



BRIEF



A tourist poses for a picture in front of the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Sunday.

Train derails

Mumbai: A few coaches of the Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Jayanagar express train has derailed between Lahavit and Devlali stations near Nashik on Sunday afternoon, and medical as well as other relief teams have been rushed to the site, a Central Railway official said. There is no report as yet of casualties from the incident, which took place around 3:10pm in CR's Bhusaval division, he added.

Eleven arrested

Ballia (UP): The mastermind behind the leak of the Uttar Pradesh class 12 English paper was among 11 people arrested in connection with the case, police said on Sunday. With their arrest, the total number of people held in connection with the exam paper leak on Wednesday climbed to 46. Following the leak, the exam was cancelled in 24 districts of the state including Ballia. The District Inspector of Schools of Ballia was among those arrested.

Three friends killed

Raigarh: Three friends were killed after their motorcycle collided head on with a truck in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district on Sunday, police said. The accident took place around noon near Koni turn on Sarangarh-Baramkela road when the trio were heading to Malda village in Sarangarh area on a motorcycle, an official here said.

AAP poses no threat

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Saturday said there is no threat to BJP from the emergence of AAP on the political map of the Union Territory. We have a strong base and are poised to form the next government with our own chief minister, Raina told reporters at a function organised to welcome several prominent people, including some doctors at the party headquarters here. Asked about the rising number of AAP members, Raina said BJP is the world's largest political party, having 18 lakh members in J&K.

4 drug smugglers held

Lucknow: The Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh Police on Sunday busted an inter-state drug smuggling gang, according to an official statement. The STF arrested four members of the gang and recovered opium worth about Rs 13 crore. The accused smuggled the contraband from Jharkhand and were planning to take it to Uttarakhand via Shahjahanpur, according to a press statement issued by the STF. "Acting on this information, the STF team intercepted the accused in Shahjahanpur. The team recovered 13.2 kg of opium from their possession which is worth Rs 13 crore in the international market."

Imran's yorker: Parliament dissolved, polls in 90 days



Islamabad, Apr 03 (PTI):

Pakistan's beleaguered Prime Minister Imran Khan bowled a yorker at his rivals on Sunday by getting the presidential nod for the dissolution of Parliament, a move dubbed as "unconstitutional" by the Opposition parties which approached the apex court to legally challenge the decision which has pushed the coup-prone country into further political and constitutional crisis. Khan was widely expected to lose the no-confidence motion moved by an alliance of Opposition politicians in the National Assembly -- including more than a dozen defectors from his own political party. But in a surprise reprieve for the 69-year-old cricketer-turned-politi-

cian, the no-trust vote was dismissed as "unconstitutional" by Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri, leading to vociferous protests by the Opposition. Khan, who had effectively lost majority in the 342-member National Assembly, made a brief address to the nation in which the prime minister said he has recommended dissolution of the House and fresh elections. Khan congratulated the nation for the no-trust motion being dismissed, saying the deputy speaker had "rejected the attempt of changing the regime [and] the foreign conspiracy". "The nation should prepare for the new elections," he said, adding that the no-confidence was actually a "foreign agenda". Khan said he has advised President Alvi to dissolve the assembly.

Imran Khan has pushed Pak into anarchy: Shehbaz Sharif

Pakistan Leader of Opposition Shehbaz Sharif tweeted, "It is nothing short of a high treason. IK has pushed the country into anarchy. Niazi & his cohort will not be allowed to go scot-free. There will be consequences for blatant & brazen violation of the Constitution. Hope SC will play its role to uphold the Constitution."



Imran Khan trampled on Constitution, says Nawaz Sharif

"Today, a man obsessed with power trampled on the Constitution. Imran Khan, who puts his ego before the country and the nation, and all the conspiratorial characters involved in this conspiracy are guilty of serious treason to which Article 6 applies. Abuse of Pakistan and desecration of the Constitution will be taken into account," Nawaz Sharif tweeted.



Imran Khan is a traitor: Mariyum Aurangzeb

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Mariyum Aurangzeb said: 'Imran Khan is a traitor (gaddar). He has taken an unconstitutional step and we are now protesting in National Assembly and will not go anywhere until this decision is cancelled.'



Pak SC adjourns hearing till today

The Pakistan Supreme Court has adjourned hearing on the Opposition's plea over the dissolution of the National Assembly on Sunday. The court has been adjourned till tomorrow. The Chief Justice of Pakistan Supreme Court has asked all political parties to ensure peace and order, adding "It is Ramadan and everyone is fasting."

Nothing to do with political situation: Pak Army

Pakistan's powerful army said on Sunday that it has 'absolutely nothing' to do with the prevailing political situation in the country. Military spokesman Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar made the remarks while speaking to a private TV channel in the wake of rejection of a no-confidence motion and subsequent dissolution of the National Assembly (NA) by President Arif Alvi on advice of Prime Minister Imran Khan. "The army has absolutely nothing to do with what happened in the NA today," Iftikhar said.



Pandits will return to valley soon: RSS chief



Jammu, Apr 03 (PTI):

Kashmiri pandits will be able to return to their homes in the valley soon, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Sunday, asserting that work is on to create a conducive atmosphere so that they are never displaced again. He also praised The Kashmir Files movie, saying it has created public awareness across the country and outside about the reality behind the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley in 1990. Addressing members of the Kashmiri Pandit community virtually on the last day of the three-day Navreh' celebrations, the RSS chief said that the time has come for fulfilling the pledge of returning to their homes in the Kashmir valley. "It won't take many days for the fulfilment of our pledge of returning to the valley. It will come true very soon and we have to continue making

attempts in this direction. Our history and our great leaders should serve as the guiding light and inspiration for all of us," Bhagwat said in his over half-an-hour speech. Referring to his participation in the Kashmiri pandit festival Herath' (Shivaratri) in 2011 in Delhi, he said the community had taken a pledge on the occasion that they will return to their homeland. "Challenges do come in everyone's life ... We are in a situation where we were displaced in our own country three-four decades ago. What is the solution?" he said, and added, "We will not succumb and see our pledge fulfilled by returning to our homes." He referred to Israel and said the Jews struggled for 1,800 years for their homeland. "Nothing much was done in 1,700 years by them for their pledge, but over the past 100 years, the history of Israel saw it achieving its target and also becoming one of the leading countries in the world. We (Kashmiri Pandits) have had to live in different parts of globe despite the fact that Kashmir is an integral part of India. We can live anywhere but we cannot forget our homeland," he said.

Australia win seventh World Cup crown

Christchurch, Apr 03:

Alyssa Healy played one of the finest innings in ODI history as powered Australia to a record-extending seventh ICC Women's World Cup title at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Sunday. Batting first, Healy smashed a remarkable 170 in a mammoth total of 356/5 and then England were bowled out for 285 as Australia won the final by 71 runs. Australia won all their matches en route to the title, stamping their authority in a memorable world cup campaign. Healy smacked a brilliant 170 off 138 balls, including 26 boundaries. Apart from Healy's magnificent knock, her opening partner Rachael Haynes hit 68 while Beth Mooney justified her promotion to number three with a quick 47-ball 62. In reply, England lost both their openers inside seven overs but Natalie Sciver kept the fight alive



World Cup winners both - Mitchell Starc celebrates with Alyssa Healy.

with a brilliant 148 not out off 121. However, she got little to no support from others. For England, it was a forgettable day on the field where missed catches, misfields and wayward bowling meant nothing went their way after captain Heather Knight won the toss and elected to field first on a fresh pitch.

Cong still 'very strong', losing elections will not be end of it: Gehlot



Barmer, Apr 03 (PTI):

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday said the Congress is still a "very strong" party in the country and losing elections will not be the end of it, as has been seen in the past. Asserting that all that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had warned the government about was turning out to be true, Gehlot said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should take the Opposition seriously and act accordingly. The chief minister was speaking at a press conference here. The Congress faced a massive defeat in the 1977 general elections, even Indira Gandhi had lost. But the party made a strong comeback and formed the government, Gehlot said. "Losing elections does not mean it is the end of the Congress," he said, adding that the party is "very strong" even today and has a presence across the country.

Lanka crisis: India extends credit, fuel, food

Colombo, Apr 03 (PTI):

Sri Lanka is reeling under a deep economic crisis as the country's foreign reserves have been depleted and the Rajapaksa government is struggling to pay for the import of fuel. As a result, there is an acute power shortage in the country and violent protests are being reported. The government has declared an emergency and a countrywide 36-hour curfew has been imposed due to the protest on Sunday as of now around 600 protesters have been arrested. In these difficult times, India has come forward to bail the island nation out of the crisis. India has responded to urgent requests from Sri Lanka with promptness. "Since January this year, support from India to Sri Lanka exceeds \$2.5 billion. A fuel line of credit of \$500 million was signed in February. Four consignments totaling over 150,000 tons of jet aviation fuel, diesel and petrol have since arrived beginning in



Protesters beat utensils as a sign of protest during a march against the surge in prices and shortage of fuel and other essential commodities in Colombo on Sunday.

March. Five more consignments are to follow till May. Another line of credit of \$1 billion for food, medicine and essential items was signed last month," Gopal Baglay India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka said. "The first consignment of rice from India is expected to arrive in Sri Lanka shortly under this credit facility," Baglay added. Besides, the Reserve Bank of India has extended a currency swap of \$400 million and deferred payments owed by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka under the Asian Clearance Union worth several hundred million dollars. Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka said: "These facilities, negotiated and concluded within a matter of weeks, have proved to be the lifeline for the people of Sri Lanka at a time when financing of imports by Sri Lanka is difficult due to the balance of payment situation."

India's position on Russia-Ukraine conflict steadfast and consistent: Prez Kovind

Ashgabat, Apr 03 (PTI):

India's position on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has been steadfast and consistent, President Ram Nath Kovind has said, emphasising that the current global order is anchored in international law, UN Charter, and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. Unlike many other leading powers, India has not yet criticised Russia for its invasion of Ukraine and it abstained from the votes at the UN platforms in condemning the Russian aggression. India has been pressing for the resolution of the crisis through diplomacy and dialogue.



President Ram Nath Kovind during the inauguration of the 'India Corner' at the Institute of International Relations, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Interacting with young students at the prestigious Institute of International Relations here on Saturday, President Kovind said that India is deeply concerned about the worsening humanitarian situation in Ukraine. India's position on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has been steadfast and consistent, he said. We

have emphasised that the current global order is anchored in international law, the UN Charter, and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. We are deeply concerned about the worsening humanitarian situation. We have called for immediate cessation of violence and hostilities and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. We have also provided humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, Kovind said. His comments came in the backdrop of increasing disquiet in the West over India not criticising Russia for its invasion of Ukraine and abstaining from the votes at the UN Security Council.

Not interested: Sharad Pawar on speculations over UPA chairmanship

Pune, Apr 03 (PTI):

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Sunday put to rest speculations over him eyeing the chairmanship of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), days after the NCP youth wing passed a resolution proposing his name for the post. The NCP chief said that he won't lead an anti-BJP front and is not keen to become the chairman of the UPA but added that he is ready to "co-operate, support and strengthen" any bloc if an attempt is made to provide an alternative to the Bharatiya Janata Party. He also said that the Congress cannot be excluded from any initiative aimed at providing an alternative to the BJP at the Centre.

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Action against encroachments continues on second consecutive Sunday

BMC Commissioner leads enforcement squad at Supela Market

Three major tasks conducted in a single shutdown

DMC Commissioner and ADM conduct inspection

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: On Saturday, three major tasks of the water supply system were conducted in Durg simultaneously in a single shutdown. ADM Nupar Rashi Panna along with Durg Municipal Corporation Commissioner Haresh Mandavi inspected the water tank and the intake well. They also visited various wards of Durg and inquired whether the people were facing any water problem.

Drinking water system has been resumed in all wards of the Municipal Corporation Durg area from April 1 and the authorities have ensured normal drinking water supply in all wards of Durg city. The authorities claimed that there will be no need of taking any shutdown in the coming summer season. The concerned departments

have rectified all the errors in the drinking water supply system. The localities situated on the north of railway lines were facing water woes for the past some time. The problem has been resolved after filling the Shakti Nagar old tank. A population of 50,000 will be benefitted from this operation. At the same time, work is in progress under the Amrut Mission for starting water supply from the newly constructed tank behind the old Ganj Mandi.

The task of connecting the pipelines was conducted during this shutdown. This project will benefit a huge population of ward numbers 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 of the city. During the shutdown, the work has been done to replace the closed panel of the transformer to avert the possibilities of transformer related problems in the entire summer season. Top officials have given strict instructions to ensure regular water supply during the coming summer season.



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: Bhilai Municipal Corporation continued its anti-encroachment drive at Supela Sunday Market on the second consecutive Sunday. The illegal roadside vends, encroachments and illegal structures were bulldozed by the Enforcement Squad which was led by the Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Sarve.

He reached the Supela Sunday Market venue in the wee hours of the day. In order to systematise the Supela Sunday Market and to ensure congestion free traffic movement on the road connecting Supela Square to Gada Square, the BMC conducted this drive.

On the day, five joint teams of the Bhilai Municipal Corporation took action simultaneously. Encroachments and illegal structures were removed

from 36 spots. Before bulldozing the structures, in the past three days, the BMC officials had been asking the encroachers to remove the illegal structures of their own.

But some people again set up their stalls/vends on the road and started selling various items. Considering the situation, the BMC team that reached the spot in the morning removed the tables / stalls and did not

allow shops to be set up on the road.

During the drive, the team of district police and patrolling parties remained present at the spot to control any unpleasant situation. Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi conducted discussion with the businessmen / shopkeepers to strengthen the traffic system.

Last Sunday, the road was cleared by taking strict action at Supela

Sunday Market. To prevent the vendors from putting their stalls / vends again on the road, BMC team remained present on Sunday to take action in the Sunday market.

A fine of Rs 10,000 was also recovered from the owner of Divedi Building Material, who obstructed the road by dumping building material. The building material was seized. Four JCBs and six dumpers were used during the anti-

encroachment drive. The area of Supela Sunday Market comes under Zone No 1 Nehru Nagar and Zone No 2 Vaishali Nagar.

During the drive, Zone Commissioners of both the zones - Manish Gaikwad and Pooja Pillai were present. Assistant Revenue Officers Parmeshwar Chandrakar, Balkrishna Naidu, Anil Meshram, Malkhan Singh Sorri and Anjani Singh were also present.

KV Group creates new record in production

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: Overcoming the adversities of Covid Pandemic in the last two years, the KV Group has once again set new parameters of success this year. The group also experienced the ups and downs due to Corona, but the team did not give up. The team strongly countered the troubles and broke its own production record.

On Saturday, KV Group Chairman KK Jha conducted an informal meeting with the staff and thanked them for continuing their support to the company during the Covid period. He offered sweets and presented gifts to the staff members.

Directors of KV Polytech, Nischay Jha, Srishti Jha and Nidhi Jha



were especially present.

Addressing the team, Chairman KK Jha said on the first day of Hindu New Year and Navaratri, the Kanhaiya Steel Industry and KV Polytech are being merged into "KV Group".

He further said that during the difficult times of Corona, most of the team members remained

committed towards the company. With their dedicated efforts, the company succeeded in breaking its production record of 15 years.

Jha said that even during the lockdown, the staff did not leave the company. There are many such members who have been working here for the last 30 years.

They are like strong pillars who dare rain and storms but do not allow the company to suffer any loss. During the adverse situations, no one remained absent and never insisted on salary.

Jha expressed gratitude towards all the group members for their support. Jha further said that he never considered the staff as employees but as members of his family. He extended best wishes to all and prayed for their happy future.

Dinesh Chakraborty, Kalu Chaudhary, Adarsh, Bhuvneshwar Sonwane, Narendra, Shyamal, Shankar Sonu, Patle, Thanesh Sharma, Vikas, Ravi Sharma, Sandeep Agarwal, Geetabai, Shashibai and others were present.

Director In-charge congratulates employees during Plant visit



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: Bhilai Steel Plant has concluded financial year 2021-22 with excellent performances in different areas. Bhilai Collective is all geared up to achieve higher targets during the new financial year 2022-23. Anirban Dasgupta, Director In-charge BSP congratulated the Bhilai collective for their excellent performance and motivated them for excellent performance in the new financial year

2022-23 during his visit to the Plant.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director In-charge visited the Plant along with Dr SK Issar, ED (M & HS), AK Bhatta, ED (Projects), KK Singh, ED (P & A), SN Abidi, Acting ED (Works), Dr AK Panda, CGMI/c (F & A), NK Banchhor, SEFI Chairman and President, Officers Association and other senior officers to congratulate employees working in different shops and departments for their performances.



Addressing employees, Director In-charge congratulated them for their performances and appraised them about future targets. He lauded the efforts of the Bhilai collective. Other Executive Directors present also addressed the employees.

The visit began in the morning and continued till late evening. Dasgupta and EDs visited URM, RSM, RTS & RPDB, WRM, Merchant Mill, BRM, T & D, Cost control, RMD, Quality, SMS 3, P & BS,

Environment management, PEM, Blast Furnaces and SGP, CO & CCD, SP 2, SP 3, RMP 2, RMP 3, OHP, SMS 2, RED 1, RED 2, Plate Mill, Water management, EMD, Safety and FS, Contract cell, PPC, MRD, Electrical, Utilities, I & A Dept, Engineering Shops, Plant Garage, Mechanical & Electrical Organizations, Material Management, EDD & INCOS, Mines, HRD Centre, Projects, Town Services and Medical and Health Services department.

BMC gears up to tackle water crisis this summer

Commissioner chairs meeting of officials and agencies

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Sarve chaired an important meeting for ensuring regular water supply in all areas of Bhilai city during the summer season. He directed all the concerned agencies associated with the drinking water supply system to stay alert and work in a proactive manner. He asked all the officers, who are at the field level, to ensure regular supply of drinking water.

Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner has given instructions to the officers to ensure sufficient drinking water arrangement in the wards. A special officer



will be appointed in each zone to ensure drinking water arrangement.

Along with this, the agency is working directly at the field level for repair and maintenance work. In view of the summer season, the Bhilai Municipal

Commissioner directed that there should not be any kind of error or fault in the drinking water supply system.

He gave instructions to repair the necessary resources like power pumps,

hand pumps, etc. The corporation has also issued a helpline number for repair and maintenance. For any type of drinking water problem, complaints can be lodged by contacting these numbers.

The corporation has updated its 77 MLD and 66 MLD filter plants so that there is no drinking water crisis in summer. Mayor Neeraj Pal is constantly monitoring the works and is also holding regular meetings of the officers. He is also visiting the fields to inspect the ongoing works.

BMC has successfully resolved the problems in those areas which suffered water problems during the last summer season. Booster pipeline and inter-

connection work has also been done at places where there was a water problem.

In the meeting, the Commissioner said that in view of the summer season, it is necessary to remain alert on the field with necessary resources. Complaints should be resolved immediately and citizens should be provided with pure drinking water.

Superintending Engineer UK Dhalendra, Executive Engineer TK Ranadive, Assistant Engineer Kuldeep Gupta, Anil Singh and Alok Pasine, C Biju, Yuvraj Singh, MK Tiwari, Dhaneshwar Verma, Rajesh Kumar Maurya, Manish Verma and Shambhu Singh were present in the meeting.

Kanker youth prove their mettle during TYEP tour to Bangalore



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: The youth of naxal infested Kanker district proved their mettle in various competitions organised at Bangalore under the 13th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP). The Border Security Force had facilitated 45 youth including 24 girls and 21 boys to attend the Tribal Youth Exchange Programme organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India) at Bangalore.

During this visit, Kavita Tekam participated in the debate competition and won the first prize of Rs 5000. In the cultural programme competition, the 17 member group of Kanker won the first prize of Rs 2000. Draupadi Uikey, Komal Markam, Anjali Vishwakarma, Kavita Tekam, Leeshwari



team for winning prizes. It needs to be mentioned here that under this exposure visit, the tribal youth were able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic and Cultural Development and Development process unity in the diversity aspect of our national life.

They were exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educational and employment opportunities available there.

They were sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage. This programme helped the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self esteem.

SMS-II celebrates Swachhhta Pakhwada

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: Bhilai Steel Plant's SMS-II took a massive cleanliness drive in Swachhhta Pakhwada reaffirming SMS-II's commitment to National Mission for cleanliness. The Swachhhta Pakhwada was organised by SMS-II during 16th-31st of March this year.

Motivational events were organised with full zeal and enthusiasm to encourage the SMS-II fraternity for their active participation and contribution towards Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and making India clean, green and healthy. On 16th of March, Swachhhta Shapath was administered by CGM (SMS-II) to the senior offi-



cial and Karma Shiromanis of the SMS-II in SMS-II Conference Hall, wherein CGM SMS-II emphasized the importance of keeping the workplace clean and safe. Personnel office under the leadership of Harshal Agarwal organized the programme.

Swachhhta Shapath was administered on 17th of March at Caster # 6 for contract workers, wherein a massive gathering of

Contract workers took pledge to keep SMS-II clean and safe. Sudhir Kumar, Yogesh Shastri, N Shrikant, Alok Mathur, T Govind and Raghavendra Rao all GM(SMS-II) were present on the occasion.

Ratre from Personnel Department and Baghel, LO, SMS-II administered the oath to contract workers. A plantation drive was also organized near the sheds of M/s Protective

Engineering, the maintenance contractor of SMS-II. In addition to this, a session of 5-S was organized for Staff and contract workers of SMS-II.

Sunil Deshmukh, Senior Analyst, Business Excellence department took the session and explained the benefits of 5-S to those present. CGM (SMS-II) expressed thanks to the Business Excellence Department for making 5-S a

plant-wide movement and expressed his desire to reestablish the 5-S workplace management system in SMS-II. DN Keshari, DSO (SMS-II) also addressed the gathering emphasizing how better housekeeping can result in a safe and healthy workplace.

A special housekeeping drive was undertaken in Pinch Roll repair section under the leadership of N Ramesh, GM (CCS-MM), SMS-II wherein all the spares available on Shopfloor were segregated and old and non-useful spares were done away with. CGM (SMS-II) appreciated the efforts undertaken and motivated the employees to continue their efforts in keeping the workplace clean and safe.

Efforts should not be made to instigate tribals: CM

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel during his two day tour to Jagdalpur while commenting about aggressive protest by tribals in Sukma, Katekalyan and Narayanpur said that if the tribals of Bastar are annoyed over some issue, then they have every right to register protest in democratic manner and not by entering the Collector's office and causing damage to government property.



are trying to mislead and incite tribals and no one should try to instigate such innocent persons. Terming the ongoing strike by the forest employees in Chhattisgarh as incorrect, CM said that if at all the employees are having some problem,

then they should talk to their seniors and find out amicable solution.

To another question about not being happy with performance of MLAs, CM said that due to corona pandemic many public representatives, specially those in Bastar region could not reach out to their respective areas. But now with no reports of corona virus in the region, they would be able to visit their VS area and find solution to problems faced by people of the region.

Commenting about the Bastar's Maharaja Praveenchandra Bhanjdev, he said that for last 15 yrs Raman Singh of BJP was not at all concerned about him and

when BJP is without any seats in Bastar, they are remembering the Maharaja. About frequent visit by BJP State in-Charge D Purandeshwari to Bastar region, CM Baghel said that it seems Purandeshwari is constantly ignoring the BJP party leaders of Chhattisgarh.

It is notable here that during his two-day tour to Bastar, CM Bhupesh Baghel has made many important declaration of making two gram panchayats from two Naga Panchayats in Bastar and he also made a declaration of forming new tehsil and sub-division in Bastar.

Baghel pays tribute to Dau Kalyan Singh

On his birth anniversary

Raipur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has paid tribute to social worker and philanthropist of Chhattisgarh Dau Kalyan Singh on his birth anniversary on 04th April. Dau Kalyan Singh is famous for charity in Chhattisgarh and he was always ready to serve the poor and down-trodden, Baghel said. Baghel said that Dau Kalyan Singh donated several acres of land for many works like DK Hospital, Raipur, many other hospitals, libraries, colleges, reservoirs etc. This helped in providing easy education and medical facilities to every section of the society, he said, adding that Dau ji's virtuous deeds will always be remembered and his name will always be taken with respect in Chhattisgarh.

FELICITATION



Members of CG Prantiya Akhand Brahmin Samaj felicitated senior citizens of samaj in a simple programme organised here on Sunday.

Raman meets agitating contract power workers

Says govt has forgotten its promises
Alleges deliberate procrastination of appointment of linemen



Raipur, Apr 03: Former Chief Minister of the state, Dr Raman Singh reached the site of Budha Talab dharna on Sunday where electricity contract workers are sitting on dharna in support of their demands. Supporting the movement of employees, Dr Raman Singh criticized the state government for its indifference towards their plight. Three thousand contract workers are sitting on dharna for the last 24 days in support of demands for regularization and compassionate appointment to the rela-

tives of 25 employees who died during the work.

Despite getting pressure and separate notices from the government, the electricity contract workers are agitating in support of their demands under scorching summer heat. Those who had to be in duty today had to choose the path of struggle because of the wrong policies of the government, Dr Raman Singh said. According to him the contract employees had not faced any problem during

his tenure.

The state government has forgotten its own promises, he alleged and said that efforts would be made to wake this government from sleep. Singh told the top officials including collectors that many of agitating employees belonged to their families. Has the District Collector forgotten that everyone has the right to express his views in a democracy? he asked.

Electrical workers carry out electrical work but

they can also cause power breakdown. Being Energy Minister the Chief Minister must listen to the demands of the power workers and solve their problems, Raman Singh said. If BJP comes to power again then demands of the power workers will be fulfilled, he said. Raman Singh said that his government had appointed employees in this way for the year 2004-5 and 2007-8. Now 3 thousand posts are also vacant, in this they can be appointed but they are being deliberately delayed, I would say that the government should fulfill their demand soon. According to him three thousands posts are presently lying vacant which can be fulfilled with appointment. But state government is deliberately delaying the matter, he said.

Streets of the capital packed with vehicles and people

On occasion of Chetri-Chandra

Central Chronicle News



Raipur, Apr 03: After almost 2 years, the festivity has returned in Raipur. Due to the impact of COVID pandemic for the last two consecutive years, the Chetri-Chandra festival was not being celebrated. But this time this festival was celebrated with enthusiasm. Thousands of people gathered on the streets of Raipur to join Chetri-Chandra festival. The atmosphere of celebration continued till late night.

Bollywood actress Mahima Chaudhary who also reached at the celebrations programme organ-

ized by Sindhi Samaj, greeted the people on the stage near Jai Stambh Chowk in Raipur. Songs from Mahima's films were played on the stage and people danced in the form of a procession and sang from the front of the stage. Seeing all the people, Mahima said hello Raipur. The entire capital reverberated with the cheers of

Pujya Chhattisgarh Sindi Youth Wing President, CA Amit Chimmni said Bhandara (community meal programme) was organized on the occasion and juice, sweets and fruits were distributed among people in all the roads. The procession route was cleaned under the leadership of 50 volunteers of social organization Badhti Kadam. Tractors were running behind to dump the garbage. The procession passed through Lakhenagar, Purani Basti, Kankali Talab, Tatyapara, Cardaipara, Ramsagarpara, Rathor Chowk, Telghani Naka, Station Road, Nahar Para, Gurunanak Chowk, MG Road, Sharda Chowk.

Release of Kalicharan Maharaj gets postponed



Supporters of Kalicharan Maharaj are waiting outside the Central Jail for his release and were annoyed on hearing that it has got postponed.

Raipur, Apr 03: The release of Kalicharan Maharaj passing objectionable comments against Mahatma Gandhi, has got postponed once again. Actually Kalicharan was supposed to be released after 92 days of imprisonment here from the Central Jail. The jail authorities are citing about the case filed against Kalicharan Maharaj in Thane of Maharashtra and are saying that it is only after his

release order from Thane Court that he will be released.

It is worthwhile to mention here that Kalicharan Maharaj made objectionable comments against Mahatma Gandhi in a religious meeting held in capital city and for this he got bail on April 1. But the documents of the person providing bail could not be completed and therefore he could not be released. Now once again release of Kalicharan Maharaj has got delayed.

Got bail on these conditions

The advocate of Kalicharan Maharaj citing about a decision of Supreme Court in one such case has mentioned that making public statement citing what has been mentioned in the books is not a crime. It was after hearing the pleadings of both the parties, the High Court granted bail to him with bond of Rs 1 lakh and two deposits of Rs 50000 each in the Court.

CM worships Maa Danteshwari



Wishes for happiness and prosperity of people of state

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel extended his warm greetings and best wishes for the Hindu New Year and Chaitra Navratri by offering prayers at the famous Maa Danteshwari temple of Bastar located in Dantewada district. Temple priests traditionally performed the rituals. Baghel invoked blessings

of Goddess Danteshwari for happiness, peace and prosperity of people of the state.

The Chief Minister also had an opportunity to see Jyoti Kalash. He tasted the Mahua Laddu prepared as Prasad by the members of the temple committee. After the worship, the Chief Minister went to the volunteers and served food. Dhoti, Kurta, Gamcha and Rs 11 hundred were presented to each of the volunteers. The Chief Minister talked about making Jyoti Kalash Bhawan on the lines of Chandrakhuri. On this occasion, priest Vijendra



Nath Thakur handed over the memorandum of increase in honorarium of the servicemen to the Chief Minister.

Also present on the occasion were Dantewada in-charge minister Kawasi Lakhma, Bastar Development Authority Chairman Lakshwar Baghel, MP Deepak Baij, Dantewada MA Devi Mahendra Karma, Medicinal Plant Board Vice President Chhabindra Karma,

District Panchayat member Sulochana Karma, District Congress Committee President Avdesh Singh Goutam, other public representatives, collector Deepak Soni, District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Akash Chhikra, Divisional Forest Officer Sandeep Balga, Additional Collector Dr Sanjay Kannouje, SDM Abinash Mishra, heads of other societies, officers and employees.

Two arrested in firing shots at petrol pump



Korba, Apr 03: Police has arrested three accused involved in firing shots with pistol in the petrol pump in Gram Gobarghora under Dipaka Thana of Korba district with sheer intention of looting. The three accused are Vikramdev Shah, Gandhinagar Sirki, Loknath Chuhthalkar alias Viru Jyotinagar and VK Singh Jyotinagar.

It was last on March 31, two youths with clothes as mask in their faces came to get a refill in their bike. They got petrol refilled for Rs 200 and tried to snatch the bag in the hands of person filling the tank. But they could not succeed and with intentions to create fear in the mind of those

present, they fired a shot in the open and ran away. Fortunately there was no casualty or any untoward incident due to this firing.

In this case SP Bhojram Patel himself was involved and informed that the accused had purchased the pistol for Rs 50000 from Bihar and done reiki before this incident. After arrest of the two accused, they informed that they succeeded in seizing cash of Rs 500 and a mobile phone from Anganbadi worker in Gram Jemara of Pali. Darrri CSP Litesh Singh, Dipaka TI Inspector Avinash Singh, Cyber team and basic policing did remarkable work in solving this crime.

Work of Ram Van Gaman Path project completed in Shivrinarayan

Raipur, Apr 03: The development works under ambitious Ram Van Gaman Path project of Chhattisgarh government have been completed in Shivrinarayan after Chandkhuri. The development works will be dedicated to public at the hands of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on 10th April, the last day of the public dedication ceremony which will begin on 8th April. Shivrinarayan Ram Van Gaman Path is one of the places identified in the first phase of the project, for development as a tourism centre and pilgrimage.

Chhattisgarh state presents a unique example of historical, archaeological, religious and natural heritage as well as glorious ancient folk culture. Chhattisgarh is also the maternal place and 'Karmabhumi' (land of action) of Lord Shri Ram. Shri Ram spent most of the time in Chhattisgarh during the difficult exile of 14 years. Shri Ram is worshipped as a nephew in Chhattisgarh because Chhattisgarh is the birthplace of His mother Kaushalya.

In an effort to conserve and promote the cultural heritage, traditions and relics of Ramayana period in Chhattisgarh, the work of infrastructure development, restoration and beautification is being carried out at 9 places in the first phase out of 75 sites identified

in the state under Ram Van Gaman tourism circuit. Mata Kaushalya temple complex Chandkhuri was inaugurated on the occasion of Ram Navami last year.

This year, on the occasion of Ram Navami, on April 10, the inauguration ceremony of the development works of Ram Van Gaman tourism circuit is being organized at Shivrinarayan Dham, Vishnu Kankshi Teerth. Cultural performances will be given by eminent artistes of the country and the state in a three-day grand event on April 8, 9 and 10. Manas singing competition of Ramayana troupes is being organized at the state level with participation of about 7 thousand

Manas singers.

About 350 artistes from Manas troupes in 25 selected districts will give their presentations in the state level competition on April 8, 9 and 10 at Shivrinarayan. Prizes will be distributed to the winning participants on 10th April and there will be a presentation of the winning team for the first place.

The three-day event will see performances of a dance drama based on the life of Shabri by Padma Shri Mamta Chandrakar, Padma Shri Anoop Jalota, Jas Geet singer Dilip Shadangi, Mumbai playback singer Anuradha Paudwal and alumni of Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya Khairagarh.

CM pays tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Raipur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has paid tribute to the great ruler of India and skilled warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on his death anniversary on 3rd April. Baghel has said that Shivaji Maharaj fought valiantly for the pride and dignity of his motherland and prepared the foundation of the Maratha Empire. According to Baghel people still take inspiration from the life, strategies and fighting skills of Shivaji Maharaj.

Single-use plastic to be banned from July 1



Raipur, Apr 03: The use of single-use plastic bags is being banned in entire country from July 1, 2022 and in Chhattisgarh also the departments have started conducting raids in the shops and taking action against those using it. The Municipal corporation team on Saturday con-

ducted raid in 7 shops of Golebazar and Banjari road and seized single-use plastic in large quantity and imposed fine of Rs 20000 against all the 7 shopkeepers. The RMC team got a total of 200 Kg of single-use plastics from these shops. On the first day of raid, the RMC team

gave final warning and imposed penalty and asked them not to use less than 100 microns thick plastic for any sales or purchase. Single use plastic to be banned in state from July 1:

From July 1 also in entire Chhattisgarh use of single-use plastic will be banned. In this context RMC has issued departmental guidelines and given strict message to all saying that any plastic less than 100 microns thickness will not be permitted and this action is being taken as per advisory issued from the central government. The officers say that soon the manufacturing unit of all such single-use plastic will also be closed down in entire state.

Fulfill duty of making Ch'garh prosperous, cultured and powerful: CM

Teachers congratulate CM for restoring old pension scheme
Bhupesh weighed with laddoos, welcomed with a garland

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: Teachers honoured Chief Minister for fulfilling the demand of restoration of old pension at a function organized at the town hall of the district headquarters.

Chhattisgarh Teachers Association, Bastar division, while expressing gratitude towards the Chief Minister for giving the gift of old pension scheme to all the government employees of the state along with teachers, welcomed the Chief Minister with laddoos and



garland and said that with the restoration of pension scheme, all the employees will get support in old age.

Congratulating all the teachers and employees of the state in his address, the Chief Minister said that the old pension scheme was their right. This has definitely infused new energy among all the

employees.

During COVID situation, the teachers kept the light of education alive in the state even in difficult

circumstances. Demonstrating their dedication they made innovations like Bultu Ke Bol, Padhai Tuhar Angana so that children are not deprived of studies, said

Baghel.

He further said that teachers were discharging their duty to make a prosperous, cultured and powerful state.

Because of the dedication of the teachers the trend of students towards government schools has increased in the state, he added.

RUSH IN THE MARKET



With start of 'Ramzan' month on Saturday, the Muslim brethren are coming out from 'Masjids' offering 'Namaz' and breaking daily 'roja' and all this is causing lot of rush in the market area.

