



BRIEF



Mother of Kartik, who was shot in Canadas Toronto on April 7, mourns beside the mortal remains of her son, in Ghaziabad, Saturday.

Greet

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday greeted citizens on the eve of Easter and hoped the festival re-instills sense of unity and reinforces commitment to the well-being and prosperity of the nation. In a message, the president said, "On the auspicious occasion of Easter, I extend my best wishes and heartiest congratulations to all fellow citizens, especially from Christian community, living in India and abroad."

Encounter

Srinagar: An encounter broke out between security forces and militants in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. Acting on specific input about the presence of militants in Watnar area of Kokernag in the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there, a police official said.

Tribute

Srinagar: The Army on Saturday paid floral tributes to three soldiers who died in an accident while on way to an encounter site in Shopian on Thursday. "Army today paid tribute to Subedar Shri Om, Havildar Ramautar and Sepahi Pawan Singh Gurjar, who made the supreme sacrifice on 14 Apr 2022 near Kanipora village of South Kashmir's Shopian district," Srinagar-based defence spokesman Col Emron Musavi said.

Injured

Ambala: Three inmates sustained burn injuries when boiling food released from a pressure cooker fell on them in the Ambala central jail here, police said on Saturday. The incident took place when the inmates were cooking a meal in the prison kitchen on Friday night, they said. Two of them, who suffered serious burn injuries, were referred to the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, police said.

Fire

Lucknow: Ten fire tenders were rushed to a godown here on Saturday when power cables lain inside it in the open caught fire, officials said. It took them three hours to put out the fire completely, they said. Lucknow Chief Fire Officer Vijay Kumar Singh said the reason for the fire is yet to be ascertained. The godown was located in the Kakori Police Station area.

Weather High 41 Low 26

LOKSABHA, ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

Cong bags Khairagarh assembly bypoll

Rajnandgaon, Apr 16:



The ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh on Saturday won byelection to the Khairagarh assembly constituency in Rajnandgaon district and maintained its winning streak in bypolls in the state. Congress' Yashoda Verma won by a margin of 20,176 votes against her nearest rival Komal Janghel of the BJP, a poll official said here.

Devvrat Singh in November 2021. With the victory, the strength of Congress in the 90-member Assembly went up to 71. The opposition BJP suffered a fourth successive defeat at the hands of Congress in assembly bypolls held after the 2018 elections in the state.

Verma got 87,879 votes while Janghel secured 67,703 votes, he said.

Narendra Soni, the nominee of the Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J), could get only 1,222 votes. Byelection was held on April 12 following the death of incumbent JCC (J) MLA and former MP

Devvrat Singh, who belonged to the erstwhile royal family of Khairagarh, quit Congress in 2017 and joined JCC (J) the next year. He contested the 2018

TMC, Cong, RJD win; BJP draws blank

The Trinamool Congress on Saturday made a clean sweep winning both the Asansol Lok Sabha and the Ballygunge assembly seats in West Bengal while the Congress and the RJD bagged one constituency each in Maharashtra and Bihar in the bypolls to these seats with the BJP drawing a blank. In West Bengal, movie actor-turned politician Shatrughan Sinha of the TMC defeated BJP's Agnimitra Paul by 3,03,209 votes in Asansol. Supriyo, who was nominated by the TMC from the prestigious Ballygunge assembly constituency, defeated CPI(M)'s Saira Shah Halim by a margin of 20,228 votes. BJP's Keya Ghosh managed to bag just 13,220 votes. In a boost to the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) combine in Maharashtra, the Congress won the bypoll to the Kolhapur North assembly constituency, retaining the seat by defeating the BJP by a margin of over 18,000 votes.

assembly polls on JCC(J) ticket and defeated BJP candidate Komal Janghel by a thin margin of 870 votes. In 2018, Congress swept the elections winning 68 out of 90 seats while the BJP won 15. The JCC (J) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) contested the poll in alliance

and bagged five and two seats, respectively. In 2019, Congress won bypolls to Dantewada (won by the BJP in 2018) and Chitrakot assembly constituencies. The byelection to Chitrakot was necessitated after Congress MLA Dipak Baij was elected as MP.

Massive fire at J'khand forest

4 firefighters injured

Hazaribag, Apr 16 (PTD):

Four firefighters were critically injured as they were dousing a massive fire that broke out in a forest in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district on Saturday morning, officials said. The fire broke out at the Bigha Forest along the Hazaribag-Gaya Road in Chouparan police station area, they said. The fire ravaged trees spread over six hectares of land, causing huge loss to the department, said Divisional Forest Officer RN Mishra. A team of firefighters was working on dousing the flames which turned severe around 9 am. Four members of the team were injured during the operations, he said. The blaze was brought under control after more firefighters were called in from Barhi and Hazaribag, he added. It is suspected that some miscreants among those who collect mohua flowers from the forest could have set the fire, the officer said.

Cong MLA's son booked for assaulting cop, truck driver

At police station

Raigarh, Apr 16:

About the incident

A dispute broke out between the truck driver, identified as Mulayam Yadav, and Ritik and his associates at Kotra road bypass. Subsequently, Yadav fled the spot and reached the police station and Ritik and his aides followed him there. Ritik and his aides allegedly abused and thrashed Yadav and constable L S Rathiya, who was on duty at the police station, and threatened them with dire consequences.

An offence has been registered against the son of a Congress MLA for allegedly assaulting a policeman and truck driver inside a police station in Raigarh on Saturday, police said.

The incident took place around 1 am in Kotra road police station, following which two separate FIRs were registered against Ritik Nayak (24), son of Raigarh Congress MLA Prakash Nayak, based on the complaint lodged by the victims, an official here said.

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Based on a complaint lodged by the constable and the truck driver, two separate cases have been registered against the accused and others at City Kotwali police station as Kotra road police station building is located in its jurisdiction, he said.

POLITICAL MURDER

RSS leader hacked to death

Palakkad, Apr 16 (PTI):



Kerala's Palakkad district on Saturday witnessed a second political murder in the last 24 hours after a bike-borne gang hacked to death an RSS leader at his shop in the heart of the town. S K Srinivasan (45), a former district leader and office-bearer of RSS, was attacked by a six-member gang at his motorbike shop in Melamuri near here, police said. The incident occurred less than 24 hours after a Popular Front of India (PFI) leader was killed in a village near here, allegedly by the BJP. Following the RSS leader's murder which happened in the afternoon,

locals have closed shops in the nearby areas and the police have increased the security. The CCTV visuals from the nearby shops, which was aired by TV channels, show that the assailants riding three motorbikes reaching the shop and three of them attacking Srinivasan. A massive manhunt has been launched by the police to nab the culprits who fled the scene after committing

the murder of the RSS leader. ADGP (Law and Order) Vijay Sakhare will reach Palakkad town and camp there to coordinate with the investigation into the two political murders which took place within a span of 24 hours. "Three companies of Kerala Armed Police-1 (KAP-1) have been directed to move to Palakkad," a senior police official told PTI. Around 270 members of the armed police battalion will camp in Palakkad as part of security measures. Meanwhile, police on Saturday reportedly took into custody four RSS workers in connection with the murder of Subair the previous day.

Prashant Kishor wants to join Cong

Briefs top brass on strategy for 2024

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTD):



With the Congress reeling from a string of defeats, poll strategist Prashant Kishor on Saturday gave a detailed presentation to its top brass at Sonia Gandhi's residence on the way forward for 2024 general elections, while expressing readiness to join the party. AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said a decision on Kishor's suggestions, including on whether he will join the party, will be known in a week. There had been intense speculation in the past too on the possibility of Kishor joining the

Congress including before the recent assembly polls. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior party leaders were present at the four-hour meeting at the Congress president's 10, Janpath residence that discussed the party's strategy for the upcoming assembly polls and the next Lok Sabha election. According to sources, Kishor told the select gath-

ering that he is ready to join the Congress "without any expectations" and does not want anything but his plan should be implemented to help strengthen the party at the grassroots level. Venugopal told reporters after the meeting that a group will be set up to discuss the suggestions. "Prashant Kishor has made a detailed presentation for the 2024 election strategy. It needs some detailed discussion and the Congress president will set up a small group to discuss this entire presentation. That group will submit a report within a week's time for a final decision," Venugopal said. Asked whether Kishor will join the party or will be its strategist, he said all

the details will be known within a week. Sources said Kishor gave his long-term strategy for the Congress' revival before the top party leadership. With an eye on the 2024 general elections, he is understood to have told the leadership to focus on 365-370 parliamentary seats alone and strengthen its base in these constituencies. Kishor suggested that the party contest alone in a few state assembly elections where it is strong and has remained either in the top or in the second position in previous elections. He also told the leadership to start afresh in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha.

Don't panic: Experts as Covid cases rise among kids

New Delhi, Apr 16:

Amid concerns over children getting infected with coronavirus as schools reopened, health experts said there was no need to panic they mostly have mild illnesses and recover with just symptomatic treatment. The health experts said consistent and appropriate use of masks, implementation of a standard protocol for sanitisation and hand washing are the key pillars of Covid-appropriate behaviour. "There is no need to panic as data from past waves have clearly shown that children, even if they contract COVID-19, have mild illness and recover spontaneously with just symptomatic treatment," AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria told PTI. Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, a physician-epidemiologist and public health specialist said, "We need to remember that the (news of) children contracting Covid is getting some attention because schools are open. "However, even when schools were closed an estimated 70 to 90 per cent of children had already got the infection as we know through various seroprevalence surveys." It is known that children are as susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection just like adults. But COVID infections among children are mild and mostly asymptomatic, he asserted.

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HANUMAN JAYANTI PROCESSION



Artists dressed as Lord Ram and Sita, participate in a procession during Hanuman Jayanti celebrations at Cannaught Place, in New Delhi, Saturday.

Raut's jibe at Raj Thackeray

'Rise of new Hindu Owaisi'

Nashik, Apr 16 (PTD):

In a veiled barb at Raj Thackeray who has taken an aggressive stand against loudspeakers on mosques, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Saturday termed the MNS chief a "new Hindu Owaisi" and his party a "new Hindutva MIM". Alleging the BJP's hand behind the demands for removing loudspeakers from mosques and reciting Hanuman Chalisa, Raut claimed that Intelligence inputs suggest that a conspiracy is on to create communal tension in Maharashtra and recommend President's rule dismissing the MVA government. In an ultimatum to the state government, Raj Thackeray recently said that loudspeakers on mosques should be removed by May 3 or else 'Hanuman Chalisa' will be

played in a higher volume outside mosques. Raising the pitch for Hindutva, Shiv Sena has organised the recitation of 'Hanuman Chalisa' in Dadar in Mumbai this evening on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, while the MNS chief is scheduled to perform a 'maha aarti' in Pune later in the day. "The demand for removing loudspeakers on mosques and the reciting Hanuman Chalisa are parts of an effort to create a communal hatred to topple the MVA government by BJP in collaboration with the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS)," Raut alleged. He alleged that BJP is "frustrated" as its efforts to win over MLAs from MVA parties-Shiv Sena, NCP, and Congress-have failed while the people have rejected the bid to create a communal discord.

CORRUPTION CASE

Deshmukh, Waze remanded in judicial custody

Court rejects CBI plea

Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):



A special court in Mumbai on Saturday rejected the plea of the Central Bureau of Investigation for further three-day custody of former Maharashtra home minister and NCP leader Anil Deshmukh in a corruption case. Stating that sufficient custody has already been granted to the CBI and the ground mentioned in the remand application

were "not good and satisfactory", the court remanded Deshmukh, his aides Sanjeev Palande and Kundan Shinde as well as dismissed policeman Sachin Waze in 14-day judicial custody. Deshmukh and his two aides had been in judicial custody following their arrest in a money laun-

dering case by the Enforcement Directorate, while Waze was in judicial custody after being arrested in the Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hiran murder case. Earlier this month, all the accused were remanded in the custody of the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with a corruption case and were produced before Special CBI Judge DP Shingade on Saturday after their remand ended.

'India need to become self-reliant'

PM asks people to buy locally-made goods

Ahmedabad, Apr 16 (PTI):



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the unveiling ceremony of the 108 ft tall statue of Lord Hanuman, in Morbi, Gujarat, on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, via video conferencing, in New Delhi.



