected rise in interest rates in the economy.

A rise in interest rates, as indicated by the RBI and in line with the global trend across central banks, will have a major impact on large section of the society that are paying EMIs on home loans.

While the interest rate hike in India is not expected to be very sharp compared to what has been planned by the Federal Reserve in the US, it will have a bearing on existing loan customers.

If the rates were to go up by 100 basis points from 7.5% to 8.5% over the next one year, the EMI on a principal outstanding of Rs 50 lakh for 15 years will go up from Rs 46,350 to Rs 49,236 - a jump of Rs 2,886 a month - if the tenure were kept constant. If the interest rates were to go up to 9% — a 150-basis-point increase — the EMI would rise to Rs 50,713, an increase of Rs 4,362 per month.

Impact on investors

A low-interest-rate environment also impacts conservative debt investors who are more comfortable investing in fixed deposits and other safe assets. When rates are low, most fixed deposits have been earning an interest rate between 4.5-6% for investors depending on tenure: however, as a result of the high inflation, the real interest earning has been negative. For those in the highest tax bracket, it even makes less sense to invest in fixed deposits as the post-tax-return would stand between 3.1-4.1%, which is significantly lower than the inflation rate of 7%.

If the fixed deposit or a small savings instrument is earning 6% when inflation is 7%, then on a net basis the real interest income is negative (nominal interest rate minus inflation). Most of the small savings schemes, too, are now generating negative real rate of interest; only PPF (7.1%) and Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (7.6%) are generating an interest income that is higher than the inflation rate now.

Even the Central Board of Trustees of the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation** (EPFO) recently recommended a cut in interest rates from 8.5% to 8.10% for its over 6 crore active subscribers for 2021-22. The post-tax return of 8.1% is the lowest interest rate on EPF in at least four decades, but it is still higher than rates offered on small-saving schemes or on any other debt instrument including bank fixed deposits.

What you should do

Any financial instrument must serve the purpose of growing your money — so, the first thing one must see before putting money in a pure debt instrument is whether that is happening.

With inflation expected to rise further in the wake of the ongoing war and other global and domestic factors, investors needs to ensure their savings earn higher return than the inflation rate. As of now, any income less than 7% net after taxes actually makes you lose money.

In fact, in a rising inflation scenario, if your investments can't earn above inflation, it is better to spend it today than save for tomorrow, because a year later, its value would be lower. So, as inflation continues to reduce your savings, there is no way debt instru-

ments will help you beat inflation. Financial advisors say conservative investors will have to bring equity into their portfolio in some form, be ready to carry some risk, and live with some volatility. "Investors need to improve their basket of asset allocation and will have to consider mutual fund offerings such as conservative debt hybrid, balanced advantage funds and equity savings schemes (that invest in equity, debt and arbitrage securities). Investors need to understand that higher returns can only come from equities and it also leads to better tax management," said Surya Bhatia, founder, AM Unicorn Professional Pvt Ltd.

While investors can also look at some company deposits offering relatively higher interest, they need to first seek professional advice and weigh their credit rating and risk.

Those who still want to stick with pure debt products should go for short-duration products because, as interest rates rise with rising inflation, they will be able to take advantage of these higher rates.

Harmanpreet shines in India's comfortable win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 14

VICE-CAPTAIN Harmanpreet Singh continued his goal-scoring spree with a brace as the Indian men's hockey team defeated an inexperienced Germany 3-0 in the first match of the two-leg tie to extend its lead in the FIH Pro League standings here on

Harmanpreet converted two penalty corners for India in the 18th and 27th minutes, while Abhishek scored from another set piece in the 45th minute. With a half a dozen of Germany's 22-member squad making their senior debut here, the vast gap between the two sides was evidently

By virtue of this win, India have consolidated their position at the top of the table with 24 points from 11 games, while the Germans are placed second with 17 points from nine matches. Both the teams will lock horns again in the second match of the tie at the Kalinga Stadium on Friday.

The Indians started on a bright note and secured a penalty corner early into the first quarter but Jugraj Singh's effort from a penalty corner was kept out by the German defence and from the resultant rebound Nilkanata Sharma shot wide.