Baghel welcomed at Dantewada helipad



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was warmly welcomed by the local public representatives and administrative officials from Dantewada at the helipad on reaching Dantewada. He was given a guard of honor on the occasion. Dantewada in-charge Minister Kawasi Lakhma,

Bastar MP Deepak Baij, Dantewada MLA Devati Mahendra Karma, Medicinal Plant Board Vice President Chhabindra Karma, District Panchayat member Sulochana Karma, Avadhesh Singh Gautam and other public representatives, Collector Deepak Soni and other officers were present on the occasion.

Establishment of Science Park to make understanding of science easier

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: To make science interesting and easy, a science park has been established in the school premises for the school students by the Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology. Through this park, students will be able to understand different dimensions of Science through play way method. A total of 12 such parks have been established in the state. The work of setting up a Science park in district Durg is in progress. A target has been set by the council to establish science parks in all the districts of the state. Scientist of Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology Mrs. GK Rai said that under the Science publi-



cization plan of Chhattisgarh Science Council, Science parks were established for wide publicity of Science in the state and for learning and understanding the principles of Science through Science demonstrations in sports and games among school students.

Through this, the understanding and attitude of scientific facts useful in

daily life, analytical thinking and creative talent will be developed in the students. Establishment of Science park is done as per the criteria of M. Birla Science Centre, Birla Archaeological and Cultural Research Institute Division, Hyderabad. The park is being set up in the premises of the schools identified by the concerned District

Collector. In these Science parks, mobile exhibits based on various principles of school science curriculum have been set up. In which anti-gravity angle to demonstrate the principle of center of gravity, lift over self and pulley and belts for the theory of pulley, Race the roller for the theory of moment of inertia, pendulum partons on the principle of

pendulum, Newton cradle on the principle of Newton, for the theory of sound wave Black hole to display xylophone, angular momentum Split Personality for 2D and 3D Theory, Pythagorean Model for Pythagorean Theory, Archimedes Screw for the Theory of Pressure, Roller Coaster and Acrovetille Ball for Conversion of Potential Energy to Kinetic Energy, Fun Mirror for Disturbed Image and Corona Virus Demonstration Board for Covid-19 model is installed. Through these demonstrations, students are able to easily understand the principles of Science included in the curriculum. Along with this, teachers are also finding it easier to explain these principles to the stu-

dents. Through these Science parks, the students of the concerned school and other nearby schools are also getting benefited continuously. A total of 12 Science Parks have been established in the State. In which 02 Science parks have been established in Raipur, Durg, Narayanpur, Dhamtari, Janjgir-Champa, Balodabazar, Raigarh, Mahasamund, Kondagaon and Bilaspur. Recently, a Science park has been established in the Government Higher Secondary School, Pauwara, District-Durg. At present, the work of setting up outdoor-indoor Science park in Government Higher Secondary School, Marra, District-Durg is in progress.



CM flagged off lots of Danex clothes

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel during his visit to Dantewada on Saturday, 03rd April, flagged off a lot of 32500 Danex clothes worth Rs 1 crore 89 lakh from Police Line Karli. On this occasion, Minister in-charge of the district

Kawasi Lakhma, MP Bastar Deepak Baij, MLA Devati Mahendra Karma, Vice President of Medicinal Plant Board Chhabindra Karma, Collector Deepak Soni, Senior Superintendent of Police Siddharth Tiwari and other public representatives and senior officials were present.

Departments organize redressal camps

Konta, Apr 03: In Sukma district, the schemes of the government should reach the villagers easily and their problems should also be resolved. For this, the district administration is organizing public redressal camps at village level. Where all the departments

like Agriculture, Horticulture, CREDA, Electricity, Health etc. are getting applications from the villagers and redressing their problems at one place. In the same sequence, block level public problem solving camps were organized at Gadiras and Misma today. In which Kondre, Gufdi, Gondpalli, Gonderas, Jirampal, Gadiras, Pordem, Nagaras, Sonakukanar, Korra, Chigavaram, Dodpal,



Maroki, Mankapal, Murtonda, Ramapuram, Neelavaram, Misma, Dubbatota, Samsatti, Gogunda and Bagdegu reached the villagers of Gram Panchayat. The departmental officers were apprised of their problems. People's representatives also played their part

in the camp organized in Gadiras, Mrs. Aysi Kalmu, District Panchayat President Sukma, District Panchayat Vice President Damru Naam, District member Deva Hogi, Vinod Peddi, Mrs. Geeta Kawasi, Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch Gadiras, and district member Rama of the

area. Sodi was present. 94 applications were received in various departments in the camp. Similarly, 35 applications were received in the camp organized in Misma, out of which 05 were promptly resolved by the concerned department.

Camps will be organized in the coming day

In this sequence, Errar of Konta block on Monday, April 4, village Buddi, Chhindgarh and Injeram on Wednesday, April 6, Tongpal on Thursday, April 7, and on Friday, April 8, Block level public problem solving camps in Gram Panchayat Kerlapal and Kukanar. will be organized. In which there is an appeal to all the common people, villagers, citizens to be present in maximum numbers and keep their demands and problems.

Kondagaon Manas Mandal takes out procession



Kondagaon, Apr 03: On the auspicious occasion of Hindu New Year in Kondagaon, a procession was taken out in the city by Shri Ram Manas Mandal Kondagaon. During the Shobha Yatra, Jai Shree Ram's Jai Ghosh kept on resounding, due to which there was an atmosphere of devotion was echoing in the city. It is to be known that from May 5, Shri Ram Manas Mandal has organ-

ized a 9-day Shri Ram Katha at Girls School ground in Kondagaon and this will run till May 13. In this the story of Lord Shri Ram will be delivered by Vyas Manas, Param Puja Shri Atul Krishna Bharadwaj. This will be inaugurated from Kondagaon centre place at Ram Mandir with Kalash Yatra and grand 'Rath Yatra', for which preparations have been started by the devotees of Shri Ram.

NYK organised 'Catch the Rain Phase 2 Campaign'



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: Nehru Yuva Kendra Raipur, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India to impart awareness and sensitisation towards judicious use of Water, organised the Catch the Rain - where it false,

when it falls, a flagship program of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. This year phase - 2 of the programs was organised, while in 2019 phase of the same program was organised. The objective of this campaign is to spread awareness among rural population to promote judi-



cious use of water. This campaign was organized in more than 50 villages of Raipur, Balodabazar and Gariaband districts. Under this campaign, awareness and sensitization was done, while capacity of water was also build through, water talks, wall paintings, street

plays, essay and speech competition. In addition, 6 webinars on the theme Catch the Rain - where it false, when it false were organized on different topics. In these webinars, national and state level experts shared their experiences on water conservation techniques

(Rainwater Harvesting), role of youth on water conservation, among other topics and motivated youth to act as a catalyst to bring in behavioral change in the community.

Arpit Tiwari, District Youth Officer, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Raipur apprised that the campaign is continuously going on for the last 3 months, and it is being organised by the NYK across the country.

He further said ground water is extravagantly being used in rural areas for various household and agriculture purposes. Thus, it is imperative to sensitize and enhance public awareness on water conservation to avert ground water from falling down to an alarming level.

Cluster level Angana Maa Education 2.0 training workshop concludes

Kondagaon, Apr 03: With the aim of strengthening the basic education of children by connecting small children and their mothers, community with the school and for the orientation of children, mothers, parents, community and teachers and to strengthen the basic education of children, Primary School Pendravon, Sankul- one day 'Angana Maa Shiksha 2.0' fair cum training workshop was organized at Hatma Block-Baderajpur, District-Kondagaon.

In this episode, how to work in this scheme by the teachers of all the three packages present in the workshop fair, through this nine counters, training is received from DRG Hemlata Shori and development block about the work and ac-



tivities of each counter Teachers Kalpana Nag, Reshmi Shori and Pushpa Marapi explained in detailed through activities with the children and smart mothers were selected. In this training cum workshop, Jeevan Markam Sankul Coordinator Honavandi, Rupendra

Kaushik Sankul Coordinator Kosmi, Bindesh Kumar Mala Sankul Coordinator Pendravon, Dukhu Ram Markam Sankul Coordinator Teachers/Teachers, Self Help Group members, children studying in the school and their mothers were present.

All promises by Cong in its election manifesto are poll-gimmicks: Shivratna



Khairagarh, Apr 03: BJP has termed the Congress party's master stroke of forming a new district of Khairagarh in its election manifesto as poll-gimmick. Addressing a press conference at city's BJP office, MLA Bhatapara and senior members of BJP poll management samiti Shivratna Sharma charged that Congress has got expertise in making pre-poll hollow promises. Coming down heavily against Congress in its election manifesto, Sharma said that the very promise of installing statue of MLA late Devbrath Singh; providing central university status of Indira Kala Sangeet University, Khairagarh; construction

of water tanks in villages; establishing of food processing industries and others as sheer poll-gimmicks. Prior to this it was in 2018 Congress had presented bundle of lies in its election manifesto. Sharma said that the very promise of declaring the state as dry-state has not been fulfilled till date. Similarly the very promise of providing employment to 5 lakh youths too has not been fulfilled. He said that CM Bhupesh Baghel made declaration of making Bhatapara as new district in its last election manifesto and it has not been fulfilled till date. He informed that when a question in this regard was asked in the Vidhan

Sabha then a reply was given that first defeat Shivratna Sharma from Bhatapara and then district will be formed. Sharma charged that CM's speech has some different meaning and the reality is far from imagination. **Compares CM with Hitler:** Sharma in the press conference compared CM Bhupesh Baghel's character with 2nd World War hero 'Hitler'. He said that the way Hitler and his supporters used lies in its election campaign and the people started treating it as truth, in the same way it has been promoted by Congress in its election manifesto by CM. CM and his ministers have even

defeated the campaigners of Hitler.

Alleges that Devbrath was harassed and how they can install his statue now:

MLA Bhatapara Shivratna Sharma charged that Congmen first harassed Devbrath Singh and now in order to take political benefits they are making promise to install his statue. He questioned as to what were the circumstances that forced Devbrath to leave Congress and joint CJC (J) and the only reason he knew is that Congress disrespected Devbrath Singh and even burnt his effigy. On this he questioned as to whether Congress will remove the Congmen who burnt Devbrath's effigy.

On asking about Jal Jeevan Mission, Shivratna informed that it is central government's scheme and to which the Congress are claiming it as their. He said that in last 15 yrs BJP carried out massive development in entire state and to which Congress in its last three years stands at zero.

Villagers forced to drink water from water stream

Kondagaon, Apr 03:

Villagers of Kondagaon district are still deprived of basic amenities. Many schemes have been implemented by the government to provide basic facilities to the villagers, but due to the indifferent attitude of the bureaucrats who have to implement the schemes, the villagers are deprived of basic facilities. Similar case is that of Salfi Padar Para of Korohobeda, dependent village of Jogialwad. The villagers of Janha are forced to drink water from a 'Jharia'. Village Panchayat Jogialwad, located 20 km away from the district headquarters, is far away from the pace of development, the villagers of Janha are still yearning for clean water and school building.

The children of the village are compelled to study in the community hall to drink the water of hand pump. The handpump has been installed by the Public Health Engineering Department in Darsal village, but that too is damaged. Due to the failure of the handpump, they are forced to resort to Jharia for



drinking water after covering a distance of several kilometers. Due to the rising heat, the river, the pond has dried up and water level has gone down. In such a situation, the villagers are worried about the water during peak of summer season. Villagers say It is said that

many times the problem of water and school has been brought to the notice of big public representatives by applying to them, but till now they have not been heard and even today we are compelled to drink the water of 'Jharia'. As it is said that children's school is a temple and if those

children have to study in the community hall, then what would it be called? A similar case was found here. Due to lack of school building, for three years, children are being taught in the community hall of the village.

On the one hand, the villagers yearn for water, then the same children for school. Three years ago, the children are being made to sit in the community hall due to the destruction of the school building. The villagers told that till date the children are getting education in the community hall itself. Regarding the condition of the villages, it is to be said that now the eyes of the senior officers are now seen to be moving away from the schools in the rural areas. When we talked to the responsible officers in this regard regarding the basic problems of this village, they would give a roundabout answer and would talk about investigation very soon. Version: 'The problem of the villagers has come to the fore through you, pure water will be provided to the villagers in time.' D.C. Narnore, Executive Engineer PHE dept)

'IGNTU joins discussion on PM Modi's Pariksha Pe Charcha' prog'



Amarkantak, Apr 03: Every year the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi organizes 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' program for students, teachers and parents during the examinations. Through this discussion, he listens to their problems and gives them suggestions. Along with this, through his Gurumantra, he also tells them the tips to prepare the best for the exam. This year 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' program was organized today on April 1, 2022 at Talkatora Stadium in Delhi. For this, about 15.7 lakh participants had registered themselves. The most

important thing about this program this year was that it could be participated in any mode, whether online or offline. Gave gurumantras. All the students and teachers of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak Headquarters and Regional Council, Manipur participated in the program through a special link provided by the Ministry of Education.

The program was also broadcast on the official YouTube channel of the university and on Facebook. As a result of which the present and former students of the univer-

sity got benefitted from the Guru Mantra given by the Prime Minister. After the program, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Honorable Professor Shriprakash Mani Tripathi addressed the students of the University and appreciated the program of the Prime Minister, asking the students to be continuously active towards their goals and compete in every sphere of life as an opportunity. should be taken as In the program, all the teachers of the university, Lakshman Havnoor Auditorium, Department of Journalism and Professor Ram Dayal Munda Central Library, besides this the program was organized in the auditorium hall of the university in the Kendriya Vidyalaya of the university. About eight thousand students participated in the program. At the end of the program, thanks were given to all by Professor Bhumi Nath Tripathi, Dean of Student Welfare of the University.

Police arrest 2 interstate smugglers

With ganja worth Rs 3.20 lakh



Kondagaon, Apr 03:

Police has arrested 2 interstate smugglers with ganja worth Rs 3.20 lakh. Ganja smugglers were smuggling the drug in their motor cycle.

Giving information in this regard, the TI Kondagaon Archana Dhurandhar said that on the orders of the Superintendent of Police, Divyang Patel, a continuous campaign is being run against the inter-state ganja smugglers. Under which special monitoring

is being done in the National Highway to stop drug smuggling.

In this series, the police got tip from an informer that ganja smugglers are going from Orissa to Raipur via Jagdalpur Kondagaon. On the information of NH-30, the police created barricading near Mardapal triangle. The person in the suspicious motorcycle was stopped and checked. On checking, it was found to contain about 17.200 kg Ganja in 8 brown colored packets inside the sack. The market value of the seized ganja is about Rs.3.20 lakh. After seizing the said ganja, the accused woman Siya Soni, husband Sanju Soni, age 40 years and Azhar Khan's father Late Ghaffar, registered a crime against the accused under Section 20 'B' NDPS Act. Khan, age 36, was arrested and produced before the Court and sent to jail.

Terra Water Filter installed by 188th Battalion CRPF

In Govt High School Village Ratenga under Civic Action prog.

Kondagaon, Apr 03:

188th Battalion CRPF Puspal Ghat, Government High School Ratenga in remote and Naxal-prone areas under its working area on March 31.

Under the direction of 188th Battalion Commandant Sunil Kumar in Block-Bastar, District-Bastar, 2nd Commanding Officer Ashok Nigude, Assistant Commandant Bannaram, inaugurated a Terra water filter of 1000 liters capacity for pure drinking water. Under this civic action program, under direction of 188th Battalion Commandant Sunil Kumar, it was installed in Government High School Ratenga district/block-Bastar. Under the direction of Commandant Sunil Kumar, Second Commanding Officer Ashok Nigude, Assistant Commandant Bannaram, inaugurated a Terra water filter of 1000 liters capacity for pure drinking water. Gone. On this auspicious occasion,



Principal of Government High School, Lomesh Kumar Bhardwaj and other teachers, Gan Shanti Kashyap, Sarpanch Ratenga, students and villagers were present. Sweets were distributed to the villagers and school children. This work of CRPF was praised by the Principal and the villagers. Under this, such work is promoting better and cordial relations between the security forces and the villagers. On this occasion, 2nd Commanding Officer Ashok Nigude in his address informed about the importance of pure drink-

ing water and he asked the people to beware of iron content in the water in this area. Due to this the children are having some deformity in their teeth and feet. Therefore, a Terra water filter has been installed in this area by Commander Sunil Kumar of 188th Battalion CRPF Camp Chikhpaluti Kondagaon. He said that CRPF is always working diligently to protect the citizens of the country. Through the speech, the school children boosted their morale and gave some tips to the children to shape their future.

The best person has the quality of forgiveness: Prof. Chakrawal

Bilaspur, Apr 03: The formal inauguration of the International Guest House at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) was done on the holy first day of Chaitra Navratri on 02 April 2022 by Vice-Chancellor Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal. Professor Nilambari Dave, the First Lady of the university, former Vice-Chancellor Saurashtra University Rajkot and Deans, Heads of Department and officers etc. attended the inauguration ceremony. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakrawal said that the tradition of development should continue uninterrupted. We have to develop the university as a center of academic excellence and skill development. The whole world is changing moment by moment, so we have to develop a tendency to follow it. He said that those who move forward forgetting the past things and forgiving with a generous heart, are the best. Referring

to the speech given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' program, he said that we should take out time to observe introspection. Reiterating his resolve, he said that in the field of higher education, I will make as much contribution as is in my capacity with dedication. Prasad was also distributed on this occasion and everyone was wished a very Happy New Year. The dignitaries and officials also expressed their views on the inauguration of the International Guest House. An oil painting of Adi Guru Shankaracharya was presented to the Vice-Chancellor. Earlier, on the occasion of Navratri, the Vice-Chancellor offered prayers at the Kali Mata Temple located in the university by lighting the Jyoti Kalash, which is lit as usual, every year. The program was conducted and the vote of thanks was given by the Registrar of the University, Prof. Shailendra Kumar.

Corruption reported in Marwahi Forest Division



Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Apr 03: Marwahi forest division has become a stronghold of corruption which is constantly building new dimensions on its corrupt exploits and it is to be known that during the assembly session suspen-

sion of 15 officers and employees was announced for corruption in MNREGA scheme and which is probably the biggest proceedings in the history of the House. In Khodari range of Marwahi forest division, where an amount of



crores was approved by the government under CAMPA scheme, all the work is shown in the papers but the construction work at the site is zero. It is to be known that two stop dams were approved in the Lalati beat room number 2213 and 2214 of

Khodari range of Marwahi forest division, in which the work was completed by digging the foundation in one room and finished the work by putting a base in the other room. Along with this, no construction work has been done so

far in Belpat Beat's room number 2126 and 2127, but almost the entire amount has been withdrawn. Thus, keeping the construction work confined to paper, only money was wasted which was a serious financial issue. According to the same information received, a complaint has been made to every major forest officer from the head of CAMPA scheme for investigation.

The complaint has been received three days ago, the staff is on strike, and I will be able to tell something only after checking. Dinesh Patel Forest Divisional Officer Marwahi.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is to inform the general public that I **RAMESH AGRAWAL S/O BABU LAL AGRAWAL** resident of 56 Bajrang Para Kohka Ward No. 8 Sirsa Road Supela Bhilai (C.G) have changed my old name **RAMESH AGRAWAL S/O BABU LAL AGRAWAL** so in future I should be recognised by my new name that is **RAMESH KUMAR AGRAWAL S/O BABU LAL AGRAWAL** in all government and other documents.

RAMESH KUMAR AGRAWAL
56 Bajrang Para, Kohka
Ward No. 8 Sirsa Road
Supela Bhilai (C.G)

Collector inspects development works in village Behradih

Mainpur, Apr 03:

District Collector Namarata Gandhi, reached here on surprise inspection of developmental works in backward tribal village Behradih and inspected Gauthans, ponds, schools, and hostels. Accompanying the Collector were Zila Panchayat CEO Roktima Yadav, DFO Mayank Agarwal, SDM Suraj Sahu, and other officials. The Kamar tribals of the village informed the



Collector upon the closure of Unnat Kheti Yojna, and asked the officials to start

it back, for progressive farming, for which the collector instructed the officials to restart the scheme on ground level at the earliest. She also inspected Swami Atmanand English Medium School in village Navmudha and expressed displeasure over the slow pace of work. She also instructed officials to integrate women group into 'Dona Patta' and mushroom production units and help the villagers to procure financial gains through farm produce.

SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CO. LTD.
Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)
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DEMAND NOTICE

Notice U/S 13(2) of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (hereinafter called 'ACT')

It is to bring to your notice that your loan account has been declared as NPA by secured creditor Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited having its registered office at D-305, Ground Floor, Sarvodaya Enclave, New Delhi 110017 (hereinafter called 'SHDFCL') and you are liable to pay total outstanding against your loan to SHDFCL. You are also liable to pay future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. Therefore, we hereby call upon you to discharge in full your liabilities to SHDFCL within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which SHDFCL will be empowered to exercise the power under Section 13(4) of the ACT. The details of borrowers and secured assets are as under:-

S. No.	Loan No./ Borrower(s) Name	Applicant Address	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Secured Asset
1	Loan No. 08H1180900005014694, Nutan Manikpuri, Nirmal Sukhamat Manikpuri	Block No 110 H No 0 EWS Parijat Colony Talapuri Ruwabandha Bhilai, Durg Chhattisgarh -490006	25-03-2022 ₹ 4,25,145/-	Flat No 110/O Third Floor EWS (Parijat Apartment) CGHB Talpuri Twin City Ruwabandha Ward No 63 Bhilai Teh Durg Dist Durg Chhattisgarh 490006

Place : Gurgaon
Date : 02.04.2022

Authorised Officer
Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited

BRIEF

Rescued

New Tehri: Four people from Delhi were rescued by police after they fell into the Ganga here in Tehri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. According to police, Ritu (27) lost balance while bathing in the river. Amandeep Singh, Manjeet Singh (57) and Jaspreet Kaur (33), who were accompanying Ritu, tried to save her, but strong currents pulled them away. All four were rescued by alert police personnel, incident occurred at day time.

Seized

Kolkata: In one of the largest drug hauls in Kolkata airport, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 16.15 kg of heroin valued at nearly Rs 113 crore from three African passengers, including two women. Acting on specific intelligence, DRI people intercepted the three persons - a man and a woman from Kenya and a female passenger from Malawi. During examination 14 packets filled with substance were found.

Reclaims

Noida: The Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) said it has removed encroachment from a 2.5 hectare land piece along the Hindon river's flood plains under its area of management. Illegal colonisation had started in the floodplains and temporary constructions, settlements were removed from the area during an anti-encroachment drive, the GNIDA said.

Booked

Gurugram: A government employee has been booked for allegedly submitting fake educational certificates to be eligible for a higher pay. The accused Ashok Kumar was appointed to a junior rank in the public works department in 2004 and he eventually got promoted as an executive engineer. He then applied for a revised pay scale for which he allegedly furnished fake certificates.

Poisoning

Thane: Four students of an ashram school in Dhabade in Thane district's Bhiwandri area fell ill due to suspected food poisoning, civic health officials said. The four children from Shradha Ashram School, complained of uneasiness after having food and have been hospitalized, said Dr Datta Kole of the civic-run Shree Chatrapati Maharaj General Hospital.

Betting

Noida: With the arrest of six men, the Noida Police on claimed to have busted a gang allegedly involved in betting on the high-profile Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket matches and the recently-concluded Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. The gang was operating from an office in Sector 10 here and was in touch with their contacts in Dubai for betting on the IPL games, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ranvijay Singh said.

'RS played crucial role in strengthening parliamentary democracy'

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Extending greetings on Rajya Sabha Day on Sunday, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said the upper house has played a crucial role in strengthening parliamentary democracy.

Naidu, who is also Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, appealed to its members to engage in informed and constructive debates by keeping the welfare of the people in mind.

"Greetings on Rajya Sabha Day! Ever since its inception, Rajya Sabha has played a crucial role in strengthening parliamentary democracy," the Vice President Secretariat tweeted, quoting Naidu.

"I would like to appeal to the members of Rajya Sabha to engage in informed & constructive debates by keeping the welfare of the people in mind," he said. According



Venkaiah Naidu

to the Rajya Sabha website, the Constituent Assembly, which first met on December 9, 1946, also acted as the Central Legislature till 1950, when it was converted as 'Provisional Parliament'.

During this period, the Central Legislature, which was known as Constituent Assembly (Legislative) and later Provisional Parliament, was unicameral till the first elections were held in 1952.

Extensive debate took place in the Constituent Assembly regarding the

utility or otherwise of a second chamber in independent India and ultimately, it was decided to have a bicameral legislature for independent India mainly because a federal system was considered to be most feasible form of government for such a vast country with immense diversities.

A second chamber known as the 'Council of States', therefore, was created with altogether different composition and method of election from that of the directly elected House of the People.

It was conceived as another chamber with smaller membership than the Lok Sabha (House of the People). It was meant to be the federal chamber, a House elected by the elected members of the states and two Union Territories in which states were not given equal representation.

Living in shadow of Delhi's tallest garbage mountain

Ghazipur locals continue to gasp for fresh air

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Asthma, recurrent chest infections, breathing difficulties and other respiratory illness are common in families living in the shadow of Delhi's tallest garbage mountain, Ghazipur landfill site, with frequent fires leaving them gasping for breath.

A regular issue in election manifestos and often the subject of political blame game, Ghazipur dumping yard has been a long-standing problem with residents around the area complaining of serious health hazards.

A fire at the dumping yard that broke out on March 28 could be doused



Riyazuddin (C), a resident living in the vicinity of Ghazipur landfill.

over 50 hours, forcing the locals to stay indoors. While no casualty was reported in the blaze, a thick blanket of smoke engulfed the adjoining areas.

Jummal, a 55-year-old woman, who lives near the landfill site in East Delhi's Ghazipur, said she suffered from asthma and has

had frequent respiratory infections for the last nine years. "I have stopped stepping out of my house ever since I developed health problems. When the fire broke out on March 28, we were gasping for breath. We could only close our windows and stay indoors. There was no other option

FLAG-OFF



International Hindu Parishad president Pravin Togadia holds a sword during flag-off ceremony of 'Hindu Nav Varsh Yatra', at Mahavir Temple in Patna, Sunday.

'Raj Thackeray's Gudhi Padwa speech sponsored by BJP'

Mumbai, Apr 03 (PTI):

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday hit out at Raj Thackeray for demanding that loudspeakers on mosques shut down, saying the MNS chief's speech was "scripted and sponsored" by BJP.

Speaking at a rally at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on Saturday, Raj Thackeray demanded that if the playing of loudspeakers in mosques at high volume is not stopped, there will be speakers outside mosques playing Hanuman Chalisa at a higher volume. "It is clear that the (speech of the loudspeaker blaring at the Shivaji Park was scripted and sponsored by BJP," Raut told reporters here in an apparent reference to the MNS chief.



Sanjay Raut

Raut criticised the MNS president for his remarks that Shiv Sena remembered the assurance of rotational chief minister-ship only after the 2019 results, which was a mandate for the Sena-BJP alliance and not for Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). "I wonder why some people get their wisdom tooth so

late. Governments are formed on majority numbers in legislature. These numbers were with the MVA.

The MVA alliance government had been formed to teach liars a lesson and to provide stability to the state," Raut said. He said that no third person should poke his nose into what transpired between the Sena and the BJP in 2019 before the formation of the MVA government.

The Sena chief spokesperson wondered if 'Azan' on loudspeakers has been stopped in BJP-ruled states. "The rule of law prevails in Maharashtra," he said. Raut also slammed the MNS chief for his remarks that NCP president Sharad Pawar plays a caste card and "divides society.

Fashion designers present contemporary rendition of sari



Designer saris presented in fashion show at Surajkund.

New Delhi, Apr 03

(PTI):

In a fashion extravaganza curated by Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), 11 designers labels, including Abraham & Thakore, Akaaro, Samant Chauhan and

Rajesh Pratap Singh, presented their contemporary take on the classic sari at the 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela, over the weekend.

Titled My Handloom My Pride, the event was organised in association with DC (Handlooms) and Haryana Tourism. Manoj

Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir was the chief guest. Each designer represented a different state in their presentation.

While Abraham & Thakore focused on Madhya Pradesh, Akaaro highlighted Haryana. Chauhan kept Bihar at the centre of his creations, whereas Singh's collection was inspired by Odisha and Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Other designers to showcase at the event were Asha Gautam (Maharashtra), Jahnavi Phookan (Assam), Madhu Jain (Odisha), Manish Tripathi (Uttar Pradesh), Shruti Sancheti (Rajasthan), Suket Dhir (West Bengal).

Third force claim with ten percent score: Stalin's jibe at BJP

Congress should develop principled friendships

Chennai, Apr 03 (PTI):

Scoffing at the BJP's claim of having emerged as the third force in Tamil Nadu, state chief minister and DMK supreme MK Stalin has said it is like a student managing just a 10-point score behind those having 90 and 50 marks. He also said it was wrong to assume that the BJP won massively in the recently held assembly elections in five states as its tally declined in Uttar Pradesh and its 10 ministers, including one deputy chief minister, lost there, while several key leaders in Goa and the chief minister in Uttarakhand also had to suffer defeat.

"Taking into account the real field conditions of the five state election re-



Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin meets a CPI(M) delegation from Kerala, in Chennai on Sunday.

sults, I'll say it is negative for the BJP," Stalin told PTI in an interview.

"In UP, they have got fewer seats than last time. The defeat of 10 ministers, including the deputy chief minister, is an expression of popular discontent. The BJP chief minister has been defeated in Uttarakhand and their key

leaders lost in Goa too. The party has won only two seats in the Punjab assembly," said the DMK stalwart, who was on a three-day visit to the national capital. Asked about the BJP's claim that it has emerged as the third force in Tamil Nadu, Stalin said, "A boy gets 90 marks in an examination. Another stu-

dent gets a score of 50. Another one gets 10 points. Would you appreciate a 10-point scorer finishing third?" After urban local body polls in February, the BJP claimed that it has emerged as the third-largest party in Tamil Nadu after the DMK and the AIADMK. The local elections saw the ruling DMK relegating its arch-rival AIADMK to a distant second position, after trouncing it in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and then during the 2021 assembly polls. While the DMK won almost two-thirds seats, the BJP managed to make its inroads by winning over 300 seats, though it had fielded candidates for almost 5,600 seats of the total of more than 12,800.

BJP, CPI(M) hope to give good fight to Babul Supriyo

Kolkata, Apr 03 (PTI):

Opposition BJP and the CPI(M) candidates are hoping to play spoilsport to celebrity Trinamool Congress candidate Babul Supriyo having a cakewalk in the April 12 by-poll to the upmarket South Calcutta assembly constituency of Ballygunge, which has been a pocket borough for the TMC since 2006. The south Kolkata constituency is a unique patchwork which boasts of palatial houses of the Birlas, Thapars, Mookherjees (of Martin & Burn fame) and Zamindars of yesteryears such as the Rajas of Santosh, as well as tony upper middle-class high-rises and sprawling slums.

Traditionally since the 1950s, the fight in these constituency used to be between CPI(M) and the



BJP meeting for election campaign in Ballygunge on Sunday.

Congress, with the slums and some of the middle-class intelligentsia voting Left, while the rest of the middle class and Uber rich rooting for the Right.

The rise of the left-off centre Trinamool saw votes of both the poor and rich gravitating towards the Mamata Banerjee-led party. However, the rise of the BJP in last few years has again created a new

right-wing electorate, while the Left is hoping to make a small come-back by channelling dissatisfaction with TMC towards votes for the hammer and sickle. The TMC of course remains confident of the Mamata-magic. "I am getting great response from people - across the constituency including in areas like Park Circus. The opposition is levelling all

kinds of false charges against me as they are sure of defeat," Supriyo told PTI over the phone, while undertaking a door-to-door campaign in the minority-dominated Mullickbazar area. The around 2.5 lakh electorate in the constituency reflects an eclectic mix of Bengali and Hindi speakers, Urdu-speaking Muslims, with a sprinkling of Anglo-Indians, Christians, Parsis and a handful of Jews.

The by-election to Ballygunge was necessitated by the death of Subrata Mukherjee in November, 2021, who was then the Panchayat Minister in the Mamata Banerjee cabinet.

In the last election held in 2021, TMC received over 70 per cent vote share, the BJP candidate came a distant second with just over 20 per cent votes and the CPI(M) got 5.61 per cent.

Rare white-cheeked macaque spotted in Arunachal

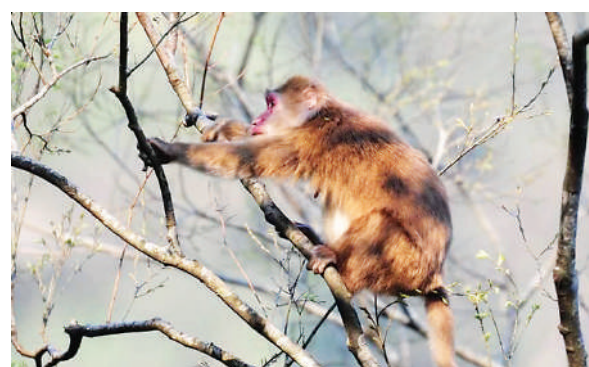
Itanagar, Apr 03 (PTI):

The rare white-cheeked macaque was spotted in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district for the second time, a forest official said on Sunday.

The mammal was first spotted in Anjaw district by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) earlier this year, and it was published in the February 3 issue of the international peer-reviewed journal 'Animal Gene'.

The mammal is the newest addition to the list of primate species found in the Indian subcontinent, the official said.

Before this, the white-cheeked macaque was found in Modog in south-eastern Tibet in 2015, West Kameng district



White-cheeked macaque spotted in Arunachal Pradesh.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Chukhu Loma said.

Anjaw is barely 200 km in aerial distance from where it was first spotted in Modog in China, he said.

"Not many days after its discovery in Anjaw, a white-cheeked macaque

was captured in a camera trap in Bishum Phudung in Dirang," he said.

The animal has distinct facial features that differentiate it from other macaques, specifically the white cheeks (whiskers), and long and thick hair on the neck, the official said.

BRIEF**Travellers**

■ **Brasilia:** Brazil loosened its pandemic restrictions for international travellers, ending its Covid-19 test requirement for vaccinated passengers and scrapping a lengthy health questionnaire. Travelers will now only be required to present proof of vaccination on arrival in the country, according to new regulations in the government gazette, following a recommendation to the same effect from federal health regulator Anvisa last week.

Algerian

■ **Washington:** An Algerian man imprisoned at the Guantanamo Bay detention center for nearly 20 years has been released and sent back to his homeland. The US Department of Defense announced that Sufyan Barhoumi was repatriated with assurances from the Algerian government that he would be treated humanely there and that security measures would be imposed to reduce the risk that he could pose a threat in the future.

Investigators

■ **Beijing:** US accident investigators arrived in China to help authorities look for clues into what caused last month's crash of a Boeing jetliner with 132 people aboard. The seven-member team from the National Transportation Safety Board will participate in the Civil Aviation Administration of China's investigation of the March 21 crash of a China Eastern Airlines Boeing 737-800 because the aircraft was manufactured in the US.

Gutted

■ **Hargeisa:** A massive fire tore through the main market in the city of Hargeisa in northern Somalia overnight, injuring about two dozen people and destroying hundreds of businesses. Images posted on social media showed flames and huge billowing clouds of smoke in the night sky over the city, the capital of the break-away region of Somaliland.

Museum

■ **New Orleans:** The National WWII Museum in New Orleans in US has dedicated a gallery of planes to former aviator President George HW Bush, who was forced to bail out of his bomber during the war when it was hit by Japanese anti-aircraft fire. Bush was remembered during the dedication ceremony at the museum where the gallery displaying aircraft flown during the war was christened the George HW Bush Aviation Gallery.

Tripled

■ **Guatemala City:** Eager to show it's trying to slow the steady flow of its people north to the United States, Guatemala recently tripled prison sentences for migrant smugglers. The day after Guatemala's legislature approved the measure in February, 18-year-old Yashira Hernandez left her home near the Mexican border for the trip north hiring a smuggler to help.

US Congresswoman praises Modi for trying to broker peace

● **Between Russia and US on Ukraine**

Washington, Apr 03 (PTI):

A top American Congresswoman has praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for trying to broker peace between the United States and Russia on Ukraine and hoped that his efforts would be helpful in restoring peace in the region.