India cannot afford to remain stagnant at this juncture and it has to become self-reliant, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday while urging people to buy locally-made products only. He said if people use local goods for the next 25 years, then the country will not have to face the issue of unemployment. Modi was speaking after unveiling a 108-foot tall statue of Lord Hanuman in Gujarat's Morbi via video link on the occasion

of Hanuman Jayanti. "India cannot afford to remain stagnant today. Whether we are awake or asleep, we cannot continue to remain where we are. The global situation is

such that the entire world is thinking on how to become 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant)," Modi said. "I would request the saints of the country to teach people to buy local

products only. 'Vocal for local' is the in thing. At our homes, we should only use things made by our people. Imagine the high number of people who will get employment due to this," he said. "We may like foreign-made goods, but these things do not have the feel of the hard work of our people, the scent of our Mother Earth," Modi said, adding, "In the next 25 years, if we just use local products, there won't be unemployment for our people." The prime minister inaugurated the statue of Lord Hanuman at the Ashram of 'Param Pujya Keshvanand ji' at Morbi in Saurashtra region.

Ruffian held with heavy sharp weapon

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: Police have arrested a ruffian with a heavy sharp weapon (Gandasa). The accused was roaming in suspicious condition with the weapon. The accused having a previous criminal record was supposedly carrying the weapon to commit another crime. Acting on a tip off, police took him into custody and later sent him to jail.

CSP (Durg) Jitendra Yadav informed that on the directions of SSP (Durg) Badri Narayan Meena and under the supervision of ASP (City) Sanjay Kumar Dhruv, the teams of various police stations are conducting crime prevention and control operations. In this sequel, Patrolling Team of Mohan Nagar Police Station received a tip off regarding a suspect who was moving around with a



sharp weapon. The accused had hidden the weapon beneath his clothes and was spotted near Gulati Nursing Home in Durg.

Police team immediately swung into action and reached the spot. On sensing trouble, the accused tried to flee but the cops chased him and took him into custody. The sharp weapon was recovered from his possession. The accused is identified as Sachindra alias Mota Golu Nagwanshi (32) son of Bhaudas Nagwanshi a resident of Shankar nagar, Durg. He has been booked under the provisions mentioned in Section 25 of Arms Act. He was produced before the court and has been sent to jail on judicial remand.

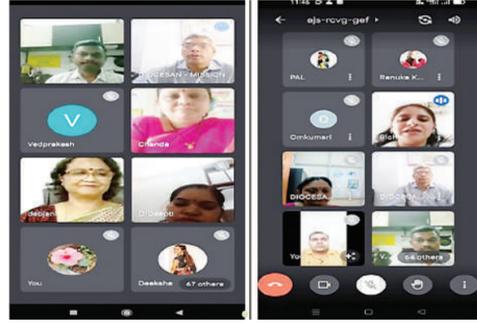
ASI Ashok Sahu, Constable Manish Agnihotri and Prashant Patankar played vital role in arresting the accused.

Webinar at St Thomas College on Intellectual Property Rights

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: PG Department of Chemistry, IQAC of St Thomas College and APSGMS Government PG College, Kawardha organized a one day webinar on Intellectual Property Rights. The resource person of the webinar was Dr Vivekananda Mandal, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy, Guru Ghasidas Central University, Bilaspur.

Dr James Mathew NAAC Coordinator and HOD, welcomed the virtual gathering. IQAC Coordinator, Dr Debjani Mukherjee, highlighted importance of patent filing procedure. Dr Chanda Verma, Additional Head, focused on the topic and also emphasized the students to get full benefit of



the talk and come out with their interesting invention. The expert of the session was introduced by Dr Arvind Kumar Sahu (Asst Prof).

The resource person Dr Vivekananda Mandal in his talk he explained the operative system of patent filing; he came out with the copyrights of the inventions and discussed the



Hands on training on Indian Patent Filing and Document Handling.

Finally the expert requested the students and member to implement the procedure of patent filing through new inventions. At the conclusion of the webinar, there was a fruitful healthy interactive session between the speaker and the participants. The

webinar was conducted by Dr Chanda Verma of St Thomas College, Bhilai and concluded by Dr Deepthi Jangde, HOD, Department of Chemistry, Government PG College, Kawardha.

Dr Richa Mishra, IQAC Coordinator, Government College, Kawardha proposed the vote of thanks. The faculty expressed their gratitude to Rev Fr Dr Joshi Varghese, (Administrator), Dr MG Roymon (Principal) and Dr Mariam Jacob (Principal in charge) for providing the necessary motivation for organizing the program. The webinar was made successful by assistance provided by Mohini Sharma (Lecturer) and Anil Varghese (Technical Assistant), Department of Chemistry, St Thomas College.

Graduate level exam for B Sc begins at Hemchand Yadav University

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: At Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, the on-line examination of about 39000 regular and private candidates of B Sc First, Second and Third, B Sc Home Science and B Sc BEd began peacefully. Giving this information, the Registrar of the University, Bhupendra Kuldeep said that the first paper exam was conducted across 68 main and sub-centres. The answer books of Hindi language paper of all classes of B Sc were submitted on time. The submission of answer sheets by the students continued till 17:00 hrs. According to Kuldeep, as soon as the question paper was uploaded on the official website of the university at 7:00 hrs, about 30,000

students simultaneously hit the university website and downloaded the question paper related to their class. No student had to face any kind of problems during the download process due to the high hitability of the university website.

The Deputy Registrar of Examinations of the University, Dr Rajmani Patel informed that no question paper will be uploaded on Sundays. The next question paper of B Sc B Ed, B Sc Home Science of English language will be uploaded on April 18 at 7:00 hrs, which the students will have to solve on the same day and submit it in the respective examination center between 12:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs. It will be mandatory for every student to bring his/her examina-

tion admit card. The admit cards for B Com students will be available on the university's website from April 18. On showing them, the candidates will be able to get the answer sheets from the respective examination center. B Com examinations will start from April 23.

The Dean of the University Student Welfare, Dr Prashant Shrivastava informed that the ongoing BLIB and BCA examinations are ending on April 19. The evaluation of about 1.5 lakh answer sheets of postgraduate private and B Lib and BCA is going on in the university at a rapid pace. It is the endeavour of the university administration that by the end of April, the results of private postgraduate examinations should be released.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: The 15th edition of SAIL Khel Mela organised by Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur and SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant concluded on April 14, 2022. Anirban Dasgupta, Director Incharge, BSP was the Chief Guest on the occasion. As many as 1500 tribal students including 300 girl students from 25 schools in Antagarh, Orchha and Narayanpur blocks surrounding Rowghat area participated in various sports events like Football, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Badminton, Athletics, Archery etc in the SAIL Khel Mela, which was organised from April 11-14, 22. The SAIL Khel

SAIL Khel Mela concludes at Narayanpur



Mela could not be organised in the last two years owing to COVID.

The Valedictory ceremony was presided by Swami Vyaptanandji Maharaj, Secretary Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur. Manash Biswas, ED (Mines and Rowghat); Samir Swaroop, CGM Mines-Rowghat, BSP; Devnath Usendi, President, Zila Congress, Narayanpur; Sairam Jakhad, DGM, Sports, Culture & Civic

Amneties Dept.; Mohanlal, Addl Secretary, Chhattisgarh Football Association; Jawahar Das, International Football Coach; Swami Anubhavanand, Joint Secy, Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur; Swami Vasudanand, Swami Krishnamritanand, Swami Tapasanand, Swami Pranatpaland were present. Teachers and other staff members of Ramkrishna Mission,

Narayanpur were also present. Anirban Dasgupta, Director Incharge, BSP felicitated the winners of different competitions. Vivekanand Vidyapeeth from Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur won the 'Overall championship'. Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur won in Football while Vivekanand Vidyamandir, Kundla was the Runners-up in Football. Ramkrishna Mission,

Narayanpur topped in Kho-Kho while Eklavya Vidyalaya, Antagarh emerged as the Runners-up. Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur won in Volleyball while Govt. Higher secondary school, Chhedibeda was the Runners up. In the Girls category, Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur was the winner while Ma Sharda Vidyamandir, Orchha was the Runners up in Volleyball. Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur won in Kho-Kho. In Badminton, Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur was the winner in both Boys and Girls category while Govt. Vidyalaya, Chhedongar was the Runners up.

Hanuman Janmotsava celebrated with religious fervour

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: On Saturday, Janmotsava of Lord Hanuman was celebrated with religious fervour across the twin-city. Despite scorching heat, the devotees queued up at Hanuman Temples to pay obeisance to Sankatmochan Hanuman. The temples reverberated with slogans of Jai Shri Ram and Jai Hanuman.

Celebrations were held at every temple across the city. Devotees had specially decorated the temples with flowers and lights. After offering special prayers, they recited Hanuman Chalisa, Sundar Kand and performed yajna. Grand bhandaras were also organised at the Hanuman Temples. Lord



Hanuman is worshipped as a deity with the ability to attain victory against evil and provide protection. On this auspicious day, devotees of Lord Hanuman celebrated his Janmotsava and sought his protection and blessings. The main event was held at Lord Hanuman temple located in JLN Hospital, Sector 9. About one



lakh devotees reached here to pay obeisance to the deity. The preparations for bhandara had begun here on Friday itself. Jai Hanuman Seva Samiti took out a grand Dhvaj Yatra on the eve of Hanuman Janmotsava. The processions were taken out from 101 temples which joined together to make a larger proces-



sion. The devotees danced to the tunes of devotional songs. The procession concluded at Sector 9 Hanuman temple where Mahaarti was performed. Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav along with his wife participated in the Dhvaj yatra. He carried a saffron flag of Hanuman from Sector 2 temple to Sector 9



Hanuman temple. Mayor Neeraj Pal, Congress District President Mukesh Chandrakar, Public Works in-charge Ekansh Banchoore, Councilor Aditya Singh, Abhishek Mishra, Sumit Pawar and all the office bearers of the organizing committee and more than 50000 devotees participated in the procession.



The dhvaj yatra began from Sector 2 and moved across Central Avenue to reach Sector-9 Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir. Lord Hanuman's Maha Aarti was performed and Hanuman Chalisa was recited. After the Maha Aarti, Mahaprasad was distributed among devotees. Chants of Jai



Shri Ram and Jai Hanuman resonated throughout the journey. The entire Central Avenue Road was decorated with the saffron flags. People welcomed the Dhvaj Yatra by lighting thousands of lamps at the traffic squares.

The main attraction of the procession was the Pathaks (Artists) of Jagdamba Dhol Tasa Group. Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated every year with pomp and gaiety by Jai Hanuman Seva Samiti. For the first time, the Dhvaj yatra of 101 Hanuman temples was taken out. The tableau of Hanuman ji was also the center of special attraction in the procession.

Bookies nabbed with satta-patti

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: Police conducted a special operation against the people involved in betting, gambling and other illegal activities and rounded up five persons who were accepting bets on Satta-Patti. The special team of Padmanabhpur Chowki conducted raids at Utai Tempo Stand, Diprapara Kachahri ward and Irani Dera Kelabadi area and rounded up five persons who were accepting bets on Satta-Patti in public places.

Padmanabhpur SHO Vaibhav Banker (Probationary IPS) informed that under the directions of SSP Badri Narayan Meena, they conducted a special operation against the people involved in illegal betting and gambling activities. The team caught five persons red handed while accepting bets on Satta-Patti. Mohit Ravat (34) son of Late Bhaskar ravat a resident of Azad Chowk, Padmanabhpur; Sunil Vishwakarma (33) son of Late Randhir Vishwakarma a resident of Shastri

Chowk, Diprapara, Kachahripara; Tamlesh Kumar Soni alias Tamdu (28) son of Late Ratnakar Soni a resident of Indira Colony, Potia Road; Sunil Kumar Gendre (29) son of Bholu Ram Gendre a resident of Satnamipara, Kasarideeh; and Kamal Nagesh (19) son of Prakash Nagesh a resident of Indira Colony, Potia Road, Durg were arrested. Betting records and Rs 3550 cash were recovered from their possession. They were arrested under the provisions of Gambling Act and later the prohibitory sections of IPC were also included in the chhlan. Padmanabhpur SHO Vaibhav Banker (Probationary IPS), Sub Inspector Dharam Mandavi, ASI Vinay rajak, Head Constable Shiv Prasad Dubey, Constable Kishore Soni, Punesh Sahu and Civil team members Constable Javed Khan, Pradeep Thakur, Chitrasen, Mohammad Farukh, Dharendra Yadav, Keshav Sahu and Tileshwar Rathore played vital role in arresting the accused.