India enjoyed a lot of possession in the first quarter but the forwardline hasn't been clinical enough to bury the chances. India continued in the same vein in the second quarter and took the lead in the 18th minute through none other than Harmanpreet from a penalty corner with a superbly executed dragflick.

India earned another penalty corner soon but this time Gierman goalkeeper Alexander Stadler denied Harmanpreet. But Harmanpreet doubled India's lead three minutes from half time, wrong-footing Stadler from another set piece.

The Indians kept up the pressure after the change of ends and created plenty of scoring opportunities but the young German defence stood firm but were also guilty of conceding a lot of plenty corners. And from such opportunity, Abhishek deflected in Harmanpreet's variation to hand India a comfortable 3-0 lead just at the end of the third quarter.

Minutes into the fourth and final quarter, Germany conceded another penalty corner but this time Stadler kept out Harmanpreet's try. The Germans gave a good account of themselves in the final 15 minutes but they gave too many chances to the Indians in the form of penalty corners which cost them dearly.

Ther Germans conceded eight penalty corners but failed to secure a single one in the entire 60 minutes.

Man City counter Atletico's football, dark arts to progress

Extra security was called to keep players separate after the game ended 0-0

RORY SMITH

MADRID, APRIL 14

MANY THINGS happened at the Wanda Metropolitano in the final 10 or 20 minutes, the ones that seemed to stretch on and on. long past the final whistle, until they almost constituted another self-contained bonus game, a separate third installment of a scheduled two-part drama. There was some hairpulling. There was quite a lot of time-wasting. There was a full-scale brawl, dozens and dozens of players and team staff members all streaming down to a corner of the field to make their opinions known. There was a flurry of yellow cards, and a bright, angry red. There was Diego Simeone, conducting his orchestra, urging the stadium to bay and to howl and to snarl until the last breath.

What there was not, the only thing missing, was much actual soccer. There were flashes, of course, Atlético Madrid charging forward, desperately hunting the goal that would break Manchester City's resistance and take the game into extra time, extend their stay in the Champions League for another 30 minutes or, just maybe, another few weeks. For the most part, though, those endless last few minutes were a study in the art of not playing soccer. That is, of course, very much part of Atlético Madrid's identity. Simeone has spent a decade crafting a team in his own image, one that plays, just as he did, with a "knife between its teeth."

Atlético should, by rights, be a heroic underdog among Europe's elite, a countercultural alternative to the hegemony of pressing and possession. It does not, after all, have the resources of its overweening neighbor, Real Madrid, let alone the state-backed clout of Manchester City or Paris St.-Germain, and yet it refuses to wilt, to succumb to financial inevitability. It is a potent testament to Simeone's work, then, and to the great effectiveness of his inculcation, that his team can so easily and so frequently play the role of the Champions League's obvious villain: a side of cynics, provocateurs and cutthroats, designed and built to draw the beauty and the soul from the game, happy to subvert any norm available in pursuit of victory, and in defiance of convention, its opponents and the game's sense of moral rectitude.

And yet, in all the fire and fury, it was not only Atlético that realized that a place in the semifinals hung not on talent and technique but on grit and grizzle, on a willingness to do whatever it takes.

There is no team more associated with beauty than Pep Guardiola's Manchester City.



Players clash during Manchester City-Atletico Madrid quarterfinal.

SEMIFINAL LINEUP

Real Madrid Liverpool Villarreal

He has come, over the years, to stand as an embodiment of soccer's higher values, its ultimate arbiter of taste, its aesthete in chief. Guardiola means sophistication and style, and he has imbued all of that into the team

Those were not the virtues, though, that allowed his team to escape Madrid unscathed, its place in a Champions League semifinal with Real Madrid secured, its chase for a domestic and European treble intact. City did not beat Atlético by overcoming its dark arts. It beat Atlético by borrow-

Some of them, at least. Just like its host, Guardiola's team, for once, did not seem especially interested in playing soccer, either. It played, instead, for time. Every throw-in seemed to take an age, and every free kick and every goal kick, too. No injury was shaken off; even the most minor bump and bruise warranted an extended period of treatment. Balls that had run out of play were knocked just a little farther down the line, out of the reach of Atlético's players.