On Friday, Modi conveyed to visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that India stands ready to contribute in any way to the peace efforts to resolve the conflict in Ukraine and called for early cessation of violence in that country.

Well, I think that right now he (Modi) is trying to



Carolyn Maloney

broker a peace between Russia and America with Ukraine. I think that's a very positive goal to have. We (India and US) have strong economic ties, we have strong peace ties, and we have strong similar values, I would say we have the same form of government, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney told PTI in an interview.

Maloney, 76, who chairs

the powerful House Oversight Committee and has been elected to the US House of Representatives since 1993, is one of the senior most Democratic lawmakers in Congress.

Maloney has been a friend of India and Indian Americans both inside and outside the Congress.

She attended the historic 'Howdy Modi' event in Houston in September 2019, which was addressed by the Prime Minister and the then US President Donald Trump.

She has been one of the key architects of the Diwali Stamp and is now focused on passage of two of her legislations: One to declare Diwali as a federal holiday and other to give the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi.

Maloney, who has a reputation of never giving up on her efforts, during an interview, exuded confidence that both her legislations would be finally signed into law by President Joe Biden.

Maloney, who last met Modi during the 'Howdy Modi' event, said that the important thing is that Modi is trying for peace.

One thing is true that if you don't try it, you'll never succeed. You have to keep on trying.

For the sake of the world, I hope that anyone working for peace between Ukraine, Russia and the world is helpful in making that happen, she said. The Congresswoman from New York said that the prime minister is trying to bring ideas and ways to get a compromise to bring peace to the world.

Kim's sister enraged by Seoul's preemptive strike comments

Seoul, Apr 03 (AP):

The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called the South Korean defense minister a 'scum-like guy' for talking about preemptive strikes on the North, warning Sunday that the South may face 'a serious threat.'

Kim Yo Jong's statement came amid heightened tensions between the rival Koreas over the North's spate of weapons tests this year, including its first intercontinental ballistic missile launch in more than four years. Some experts say her statement could signal that North Korea will conduct more significant weapons tests soon and



Kim Yo Jong

take a hardline stance on South Korea. The ICBM test on March 24 that broke North Korea's four-year moratorium on big weapons tests was an embarrassment to South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in, who has pushed hard to achieve greater reconciliation between the countries and find a peaceful resolution to the North Korean nuclear crisis.

Shanghai lockdown triggers complaints as COVID cases rise

● **China's vaccination rate is above 87 percent**

Beijing, Apr 03 (AP):

COVID-19 cases in China's largest city of Shanghai are still rising with millions isolated at home under a sweeping lockdown, as the draconian zero tolerance approach to the pandemic increasingly draws complaints from residents fed up with the restrictions.

Health officials on Sunday reported 438 confirmed cases over the previous 24 hours, along with 7,788 asymptomatic ones.

Both figures were up slightly from the day before, while the northeastern province of Jilin posted a combined 4,455 cases



An officer guards next to the entrance of a neighborhood during lockdown in Shanghai on Sunday.

Sunday, also marking an increase from Saturday.

While small by the standards of some countries, the daily increases are some of the largest since the virus was first detected in the central city of Wuhan in late 2019.

Shanghai with its 26 mil-

SERBIAN ELECTION



Voters prepare to vote at a polling station in Belgrade, during general elections of Serbia on Sunday.

Hungarians head to polls in shadow of war in Ukraine

Budapest, Apr 03 (AP):

Polls opened across Hungary early Sunday as voters in the Central European country faced a choice: take a chance on a diverse, Western-looking coalition of opposition parties, or grant na-

abandonist Prime Minister Viktor Orban a renewed mandate with a fourth consecutive term in office. The contest is expected to be the closest since Orban took power in 2010, thanks to Hungary's six main opposition parties putting

Secret intelligence has unusually public role in Ukraine war

London, Apr 03 (AP):

The war in Ukraine is the conflict where spies came in from the cold and took center stage.

Since Russia invaded its neighbor in late February, intelligence agencies in the US and Britain have been remarkably willing to go public with their secret intelligence assessments of what is happening on the battlefield and inside the Kremlin. The US this week declassified intelligence findings claiming Russian President Vladimir Putin is being misinformed about his military's poor performance in Ukraine by advisers scared to tell him the truth. On Thursday a British spy chief said demoralized Russian troops were refusing to carry out orders and

sabotaging their own equipment. Jeremy Fleming, who heads Britain's electronic intelligence agency GCHQ, made the comments in a public speech where he said the 'pace and scale' at which secret intelligence is being released 'really is unprecedented.' Mark Galeotti, a Russia expert at University College London, agreed that the very public intelligence campaign 'reflects the fact that we now live in a different age, politically and internationally. And this is a different kind of war.' Officials say the stream of declassified intelligence which includes regular briefings to journalists in Washington and London and daily Twitter updates from Britain's defense ministry has several aims.

French leader Le Pen softens image for election



French "Rassemblement national" (RN) party's presidential candidate Marine Le Pen gives a speech during rally in Strasbourg-Wendel.

Paris, Apr 03 (AP):

French nationalist leader Marine Le Pen has softened her rhetoric and her image to broaden her appeal in next week's presidential

election but is under threat from a provocative rival who has broken her monopoly as the watchdog of the country's identity that they claim is under threat.

For more than a decade,

Le Pen has been known for her fierce anti-immigration stance, seeing herself as standing guard at the parapets of French civilization. Now she is honing in on consumers' buying power, the top concern for voters. 'I obviously consider that immigration and insecurity are serious problems which need urgent answers, but there's not just that,' said Le Pen, head of the National Rally party, during a TV show featuring voters' questions. 'I worry about making ends meet as much as the end of France.' Meanwhile, Eric Zemmour, 63, a political novice running under the banner of his newly created Reconquest! party, is now portraying himself as the protector of old France, with bold proposals on im-

migration and Islam. He has proposed a 'Remigration Ministry,' equipped with airplanes to expedite the expulsions of what he says are undesirable migrants. Their rivalry illustrates France's increasing tilt toward the hard right and how that has set the agenda for the presidential election, held in two rounds on April 10 and 24. While polls suggest centrist President Emmanuel Macron is the front-runner, nearly half of respondents say they're ready to vote for a far-right candidate in the decisive runoff. And that's despite the fact that Zemmour, a TV pundit who models himself after former US President Donald Trump, has been convicted three times of inciting racial or religious hatred.

Lankan Opposition protests against emergency

Colombo, Apr 03 (PTI):

Defying curfew orders, lawmakers from Sri Lanka's principal opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) on Sunday staged an anti-government protest here against President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's move to impose a state of emergency and other restrictions amidst the worst economic crisis in the island nation.

A majority of Sri Lankans were unable to access social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram on Sunday after the Sri Lankan government decided to block them after they alleged that these were being used to organise demonstrations against the government. NetBlocks, a watchdog organisation that monitors cybersecurity and the governance of the



Sri Lanka's main opposition parliament members shout slogans as they protest in Colombo on Sunday.

Internet reported that real-time network data collected from over 100 vantage points across Sri Lanka showed restrictions coming into effect across multiple providers from midnight. We will protect #democracy in #SriLanka, opposition legislator Harsha de Silva said. Opposition lawmakers marched towards Colombo's Independence Square, chanting slogans and carrying plac-

ards that read: Stop Suppression and Gota go home.

Police officials set up barricades leading up to the Independence Square, which was built to commemorate Sri Lanka's independence in 1948. Additionally, the Sri Lankan police on Sunday have arrested 664 persons in the country's Western Province for violating the curfew, the Colombo Page newspaper reported.

In war-torn Syria, charity offers hope to kids with cancer

Damascus, Apr 03 (AP):

At the children's cancer ward in a hospital in the Syrian capital of Damascus, children walk down brightly painted corridors, hooked up to IV needles delivering critical treatment into their bloodstream.

Nurses tend to babies and teenagers getting chemotherapy sit in reclining chairs. Other children, in a nearby playroom, draw and colour to pass the time.

The beds fill up fast at the ward operated by BASMA, a private charity that supports children with cancer.

It is the biggest association across the war-shattered nation to offer full cancer diagnoses and

treatment without charge and for many among Syria's impoverished population, it comes down to either that or no treatment at all.

More than a decade of war has brought Syria's health care sector to its knees. With an ongoing economic crisis exacerbated by Western sanctions and a devastating currency crash, most families are struggling to survive. Few can afford expensive cancer treatment.

Hospitals, including Al-Bairouni hospital on the Harasta highway, just northeast of the Syrian capital, and the Children's Hospital in Damascus, face severe shortages of medicines and medical equipment. Before the war, the Syrian government

provided anticancer medication free of charge in its public oncology facilities. But since the conflict broke out in 2011, these services have been disrupted.

Around half of the country's health care clinics have been destroyed or closed during the war, which has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half of the country's pre-war population. Oncology care saw a rapid decline.

The doctor told us medicine is in short supply and we would have to secure most of it ourselves, said a woman from the coastal province of Latakia who identified herself by her nickname, Umm Hamzeh, meaning the mother of Hamzeh.

'Wisdom of Vivekananda exceeded that of any Harvard professor'

Annisquam, Apr 03 (PTI):

Nothing much is known about the content and context of Swami Vivekananda's first speech in the United States, which was about a fortnight before his historic Chicago address in September 1893, but the residents of this quiet seacoast village about 65 kilometers north of Boston, to this day remember him as a Hindu monk whose wisdom and intelligence exceeded that of a Harvard professor.

I think the impression that he (Swami Vivekananda) left was that here is someone from a culture so different, from a religion so different and yet his wisdom, his intelligence, exceeded even the



Sue Koehler-Arsenault

wisdom intelligence that they thought was here of the Harvard, Rev Sue Koehler-Arsenault, Pastor of the historic Annisquam Village Church, told PTI in an interview.

Rev Koehler-Arsenault is now the Pastor of the historic Annisquam Village Church, where Swami Vivekananda deliv-

ered his first speech on American soil on August 27, 1893.

The lecture, from where Swami Vivekananda addressed the jam-packed church on a Sunday in August 1893, is probably the only thing left of the historic day, but his speech continues to resonate in this village and the residents feel that they are part of history.

While the text or content of his speech at this church is not available or has been lost with the tide of history, the pastor observed that it is believed that Swami Vivekananda here spoke about India's cultural diversity and about the country and his speech at this church was not about Hinduism,

which was the theme of his historic speech at the World Parliament of Religion in Chicago on September 11, 1893.

My understanding is that he was really just trying to paint a picture of India, of the culture and traditions of India, not so much did he speak about religion here; but just about the way of life, she said responding to a question.

My understanding is that his talk here was less about Hinduism and, he wasn't giving a religious speech in so far as he wasn't trying to, address the finer points of Hinduism or of his spiritual worldview, but more about the culture and the practices of the people, she said.



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Reforming technical education

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) extended the moratorium on setting up new engineering institutes for two more years with certain exceptions, according to its chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe. The move comes after a government constituted panel had recommended continuation of the ongoing moratorium. The AICTE had imposed a moratorium of two years on granting approvals for new colleges in 2020. The New Education Policy (NEP) envisages that all higher education institutions (HEIs) should evolve into autonomous universities by the year 2040 with individual enrolment of above 3,000. AICTE is taking up reforms meant to make technical education relevant for industry needs. Recently, AICTE clarified that the Bachelor of Vocation courses will be treated at par with diploma in engineering or a BSc degree for lateral admission to engineering courses. For admission in B.Tech and BE program through lateral entry to second year, a candidate must have passed minimum three years diploma examination in any branch of engineering and technology, the council further said. A BSc degree from recognized university and passed class 12 examination with mathematics as a subject is also in the eligibility criteria. AICTE has also set a target of printing study materials for technical courses in 12 Indian languages, a move that has come in accordance with the provisions of the NEP. Physics, chemistry and maths will no longer be mandatory subjects for admission to undergraduate courses in architecture, according to the approval process handbook for 2022-23. The other two courses which will not mandatorily require PCM subjects in class 12 are fashion technology and packaging technology. Union minister of state for education Dr Subhash Sarkar recently said the National Education Policy 2020 will prepare the youth for a self-reliant and prosperous India. This policy is providing comprehensive education including the 2020 multidisciplinary curriculum. Total number of credits for engineering graduation to be reduced from the current 160-180 to 135-140.

Academic credits are calculated on the basis of work that a student has done in the classroom, including actual attendance, assignments and presentations. Different courses have different credit requirements. A critique of engineering education in India suggests that much of it is theoretical with little exposure to industry. It is bucketed into old silos like 'chemical engineering' or 'mechanical engineering', with limited opportunities for multi-disciplinary learning or real-world problem solving. AICTE was asked to 'introduce industry-relevant' disciplines, such as 'communication and security engineering', 'manufacturing engineering', 'transport engineering', 'energy engineering', 'information engineering', 'public health engineering (water, environment, pollution, sewage etc)', 'healthcare engineering, computational engineering, environmental engineering, and geomatics or geospatial science and technology geoinformatics. Core disciplines need urgent revamp to cater to the rapidly evolving needs of the industry and rapid changes occurring in technologies. Core engineering industry should proactively support engineering institutes to produce engineers of the required skill set in their own interest. This would also help students in finding jobs in the future. Once a graduate becomes a practising engineer, they will need to keep learning as technological advancements continue to transform the engineering practice at a rate never experienced before. An international report on 'The Global State of the Art in Engineering Education' states that the future leaders in engineering education will focus on 'work-based learning, multidisciplinary programs and a dual emphasis on engineering design and self-reflection.' It lists trends which will define the profile of leading programs including the shift of the global axis of engineering leadership from high income countries to emerging economies. AICTE needs to increase pace of reforms for technical education as per NEP goals.

Don't rely on GDP alone

Many ratings agencies have again revised Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth estimates for India last week. GDP is considered to be barometer of economy, but relying on GDP alone is misleading. GDP provides measurements of output, income and expenditure quite well, and these are needed to understand and devise fiscal and monetary policies. But this measure flatly fails when it comes to wellbeing. Its founder, Simon Kuznets, cautioned half a century ago that it is useful mainly in tracking income. More recently, other economists suggest knowing change in per capita wealth of all types is key to monitoring sustainability. Hence growing international interest in a tool that still captures financial and produced capital, but also the skills in our workforce (human capital), the cohesion in our society (social capital) and the value of our environment (natural capital). Work has advanced on some of these elements. The UN Environment Programme-led Inclusive Wealth Index shows the aggregation through accounting and shadow pricing of produced capital, natural capital and human capital for 140 countries. The global growth rate of wealth tracked by this index is much lower than growth in GDP. Interestingly, many countries record GDP growth while they lose natural capital. One can see the trade-off among various types of capital, but the report clearly conveys that mixing income with wealth is bad economics and dangerous for sustainability measurement.

People deserve an accurate sense of how well their economies are performing, with a view to long-term sustainability. GDP has and always will have valuable short-term insights, but to respond to 21st-century pressures we need a modern economic measure. United Nations approved a statistical standard relating to the services that nature provides to the economy. That followed the UK Treasury's publication of a review by the University of Cambridge's Partha Dasgupta setting out how to integrate nature in general, and biodiversity in particular, into economic analysis. With consequences of climate change starting to become all too apparent, any meaningful concept of economic success in future will surely include sustainability. US Bureau of Labour Statistics intends to develop a more comprehensive concept of living standards that includes the value of such activity. Aggregate measures such as these can be useful for guiding important policy decisions in a manner consistent with familiar economic concepts. This approach also helps the conversation with finance ministry officials and business executives, whose support for a longer-term perspective regarding prosperity will be essential to bring about change.

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The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

'PAHCHARE' CHARIOT FESTIVAL



Devotees dance and play a traditional drum during the 'Pahchare' Chariot Festival, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Salt is essential commodity but salt makers are not

RAVLEEN KAUR



Guanwant Ramji Koli left for the Little Rann of Kutch (LRK) to place idols in a mud puddle. During the monsoon, waters of 11 rivers and many nullahs drain here and mix with the tidal waves from the Gulf of Kutch. The water recedes in September-October. Then, the puddle in which Koli placed the idols would have massive salt pans around it. Koli belongs to Agariya, a traditional salt-making community in the Western Indian state of Gujarat. The Agariyas, like farmers, pray to their gods every year through such rituals for a bumper harvest and for no natural calamities. Koli's prayers now include protection from man-made calamities too. Surplus water from the Narmada canals floods their salt pans, destroying salt worth several hundred thousand rupees. The 60,000-odd Agariyas at the Little Rann produce 30 percent of India's inland salt but they have no legal rights over the land on which they have been making salt for centuries. The LRK is an area where no human being stays. Agariyas make salt in three percent of this land but the 2011 census indicates that a population of 1.75 million from nearby areas is dependent on it, like the fishers, truck drivers, labour to load salt and packaging units.

The 5,000 square kilometres region was notified as a Wild Ass Sanctuary (WAS) in 1973, to protect the equine species. It is part of India's largest National Biosphere Reserve and one of the few nesting sites for lesser flamingos and the

endemic prawn species, *Metapenaeus kutchensis*. It attracts endangered cranes and other migratory birds and supports unique salt-tolerant plants and grasses. But now an ambitious water infrastructure project threatens to permanently wipe out their traditional occupation and way of life. Called Rann Sarovar, the project aims to turn Little Rann into the biggest freshwater lake in Asia. In 2019, Jaisukh Patel, who is the managing director of the Ajanta-Oreva Group that makes the Ajanta brand of wall clocks, had proposed to the central government, to build a freshwater lake in the LRK called Rann Sarovar. The idea was to dam the creek to prevent seawater from entering the Rann, creating a vast freshwater lake that can be used around the year.

The central government referred the proposal to the Central Water Commission (CWC) in early 2019. After a series of meetings with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), the CWC recommended that the Gujarat government should form a committee to study the proposal, as water is a state subject. The state and union governments are currently studying the proposal. The project, however, has invited criticism on account of technical viability, socio-economic and ecological impact. The CSIR said that the project is a 'huge technological challenge' because the LRK has an arid climate and is seismically active. 'Extensive evaporation from the lake will lead to humidity that will destroy the cumins, castor and cotton crop that grow in the dry Saurashtra region,' Bharat Somera, an Agariya, associated with the NGO Agariya Hitrakshak Manch (AHRM) that works for the rights of salt workers, told.

Asked about the livelihood of the Agariyas, Patel said that he has proposed to the government that the Agariyas should be given 10 acres of agricultural land where they can be rehabilitated. 'Inland salt making is a

dying profession. The Agariyas are the poorest people in Gujarat. I have proposed that they be employed to run the water-sports and boats when the Rann Sarovar comes up,' he said. Presently, Gujarat's water resources department has asked the Centre for Salt and Marine Chemical Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar to study how long will it take to remove the inherent salinity of soil in the LRK. 'If it takes 2-3 years to turn the saline water fresh, it is worth it, but if it takes 20 years, then we can't spend public money on it. Also, the government has to consider the sanctuary and livelihoods issue,' MK Jadhav, Secretary, Water Resources, Gujarat government told.

The Agariyas can obtain rights through India's wildlife protection law and the landmark Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006. But the local community members allege that the state has either slowed down or rejected their claims under these laws. 'One can bear the wrath of nature, but the indifference of the administration is really exhausting, for it refuses to recognise our existence,' Koli, a third-generation Agariya, told. Once the water recedes in winters, it leaves behind an expanse of cracked land. This is when Agariya families from 102 villages within 7-45 kms of the LRK migrate inside with their water pumps, tools and household stuff and set up temporary huts for the next eight months. They pump subsoil brine from underground wells and spread it on large prepared pans called 'Agar'. Evaporation leaves behind white crystals of salt.

In 2015, the command area of the Narmada dam's canals got completed. Since the LRK is the lowest point in the topography, excess water drains here. 'Low-quality material has been used to construct the canals and their capacity is also lower than the amount of water released. Besides affecting the salt pans, this is gross wastage of the Narmada waters,' Rabari clarified. In 1948, in order to ensure self-suffi-

ciency in salt, the newly independent Indian government allowed salt farmers operating on less than 10 acres to produce salt without any licenses. 'Such salt producers came to be known as 'unrecognised'. Most of the Agariyas in the LRK fall under this category, and hence have no documentary evidence of their salt farms,' according to Yet to be Freed, a 2008 study on the Agariya salt workers by Charul Bhawada and Vinay Mahajan. In 1973, the Wild Ass Sanctuary was notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Under the law, after the first notification for a wildlife sanctuary, the state forest department begins a settlement process to identify land rights of individuals and communities within sanctuary limits. The settlement process for the WAS began only 24 years later in 1997. The government came out with a notification to file land claims within 60 days.

But this was not publicised enough so most Agariyas did not file claims, alleged Pandya. The government also did not conduct any survey to get the exact number of Agariyas dependent on the Rann, he said. In November 2006, in the middle of the salt season, the Agariyas received eviction notices from the state's forest department, stating that their claims had been rejected. 'Most Agariyas were shocked and clueless because they had never made claims in the first place,' said Pandya. The AHRM conducted radio programmes to inform people about their rights. New claims were filed, but the forest department rejected them on the ground that the time period was over. Till now, the settlement is still not complete, 48 years after the sanctuary was first notified. Earlier, the government used to issue short-term leases to Agariyas and renew them. They stopped renewing these after the settlement process began.

(Ravleen Kaur, based in New Delhi, writes on environment and rural issues.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Road sense

Road accident is a most unwanted thing to happen, yet it happens almost every day on Indian roads. As our cities grow in size and complexity, road accidents are also growing in number. A heterogeneous traffic mix that includes high speed vehicles, vulnerable road users, unsafe road infrastructure and inadequately trained drivers - all contribute to the high fatality rates seen on India's roads. Education and enforcement can together bring about a shift in the mindset of drivers. Better road sense, the ability of a driver to comprehend road signs and paying heed to speed restrictions are some of the driving etiquettes that will ease the pressure on traffic police. First Aid and Trauma Care are other aspects that could help save precious human lives by timely assistance during the golden hour. Frequent camps on road safety with catchy slogans like, "Alert today, alive tomorrow", "A text or call can wreck it all," and "Fast drive could be the last drive" will go a long way in preventing accidents. There is an urgent need to stress more on road safety awareness.

Ranganathan, via email

Fall-out reaction

Recently, while browsing a social media app on my mobile, I came across a video lasting almost for half an hour depicting the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits in 1991-92. It is yet other instance of the 'fall-out' of Indian style of secularism, which in fact has become a one-way traffic since the word 'Secular' was incorporated in our Constitution by some opportunistic leaders in particular. It is only because of secularism that Indians have become refugees in their own nation, which is totally unseen in other piece of land on the earth. The very same fate happened to our Sikh brothers in 1984 after Indira Gandhi's assassination. The sleeper cells of Pakistan are taking full advantage of this so-called Secularism which is bleeding the nation internally. The latest Hijab issue is almost creating like a civil-war like situation where some anti-Indian global bodies like OIC are trying to take the issue to international platforms. A RSS worker was stabbed to death by some Hijab supporters in broad daylight in Karnataka. Had it happened to so called liberals in particular, would have immediately called for strike demanding the resignation of the central government.

Joel, via email

Women advocates

It is sad that when every sector has a fair representation of women, the legal field lags far behind. The feasibility of establishing more number of law colleges for women and having all women courts needs to be explored. There is no dearth of talent and professional calibre among women advocates. The Government should enable 50 percent reservation in various positions for women in the judiciary. Special recruitment of judicial officers can be made from among women lawyers who meet the grade. When crimes against women and girls are on the rise (going by media reports), it is essential to dispense quick and quality justice. Importantly, awareness and motivation among women are required.

Johan, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Ratna@ratnadv

It's almost 2 in the morning. A construction site next door is doing something with what sounds like a giant vacuum cleaner, bikes race past with tyres screeching. And I'm wondering what one needs to do for a little peace and quiet! Nugget, my Goldie sleeps through it all!

Amit@amitsurg

CCI does not have any jurisdiction on this subject. This is sheer bureaucratic overreach. No pharmacy, in or outside hospital, can sell higher than MRP. If high drug MRP is a concern, DPCO can very well fix MRP as they have done many times in the past (which is also overreach).



Ajey@Paimaamu

There is political unrest in Pakistan, a state of emergency in Sri-Lanka, military rule in Myanmar, One party rule in China and One person rule in Russia. Indians are enjoying IPL cricket completely oblivious to how their govt is working through these things with its neighbors. Not to mention Taliban rule in Afghanistan.

zenrainman@zenrainman
Remains of a water heritage



Vimny@vimnyganju

Time rich, money poor society is always attracted to content which enables soft engagement. Add to that some social validation or recognition and it becomes a perfect concoction for low per capita nations. And ofcourse having young population and cheap internet spikes usage.



RRakesh@rakeshbhandari

Younger population...more active on virtual than actual world. Also most of us want to show to the world how Happy and success full life we all are leading. In real world difficult to prove but in virtual world easy to fake. Bigger cities difficult to be socially active in actual.

Devinder@Sharma

Taxing billionaire's income has always been considered impermissible, treated more like a taboo. By introducing the Billionaire Minimum Income Tax, US President @JoeBiden has shown tremendous political courage to take the bull by the horn. Hope G-20 follows.

BRIEF

Growth



New Delhi: Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) MD AS Rajeev told PTI that banking sector is set to register robust growth in the current fiscal on the back of stable macro-economic conditions and growth-oriented policies of the government and is at an inflection point.

Plant

Guwahati: PSU major Indian Oil Corporation on Sunday said it will invest nearly Rs 840 crore in expanding its Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant (POL) storage capacities, including setting up a green-field facility, in the Northeast. The company is planning to take its POL capacities to 5,530 Thousand Metric Tonnes Per Annum (TMTPA) by 2030 from existing 3,160 TMTPA, Indian Oil Corporation Executive Director G Ramesh told PTI.

CNG



New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) aims to sell 4-6 lakh CNG units in the current fiscal year depending upon supply situation of essential components. MSI's Shashank Srivastava told PTI that the share of CNG cars in its overall sales is bound to increase.

Exports

New Delhi: India's merchandise exports spurred to a record high of USD 418 billion in the 2021-22 fiscal on higher shipments of petroleum products, engineering goods, gem and jewellery and chemicals, according to official data released on Sunday.

Turnover



New Delhi: Minosha India Ltd is targeting to clock a turnover of Rs 500 crore in the next five years, having signed a strategic partnership pact with the Japanese firm Ricoh, MD Atul Thakker told PTI.

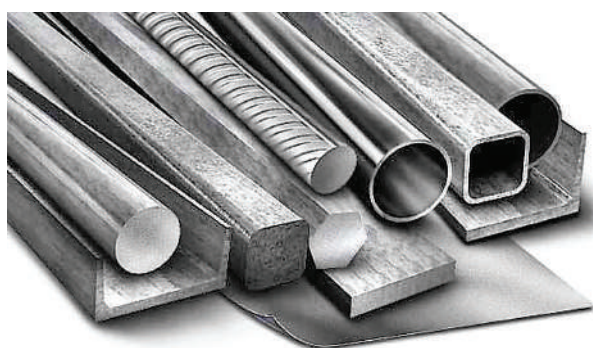
Likely

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank is likely to maintain status quo on interest rates in its forthcoming monetary policy review but may change the stance in view of retail inflation piercing its upper tolerance limit, global uncertainties created by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, and the urgency to protect and boost growth, feel experts.

Govt mulls modifications in PLI Scheme for speciality steel

■ Extends last date for application till Apr 30

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):



The government is planning certain modifications in the PLI Scheme for speciality steel and has extended the last day to submit the applications by about a month till April 30, a senior government official has said.

On July 22 last year, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved a Rs 6,322-crore PLI scheme to boost the production of speciality steel in India.

The move is expected to attract an additional investment of about Rs 40,000 crore and generate 5.25 lakh job opportunities. March 29, 2022, was the last date to submit the

applications for investors looking to invest under the scheme, which has been extended to April 30, the official in the Ministry of Steel told PTI. There will be certain additions in the modified scheme, which are underway, he said. Explaining the rationale behind the move, he said the step has been taken on the request of steelmakers, who had raised certain concerns over the scheme. "We are working

on a uniform incentive on the production of speciality steel. More grades, especially those used in the defence sector, will be added to the scheme. Cap on production is also one area we are looking at," he said on the possible changes in the modified scheme. In the initial scheme, five categories of speciality steel — coated/plated steel products, high strength/wear-resistant steel, speciality rails, alloy steel products,

steel wires and electrical steel — were included. Industries like automobiles, electrical, defence and pipes are consumers of these grades of steel. Earlier, speaking with PTI, Minister of State for Steel Faggan Singh Kulaste had said he was confident of a huge number of domestic and internal players coming forward to avail the benefits of the scheme and invest in India to produce speciality steel.

Kulaste had also said that increasing per-capita steel consumption and the production of special steel, as well as enhancing raw material security, will remain the key focus areas of the government in 2022.

The government aims to save Rs 33,000-crore foreign exchange (forex) that goes out of India annually in exchange for the import of speciality steel.

Demographic dividend may turn into liability sans jobs

■ Govt-industry collaboration holds key

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):



Chandrajit Banerjee

As the country is expected to add another 183 million people to the working age group of 15-64 years between 2020-50, its demographic dividend may turn into a liability in the absence of enough jobs and the required skilled workforce, a report released on Sunday said.

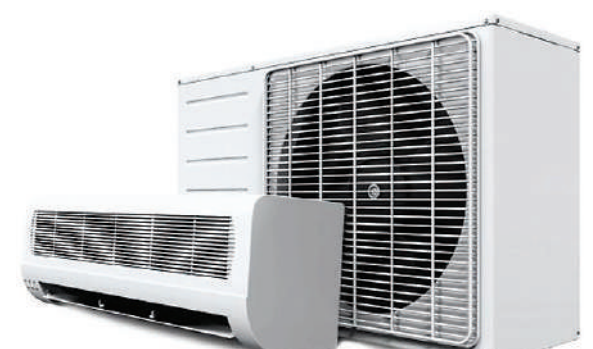
The report on India's Demographic Dividend released by industry body CII argues that not only is there a shortage of time, but also that the rise in India's working age population is necessary but not

sufficient for it to sustain the economic growth. "If India does not create enough jobs and its workers are not adequately prepared for those jobs, its demographic dividend may turn into a liability. And education and skill development will be the biggest enablers for reaping this dividend," the report said. The report points out that India

will add another 183 million people to the working age group of 15-64 years between 2020-50 as per the UN Population Statistics database. Thus, a whopping 22 per cent of the incremental global workforce over the next three decades will come from India. "Although investment, reforms and infrastructure are likely drivers of India's economic growth, no growth driver is as certain as the availability of people in India's working age group. India's young population, its demographic dividend, gives India the potential to become a global production hub as well as a large consumer of goods and services," highlighted Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

AC makers expect growth amid looming price hikes

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):



The prices of residential air conditioners may go up by around 5 per cent as the industry faces soaring input costs even though the makers are looking for double-digit growth this year with early onset of summer spurring demand.

Buoyed by the recent prediction by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) about the summer temperature to stay "above normal" in April and May, leading air conditioner (AC) makers, including Voltas, Hitachi, LG, Panasonic and Godrej Appliances are expecting pent-up demand of the last two seasons that saw market disruptions due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of them are expecting a greater demand

this season, which might also lead to a shortage of units, putting them under pressure to meet the increased requirement for ACs and other cooling products.

The industry has gone for a price hike last quarter to mitigate the impact of soaring prices of components, metals especially copper and aluminium and rising crude oil after

the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Companies are also luring the customers with offers and easy EMI schemes to make their purchases convenient.

Tata group firm Voltas is expecting the residential AC industry to grow in terms of both volume and value this summer.

"The industry has already been subject to multiple double-digit price

hikes during the fiscal of 2021-22. However, at Voltas, given our consumer-centric philosophy, we made sure that these hikes do not deter consumers from buying cooling products this summer, and hence have introduced various consumer offers and easy EMI options to make purchases convenient for our customers," Voltas Managing Director & CEO Pradeep Bakshi told PTI.

The Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) expects this peak season to contribute 35 to 40 per cent of the total annual sales. However, it also cautions about a price hike.

"Prices have been erratic over the past few years, and the pandemic made the situation worse.

Macro data, RBI policy, war to drive markets this week

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Domestic macroeconomic data, RBI policy and developments related to the Russia-Ukraine war would be major driving factors for the stock market this week, analysts said.

Moreover, FPI investment and trends in crude oil would also influence the trading sentiment, they added.

"This week, the RBI credit policy will be a critical factor for Indian markets. It will be important to see how FII will behave in FY23 after relentless selling in the second half of FY22. However, they have changed their gear in the last week," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd. "With the

beginning of the new fiscal year, markets will be closely eyeing the MPC's monetary policy review outcome scheduled on April 8. On the macro front, participants will be eyeing manufacturing and services PMI data on April 4 and April 6, respectively.

"Amid all, global cues viz updates on Russia-Ukraine war, and movement of crude will remain in focus," said Ajit Mishra, VP Research, Religare Broking.

Mishra added that markets are moving largely in sync with their global counterparts and positive developments on the Russia-Ukraine front could further fuel the rebound. "We expect stock-specific moves on earnings expectations," he noted.

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Peak power demand met or the highest supply in a day rose by 12 per cent to 198.47 GW on April 1 compared to the year-ago same day, showing impact of early onset of summer and improvement in commercial and industrial consumption after easing of lockdown curbs by states.

According to the power ministry data, the peak power demand met was 177.20 GW on April 1, 2021.

The data shows that during the entire month of April in 2021, the peak power demand was recorded at 182.37 GW. It was 132.73 GW in April 2020, a tad lower than 176.81 GW in April 2019.

Experts are of the view that the quantum jump in peak power demand met



shows recovery of economic activities through rising commercial and industrial demand of electricity especially after easing of lockdown restrictions by states for curbing coronavirus infections.

They also stated that apart from surge in economic activities, the early onset of summer has too perked up the demand for power as people especially

NMDC Launches Management Dashboard



Hyderabad, Apr 03:

NMDC, the first CPSE in India to implement ERP on the SAP S4/HANA platform, went live with its Management Dashboard for Production, Despatch, and CSR today. NMDC CMD Sumit Deb launched the Dashboard in the presence of company's Functional Directors - Director (Finance) Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Technical) Somnath Nandi, Director (Production) Dilip Kumar Mohanty; ERP Project Leader; Partners in the digital transformation journey; and Head of

Departments at the Head Office in Hyderabad. The launch was ensued by a presentation on the character and competence of the Dashboard by the ERP team.

Developed as part of NMDC's digital roadmap, this interactive and analytical Dashboard presents a business summary which can be drilled down to the minutest details. The Dashboard will be of service in better managing the execution of business goals due to its flexibility across devices and systems, and accessibility at any moment, in any place. The Management Dashboard will expand to

include Finance, Material Management, Project Coordination, HR, and other verticals in the near future.

Congratulating the NMDC Team on this accomplishment, Sumit Deb said, "The interventions of this kind will bring digital disruption in our business that is imperative to drive us from 42 MT to 50 MT rapidly. As we go-live with this advanced Management Dashboard, discipline needs to be built in the system to collect real-time data and use the insights to make well-informed decisions for the growth of our company and the mining sector."

ONGC to see USD 3 bn rise, RIL USD 15 bn from gas price hike

■ Fertiliser subsidy will go up

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is likely to see a USD 3 billion (about Rs 23,000 crore) rise in its annual earnings from the more than doubling of the price of natural gas it produces, while Reliance Industries may get USD 1.5 billion (Rs 11,500 crore) more in revenue, a report has said.

The government from April 1 increased the gas price paid to producers of oil and regulated fields from USD 2.9 per million British thermal units to USD 6.10, a record high.

For difficult fields, such as deepsea fields of Reliance, the price has gone up by 62 per cent to USD 9.92 per mmbtu.

"A three-pronged deficit in oil markets (inventory, capex and spare capacity) combined with rising domestic gas production after nearly a decade of declines sets the stage for a super-cycle in profitability," Morgan Stanley said in a note.