Padma Shree J. M. Nelson
(Sculpture Artist)

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Celebrations at PCC headquarters over victory in Khairagarh assembly by-poll

Firecrackers burst outside Rajiv Bhavan

Raipur, Apr 16: Congress workers celebrated the victory of party candidate in Khairagarh assembly by-poll, at Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) headquarters here. Congress candidate Yashoda Verma defeated BJP candidate Komal Janghel by a margin of 20 thousand votes in the by-election to Khairagarh assembly seat. Ever since the Congress candidate was leading from the first round of vote counting Congress workers started gathering at Rajiv Bhavan.

As the counting of votes was progressing the celebration of the workers had started. A large number of Congress workers reached Rajiv Bhavan with band. After this they celebrated enthusiastically and danced to drum beats besides bursting firecrackers and exchanging sweets. PCC chief Mohan Markam also reached Rajiv Bhavan and congratulated the party office bearers for victory by of-



fering them sweets.

According to Markam the people of Khairagarh have voted for the government's work for three years and in the name of a separate district. The announcement of the district was a master stroke of the party, he said, adding that people in this constituency remained neglected in the BJP government for 15 years. In such a situation, people have relied on the policies of the Congress and the functioning of the government, he added.

Rajnandgaon minister in-charge Amarjit Bhagat said that state government fulfilled its every promise under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel. Whether it is a promise to make Marwahi a district or to increase the income of farmers, every time the Congress has lived up to the expectations of the people and its benefit has been seen during the Khairagarh by-election, he said.

The number of Congress MLAs in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly has increased to 71 with the victory of party candidate in the Khairagarh by-election. In the by-elections held in Dantewada, Chitrakot and Marwahi, the Congress had won all three seats. Now the Congress has made the fourth by-election in its favor.

Its victory of policies: Bhupesh on Khairagarh by-poll result

Raipur, Apr 16: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has expressed his gratitude to the people of Khairagarh for the victory Congress candidate in Khairagarh by-election. According to him mere creation of a district does not lead to victory, rather people of Khairagarh have once again expressed their faith in the welfare policies and programs of the state government.

Addressing a press conference Baghel thanked the people of Khairagarh and congratulated the workers and leaders. CM Baghel said that Congress got 87 thousand votes with increase from 31 thousand and this way the party received 56 thousand more votes. Voters have shown trust on the work done by the Congress government in three years, he said.

According to Baghel this election is alarming for Dr Raman Singh, his political future is now at stake. He said that the an-



ouncement of creating a district may be an issue, but the government's decisions and schemes have yielded positive results. People have shown trust on the schemes of the government. According to Baghel BJP called it a semi-final in which it was badly defeated. Now in 2023 also the same result is expected.

Baghel said that the previous government had created nine districts, but it had to face a crushing defeat in the 2018 general elections in eight districts except Mungeli. According to him mere creation of a district does not bring victory. Significantly, Bhupesh Baghel is the first Chief Minister to win all the

four by-elections in three and a quarter years. According to him public has given huge support, expressing confidence in his government and its policies. Baghel who was present during filing of nomination of Congress candidate Yashoda Verma, addressed 27 general meetings after visiting the area for 6 consecu-

tive days. While in 2018 elections, Congress had got 30 thousand less votes, this time the Congress candidate has won by more than 20 thousand votes, bridging the gap of 30 thousand votes in Khairagarh constituency. In this way, Congress has got about 50 thousand more votes and 8 out of 10 candidates have forfeited their deposits.

According to Baghel the state government's Nyay schemes - Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Gramaam Bhumihih Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, procurement of minor forest produce and value addition and increase in rate of Tendu leaf collection to Rs 4000 benefited directly to the people. The Chhattisgarh state government has also fulfilled its promise of waiving farmers' loans and providing farmers with a price of Rs 2,500 per quintal of paddy, he added.

Hanuman Jayanti celebrated with religious fervour in city

Raipur, Apr 16: Hanuman Jayanti was celebrated with religious fervour in the city on Saturday. Streets across the city reverberated with "Jai Sri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman" slogans as many temples organised special programmes to celebrate Hanuman Jayanti. Right from the strike of dawn, Lord Hanuman temples teemed with visitors and serpentine queues were witnessed on the temple premises in different areas. Despite scorching heat, many temples buzzed with activity and visitors dressed in tradi-



tional attire thronged the temples. Many temples committees provided 'bhandara', drinking water, butter milk and arranged tents for the convenience of devotees. Lord Hanuman temples teemed with visitors and long

queues were seen in different areas of the city. The day began with the performance of special pujas at Hanuman Temples early in the morning.

At the Lord Ram temple located at VIP Road, pujas and rituals began at 6 am,

with devotees lining up before the temple right from early morning to seek the blessings of Lord Hanuman.

Special pujas marked the celebrations at Hanuman Temple located near RDA Office at Shastri Chowk. Prasad was distributed to the devotees on the occasion. Special pujas were also performed at Anjanya Temples at Byron Bazar, Tatiyapara Chowk, Tikrapara Chowk and other localities in city. Mass feeding and bhajans also marked the celebrations at various Hanuman Temples.

Tribal litterateurs from across the country to gather in Raipur

CM to inaugurate 3-day National Tribal Literature Festival from April 19 at Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 16: A gathering of tribal litterateurs from across the country is being organized in the capital city of Raipur. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will inaugurate this three-day National Tribal Literary Festival being organized at Pandit Deendayal Auditorium from April 19. Tribal dance performance and art and painting competition will be organized in this festival. Apart from this book fair, exhibition of various departments will also be organized.

In the National Tribal

Festival being organized under the aegis of Tribal Research and Training Institute, enlightened persons, social leaders, litterateurs and art experts from different regions of the state are also being invited. Cultural programs will also be held on this occasion. Bastar band performance, child artist Sahadev Netam and tribal dance will be the main attractions. Preliminary preparations for this event have been started.

The objective of the festival is to introduce the traditional and contemporary tribal literature across the country and to know the status of their development in the modern context besides motivating and encouraging the preservation and promotion of tribal literature by providing a platform to the researchers, litterateurs, creators working in the field of tribal literature in C h h a t t i s g a r h .

Discussions will be held on literature and present situation in tribal tradition, tribal stories, tribal poems, ancestor literature etc.

Tribal and non-tribal established and eminent litterateurs, writers, university scholars, research scholars, subject experts are being invited from different states of the country in the literary festival. Research papers will also be published. Art and painting competition will be organized under Sahitya Mahotsav. Apart from this, a live display of soil, bamboo, bell metal, wood, etc. will also be done under handicraft. Around 350 contestants will participate in this competition.

Various dance forms of Chhattisgarh will be performed in the festival, in which tribal dances performed in different tribal areas are Shaila, Sarhul, Karma, Sondu, Kukud, Dunda, Dosselra Karma,

Marriage dance (Hulki), Madai dance, Gavar Singh, Gedi, Dances like Karsad, Mandri, Dandar etc. will be performed. A book fair is also being organized in the festival. Book stalls have been arranged in the gallery of the inner premises of the auditorium. Apart from this, 30 stalls for display cum sale are being set up.

Stalls from various handicraft boards and Mati Kala boards of Chhattisgarh state will be set up at the venue. The items and materials created by these artists will be displayed and sold. Sanjeevani, Forest Produce and Forest Medicine, Exhibition of Tribal Research and Training Institute, Exhibition of Departmental Schemes of Antyavsa Nigam, TRIFED etc. stalls will be set up.

Hand pumps, power pumps started drying up in Birgaon, people rely on tankers

Severe water crisis in Birgaon

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 16: With the onset of summer in Birgaon, water scarcity has started, as more than 50 percent of the hand-pumps and power pumps under the corporation area have started drying up. Due to drying of hand pumps, people are facing severe water crisis in the area. At the same time, Municipal Corporation is not getting enough water from Kharun river. In order to ensure that the residents of Birgaon get sufficient quantity of water, the wards where the water level has not gone down, is getting bore excavations done. Along with this, water supply has also



been started in the wards through tankers, so that the thirst of the residents of Birgaon can be quenched. Birgaon Corporation officials said that hand pumps and power pumps have started drying up, but water is being supplied in sufficient quantity from

tankers. At the same time, some localities of the corporation area like Urla, Acholi, Sarora, Budhwari Bazar, Urkura, Ravanbhatia and Mathpara are being supplied water through pipelines, so that the residents of the area do not face water problems.

Birgaon Municipal Corporation is supplying water through tanker in each ward. For water, the residents of Birgaon are queue for hours waiting for the tanker.

Residents of Birgaon said that sometimes they get late in going to duty due to long wait in the queue. They said that that every year same problem is witnessed, so the corporation should make a permanent system, so that this problem can be overcome. Water is being supplied through tankers and pipelines so that the people of Birgaon do not have to face the problem of water. Along with this, bore excavation work is also being done in some areas, said Shrikant Verma, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Birgaon.

Chhattisgarh sees 3 COVID-19 cases, no death; active tally now 19

Raipur, Apr 16: Chhattisgarh on Friday reported three COVID-19 cases at a positivity rate of 0.17 per cent, taking the state's tally to 11,52,217, while the death toll stood unchanged at 14,034, an official said. The recovery count rose to 11,38,164 after eight people completed home isolation during the day, leaving the state with 19 active cases, he added.

Raigarh, Korba and Jashpur districts recorded one case each. No new case was reported in 25 districts. As on Friday, 19 districts had no active case," he said. With 1,743 samples examined during the day, the tally of tests carried out so far in Chhattisgarh went up to 1,75,84,086, he added. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,52,217, new cases 3, death toll 14,034, recovered 11,38,164, active cases 19, today tests 1,743, total tests 1,75,84,086.

Kawasi Lakhma performs Bhoomi Pujan of ITI Bhawan



Raipur, Apr 16: Commerce and Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma performed Bhoomipujan for the construction work of new building of Industrial Training Institute at Nagarnar in Bastar district. This building will be built at a cost of Rs 3 crore 44 lakh 59 thousand. A large number of villagers including MP Deepak Baij, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Renewable Energy Development Agency, Mithilesh Swarnkar; public representatives, officers and employees of the concerned departments were present on the occasion.

Food lovers to relish Punjabi food at Punjabi Food Festival

Raipur, Apr 16: To offer something new to the food lovers of Raipur, Courtyard by Marriott, Raipur is hosting a Punjabi Food Festival with dishes from the land of five rivers- Punjab from April 15 to 24. The ongoing Punjabi Food festival is offering connoisseurs a wide range of Punjabi taste with varieties of dishes from the north. The menu of this 10-day food festival has a wide variety of classical as well as traditional Punjabi cuisines. The Punjabi feast is taking food lovers to the heavenly journey from starters through main course and desserts to the nostalgia of rich north cuisine. The elabo-



rate menu includes Kebabs, Tikkas, and traditional Sarso da Saag and Makke di Roti. Hotel's General Manager Anukam Tiwari while addressing a press conference said "When it comes to North Indian food, the flavor one recalls is Punjabi. We have a large Punjabi community here in Raipur and what else could be a better occasion to cher-

ish the beauty of rich Punjabi culture with them. Keeping the recipes traditional and authentic, we have used a lot of spices in the cooking." Hotel's Executive Chef Anuj Singh said "For the 'Pet Pujaris' of the city we are offering unending Tadkedar starters like Dahi Aur Mewe Ke Kebab, Macchi Amritsari, Tandoori Kukkad, Ajwain

Macchi, Kathal Ka Tikka, Kali Mirch Ka Machhi Tikka and much more. The Chhole Masala, Khumb Hara Pyaaz, Kadi Pakoda, Paneer Makhhan Wala, Matar Methi Malai and Sarso Da Saag, Langar Wali Daal are the vegetarian delicacies and Railway Kukkad Curry, Meat Shahi Patiyala, Munge Wala Kukkad, Makhhani Chozze, Murg Masaledar Machhi, and Chicken and Mutton Biryani are among the non-vegetarians. There is a wide selection of desserts like Badam Kheer, Gajar Ka Halawa, Zafrani Firni, Kesri Kheer, and Matka Malai Lassi etc".

आयुर्वेद से आयुष्यमान **रतन्स आयुर्वेदिक समाधान**

प्र. मेरी समस्या यह है कि मेरी शादी की उम्र हो गई है पर मुझे शरीर में फूलपन महसूस होता है, क्या करें? -गौरी, अहिकापुर.