No slight was too minor not to be met with indignation. That should not be read as a criticism of Manchester City; far from it. Often, it is so easy to be dazzled by the brilliance of Guardiola's side that its character, its courage, is overlooked. His record in the

Premier League, in particular, in recent years has been built as much on defensive parsimony as attacking threat. City does not wilt and it does not doubt; it keeps going, remorselessly, absolute in its conviction that it will be proved right in the end.

As the Metropolitano - this sleek, modern stadium built by the success of Simeone somehow morphed into the Vicente Calderón, Atlético's crumbling, intimidating, nakedly hostile former home, what carried City through was not its magic but its mettle. That is as much part of Guardiola's recipe as anything else.

And nor, for that matter, should it be read as a criticism of Atlético. "What matters more than anything in soccer is winning," Simeone said after the game, not long after the players had confronted each other in the tunnel once more. "It does not matter how you do it."

Even Guardiola conceded that Atlético had come close to winning, that it might have scored, might have won, if it had only possessed just a little more luck. "They had the actions to score," he said. "We had to live this situation. We had to suffer. We were in big, big trouble." On another night, in another world, he seemed to say, everything could have been very different.

That Simeone's team had been able to run City so close was not despite its brinkmanship, but because of it. As Atlético did what it does, in those final few minutes, as the sense of outrage outside the steep concrete banks of the Metropolitano started to build, so too did the noise inside it. -NYT

Liverpool march on towards quadruple

ASSOCIATED PRESS LIVERPOOL, APRIL 14

A PLACE in the Champions League semifinals secured. The dream of an unprecedented quadruple of trophies still intact. Key players rested amid a hectic schedule. Liverpool is in a good place entering the home straight of what could turn out to be the club's greatest ever season.

Even conceding two late goals to draw 3-3 at home to Benfica couldn't take the smile of Jurgen Klopp's face. "The day we qualify for the semifinals of the Champions League and I'm not happy, please come here and knock me out," the Liverpool manager said Wednesday after seeing his team advance from the quarterfinals 6-4 on aggre-

With Liverpool inflicting significant damage by winning the first leg 3-1 in Lisbon last week, Klopp was confident enough to rest stars like Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane, Virgil van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold for a return match against Benfica that turned into a wild, end-to-end contest at Anfield.

Roberto Firmino's second-half double put Liverpool 3-1 ahead on the night and 6ahead on aggregate, only for Klopp's team to ease off the pace. Benfica took advantage by getting behind Liverpool's makeshift defense to score through substitute Roman Yaremchuk and rising star Darwin Nunez, but the gap was too much to make up.

"It was pretty comfortable," Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson said, "but we're disappointed with the goals we conceded."

Ultimately, Liverpool has coasted into the last four of Europe's top club competition and is there for the 12th time _ tying the record for an English team with Manchester United and the first since the last of its six title triumphs in 2019. Villarreal awaits Liverpool in the last four. Despite the Spanish team eliminating both Juventus and Bayern Munich and its coach, Unai Emery, being a master strategist of European competitions, it's pretty much a dream scenario for Klopp and his

The quadruple of major trophies might really be on for Liverpool, already the winner of the English League Cup, currently in second place in Premier League _ just a point behind Manchester City_and into the semifinals of the FA Cup. That Klopp was able to rotate so heavily

against Benfica _ even Andrew Robertson and Fabinho had the night off _ should enable Liverpool to field a full-strength team against Man City in the FA Cup semifinals at Wembley Stadium on Saturday.

City wasn't in such a luxurious position Wednesday, taken all the way by Atletico Madrid in the Spanish capital where a 0-0



Liverpool's Roberto Firmino celebrates scoring his side's third goal. AP

draw sealed a 1-0 aggregate victory. City, which will face Real Madrid in the semifinals, saw Kevin De Bruyne and Kyle Walker go off with injuries in an often brutal game against Atletico, on the same night Klopp kept his best players fresh and relied on his

Ibrahima Konate was one of them and he followed up his goal in the first leg _ his first both for Liverpool and in the Champions League _ with another header to open the scoring off Kostas Tsimikas' outswinging corner. Goncalo Ramos made it 1-1 in the 32nd minute _ keeping Benfica in with the unlikeliest of chances _ with a goal that had a hint of fortune about it. The ball ricocheted to the 20-year-old forward from a tackle by Liverpool midfielder James Milner and his finish from the edge of the area was emphatic past Alisson.