Gas accounts for 58 per cent of domestic gas production for ONGC and every USD 1 per mmbtu change in gas price affects ONGC's earnings by 5-8 per cent. "We foresee USD 3 billion earnings increase in FY23 (April 2022 to March 2023) and, more importantly, improving

ROCE to above 20 per cent after more than a decade," it said.

Gas prices for difficult fields (deepwater, ultra-deepwater and high-pressure high-temperature areas) have risen by USD 3.8 per mmbtu to USD 9.9 and will be applicable to ONGC's production from KG-DWN-98/2, which is expected to contribute about 14 per cent of domestic gas production by FY24.

Reliance's gas production from its deepsea KG-D6 field has reached 18 million standard cubic meters per day, which is expected to increase to 27 mmscmd by FY24 (March 2024), with a ramp-up in

production from new and existing clusters. "We expect USD 1.5 billion earnings increase with gas price hikes in FY23," it said.

Morgan Stanley predicted a further hike of 25 per cent in the next revision scheduled for October 2022 as tight supplies keep four global benchmark prices at elevated levels.

Smallcap stocks rake in big gains in FY-22

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

■ Deliver up to 36.64% returns Small Cap



Smallcap stocks raked in big gains in fiscal 2021-22 by giving up to 36.64 per cent returns, outshining the bigger benchmark gauge and experts believe that they may continue to outperform in FY23.

Markets faced many headwinds in the latter part of the last fiscal with the emergence of geopolitical tension, inflation concerns and FII selling.

Analysts said that the first half of the last fiscal was very good, while the market entered into consolidation in the second half, combined with high volatility. The BSE smallcap index jumped 7,566.32 points or 36.64 per cent in the 2021-22 fiscal, and the midcap gauge went higher by 3,926.66 points or 19.45 per cent. In comparison,

Sensex closed the 2021-22 financial year with a gain of 9,059.36 points or 18.29 per cent. "The market is climbing all walls of worry and showing strong resilience that is characteristic of a strong bull market. We are in a structural bull market, however, intermediate corrections will be a part of this journey."

"Midcap and smallcap stocks tend to outperform in a classical bull market, and I believe they may

continue to outperform in FY23 as well, as the Indian economy is ready for multi-year growth despite short-term hiccups," said Parth Nyati, founder, Tradingo.

Nyati further added that historically April remains one of the best months for the equity market, especially for midcap and smallcaps, as the BSE smallcap index ended in green for 14 out of the last 15 years with an average gain of 7 per cent.

Peak power demand up 12% at 198.47 GW

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

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According to the power ministry data, the peak power demand met was 177.20 GW on April 1, 2021.

The data shows that during the entire month of April in 2021, the peak power demand was recorded at 182.37 GW. It was 132.73 GW in April 2020, a tad lower than 176.81 GW in April 2019.

Experts are of the view that the quantum jump in peak power demand met

northeast are expected to experience above-normal maximum temperatures in April, the weather department had said.

The power demand was affected in April 2020 mainly due to lockdown restrictions imposed in view of rising coronavirus infections in the country. The central government had imposed a lockdown on March 25, 2020. In April 2021, the deadly second wave hit the country, triggering lockdown curbs again by states. This had affected power demand in the country.

Experts say that the peak power demand of 198.47GW on April 1, 2022 is in contrast with 176.81 GW in April 2019, showing that electricity requirement is now much above the pre-pandemic level.

Mcap of top-10 valued firms soars Rs 2.61 lakh cr

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

The top 10 valued domestic firms added a whopping Rs 2,61,767.61 crore to their total market valuation last week in tandem with a buoyant trend in equities, with HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainers. Last week, the Sensex zoomed 1,914.49 points or 3.33 per cent. From the top-10 pack, the market valuation of HDFC Bank zoomed Rs 41,469.24 crore to reach Rs 8,35,324.84 crore. Reliance Industries added Rs 39,073.7 crore to take its valuation to Rs 17,95,709.10 crore. The market valuation of Hindustan Unilever Limited jumped Rs 29,687.09 crore to Rs 4,88,808.97 crore and that of Bharti Airtel zoomed Rs 27,103.16 crore to Rs 4,16,625.19 crore.



Actress-singer Rachel Zegler, who received accolades for her work in Steven Spielberg's, 'West Side Story' is set to lend her voice to the lead character of Princess Ellian in the musical feature, 'Spellbound', reports 'Deadline'.

As per 'Deadline', Ellian's character is described as a tenacious princess who must go on a journey to save her family and kingdom after a mysterious spell transforms her parents into monsters and threatens to cover Lumbria in darkness forever.

Apple Original Films and Skydance Animation's 'Spellbound', is being directed by Vicky Jensen with Lauren Hynek & Elizabeth Martin and Linda Woolverton penning the script. The original score for the film hails from Academy Award-winner Alan Menken, with lyrics by Glenn Slater. Chris Montan serves as executive music producer. John Lasseter, David Ellison, Dana Goldberg and David Lipman are producing for Skydance Animation.

'Spellbound' adds to the expanding lineup of Apple Original Films and Skydance Animation projects, alongside upcoming titles such as the animated series 'Wondla'.

Talking about Zegler's work in 'West Side Story', the film earned her critical acclaim and played a big part in her landing the huge role as the titular character in Disney's new 'Snow White', which is currently in production. She will be seen next alongside Zachary Levi, Helen Mirren, and Lucy Liu in D.C. Comics' 'Shazam! Fury of the Gods'.

Rachel Zegler to voice character of Princess Ellian in 'Spellbound'

Shraddha Kapoor celebrates Gudi Padwa in traditional Nauvari saree



Actress Shraddha Kapoor on the special occasion of Gudi Padwa donned the traditional 'Nauvari' saree that holds special meaning to the actress.

For those unaware, the 'Nauvari' celebrated the strength and fighting spirit of a woman. Traditionally worn by women to fight in wars back in the day, the saree allowed for mobility and freedom of movement and wasn't just a mere aesthetic attire.

Talking about the festival, Shraddha shares, "With Gudi Padwa, Cheti Chand, Navratri and Ugadi, I look forward to starting the New Year on a happy, optimistic and a

Sharmaji Namkeen's new song 'Boom Boom' features singer Raja Mushtaq

Raja Mushtaq is excited about being part of "Sharmaji Namkeen". He is a remarkable talent and a gifted new age versatile singer who was the 1st Asian to perform on Top Of The Pops BBC-UK 2003. Raja has maintained a perfect balance between film music and his independent songs. The singer is known for his original single Lootela and now Raja Mushtaq is back with another song called "Boom Boom". The track has been composed and produced by Sneha Khanwalkar, sung by Raja Mushtaq along with Kailash Kher, the lyrics of which have been penned by Gopal Dutt

"Sharmaji Namkeen" featuring Rishi Kapoor (and Paresh Rawal) as the lead character, shows Sharmaji enjoying his post-retirement life to the fullest after discovering a fondness for preparing food. It's an honour for the singer that he got an opportunity to sing in his favourite actor Rishiji's film and this song will be a tribute to the legendary actor.

Expressing his excitement of the song, Raja Mushtaq says, "This is one of my most treasured projects mainly as I am part of Rishi Sahab's film. Apart from "Boom Boom" being a great track, I have always loved Sneha's quirky compositions and partnering with the much-acclaimed Kailash Kher was a joy by itself. Being a foodie myself, I am looking forward to this wonderful film by Hitesh Bhatia!"

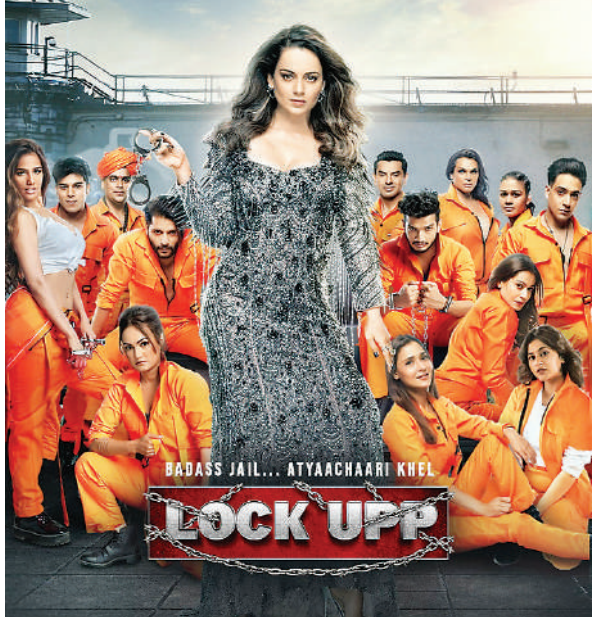


Isha Koppikar Narang to kickstart new project on Gudi Padwa

Actress Isha Koppikar Narang, who is known for her work in, 'Pinjar', 'Kyaa Kool Hain Hum' and 'Don', will be celebrating Gudi Padwa. The Marathi festival marks the new year and she will ring in the year by traveling to Mussoorie for a business trip and to start her new project. She maintains that the best way to start the new year is with lots of work on the plate. Sharing her plans for the day, Isha said, "Gudi Padwa has always been a very significant day for me. And while I celebrate it in my little way, this year I chose to do what I love the most - kickstart a new project. I believe the best way to start the new year is on a working note, because that's how I wish my entire year to be." For her, starting the new year on a working note is to seek more from the universe. "So this is my way of telling the universe to get me lots of work on the acting front. I wish health and happiness to all my loved ones, have a great year ahead. Thanks to the government this is good news that covid restrictions will be lifted & we will be celebrating our new year after 2 years, this is a good and positive start of the year." On the work front, Isha will be seen in two web shows & two feature films.

Zeeshan turns over Azma's bed during ugly spat

Lock Upp has already regaled the Janta for one month of unfiltered entertainment and is currently putting together innovative and challenging playouts to keep the audience enthralled as the show progresses. The day started with Mandana poking Azma because the right block had lost a few coins. Next, we see Munawar and Anjali devising a plan to smuggle the coins out of the right block.



Soon, we see Sharirik Shram happening in the house. Today's shram was to make ropes out of old sarees as per their samples. As a prize, the winning block would receive instant noodles packets. The block with the most ropes wins at the end of the time limit. During the shram, Anjali and

Poonam staged a fake fight to steal a few coins from Team Orange's closet. Zeeshan gets to know about the same and immediately alerts everyone in

HOROSCOPE MONDAY APRIL 04

- Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18**
You will tackle complicated issues with infinite ease! But you will also find people passing the buck onto you. It irks you no end, having to take the blame for others' mistakes. But here's a chance, says Ganesh, to turn a weakness into a strength.
- Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20**
You could swing both ways today! Fortunately, this alludes to nothing more sinister than the mix of the introvert and the extrovert that you are. So, between a quiet evening out by yourself at a classical music concert, or performing on the dance floor at the local disc - take your pick, says Ganesh.
- Gemini: May 22 - June 21**
You might talk as if you possess many lifetimes of wisdom, Gemini. Perhaps you do, but that doesn't mean you should be arrogant about it. Your words might have the tone of a sage schooled in every subject. As a result, you could grow frustrated with others who act immature or uneducated. It isn't your job to judge.
- Cancer: June 22 - July 22**
Today, you are likely to achieve something that you have badly wanted for a long time. It is very likely that you will get very emotional in the moment of victory today, predicts Ganesh. Your arrogance and overconfidence can throw you off track. You had better keep your emotional balance once you are through the victory lap.
- Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23**
Lady Luck smiles on you today. With all the good fortune on your side, it's assured to be a day when financial gains come your way, especially if you are in the banking business. Agreed everything is going your way today, but be careful not to let your emotions cloud your reasoning and slow you down.
- Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20**
You're likely to have tremendous concentration that seems to have materialized out of nowhere. Use this to your advantage, Aries, because it may not last long. You're usually blown from one thing to another like a leaf in the wind, and it's hard for you to settle on one project or issue for an extended time.
- Leo: July 23 - Aug 23**
Unlike Dennis or Calvin, expect your sometimes haughty and mostly naughty kids to behave "just right" at the right time. It's not that children like to break rules, they just want to have some fun, reminds Ganesh. Keep this in mind while you go about arranging for special classes to improve their academic skills and performance.
- Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31**
Expect yourself to be hit with religious fervour. You may find yourself in the spotlight for an event or inauguration. Ganesh indicates travelling, so pack your bags for a long-distance business trip.
- Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21**
Be careful about shutting yourself off from the rest of the world, Taurus. You might hesitate to talk to people. You could have the feeling that they're unworthy of your time. Perhaps you feel that your problems are more important and that others are too concerned with superficial things to understand the true depth of your nature.
- Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22**
You're likely to be feeling a bit lonely, perhaps even isolated, Virgo. Maybe you think no one else has your same wild thoughts running through their heads. You'd be surprised to learn how many people do. It's unlikely, however, that you'll share these thoughts with anyone, especially now.
- Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20**
One whiff of a familiar scent is likely to send your imagination running wild, Capricorn. Perhaps you're suddenly transported back to when you were dating someone you adored. Once your imagination starts running, it could be difficult to slow it down. Your fantasy world is likely to be the safest place to hide, so don't worry about avoiding reality.

CROSSWORD

259

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
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64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83

ACROSS

- Facial features
- Chilled
- Neckerchief
- Original thought
- Extra
- Artist's prop
- Lima or pinto
- Trim
- Ascend
- Indy 500 vehicle (2 wds.)
- Tell again
- Tavern order
- Kudrow of "Friends"
- Struggle
- Pette
- Canine comment
- Student's assignment
- Coniferous evergreen (2 wds.)
- Monotonous
- Used money
- Assistant
- Theatrical

DOWN

- Heavenly scales
- Perfect
- "War and ___"
- Rational
- Damage
- Not fine
- Make mistakes
- Stag
- Oceanfront
- A la
- India's continent
- Relax
- Take flight
- Potter's material
- Occurrence
- Facets
- Quiet
- Sermon subject
- Operatic melody
- Cincinnati team
- Charges
- Water whirl
- Positive
- Strike
- Gentle
- Ranch animal
- Bowler's target
- Declares
- Performs onstage
- Total
- Certain vitamin
- Burglarize
- Fodder towers
- Fable author
- Drinking vessels
- Horses' gait
- Capri or Wight
- Mets' bygone home
- Bird's home
- Small pie
- Stadium shout

SOLUTION 258

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104

Healy's monumental ton powers Australia to seventh Women's ODI WC title

Christchurch, Apr 03 (PTD):

Australia bossed their way to a record-extending seventh Women's World Cup title with a crushing 71-run win over traditional rivals England, stamping their undisputed dominance in the tournament after a breathtaking hundred from Alyssa Healy in the final here on Sunday.

Playing the innings of her life, Healy put England attack to sword with a sensational 170 off 138 balls that powered Australia to a massive 356 for five.

Defending champions England needed something more than special to pull off the record chase but kept losing wickets throughout the innings which ended at 285 in 43.4 overs.

Natalie Sciver, who scored an unbeaten 148 off 121 balls for her second successive hundred against Australia in the competition, eventually ran out of partners.

Australian pacer Megan Schutt (2/42) bowled a brilliant new ball spell removing last match centurion Danielle Wyatt (4) and Tammy Beaumont (27) with her lethal in-swingers before leg-spinner Alana King (3/64) turned the ball on a bating beauty to end with three crucial wickets including that of England skipper Heather Knight (26). Healy, who was dropped on 41, toyed with the English attack in her



mesmerising knock, which is now the highest-ever individual score in a World Cup final across men's and women's cricket.

Adam Gilchrist (149, 2007), Sciver (148 in this game), Ricky Ponting (140, 2003) and Viv Richards (138, 1979) are behind Healy in the elite list.

Healy's opening partner Rachael Haynes (68 off 93) and Beth Mooney (62 off 47) also batted with confidence as Australia put on board the highest team total in a World Cup

final in women's cricket and second-highest behind the Australian men's team's effort of 359 for two against India in 2003.

To put Australia's achievement in perspective, it was their sixth win in seven World Cup finals, making Meg Lanning's unit one of the greatest teams of all time. Australia had won their first trophy on points back in 1973.

Though England ended runners-up, it was still a remarkable campaign for

the defending champions that came into the final after five wins in a row following defeats in its first three games.

They always had run rate under control in the massive chase but the lack of partnerships cost them the game.

Sciver, who smashed 15 fours and a six in her epic knock, fought till the end alongside number 10 batter Charlotte Dean (21 off 24) but they were left to do too much in the end. The duo shared a 65 run-stand

for the ninth wicket to take the game deep.

Earlier, Healy forged a 160-run stand with Haynes before sharing 156-runs with left-handed Mooney who was sent in ahead of skipper Meg Lanning to maintain the left and right combination.

A packed and a neutral crowd at Hagley Oval was in for a treat with Healy showing devastating form en route to her second consecutive hundred in the knock-out stage, having scored 129 against West

Indies in the semifinal.

Healy flaunted her 360 range of strokes in a sensational effort, scoring runs at will against a bowling line-up that had no answer to her brilliance.

For the major part of her innings, Healy exposed all three stumps to make room for herself and hit bowlers over the mid-off fielder.

Healy never allowed the number one ODI bowler Sophie Eccelstone (1/71) to settle, using her feet against her and other spinners to hit them straight over the in-field.

She also cut and pulled on her way to a fifth ODI hundred and when she was bored hitting the boundaries over mid-off and cover, she moved across the off-stump to play the scoop shot.

Expecting heavy dew in the evening, defending champions England opted to put Australia in to bat.

Australia, the only unbeaten team in the tournament, came out determined to stamp their authority for one last time in the tournament and they certainly did that with the bat.

England limited the damage the last five overs by taking four wickets.

Pacer Anya Shrubsole (3/46) was the only England bowler that ended with respectable figures.

Sciver, Charlotte Dean and Kate Cross conceded more than 8 runs per over.

Iga Swiatek will be new world number one after beating Naomi Osaka in Miami final



Miami, Apr 03 (AP):

Iga Swiatek continued her wonderful start to 2022, beating Naomi Osaka 6-4 6-0 to win the women's title at the Miami Open and extend her winning streak to 17 matches.

Swiatek will replace the now-retired Ashleigh Barty at number one in the women's rankings when the points are updated on Monday.

Swiatek broke Osaka for a 3-2 lead in the first set on

Saturday, hanging on from there to win a 52-minute set that saw the opening game - on Osaka's serve - feature seven deuces and go for 10 minutes.

The second set was a completely different story as Swiatek finished off her ninth consecutive straight-sets victory.

It was her third title of 2022 and her sixth consecutive win in a final, a streak that started at the delayed French Open in 2020.

Nortje is 4-5 spells away from being match ready: Ponting

Pune, Apr 03 (PTD):

Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting feels South African pacer Anrich Nortje is just a couple of spells away from being match ready and expressed optimism over his availability for their next IPL game against Lucknow Super Giants on April 7.

Nortje has been out of competitive cricket since last November's T20 World Cup due to a back and hip injury.

"Nortje bowled 100% this morning (Saturday) in the warm-ups. He has to get through another maybe four or five-over spell at 100% capacity and then I think if he gets clearance from Cricket South Africa, he should be right to go. "We have got a few more days before our next game, so hopefully he is available for selection



for that one," Ponting said at the virtual post-match press conference after losing by 14 runs against Gujarat Titans here on Saturday night.

Asked about the availability of Australian duo of David Warner and Mitchell Marsh, who is nursing a hip injury, Ponting said: "David Warner has arrived in Mumbai. He left early yesterday morning I believe, so he should be there when we get back to Mumbai tonight.

Dravid will do remarkable job as India coach, says Ganguly

Kolkata, Apr 03 (PTD):

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly believes his former teammate Rahul Dravid has all the attributes for becoming successful in his current role as the coach of the Indian cricket team.

Ganguly feels Dravid's "intense, meticulous and professional" attitude are just the ingredients a coach needs to be successful in the high-pressure India job.

"He (Dravid) is as intense, as meticulous and as professional as he was during his playing days," the former India captain said on the sidelines of a promotional event here on Saturday. "The only difference is that now he does not have to bat at No. 3 for India which I feel was harder since he had to face the best bowlers of the world which he also did ex-



ceptionally well for a long period of time," he added.

"As a coach also he (Dravid) will do a remarkable job as he honest and he has the talent.

Being the BCCI chief, Ganguly was instrumental in roping in Dravid as India coach, replacing Ravi Shastri after the T20 World Cup last year.

"He will make mistakes as everybody does but as long as you try doing the right things you will achieve success more than others," Ganguly said.

The BCCI top official, however, refused to compare Dravid with his predecessor Shastri.

Hockey Jr Women's WC: India stun Germany 2-1 to seal quarterfinal berth

Potchefstroom, Apr 03 (PTD):

The Indian women's hockey team stunned formidable Germany 2-1 to register its second consecutive win in pool stages and assure its place in the quarterfinals of the FIH Junior World Cup here on Sunday.

India, who thrashed a lowly Wales 5-1 in its opening Pool D match on Saturday, scored through two penalty corner conversions by Lalremsiami (2nd minute) and Mumtaz Khan (25th) to emerge winners.

Germany's lone goal was scored by Jule Bleuel in the 57th minute.

The Indian will finish off their pool engagements against Malaysia on April 5 before the quarterfinal round which starts on April 8. The Indians are currently atop Pool D with



two wins from as many games ahead of second-placed Germany. Two teams each from pools will qualify for the knock-out rounds. Against Germany, the Indians took the lead as early as in the second minute when Lalremsiami scored from a rebound after Deepika's dragflick from a penalty corner was saved by German goalkeeper Mali Wichmann.

Thereafter, Germany proceedings and earned a handful of penalty corners by putting relentless pressure on the Indian defence, which stood firm.

India goalkeeper Bichu Devi Karibam had an excellent match as she not only denied the Germans from penalty corners on number of occasions but also pulled off a brilliant save to keep out a penalty

LSG relying on batting prowess to come good against Sunrisers

Navi Mumbai, Apr 03 (PTD):

Their campaign back on track after a poor start, new entrants Lucknow Super Giants will rely on their batting prowess to get past Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League match here on Tuesday.

LSG did not have the best start to their debut season, losing by five wickets against fellow IPL debutants Gujarat Titans.

But they roared back in style by beating defending champions Chennai Super Kings six wickets in a high-scoring affair in their second match. In skipper KL Rahul and Quinton de Kock, LSG boast of formidable opening pair, and they proved their worth against CSK by scoring 40 and 61 in a 99-run first-wicket stand. West Indian Evin Lewis smashed unbeaten 55 off 23 balls in a steep



chase of 211 against CSK while, in Deepak Hooda, LSG possess a dependable middle-order batter.

Young Ayush Badoni, who has taken the ongoing IPL by storm with his six hitting prowess, is a treat to watch and would be looking to carry on his fine form.

Badoni struck an 41-ball 54 in his IPL debut against Titans and followed it up with yet another entertaining nine-ball unbeaten 19-run knock against CSK.

But the form of Manish Pandey will be a cause of concern for LSG, who also boasts of hard-hitting all-

rounders like Krunal Pandya and Jason Holder among others. On the bowling front, Avesh Khan, Sri Lankan Dushmantha Chameera, Andrew Tye and Ravi Bishnoi were the main wicket-takers for LSG in the two matches so far, but they need to be more disciplined to contain the run flow.

Sunrisers, on the other hand, were blown away by the batting effort of Rajasthan Royals in a 61-run defeat in their opening match. Comprising a mediocre squad, Sunrisers players need to punch above their weight. While experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/29) produced an economical spell, the likes of Romario Shepherd (1/33), Umran Malik (2/39), T Natarajan (2/43) and Washington Sundar leaked runs against RR.

FIH Pro League: India beat England 3-2 in marathon shoot-out to climb to top of table

Bhubaneswar, Apr 03 (PTD):

The Indian men's hockey team beat England in a dramatic shoot-out after both the sides were locked 3-3 in the regulation time in the opening match of the double-leg FIH Pro League tie at the Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday.

In the shoot-out, the hosts won 3-2 to pocket two points (including a bonus) as against England's one.

Abhishek (14th minute), Shamsheer Singh (27th) and Harmanpreet Singh (52nd) were the goal scorers for India in the regulation time, while England sounded the board through Nicholas Bandurak (8th, 28th) and Sam Ward (60th), who scored from a penalty stroke.

Both the teams will lock horns against each other again in the second match of the tie on Sunday.

England started the match on a positive note by taking the lead in the eighth minute from a penalty corner con-



version by Bandurak.

Even though they were not up to their best, India drew level six minutes later through Abhishek, who scored with a fierce reverse hit after receiving a pass from Shamsheer.

India took the lead in the 27th minute through Shamsheer's field strike.

But India's joy was short-lived as England drew level a minute later, once again through a penalty corner conversion by Bandurak. The Indians

stepped up in the final quarter and got back-to-back penalty corners just eight minutes from the final whistle, the second of which was converted by Harmanpreet with a stunning drag-flick to take a 3-2 lead.

But there was more drama in store as the fragile Indian defence conceded a penalty stroke just 14 seconds from the final hooter and Ward was bang on target to level the scores once again and take the match into shoot-out.

Didn't realise how good Moeen Ali was until he joined CSK: Mike Hussey

Mumbai, Apr 03 (PTD):

Chennai Super Kings batting coach Michael Hussey is blown away by Moeen Ali's batting talent and he only realised the Englishman's prowess when he joined the CSK squad last year. While speaking about Moeen Ali's batting on Star Sports, Hussey said, "Moeen Ali, honestly, is an unbelievable player. I only watched him closely for the first time when he joined the CSK squad in the last season.

"So, I didn't realise how good a player he actually is. He's a beautiful batsman, a graceful player. Just the way he times the cricket ball is fantastic." When asked why doesn't CSK team display any semblance of panic despite defeats in back-to-back games, Hussey said, "It's been one of the traits of CSK over the years. Obviously, MS Dhoni who's captained the team for a long time and Stephen Fleming, the coach, are very calm and collected characters all the time.

India on cusp of major economic recovery: Niti Aayog VC

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

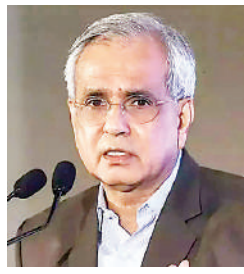
India is on the cusp of a major economic recovery and talks of possible stagflation are "overhyped" as a strong economic foundation is being laid with the reforms carried out by the government over the last seven years, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Sunday.

Notwithstanding economic uncertainties triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war that is also impacting global supply chains, Kumar asserted that it was quite clear from all accounts that India will remain the fastest growing economy in the world.

"Given all the reforms that we have done in the last seven years, and given that we are seeing the end of the COVID-19 pandemic

hopefully, and the 7.8 per cent rate of growth that we will get this year (2022-23), a very strong foundation is now being laid for further rapid increase in economic growth in the coming years," Kumar told PTI in an interview. Asia's third-largest economy is projected to grow 8.9 per cent in 2021-22, according to recent government data. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has pegged the economic growth rate for 2022-23 at 7.8 per cent.

"So, I think India is on the cusp of a major economic recovery and economic growth," Kumar said even as he acknowledged



Rajiv Kumar

that because of the Russia-Ukraine war, India's GDP growth projection could be revised. "But even then, India will remain the fastest growing economy and all the other economic parameters are actually quite within the range," he said. Russia started its military offensive against Ukraine on February 24. Western nations, including the US, have imposed major economic and various other sanctions on Russia following the offensive. On rising inflation, the Niti Aayog Vice Chairman said that RBI is keeping a close watch as per its mandate. "I am sure that the RBI is well

in control of it (inflation) and will take the necessary steps if and when required," he said.

Retail inflation hit an eight-month high of 6.07 per cent in February, remaining above the RBI's comfort level for the second month in a row while wholesale price-based inflation soared to 13.11 per cent on account of hardening of crude oil and non-food item prices. The RBI keeps a close watch on the CPI inflation while deciding on its bi-monthly monetary policy.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has been given the mandate to maintain annual inflation at 4 per cent until March 31, 2026, with an upper tolerance of 6 per cent and a lower tolerance of 2 per cent.

NEPAL'S PM OFFERS PRAYERS



Nepals Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba with his wife Arzu Rana Deuba offers prayers at the Kaal Bhairav temple, in Varanasi, Sunday.

WHO suspends Covaxin supply to UN agencies

Hyderabad, Apr 03 (PTI):

The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed it has suspended the supply of Covaxin, produced by city-based Bharat Biotech, through UN procurement agencies and recommending to countries that received the covid vaccine to take actions as appropriate.

A statement issued by WHO on Saturday said the suspension is in response to the outcomes of its post EUL (emergency use authorisation) inspection held between March 14 22, 2022 and the need to conduct process and facility upgrade to address re-

cently identified GMP (good manufacturing practice) deficiencies. There will be interruption of supply of Covaxin due to suspension of production for export, WHO said. The risk assessment to date does not indicate change in the risk-benefit ratio. The data, available to WHO, indicate the vaccine is effective and no safety concern exists, WHO said.

Company officials could not be reached immediately for a response. Bharat Biotech on April 1 announced the temporary slowing down of production of its covid-19 vaccine Covaxin across its

manufacturing facilities, having completed its supply obligations to procurement agencies and foreseeing the decrease in demand.

During the recent WHO inspection, Bharat Biotech agreed with the former's team on the scope of the planned improvement activities and indicated that they will be executed as soon as possible. The company has committed to comply by addressing the GMP deficiencies and is developing a corrective and preventive action plan, for submission to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) and WHO.

DMK govt planning for future to regain Tamil Nadu's lost pride: Stalin

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Asserting that his government will reclaim the "lost pride of Tamil Nadu", Chief Minister M K Stalin has said the state's administration and financial management were badly degraded for 10 years, but the DMK dispensation has taken proactive steps in its first 10 months towards planning for the future rather than merely blaming previous regimes.

He also said that the criticism by the BJP and the AIADMK of his various policy initiatives and other steps, including his trip to Dubai to garner investments, was proof of his

success and asserted that all election promises made by the DMK have either been fulfilled already or are in the process of being completed. After a massive electoral victory last year, Stalin took over the reins of Tamil Nadu at a time the state was staring at a huge debt situation.

Asked about the challenges before him and how does he plan to implement his hugely anticipated promises such as the Rs 1,000 per month rights assistance for women and tax cuts on petroleum products, in addition to the al-



M K Stalin

ready effected tax cut on petrol, Stalin said, "For the last 10 years, the administration and financial management of Tamil Nadu have been badly degraded. We have come to power in such an environment." "Instead of merely blaming the past, we are taking proactive measures and we

Stalin, who was in the national capital on a three-day visit, said his government has reduced unnecessary expenses in terms of finances.

"We have reduced the deficit gap and we are multiplying financial revenues. A lot of new businesses are being started. We are host-

ing the Business Investors Conference. The new export policy has been passed. I have recently attracted an investment of Rs 6,100 crore through a trip to Dubai. We have thus continued to pave the way for the expansion of financial management," he said.

He further said that the DMK government has fulfilled most of its promises. "We have given Rs 4,000 each to 2.13 crore people as corona relief, 13 grocery items for free to family card holders and 22 items to 2.13 crore families as Pongal gifts. Free bus service is provided to women, 14 lakh jewellery loans have been written off.

LeT modules busted in J-K's Bandipora, five arrested

Srinagar, Apr 03 (PTI):

Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) modules were busted and five militant associates were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district, police said on Sunday. Based on specific information, police along with security forces arrested four terrorist associates in the north Kashmir district, a police spokesman said. He identified them as Irfan Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Ashtangoo, Irfan Ahmad Jan, a resident of Qazipora, Sajad Ahmad Mir and Shariq Ahmad Mir, both residents of the Arin area of Bandipora.

Two Chinese grenades and incriminating material were recovered from their possession, the spokesman said. Preliminary investigation revealed that they were involved in providing

mobile sim cards and logistic support to active terrorists in the district, he said. A case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation into the matter is in progress, the spokesman said.

In another incident, police along with security forces arrested one terrorist associate at a checkpoint in the Rakh Hajin area of Bandipora. He has been identified as Irfan Aziz Bhat, a resident of Hajin, the spokesman said. One Chinese grenade was recovered from his possession, he said. Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested accused was in close contact with Pakistan-based terrorist Umer Lala and was directed to carry out terror attacks in the Hajin area, the spokesman said.

PRESIDENT KOVIND IN TURKMENISTAN



President Ram Nath Kovind during a Yoga demonstration by Turkmen people, at the Bagtyarylyk Sports Complex, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

India Art Festival to return to Delhi after almost 2 years

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

The much-awaited India Art Festival is all set to make its return to the national capital starting April 7, following a nearly two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. The annual art fair, now in its sixth edition, will have on display 3,500 artworks brought by over 20 galleries from across the country. Traditionally held at the Thyagaraj Sports complex, the festival will be held at the Constitution Club this year.

According to the organisers, the four-day event will witness a collection of captivating art pieces and sculptures by modern, contemporary, and traditional Indian artists, connecting galleries, dealers, and buyers, with artists, interior designers, architects, and

art connoisseurs. "... The 80 stalls were sold out within the first three weeks itself, when we announced the Delhi edition in October 2021! All the stalls were sold out by November 2021.

This overwhelming response from artists and galleries shows us that the anticipation for this year's edition is immensely high, and we eagerly look forward to presenting this outstanding panorama of the Indian art scene, through the ages," said festival director Rajendra Patil. The festival will feature works by at least 350 master and established artists including M F Hussain, S H Raza, Sohan Quadri, Manjit Bawa, Jamini Roy, Abha Sharma, Atul Gendle, Debabrata Basu, Jalpa Patel, and Disha Gandhi.

UP CM to launch 'School Chalo Abhiyan' today

Lucknow, Apr 03 (PTI):

To ensure 100 per cent enrolment in primary and upper primary schools in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will launch the 'School Chalo Abhiyan' from Shravasti district on Monday. This will be an effort by the state government towards shaping the future of primary education and holistic development of primary schools, an official release issued here stated.

The chief minister has instructed officials that districts with low literacy rate should be prioritised and primary schools in the state should be equipped



Yogi Adityanath

with better facilities, it stated. The 'School Chalo Abhiyan' is being started from Shravasti district which has the lowest literacy rate in the state followed by Bahraich, Balrampur, Badaun and Rampur, according to the

release. Government schools must achieve all the goals of 'Operation Kayakalp' which aims at giving schools a facelift, Adityanath said.

He told officials that not only will public representatives be associated with the 'School Chalo Abhiyan', but also MLAs must adopt a school each, according to the release.

In addition to this, officials should also adopt schools for their holistic development, the chief minister said. Adityanath also directed that all government schools must offer basic facilities such as toilets, drinking water, furniture and smart classrooms to students.

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Petrol prices on Sunday were above Rs 100 a litre mark in all major cities across the country after its rates and that of diesel were hiked by 80 paise a litre each - the 11th increase in less than two weeks that took the total to a record Rs 8 per litre.

Petrol in Delhi will now cost Rs 103.41 per litre as against Rs 102.61 previously while diesel rates have gone up from Rs 93.87 per litre to Rs 94.67, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers.

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state, depending upon the incidence of local taxation. This is the 11th increase in prices since the ending of a

four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision on March 22. In all, petrol prices have gone up by Rs 8.00 per litre. Petrol prices are above Rs 100 a litre mark in all major cities from Srinagar to Kochi.

Diesel is above that mark in Thiruvananthapuram (Rs 101.83 a litre), Hyderabad (Rs 103.3), Mumbai (Rs 102.62), Bhubaneswar (Rs 100.1), Raipur (Rs 100.74) and several cities of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Diesel rates in Chennai and Bhopal are above Rs 99 per litre.

Diesel is the costliest in Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh (Rs 105.52 a litre), while petrol at Rs 120.65 a litre is the costliest at the border town of Sri Ganganagar in

Petrol above Rs 100 in major cities



Yuva Sena activists during their Thali Bajao Andolan against the hike in the prices of fuel and LPG, at Lalbaug in Mumbai, Sunday.