उ. यह समस्या अन्य बीमारियों के लिए जिम्मेदार हो सकती है। आप 'ओवेरिड' कैप्सूल २-२ सुबह-शाम पानी के साथ सेवन कर सकते हैं। आयुर्वेदिक कर्म से कम लें। कैप्सूल का नियमित १० दिनों का सेवन बहुत अच्छे परिणाम देता है।

प्र. मेरा भतीजा बेडवेटींग की समस्या से ग्रस्त है, हम बहुत चिंतित हैं। आयुर्वेदिक उपचार बताएं। -प्रफुल्ल, धमलरी.

उ. बच्चों में इस समस्या की वजह वीडिक-अपरिपक्वता भी हो सकती है। आप उन्हें 'बेडवेटी' सिरप २-२ चम्मच दिन में दो बार नियमित रूप से सेवन कर सकते हैं। साथ ही उनकी आत्मविश्वास बढ़ाएं।

प्र. मेरे पुत्र की शरीर प्रकृति बेहद दुर्बल है। उसे ऐसी दवा बताएं जिससे शरीर सुदृढ़ हो सके। -श्रीमती रायकवार, रायपुर.

उ. आप उन्हें आयुर्वेदिक तात्वों से युक्त 'वेदसिफ्ट' मॉल्ट १-१ चम्मच सुबह-शाम एक गिलास दूध के साथ नियमित रूप से तीन से चार माह तक सेवन करवा सकते हैं। साथ ही उनके भोजन में सभी पौष्टिक तत्वों का उचित मात्रा में समावेश रखें।

प्र. मैं १६ वर्षीय हूँ। मेरा शारीरिक विकास औसत नहीं है। क्या करें? कृपया उपाय बताएं। -दीपेश कुमार, विलासपुर.

उ. शारीरिक विकास व्यक्ति के वंशानुक्रम तथा हार्मोनल कॉन्स्ट्रिक्ट पर निर्भर करता है। आप चाहें तो 'हाईटॉप' सिरप २-२ चम्मच रोजाना सुबह-शाम पानी के साथ नियमित २-३ माह तक सेवन कर सकते हैं। साथ ही व्यायाम अथवा योगासन करें।

प्र. मेरी उम्र २८ वर्ष है। मेरे बाल बहुत मात्रा में झड़ चुके हैं। बालों को मजबूत बनाने का उपाय बताएं। -नताशा, रामानुजगंज.

उ. आज बाजार में कई ऐसे तेल हैं, जिनमें युवत केमिकल बालों को नुकसान पहुंचाते हैं। आप आयुर्वेदिक औषधियों से बना 'केश वरदान' तेल नियमित प्रयोग कर सकते हैं।

प्र. शरीर में उचित आर्कषण की कमी है। कृपया कोई प्रभावकारक उपाय बताएं। -एक पाठिका, रायगढ़.

उ. शरीर की उचित देखभाल जरूरी है। केअर न करने से भी यह समस्या हो सकती है। आप रोज दो बार 'सुडोल' बांडी टोनर जैल से मालिश कर सकते हैं व 'सुडोल' बांडी टोनर कैप्सूल भी सेवन कर सकते हैं।

नोट: उपरोक्त सलाह रोगियों के लक्षणों को ध्यान में रखकर दी गई है। दवाओं का प्रयोग वैद्यकीय मार्गदर्शन में करें।

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Health Minister sends proposal to CM

Based upon demands of agitating Mitanins
Singhdeo gives important suggestions to consider the demand of Mitanins

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 16: State Health Minister TS Singhdeo has sent a departmental proposal to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and expressed concern about the Mitanins (community

health workers) who have been on strike for almost two weeks. Showing sensitivity towards about 72000 Mitanins working in the state he wrote to Chief Minister that health Mitanins who are called backbone of health department are sitting on dharna since last 13 days in scorching heat with temperature soaring above 40 degrees. Despite all odds they are sitting on the dharna for their demands. The Health Department on its part has also made a medium of informal discussions besides persuading to with-

draw their strike without facing troubles.

Singhdeo had written a letter to the Finance Department twice in the past on the issue of Mitanin, which is pending due to some reason. Apart from this, Singhdeo met the delegation of Mitanins and discussed their demands in detail and keeping in mind the information received from this discussion, he sent a proposal of important suggestions to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

Singhdeo wrote in his proposal to Chief Minister that apart from

performing health related works Mitanins are also entrusted with many other tasks by the administration and their service time is more than 8 hours in a day. On many occasions emergency medical care has to be provided overnight.

Taking serious note of this matter, Health Minister TS Singhdeo has requested Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to consider practical aspects from the government keeping in mind the untiring hard work of Mitanins and their basic contribution in health services.

Vijay Bajpai, conferred with Rising Star Communicators award

● **For new innovation in PR**

Raipur, Apr 16: Vijay Bajpai, Asso. Manager (PR) has been conferred with Rising Star Communicators award for new innovation in PR by "Media Federation of India" during their annual award function "16th Media Excellence Award" organized on 2nd April, 2022 at New Delhi.

The award has been conferred to Bajpai by Prof. Sanjay Diwedi, DG, Indian Institute of Mass



Communication (IIMC), New Delhi, renowned Media personality Dr Sandeep Marwaha, Chancellor, AAFT

University, NOIDA. Award ceremony was graced by media, journalism and PR professionals from all over India.

Balco has become pioneer of modern PR among all the PSUs and Corporates.

A seasoned PR professional and having more than 18 years of rich experience in the field of image building, branding and public relations. He has various prestigious awards and honours to his credit and has been awarded Rashtriya Media Ratan award, Rajbhasha Manishi award, Best Conclave Promoter (PRCI) and excellence in service by Balco in past.

Maoists again accuse security forces of airstrike

Release photo of the alleged aerial bomb in Bastar

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Apr 16: Once again in Bastar, the Naxalite organization has accused the security agencies and governments of carrying out air strikes, in this charge the organization has attacked the police and security agencies including the central government and the state government in different areas of Bastar. Not only this, in the pamphlet, the Naxalites have released photos in which the marks of trees damaged by explosive substances and explosions are visible. However, only the Naxalite organization confirms these pictures. Vikalp, spokesperson of Communist Party of India Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, has written in a press release that on the intervening



night of 14th and 15th April, Communist Party of India Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, Bottem, Rasam, Eram Metagudam, Sakiler, Madpa, South Bastar, mentioned Heavy bombardment had been done by military drones continuously between 1 pm and 2 pm targeting Duled, K a n n e m a r k a, Portemmangum Bottam etc. villages and forests.

Along with this, the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee also wrote in the press release that PLGA escaped safely in this entire bombing. The Naxalite organization has also written in the

press release that drones and helicopters of security agencies are constantly hovering over the PLGA organization and the security forces are intensifying the operation against them. Spokesperson Vikalp wrote in a press release that the tribal people whose life is depending on the forests, are being denied by the armed forces from going to the forests, the people are being deprived of the Mahua collection due to aerial bombs.

An attempt was made to contact Bastar IG P ??Sundar Raj over phone in this regard but he could not be contacted.

'Demand to open the mosque in Raipur Jail'



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 16: After consulting the Shahar Quazi Maulana Mohammad Ali Farooqi, Rajesh Singh Sisodia (Human Rights Activist & Convener of Nange Paon Satyagrah) has demanded to reopen the mosque in Raipur Central Jail which was closed during last two lockdowns. In a memorandum to Principal Secretary

Home & D.G. Prisons Sanjay Pillay, Sisodia has raised two demands which include to reopen the mosque and allow the religious heads in Jail to conduct prayers (Namaz) & Iftaar.

Sisodia has lamented over a large number of muslim prisoners & detainees on being deprived from performing their religious rites during the holy month of Ramzan.

Balak Ashram Kariyakanta bring laurels to School

Kondagaon, Apr 16:

Eight students of Balak Ashram Kariyakanta Sankul Mayurdongar were selected for admission in class VI in District Level Residential Eklavya School Golavand Development Block/District Kondagaon run by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

The selection of maximum number of children from any one school reflects the quality of education in this institution. It is worth mentioning that the students of Balak Ashram Kariyakanta appeared in the eligibility test for admission in this class VI. Rikesh Netam has secured second place in the development block Kondagaon merit list. At the same time, two students of Balak Ashram Kariyakanta are among the first five of the merit list and three students are among the first ten of the merit list have registered



their presence. It is worth mentioning that there is an atmosphere of happiness due to the selection of eight out of twenty students of Class V of Balak Ashram Kariyakanta in the district level Eklavya Residential School, Golavand. Last year also, out of eleven students of Balak Ashram Kariyakanta, seven students were selected on the basis of class V marks in

district level Eklavya Residential School, Golavand. For this achievement of the institution, Block Education Officer, Social Worker and Educationist, Principal in-charge Sahu, School Shampur Development Block Makdi, C.A.C. Malkot, CAC Mayur Dongar, Sankul Principal Sha Uma V Mayur Dongar have conveyed their good wishes.

'Finished rural products to be available under one roof'

C-Mart being built across the state

Raipur, Apr 16: Preparations are in full swing across the state for the establishment of C-Mart, which is included in the ambitious plans of the Chhattisgarh State Government. The State Government has brought the concept of C-Mart (Chhattisgarh-Mart) to give a new market to various products produced in the village and available in urban areas. Chief Minister Baghel has given instructions to set up C-marts in all the district headquarters of the state.

In the second phase, C-marts will be set up in metros outside the state. In this series, 6 thousand square feet showroom has been completed in Balodabazar district headquarters, which will be inaugurated



by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel soon. In Chhattisgarh, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the state government is making many efforts to strengthen the rural economy. In this series, the Government of Chhattisgarh has taken a positive initiative to sell the products manufactured by women self-help groups,

craftsmen, weavers, artisans and other traditional and cottage industries under one roof.

According to the format prepared for C-Mart, a variety of products made in villages, including different types of products prepared by women-self-help groups working in Gauthans, will be put up for sale under one roof. This will increase the means of employment at the

village level. C-Mart will prove to be a milestone in the path of becoming self-reliant for the members of women self-help groups. Their income will increase and their financial condition will improve.

Similar to daily use in C-Mart such as turmeric, chilli, papad, chips, badi-bijori, pickle, phenyl, hand-wash, wasting powder, incense sticks, incense, dona-

pattal, dhaki-grounded rice, thickly extracted oil, From Kodo, Kutki, Maize to all pulses crops will be available for sale. The above products have been prepared by women self-help groups working in 'Aajeevika' Center located in different Gauthan of the district. Along with this, various products like tamarind, mahua, harra, bahera, amla, honey will also be available in C-Mart from the famous brand of forest department 'Chhattisgarh Herbs'. Flowers made in the villages, terracotta, bell metal, bamboo products, leather goods, iron crafts, kosa silk and wooden products will also be sold here.

Chief Minister, Baghel has given instructions to make arrangements for marketing of rural products like the products of Chhattisgarh Herbs by Laghu Vanopaj Sangh. At the same time, he has asked

the district collectors to coordinate with the Managing Director, Small Forest Produce Association for processing, packaging, branding and marketing of all other traditional producers manufactured by women self-help groups.

A high-powered committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain for the C-Mart scheme. The committee will work for effective implementation, coordination and monitoring of the scheme. In this committee, Finance Department, Forest Department, Village Industries Department, Mineral Resources Department, Additional Chief Secretary of Commerce and Industry Department, Principal Secretary and Managing Director of Forest Produce Association have been made members.

Minister Anila Bhedra showers blessings to 22 newlyweds

Raipur, Apr 16: Under the aegis of Mukhyamantri Samaj Kanya Vivah Yojna (MSKVY) and Manikpuri Panika Samaj in village Bhainsbod of Daundi development block of Balod district, Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Minister Anila Bhedra showered her blessings to the newlyweds for a happy married life.

On this occasion, she said that it is a very auspicious occasion, where 22 couples are tying nuptial knots. She said that Mukhyamantri Samaj Kanya Vivah Yojana (MSKVY) is an ambitious scheme of the government. On the initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the amount of the scheme has been increased from Rs. 15000 to Rs. 25000. On this occasion, Minister Bhedra gave detailed information about various public welfare



schemes of the government and inspired them to take advantage of the scheme.