Firmino is no longer first choice for Liverpool following the arrivals of Diogo Jota and Luis Diaz but the Brazil striker staked his claim for a starting spot in the team's big upcoming games with a double in the space of 10 minutes. His first goal came after mistakes from goalkeeper Odysseas Vlachodimos, who fumbled as he attempted to gather a through-ball, and center back Jan Vertonghen, who hurried his resulting clearance. Jota drove the ball back into the middle of the area and Firmino applied the finish in the 55th. The Brazilian volleyed in Tsimikas' free kick to make it 3-1 but Liverpool let Benfica back into the match.

I Konate 21' R Firmino 55' 65'

LIVERPOOL 3

GRamos 32' Yaremchuk 73' D Nunez 82'

BY PETER VIDAL

For once in your life

you may have to

settle for second best, much as this

What is important

mind, vet to achieve

such a happy state,

to you is peace of

goes against the grain. However, as soon as the current planetary

situation has eased, vou will

once again be on course for

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

you must deal with whatever

personal frustrations have

built up over the past few months. The problem is

that it's so hard to get hold

of relevant information at

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

plans. Many of you are currently

involved in some sort of political or community activity,

but will soon begin to question

vour motives. You need to be sure that a particular goal is the

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

will get the best out of your

current situation. However.

minor adjustments may be

whatever changes you make

this week will result in major

AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19)

contradictory, with Mars

urging you to push ahead

you to slow down. Just to

complicate matters, Venus

thinks that you should stay

while Mercury advises

Take extra care

when travelling

or cancellations. The indications are definitely

and allow for delays

necessary in the short term, and

right one for you.

You may have

become used to

frequent chopping

Just as long as you

keep remembering

that you are still on

the right course, you

and changing in your

the top. It's a question of

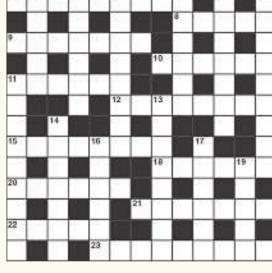
three steps forward for

every two back.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

3 BENFICA

CROSSWORD 4715



ACROSS

1 Painful effect of exposure may be best for it (9) 8 The girl is a bit mean, it appears (5) 9 A gem of a green? (7)

10 About eleven, come round in a state (6) 11 Girl that is a famous film star(6)

12 Stayed with us erratically, coming once a week (8) 15 Marriage makes a nice change after all (8)

18 Five in debt - but promising (6) 20 Cable was twisted in her

grasp(6) 21 Be a guest without let-up in August (7) 22 Mackerel bait? (5) 23 Sign language appears to

be little help (9)

DOWN

2 Music coming from Burma 3 Emphasis may be caused by

overworking(6) 4 Ammunition in the news (8) 5 They play a supporting role in the studio (6) 6 Drug is removed with the fingers (7)

7 Many awakening us with their revels (9) 11 A dispiriting thing to do

13 It lifts to reveal switch (8) 14 Runners, but not in the vegetable garden(7)16 A note sent out by

representatives (6) 17 Light whip for light control 19 Fabric found in any London

store(5) Solutions Crossword 4714: Across: 1 Strayed, 4 Sense, 7 Edge, 8 Ferryman, 10 Malingerer, 12 Poncho, 13 Athene, 15 Sweepstake, 18 Approach, 19 Pier, 20 Sprig, 21 Spinner. Down: 1 Steam, 2 Regaling, 3 Deepen, 4 Screen test, 5 Name, 6 Ennoble, 9 In

the wrong, 11 Relation, 12 Perhaps, 14 Fences, 16 Error, 17 Spar

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis







CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson

HELLO, IS THIS THE HARDWARE STORE? YES, I'M WONDERING IF YOU SELL CATAPULTS.

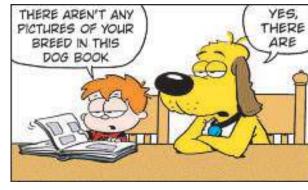


NO? WELL, I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT CAN DELIVER A SO-POUND PAYLOAD OF SNOW ON A SMALL FEMININE TARGET CAN YOU SUGGEST SOMETHING?





MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

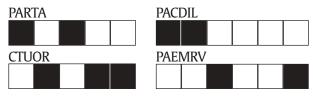




JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

The best way to get ____ is not to need it - Hugh Macleod (8)



Answer: The best way to get approval is not to need it - Hugh Macleod SOLUTION: APART, COURT, PLACID, REVAMP

Difficulty Level 2s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9

must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s =

				100	la constitución de la constituci	Est.
1			8	3	2	9
7		П				6 4
	2				П	8
3	6					2
	8	П	2	9	7	6
	4			1		
		3		5	6	

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4804 1 4 7 2 9 5 3 8 6 9 3 6 8 7 4 2 1 5 8 2 5 6 1 3 4 7 9 2 9 3 5 8 7 6 4 1 4 7 1 3 2 6 9 5 8 6 5 8 9 4 1 8 2 1 6 9 5 3 4 3 6 4 7 5 8 1 9 2 5 1 9 4 3 2 8 6 7

DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) You may have to accept that you are not on form and that you are still inclined to exaggerate other people's

resistance to your plans Now is the moment to start developing some of that gentle diplomacy which is the normal preserve of the Libran, your opposite sign. TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Some kind of a break-up or conflict appears to be taking place, or will have done so by the time the next few days have passed. You are finally in an ideal position to knock some sense into a

partner's head, but just how

question. Perhaps you'd better

long it takes is an open

be patient. GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) children are beginning to assume a greater

importance, perhaps because events are now moving so much faster than in the past, but also because there's an understanding that family feelings need to be respected. If you are undecided about your next move, you may allow yourself a little more time.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Where to turn? This is the great question which must be perplexing you now that six planets are urging you to take thirty-six different courses of action. You may allow fate to follow its course, waiting for events

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) Now that Mars is changing its position, you should

to settle down.

put more effort into being diplomatic and must listen carefully to what other people are saying. Whether you take their advice or comments into consideration is, of course, entirely another matter.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) The quicker you come to terms

with your financial situation, the better you will be able to plan various social events and other engagements. Your ambitions are all very well, but you must have the cash to pay your way, otherwise you'll

have to give up before you're

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) You may soon receive interesting



as you are.

yet the results may be far from what you expected. Moneywise you are now entering another extravagant, high-spending phase. Keep something in reserve, though, for the last thing you want to do is leave yourself short.

SRH vs KKR, 7.30pm, Live on Star Sports Network

Hardik bats, bowls, fields... leads from front

Gujarat Titans captain is team's talisman — scores an unbeaten 87, takes a wicket and effects a run-out — in 37-run win over RR

SYNOPSIS: GT surged to their fourth win from five games as skipper Hardik Pandya's 87 set up a comprehensive crushing of RR.

ABHISHEK PUROHIT

MUMBAI, APRIL 15

HARDIK PANDYA and Abhinav Manohar dragged Gujarat Titans to 192 after another indifferent start, and Lockie Ferguson's slower yorker limited Jos Buttler's blitz to the Powerplay as Rajasthan Royals fell short by

GT top order fails again

Matthew Wade's woes with the bat have meant GT have the worst average for the opening partnership this IPL-just 14.80. But the left-hander got a whole first over against Jimmy Neesham, as against the prospect of facing the swing of the injured Trent Boult, who sat out the game. Having got hit-me deliveries, on the pads and wide outside off, Wade helped himself to three fours in the Neesham over; it appeared as if this was the night GT's opening stand would weigh in from both ends, for a change.

But GT would contrive to still go three down within an over after the Powerplay. Wade was run out by a direct hit from Rassie van der Dussen two balls after launching into Neesham, Vijay Shankar slashed and edged what would otherwise have been a Kuldeep Sen wide to the 'keeper. And Shubman Gill slammed Riyan Parag straight to long-on.

Hardik, Abhinav fire

Hardik Pandya is out of his comfort zone on all fronts this season. Maiden captaincy stint, new batting position, and bowling four overs in every game in his bid to make an India comeback. He's had to carry the innings with the top order unable to forge partnerships, and consequently, his strike rate was 122.60 heading into this game; moreover, he'd hit just two sixes from 115 deliveries.