Rajasthan. Prices had been on a freeze since November 4 ahead of the assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab - a period during which the cost of raw material (crude oil) soared

by about USD 30 per barrel. The rate revision was expected soon after the counting of votes on March 10 but it was put off by a couple of weeks.

The increase in retail price warranted by crude

oil prices rising during the 137-day hiatus is huge, but state-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are passing on the required increase in stages.

Moody's Investors Services last month stated that state retailers together lost around USD 2.25 billion (Rs 19,000 crore) in revenue for keeping petrol and diesel prices on hold during the election period.

Oil companies "will need to raise diesel prices by Rs 13.1-24.9 per litre and Rs 10.6-22.3 a litre on gasoline (petrol) at an underlying crude price of USD 100-120 per barrel," according to Kotak Institutional Equities.



BRIEF



A tourist poses for a picture in front of the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Sunday.

Train derails

Mumbai: A few coaches of the Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Jayanagar express train has derailed between Lahavit and Devlali stations near Nashik on Sunday afternoon, and medical as well as other relief teams have been rushed to the site, a Central Railway official said. There is no report as yet of casualties from the incident, which took place around 3:10pm in CR's Bhusaval division, he added.

Eleven arrested

Ballia (UP): The mastermind behind the leak of the Uttar Pradesh class 12 English paper was among 11 people arrested in connection with the case, police said on Sunday. With their arrest, the total number of people held in connection with the exam paper leak on Wednesday climbed to 46. Following the leak, the exam was cancelled in 24 districts of the state including Ballia. The District Inspector of Schools of Ballia was among those arrested.

Three friends killed

Raigarh: Three friends were killed after their motorcycle collided head on with a truck in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district on Sunday, police said. The accident took place around noon near Koni turn on Sarangarh-Baramkela road when the trio were heading to Malda village in Sarangarh area on a motorcycle, an official here said.

AAP poses no threat

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Saturday said there is no threat to BJP from the emergence of AAP on the political map of the Union Territory. We have a strong base and are poised to form the next government with our own chief minister, Raina told reporters at a function organised to welcome several prominent people, including some doctors at the party headquarters here. Asked about the rising number of AAP members, Raina said BJP is the world's largest political party, having 18 lakh members in J&K.

4 drug smugglers held

Lucknow: The Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh Police on Sunday busted an inter-state drug smuggling gang, according to an official statement. The STF arrested four members of the gang and recovered opium worth about Rs 13 crore. The accused smuggled the contraband from Jharkhand and were planning to take it to Uttarakhand via Shahjahanpur, according to a press statement issued by the STF. "Acting on this information, the STF team intercepted the accused in Shahjahanpur. The team recovered 13.2 kg of opium from their possession which is worth Rs 13 crore in the international market."

Weather
High 43 Low 24

Imran's yorker: Parliament dissolved, polls in 90 days



Islamabad, Apr 03 (PTI):

Pakistan's beleaguered Prime Minister Imran Khan bowled a yorker at his rivals on Sunday by getting the presidential nod for the dissolution of Parliament, a move dubbed as "unconstitutional" by the Opposition parties which approached the apex court to legally challenge the decision which has pushed the coup-prone country into further political and constitutional crisis. Khan was widely expected to lose the no-confidence motion moved by an alliance of Opposition politicians in the National Assembly -- including more than a dozen defectors from his own political party. But in a surprise reprieve for the 69-year-old cricketer-turned-politi-

cian, the no-trust vote was dismissed as "unconstitutional" by Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri, leading to vociferous protests by the Opposition. Khan, who had effectively lost majority in the 342-member National Assembly, made a brief address to the nation in which the prime minister said he has recommended dissolution of the House and fresh elections. Khan congratulated the nation for the no-trust motion being dismissed, saying the deputy speaker had "rejected the attempt of changing the regime [and] the foreign conspiracy". "The nation should prepare for the new elections," he said, adding that the no-confidence was actually a "foreign agenda". Khan said he has advised President Alvi to dissolve the assembly.

Imran Khan has pushed Pak into anarchy: Shehbaz Sharif

Pakistan Leader of Opposition Shehbaz Sharif tweeted, "It is nothing short of a high treason. IK has pushed the country into anarchy. Niazi & his cohort will not be allowed to go scot-free. There will be consequences for blatant & brazen violation of the Constitution. Hope SC will play it's role to uphold the Constitution."



Imran Khan trampled on Constitution, says Nawaz Sharif

"Today, a man obsessed with power trampled on the Constitution. Imran Khan, who puts his ego before the country and the nation, and all the conspiratorial characters involved in this conspiracy are guilty of serious treason to which Article 6 applies. Abuse of Pakistan and desecration of the Constitution will be taken into account," Nawaz Sharif tweeted.



Imran Khan is a traitor: Mariyum Aurangzeb

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Mariyum Aurangzeb said: 'Imran Khan is a traitor (gaddar). He has taken an unconstitutional step and we are now protesting in National Assembly and will not go anywhere until this decision is cancelled.'



Pak SC adjourns hearing till today

The Pakistan Supreme Court has adjourned hearing on the Opposition's plea over the dissolution of the National Assembly on Sunday. The court has been adjourned till tomorrow. The Chief Justice of Pakistan Supreme Court has asked all political parties to ensure peace and order, adding "It is Ramadan and everyone is fasting."

Nothing to do with political situation: Pak Army

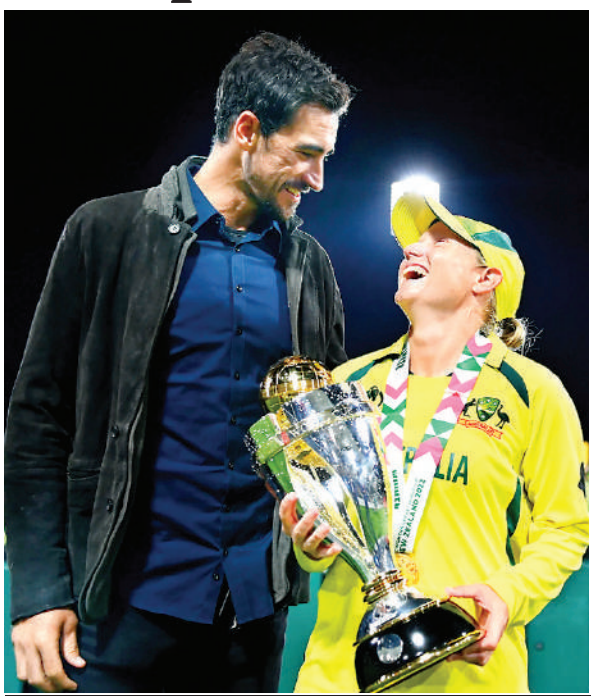
Pakistan's powerful army said on Sunday that it has 'absolutely nothing' to do with the prevailing political situation in the country. Military spokesman Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar made the remarks while speaking to a private TV channel in the wake of rejection of a no-confidence motion and subsequent dissolution of the National Assembly (NA) by President Arif Alvi on advice of Prime Minister Imran Khan. "The army has absolutely nothing to do with what happened in the NA today," Iftikhar said.



Australia win seventh World Cup crown

Christchurch, Apr 03:

Alyssa Healy played one of the finest innings in ODI history as powered Australia to a record-extending seventh ICC Women's World Cup title at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Sunday. Batting first, Healy smashed a remarkable 170 in a mammoth total of 356/5 and then England were bowled out for 285 as Australia won the final by 71 runs. Australia won all their matches en route to the title, stamping their authority in a memorable world cup campaign. Healy smacked a brilliant 170 off 138 balls, including 26 boundaries. Apart from Healy's magnificent knock, her opening partner Rachael Haynes hit 68 while Beth Mooney justified her promotion to number three with a quick 47-ball 62. In reply, England lost both their openers inside seven overs but Natalie Sciver kept the fight alive



World Cup winners both - Mitchell Starc celebrates with Alyssa Healy.

with a brilliant 148 not out off 121. However, she got little to no support from others. For England, it was a forgettable day on the field where missed catches, misfields and wayward bowling meant nothing went their way after captain Heather Knight won the toss and elected to field first on a fresh pitch.

Cong still 'very strong', losing elections will not be end of it: Gehlot



Barmer, Apr 03 (PTI):

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday said the Congress is still a "very strong" party in the country and losing elections will not be the end of it, as has been seen in the past. Asserting that all that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had warned the government about was turning out to be true, Gehlot said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should take the Opposition seriously and act accordingly. The chief minister was speaking at a press conference here. The Congress faced a massive defeat in the 1977 general elections, even Indira Gandhi had lost. But the party made a strong comeback and formed the government, Gehlot said. "Losing elections does not mean it is the end of the Congress," he said, adding that the party is "very strong" even today and has a presence across the country.

Lanka crisis: India extends credit, fuel, food

Colombo, Apr 03 (PTI):

Sri Lanka is reeling under a deep economic crisis as the country's foreign reserves have been depleted and the Rajapaksa government is struggling to pay for the import of fuel. As a result, there is an acute power shortage in the country and violent protests are being reported. The government has declared an emergency and a countrywide 36-hour curfew has been imposed due to the protest on Sunday as of now around 600 protesters have been arrested. In these difficult times, India has come forward to bail the island nation out of the crisis. India has responded to urgent requests from Sri Lanka with promptness. "Since January this year, support from India to Sri Lanka exceeds \$2.5 billion. A fuel line of credit of \$500 million was signed in February. Four consignments totaling over 150,000 tons of jet aviation fuel, diesel and petrol have since arrived beginning in



Protesters beat utensils as a sign of protest during a march against the surge in prices and shortage of fuel and other essential commodities in Colombo on Sunday.

March. Five more consignments are to follow till May. Another line of credit of \$1 billion for food, medicine and essential items was signed last month," Gopal Baglay India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka said. "The first consignment of rice from India is expected to arrive in Sri Lanka shortly under this credit facility," Baglay added. Besides, the Reserve Bank of India has extended a currency swap of \$400 million and deferred payments owed by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka under the Asian Clearance Union worth several hundred million dollars. Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka said: "These facilities, negotiated and concluded within a matter of weeks, have proved to be the lifeline for the people of Sri Lanka at a time when financing of imports by Sri Lanka is difficult due to the balance of payment situation."

India's position on Russia-Ukraine conflict steadfast and consistent: Prez Kovind

Ashgabat, Apr 03 (PTI):

India's position on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has been steadfast and consistent, President Ram Nath Kovind has said, emphasising that the current global order is anchored in international law, UN Charter, and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. Unlike many other leading powers, India has not yet criticised Russia for its invasion of Ukraine and it abstained from the votes at the UN platforms in condemning the Russian aggression. India has been pressing for the resolution of the crisis through diplomacy and dialogue.



President Ram Nath Kovind during the inauguration of the 'India Corner' at the Institute of International Relations, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Interacting with young students at the prestigious Institute of International Relations here on Saturday, President Kovind said that India is deeply concerned about the worsening humanitarian situation in Ukraine. India's position on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has been steadfast and consistent, he said. We

have emphasised that the current global order is anchored in international law, the UN Charter, and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. We are deeply concerned about the worsening humanitarian situation. We have called for immediate cessation of violence and hostilities and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. We have also provided humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, Kovind said. His comments came in the backdrop of increasing disquiet in the West over India not criticising Russia for its invasion of Ukraine and abstaining from the votes at the UN Security Council.

Not interested: Sharad Pawar on speculations over UPA chairmanship

Pune, Apr 03 (PTI):

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Sunday put to rest speculations over him eyeing the chairmanship of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), days after the NCP youth wing passed a resolution proposing his name for the post. The NCP chief said that he won't lead an anti-BJP front and is not keen to become the chairman of the UPA but added that he is ready to "co-operate, support and strengthen" any bloc if an attempt is made to provide an alternative to the Bharatiya Janata Party. He also said that the Congress cannot be excluded from any initiative aimed at providing an alternative to the BJP at the Centre.

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Action against encroachments continues on second consecutive Sunday

BMC Commissioner leads enforcement squad at Supela Market



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: Bhilai Municipal Corporation continued its anti-encroachment drive at Supela Sunday Market on the second consecutive Sunday. The illegal roadside vends, encroachments and illegal structures were bulldozed by the Enforcement Squad which was led by the Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Sarve.

He reached the Supela Sunday Market venue in the wee hours of the day. In order to systematise the Supela Sunday Market and to ensure congestion free traffic movement on the road connecting Supela Square to Gada Square, the BMC conducted this drive. On the day, five joint teams of the Bhilai Municipal Corporation took action simultaneously. Encroachments and illegal structures were removed

from 36 spots. Before bulldozing the structures, in the past three days, the BMC officials had been asking the encroachers to remove the illegal structures of their own. But some people again set up their stalls/vends on the road and started selling various items. Considering the situation, the BMC team that reached the spot in the morning removed the tables / stalls and did not

allow shops to be set up on the road. During the drive, the team of district police and patrolling parties remained present at the spot to control any unpleasant situation. Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi conducted discussion with the businessmen / shopkeepers to strengthen the traffic system. Last Sunday, the road was cleared by taking strict action at Supela

Sunday Market. To prevent the vendors from putting their stalls / vends again on the road, BMC team remained present on Sunday to take action in the Sunday market. A fine of Rs 10,000 was also recovered from the owner of Divedi Building Material, who obstructed the road by dumping building material. The building material was seized. Four JCBs and six dumpers were used during the anti-

encroachment drive. The area of Supela Sunday Market comes under Zone No 1 Nehru Nagar and Zone No 2 Vaishali Nagar. During the drive, Zone Commissioners of both the zones - Manish Gaikwad and Pooja Pillai were present. Assistant Revenue Officers Parmeshwar Chandrakar, Balkrishna Naidu, Anil Meshram, Malkhan Singh Sorri and Anjani Singh were also present.

Three major tasks conducted in a single shutdown

DMC Commissioner and ADM conduct inspection

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: On Saturday, three major tasks of the water supply system were conducted in Durg simultaneously in a single shutdown. ADM Nupar Rashi Panna along with Durg Municipal Corporation Commissioner Haresh Mandavi inspected the water tank and the intake well. They also visited various wards of Durg and inquired whether the people were facing any water problem.

have rectified all the errors in the drinking water supply system. The localities situated on the north of railway lines were facing water woes for the past some time. The problem has been resolved after filling the Shakti Nagar old tank. A population of 50,000 will be benefitted from this operation. At the same time, work is in progress under the Amrut Mission for starting water supply from the newly constructed tank behind the old Ganj Mandi.

The task of connecting the pipelines was conducted during this shutdown. This project will benefit a huge population of ward numbers 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 of the city. During the shutdown, the work has been done to replace the closed panel of the transformer to avert the possibilities of transformer related problems in the entire summer season. Top officials have given strict instructions to ensure regular water supply during the coming summer season.

Drinking water system has been resumed in all wards of the Municipal Corporation Durg area from April 1 and the authorities have ensured normal drinking water supply in all wards of Durg city. The authorities claimed that there will be no need of taking any shutdown in the coming summer season. The concerned departments

KV Group creates new record in production

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: Overcoming the adversities of Covid Pandemic in the last two years, the KV Group has once again set new parameters of success this year. The group also experienced the ups and downs due to Corona, but the team did not give up. The team strongly countered the troubles and broke its own production record.



They are like strong pillars who dare rain and storms but do not allow the company to suffer any loss. During the adverse situations, no one remained absent and never insisted on salary. Jha expressed gratitude towards all the group members for their support. Jha further said that he never considered the staff as employees but as members of his family. He extended best wishes to all and prayed for their happy future.

Dinesh Chakraborty, Kalu Chaudhary, Adarsh, Bhuvneshwar Sonwane, Narendra, Shyamal, Shankar Sona, Patle, Thanesh Sharma, Vikas, Ravi Sharma, Sandeep Agarwal, Geetabai, Shashibai and others were present.

Director In-charge congratulates employees during Plant visit



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: Bhilai Steel Plant has concluded financial year 2021-22 with excellent performances in different areas. Bhilai Collective is all geared up to achieve higher targets during the new financial year 2022-23. Anirban Dasgupta, Director In-charge BSP congratulated the Bhilai collective for their excellent performance and motivated them for excellent performance in the new financial year

to the Plant. Anirban Dasgupta, Director In-charge visited the Plant along with Dr SK Issar, ED (M & HS), AK Bhatta, ED (Projects), KK Singh, ED (P & A), SN Abidi, Acting ED (Works), Dr AK Panda, CGMI/c (F & A), NK Banchhor, SEFI Chairman and President, Officers Association and other senior officers to congratulate employees working in different shops and departments for their performances.



Addressing employees, Director In-charge congratulated them for their performances and appraised them about future targets. He lauded the efforts of the Bhilai collective. Other Executive Directors present also addressed the employees. The visit began in the morning and continued till late evening. Dasgupta and EDs visited URM, RSM, RTS & RPDB, WRM, Merchant Mill, BRM, T & D, Cost control, RMD, Quality, SMS 3, P & BS,

Environment management, PEM, Blast Furnaces and SGP, CO & CCD, SP 2, SP 3, RMP 2, RMP 3, OHP, SMS 2, RED 1, RED 2, Plate Mill, Water management, EMD, Safety and FS, Contract cell, PPC, MRD, Electrical, Utilities, I & A Dept, Engineering Shops, Plant Garage, Mechanical & Electrical Organizations, Material Management, EDD & INCOS, Mines, HRD Centre, Projects, Town Services and Medical and Health Services department.

BMC gears up to tackle water crisis this summer

Commissioner chairs meeting of officials and agencies

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Sarve chaired an important meeting for ensuring regular water supply in all areas of Bhilai city during the summer season. He directed all the concerned agencies associated with the drinking water supply system to stay alert and work in a proactive manner. He asked all the officers, who are at the field level, to ensure regular supply of drinking water.



will be appointed in each zone to ensure drinking water arrangement. Along with this, the agency is working directly at the field level for repair and maintenance work. In view of the summer season, the Bhilai Municipal

Corporation Commissioner directed that there should not be any kind of error or fault in the drinking water supply system. He gave instructions to repair the necessary resources like power pumps,

hand pumps, etc. The corporation has also issued a helpline number for repair and maintenance. For any type of drinking water problem, complaints can be lodged by contacting these numbers. The corporation has updated its 77 MLD and 66 MLD filter plants so that there is no drinking water crisis in summer. Mayor Neeraj Pal is constantly monitoring the works and is also holding regular meetings of the officers. He is also visiting the fields to inspect the ongoing works. BMC has successfully resolved the problems in those areas which suffered water problems during the last summer season. Booster pipeline and inter-

connection work has also been done at places where there was a water problem. In the meeting, the Commissioner said that in view of the summer season, it is necessary to remain alert on the field with necessary resources. Complaints should be resolved immediately and citizens should be provided with pure drinking water. Superintending Engineer UK Dhalendra, Executive Engineer TK Ranadive, Assistant Engineer Kuldeep Gupta, Anil Singh and Alok Pasine, C Biju, Yuvraj Singh, MK Tiwari, Dhaneshwar Verma, Rajesh Kumar Maurya, Manish Verma and Shambhu Singh were present in the meeting.

Kanker youth prove their mettle during TYEP tour to Bangalore



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: The youth of naxal infested Kanker district proved their mettle in various competitions organised at Bangalore under the 13th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP). The Border Security Force had facilitated 45 youth including 24 girls and 21 boys to attend the Tribal Youth Exchange Programme organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India) at Bangalore.



team for winning prizes. It needs to be mentioned here that under this exposure visit, the tribal youth were able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic and Cultural Development and Development process unity in the diversity aspect of our national life.

They were exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educational and employment opportunities available there. They were sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage. This programme helped the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self esteem.

During this visit, Kavita Tekam participated in the debate competition and won the first prize of Rs 5000. In the cultural programme competition, the 17 member group of Kanker won the first prize of Rs 2000. Draupadi Uikey, Komal Markam, Anjali Vishwakarma, Kavita Tekam, Leeshwari

Uikey, Ragini Nareti, Rameshwari Tekam, Kailash Kumar Tohalia, Savita Tekam, Gulshan Kumar, Anil Kumar Kureti, Shanti Dugga, Neeraj Netam, Rishikesh Nayak, Chainu Ram Netam, Badru Usendi, and Shivraj Hurra were the team members which won the prize. The team arrived at Raipur Railway Station on April 03. IG SK Tyagi (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and Nodal Officer DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have greeted the

SMS-II celebrates Swachhhta Pakhwada

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 03: Bhilai Steel Plant's SMS-II took a massive cleanliness drive in Swachhhta Pakhwada reaffirming SMS-II's commitment to National Mission for cleanliness. The Swachhhta Pakhwada was organised by SMS-II during 16th - 31st of March this year. Motivational events were organised with full zeal and enthusiasm to encourage the SMS-II fraternity for their active participation and contribution towards Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and making India clean, green and healthy. On 16th of March, Swachhhta Shapath was administered by CGM (SMS-II) to the senior offi-



cial and Karma Shiromanis of the SMS-II in SMS-II Conference Hall, wherein CGM SMS-II emphasized the importance of keeping the workplace clean and safe. Personnel office under the leadership of Harshal Agarwal organized the programme. Swachhhta Shapath was administered on 17th of March at Caster # 6 for contract workers, wherein a massive gathering of

Contract workers took pledge to keep SMS-II clean and safe. Sudhir Kumar, Yogesh Shastri, N Shrikant, Alok Mathur, T Govind and Raghavendra Rao all GM(SMS-II) were present on the occasion. Ratre from Personnel Department and Baghel, LO, SMS-II administered the oath to contract workers. A plantation drive was also organized near the sheds of M/s Protective

Engineering, the maintenance contractor of SMS-II. In addition to this, a session of 5-S was organized for Staff and contract workers of SMS-II. Sunil Deshmukh, Senior Analyst, Business Excellence department took the session and explained the benefits of 5-S to those present. CGM (SMS-II) expressed thanks to the Business Excellence Department for making 5-S a

plant-wide movement and expressed his desire to reestablish the 5-S workplace management system in SMS-II. DN Keshari, DSO (SMS-II) also addressed the gathering emphasizing how better housekeeping can result in a safe and healthy workplace. A special housekeeping drive was undertaken in Pinch Roll repair section under the leadership of N Ramesh, GM (CCS-MM), SMS-II wherein all the spares available on Shopfloor were segregated and old and non-useful spares were done away with. CGM (SMS-II) appreciated the efforts undertaken and motivated the employees to continue their efforts in keeping the workplace clean and safe.

Efforts should not be made to instigate tribals: CM

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel during his two day tour to Jagdalpur while commenting about aggressive protest by tribals in Sukma, Katekalyan and Narayanpur said that if the tribals of Bastar are annoyed over some issue, then they have every right to register protest in democratic manner and not by entering the Collector's office and causing damage to government property.

CM speaking to media persons during his two-day tour to Jagdalpur claimed that there is short-fall of naxal incidents in Bastar region. There are few organizations which



are trying to mislead and incite tribals and no one should try to instigate such innocent persons. Terming the ongoing strike by the forest employees in Chhattisgarh as incorrect, CM said that if at all the employees are having some problem,

then they should talk to their seniors and find out amicable solution.

To another question about not being happy with performance of MLAs, CM said that due to corona pandemic many public representatives, specially those in Bastar region could not reach out to their respective areas. But now with no reports of corona virus in the region, they would be able to visit their VS area and find solution to problems faced by people of the region.

Commenting about the Bastar's Maharaja Praveenchandra Bhanjdev, he said that for last 15 yrs Raman Singh of BJP was not at all concerned about him and

when BJP is without any seats in Bastar, they are remembering the Maharaja. About frequent visit by BJP State in-Charge D Purandeshwari to Bastar region, CM Baghel said that it seems Purandeshwari is constantly ignoring the BJP party leaders of Chhattisgarh.

It is notable here that during his two-day tour to Bastar, CM Bhupesh Baghel has made many important declaration of making two gram panchayats from two Naga Panchayats in Bastar and he also made a declaration of forming new tehsil and sub-division in Bastar.

Baghel pays tribute to Dau Kalyan Singh

On his birth anniversary

Raipur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has paid tribute to social worker and philanthropist of Chhattisgarh Dau Kalyan Singh on his birth anniversary on 04th April. Dau Kalyan Singh is famous for charity in Chhattisgarh and he was always ready to serve the poor and down-trodden, Baghel said. Baghel said that Dau Kalyan Singh donated several acres of land for many works like DK Hospital, Raipur, many other hospitals, libraries, colleges, reservoirs etc. This helped in providing easy education and medical facilities to every section of the society, he said, adding that Dau ji's virtuous deeds will always be remembered and his name will always be taken with respect in Chhattisgarh.

FELICITATION



Members of CG Prantiya Akhand Brahmin Samaj felicitated senior citizens of samaj in a simple programme organised here on Sunday.

Raman meets agitating contract power workers

Says govt has forgotten its promises

Alleges deliberate procrastination of appointment of linemen



Raipur, Apr 03: Former Chief Minister of the state, Dr Raman Singh reached the site of Budha Talab dharna on Sunday where electricity contract workers are sitting on dharna in support of their demands. Supporting the movement of employees, Dr Raman Singh criticized the state government for its indifference towards their plight. Three thousand contract workers are sitting on dharna for the last 24 days in support of demands for regularization and compassionate appointment to the rela-

tives of 25 employees who died during the work.

Despite getting pressure and separate notices from the government, the electricity contract workers are agitating in support of their demands under scorching summer heat. Those who had to be in duty today had to choose the path of struggle because of the wrong policies of the government, Dr Raman Singh said. According to him the contract employees had not faced any problem during

his tenure.

The state government has forgotten its own promises, he alleged and said that efforts would be made to wake this government from sleep. Singh told the top officials including collectors that many of agitating employees belonged to their families. Has the District Collector forgotten that everyone has the right to express his views in a democracy? he asked.

Electrical workers carry out electrical work but

they can also cause power breakdown. Being Energy Minister the Chief Minister must listen to the demands of the power workers and solve their problems, Raman Singh said. If BJP comes to power again then demands of the power workers will be fulfilled, he said. Raman Singh said that his government had appointed employees in this way for the year 2004-5 and 2007-8. Now 3 thousand posts are also vacant, in this they can be appointed but they are being deliberately delayed, I would say that the government should fulfill their demand soon. According to him three thousands posts are presently lying vacant which can be fulfilled with appointment. But state government is deliberately delaying the matter, he said.

Streets of the capital packed with vehicles and people

On occasion of Chetri-Chandra

Central Chronicle News



Raipur, Apr 03: After almost 2 years, the festivity has returned in Raipur. Due to the impact of COVID pandemic for the last two consecutive years, the Chetri-Chandra festival was not being celebrated. But this time this festival was celebrated with enthusiasm. Thousands of people gathered on the streets of Raipur to join Chetri-Chandra festival. The atmosphere of celebration continued till late night.

Bollywood actress Mahima Chaudhary who also reached at the celebrations programme organ-

ized by Sindhi Samaj, greeted the people on the stage near Jai Stambh Chowk in Raipur. Songs from Mahima's films were played on the stage and people danced in the form of a procession and sang from the front of the stage. Seeing all the people, Mahima said hello Raipur. The entire capital reverberated with the cheers of

Pujya Chhattisgarh Sindh Youth Wing President, CA Amit Chimmni said Bhandara (community meal programme) was organized on the occasion and juice, sweets and fruits were distributed among people in all the roads. The procession route was cleaned under the leadership of 50 volunteers of social organization Badhti Kadam. Tractors were running behind to dump the garbage. The procession passed through Lakhenagar, Purani Basti, Kankali Talab, Tatyapara, Cardaipara, Ramsagarpara, Rathor Chowk, Telghani Naka, Station Road, Nahar Para, Gurunanak Chowk, MG Road, Sharda Chowk.

Release of Kalicharan Maharaj gets postponed



Supporters of Kalicharan Maharaj are waiting outside the Central Jail for his release and were annoyed on hearing that it has got postponed.

Raipur, Apr 03: The release of Kalicharan Maharaj passing objectionable comments against Mahatma Gandhi, has got postponed once again. Actually Kalicharan was supposed to be released after 92 days of imprisonment here from the Central Jail. The jail authorities are citing about the case filed against Kalicharan Maharaj in Thane of Maharashtra and are saying that it is only after his

release order from Thane Court that he will be released.

It is worthwhile to mention here that Kalicharan Maharaj made objectionable comments against Mahatma Gandhi in a religious meeting held in capital city and for this he got bail on April 1. But the documents of the person providing bail could not be completed and therefore he could not be released. Now once again release of Kalicharan Maharaj has got delayed.

Got bail on these conditions

The advocate of Kalicharan Maharaj citing about a decision of Supreme Court in one such case has mentioned that making public statement citing what has been mentioned in the books is not a crime. It was after hearing the pleadings of both the parties, the High Court granted bail to him with bond of Rs 1 lakh and two deposits of Rs 50000 each in the Court.

CM worships Maa Danteshwari



Wishes for happiness and prosperity of people of state

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel extended his warm greetings and best wishes for the Hindu New Year and Chaitra Navratri by offering prayers at the famous Maa Danteshwari temple of Bastar located in Dantewada district. Temple priests traditionally performed the rituals. Baghel invoked blessings

of Goddess Danteshwari for happiness, peace and prosperity of people of the state.

The Chief Minister also had an opportunity to see Jyoti Kalash. He tasted the Mahua Laddu prepared as Prasad by the members of the temple committee. After the worship, the Chief Minister went to the volunteers and served food. Dhoti, Kurta, Gamcha and Rs 11 hundred were presented to each of the volunteers. The Chief Minister talked about making Jyoti Kalash Bhawan on the lines of Chandrakhuri. On this occasion, priest Vijendra



Nath Thakur handed over the memorandum of increase in honorarium of the servicemen to the Chief Minister.

Also present on the occasion were Dantewada in-charge minister Kawasi Lakhma, Bastar Development Authority Chairman Lakshwar Baghel, MP Deepak Baij, Dantewada MA Devi Mahendra Karma, Medicinal Plant Board Vice President Chhabindra Karma,

District Panchayat member Sulochana Karma, District Congress Committee President Avdesh Singh Goutam, other public representatives, collector Deepak Soni, District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Akash Chhikra, Divisional Forest Officer Sandeep Balga, Additional Collector Dr Sanjay Kannouje, SDM Abinash Mishra, heads of other societies, officers and employees.

Two arrested in firing shots at petrol pump



Korba, Apr 03: Police has arrested three accused involved in firing shots with pistol in the petrol pump in Gram Gobarghora under Dipaka Thana of Korba district with sheer intention of looting. The three accused are Vikramdev Shah, Gandhinagar Sirki, Loknath Chuhthalkar alias Viru Jyotinagar and VK Singh Jyotinagar.

It was last on March 31, two youths with clothes as mask in their faces came to get a refill in their bike. They got petrol refilled for Rs 200 and tried to snatch the bag in the hands of person filling the tank. But they could not succeed and with intentions to create fear in the mind of those

present, they fired a shot in the open and ran away. Fortunately there was no casualty or any untoward incident due to this firing.

In this case SP Bhojram Patel himself was involved and informed that the accused had purchased the pistol for Rs 50000 from Bihar and done reiki before this incident. After arrest of the two accused, they informed that they succeeded in seizing cash of Rs 500 and a mobile phone from Anganbadi worker in Gram Jemara of Pali. Darrri CSP Litesh Singh, Dipaka TI Inspector Avinash Singh, Cyber team and basic policing did remarkable work in solving this crime.

Work of Ram Van Gaman Path project completed in Shivrinarayan

Raipur, Apr 03: The development works under ambitious Ram Van Gaman Path project of Chhattisgarh government have been completed in Shivrinarayan after Chandkhuri. The development works will be dedicated to public at the hands of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on 10th April, the last day of the public dedication ceremony which will begin on 8th April. Shivrinarayan Ram Van Gaman Path is one of the places identified in the first phase of the project, for development as a tourism centre and pilgrimage.

Chhattisgarh state presents a unique example of historical, archaeological, religious and natural heritage as well as glorious ancient folk culture. Chhattisgarh is also the maternal place and 'Karmabhumi' (land of action) of Lord Shri Ram. Shri Ram spent most of the time in Chhattisgarh during the difficult exile of 14 years. Shri Ram is worshipped as a nephew in Chhattisgarh because Chhattisgarh is the birthplace of His mother Kaushalya.

In an effort to conserve and promote the cultural heritage, traditions and relics of Ramayana period in Chhattisgarh, the work of infrastructure development, restoration and beautification is being carried out at 9 places in the first phase out of 75 sites identified

in the state under Ram Van Gaman tourism circuit. Mata Kaushalya temple complex Chandkhuri was inaugurated on the occasion of Ram Navami last year.

This year, on the occasion of Ram Navami, on April 10, the inauguration ceremony of the development works of Ram Van Gaman tourism circuit is being organized at Shivrinarayan Dham, Vishnu Kankshi Teerth. Cultural performances will be given by eminent artistes of the country and the state in a three-day grand event on April 8, 9 and 10. Manas singing competition of Ramayana troupes is being organized at the state level with participation of about 7 thousand

Manas singers.

About 350 artistes from Manas troupes in 25 selected districts will give their presentations in the state level competition on April 8, 9 and 10 at Shivrinarayan. Prizes will be distributed to the winning participants on 10th April and there will be a presentation of the winning team for the first place.

The three-day event will see performances of a dance drama based on the life of Shabri by Padma Shri Mamta Chandrakar, Padma Shri Anoop Jalota, Jas Geet singer Dilip Shadangi, Mumbai playback singer Anuradha Paudwal and alumni of Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya Khairagarh.

CM pays tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Raipur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has paid tribute to the great ruler of India and skilled warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on his death anniversary on 3rd April. Baghel has said that Shivaji Maharaj fought valiantly for the pride and dignity of his motherland and prepared the foundation of the Maratha Empire. According to Baghel people still take inspiration from the life, strategies and fighting skills of Shivaji Maharaj.

Single-use plastic to be banned from July 1



Raipur, Apr 03: The use of single-use plastic bags is being banned in entire country from July 1, 2022 and in Chhattisgarh also the departments have started conducting raids in the shops and taking action against those using it. The Municipal corporation team on Saturday con-

ducted raid in 7 shops of Golebazar and Banjari road and seized single-use plastic in large quantity and imposed fine of Rs 20000 against all the 7 shopkeepers. The RMC team got a total of 200 Kg of single-use plastics from these shops. On the first day of raid, the RMC team

gave final warning and imposed penalty and asked them not to use less than 100 microns thick plastic for any sales or purchase.

Single use plastic to be banned in state from July 1:

From July 1 also in entire Chhattisgarh use of single-use plastic will be banned. In this context RMC has issued departmental guidelines and given strict message to all saying that any plastic less than 100 microns thickness will not be permitted and this action is being taken as per advisory issued from the central government. The officers say that soon the manufacturing unit of all such single-use plastic will also be closed down in entire state.

Fulfill duty of making Ch'garh prosperous, cultured and powerful: CM

Teachers congratulate CM for restoring old pension scheme
Bhupesh weighed with laddoos, welcomed with a garland



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: Teachers honoured Chief Minister for fulfilling the demand of restoration of old pension at a function organized at the town hall of the district headquarters.

Chhattisgarh Teachers Association, Bastar division, while expressing gratitude towards the Chief Minister for giving the gift of old pension scheme to all the government employees of the state along with teachers, welcomed the Chief Minister with laddoos and

garland and said that with the restoration of pension scheme, all the employees will get support in old age.

Congratulating all the teachers and employees of the state in his address, the Chief Minister said that the old pension scheme was their right. This has definitely infused new energy among all the

employees.

During COVID situation, the teachers kept the light of education alive in the state even in difficult

circumstances. Demonstrating their dedication they made innovations like Bultu Ke Bol, Padhai Tuhar Angana so that children are not deprived of studies, said

Baghel.

He further said that teachers were discharging their duty to make a prosperous, cultured and powerful state.

Because of the dedication of the teachers the trend of students towards government schools has increased in the state, he added.