Minister Bhedra was honoured with a memento by the office bearers of Manikpuri Panika Samaj in the program. On this occasion, District President of Manikpuri Panika Samaj, Brijmohan Das Manikpuri, Tehsil President, Lakhan Das Manikpuri along with other office bearers of the society, Vice President of District Panchayat, Mithilesh Niroti, former district member Anil Suthar, Piyush Soni, family members of the newlyweds and a large number of villagers were present.

SBI partners with Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital

Raipur, Apr 16: In an important function coinciding with the 10th year celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital (SSSSH), Nava Raipur; Om Prakash Mishra, DMD & CDO, SBI donated an Air Conditioned bus to Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Mother & Child Hospital. Vivek Gour, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Health & Education Trust received the key of the bus.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Binod Kumar Mishra, CGM; Gita Tripathi, GM; U. Dinesh Shanbhag, DGM CD; S.V. Radhakrishna Rao, DGM (B&O); Rajesh Kumar, DGM, Bilaspur.

On their arrival, they were accorded a warm welcome by the members



of Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital. The delegation interacted with the children in ICU, Wards and toured the campus to understand all the services offered by the Hospital Totally Free of Cost To All.

The Bus was handed over to the Hospital for the benefit patient transportation, post which a meeting

was held in Dr. C. Rajeshwari Auditorium in Sri Sathya Sai Sowbhagyam. At the outset, a documentary on the Hospital and that on Sowbhagyam were screened.

Speaking on the occasion Om Prakash Mishra expressed his happiness that SBI joined hands with

nation of the Bus as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.

Gift of Life was given to the 3 children who underwent surgeries and 2 Mothers who delivered a healthy baby in the Hospital. All the beneficiaries shared their experience about receiving Free and Quality Healthcare Services at the Hospital, which otherwise, in a private hospital, would have been unaffordable, pushing them to the brink of debt. It turned out to be an emotional ceremony moving many of those present in the meeting. Vivek Gour felicitated the dignitaries on the dais. Finally the guests had a group photograph with all the patients and their attendants.

Child rescue drive: 12 children sent to shelter home in three days

Rescue of child beggars, child laborers and rag-pickers to run till April 17

Raipur, Apr 16: As many as 12 children have been rescued and admitted to the Shelter Home during the last three days in the capital Raipur. Such children have been rescued under an intensive drive at Telibandha and Bhagat Singh Chowk. A special drive is being run by the district administration for the rehabilitation of children who beg, work in shops, child rag pickers and children who are drug addicts. This drive is being run till April 17 by the Department of Women



and Child Development.

The drive is being run by the representatives of various social organizations along with officers of Women and Child Development Department, Child Shelter Home, Police and Social Welfare Department of Raipur district. The drive will be carried out till April 17, 2022 at Shastri Bazar, Gol

Bazar, Sadar Bazar, Railway Station, Fafadih Chowk, Devendra Nagar, Pachpedi Naka, Santoshi Nagar, Bhathagaon Chowk, Telibandha, Bhagat Singh Chowk, Bharat Mata Chowk.

Under this drive, child beggars, child labourers, child rag pickers and children who are drug addicts will get the benefit of rehabilitation and sponsorship. Under this drive, citizens are expected to give information on child line number 1098 if they see child beggars, child labourers, drug addicts and rag pickers in any road junctions or any other places in the city so that Raipur can become a safe future city for such children.

Instill values and discipline in children along with education: Dangi

● Youths take out massive bike rally on Ambedkar Jayanti

Central Chronicle News

Masturi, Apr 16: A life-size statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was unveiled by the chief guest Bilaspur Range IG Ratanlal Dangi in the nearby Gram Panchayat Hardi (Gobari) and a bike rally was organized on this occasion, in which a large number of youths participated.

Addressing the program, IG Dangi said that along with education in children, the values and discipline that they get from parents and grandparents are very important. If you want your son not to drink alcohol, not to smoke bidi, cigarette, than you have to give up all this first.

Your child is watching how you behave in your

home, in the neighborhood, with others in the society and gradually everything affects him. He learns the same and then starts doing the same. If you want your child to go further, watch how he/she interacts with children. The eagle is a very high flying bird, if your child is in the wrong company, how will he grow up?

The programme was also addressed by the CEO of Masturi Chanting, Kumar Singh Lahere, Tehsildar Sundar Lal Ghritalhare, Prapa Sheshnarayan Gupta, Sukhrum Khute.

The organizer of the program, Engineer Deepak Banjare Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Hardi (Gobari), Hetram Dande Kokdi Sarpanch and col-



leagues welcomed the chief guest Mr. Dangi with a garland. August, Sapna and Sumitra sang the welcome song. Aurobindo Boudh, the sculptor who shaped the life-size statue of Bhimrao Ambedkar, was welcomed into the dais. The youth of the villages of the area, who participated in the bike rally in the said program, took out a rally on bikes with the slogans of Jai Bhim, in which hundreds of youths from villages including

Masturi, Chakarbedha, Pachpedi, Dhangawan participated. Mannulal Kurre and Santosh Yadav conducted the program.

The Sarpanch of Village Kokdi, Hetram Dande, youth companions and all the villagers had the cooperation in making the program a success. All the guests were welcomed with shawl and memento.

Among the distinguished guests of the program, retired teacher Aktram Sinha (Governor Award), District Panchayat member Kiran Santosh Yadav, District member Rajkumari Shivprasad Jagat, former district member Dharam Bhargava, State President Tribal Society Subhash Parte, Omprakash Pandey, Dilip Bhushan Kurre, Dinesh Bharti, Surendra Dahria, Prithvipal Rai, Village Paten Sirotan Singh, Pramod Raj, Vimala Jagat, Golu Sahu, Vimal Kant, Umesh Patle, Vijay Namdev were included.

Puri hails products made by members of 'Bihan' group

Conducts inspection of stalls of different products

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Apr 16: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Puri conducted inspection of variety of products made by women of 'Bihan' group in District Panchayat premises including herbal products, LED bulbs, cotton garments (sari), terracota and bamboo made products, 'masalas' and kitchen products and others. During talks with women of 'Bihan' group, Puri hailed the products made and out of all the music LED bulb attracted him the most.

Further the Union Minister inquired about the production cost and selling cost of the products and one of the members of 'Bihan' group lighted the music LED bulb through her mobile phone using bluetooth and even showed him how to start and stop the



LED light using a remote. She said it is costing Rs 350 each. Union Minister Puri hailed all the products made by members of 'Bihan' group and motivated them to continue to work in the same direction. On this occasion LS

MP Chunnihal Sahu, former Minister and MLA Brijmohan Agrawal, ex-MLA and Collector Nilesh Kshirsagar, SP Vivek Shukla, CEO District Panchayat S Alok, DFO Pankaj Rajput and other officers and employees were present.

Officers allegedly misuse Govt vehicle

SDO to Ranger not responsible about their job



Central Chronicle News

Baikunthpur, Apr 17: Park Area Officer Sonhat are allegedly misusing the government vehicles within a range of 35-40 km. Office and residence of Guru Ghansi Das Park area has been constructed in Sonhat but ranger is not staying there and comes from his native village.

He allegedly misuses the government vehicles even official residence has been constructed at a cost of

lakhs. When discussed with the staff of park area it was confirmed that ranger do not come here even for two days in a week.

Most of the time he is in Baikunthpur and only rests for a while in the free accommodation constructed by the government. Baikunthpur park Deputy Director and park SDO has no time to keep watch on rangers as he himself comes from Ambikapur to perform his duty.

Ch'garh will develop with the prosperity of farmers: Choubey

● MAgriculture Minister inaugurates three-day Kisan Fair

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Apr 16: Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey inaugurated a three-day state level Kisan Mela here at Science College ground on Tuesday and it will continue till the April 15th. Addressing the program, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey said that Kisan Samridhi Mela is being organized to make farmers prosperous in the direction of farming, and to connect them with innovations and new modern technology.

He said that Chhattisgarh is a state of farmers and if prosperity comes in the fields and barns of villages, prosperity will come in Chhattisgarh too. He said that the Chhattisgarh government was committed to



the progress of the farmers and to make them self-reliant. The policies run by the Chhattisgarh government certainly open the doors of prosperity for the farmers. In the program, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey also distributed cheques under the scheme to progressive and advanced farmers. Addressing the program, Leader of Opposition in VS Dharamlal Kaushik said that Chhattisgarh has become self-reliant in the matter of paddy, but there is a need to encourage and prepare an action plan in the production of pulses and oilseeds. He said that there

is immense potential for dairy, floriculture and horticulture in Bilaspur division. Efforts can be made in this direction by making an action plan with a better strategy at the government level. Addressing the farmers, MP Arun Sao said that it is necessary to adopt modern farming method for the progress of the farmers. This will not only increase the productivity but also increase the income of the farmers. Due to the better policies of the government, farmers become the carriers of prosperity. Addressing the program, Agriculture Production Commissioner Dr. Kamalpreet Singh said

that Krishi Mela is a means of improved farming and increasing the means of income. On this occasion Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Rashmi Ashish Singh, MLA Mr. Shailesh Pandey, MLA Mr. Rajneesh Singh, District Panchayat President Mr. Arun Singh Chouhan, Mayor Mr. Ramsharan Yadav, Chairman of Shakambari Board Mr. Ramkumar Patel, Chairman of Tourism Board Mr. Atal Srivastava and Fishermen Welfare Board Chairman Mr. MR Nishad, Special Secretary Agriculture Department Dr. S. Bharathidasan, Director Agriculture Department Mr. Yashwant Kumar Singh, Director Animal Department Mr. Sanjay Chandan Tripathi, Bilaspur Collector Dr. Saransh Mitter, SSP and a large number of farmers and public representatives from all over the state including Smt. Parul Mathur was present.

Jawans of Battalion offer 'Sharbat'



Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Apr 16: The office bearers of ITBF 38th Battalion Kharora camp, Raipur offered people and those in vehicles on Kharora- Maath road with 'Gulab Jal'(squash drink) and distributed 'prasad' on occasion of Mahavir Jayanti, Baisakhi and Ambedkar Jayanti. This provided great deal of relief to travellers and local people in hot summer and expressed gratitude towards the jawans of ITBF 38th Battalion.

On this occasion Dy. Commandant/GD 38th ITBF Battalion Vijendra Singh informed the people of the village that people of Sikh community celebrate 'Baisakhi fes-

tival' as new year and on occasion of crop harvesting. Every year this festival is celebrated on occasion of 'Mesh Sankranti' and on this day people exchange greetings to each other and celebrate the occasion. This festival also holds religious importance, as the 10th Guru of Sikhs- Guru Govind Singhji formed 'Khalsa Panth' in 1699 and therefore 'Baisakhi' has its own importance among the people of Sikh community. On this occasion other officers of the Battalion viz. Dr Rannik Mantu (CMO/ 2IC), Saroj Rani (AC/GD), Prem Singh Meena (AC/EG), and Vahini Karyavahak Subedar Major Kuldeep Singh was also present.

St. Joseph Bacheli Parish observe Good Friday

Central Chronicle News

Bacheli, Apr 16: Good Friday commemorates Jesus Christ's crucifixion. Christians observe the day by fasting and attending church services or re-enactments of Jesus Christ's last hour. The Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish Bacheli along with their Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Sajan, the main celebrant Rev. Fr. Kurias and Rev. Sisters took part in the Holy Mass with great devotion by commemorating Jesus Christ's Crucifixion. A procession was taken out with devotees bearing



wooden crosses depicting the final hours of Jesus,

from his condemnation to placing the body in the

tomb after his crucifixion on Mount Golgotha."

Strike by health workers worsens the condition of patients

Admitted in district hospital, PHCs, CHCs

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Apr 16: Demanding 7th pay scale implementation, the health workers of the region are currently on strike, due to which the condition of patients admitted in the district hospital, is worsening day-by-day. Mandatory services and diagnostic units are not functioning, which is causing distress to the patients and their

families. It is noteworthy that with the aim of providing better health services to the common citizens, the district hospitals including PHC and CHC have been established, apart from catering to the regular health staff and also other health services like ambulance and laboratory services. But at present health workers have gone on

strike demanding 7th pay scale and 17 percent Dearness Allowances, the entire health system of the region is on hold. PCR Sahu, Gurucharan Sahu, Umakant Vaidh said that the health staff are doing strike for the last few years multiple times, and if their needs are not met, the strike may intensify.

But as the staff continues to go on strike, the health system is paralyzed as more patients and their attendants suffer for basic needs and health amenities.