He came out in a different mood on Thursday though. His second ball of pace from Kuldeep Sen, Hardik tennis-forehanded down the ground for four. The next one was slashed over point for four more and he



Hardik Pandya's 87 off 52 comprised eight fours and four sixes.

Sportzpics for IPL

lashed at the next for a thick edge to the fine third-man rope. Hardik was on 25 off 14 when Gill fell. For about five overs, mostly of spin, he didn't hit a single boundary. He'd still finish on 87 off 52, a strike rate of 167.31, with

Abhinav Manohar, who added 86 with his captain in nine overs, said during the innings break that Hardik had told him to avoid high-risk shots until the 12th over, after which they would reassess.

And sure enough, Manohar charged Yuzvendra Chahal first ball of the 13th for a straight four and lofted the next for six over extra cover. This is his maiden IPL, and Manohar looks clearly out of his depth at times; he was clueless against Ashwin's carrom balls. He kept edging the Sunrisers pacers in GT's previous match and was dropped three times. But when he does get it off the middle, he holds his shape and belts it far. He slog-swept Chahal from outside off for six, but the leg-spinner had Abhinav top-edging a catch next when he tried the same stroke from the line of the stumps.

Hardik, meanwhile, continued to flay them straight or over long-on, or scythe them square. He felt his back at least once after a boundary, with the effort he was putting in. Also, fortunately for GT, David Miller came good after a struggle previously to get going, with 31 off 14.

In the previous match at DY Patil Stadium, CSK had hammered 156 runs off the last 10 overs. GT didn't come close to that carnage but themselves took 120 off the second half of their innings.

Buttler and the rest

If RR had any hope of chasing down 193, Jos Buttler had to fire. And he did, for a while. It was thrilling while it lasted, and needed a cracker of a delivery from Lockie Ferguson to be cut short on 54 off 24

Among the many aspects that make Buttler dangerous is the fact that his reaction can be so late, and so swift, that he simply stands and bashes the ball past cover after

IPL TABLE

TEAM	M	W	L	PT	NRR
GT	5	4	1	8	0.450
KKR	5	3	2	6	0.446
RR	5	3	2	6	0.389
PK	5	3	2	6	0.239
LSG	5	3	2	6	0.174
RCB	5	3	2	6	0.006
DC	4	2	2	4	0.476
SRH	4	2	2	4	-0.501
CSK	5	1	4	2	-0.745
MI	4	0	4	0	-1.072

appearing to do absolutely nothing till the very last moment. Or he can smack that same delivery over mid-on.

The GT seamers tried denying him width, they tried making him hit to the slightly longer boundary. Hardik packed the square off-side region with short third man, fine backward point, point and cover. Buttler saw that and walloped the wide ones to the opposite side over cow corner instead. In between, he brought out his walking scoop over short fine leg.

Rashid Khan is usually saved for the latter half of the innings. Hardik brought him on as early as the fifth over. The leg-spinner rapped Buttler on the pad with a wrong 'un off the last ball of the over. Doing too much, said the umpire, and GT's review returned umpire's call. It seemed to be Buttler's night, even more so when he calmly scooped Ferguson's express pace for six.

The New Zealander's response was a 126 kph slower yorker that comparatively took forever to arrive at a stunned Buttler and crashed into the base of off-and-middle. Nine balls later, Hardik ran out Sanju Samson, and that was effectively the game for GT. **Brief Scores:** Gujarat Titans: 192 for 4 in 20 overs (Hardik Pandya 87 not out, Abhinav Manohar 43, David Miller 31 not out; Riyan Parag 1/12) bt Rajasthan Royals: 155 for 9 in 20 overs (Jos Buttler 54; Lockie Ferguson 3/23, Yash Dayal 3/40).