RUSH IN THE MARKET



With start of 'Ramzan' month on Saturday, the Muslim brethren are coming out from 'Masjids' offering 'Namaz' and breaking daily 'roja' and all this is causing lot of rush in the market area.

Baghel welcomed at Dantewada helipad



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was warmly welcomed by the local public representatives and administrative officials from Dantewada at the helipad on reaching Dantewada. He was given a guard of honor on the occasion. Dantewada in-charge Minister Kawasi Lakhma,

Bastar MP Deepak Baij, Dantewada MLA Devati Mahendra Karma, Medicinal Plant Board Vice President Chhabindra Karma, District Panchayat member Sulochana Karma, Avadhesh Singh Gautam and other public representatives, Collector Deepak Soni and other officers were present on the occasion.

Establishment of Science Park to make understanding of science easier

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: To make science interesting and easy, a science park has been established in the school premises for the school students by the Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology. Through this park, students will be able to understand different dimensions of Science through play way method. A total of 12 such parks have been established in the state. The work of setting up a Science park in district Durg is in progress. A target has been set by the council to establish science parks in all the districts of the state. Scientist of Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology Mrs. GK Rai said that under the Science publi-



cization plan of Chhattisgarh Science Council, Science parks were established for wide publicity of Science in the state and for learning and understanding the principles of Science through Science demonstrations in sports and games among school students.

Through this, the understanding and attitude of scientific facts useful in

daily life, analytical thinking and creative talent will be developed in the students. Establishment of Science park is done as per the criteria of M. Birla Science Centre, Birla Archaeological and Cultural Research Institute Division, Hyderabad. The park is being set up in the premises of the schools identified by the concerned District

Collector. In these Science parks, mobile exhibits based on various principles of school science curriculum have been set up. In which anti-gravity angle to demonstrate the principle of center of gravity, lift over self and pulley and belts for the theory of pulley, Race the roller for the theory of moment of inertia, pendulum partons on the principle of

pendulum, Newton cradle on the principle of Newton, for the theory of sound wave Black hole to display xylophone, angular momentum Split Personality for 2D and 3D Theory, Pythagorean Model for Pythagorean Theory, Archimedes Screw for the Theory of Pressure, Roller Coaster and Acrovetille Ball for Conversion of Potential Energy to Kinetic Energy, Fun Mirror for Disturbed Image and Corona Virus Demonstration Board for Covid-19 model is installed. Through these demonstrations, students are able to easily understand the principles of Science included in the curriculum. Along with this, teachers are also finding it easier to explain these principles to the stu-

dents. Through these Science parks, the students of the concerned school and other nearby schools are also getting benefited continuously. A total of 12 Science Parks have been established in the State. In which 02 Science parks have been established in Raipur, Durg, Narayanpur, Dhamtari, Janjgir-Champa, Balodabazar, Raigarh, Mahasamund, Kondagaon and Bilaspur. Recently, a Science park has been established in the Government Higher Secondary School, Pauwara, District-Durg. At present, the work of setting up outdoor-indoor Science park in Government Higher Secondary School, Marra, District-Durg is in progress.



CM flagged off lots of Danex clothes

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel during his visit to Dantewada on Saturday, 03rd April, flagged off a lot of 32500 Danex clothes worth Rs 1 crore 89 lakh from Police Line Karli. On this occasion, Minister in-charge of the district

Kawasi Lakhma, MP Bastar Deepak Baij, MLA Devati Mahendra Karma, Vice President of Medicinal Plant Board Chhabindra Karma, Collector Deepak Soni, Senior Superintendent of Police Siddharth Tiwari and other public representatives and senior officials were present.

Departments organize redressal camps

Konta, Apr 03: In Sukma district, the schemes of the government should reach the villagers easily and their problems should also be resolved. For this, the district administration is organizing public redressal camps at village level. Where all the departments

like Agriculture, Horticulture, CREDA, Electricity, Health etc. are getting applications from the villagers and redressing their problems at one place. In the same sequence, block level public problem solving camps were organized at Gadiras and Misma today. In which Kondre, Gufdi, Gondpalli, Gonderas, Jirampal, Gadiras, Pordem, Nagaras, Sonakukanar, Korra, Chigavaram, Dodpal,



Maroki, Mankapal, Murtonda, Ramapuram, Neelavaram, Misma, Dubbatota, Samsatti, Gogunda and Bagdegu reached the villagers of Gram Panchayat. The departmental officers were apprised of their problems. People's representatives also played their part

in the camp organized in Gadiras, Mrs. Aytal Kalmu, District Panchayat President Sukma, District Panchayat Vice President Damru Naam, District member Deva Hogi, Vinod Peddi, Mrs. Geeta Kawasi, Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch Gadiras, and district member Rama of the

area. Sodi was present. 94 applications were received in various departments in the camp. Similarly, 35 applications were received in the camp organized in Misma, out of which 05 were promptly resolved by the concerned department.

Camps will be organized in the coming day

In this sequence, Errar of Konta block on Monday, April 4, village Buddi, Chhindgarh and Injeram on Wednesday, April 6, Tongpal on Thursday, April 7, and on Friday, April 8, Block level public problem solving camps in Gram Panchayat Kerlapal and Kukanar. will be organized. In which there is an appeal to all the common people, villagers, citizens to be present in maximum numbers and keep their demands and problems.

Kondagaon Manas Mandal takes out procession



Kondagaon, Apr 03: On the auspicious occasion of Hindu New Year in Kondagaon, a procession was taken out in the city by Shri Ram Manas Mandal Kondagaon. During the Shobha Yatra, Jai Shree Ram's Jai Ghosh kept on resounding, due to which there was an atmosphere of devotion was echoing in the city. It is to be known that from May 5, Shri Ram Manas Mandal has organ-

ized a 9-day Shri Ram Katha at Girls School ground in Kondagaon and this will run till May 13. In this the story of Lord Shri Ram will be delivered by Vyas Manas, Param Puja Shri Atul Krishna Bharadwaj. This will be inaugurated from Kondagaon centre place at Ram Mandir with Kalash Yatra and grand 'Rath Yatra', for which preparations have been started by the devotees of Shri Ram.

NYK organised 'Catch the Rain Phase 2 Campaign'



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 03: Nehru Yuva Kendra Raipur, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India to impart awareness and sensitisation towards judicious use of Water, organised the Catch the Rain - where it false,

when it falls, a flagship program of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. This year phase - 2 of the programs was organised, while in 2019 phase of the same program was organised. The objective of this campaign is to spread awareness among rural population to promote judi-



cious use of water. This campaign was organized in more than 50 villages of Raipur, Balodabazar and Gariaband districts. Under this campaign, awareness and sensitization was done, while capacity of water was also build through, water talks, wall paintings, street

plays, essay and speech competition. In addition, 6 webinars on the theme Catch the Rain - where it false, when it false were organized on different topics. In these webinars, national and state level experts shared their experiences on water conservation techniques

(Rainwater Harvesting), role of youth on water conservation, among other topics and motivated youth to act as a catalyst to bring in behavioral change in the community.

Arpit Tiwari, District Youth Officer, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Raipur apprised that the campaign is continuously going on for the last 3 months, and it is being organised by the NYK across the country.

He further said ground water is extravagantly being used in rural areas for various household and agriculture purposes. Thus, it is imperative to sensitize and enhance public awareness on water conservation to avert ground water from falling down to an alarming level.

Cluster level Angana Maa Education 2.0 training workshop concludes

Kondagaon, Apr 03: With the aim of strengthening the basic education of children by connecting small children and their mothers, community with the school and for the orientation of children, mothers, parents, community and teachers and to strengthen the basic education of children, Primary School Pendravran, Sankul - one day 'Angana Maa Shiksha 2.0' fair cum training workshop was organized at Hatma Block-Baderajpur, District-Kondagaon.

In this episode, how to work in this scheme by the teachers of all the three packages present in the workshop fair, through this nine counters, training is received from DRG Hemlata Shori and development block about the work and ac-



tivities of each counter Teachers Kalpana Nag, Reshmi Shori and Pushpa Marapi explained in detailed through activities with the children and smart mothers were selected. In this training cum workshop, Jeevan Markam Sankul Coordinator Honavandi, Rupendra

Kaushik Sankul Coordinator Kosmi, Bindesh Kumar Mala Sankul Coordinator Pendravran, Dukhu Ram Markam Sankul Coordinator Teachers/Teachers, Self Help Group members, children studying in the school and their mothers were present.

All promises by Cong in its election manifesto are poll-gimmicks: Shivratna



Khairagarh, Apr 03: BJP has termed the Congress party's master stroke of forming a new district of Khairagarh in its election manifesto as poll-gimmick. Addressing a press conference at city's BJP office, MLA Bhatpara and senior members of BJP poll management samiti Shivratna Sharma charged that Congress has got expertise in making pre-poll hollow promises. Coming down heavily against Congress in its election manifesto, Sharma said that the very promise of installing statue of MLA late Devbrath Singh; providing central university status of Indira Kala Sanget University, Khairagarh; construction

of water tanks in villages; establishing of food processing industries and others as sheer poll-gimmicks. Prior to this it was in 2018 Congress had presented bundle of lies in its election manifesto. Sharma said that the very promise of declaring the state as dry-state has not been fulfilled till date. Similarly the very promise of providing employment to 5 lakh youths too has not been fulfilled. He said that CM Bhupesh Baghel made declaration of making Bhatpara as new district in its last election manifesto and it has not been fulfilled till date. He informed that when a question in this regard was asked in the Vidhan

Sabha then a reply was given that first defeat Shivratna Sharma from Bhatpara and then district will be formed. Sharma charged that CM's speech has some different meaning and the reality is far from imagination. **Compares CM with Hitler:** Sharma in the press conference compared CM Bhupesh Baghel's character with 2nd World War hero 'Hitler'. He said that the way Hitler and his supporters used lies in its election campaign and the people started treating it as truth, in the same way it has been promoted by Congress in its election manifesto by CM. CM and his ministers have even

defeated the campaigners of Hitler.

Alleges that Devbrath was harassed and how they can install his statue now:

MLA Bhatpara Shivratna Sharma charged that Congmen first harassed Devbrath Singh and now in order to take political benefits they are making promise to install his statue. He questioned as to what were the circumstances that forced Devbrath to leave Congress and joint CJC (J) and the only reason he knew is that Congress disrespected Devbrath Singh and even burnt his effigy. On this he questioned as to whether Congress will remove the Congmen who burnt Devbrath's effigy.

On asking about Jal Jeevan Mission, Shivratna informed that it is central government's scheme and to which the Congress are claiming it as their. He said that in last 15 yrs BJP carried out massive development in entire state and to which Congress in its last three years stands at zero.

Villagers forced to drink water from water stream

Kondagaon, Apr 03:

Villagers of Kondagaon district are still deprived of basic amenities. Many schemes have been implemented by the government to provide basic facilities to the villagers, but due to the indifferent attitude of the bureaucrats who have to implement the schemes, the villagers are deprived of basic facilities. Similar case is that of Salfi Padar Para of Korohobeda, dependent village of Jogialwad. The villagers of Janha are forced to drink water from a 'Jharia'. Village Panchayat Jogialwad, located 20 km away from the district headquarters, is far away from the pace of development, the villagers of Janha are still yearning for clean water and school building.

The children of the village are compelled to study in the community hall to drink the water of hand pump. The handpump has been installed by the Public Health Engineering Department in Darsal village, but that too is damaged. Due to the failure of the handpump, they are forced to resort to Jharia for



drinking water after covering a distance of several kilometers. Due to the rising heat, the river, the pond has dried up and water level has gone down. In such a situation, the villagers are worried about the water during peak of summer season. Villagers say It is said that

many times the problem of water and school has been brought to the notice of big public representatives by applying to them, but till now they have not been heard and even today we are compelled to drink the water of 'Jharia'. As it is said that children's school is a temple and if those

children have to study in the community hall, then what would it be called? A similar case was found here. Due to lack of school building, for three years, children are being taught in the community hall of the village. On the one hand, the villagers yearn for water, then the same children for school. Three years ago, the children are being made to sit in the community hall due to the destruction of the school building. The villagers told that till date the children are getting education in the community hall itself. Regarding the condition of the villages, it is to be said that now the eyes of the senior officers are now seen to be moving away from the schools in the rural areas. When we talked to the responsible officers in this regard regarding the basic problems of this village, they would give a roundabout answer and would talk about investigation very soon.

Version: 'The problem of the villagers has come to the fore through you, pure water will be provided to the villagers in time.' D.C. Narnore, Executive Engineer PHE dept)

'IGNTU joins discussion on PM Modi's Pariksha Pe Charcha' prog'



Amarkantak, Apr 03: Every year the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi organizes 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' program for students, teachers and parents during the examinations. Through this discussion, he listens to their problems and gives them suggestions. Along with this, through his Gurumantra, he also tells them the tips to prepare the best for the exam. This year 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' program was organized today on April 1, 2022 at Talkatora Stadium in Delhi. For this, about 15.7 lakh participants had registered themselves. The most

important thing about this program this year was that it could be participated in any mode, whether online or offline. Gave guru-mantras. All the students and teachers of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak Headquarters and Regional Council, Manipur participated in the program through a special link provided by the Ministry of Education.

The program was also broadcast on the official YouTube channel of the university and on Facebook. As a result of which the present and former students of the univer-

sity got benefitted from the Guru Mantra given by the Prime Minister. After the program, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Honorable Professor Shriprakash Mani Tripathi addressed the students of the University and appreciated the program of the Prime Minister, asking the students to be continuously active towards their goals and compete in every sphere of life as an opportunity. should be taken as In the program, all the teachers of the university, Lakshman Havnoor Auditorium, Department of Journalism and Professor Ram Dayal Munda Central Library, besides this the program was organized in the auditorium hall of the university in the Kendriya Vidyalaya of the university. About eight thousand students participated in the program. At the end of the program, thanks were given to all by Professor Bhumi Nath Tripathi, Dean of Student Welfare of the University.

Police arrest 2 interstate smugglers

Kondagaon, Apr 03:



With ganja worth Rs 3.20 lakh

Police has arrested 2 interstate smugglers with ganja worth Rs 3.20 lakh. Ganja smugglers were smuggling the drug in their motor cycle.

Giving information in this regard, the TI Kondagaon Archana Dhurandhar said that on the orders of the Superintendent of Police, Divyang Patel, a continuous campaign is being run against the inter-state ganja smugglers. Under which special monitoring

is being done in the National Highway to stop drug smuggling.

In this series, the police got tip from an informer that ganja smugglers are going from Orissa to Raipur via Jagdalpur Kondagaon. On the information of NH-30, the police created barricading near Mardapal triangle. The person in the suspicious motorcycle was stopped and checked. On checking, it was found to contain about 17.200 kg Ganja in 8 brown colored packets inside the sack. The market value of the seized ganja is about Rs.3.20 lakh. After seizing the said ganja, the accused woman Siya Soni, husband Sanju Soni, age 40 years and Azhar Khan's father Late Ghaffar, registered a crime against the accused under Section 20 'B' NDPS Act. Khan, age 36, was arrested and produced before the Court and sent to jail.

Terra Water Filter installed by 188th Battalion CRPF

In Govt High School Village Ratenga under Civic Action prog.

Kondagaon, Apr 03:

188th Battalion CRPF Puspal Ghat, Government High School Ratenga in remote and Naxal-prone areas under its working area on March 31.

Under the direction of 188th Battalion Commandant Sunil Kumar in Block-Bastar, District-Bastar, 2nd Commanding Officer Ashok Nigude, Assistant Commandant Bannaram, inaugurated a Terra water filter of 1000 liters capacity for pure drinking water. Under this civic action program, under direction of 188th Battalion Commandant Sunil Kumar, it was installed in Government High School Ratenga district/block-Bastar. Under the direction of Commandant Sunil Kumar, Second Commanding Officer Ashok Nigude, Assistant Commandant Bannaram, inaugurated a Terra water filter of 1000 liters capacity for pure drinking water. Gone. On this auspicious occasion,



Principal of Government High School, Lomesh Kumar Bhardwaj and other teachers, Gan Shanti Kashyap, Sarpanch Ratenga, students and villagers were present. Sweets were distributed to the villagers and school children. This work of CRPF was praised by the Principal and the villagers. Under this, such work is promoting better and cordial relations between the security forces and the villagers. On this occasion, 2nd Commanding Officer Ashok Nigude in his address informed about the importance of pure drink-

ing water and he asked the people to beware of iron content in the water in this area. Due to this the children are having some deformity in their teeth and feet.. Therefore, a Terra water filter has been installed in this area by Commander Sunil Kumar of 188th Battalion CRPF Camp Chikhpaluti Kondagaon. He said that CRPF is always working diligently to protect the citizens of the country. Through the speech, the school children boosted their morale and gave some tips to the children to shape their future.

Additional convenience for visitors in Dongargarh Maa Bamleshwari Temple

Bilaspur, Apr 03:

Like every year, this year also in Maa Bamleshwari Temple, Dongargarh in Chaitra Navratri festival (from 02 April to 10 April 2022) keeping in mind the convenience of the visitors going to the fair, the Railway Administration will provide temporary stoppage of trains, which is as follows:- Temporary stoppages:- The time table of some trains has been amended. The stoppage facility at Dongargarh railway station from 02 April to 10 April 2022 is as follows.

Number	Vehicle name and number	Stoppage facility at Dongargarh Railway Station
01	12812 Hatia-Kurla (Hatia Ex.)	20.22 20.24
02	12811 Kurla-Hatia (Hatia Ex.)	16.33 16.35
03	20813 PURI - JODHPUR EXPRESS	07.27 07.29
04	20814 Jodhpur-Puri Exp Race	17.38 17.40
05	12851 BILASPUR - CHENNAI EXPRESS	12.20 12.22
06	12852 Chennai - Bilaspur Express	10.34 10.36
07	12849 BILASPUR - PUNE EXPRESS	14.42 14.44
08	12850 PUNE-BILASPUR EXPRESS	12.23 12.25
09	22827 PURI-SURAT EXPRESS	11.37 11.38
10	22828 SURAT-PURI EXPRESS	23.08 23.10
11	12146 PURI-KURLA EXPRESS	14.27 14.20
12	12145 Kurla - Puri Express	13.13 13.15
13	12152 HOWRAH - KURLA EXPRESS	13.02 13.04
14	12151Kurla-Howrah Express	13.13 13.15

Corruption reported in Marwahi Forest Division



Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Apr 03: Marwahi forest division has become a stronghold of corruption which is constantly building new dimensions on its corrupt exploits and it is to be known that during the assembly session suspen-

sion of 15 officers and employees was announced for corruption in MNREGA scheme and which is probably the biggest proceedings in the history of the House. In Khodari range of Marwahi forest division, where an amount of



crores was approved by the government under CAMPA scheme, all the work is shown in the papers but the construction work at the site is zero. It is to be known that two stop dams were approved in the Lalati beat room number 2213 and 2214 of

Khodari range of Marwahi forest division, in which the work was completed by digging the foundation in one room and finished the work by putting a base in the other room. Along with this, no construction work has been done so

far in Belpat Beat's room number 2126 and 2127, but almost the entire amount has been withdrawn. Thus, keeping the construction work confined to paper, only money was wasted which was a serious financial issue. According to the same information received, a complaint has been made to every major forest officer from the head of CAMPA scheme for investigation.

The complaint has been received three days ago, the staff is on strike, and I will be able to tell something only after checking. Dinesh Patel Forest Divisional Officer Marwahi.

Collector inspects development works in village Behradih

Mainpur, Apr 03:

District Collector Namarata Gandhi, reached here on surprise inspection of developmental works in backward tribal village Behradih and inspected Gauthans, ponds, schools, and hostels. Accompanying the Collector were Zila Panchayat CEO Roktima Yadav, DFO Mayank Agarwal, SDM Suraj Sahu, and other officials. The Kamar tribals of the village informed the



Collector upon the closure of Unnat Kheti Yojna, and asked the officials to start

it back, for progressive farming for which the collector instructed the officials to restart the scheme on ground level at the earliest. She also inspected Swami Atmanand English Medium School in village Navmudha and expressed displeasure over the slow pace of work. She also instructed officials to integrate women group into 'Dona Pattal' and mushroom production units and help the villagers to procure financial gains through farm produce.

The best person has the quality of forgiveness: Prof. Chakrawal

Bilaspur, Apr 03: The formal inauguration of the International Guest House at Guru Ghadas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) was done on the holy first day of Chaitra Navratri on 02 April 2022 by Vice-Chancellor Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal. Professor Nilambari Dave, the First Lady of the university, former Vice-Chancellor Saurashtra University Rajkot and Deans, Heads of Department and officers etc. attended the inauguration ceremony. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakrawal said that the tradition of development should continue uninterrupted. We have to develop

the university as a center of academic excellence and skill development. The whole world is changing moment by moment, so we have to develop a tendency to follow it. He said that those who move forward forgetting the past things and forgiving with a generous heart, are the best. Referring to the speech given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' program, he said that we should take time to observe introspection. Reiterating his resolve, he said that in the field of higher education, I will make as much contribution as is in my capacity with dedication. Prasad was also dis-

tributed on this occasion and everyone was wished a very Happy New Year. The dignitaries and officials also expressed their views on the inauguration of the International Guest House. An oil painting of Adi Guru Shankaracharya was presented to the Vice-Chancellor. Earlier, on the occasion of Navratri, the Vice-Chancellor offered prayers at the Kali Mata Temple located in the university by lighting the Jyoti Kalash, which is lit as usual, every year. The program was conducted and the vote of thanks was given by the Registrar of the University, Prof. Shailendra Kumar.

BRIEF

Rescued

New Tehri: Four people from Delhi were rescued by police after they fell into the Ganga here in Tehri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. According to police, Ritu (27) lost balance while bathing in the river. Amandeep Singh, Manjeet Singh (57) and Jaspreet Kaur (33), who were accompanying Ritu, tried to save her, but strong currents pulled them away. All four were rescued by alert police personnel, incident occurred at day time.

Seized

Kolkata: In one of the largest drug hauls in Kolkata airport, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 16.15 kg of heroin valued at nearly Rs 113 crore from three African passengers, including two women. Acting on specific intelligence, DRI people intercepted the three persons - a man and a woman from Kenya and a female passenger from Malawi. During examination 14 packets filled with substance were found.

Reclaims

Noida: The Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) said it has removed encroachment from a 2.5 hectare land piece along the Hindon river's flood plains under its area of management. Illegal colonisation had started in the floodplains and temporary constructions, settlements were removed from the area during an anti-encroachment drive, the GNIDA said.

Booked

Gurugram: A government employee has been booked for allegedly submitting fake educational certificates to be eligible for a higher pay. The accused Ashok Kumar was appointed to a junior rank in the public works department in 2004 and he eventually got promoted as an executive engineer. He then applied for a revised pay scale for which he allegedly furnished fake certificates.

Poisoning

Thane: Four students of an ashram school in Dhabade in Thane district's Bhiwandri area fell ill due to suspected food poisoning, civic health officials said. The four children from Shradha Ashram School, complained of uneasiness after having food and have been hospitalized, said Dr Datta Kole of the civic-run Shree Chatrapati Maharaj General Hospital.

Betting

Noida: With the arrest of six men, the Noida Police on Monday claimed to have busted a gang allegedly involved in betting on the high-profile Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket matches and the recently-concluded Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. The gang was operating from an office in Sector 10 here and was in touch with their contacts in Dubai for betting on the IPL games, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ranvijay Singh said.

'RS played crucial role in strengthening parliamentary democracy'

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Extending greetings on Rajya Sabha Day on Sunday, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said the upper house has played a crucial role in strengthening parliamentary democracy.

Naidu, who is also Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, appealed to its members to engage in informed and constructive debates by keeping the welfare of the people in mind.

"Greetings on Rajya Sabha Day! Ever since its inception, Rajya Sabha has played a crucial role in strengthening parliamentary democracy," the Vice President Secretariat tweeted, quoting Naidu.

"I would like to appeal to the members of Rajya Sabha to engage in informed & constructive debates by keeping the welfare of the people in mind," he said. According



Venkaiah Naidu

to the Rajya Sabha website, the Constituent Assembly, which first met on December 9, 1946, also acted as the Central Legislature till 1950, when it was converted as 'Provisional Parliament'.

During this period, the Central Legislature, which was known as Constituent Assembly (Legislative) and later Provisional Parliament, was unicameral till the first elections were held in 1952.

Extensive debate took place in the Constituent Assembly regarding the

utility or otherwise of a second chamber in independent India and ultimately, it was decided to have a bicameral legislature for independent India mainly because a federal system was considered to be most feasible form of government for such a vast country with immense diversities.

A second chamber known as the 'Council of States', therefore, was created with altogether different composition and method of election from that of the directly elected House of the People.

It was conceived as another chamber with smaller membership than the Lok Sabha (House of the People). It was meant to be the federal chamber, a House elected by the elected members of Assemblies of the states and two Union Territories in which states were not given equal representation.

Living in shadow of Delhi's tallest garbage mountain

Ghazipur locals continue to gasp for fresh air

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Asthma, recurrent chest infections, breathing difficulties and other respiratory illness are common in families living in the shadow of Delhi's tallest garbage mountain, Ghazipur landfill site, with frequent fires leaving them gasping for breath.

A regular issue in election manifestos and often the subject of political blame game, Ghazipur dumping yard has been a long-standing problem with residents around the area complaining of serious health hazards.

A fire at the dumping yard that broke out on March 28 could be doused



Riyazuddin (C), a resident living in the vicinity of Ghazipur landfill.

over 50 hours, forcing the locals to stay indoors. While no casualty was reported in the blaze, a thick blanket of smoke engulfed the adjoining areas.

Jummal, a 55-year-old woman, who lives near the landfill site in East Delhi's Ghazipur, said she suffered from asthma and has

had frequent respiratory infections for the last nine years. "I have stopped stepping out of my house ever since I developed health problems. When the fire broke out on March 28, we were gasping for breath. We could only close our windows and stay indoors. There was no other option

Fashion designers present contemporary rendition of sari



Designer saris presented in fashion show at Surajkund.

New Delhi, Apr 03

(PTI):

In a fashion extravaganza curated by Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), 11 designers labels, including Abraham & Thakore, Akaaro, Samant Chauhan and

Rajesh Pratap Singh, presented their contemporary take on the classic sari at the 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela, over the weekend.

Titled My Handloom My Pride, the event was organised in association with DC (Handlooms) and Haryana Tourism. Manoj

Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir was the chief guest. Each designer represented a different state in their presentation.

While Abraham & Thakore focused on Madhya Pradesh, Akaaro highlighted Haryana. Chauhan kept Bihar at the centre of his creations, whereas Singh's collection was inspired by Odisha and Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Other designers to showcase at the event were Asha Gautam (Maharashtra), Jahnavi Phookan (Assam), Madhu Jain (Odisha), Manish Tripathi (Uttar Pradesh), Shruti Sancheti (Rajasthan), Suket Dhir (West Bengal).

BJP, CPI(M) hope to give good fight to Babul Supriyo

Kolkata, Apr 03 (PTI):

Opposition BJP and the CPI(M) candidates are hoping to play spoilsport to celebrity Trinamool Congress candidate Babul Supriyo having a cakewalk in the April 12 by-poll to the upmarket South Calcutta assembly constituency of Ballygunge, which has been a pocket borough for the TMC since 2006. The south Kolkata constituency is a unique patchwork which boasts of palatial houses of the Birlas, Thapars, Mookherjees (of Martin & Burn fame) and Zamindars of yesteryears such as the Rajas of Santosh, as well as tony upper middle-class high-rises and sprawling slums.

Traditionally since the 1950s, the fight in these constituency used to be between CPI(M) and the



BJP meeting for election campaign in Ballygunge on Sunday.

Congress, with the slums and some of the middle-class intelligentsia voting Left, while the rest of the middle class and Uber rich rooting for the Right.

The rise of the left-off centre Trinamool saw votes of both the poor and rich gravitating towards the Mamata Banerjee-led party. However, the rise of the BJP in last few years has again created a new

right-wing electorate, while the Left is hoping to make a small come-back by channelling dissatisfaction with TMC towards votes for the hammer and sickle. The TMC of course remains confident of the Mamata-magic. "I am getting great response from people - across the constituency including in areas like Park Circus. The opposition is levelling all

FLAG-OFF



International Hindu Parishad president Pravin Togadia holds a sword during flag-off ceremony of 'Hindu Nav Varsh Yatra', at Mahavir Temple in Patna, Sunday.

'Raj Thackeray's Gudhi Padwa speech sponsored by BJP'

Mumbai, Apr 03 (PTI):

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday hit out at Raj Thackeray for demanding that loudspeakers on mosques shut down, saying the MNS chief's speech was "scripted and sponsored" by BJP.

Speaking at a rally at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on Saturday, Raj Thackeray demanded that if the playing of loudspeakers in mosques at high volume is not stopped, there will be speakers outside mosques playing Hanuman Chalisa at a higher volume. "It is clear that the (speech of the loudspeaker blaring at the Shivaji Park was scripted and sponsored by BJP," Raut told reporters here in an apparent reference to the MNS chief.



Sanjay Raut

Raut criticised the MNS president for his remarks that Shiv Sena remembered the assurance of rotational chief minister-ship only after the 2019 results, which was a mandate for the Sena-BJP alliance and not for Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). "I wonder why some people get their wisdom tooth so

late. Governments are formed on majority numbers in legislature. These numbers were with the MVA.

The MVA alliance government had been formed to teach liars a lesson and to provide stability to the state," Raut said. He said that no third person should poke his nose into what transpired between the Sena and the BJP in 2019 before the formation of the MVA government.

The Sena chief spokesperson wondered if 'Azan' on loudspeakers has been stopped in BJP-ruled states. "The rule of law prevails in Maharashtra," he said. Raut also slammed the MNS chief for his remarks that NCP president Sharad Pawar plays a caste card and "divides society.

Third force claim with ten percent score: Stalin's jibe at BJP

Congress should develop principled friendships

Chennai, Apr 03 (PTI):

Scoffing at the BJP's claim of having emerged as the third force in Tamil Nadu, state chief minister and DMK supreme MK Stalin has said it is like a student managing just a 10-point score behind those having 90 and 50 marks. He also said it was wrong to assume that the BJP won massively in the recently held assembly elections in five states as its tally declined in Uttar Pradesh and its 10 ministers, including one deputy chief minister, lost there, while several key leaders in Goa and the chief minister in Uttarakhand also had to suffer defeat.

"Taking into account the real field conditions of the five state election re-



Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin meets a CPI(M) delegation from Kerala, in Chennai on Sunday.

sults, I'll say it is negative for the BJP," Stalin told PTI in an interview.

"In UP, they have got fewer seats than last time. The defeat of 10 ministers, including the deputy chief minister, is an expression of popular discontent. The BJP chief minister has been defeated in Uttarakhand and their key

leaders lost in Goa too. The party has won only two seats in the Punjab assembly," said the DMK stalwart, who was on a three-day visit to the national capital. Asked about the BJP's claim that it has emerged as the third force in Tamil Nadu, Stalin said, "A boy gets 90 marks in an examination. Another stu-

dent gets a score of 50. Another one gets 10 points. Would you appreciate a 10-point scorer finishing third?" After urban local body polls in February, the BJP claimed that it has emerged as the third-largest party in Tamil Nadu after the DMK and the AIADMK. The local elections saw the ruling DMK relegating its arch-rival AIADMK to a distant second position, after trouncing it in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and then during the 2021 assembly polls. While the DMK won almost two-thirds seats, the BJP managed to make its inroads by winning over 300 seats, though it had fielded candidates for almost 5,600 seats of the total of more than 12,800.

Rare white-cheeked macaque spotted in Arunachal

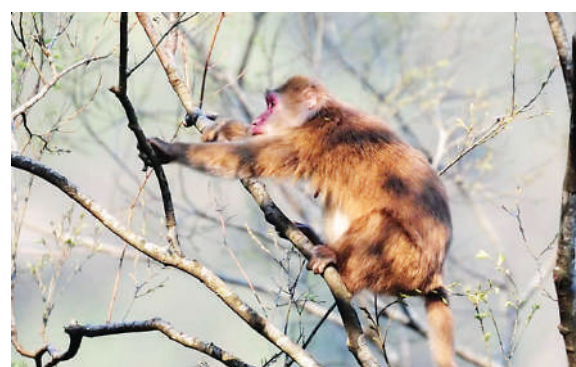
Itanagar, Apr 03 (PTI):

The rare white-cheeked macaque was spotted in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district for the second time, a forest official said on Sunday.

The mammal was first spotted in Anjaw district by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) earlier this year, and it was published in the February 3 issue of the international peer-reviewed journal 'Animal Gene'.

The mammal is the newest addition to the list of primate species found in the Indian subcontinent, the official said.

Before this, the white-cheeked macaque was found in Modog in south-eastern Tibet in 2015, West Kameng district



White-cheeked macaque spotted in Arunachal Pradesh.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Chukhu Loma said.

Anjaw is barely 200 km in aerial distance from where it was first spotted in Modog in China, he said.

"Not many days after its discovery in Anjaw, a white-cheeked macaque

was captured in a camera trap in Bishum Phudung in Dirang," he said.

The animal has distinct facial features that differentiate it from other macaques, specifically the white cheeks (whiskers), and long and thick hair on the neck, the official said.

BRIEF

Travellers

Brasilia: Brazil loosened its pandemic restrictions for international travellers, ending its Covid-19 test requirement for vaccinated passengers and scrapping a lengthy health questionnaire. Travelers will now only be required to present proof of vaccination on arrival in the country, according to new regulations in the government gazette, following a recommendation to the same effect from federal health regulator Anvisa last week.

Algerian

Washington: An Algerian man imprisoned at the Guantanamo Bay detention center for nearly 20 years has been released and sent back to his homeland. The US Department of Defense announced that Sufyan Barhoumi was repatriated with assurances from the Algerian government that he would be treated humanely there and that security measures would be imposed to reduce the risk that he could pose a threat in the future.

Investigators

Beijing: US accident investigators arrived in China to help authorities look for clues into what caused last month's crash of a Boeing jetliner with 132 people aboard. The seven-member team from the National Transportation Safety Board will participate in the Civil Aviation Administration of China's investigation of the March 21 crash of a China Eastern Airlines Boeing 737-800 because the aircraft was manufactured in the US.

Gutted

Hargeisa: A massive fire tore through the main market in the city of Hargeisa in northern Somalia overnight, injuring about two dozen people and destroying hundreds of businesses. Images posted on social media showed flames and huge billowing clouds of smoke in the night sky over the city, the capital of the break-away region of Somaliland.

Museum

New Orleans: The National WWII Museum in New Orleans in US has dedicated a gallery of planes to former aviator President George HW Bush, who was forced to bail out of his bomber during the war when it was hit by Japanese anti-aircraft fire. Bush was remembered during the dedication ceremony at the museum where the gallery displaying aircraft flown during the war was christened the George HW Bush Aviation Gallery.

Tripled

Guatemala City: Eager to show it's trying to slow the steady flow of its people north to the United States, Guatemala recently tripled prison sentences for migrant smugglers. The day after Guatemala's legislature approved the measure in February, 18-year-old Yashira Hernandez left her home near the Mexican border for the trip north hiring a smuggler to help.

US Congresswoman praises Modi for trying to broker peace

● **Between Russia and US on Ukraine**

Washington, Apr 03 (PTI):

A top American Congresswoman has praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for trying to broker peace between the United States and Russia on Ukraine and hoped that his efforts would be helpful in restoring peace in the region.

On Friday, Modi conveyed to visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that India stands ready to contribute in any way to the peace efforts to resolve the conflict in Ukraine and called for early cessation of violence in that country.

Well, I think that right now he (Modi) is trying to



Carolyn Maloney

broker a peace between Russia and America with Ukraine. I think that's a very positive goal to have. We (India and US) have strong economic ties, we have strong peace ties, and we have strong similar values, I would say we have the same form of government, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney told PTI in an interview.