आम सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे पक्षकार श्री श्यामसुन्दर अग्रवाल पिता श्री शंकरलाल अग्रवाल ने संपत्ति खसरा नं. 476/32, 476/44, 487/2, 487/3, 487/12, रकबा 0.189, 0.182, 0.606, 0.793, 0.024 हे. कुल रकबा 1.7940 हेटेयर भूमि, ग्राम - तरपोंगी, प.ह.नं. 04, रा.नि.नं., तरपोंगी, तहसील- तिव्या जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित संपत्ति को राजस्व अभिलेख में वर्तमान में दर्ज भू-स्वामी श्री सोमनाथ भोई पिता श्री भोगीलाल भोई व श्री रोहित साहू पिता श्री शंकर साहू से क्रय करने का पक्का सौदा कर ब्याने की राशि दे चुके हैं केवल रजिस्ट्री कारनामा शेष है।

यदि उपरोक्त वर्णित कारारयुदा भूमि के सौदे पर किसी भी बैंक, साहूकार, व्यापक, वित्तीय संस्था एवं शासन आदि को किसी भी प्रकार की उजब या दावा हो तो ऐसे उजब व दावे को इस आम सूचना के प्रकाशन के 07 (सात) दिनों अंदर दस्तावेजी साध्य के साथ मेरे सम्बन्ध मेरे कार्यालय में कार्यालयीन समय में लिखित में प्रस्तुत करें। अन्यथा बाद म्याद बीतने पर मेरे पक्षकार द्वारा रजिस्ट्री वैनामा करा लिया जावेगा। तत्पश्चात् किसी भी प्रकार के किये गए उजब या दावे अमान्य व अर्थहीन होंगे जो मेरे पक्षकार पर बंधनकारी नहीं होंगे।

सौ सूचना जाने।

रायपुर (छ.ग.)
दिनांक 16.04.2022

एन.के. श्रीवास्तव (अधिवक्ता)
श्रीवास्तव एण्ड एसोसिएट्स
एडवोकेटस मेम्बर एफ-33, हीरा आर्कड,
पुराना बस स्टैंड, पंडरी, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
मो.नं. 9828113856

GCSI and IGE become global partners

● For UNSDG 6 Clean Water & Sanitation Campaign
● World Water Day Action Challenge 2022 launched

Central Chronicle News

Dantewada, Apr 16: Green Care Society India (GCSI) Chhattisgarh has been made a Global Partner for the World Water Day Action Challenge 2022 under United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 Clean Water and Sanitation Campaign by the Institution of Green Engineers (IGEN),

Chennai Tamil Nadu, India.

The inaugural ceremony was organised through virtual by releasing the poster of World Water Day Action Challenge 2022. In the inaugural program, Green Care Society India President Dr Vishwanath Panigrahi and Director & COO Amujuri Biswanath gave a wonderful presentation on water conservation and cleanliness in the role of global partner across the globe.

Dr. Vishwanath Panigrahi, President, Green Care Society India said that the Sustainable Development Goals 1 to 17 were established by the United Nations in the year

2015 for quality living standards on the earth.

To achieve this by the year 2030, many countries and organizations have mobilized globally. Director and COO of Green Care Society India & SDG Expert Amujuri Biswanath said that work will be done on 4 challenges under the World Water Day Action Challenge 2022.

Various programs on the theme of First Challenge Painting Competition, Second Challenge Speech Competition, Third Challenge Ideathon Project and Fourth Challenge Open Theme will be organized free of

cost.

In which students, teachers, environmentalists, scientists, social workers, general public can participate. President of The Institution of Green Engineers Prof. Dr. L. Ramesh said that Green Care Society India has been given an opportunity to officially organize programs on SDG 6 clean water and sanitation in North India, East India and West India regions.

Green Care Society India along with other three global partners Thanks Wing Green Lovers Forum Bangladesh, Global Sustainable Future London United Kingdom

and Sai Ram Institution Chennai also got a chance to do free programs on water and sanitation.

The Chief Guest of the program, President Global Sustainable Futures and Professor University College of Estate Management London United Kingdom Dr. Renuka Thakore presented ppt and expressed that there is a need to work in the direction of environmental and water conservation by empowering and enabling sustainable development in developing and underdeveloped countries.

In the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Tanuja Balasundaram, head of

the International Day of the Institution of Green Engineers, Dr. Kalyan Sagar, treasurer, Dr. M. Akila, Hon Secretary, K Pavitra moderator gave detailed information about the World Water Day Action Challenge 2022 program.

Green Care Society India office bearers Vishnu Mahanand, Rupesh Goyal, Praveen Khare, Dr. Vikas Agarwal, Ishwari Prasad Naik, Vijay Sharma, Suresh Parmar, Pandit Bhagirathi Dubey, Gogardhan Lal Baghel, Pandit Tikeswar Mishra, Yogesh Badhi were given the responsibility for the project.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Office Durg, Regional Office, 1st Floor, Zonal Market, Sector-10, Bhillai (C.G.) - 490006

FOR KIND ATTENTION OF OUR MOST VALUED CUSTOMERS

In our endeavor to consolidate and strengthen our services to our customers, Bank of Baroda Amalata Branch will be shifted and shall function at the below said address w.e.f 17th May 2022. It shall function and cater all types of banking business from the said premises.

S. No (I)	Address of Existing Premises/Branch (II)	Address of New Premises/Branch (III)	Date of Operations from new premises (IV)
1	Bank of Baroda Amalata Branch, Village - Bandha Bazaar Tehsil - Ambagarh Chowki District: Rajnandgaon (C.G.) - 491668	Bank of Baroda Amalata Branch, Village - Bandha Bazaar Tehsil - Ambagarh Chowki (Nearby existing premises) District: Rajnandgaon (C.G.) - 491668	17th May 2022

We also like to inform our customers/stakeholders to take services from Branch mentioned in Column (III) instead of branch mentioned in Column (II) w.e.f. date mentioned in above table.

We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to you in this regard and assuring you of our best services at all times.

Place : DURG
Date : 16.04.2022

Bank of Baroda
Regional Office, Durg

BRIEF

Firing

Thane: A man allegedly resorted to firing under the influence of alcohol amid a family feud in Kapurbawadi area of Thane city, a police official said. Rajesh Sharma (51) has been detained in the incident, in which no one was injured, and the process of registering an FIR was underway, Assistant Commissioner of Police Nilesh Sonawane said. The firing took place in the 23rd floor flat of housing complex. The accused lives with his three sons and is embroiled in property dispute.

List

New Delhi: All stakeholders in the vector-borne diseases control programme have been asked by civic authorities in east Delhi to provide a list of areas which are low-lying or prone to waterlogging during and after the rainy season, officials said. The decision was taken during a meeting of a task force set up in compliance with the directions of the Delhi High Court on prevention and control of vector-borne diseases, held under chairmanship of EDMC Commissioner.

Renovated

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has redeveloped and renovated 535 ponds in Udhampur district of the Union Territory. The information was provided by district officers to the Commissioner secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Sanjeev Verma, during his visit to Udhampur to review progress of development projects. Verma asked officers to also focus on rejuvenation of water bodies with involvement of panchayat members and NGOs.

FIR

New Delhi: An FIR has been registered, days after the official Twitter handle of the United Grants Commission (UGC), which has 2.98 lakh followers, was allegedly hacked and 24,000 spam messages were tweeted from it, the Delhi Police said. According to the FIR, the Twitter handle of the UGC (@ugc_india), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, was hacked at around 1.30 am on April 10. A complaint has been registered with Twitter as well.

Lifer

Muzaffarnagar: A special court trying Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe cases sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing a Dalit worker. Special Judge Jamshed Ali also imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 on convict Popin Kumar after holding him guilty under IPC section 302 (murder) and the SC/ST Act. According to special lawyer Yashpal Singh, Sonu has gone to Kumar's factory but did not return home.

'300 units of free electricity each month in Punjab from Jul'

Chandigarh, Apr 16 (PTI):

Every household in Punjab will get monthly 300 units of free electricity from July 1, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced on Saturday as his government completed one month in office.

He said except for scheduled caste and backward class families, if electricity consumption exceeds 600 units in two months, then the consumer will have to pay for the entire power usage.

Scheduled Castes, backward castes, below-poverty-line households and freedom fighters currently getting free 200 units each month will now get 300 units of electricity monthly. But if their electricity consumption exceeds 600 units in two months, they will be charged just for over and above 600 units, the chief



Bhagwant Mann

minister clarified. "From July 1, 2022, each household in Punjab will get free electricity of 300 units per month. And it will be 600 units for two months," the chief minister said in a video message on Saturday. Punjab has a two-month billing cycle for power supply. The state's information and public relations department had put out advertisements with the announcement in various newspapers that came out on Saturday. This was one of the major poll promises of

the Aam Aadmi Party during the Punjab assembly election. The party's national convener Arvind Kejriwal had promised free electricity of up to 300 units for the state in June last year.

Mann also announced waiving arrears of electricity bills pending till December 31, 2021, of those households having up to a two-kilowatt load. Moreover, he said there would be no increase in the electricity tariff for industrial and commercial consumers while free power to the farming community would continue. The Punjab chief minister further said his government would ensure round-the-clock electricity supply to every village and town in two to three years. He said that his government would also provide the cheapest electricity in the country to the state's consumers.

Family killed, SP says UP drowned in crime under BJP 2.0

Prayagraj, Apr 16 (PTI):

Five members of a family, including three children, were found dead at their home in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj district, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place in Khagalpur village under Nawabganj police station area on Friday night, they said.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav attacked the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government over the incident, saying the state has "drowned in crime".

Replying to Yadav, a senior police official said a preliminary probe indicates that the head of the family killed the others before committing suicide.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said the truth behind the



Police investigate after five members of a family were found dead at Khagalpur village in Prayagraj district, Saturday.

incident will be known once the probe is completed.

Superintendent of Police Abhishek Agarwal said Rahul (42), his wife Priti (38) and their daughters Mahi (15), Pihu (13) and Kuhu (11) were found dead at their home. A

forensic team and a dog squad are at the spot for investigation.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Prayagraj) Ajay Kumar said police received information about the incident around 7.30 am. "The body of the house owner, Rahul, was

DESTRUCTION



A woman looks at tin sheets destroyed during a storm, at Uttarpara in Baksa district, Assam on Saturday.

Karnataka CM rejects interference in inquiry

Bengaluru, Apr 16 (PTI):

Accusing the opposition Congress of wanting to be investigator, prosecutor and judge in the case relating to civil contractor Santosh Patil's death, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday dismissed allegations of interference by his government in the investigation. Following a political furore that erupted on the issue, senior BJP leader KS Eshwarappa, against whom police have booked a case of abetment to suicide, submitted his resignation as the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister on Friday.

"Santosh Patil's suicide is being investigated, post-mortem has been done, FSL (forensic science laboratory) report will come. On the basis of it, what has happened will be scientifically



Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai and former CM BS Yeddiurappa at a state BJP meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday.

known," Bommai said in response to Congress' questioning, as to why Eshwarappa has not been booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Speaking to reporters here, he recalled that during Siddaramaiah-led Congress government's tenure in KJ George (former Minister) case, the police, despite having video allegations against him and the death note, did not mention his name in the

FIR, and there was an attempt to shut the case, and the court had to issue an order, when the deceased police officer MK Ganapathy's family approached it.

"But, we have filed FIR (in Santosh Patil case) as per the complaint and accordingly the investigation is on...based on the progress of investigation, further sections may be added, let the investigation happen," he added.

ED to probe possible money laundering in WBSSC recruitment case

Kolkata, Apr 16 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate will initiate a probe into a possible money laundering angle in the alleged irregularities in West Bengal's School Service Commission recruitment, a source in the agency said on Saturday. The Central Bureau of Investigation is probing into the anti-corruption aspect to it. The ED



West Bengal School Service Commission, Kolkata.

is "closely watching" the developments and if any

money laundering is established, it will file an enforcement case information report (ECIR), which is equivalent to an FIR, the source said. "If any money laundering aspect is ascertained, ED will definitely probe the case for which the directorate will seek documents from the commission and also talk to the persons allegedly involved, the source said.

Muslim community to move MP HC against 'selective' demolition drive

Bhopal, Apr 16 (PTI):

Some members of the Muslim community on Saturday said they have decided to approach the Madhya Pradesh High Court against the "selective" demolition drive launched by the BJP government in the state, under which it has started razing the houses of those who were allegedly in-



Syed Mushtaq

involved in the recent violence in Khargone city and

a few other places.