BRIEFLY —

Aditione shot behind leader Green

London: Aditi Ashok returned a fluent 5-under 67 to be just one shot behind leader Hannah Green at the LPGA Lotte Championship, putting herself in a great position to go for her breakthrough win on the Ladies PGA Tour. Nearly 30-mph winds were experienced during the day. Other than Aditi, the other golfers lying second were Gemma Dryburgh, Hyo Joo Kim, Alison Lee and Jodi Ewart Shadoff. Defending champion Lydia Ko shot 3-under and was tied for 11th. Aditi, who finished fourth at the Tokyo Games, started 2022 with a couple of superb Top-15 results before slipping slightly. She did make the cut in two of her next three starts, including the first women's Major of the year, the Chevron Championship, where she ended T-71. However, in Hawaii, her short game was once again looking great as she had six birdies against a lone Bogey.

Saina hits out at BAI for timing of trials

New Delhi: Two-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist Saina Nehwal questioned the timing of selection trials and slammed the Badminton Association of India for "putting" her out the two mega sporting events later this year. The BAI had called for selection trials to pick the Indian team for big-ticket events including the CWG in Birmingham, the Asian Games in Hangzhou and Thomas Cup and Uber Cup in Bangkok. Saina, a former world No.1, said she had informed BAI about her decision to skip the trials but it did not mean that she was not eager to participate at the major events. "Surprised to see all the articles stating that I don't want to defend my CWG title and my Asiad medal. I'm just not participating in the trials because I just got back from 3 weeks of Europe events and according to the schedule there's Asian Championships," Saina tweeted. "In 2 weeks time, as a senior player to participate in back to back events nonstop is impossible and it's risking injuries, such short notice is not possible." PTI

'Stricter sanctions can turn players into machines'

REUTERS APRIL 14

FORMER WORLD number one Boris Becker hopes players do not turn into emotionless "computers and machines" following the ATP's warning that there will be stricter punishment for on-court misconduct in the wake of a spate of angry outbursts.

Alexander Zverev was thrown out of a tournament in Acapulco in February after smashing his racket against the umpire's chair during an expletive-laden tirade, while Nick Kyrgios was fined for his outbursts at Indian Wells and Miami last month.

Becker, who had many angry outbursts during his career, said the sport needed players to show emotion on court.

"I'm quite happy that we were allowed to play and ultimately go berserk under the exclusion of the social media and the microphones, so to speak," the 54-year-old, who won six Grand Slam singles titles, told Eurosport Germany. "It's more difficult for the players today. Everything is extremely transparent, too transparent for my taste. And then the question is, how does the tennis authority deal with it?

Tennis is also an entertainment sport. I don't want to see computers and machines on the court either. Emotions are good, a bit of blood, sweat and tears, that stimulates, that was already the case with us. But everything has a limit.'

The ATP said it was also reviewing its guidelines to clamp down on repeat offenders after coming under fire for being "soft" on incidents of misconduct. While some players have called out their fellow professionals over their behaviour, Becker said everyone has to "look in the mirror".

"We're all not perfect, everyone freaks out sometimes and you just don't do that," he added. "I also call the tennis players team mates, so you really shouldn't comment publicly on other people's misconduct. I think it's

World number seven Casper Ruud and seven-time major champion Mats Wilander said reckless behaviour on court had to stop.

... it kind of brings attention to the sport just in a negative way," Norwegian Ruud told Eurosport as part of the 'Ruud Talk' series. "They do get big fines, but for some of these players (it) doesn't seem like it matters."

"I'm quite happy that we were allowed to play and ultimately go berserk under the exclusion of the social media and the microphones, so to speak. It's more difficult for the players today. Everything is extremely transparent, too transparent for my taste."

BORIS BECKER

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER =



Not all same for Sen

It was only his second IPL game, but inside his first two overs, Kuldeep Sen experienced how fickle the game can be. After impressing all with his pace and potential on debut, the 25- came up to the batsman's shoulder

brought on in the third over against Gujarat Titans. Vijay Shankar, batting at No. 3, didn't know much about what he was up against. A flat-footed defen-

sive prod was all he could

manage as the ball barely missed the inside edge of the bat as well as the offstump. Ironically, the dismissal came off a pretty ordinary delivery as the once-hailed "three-dimensional player" toe-ended a short and wide

But Sen's next over must have taught him not to take anything for

delivery on its way to wicketkeeper

granted. Hardik Pandya had decided to take matters into his own hands and give his side some momentum. A delivery on off-stump that almost year-old from Madhya Pradesh was was swatted, like a forehand down

the line in tennis, to the boundary.