Maloney, 76, who chairs

the powerful House Oversight Committee and has been elected to the US House of Representatives since 1993, is one of the senior most Democratic lawmakers in Congress.

Maloney has been a friend of India and Indian Americans both inside and outside the Congress.

She attended the historic 'Howdy Modi' event in Houston in September 2019, which was addressed by the Prime Minister and the then US President Donald Trump.

She has been one of the key architects of the Diwali Stamp and is now focused on passage of two of her legislations: One to declare Diwali as a federal holiday and other to give the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi.

Maloney, who has a reputation of never giving up on her efforts, during an interview, exuded confidence that both her legislations would be finally signed into law by President Joe Biden.

Maloney, who last met Modi during the 'Howdy Modi' event, said that the important thing is that Modi is trying for peace.

One thing is true that if you don't try it, you'll never succeed. You have to keep on trying.

For the sake of the world, I hope that anyone working for peace between Ukraine, Russia and the world is helpful in making that happen, she said. The Congresswoman from New York said that the prime minister is trying to bring ideas and ways to get a compromise to bring peace to the world.

Kim's sister enraged by Seoul's preemptive strike comments

Seoul, Apr 03 (AP):

The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called the South Korean defense minister a 'scum-like guy' for talking about preemptive strikes on the North, warning Sunday that the South may face 'a serious threat.'

Kim Yo Jong's statement came amid heightened tensions between the rival Koreas over the North's spate of weapons tests this year, including its first intercontinental ballistic missile launch in more than four years. Some experts say her statement could signal that North Korea will conduct more significant weapons tests soon and



Kim Yo Jong

take a hardline stance on South Korea. The ICBM test on March 24 that broke North Korea's four-year moratorium on big weapons tests was an embarrassment to South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in, who has pushed hard to achieve greater reconciliation between the countries and find a peaceful resolution to the North Korean nuclear crisis.

Shanghai lockdown triggers complaints as COVID cases rise

● **China's vaccination rate is above 87 percent**

Beijing, Apr 03 (AP):

COVID-19 cases in China's largest city of Shanghai are still rising with millions isolated at home under a sweeping lockdown, as the draconian zero tolerance approach to the pandemic increasingly draws complaints from residents fed up with the restrictions.

Health officials on Sunday reported 438 confirmed cases over the previous 24 hours, along with 7,788 asymptomatic ones.

Both figures were up slightly from the day before, while the northeastern province of Jilin posted a combined 4,455 cases



An officer guards next to the entrance of a neighborhood during lockdown in Shanghai on Sunday.

Sunday, also marking an increase from Saturday.

While small by the standards of some countries, the daily increases are some of the largest since the virus was first detected in the central city of Wuhan in late 2019.

Shanghai with its 26 mil-

SERBIAN ELECTION



Voters prepare to vote at a polling station in Belgrade, during general elections of Serbia on Sunday.

Hungarians head to polls in shadow of war in Ukraine

Budapest, Apr 03 (AP):

Polls opened across Hungary early Sunday as voters in the Central European country faced a choice: take a chance on a diverse, Western-looking coalition of opposition parties, or grant na-

abundant Prime Minister Viktor Orban a renewed mandate with a fourth consecutive term in office. The contest is expected to be the closest since Orban took power in 2010, thanks to Hungary's six main opposition parties putting

Secret intelligence has unusually public role in Ukraine war

London, Apr 03 (AP):

The war in Ukraine is the conflict where spies came in from the cold and took center stage.

Since Russia invaded its neighbor in late February, intelligence agencies in the US and Britain have been remarkably willing to go public with their secret intelligence assessments of what is happening on the battlefield and inside the Kremlin. The US this week declassified intelligence findings claiming Russian President Vladimir Putin is being misinformed about his military's poor performance in Ukraine by advisers scared to tell him the truth. On Thursday a British spy chief said demoralized Russian troops were refusing to carry out orders and

sabotaging their own equipment. Jeremy Fleming, who heads Britain's electronic intelligence agency GCHQ, made the comments in a public speech where he said the 'pace and scale' at which secret intelligence is being released 'really is unprecedented.' Mark Galeotti, a Russia expert at University College London, agreed that the very public intelligence campaign 'reflects the fact that we now live in a different age, politically and internationally. And this is a different kind of war.' Officials say the stream of declassified intelligence which includes regular briefings to journalists in Washington and London and daily Twitter updates from Britain's defense ministry has several aims.

French leader Le Pen softens image for election



French "Rassemblement national" (RN) party's presidential candidate Marine Le Pen gives a speech during rally in Strasbourg-Wendel.

Paris, Apr 03 (AP):

French nationalist leader Marine Le Pen has softened her rhetoric and her image to broaden her appeal in next week's presidential

election but is under threat from a provocative rival who has broken her monopoly as the watchdog of the country's identity that they claim is under threat.

For more than a decade,

Le Pen has been known for her fierce anti-immigration stance, seeing herself as standing guard at the parapets of French civilization. Now she is honing in on consumers' buying power, the top concern for voters. 'I obviously consider that immigration and insecurity are serious problems which need urgent answers, but there's not just that,' said Le Pen, head of the National Rally party, during a TV show featuring voters' questions. 'I worry about making ends meet as much as the end of France.' Meanwhile, Eric Zemmour, 63, a political novice running under the banner of his newly created Reconquest! party, is now portraying himself as the protector of old France, with bold proposals on im-

migration and Islam. He has proposed a 'Remigration Ministry,' equipped with airplanes to expedite the expulsions of what he says are undesirable migrants. Their rivalry illustrates France's increasing tilt toward the hard right and how that has set the agenda for the presidential election, held in two rounds on April 10 and 24. While polls suggest centrist President Emmanuel Macron is the front-runner, nearly half of respondents say they're ready to vote for a far-right candidate in the decisive runoff. And that's despite the fact that Zemmour, a TV pundit who models himself after former US President Donald Trump, has been convicted three times of inciting racial or religious hatred.

Lankan Opposition protests against emergency

Colombo, Apr 03 (PTI):

Defying curfew orders, lawmakers from Sri Lanka's principal opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) on Sunday staged an anti-government protest here against President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's move to impose a state of emergency and other restrictions amidst the worst economic crisis in the island nation.

A majority of Sri Lankans were unable to access social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram on Sunday after the Sri Lankan government decided to block them after they alleged that these were being used to organise demonstrations against the government. NetBlocks, a watchdog organisation that monitors cybersecurity and the governance of the



Sri Lanka's main opposition parliament members shout slogans as they protest in Colombo on Sunday.

Internet reported that real-time network data collected from over 100 vantage points across Sri Lanka showed restrictions coming into effect across multiple providers from midnight. We will protect #democracy in #SriLanka, opposition legislator Harsha de Silva said. Opposition lawmakers marched towards Colombo's Independence Square, chanting slogans and carrying plac-

ards that read: Stop Suppression and Gota go home.

Police officials set up barricades leading up to the Independence Square, which was built to commemorate Sri Lanka's independence in 1948. Additionally, the Sri Lankan police on Sunday have arrested 664 persons in the country's Western Province for violating the curfew, the Colombo Page newspaper reported.

In war-torn Syria, charity offers hope to kids with cancer

Damascus, Apr 03 (AP):

At the children's cancer ward in a hospital in the Syrian capital of Damascus, children walk down brightly painted corridors, hooked up to IV needles delivering critical treatment into their bloodstream.

Nurses tend to babies and teenagers getting chemotherapy sit in reclining chairs. Other children, in a nearby playroom, draw and colour to pass the time.

The beds fill up fast at the ward operated by BASMA, a private charity that supports children with cancer.

It is the biggest association across the war-shattered nation to offer full cancer diagnoses and

treatment without charge and for many among Syria's impoverished population, it comes down to either that or no treatment at all.

More than a decade of war has brought Syria's health care sector to its knees. With an ongoing economic crisis exacerbated by Western sanctions and a devastating currency crash, most families are struggling to survive. Few can afford expensive cancer treatment.

Hospitals, including Al-Bairouni hospital on the Harasta highway, just northeast of the Syrian capital, and the Children's Hospital in Damascus, face severe shortages of medicines and medical equipment. Before the war, the Syrian government

provided anticancer medication free of charge in its public oncology facilities. But since the conflict broke out in 2011, these services have been disrupted.

Around half of the country's health care clinics have been destroyed or closed during the war, which has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half of the country's pre-war population. Oncology care saw a rapid decline.

The doctor told us medicine is in short supply and we would have to secure most of it ourselves, said a woman from the coastal province of Latakia who identified herself by her nickname, Umm Hamzeh, meaning the mother of Hamzeh.

'Wisdom of Vivekananda exceeded that of any Harvard professor'

Annisquam, Apr 03 (PTI):

Nothing much is known about the content and context of Swami Vivekananda's first speech in the United States, which was about a fortnight before his historic Chicago address in September 1893, but the residents of this quiet seacoast village about 65 kilometers north of Boston, to this day remember him as a Hindu monk whose wisdom and intelligence exceeded that of a Harvard professor.

I think the impression that he (Swami Vivekananda) left was that here is someone from a culture so different, from a religion so different and yet his wisdom, his intelligence, exceeded even the



Sue Koehler-Arsenault

wisdom intelligence that they thought was here of the Harvard, Rev Sue Koehler-Arsenault, Pastor of the historic Annisquam Village Church, told PTI in an interview.

Rev Koehler-Arsenault is now the Pastor of the historic Annisquam Village Church, where Swami Vivekananda deliv-

ered his first speech on American soil on August 27, 1893.

The lecturer, from where Swami Vivekananda addressed the jam-packed church on a Sunday in August 1893, is probably the only thing left of the historic day, but his speech continues to resonate in this village and the residents feel that they are part of history.

While the text or content of his speech at this church is not available or has been lost with the tide of history, the pastor observed that it is believed that Swami Vivekananda here spoke about India's cultural diversity and about the country and his speech at this church was not about Hinduism,

which was the theme of his historic speech at the World Parliament of Religion in Chicago on September 11, 1893.

My understanding is that he was really just trying to paint a picture of India, of the culture and traditions of India, not so much did he speak about religion here; but just about the way of life, she said responding to a question.

My understanding is that his talk here was less about Hinduism and, he wasn't giving a religious speech in so far as he wasn't trying to, address the finer points of Hinduism or of his spiritual worldview, but more about the culture and the practices of the people, she said.



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 04

Reforming technical education

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) extended the moratorium on setting up new engineering institutes for two more years with certain exceptions, according to its chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe. The move comes after a government constituted panel had recommended continuation of the ongoing moratorium. The AICTE had imposed a moratorium of two years on granting approvals for new colleges in 2020. The New Education Policy (NEP) envisages that all higher education institutions (HEIs) should evolve into autonomous universities by the year 2040 with individual enrolment of above 3,000. AICTE is taking up reforms meant to make technical education relevant for industry needs. Recently, AICTE clarified that the Bachelor of Vocation courses will be treated at par with diploma in engineering or a BSc degree for lateral admission to engineering courses. For admission in B.Tech and BE program through lateral entry to second year, a candidate must have passed minimum three years diploma examination in any branch of engineering and technology, the council further said. A BSc degree from recognized university and passed class 12 examination with mathematics as a subject is also in the eligibility criteria. AICTE has also set a target of printing study materials for technical courses in 12 Indian languages, a move that has come in accordance with the provisions of the NEP. Physics, chemistry and maths will no longer be mandatory subjects for admission to undergraduate courses in architecture, according to the approval process handbook for 2022-23. The other two courses which will not mandatorily require PCM subjects in class 12 are fashion technology and packaging technology. Union minister of state for education Dr Subhash Sarkar recently said the National Education Policy 2020 will prepare the youth for a self-reliant and prosperous India. This policy is providing comprehensive education including the 2020 multidisciplinary curriculum. Total number of credits for engineering graduation to be reduced from the current 160-180 to 135-140.

Academic credits are calculated on the basis of work that a student has done in the classroom, including actual attendance, assignments and presentations. Different courses have different credit requirements. A critique of engineering education in India suggests that much of it is theoretical with little exposure to industry. It is bucketed into old silos like 'chemical engineering' or 'mechanical engineering', with limited opportunities for multi-disciplinary learning or real-world problem solving. AICTE was asked to 'introduce industry-relevant' disciplines, such as 'communication and security engineering', 'manufacturing engineering', 'transport engineering', 'energy engineering', 'information engineering', 'public health engineering (water, environment, pollution, sewage etc)', 'healthcare engineering, computational engineering, environmental engineering, and geomatics or geospatial science and technology geoinformatics. Core disciplines need urgent revamp to cater to the rapidly evolving needs of the industry and rapid changes occurring in technologies. Core engineering industry should proactively support engineering institutes to produce engineers of the required skill set in their own interest. This would also help students in finding jobs in the future. Once a graduate becomes a practising engineer, they will need to keep learning as technological advancements continue to transform the engineering practice at a rate never experienced before. An international report on 'The Global State of the Art in Engineering Education' states that the future leaders in engineering education will focus on 'work-based learning, multidisciplinary programs and a dual emphasis on engineering design and self-reflection.' It lists trends which will define the profile of leading programs including the shift of the global axis of engineering leadership from high income countries to emerging economies. AICTE needs to increase pace of reforms for technical education as per NEP goals.

Don't rely on GDP alone

Many ratings agencies have again revised Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth estimates for India last week. GDP is considered to be barometer of economy, but relying on GDP alone is misleading. GDP provides measurements of output, income and expenditure quite well, and these are needed to understand and devise fiscal and monetary policies. But this measure flatly fails when it comes to wellbeing. Its founder, Simon Kuznets, cautioned half a century ago that it is useful mainly in tracking income. More recently, other economists suggest knowing change in per capita wealth of all types is key to monitoring sustainability. Hence growing international interest in a tool that still captures financial and produced capital, but also the skills in our workforce (human capital), the cohesion in our society (social capital) and the value of our environment (natural capital). Work has advanced on some of these elements. The UN Environment Programme-led Inclusive Wealth Index shows the aggregation through accounting and shadow pricing of produced capital, natural capital and human capital for 140 countries. The global growth rate of wealth tracked by this index is much lower than growth in GDP. Interestingly, many countries record GDP growth while they lose natural capital. One can see the trade-off among various types of capital, but the report clearly conveys that mixing income with wealth is bad economics and dangerous for sustainability measurement.

People deserve an accurate sense of how well their economies are performing, with a view to long-term sustainability. GDP has and always will have valuable short-term insights, but to respond to 21st-century pressures we need a modern economic measure. United Nations approved a statistical standard relating to the services that nature provides to the economy. That followed the UK Treasury's publication of a review by the University of Cambridge's Partha Dasgupta setting out how to integrate nature in general, and biodiversity in particular, into economic analysis. With consequences of climate change starting to become all too apparent, any meaningful concept of economic success in future will surely include sustainability. US Bureau of Labour Statistics intends to develop a more comprehensive concept of living standards that includes the value of such activity. Aggregate measures such as these can be useful for guiding important policy decisions in a manner consistent with familiar economic concepts. This approach also helps the conversation with finance ministry officials and business executives, whose support for a longer-term perspective regarding prosperity will be essential to bring about change.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com

The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

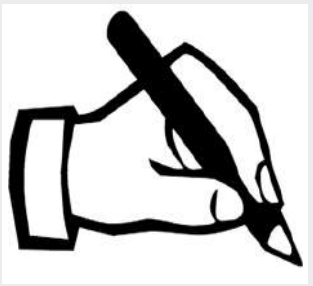
'PAHCHARE' CHARIOT FESTIVAL



Devotees dance and play a traditional drum during the 'Pahchare' Chariot Festival, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Salt is essential commodity but salt makers are not

RAVLEEN KAUR



Guanwant Ramji Koli left for the Little Rann of Kutch (LRK) to place idols in a mud puddle. During the monsoon, waters of 11 rivers and many nullahs drain here and mix with the tidal waves from the Gulf of Kutch. The water recedes in September-October. Then, the puddle in which Koli placed the idols would have massive salt pans around it. Koli belongs to Agariya, a traditional salt-making community in the Western Indian state of Gujarat. The Agariyas, like farmers, pray to their gods every year through such rituals for a bumper harvest and for no natural calamities. Koli's prayers now include protection from man-made calamities too. Surplus water from the Narmada canals floods their salt pans, destroying salt worth several hundred thousand rupees. The 60,000-odd Agariyas at the Little Rann produce 30 percent of India's inland salt but they have no legal rights over the land on which they have been making salt for centuries. The LRK is an area where no human being stays. Agariyas make salt in three percent of this land but the 2011 census indicates that a population of 1.75 million from nearby areas is dependent on it, like the fishers, truck drivers, labour to load salt and packaging units.

The 5,000 square kilometres region was notified as a Wild Ass Sanctuary (WAS) in 1973, to protect the equine species. It is part of India's largest National Biosphere Reserve and one of the few nesting sites for lesser flamingos and the

endemic prawn species, *Metapenaeus kutchensis*. It attracts endangered cranes and other migratory birds and supports unique salt-tolerant plants and grasses. But now an ambitious water infrastructure project threatens to permanently wipe out their traditional occupation and way of life. Called Rann Sarovar, the project aims to turn Little Rann into the biggest freshwater lake in Asia. In 2019, Jaisukh Patel, who is the managing director of the Ajanta-Oreva Group that makes the Ajanta brand of wall clocks, had proposed to the central government, to build a freshwater lake in the LRK called Rann Sarovar. The idea was to dam the creek to prevent seawater from entering the Rann, creating a vast freshwater lake that can be used around the year.

The central government referred the proposal to the Central Water Commission (CWC) in early 2019. After a series of meetings with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), the CWC recommended that the Gujarat government should form a committee to study the proposal, as water is a state subject. The state and union governments are currently studying the proposal. The project, however, has invited criticism on account of technical viability, socio-economic and ecological impact. The CSIR said that the project is a 'huge technological challenge' because the LRK has an arid climate and is seismically active. 'Extensive evaporation from the lake will lead to humidity that will destroy the cumin, castor and cotton crop that grow in the dry Saurashtra region,' Bharat Somera, an Agariya, associated with the NGO Agariya Hitrakshak Manch (AHRM) that works for the rights of salt workers, told.

Asked about the livelihood of the Agariyas, Patel said that he has proposed to the government that the Agariyas should be given 10 acres of agricultural land where they can be rehabilitated. 'Inland salt making is a

dying profession. The Agariyas are the poorest people in Gujarat. I have proposed that they be employed to run the water-sports and boats when the Rann Sarovar comes up,' he said. Presently, Gujarat's water resources department has asked the Centre for Salt and Marine Chemical Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar to study how long will it take to remove the inherent salinity of soil in the LRK. 'If it takes 2-3 years to turn the saline water fresh, it is worth it, but if it takes 20 years, then we can't spend public money on it. Also, the government has to consider the sanctuary and livelihoods issue,' MK Jadhav, Secretary, Water Resources, Gujarat government told.

The Agariyas can obtain rights through India's wildlife protection law and the landmark Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006. But the local community members allege that the state has either slowed down or rejected their claims under these laws. 'One can bear the wrath of nature, but the indifference of the administration is really exhausting, for it refuses to recognise our existence,' Koli, a third-generation Agariya, told. Once the water recedes in winters, it leaves behind an expanse of cracked land. This is when Agariya families from 102 villages within 7-45 kms of the LRK migrate inside with their water pumps, tools and household stuff and set up temporary huts for the next eight months. They pump subsoil brine from underground wells and spread it on large prepared pans called 'Agar'. Evaporation leaves behind white crystals of salt.

In 2015, the command area of the Narmada dam's canals got completed. Since the LRK is the lowest point in the topography, excess water drains here. 'Low-quality material has been used to construct the canals and their capacity is also lower than the amount of water released. Besides affecting the salt pans, this is gross wastage of the Narmada waters,' Rabari clarified. In 1948, in order to ensure self-suffi-

ciency in salt, the newly independent Indian government allowed salt farmers operating on less than 10 acres to produce salt without any licenses. 'Such salt producers came to be known as 'unrecognised'. Most of the Agariyas in the LRK fall under this category, and hence have no documentary evidence of their salt farms,' according to Yet to be Freed, a 2008 study on the Agariya salt workers by Charul Bhargava and Vinay Mahajan. In 1973, the Wild Ass Sanctuary was notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Under the law, after the first notification for a wildlife sanctuary, the state forest department begins a settlement process to identify land rights of individuals and communities within sanctuary limits. The settlement process for the WAS began only 24 years later in 1997. The government came out with a notification to file land claims within 60 days.

But this was not publicised enough so most Agariyas did not file claims, alleged Pandya. The government also did not conduct any survey to get the exact number of Agariyas dependent on the Rann, he said. In November 2006, in the middle of the salt season, the Agariyas received eviction notices from the state's forest department, stating that their claims had been rejected. 'Most Agariyas were shocked and clueless because they had never made claims in the first place,' said Pandya. The AHRM conducted radio programmes to inform people about their rights. New claims were filed, but the forest department rejected them on the ground that the time period was over. Till now, the settlement is still not complete, 48 years after the sanctuary was first notified. Earlier, the government used to issue short-term leases to Agariyas and renew them. They stopped renewing these after the settlement process began.

(Ravleen Kaur, based in New Delhi, writes on environment and rural issues.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Road sense

Road accident is a most unwanted thing to happen, yet it happens almost every day on Indian roads. As our cities grow in size and complexity, road accidents are also growing in number. A heterogeneous traffic mix that includes high speed vehicles, vulnerable road users, unsafe road infrastructure and inadequately trained drivers - all contribute to the high fatality rates seen on India's roads. Education and enforcement can together bring about a shift in the mindset of drivers. Better road sense, the ability of a driver to comprehend road signs and paying heed to speed restrictions are some of the driving etiquettes that will ease the pressure on traffic police. First Aid and Trauma Care are other aspects that could help save precious human lives by timely assistance during the golden hour. Frequent camps on road safety with catchy slogans like, "Alert today, alive tomorrow", "A text or call can wreck it all," and "Fast drive could be the last drive" will go a long way in preventing accidents. There is an urgent need to stress more on road safety awareness.

Ranganathan, via email

Fall-out reaction

Recently, while browsing a social media app on my mobile, I came across a video lasting almost for half an hour depicting the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits in 1991-92. It is yet other instance of the 'fall-out' of Indian style of secularism, which in fact has become a one-way traffic since the word 'Secular' was incorporated in our Constitution by some opportunistic leaders in particular. It is only because of secularism that Indians have become refugees in their own nation, which is totally unseen in other piece of land on the earth. The very same fate happened to our Sikh brothers in 1984 after Indira Gandhi's assassination. The sleeper cells of Pakistan are taking full advantage of this so-called Secularism which is bleeding the nation internally. The latest Hijab issue is almost creating like a civil-war like situation where some anti-Indian global bodies like OIC are trying to take the issue to international platforms. A RSS worker was stabbed to death by some Hijab supporters in broad daylight in Karnataka. Had it happened to so called liberals in particular, would have immediately called for strike demanding the resignation of the central government.

Joel, via email

Women advocates

It is sad that when every sector has a fair representation of women, the legal field lags far behind. The feasibility of establishing more number of law colleges for women and having all women courts needs to be explored. There is no dearth of talent and professional calibre among women advocates. The Government should enable 50 percent reservation in various positions for women in the judiciary. Special recruitment of judicial officers can be made from among women lawyers who meet the grade. When crimes against women and girls are on the rise (going by media reports), it is essential to dispense quick and quality justice. Importantly, awareness and motivation among women are required.

Johan, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Ratna@ratnadv

It's almost 2 in the morning. A construction site next door is doing something with what sounds like a giant vacuum cleaner, bikes race past with tyres screeching. And I'm wondering what one needs to do for a little peace and quiet! Nugget, my Goldie sleeps through it all!

Amit@amitsurg

CCI does not have any jurisdiction on this subject. This is sheer bureaucratic overreach. No pharmacy, in or outside hospital, can sell higher than MRP. If high drug MRP is a concern, DPCO can very well fix MRP as they have done many times in the past (which is also overreach).



Ajey@Paimaamu

There is political unrest in Pakistan, a state of emergency in Sri-Lanka, military rule in Myanmar. One party rule in China and One person rule in Russia. Indians are enjoying IPL cricket completely oblivious to how their govt is working through these things with its neighbors. Not to mention Taliban rule in Afghanistan.

zenrainman@zenrainman
Remains of a water heritage



Vimny@vimnyganju

Time rich, money poor society is always attracted to content which enables soft engagement. Add to that some social validation or recognition and it becomes a perfect concoction for low per capita nations. And ofcourse having young population and cheap internet spikes usage.



BRakesh@rakeshbhandari

Younger population...more active on virtual than actual world. Also most of us want to show to the world how Happy and success full life we all are leading. In real world difficult to prove but in virtual world easy to fake. Bigger cities difficult to be socially active in actual.

Devinder@Sharma

Taxing billionaire's income has always been considered impermissible, treated more like a taboo. By introducing the Billionaire Minimum Income Tax, US President @JoeBiden has shown tremendous political courage to take the bull by the horn. Hope G-20 follows.

BRIEF

Growth



New Delhi: Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) MD AS Rajeev told PTI that banking sector is set to register robust growth in the current fiscal on the back of stable macro-economic conditions and growth-oriented policies of the government and is at an inflection point.

Plant

Guwahati: PSU major Indian Oil Corporation on Sunday said it will invest nearly Rs 840 crore in expanding its Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant (POL) storage capacities, including setting up a green-field facility, in the Northeast. The company is planning to take its POL capacities to 5,530 Thousand Metric Tonnes Per Annum (TMTPA) by 2030 from existing 3,160 TMTPA, Indian Oil Corporation Executive Director G Ramesh told PTI.

CNG



New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) aims to sell 4-6 lakh CNG units in the current fiscal year depending upon supply situation of essential components. MSI's Shashank Srivastava told PTI that the share of CNG cars in its overall sales is bound to increase.

Exports

New Delhi: India's merchandise exports spurred to a record high of USD 418 billion in the 2021-22 fiscal on higher shipments of petroleum products, engineering goods, gem and jewellery and chemicals, according to official data released on Sunday.

Turnover



New Delhi: Minocha India Ltd is targeting to clock a turnover of Rs 500 crore in the next five years, having signed a strategic partnership pact with the Japanese firm Ricoh, MD Atul Thakker told PTI.

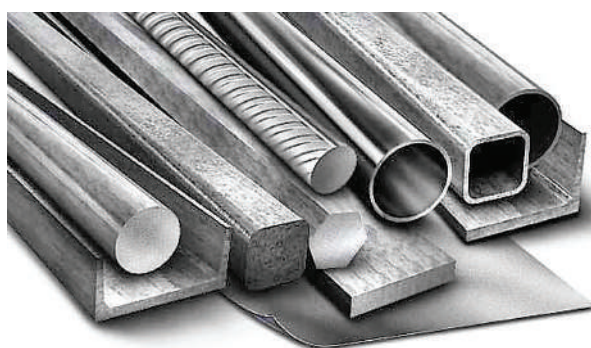
Likely

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank is likely to maintain status quo on interest rates in its forthcoming monetary policy review but may change the stance in view of retail inflation piercing its upper tolerance limit, global uncertainties created by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, and the urgency to protect and boost growth, feel experts.

Govt mulls modifications in PLI Scheme for speciality steel

■ Extends last date for application till Apr 30

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):



The government is planning certain modifications in the PLI Scheme for speciality steel and has extended the last day to submit the applications by about a month till April 30, a senior government official has said.

On July 22 last year, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved a Rs 6,322-crore PLI scheme to boost the production of speciality steel in India.

The move is expected to attract an additional investment of about Rs 40,000 crore and generate 5.25 lakh job opportunities. March 29, 2022, was the last date to submit the

applications for investors looking to invest under the scheme, which has been extended to April 30, the official in the Ministry of Steel told PTI. There will be certain additions in the modified scheme, which are underway, he said. Explaining the rationale behind the move, he said the step has been taken on the request of steelmakers, who had raised certain concerns over the scheme. "We are working

on a uniform incentive on the production of speciality steel. More grades, especially those used in the defence sector, will be added to the scheme. Cap on production is also one area we are looking at," he said on the possible changes in the modified scheme. In the initial scheme, five categories of speciality steel — coated/plated steel products, high strength/wear-resistant steel, speciality rails, alloy steel products,

steel wires and electrical steel — were included. Industries like automobiles, electrical, defence and pipes are consumers of these grades of steel. Earlier, speaking with PTI, Minister of State for Steel Faggan Singh Kulaste had said he was confident of a huge number of domestic and internal players coming forward to avail the benefits of the scheme and invest in India to produce speciality steel.

Kulaste had also said that increasing per-capita steel consumption and the production of special steel, as well as enhancing raw material security, will remain the key focus areas of the government in 2022.

The government aims to save Rs 33,000-crore foreign exchange (forex) that goes out of India annually in exchange for the import of speciality steel.

NMDC Launches Management Dashboard



Hyderabad, Apr 03:

NMDC, the first CPSE in India to implement ERP on the SAP S4/HANA platform, went live with its Management Dashboard for Production, Despatch, and CSR today. NMDC CMD Sumit Deb launched the Dashboard in the presence of company's Functional Directors - Director (Finance) Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Technical) Somnath Nandi, Director (Production) Dilip Kumar Mohanty; ERP Project Leader; Partners in the digital transformation journey; and Head of

Departments at the Head Office in Hyderabad. The launch was ensued by a presentation on the character and competence of the Dashboard by the ERP team.

Developed as part of NMDC's digital roadmap, this interactive and analytical Dashboard presents a business summary which can be drilled down to the minutest details. The Dashboard will be of service in better managing the execution of business goals due to its flexibility across devices and systems, and accessibility at any moment, in any place. The Management Dashboard will expand to

include Finance, Material Management, Project Coordination, HR, and other verticals in the near future.

Congratulating the NMDC Team on this accomplishment, Sumit Deb said, "The interventions of this kind will bring digital disruption in our business that is imperative to drive us from 42 MT to 50 MT rapidly. As we go-live with this advanced Management Dashboard, discipline needs to be built in the system to collect real-time data and use the insights to make well-informed decisions for the growth of our company and the mining sector."

Demographic dividend may turn into liability sans jobs

■ Govt-industry collaboration holds key

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):



Chandrajit Banerjee

As the country is expected to add another 183 million people to the working age group of 15-64 years between 2020-50, its demographic dividend may turn into a liability in the absence of enough jobs and the required skilled workforce, a report released on Sunday said.

The report on India's Demographic Dividend released by industry body CII argues that not only is there a shortage of time, but also that the rise in India's working age population is necessary but not

sufficient for it to sustain the economic growth. "If India does not create enough jobs and its workers are not adequately prepared for those jobs, its demographic dividend may turn into a liability. And education and skill development will be the biggest enablers for reaping this dividend," the report said. The report points out that India

will add another 183 million people to the working age group of 15-64 years between 2020-50 as per the UN Population Statistics database. Thus, a whopping 22 per cent of the incremental global workforce over the next three decades will come from India. "Although investment, reforms and infrastructure are likely drivers of India's economic growth, no growth driver is as certain as the availability of people in India's working age group. India's young population, its demographic dividend, gives India the potential to become a global production hub as well as a large consumer of goods and services," highlighted Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

ONGC to see USD 3 bn rise, RIL USD 15 bn from gas price hike

■ Fertiliser subsidy will go up

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is likely to see a USD 3 billion (about Rs 23,000 crore) rise in its annual earnings from the more than doubling of the price of natural gas it produces, while Reliance Industries may get USD 1.5 billion (Rs 11,500 crore) more in revenue, a report has said.

The government from April 1 increased the gas price paid to producers of oil and regulated fields from USD 2.9 per million British thermal units to USD 6.10, a record high.

For difficult fields, such as deepsea fields of Reliance, the price has gone up by 62 per cent to USD 9.92 per mmbtu.

"A three-pronged deficit in oil markets (inventory, capex and spare capacity) combined with rising domestic gas production after nearly a decade of declines sets the stage for a super-cycle in profitability," Morgan Stanley said in a note.

Gas accounts for 58 per cent of domestic gas production for ONGC and every USD 1 per mmbtu change in gas price affects ONGC's earnings by 5-8 per cent. "We foresee USD 3 billion earnings increase in FY23 (April 2022 to March 2023) and, more importantly, improving

ROCE to above 20 per cent after more than a decade," it said.

Gas prices for difficult fields (deepwater, ultra-deepwater and high-pressure high-temperature areas) have risen by USD 3.8 per mmbtu to USD 9.9 and will be applicable to ONGC's production from KG-DWN-98/2, which is expected to contribute about 14 per cent of domestic gas production by FY24.

Reliance's gas production from its deepsea KG-D6 field has reached 18 million standard cubic meters per day, which is expected to increase to 27 mmscmd by FY24 (March 2024), with a ramp-up in

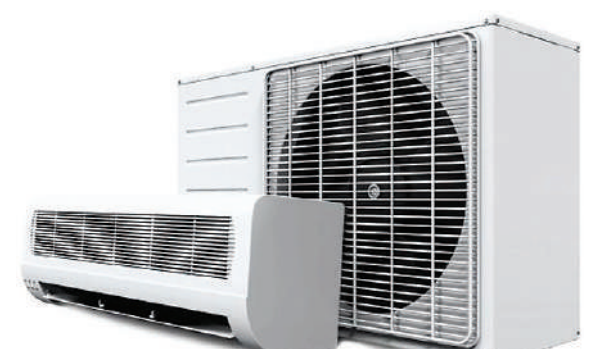
production from new and existing clusters.

"We expect USD 1.5 billion earnings increase with gas price hikes in FY23," it said.

Morgan Stanley predicted a further hike of 25 per cent in the next revision scheduled for October 2022 as tight supplies keep four global benchmark prices at elevated levels.

AC makers expect growth amid looming price hikes

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):



The prices of residential air conditioners may go up by around 5 per cent as the industry faces soaring input costs even though the makers are looking for double-digit growth this year with early onset of summer spurring demand.

Buoyed by the recent prediction by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) about the summer temperature to stay "above normal" in April and May, leading air conditioner (AC) makers, including Voltas, Hitachi, LG, Panasonic and Godrej Appliances are expecting pent-up demand of the last two seasons that saw market disruptions due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of them are expecting a greater demand

this season, which might also lead to a shortage of units, putting them under pressure to meet the increased requirement for ACs and other cooling products.

The industry has gone for a price hike last quarter to mitigate the impact of soaring prices of components, metals especially copper and aluminium and rising crude oil after

the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Companies are also luring the customers with offers and easy EMI schemes to make their purchases convenient.

Tata group firm Voltas is expecting the residential AC industry to grow in terms of both volume and value this summer.

"The industry has already been subject to multiple double-digit price

hikes during the fiscal of 2021-22. However, at Voltas, given our consumer-centric philosophy, we made sure that these hikes do not deter consumers from buying cooling products this summer, and hence have introduced various consumer offers and easy EMI options to make purchases convenient for our customers," Voltas Managing Director & CEO Pradeep Bakshi told PTI.

The Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) expects this peak season to contribute 35 to 40 per cent of the total annual sales. However, it also cautions about a price hike.

"Prices have been erratic over the past few years, and the pandemic made the situation worse.

Smallcap stocks rake in big gains in FY-22

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

■ Deliver up to 36.64% returns
Small Cap



Smallcap stocks raked in big gains in fiscal 2021-22 by giving up to 36.64 per cent returns, outshining the bigger benchmark gauge and experts believe that they may continue to outperform in FY23.

Markets faced many headwinds in the latter part of the last fiscal with the emergence of geopolitical tension, inflation concerns and FII selling.

Analysts said that the first half of the last fiscal was very good, while the market entered into consolidation in the second half, combined with high volatility. The BSE smallcap index jumped 7,566.32 points or 36.64 per cent in the 2021-22 fiscal, and the midcap gauge went higher by 3,926.66 points or 19.45 per cent. In comparison,

Sensex closed the 2021-22 financial year with a gain of 9,059.36 points or 18.29 per cent. "The market is climbing all walls of worry and showing strong resilience that is characteristic of a strong bull market. We are in a structural bull market, however, intermediate corrections will be a part of this journey."