Stating that the demolition drive has rendered several people homeless, a Muslim cleric asked why the government was punishing the family members of those who were allegedly involved in the riots. The state government has launched the drive against "illegal" properties allegedly belonging to those involved

in the stone-pelting and other forms of violence that broke out during a Ram Navami procession on April 10. Several Muslim religious leaders in the state have earlier alleged that members of the community were being unfairly targeted by the authorities following the violence, and houses were demolished in some cases without due process.

Inquiry against police personnel for harassing woman cop

Erode, Apr 16 (PTI):

Erode Superintendent of Police V Sasimohan on Saturday ordered an enquiry against an inspector, additional SP and a constable attached to the Special Branch CID for allegedly harassing another woman inspector over an issue related to an inter-caste marriage.

On April 14, Erode All-Women Police Inspector Neelavathi (44) was on special bundobust duty when she received a call from a higher official, who spoke harshly with her over the issue. The inspector got livid and she allegedly told another official that she would commit suicide and left the place. In the meantime, Neelavathi went to her close friend's house where she apparently fell down and was taken to hospital. After receiving treatment, she returned to her house at Surampatti area in the district and a took leave for the past two days. According to police, a few days back a newly married inter-caste couple reached the All Women Police, Erode where they pleaded for protection from the bride's family, who were opposed to the

wedding.

After enquiring with the couple, Neelavathi found that they were both adults and had consented to tie the knot. She assured to provide protection and advised them to go home.

As the couple came out of the police station, the newly-married woman's relatives kidnapped her while the bridegroom was beaten up by them.

The bridegroom, then, lodged a complaint with Erode South Police and a case was registered against 30 people. The newly-wed woman was traced and produced before the court on Friday. In the court, the girl told the magistrate that she wanted to reunite with her parents and the judge also ordered the police to allow her to do so. Meanwhile, Neelavathi made a statement in sections of the media that she decided to end her life due to "unbearable torture" by a woman Additional SP and a male Special Branch Constable. The officer also said she would represent her plea with the Chief Minister and also the Director General of Police and that she doesn't want to serve in Erode district.

Chronicle

MATRIMONIAL

अग्रवाल

वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिये- मारवाड़ी युवक 18-11-89 बीकानेर हैदराबाद ज्वेलरी शोरूम, इनकम 60 लाख सालाना खुद का बंगला घरेलू मारवाड़ी वधु चाहिये. फोटो बायोडाटा भेजिए. वाट्सअप-98261-61471. (248817)

गुजराती

वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिये- गुजराती 41 वर्ष, आय-40000, हाइट 6 फिट लडके हेतु सर्व गुजराती या उच्च जाति वधु कन्या चाहिए. शीघ्र विवाह. संपर्क करें- मो.-98271-14645, 91311-39179. (248749)

सामान्य

वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिए- कुर्मी क्षत्रिय, 27 वर्षीय, 5'10", बी.ई. (इलेक्ट्रिकल), शासकीय/पीएसयू में सार्वाधिक ऑफिसर हेतु समकक्ष शिक्षित वधु चाहिए। (बायोडाटा भेजे 70895-67446) (Nb56468)

बौद्ध

वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिये- बुद्धिस्ट 31 वर्ष, लंबाई 5'6", शासकीय इंजीनियर, रायपुर में कार्यरत हेतु सुन्दर, सुशील, नैकरीपेशा वधु चाहिए. मैरिज ब्यूरो क्षमा करें. संपर्क- मो.-7869167431. (248871)

बंगाली

वर चाहिये

47/ 5'6"/ MA, BED/ लोको पायलट कार्यरत आय 15 लाख सुशील कन्या हेतु वर चाहिए, परनामाई, अनपढ़, अनमैरिड, तलाकशुदा, विधुर, प्रस्ताव शीघ्र आमंत्रित 09179749242, 6262910297. (53393)

वैवाहिकी

पंजाबी

वर चाहिये

Seeks groom for Punjabi Brahmin girl, Age: 28 Height: 5'4" B.COM, L.L.B, L.L.M, Beautiful & Fair Complexion From High Status Business Family. Contact: 9422146793.

आवश्यक सूचना

पाठकों को परामर्श दिया जाता है कि वे किसी भी विज्ञापन के अनुसार, कार्य करने से पूर्व समुचित जांच कर लें. वर-वधु के स्तर, आय संबंधी विवरण के संबंध में विज्ञापनदाताओं द्वारा किये गये दावों और वर्णनों के लिये यह समाचार पत्र समर्थक अथवा उत्तरदायी नहीं है.

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BRIEF**Maps**

Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Supreme Court in US adopted Republican-drawn maps for the state Legislature, after initially approving maps drawn by Democratic Gov Tony Evers. The court reversed itself after the US Supreme Court in March said Evers' maps were incorrectly adopted. The decision from the state's high court came the same day candidates could start circulating nomination papers to get on the ballot. Before ruling, candidates were not certain about areas.

Shield

Washington: The Homeland Security Department said it will temporarily shield people from deportation back to Cameroon, saying extreme violence between government forces and armed separatists in the African nation made it unsafe for them to return. The department also cited increasing attacks by the Boko Haram extremist group as grounds for giving Cameroonians an 18-month reprieve from deportation if they were in the US. They may apply for work permits.

Accepts

Kathmandu: The Nepal government has accepted USD 659 million in grant assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), officials said. It is not MCC. The decision was taken at the Cabinet Meeting, said Government Spokesperson Gyanendra Bahadur Karki. Apart from the USD 659 million grant, the Cabinet decided to accept a concessional loan of USD 150 million from the World Bank Group's International Development Association.

Seafood

Miami: A US ban on seafood imports from Russia over its invasion of Ukraine was supposed to sap billions of dollars from Vladimir Putin's war machine. But shortcomings in import regulations mean that Russian-caught pollock, salmon and crab are likely to enter the US anyway, by way of the country vital to seafood supply chains across the world from China. Like the US seafood industry, Russian companies rely heavily on China to process their catch, which is re-exported.

Ready

Nicosia: Lebanon is ready to work with Cyprus to exploit potential gas deposits in waters between the two east Mediterranean countries, Lebanon's top diplomat said, even though a deal on offshore rights hasn't been formally finalized. Cyprus and Lebanon signed an agreement delineating their respective offshore exclusive economic zones in 2007, but the Lebanese parliament has yet to ratify it amid the country's ongoing maritime border dispute with Israel.

Elderly people in Ukraine, left behind, mourn



Nadiya Trubchaninova stands next to volunteers while loading a plastic bag that contains the body of a civilian killed.

Mykulychi, Apr 16 (AP):

This is not where Nadiya Trubchaninova thought she would find herself at 70 years of age, hitchhiking daily from her

village to the shattered town of Bucha trying to bring her son's body home for burial.

The questions wear her down, heavy like the winter coat and boots she still

wears against the chill. Why had Vadym gone to Bucha, where the Russians were so much harsher than the ones occupying their village? Who shot him as he drove on Yablunska Street, where so many bodies were found? And why did she lose her son just one day before the Russians withdrew? Now 48-year-old Vadym is in a black bag in a refrigerated truck. After word reached her that he had been found and buried by strangers in a yard in Bucha, she has spent more than a week trying to bring him home for a proper grave. But he is one body among hundreds, part of an investigation into war crimes that has grown to global significance.

Sri Lankan police remove trucks from protest site

Colombo, Apr 16 (PTI):

Sri Lankan police on Saturday removed several empty trucks parked at a protest site near the presidential secretariat, possibly averting a crackdown on the protesters agitating against the government's handling of the island nation's worst economic crisis.

A large number of protesters have gathered at Galle Face near President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's secretariat since April 9, seeking the entire Rajapaksa family to resign from the powerful government positions they are holding in the wake of the poor handling of the ongoing economic crisis by the current regime that has brought the nation to a financial standstill.

While there have been attempts by the government to persuade the protesters to call it off, police trucks were seen moving near to the site early on Saturday.



People display placards during near the president's office in Colombo on Saturday.

However, hours later the police removed several empty trucks parked there, protesters said.

In a statement, The lawyers' body Bar Association of Sri Lanka warned the government that any attempt to disrupt protests will have grave repercussions.

The BASL views with grave concern any attempt to disrupt in whatever manner what is a peaceful protest by the people of this country. Any such attempt will

have grave repercussions for the country, its democracy, its economy and the rule of law, the BASL statement said.

The protesters have drawn support from all sections of the society from celebrities in the music and film industry to cricketers.

Ex-national captains Arjuna Ranatunga, Sanath Jayasuriya, Roshan Mahanama and notable past stars, Sidath Wettimuny, the first Test centurion of the country,

US lawmakers affirm Japan alliance eyeing China, North Korea

Tokyo, Apr 16 (AP):

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and visiting US lawmakers reaffirmed their commitment to working together under a long-standing bilateral alliance on Saturday, amid heightened global tensions spanning the war in Ukraine to threats from neighbouring China and North Korea.

In a meeting over breakfast, the delegation, led by Sen Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, agreed with Kishida on the importance of maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The six lawmakers' visit follows their earlier stop in Taiwan, where they made a pointed and public declaration of their support for the self-governing island democracy, while issuing a warning to China. They met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen.

China carried out mili-

tary drills near Taiwan in protest of the delegation's visit. Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said China was prepared to take strong measures to resolutely safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Japan has long been nervous about China's stance on Taiwan, but such views, especially among conservative politicians seeking a more assertive military, have heightened since the war in Ukraine.

The question is sensitive because Japan's pacifist constitution adopted after its defeat in World War II bans the use of force in international disputes. Japan keeps its overseas military operations to peacekeeping and humanitarian relief.

Officially, Japan does not recognise Taiwan but they maintain friendly relations. The questions of whether the US would intervene in the case of a military invasion of

Taiwan by China remains open.

Analysts say Japan's role in such a hypothetical situation is even more unclear because Japan houses a huge US military presence under the alliance.

Kishida told the representatives from Congress that the bilateral alliance superseded political party divisions, and sought their understanding on Japan's role in working toward peace and prosperity in the region.

Tokyo also asked for US support for ongoing efforts by Japan to bring home Japanese who were abducted by North Korea decades ago, the ministry said. North Korea returned some of the abducted people in 2004.

China is against any official exchanges between Taiwan's government and other foreign governments because it claims Taiwan is part of its national territory and not an independent country.

Indian-Americans slam professor for her disparaging comments

Washington, Apr 16 (PTI):

Leading Indian-Americans, including US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, have slammed a law professor from University of Pennsylvania for her disparaging comments about the Asian American community, with a specific disdain for Indian-Americans.

In a recent interview to Fox News, Prof Amy Wax from the University of Pennsylvania alleged that

Blacks and non-Western groups have a tremendous amount of resentment and shame against western people for [their] outsized achievements and contributions.

Here's the problem. They're taught that they are better than everybody else because they are Brahmin elites and yet, on some level, their country is a sh*t-hole. Wax, who has a long history of inflammatory remarks, said.

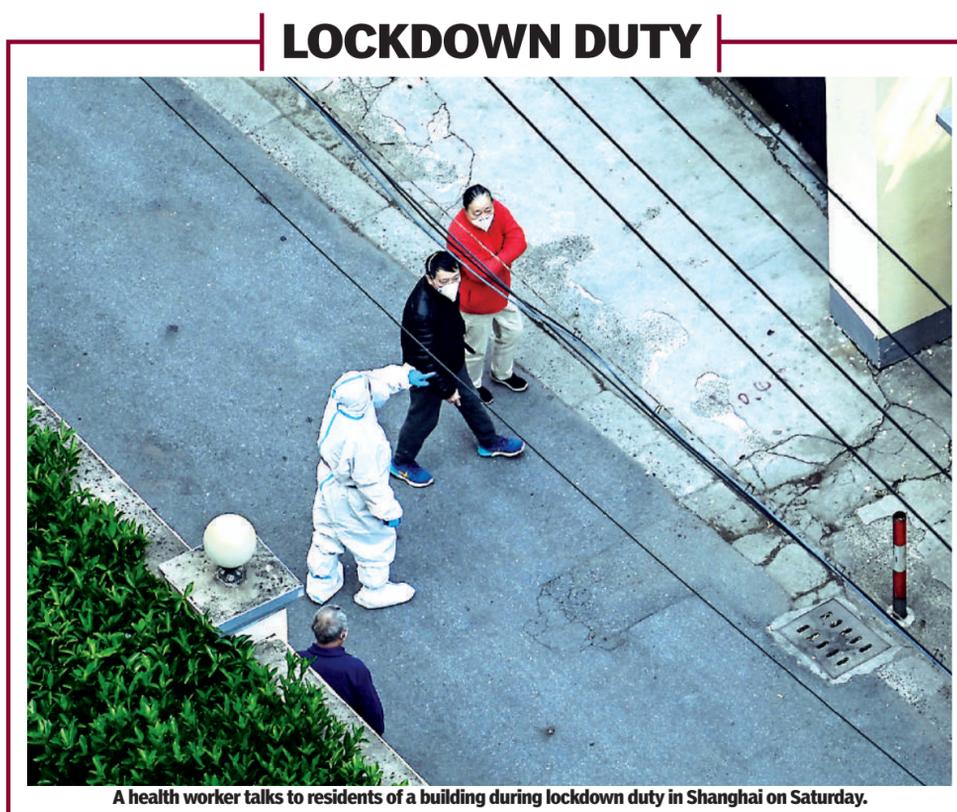
She also said that the westerners have out-

gunned and outclassed the Asian Americans in every way.