The next one offered width and was cut aerially, landing inches short of being six. Then, a blameless delivery on off-stump, which Pandya aimed to hit down the ground, took the edge and went to the

third man fence.

The rookie pacer, consistently clocking well above 140kmph was left wondering what wrong he had committed, and it prompted Rajasthan Royals skipper Samson to put an arm around him to reassure him that 'it happens.'

Run of Killer Miller

Sanju Samson.



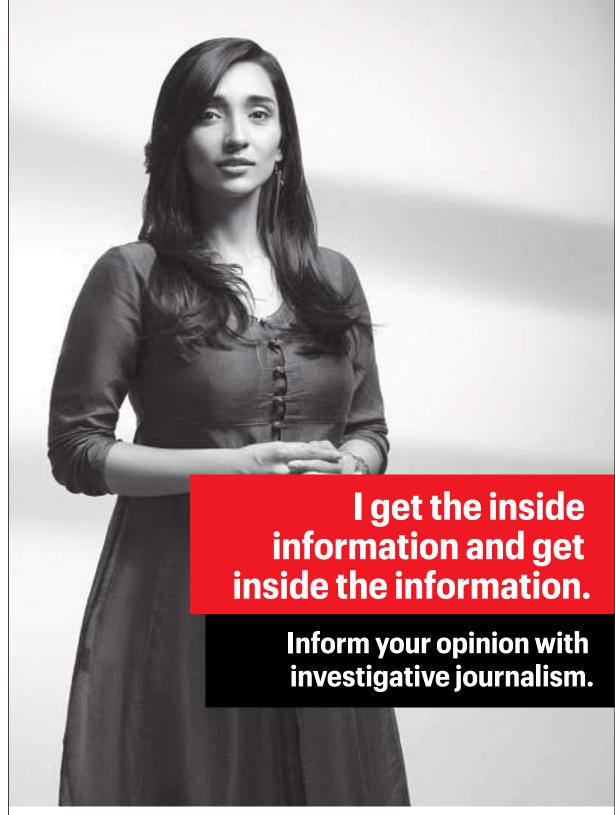
Even David Miller would have felt a wave of ennui splashing his mind when he saw that used-to-death epithet flash on the electronic scorecard. "Killer Miller" after he had smoked Kuldeep Sen down the ground for a trademark six. Yet, there must have been some suffocating nostalgia, a reminder of his powerful heyday, when he was considered among the cleanest hitters of fast bowling in the world. The summers of 13 and 14, when he plundered 417 and 446 runs at a strike rate of 165 and 150. Then Miller suddenly lost his knack of finding the sweetest spot of his bat. In 2015, he struck 21 sixes, in the next six editions combined he just managed 22. But suddenly, he looks like he has rediscovered the freedom of the game as well as the sweet spot of his bat. Accompanying the six were five boundaries-each flat and powerful, fleecing the ground towards the fence. Maybe, by the end of the 14-ball 31, a strike rate of 221, the nostalgia the words "Killer Miller" brought might have turned warmer.

Lockie's slow death



When Lockie Ferguson, of black shoes and 69 no. jersey fame, was playing in the KKR team, he was once startled by a query from Pat Cummins. 'How do you bowl your slower ball?' Ferguson recalled telling him, "Jesus! You are the No.1 Test bowler in the world. I am certainly not!" There is perhaps a reason Cummins asked Ferguson that: evident when he took out a rampaging Jos Buttler to turn the game on its head. He had just been ramped over fine-leg for a six off a 148 mph delivery and he decided to slip in his slower one. Usually, the right-hand fast bowlers do the door-knob turn clockwise for the slower ones. Ferguson goes the other way, fingers coming off the ball. But the beauty behind the Buttler ball was how full it was: a dipping yorker that landed on the base of off and middle stump. Buttler tried to slow his bat-speed, and jam it down in time to keep it out but missed. Clang, went the stumps and Ferguson let a roar of 'c'mon'. Was Cummins watching?

indianexpress.com



The Indian EXPRESS

-JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

Chandigarh

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