"Midcap and smallcap stocks tend to outperform in a classical bull market, and I believe they may

continue to outperform in FY23 as well, as the Indian economy is ready for multi-year growth despite short-term hiccups," said Parth Nyati, founder, Tradingo.

Nyati further added that historically April remains one of the best months for the equity market, especially for midcap and smallcaps, as the BSE smallcap index ended in green for 14 out of the last 15 years with an average gain of 7 per cent.

Macro data, RBI policy, war to drive markets this week

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Domestic macroeconomic data, RBI policy and developments related to the Russia-Ukraine war would be major driving factors for the stock market this week, analysts said.

Moreover, FPI investment and trends in crude oil would also influence the trading sentiment, they added.

"This week, the RBI credit policy will be a critical factor for Indian markets. It will be important to see how FII will behave in FY23 after relentless selling in the second half of FY22. However, they have changed their gear in the last week," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd. "With the

beginning of the new fiscal year, markets will be closely eyeing the MPC's monetary policy review outcome scheduled on April 8. On the macro front, participants will be eyeing manufacturing and services PMI data on April 4 and April 6, respectively.

"Amid all, global cues viz updates on Russia-Ukraine war, and movement of crude will remain in focus," said Ajit Mishra, VP Research, Religare Broking.

Mishra added that markets are moving largely in sync with their global counterparts and positive developments on the Russia-Ukraine front could further fuel the rebound. "We expect stock-specific moves on earnings expectations," he noted.

Peak power demand up 12% at 198.47 GW

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Peak power demand met or the highest supply in a day rose by 12 per cent to 198.47 GW on April 1 compared to the year-ago same day, showing impact of early onset of summer and improvement in commercial and industrial consumption after easing of lockdown curbs by states.

According to the power ministry data, the peak power demand met was 177.20 GW on April 1, 2021.

The data shows that during the entire month of April in 2021, the peak power demand was recorded at 182.37 GW. It was 132.73 GW in April 2020, a tad lower than 176.81 GW in April 2019.

Experts are of the view that the quantum jump in peak power demand met



shows recovery of economic activities through rising commercial and industrial demand of electricity especially after easing of lockdown restrictions by states for curbing coronavirus infections.

They also stated that apart from surge in economic activities, the early onset of summer has too perked up the demand for power as people especially

in the northern part of the country have started using desert coolers and air conditioners to beat the scorching heat especially during the day. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had said on Thursday that there would not be any respite from heat in the coming months.

Northwest and central India and parts of the

northeast are expected to experience above-normal maximum temperatures in April, the weather department had said.

The power demand was affected in April 2020 mainly due to lockdown restrictions imposed in view of rising coronavirus infections in the country. The central government had imposed a lockdown on March 25, 2020. In April 2021, the deadly second wave hit the country, triggering lockdown curbs again by states. This had affected power demand in the country.

Experts say that the peak power demand of 198.47GW on April 1, 2022 is in contrast with 176.81 GW in April 2019, showing that electricity requirement is now much above the pre-pandemic level.

Mcap of top-10 valued firms soars Rs 2.61 lakh cr

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

The top 10 valued domestic firms added a whopping Rs 2,61,767.61 crore to their total market valuation last week in tandem with a buoyant trend in equities, with HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainers. Last week, the Sensex zoomed 1,914.49 points or 3.33 per cent. From the top-10 pack, the market valuation of HDFC Bank zoomed Rs 41,469.24 crore to reach Rs 8,35,324.84 crore. Reliance Industries added Rs 39,073.7 crore to take its valuation to Rs 17,95,709.10 crore. The market valuation of Hindustan Unilever Limited jumped Rs 29,687.09 crore to Rs 4,88,808.97 crore and that of Bharti Airtel zoomed Rs 27,103.16 crore to Rs 4,16,625.19 crore.



Actress-singer Rachel Zegler, who received accolades for her work in Steven Spielberg's, 'West Side Story' is set to lend her voice to the lead character of Princess Ellian in the musical feature, 'Spellbound', reports 'Deadline'.

As per 'Deadline', Ellian's character is described as a tenacious princess who must go on a journey to save her family and kingdom after a mysterious spell transforms her parents into monsters and threatens to cover Lumbria in darkness forever.

Apple Original Films and Skydance Animation's 'Spellbound', is being directed by Vicky Jensen with Lauren Hynek & Elizabeth Martin and Linda Woolverton penning the script. The original score for the film hails from Academy Award-winner Alan Menken, with lyrics by Glenn Slater. Chris Montan serves as executive music producer. John Lasseter, David Ellison, Dana Goldberg and David Lipman are producing for Skydance Animation.

'Spellbound' adds to the expanding lineup of Apple Original Films and Skydance Animation projects, alongside upcoming titles such as the animated series 'Wondla'.

Talking about Zegler's work in 'West Side Story', the film earned her critical acclaim and played a big part in her landing the huge role as the titular character in Disney's new 'Snow White', which is currently in production. She will be seen next alongside Zachary Levi, Helen Mirren, and Lucy Liu in D.C. Comics' 'Shazam! Fury of the Gods'.

Rachel Zegler to voice character of Princess Ellian in 'Spellbound'

Shraddha Kapoor celebrates Gudi Padwa in traditional Nauvari saree



Actress Shraddha Kapoor on the special occasion of Gudi Padwa donned the traditional 'Nauvari' saree that holds special meaning to the actress.

For those unaware, the 'Nauvari' celebrated the strength and fighting spirit of a woman. Traditionally worn by women to fight in wars back in the day, the saree allowed for mobility and freedom of movement and wasn't just a mere aesthetic attire.

Talking about the festival, Shraddha shares, "With Gudi Padwa, Cheti Chand, Navratri and Ugadi, I look forward to starting the New Year on a happy, optimistic and a

Sharmaji Namkeen's new song 'Boom Boom' features singer Raja Mushtaq

Raja Mushtaq is excited about being part of "Sharmaji Namkeen". He is a remarkable talent and a gifted new age versatile singer who was the 1st Asian to perform on Top Of The Pops BBC-UK 2003. Raja has maintained a perfect balance between film music and his independent songs. The singer is known for his original single Lootela and now Raja Mushtaq is back with another song called "Boom Boom". The track has been composed and produced by Sneha Khanwalkar, sung by Raja Mushtaq along with Kailash Kher, the lyrics of which have been penned by Gopal Dutt

"Sharmaji Namkeen" featuring Rishi Kapoor (and Paresh Rawal) as the lead character, shows Sharmaji enjoying his post-retirement life to the fullest after discovering a fondness for preparing food. It's an honour for the singer that he got an opportunity to sing in his favourite actor Rishiji's film and this song will be a tribute to the legendary actor.

Expressing his excitement of the song, Raja Mushtaq says, "This is one of my most treasured projects mainly as I am part of Rishi Sahab's film. Apart from "Boom Boom" being a great track, I have always loved Sneha's quirky compositions and partnering with the much-acclaimed Kailash Kher was a joy by itself. Being a foodie myself, I am looking forward to this wonderful film by Hitesh Bhatia!"



Isha Koppikar Narang to kickstart new project on Gudi Padwa

Actress Isha Koppikar Narang, who is known for her work in, 'Pinjar', 'Kyaa Kool Hain Hum' and 'Don', will be celebrating Gudi Padwa. The Marathi festival marks the new year and she will ring in the year by traveling to Mussoorie for a business trip and to start her new project. She maintains that the best way to start the new year is with lots of work on the plate. Sharing her plans for the day, Isha said, "Gudi Padwa has always been a very significant day for me. And while I celebrate it in my little way, this year I chose to do what I love the most - kickstart a new project. I believe the best way to start the new year is on a working note, because that's how I wish my entire year to be." For her, starting the new year on a working note is to seek more from the universe. "So this is my way of telling the universe to get me lots of work on the acting front. I wish health and happiness to all my loved ones, have a great year ahead. Thanks to the government this is good news that covid restrictions will be lifted & we will be celebrating our new year after 2 years, this is a good and positive start of the year." On the work front, Isha will be seen in two web shows & two feature films.

Zeeshan turns over Azma's bed during ugly spat

Lock Upp has already regaled the Janta for one month of unfiltered entertainment and is currently putting together innovative and challenging playouts to keep the audience enthralled as the show progresses. The day started with Mandana poking Azma because the right block had lost a few coins. Next, we see Munawar and Anjali devising a plan to smuggle the coins out of the right block.



his block about the coins. "Their struggle is phoney, their love is fake, and their entire existence is fraudulent," Payal mocks the left block. The left block created only one complete rope and hence the right block was the winner of the sharirik shram because they made more ropes out of the saarees. Furthermore, Payal confesses to Nisha that she was borderline bipolar. After that, Zeeshan said Mandana is bipolar in a colloquial sense. Nisha didn't appreciate Zeeshan's attitude towards mental health because he seemed to not care about such a sensitive topic when she tried to point it out to him. After Azma stood up for Nisha, Zeeshan and Azma had a spat.

Poonam staged a fake fight to steal a few coins from Team Orange's closet. Zeeshan gets to know about the same and immediately alerts everyone in

HOROSCOPE MONDAY APRIL 04

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18
You will tackle complicated issues with infinite ease! But you will also find people passing the buck onto you. It irks you no end, having to take the blame for others' mistakes. But here's a chance, says Ganesh, to turn a weakness into a strength.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20
You could swing both ways today! Fortunately, this alludes to nothing more sinister than the mix of the introvert and the extrovert that you are. So, between a quiet evening out by yourself at a classical music concert, or performing on the dance floor at the local disc - take your pick, says Ganesh.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20
You're likely to have tremendous concentration that seems to have materialized out of nowhere. Use this to your advantage, Aries, because it may not last long. You're usually blown from one thing to another like a leaf in the wind, and it's hard for you to settle on one project or issue for an extended time.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21
Be careful about shutting yourself off from the rest of the world, Taurus. You might hesitate to talk to people. You could have the feeling that they're unworthy of your time. Perhaps you feel that your problems are more important and that others are too concerned with superficial things to understand the true depth of your nature.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21
You might talk as if you possess many lifetimes of wisdom, Gemini. Perhaps you do, but that doesn't mean you should be arrogant about it. Your words might have the tone of a sage schooled in every subject. As a result, you could grow frustrated with others who act immature or uneducated. It isn't your job to judge.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
Today, you are likely to achieve something that you have badly wanted for a long time. It is very likely that you will get very emotional in the moment of victory today, predicts Ganesh. Your arrogance and overconfidence can throw you off track. You had better keep your emotional balance once you are through the victory lap.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23
Unlike Dennis or Calvin, expect your sometimes haughty and mostly naughty kids to behave "just right" at the right time. It's not that children like to break rules, they just want to have some fun, reminds Ganesh. Keep this in mind while you go about arranging for special classes to improve their academic skills and performance.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22
You're likely to be feeling a bit lonely, perhaps even isolated, Virgo. Maybe you think no one else has your same wild thoughts running through their heads. You'd be surprised to learn how many people do. It's unlikely, however, that you'll share these thoughts with anyone, especially now.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23
Lady Luck smiles on you today. With all the good fortune on your side, it's assured to be a day when financial gains come your way, especially if you are in the banking business. Agreed everything is going your way today, but be careful not to let your emotions cloud your reasoning and slow you down.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22
Today, there are chances that you would be disturbed by continuous flow of negative thoughts in your mind. Try to divert your mind and look for positive people or friends who would cheer you up. Understanding needy people and living up to their expectations would bring some respite to your disrupted mind, says Ganesh.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31
Expect yourself to be hit with religious fervour. You may find yourself in the spotlight for an event or inauguration. Ganesh indicates travelling, so pack your bags for a long-distance business trip.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20
One whiff of a familiar scent is likely to send your imagination running wild, Capricorn. Perhaps you're suddenly transported back to when you were dating someone you adored. Once your imagination starts running, it could be difficult to slow it down. Your fantasy world is likely to be the safest place to hide, so don't worry about avoiding reality.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Facial features
- Chilled
- Neckerchief
- Original thought
- Extra
- Artist's prop
- Lima or pinto
- Trim
- Ascend
- Indy 500 vehicle (2 wds.)
- Tell again
- Tavern order
- Kudrow of "Friends"
- Struggle
- Pette
- Canine comment
- Student's assignment
- Coniferous evergreen (2 wds.)
- Monotonous
- Used money
- Assistant
- Theatrical

DOWN

- Heavenly scales
- Perfect
- "War and ____"
- Rational
- Damage
- Not fine
- Make mistakes
- Stag
- Oceanfront
- A la
- India's continent
- Relax
- Take flight
- Potter's material
- Occurrence
26. Facets
28. Quiet
- Sermon subject
- Operatic melody
- Cincinnati team
- Charges
- Water whirl
- Positive
- Strike
- Gentle
- Ranch animal
- Bowler's target
- Declares
- Performs onstage
- Total
- Certain vitamin
- Burglarize
- Fodder towers
- Fable author
- Drinking vessels
- Horses' gait
- Capri or Wight
- Mets' bygone home
- Bird's home
- Small pie
- Stadium shout

SOLUTION 258

Healy's monumental ton powers Australia to seventh Women's ODI WC title

Christchurch, Apr 03 (PTD):

Australia bossed their way to a record-extending seventh Women's World Cup title with a crushing 71-run win over traditional rivals England, stamping their undisputed dominance in the tournament after a breathtaking hundred from Alyssa Healy in the final here on Sunday.

Playing the innings of her life, Healy put England attack to sword with a sensational 170 off 138 balls that powered Australia to a massive 356 for five.

Defending champions England needed something more than special to pull off the record chase but kept losing wickets throughout the innings which ended at 285 in 43.4 overs.

Natalie Sciver, who scored an unbeaten 148 off 121 balls for her second successive hundred against Australia in the competition, eventually ran out of partners.

Australian pacer Megan Schutt (2/42) bowled a brilliant new ball spell removing last match centurion Danielle Wyatt (4) and Tammy Beaumont (27) with her lethal in-swingers before leg-spinner Alana King (3/64) turned the ball on a bating beauty to end with three crucial wickets including that of England skipper Heather Knight (26). Healy, who was dropped on 41, toyed with the English attack in her



mesmerising knock, which is now the highest-ever individual score in a World Cup final across men's and women's cricket. Adam Gilchrist (149, 2007), Sciver (148 in this game), Ricky Ponting (140, 2003) and Viv Richards (138, 1979) are behind Healy in the elite list. Healy's opening partner Rachael Haynes (68 off 93) and Beth Mooney (62 off 47) also batted with confidence as Australia put on board the highest team total in a World Cup

final in women's cricket and second-highest behind the Australian men's team's effort of 359 for two against India in 2003. To put Australia's achievement in perspective, it was their sixth win in seven World Cup finals, making Meg Lanning's unit one of the greatest teams of all time. Australia had won their first trophy on points back in 1973. Though England ended runners-up, it was still a remarkable campaign for

the defending champions that came into the final after five wins in a row following defeats in its first three games. They always had run rate under control in the massive chase but the lack of partnerships cost them the game. Sciver, who smashed 15 fours and a six in her epic knock, fought till the end alongside number 10 batter Charlotte Dean (21 off 24) but they were left to do too much in the end. The duo shared a 65 run-stand

for the ninth wicket to take the game deep. Earlier, Healy forged a 160-run stand with Haynes before sharing 156-runs with left-handed Mooney who was sent in ahead of skipper Meg Lanning to maintain the left and right combination. A packed and a neutral crowd at Hagley Oval was in for a treat with Healy showing devastating form en route to her second consecutive hundred in the knock-out stage, having scored 129 against West

Indies in the semifinal.

Healy flaunted her 360 range of strokes in a sensational effort, scoring runs at will against a bowling line-up that had no answer to her brilliance.

For the major part of her innings, Healy exposed all three stumps to make room for herself and hit bowlers over the mid-off fielder.

Healy never allowed the number one ODI bowler Sophie Eccelstone (1/71) to settle, using her feet against her and other spinners to hit them straight over the in-field.

She also cut and pulled on her way to a fifth ODI hundred and when she was bored hitting the boundaries over mid-off and cover, she moved across the off-stump to play the scoop shot.

Expecting heavy dew in the evening, defending champions England opted to put Australia in to bat.

Australia, the only unbeaten team in the tournament, came out determined to stamp their authority for one last time in the tournament and they certainly did that with the bat.

England limited the damage the last five overs by taking four wickets.

Pacer Anya Shrubsole (3/46) was the only England bowler that ended with respectable figures.

Sciver, Charlotte Dean and Kate Cross conceded more than 8 runs per over.

Iga Swiatek will be new world number one after beating Naomi Osaka in Miami final



Miami, Apr 03 (AP):

Iga Swiatek continued her wonderful start to 2022, beating Naomi Osaka 6-4 6-0 to win the women's title at the Miami Open and extend her winning streak to 17 matches.

Swiatek will replace the now-retired Ashleigh Barty at number one in the women's rankings when the points are updated on Monday.

Swiatek broke Osaka for a 3-2 lead in the first set on

Saturday, hanging on from there to win a 52-minute set that saw the opening game - on Osaka's serve - feature seven deuces and go for 10 minutes.

The second set was a completely different story as Swiatek finished off her ninth consecutive straight-sets victory.

It was her third title of 2022 and her sixth consecutive win in a final, a streak that started at the delayed French Open in 2020.

Nortje is 4-5 spells away from being match ready: Ponting

Pune, Apr 03 (PTD):

Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting feels South African pacer Anrich Nortje is just a couple of spells away from being match ready and expressed optimism over his availability for their next IPL game against Lucknow Super Giants on April 7.

Nortje has been out of competitive cricket since last November's T20 World Cup due to a back and hip injury.

"Nortje bowled 100% this morning (Saturday) in the warm-ups. He has to get through another maybe four or five-over spell at 100% capacity and then I think if he gets clearance from Cricket South Africa, he should be right to go. "We have got a few more days before our next game, so hopefully he is available for selection



for that one," Ponting said at the virtual post-match press conference after losing by 14 runs against Gujarat Titans here on Saturday night.

Asked about the availability of Australian duo of David Warner and Mitchell Marsh, who is nursing a hip injury, Ponting said: "David Warner has arrived in Mumbai. He left early yesterday morning I believe, so he should be there when we get back to Mumbai tonight.

Dravid will do remarkable job as India coach, says Ganguly

Kolkata, Apr 03 (PTD):

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly believes his former teammate Rahul Dravid has all the attributes for becoming successful in his current role as the coach of the Indian cricket team.

Ganguly feels Dravid's "intense, meticulous and professional" attitude are just the ingredients a coach needs to be successful in the high-pressure India job.

"He (Dravid) is as intense, as meticulous and as professional as he was during his playing days," the former India captain said on the sidelines of a promotional event here on Saturday. "The only difference is that now he does not have to bat at No. 3 for India which I feel was harder since he had to face the best bowlers of the world which he also did ex-



ceptionally well for a long period of time," he added.

"As a coach also he (Dravid) will do a remarkable job as he honest and he has the talent.

Being the BCCI chief, Ganguly was instrumental in roping in Dravid as India coach, replacing Ravi Shastri after the T20 World Cup last year.

"He will make mistakes as everybody does but as long as you try doing the right things you will achieve success more than others," Ganguly said.

The BCCI top official, however, refused to compare Dravid with his predecessor Shastri.

Hockey Jr Women's WC: India stun Germany 2-1 to seal quarterfinal berth

Potchefstroom, Apr 03 (PTD):

The Indian women's hockey team stunned formidable Germany 2-1 to register its second consecutive win in pool stages and assure its place in the quarterfinals of the FIH Junior World Cup here on Sunday.

India, who thrashed a lowly Wales 5-1 in its opening Pool D match on Saturday, scored through two penalty corner conversions by Lalremsiami (2nd minute) and Mumtaz Khan (25th) to emerge winners.

Germany's lone goal was scored by Jule Bleuel in the 57th minute.

The Indian will finish off their pool engagements against Malaysia on April 5 before the quarterfinal round which starts on April 8. The Indians are currently atop Pool D with



two wins from as many games ahead of second-placed Germany. Two teams each from pools will qualify for the knock-out rounds. Against Germany, the Indians took the lead as early as in the second minute when Lalremsiami scored from a rebound after Deepika's dragflick from a penalty corner was saved by German goalkeeper Mali Wichmann.

Thereafter, Germany proceedings and earned a handful of penalty corners by putting relentless pressure on the Indian defence, which stood firm.

India goalkeeper Bichu Devi Karibam had an excellent match as she not only denied the Germans from penalty corners on number of occasions but also pulled off a brilliant save to keep out a penalty

stroke by Jette Fleschutz in the second quarter.

The Indians mostly relied on counter attacks and from one such move secured back-to-back penalty corners, the second of which was deflected in by Mumtaz in the 25th minute.

The Germans were the attacking side for major part of the first half but have been wasteful in converting penalty corners as they wasted as many as six set pieces.

The Indians, on other hand, scored from two of the three penalty corners they managed in the first two quarters.

Down by two goals, the Germans continued to attack after the change of ends but as has been the case they failed to find the back of the Indian net despite creating numerous chances.

FIH Pro League: India beat England 3-2 in marathon shoot-out to climb to top of table

Bhubaneswar, Apr 03 (PTD):

The Indian men's hockey team beat England in a dramatic shoot-out after both the sides were locked 3-3 in the regulation time in the opening match of the double-leg FIH Pro League tie at the Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday.

In the shoot-out, the hosts won 3-2 to pocket two points (including a bonus) as against England's one.

Abhishek (14th minute), Shamsher Singh (27th) and Harmanpreet Singh (52nd) were the goal scorers for India in the regulation time, while England sounded the board through Nicholas Bandurak (8th, 28th) and Sam Ward (60th), who scored from a penalty stroke.

Both the teams will lock horns against each other again in the second match of the tie on Sunday.

England started the match on a positive note by taking the lead in the eighth minute from a penalty corner con-



version by Bandurak.

Even though they were not up to their best, India drew level six minutes later through Abhishek, who scored with a fierce reverse hit after receiving a pass from Shamsher.

India took the lead in the 27th minute through Shamsher's field strike.

But India's joy was shortlived as England drew level a minute later, once again through a penalty corner conversion by Bandurak. The Indians

stepped up in the final quarter and got back-to-back penalty corners just eight minutes from the final whistle, the second of which was converted by Harmanpreet with a stunning drag-flick to take a 3-2 lead.

But there was more drama in store as the fragile Indian defence conceded a penalty stroke just 14 seconds from the final hooter and Ward was bang on target to level the scores once again and take the match into shoot-out.

Didn't realise how good Moeen Ali was until he joined CSK: Mike Hussey

Mumbai, Apr 03 (PTD):

Chennai Super Kings batting coach Michael Hussey is blown away by Moeen Ali's batting talent and he only realised the Englishman's prowess when he joined the CSK squad last year. While speaking about Moeen Ali's batting on Star Sports, Hussey said, "Moeen Ali, honestly, is an unbelievable player. I only watched him closely for the first time when he joined the CSK squad in the last season.

"So, I didn't realise how good a player he actually is. He's a beautiful batsman, a graceful player. Just the way he times the cricket ball is fantastic." When asked why doesn't CSK team display any semblance of panic despite defeats in back-to-back games, Hussey said, "It's been one of the traits of CSK over the years. Obviously, MS Dhoni who's captained the team for a long time and Stephen Fleming, the coach, are very calm and collected characters all the time.

LSG relying on batting prowess to come good against Sunrisers

Navi Mumbai, Apr 03 (PTD):

Their campaign back on track after a poor start, new entrants Lucknow Super Giants will rely on their batting prowess to get past Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League match here on Tuesday.

LSG did not have the best start to their debut season, losing by five wickets against fellow IPL debutants Gujarat Titans.

But they roared back in style by beating defending champions Chennai Super Kings six wickets in a high-scoring affair in their second match. In skipper KL Rahul and Quinton de Kock, LSG boast of formidable opening pair, and they proved their worth against CSK by scoring 40 and 61 in a 99-run first-wicket stand. West Indian Evin Lewis smashed unbeaten 55 off 23 balls in a steep



chase of 211 against CSK while, in Deepak Hooda, LSG possess a dependable middle-order batter.

Young Ayush Badoni, who has taken the ongoing IPL by storm with his six hitting prowess, is a treat to watch and would be looking to carry on his fine form.

Badoni struck an 41-ball 54 in his IPL debut against Titans and followed it up with yet another entertaining nine-ball unbeaten 19-run knock against CSK.

But the form of Manish Pandey will be a cause of concern for LSG, who also boasts of hard-hitting all-

rounders like Krunal Pandya and Jason Holder among others. On the bowling front, Avesh Khan, Sri Lankan Dushmantha Chameera, Andrew Tye and Ravi Bishnoi were the main wicket-takers for LSG in the two matches so far, but they need to be more disciplined to contain the run flow.

Sunrisers, on the other hand, were blown away by the batting effort of Rajasthan Royals in a 61-run defeat in their opening match. Comprising a mediocre squad, Sunrisers players need to punch above their weight. While experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/29) produced an economical spell, the likes of Romario Shepherd (1/33), Umran Malik (2/39), T Natarajan (2/43) and Washington Sundar leaked runs against RR.

India on cusp of major economic recovery: Niti Aayog VC

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

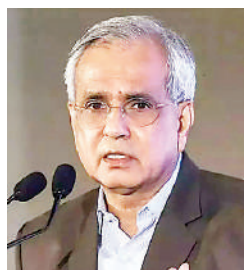
India is on the cusp of a major economic recovery and talks of possible stagflation are "overhyped" as a strong economic foundation is being laid with the reforms carried out by the government over the last seven years, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Sunday.

Notwithstanding economic uncertainties triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war that is also impacting global supply chains, Kumar asserted that it was quite clear from all accounts that India will remain the fastest growing economy in the world.

"Given all the reforms that we have done in the last seven years, and given that we are seeing the end of the COVID-19 pandemic

hopefully, and the 7.8 per cent rate of growth that we will get this year (2022-23), a very strong foundation is now being laid for further rapid increase in economic growth in the coming years," Kumar told PTI in an interview. Asia's third-largest economy is projected to grow 8.9 per cent in 2021-22, according to recent government data. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has pegged the economic growth rate for 2022-23 at 7.8 per cent.

"So, I think India is on the cusp of a major economic recovery and economic growth," Kumar said even as he acknowledged



Rajiv Kumar

that because of the Russia-Ukraine war, India's GDP growth projection could be revised. "But even then, India will remain the fastest growing economy and all the other economic parameters are actually quite within the range," he said. Russia started its military offensive against Ukraine on February 24. Western nations, including the US, have imposed major economic and various other sanctions on Russia following the offensive. On rising inflation, the Niti Aayog Vice Chairman said that RBI is keeping a close watch as per its mandate. "I am sure that the RBI is well

in control of it (inflation) and will take the necessary steps if and when required," he said.

Retail inflation hit an eight-month high of 6.07 per cent in February, remaining above the RBI's comfort level for the second month in a row while wholesale price-based inflation soared to 13.11 per cent on account of hardening of crude oil and non-food item prices. The RBI keeps a close watch on the CPI inflation while deciding on its bi-monthly monetary policy.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has been given the mandate to maintain annual inflation at 4 per cent until March 31, 2026, with an upper tolerance of 6 per cent and a lower tolerance of 2 per cent.

NEPAL'S PM OFFERS PRAYERS



Nepals Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba with his wife Arzu Rana Deuba offers prayers at the Kaal Bhairav temple, in Varanasi, Sunday.

WHO suspends Covaxin supply to UN agencies

Hyderabad, Apr 03 (PTI):

The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed it has suspended the supply of Covaxin, produced by city-based Bharat Biotech, through UN procurement agencies and recommending to countries that received the covid vaccine to take actions as appropriate.

A statement issued by WHO on Saturday said the suspension is in response to the outcomes of its post EUL (emergency use authorisation) inspection held between March 14 22, 2022 and the need to conduct process and facility upgrade to address re-

cently identified GMP (good manufacturing practice) deficiencies. There will be interruption of supply of Covaxin due to suspension of production for export, WHO said. The risk assessment to date does not indicate change in the risk-benefit ratio. The data, available to WHO, indicate the vaccine is effective and no safety concern exists, WHO said.

Company officials could not be reached immediately for a response. Bharat Biotech on April 1 announced the temporary slowing down of production of its covid-19 vaccine Covaxin across its

manufacturing facilities, having completed its supply obligations to procurement agencies and foreseeing the decrease in demand.

During the recent WHO inspection, Bharat Biotech agreed with the former's team on the scope of the planned improvement activities and indicated that they will be executed as soon as possible. The company has committed to comply by addressing the GMP deficiencies and is developing a corrective and preventive action plan, for submission to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) and WHO.

DMK govt planning for future to regain Tamil Nadu's lost pride: Stalin

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Asserting that his government will reclaim the "lost pride of Tamil Nadu", Chief Minister M K Stalin has said the state's administration and financial management were badly degraded for 10 years, but the DMK dispensation has taken proactive steps in its first 10 months towards planning for the future rather than merely blaming previous regimes.

He also said that the criticism by the BJP and the AIADMK of his various policy initiatives and other steps, including his trip to Dubai to garner investments, was proof of his

success and asserted that all election promises made by the DMK have either been fulfilled already or are in the process of being completed. After a massive electoral victory last year, Stalin took over the reins of Tamil Nadu at a time the state was staring at a huge debt situation.

Asked about the challenges before him and how does he plan to implement his hugely anticipated promises such as the Rs 1,000 per month rights assistance for women and tax cuts on petroleum products, in addition to the al-



M K Stalin

ready effected tax cut on petrol, Stalin said, "For the last 10 years, the administration and financial management of Tamil Nadu have been badly degraded. We have come to power in such an environment." "Instead of merely blaming the past, we are taking proactive measures and we

have been progressing in the last 10 months of the DMK government. Within 10 months of starting the next phase of work, we are making progress in all sectors towards the ascent," the DMK supremo told PTI in an interview here.

Stalin, who was in the national capital on a three-day visit, said his government has reduced unnecessary expenses in terms of finances.

Stalin, who was in the national capital on a three-day visit, said his government has reduced unnecessary expenses in terms of finances.

"We have reduced the deficit gap and we are multiplying financial revenues. A lot of new businesses are being started. We are hosting the Business Investors Conference. The new export policy has been passed. I have recently attracted an investment of Rs 6,100 crore through a trip to Dubai. We have thus continued to pave the way for the expansion of financial management," he said.

LeT modules busted in J-K's Bandipora, five arrested

Srinagar, Apr 03 (PTI):

Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) modules were busted and five militant associates were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district, police said on Sunday. Based on specific information, police along with security forces arrested four terrorist associates in the north Kashmir district, a police spokesman said. He identified them as Irfan Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Ashtangoo, Irfan Ahmad Jan, a resident of Qazipora, Sajad Ahmad Mir and Shariq Ahmad Mir, both residents of the Arin area of Bandipora.

Two Chinese grenades and incriminating material were recovered from their possession, the spokesman said. Preliminary investigation revealed that they were involved in providing

mobile sim cards and logistic support to active terrorists in the district, he said. A case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation into the matter is in progress, the spokesman said.

In another incident, police along with security forces arrested one terrorist associate at a checkpoint in the Rakh Hajin area of Bandipora. He has been identified as Irfan Aziz Bhat, a resident of Hajin, the spokesman said. One Chinese grenade was recovered from his possession, he said. Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested accused was in close contact with Pakistan-based terrorist Umer Lala and was directed to carry out terror attacks in the Hajin area, the spokesman said.

PRESIDENT KOVIND IN TURKMENISTAN



President Ram Nath Kovind during a Yoga demonstration by Turkmen people, at the Bagtyarlyk Sports Complex, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

India Art Festival to return to Delhi after almost 2 years

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

The much-awaited India Art Festival is all set to make its return to the national capital starting April 7, following a nearly two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. The annual art fair, now in its sixth edition, will have on display 3,500 artworks brought by over 20 galleries from across the country. Traditionally held at the Thyagaraj Sports complex, the festival will be held at the Constitution Club this year.

According to the organisers, the four-day event will witness a collection of captivating art pieces and sculptures by modern, contemporary, and traditional Indian artists, connecting galleries, dealers, and buyers, with artists, interior designers, architects, and

art connoisseurs. "... The 80 stalls were sold out within the first three weeks itself, when we announced the Delhi edition in October 2021! All the stalls were sold out by November 2021.

This overwhelming response from artists and galleries shows us that the anticipation for this year's edition is immensely high, and we eagerly look forward to presenting this outstanding panorama of the Indian art scene, through the ages," said festival director Rajendra Patil. The festival will feature works by at least 350 master and established artists including M F Hussain, S H Raza, Sohan Quadri, Manjit Bawa, Jamini Roy, Abha Sharma, Atul Gendle, Debabrata Basu, Jalpa Patel, and Disha Gandhi.

UP CM to launch 'School Chalo Abhiyan' today

Lucknow, Apr 03 (PTI):

To ensure 100 per cent enrolment in primary and upper primary schools in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will launch the 'School Chalo Abhiyan' from Shravasti district on Monday. This will be an effort by the state government towards shaping the future of primary education and holistic development of primary schools, an official release issued here stated.

The chief minister has instructed officials that districts with low literacy rate should be prioritised and primary schools in the state should be equipped



Yogi Adityanath

with better facilities, it stated. The 'School Chalo Abhiyan' is being started from Shravasti district which has the lowest literacy rate in the state followed by Bahraich, Balrampur, Badaun and Rampur, according to the

release. Government schools must achieve all the goals of 'Operation Kayakalp' which aims at giving schools a facelift, Adityanath said.

He told officials that not only will public representatives be associated with the 'School Chalo Abhiyan', but also MLAs must adopt a school each, according to the release.

In addition to this, officials should also adopt schools for their holistic development, the chief minister said. Adityanath also directed that all government schools must offer basic facilities such as toilets, drinking water, furniture and smart classrooms to students.

Petrol above Rs 100 in major cities

New Delhi, Apr 03 (PTI):

Petrol prices on Sunday were above Rs 100 a litre mark in all major cities across the country after its rates and that of diesel were hiked by 80 paise a litre each - the 11th increase in less than two weeks that took the total to a record Rs 8 per litre.

Petrol in Delhi will now cost Rs 103.41 per litre as against Rs 102.61 previously while diesel rates have gone up from Rs 93.87 per litre to Rs 94.67, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers.

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state, depending upon the incidence of local taxation. This is the 11th increase in prices since the ending of a

four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision on March 22. In all, petrol prices have gone up by Rs 8.00 per litre. Petrol prices are above Rs 100 a litre mark in all major cities from Srinagar to Kochi.

Diesel is above that mark in Thiruvananthapuram (Rs 101.83 a litre), Hyderabad (Rs 103.3), Mumbai (Rs 102.62), Bhubaneswar (Rs 100.1), Raipur (Rs 100.74) and several cities of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Diesel rates in Chennai and Bhopal are above Rs 99 per litre.

Diesel is the costliest in Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh (Rs 105.52 a litre), while petrol at Rs 120.65 a litre is the costliest at the border town of Sri Ganganagar in



Yuva Sena activists during their Thali Bajao Andolan against the hike in the prices of fuel and LPG, at Lalbaug in Mumbai, Sunday.

Rajasthan. Prices had been on a freeze since November 4 ahead of the assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab - a period during which the cost of raw material (crude oil) soared

by about USD 30 per barrel. The rate revision was expected soon after the counting of votes on March 10 but it was put off by a couple of weeks.

The increase in retail price warranted by crude

oil prices rising during the 137-day hiatus is huge, but state-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are passing on the required increase in stages.

Moody's Investors Services last month stated that state retailers together lost around USD 2.25 billion (Rs 19,000 crore) in revenue for keeping petrol and diesel prices on hold during the election period.

Oil companies "will need to raise diesel prices by Rs 13.1-24.9 per litre and Rs 10.6-22.3 a litre on gasoline (petrol) at an underlying crude price of USD 100-120 per barrel," according to Kotak Institutional Equities.