They've realised that we've outgunned and outclassed them in every way. They feel anger. They feel envy. They feel shame. It creates ingratitude of the most monstrous kind, she said.

Wax then targeted the influential Indian-American doctors' community as well.

They are on the ramparts for the antiracism initiative for dump on



A health worker talks to residents of a building during lockdown duty in Shanghai on Saturday.

LOCKDOWN DUTY

Palestinians in Jenin evoke painful past as violence flares

Jenin, Apr 16 (AP):

The journey of the Palestinian who opened fire at a street-side bar in Tel Aviv last week, killing three young Israeli men and sending the city into lockdown, began a two-hour drive away in an impoverished refugee camp deep inside the occupied West Bank.

Twenty years after Jenin saw one of the biggest battles of the second Palestinian uprising, Israel is once again launching near-daily raids into the camp and trading fire with local fighters. Decades of dispossession, poverty and violence have only deepened the camp's reputation as a bastion of armed struggle against Israeli rule.

Tires, gutted appliances and other rubble are piled up near the entrances to the camp, which is trans-



A Palestinian man walks past graffiti that depicts notable Palestinians, at entrance of the Freedom Theatre in Jenin.

formed into a fortress at night, when the raids usually occur. Narrow roads wind through a confusion of squat concrete homes built on a hillside, some adorned with portraits of slain Palestinians and the flags of armed factions.

Palestinian assailants have killed 14 Israelis in a series of attacks in recent weeks, and clashes at a major Jerusalem holy site have raised tensions further. Last week, Raad

Hazem, a 28-year-old from the Jenin camp, attacked the bar in central Tel Aviv and eluded a massive manhunt for hours before police shot and killed him near a mosque. A large poster celebrating Hazem as a martyr to the Palestinian cause was hung over the main entrance to the camp after the attack, praising him for 'imposing a curfew' on the seaside metropolis.

Myanmar rebel troupe takes aim at junta with folk satire

'Thangyat' performances were prohibited under previous regime

Kayin, Apr 16 (AFP):

A troupe of Myanmar folk singers and satirists are taking their new show on a jungle tour, hoping to rally anti-coup fighters far from their families with barbs against the junta and jokes about home. Myanmar has been in chaos since last year's coup sparked renewed fighting with ethnic rebels and sprouted dozens of "People's Defence Forces" that have battled the junta across the country.

In eastern Kayin state, the "Peacock Generation" activist troupe are trying to boost morale with traditional "Thangyat" performances of poetry, comedy and satirical songs against the junta. Near the Thai border, their makeshift tour bus — with a three-finger salute popular with pro-democra-

cy protesters in Hong Kong and Thailand painted on one side — bumps along a dusty track en route to a camp.

Upon arrival, the unfazed troupe of around 15 mostly young performers rehearse their lines. "We are expecting the battle like we hope for rains," they sing, stepping in unison across a makeshift stage, accompanied by drums and cymbals. "Let's start the bullets raining."

Slam-poetry-like "Thangyat" is traditionally performed around the new year, and has been used for centuries in Myanmar to poke fun at politics and society and vent against injustices small and large. But the military has waged a brutal crackdown on dissent since the February 2021 coup.

More than 1,700 civilians have been killed and over 13,000 people arrested, including dozens of journalists, according to a local monitoring group. A handful of media outlets have



Members of the Peacock Generation activist troupe taking part in a traditional 'Thangyat' performance in Kayin state.

also been forced to shut down. At the camp, a handful of young fighters in camouflage uniforms sit cross-legged, some clapping along. "We also want to live like you — peacefully with cigarettes and coffee," the troupe sings to a row of smartphones in the audience, a message that will reach those sitting at home when the performance is broadcast online later.

"We are still young and we are missing our mothers who always scold us." The

few dozen at the camp are some of the hundreds, according to analyst estimates, who have trekked into border areas held by Myanmar's established rebel groups to receive weapons training.

"Thangyat gives us some freedom of expression in our culture," said veteran performer Zay Yar Lwin, 32, who fled to the jungle after the coup and refounded the Peacock Generation group he had performed with in previous years.

migration reform, Krishnamoorthi said.

Indian-American Law professor Neil Makhija also slammed Wax for her comments.

It's irresponsible to use your position to lend credibility to these overtly racist sentiments that don't recognise Indian-Americans for who we are," he told Axios.

Indian-American Impact is slated to hold a summit next month in DC. Makhija told Axios he's planning to adjust pro-

gramming to discuss the incident and create solutions against anti-Asian and South Asian hate in educational settings.

The most unfortunate thing is that we have a lot of brilliant and incredible students at the law school, he told NBC News.

It makes you question whether she can fairly grade or educate, he said.

This is not the first time Wax's controversial comments about race have gone viral, the US media reported.



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 192

Reduce fuel consumption

Retail inflation soared to a 17-month high of 6.95 percent in March, according to official data released. This is the third consecutive month that inflation remained above the 6 percent mark. The previous high at 7.61 percent was recorded in October 2020. Retail inflation tracked by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the changes in prices from a retail buyer's perspective. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation rose mainly on account of rising prices of essential food items like 'oils and fats', vegetables and protein-rich items such as 'meat and fish'. Inflation is directly related to prices of fuel and fertilisers. It is very difficult to control inflation with mounting import of petroleum products. Government and society has to find ways to reduce fuel consumption drastically. International Energy Agency (IEA) has proposed actions that can be taken to reduce oil demand with immediate impact and provides recommendations for how those actions can help pave the way to putting oil demand onto a more sustainable path in the longer term. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has thrown global commodity markets into turmoil. The global oil market in which Russia is a major force, is one of the most heavily affected. Russia is the world's third largest oil producer and the largest oil exporter. The majority of oil demand is in transport, so the proposed measures of essentially focus on how to get from A to B. A country by country and state by state analysis shows that a reduction of speed limits on highways by 10 km per hour relative to current levels can significantly reduce fuel consumption for cars, light commercial vehicles and trucks. The impact of working from home on oil consumption varies widely by region, depending on the distance of the commute and average fuel consumption.

Working from home up to three days per week would cut oil demand and could reduce fuel bills. Banning the use of private cars on Sundays brings a number of additional benefits to public health and well-being. In warmer climates, reduced traffic can also reduce urban 'heat-island' effects. Where public transport exists, a short-term temporary response can be to reduce fares for public buses, metro and light rail. Restricting private cars' use of roads in large cities to those with even number-plates some weekdays and to those with odd-numbered plates on other weekdays is a measure with a long track record of successful implementation such as in case of Delhi. Non-urban car trips are responsible for over 4 million barrels a day of oil use. Vehicles can also be used more fuel efficiently by adopting best practices both in driving and maintenance. Governments can introduce so-called eco-driving techniques as part of the tuition and examination processes required to receive a driving license and advanced driving certificates. Trucks are major consumers of diesel, and so improving the efficiency of their operations can be an important contributor to reducing oil use. Rail services must be operated and serviced efficiently to get widespread acceptance as an alternative to flights. High oil prices may incentivise airlines to operate underutilised routes in response to reduced business travel. Reducing oil use must not remain a temporary measure. Sustained reductions are desirable in order not only to improve energy security but also to tackle climate change and reduce air pollution. Governments have all the necessary tools at their disposal to put oil demand into decline in the coming years, which would support efforts to both strengthen energy security and achieve vital climate goals.

Need for harmony

This year in 2022, Easter and Passover, observations central to Christianity and Judaism, respectively, began on the same weekend. This timing provides an ideal opportunity to address faulty and often dangerous misconceptions that have been part of Christian communities for nearly 2,000 years. It is a rare convergence of festive times for Jerusalem's major religions as Judaism's Passover; Christianity's Easter and Islam's Ramadan. But the triple blessing is being overshadowed by fresh tensions in Israel and Palestine. The different communities are urged to maintain harmony and understand difference in perception. The society needs lessons to address misconceptions. Many Christians of varying denominations regard their faith as having developed from Jesus's rejection of Judaism. But Jesus was a faithful Jew who respected and protected Jewish traditions, practices and laws. The belief that Christianity replaced or supplanted Judaism is known as Christian supersessionism. Christian supersessionism has not only fed into negative perceptions of Jews and Judaism since antiquity, but has also incited violence against Jews. Historically, Christian anti-Jewish sentiment often became especially pronounced when Christians observed Holy Week, the week commemorating the time leading up to Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection.

The notion that Jesus rejected Judaism and Jewish observances developed in the decades after the crucifixion. After the destruction of Jerusalem's Second Temple under Roman occupation in 70, some followers of Jesus felt there was no longer a reason to be concerned with impurity because no one could visit the temple. Many Christians today, especially those in the West, live with little or no concern for ritual impurity, and thus conclude that Jesus too must not have cared about it. But this is an inaccurate understanding of Jesus. In fact, many early Christians, some of whom were Jews and others of whom were non-Jews, continued to observe aspects of ritual purity, only abandoning it partially and over time. Some scholars discuss and evaluate contemporary Christian strategies for avoiding anti-Judaism during Christian Holy Week. One strategy she flags as misguided and insensitive is taking a romantic approach to the past, such as if churches seek to celebrate a 'Christian seder.' Passover and Easter both commemorate liberation, one in terms of escaping the bondage of slavery, the other in the form of resurrection from the dead and freedom from sin. Some earlier biblical scholars believed that what the Gospels describe as Jesus's Last Supper was in fact his celebration of the Passover seder, but most scholars now disagree. Such an understanding can bring stability to societies in middle eastern countries.

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

AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE



Men hold up signs against violence as they participate in a 'Die In' to draw attention to gun violence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in US.

India's rivers becoming highways for plastic waste

ANUSHA KRISHNAN



In an effort to identify plastic accumulation and leakage hotspots along the Ganga river, a recent project in three north Indian cities found that roughly 10-25 percent of all the plastic waste generated was littered and was not routed into recycling or appropriate waste disposal channels. This litter, which is either generated in or accumulates in the different cities' hotspots is a major source of plastic leaking into the riverine system in the area, especially during the rainy season. Much of the litter was multilayer plastic packaging, disposable bottles and cutlery, nylon sacks, and polythene bags. The CounterMEASURE project by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with funding from Japan, launched in 2020 to track and survey the leakage and movement of plastic waste in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in Ganga and Mekong rivers. In India, the project has been deployed in Haridwar, Agra, and Prayagraj (also known as Allahabad) along the Ganga to identify plastic accumulation and leakage hotspots - places within and around the cities where a higher than normal amount of plastic piles up and eventually enters the river.

In each city, physical surveys of geographical areas were combined with data from GIS (Geographical Information System) mapping to chart out land and drainage topologies and human land-use patterns, outlines a report published by the National Productivity Council (NPC) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Surveys and clean-up drives then provided information on plastic litter, which was combined with the physical survey data to gain an understanding of the plastic accumulation and leakage hotspots within each city. The clean-up drives to assess plastic litter were held in select hotspots. 'Each clean-up session at a hotspot required at least 40-50 volunteers and safai karamcharis from the local municipality to work for an entire day to collect, segregate, and pack the plastic waste for further analysis at our laboratories,' said Amit Jain, Technical and Plastic Pollution Consultant at UNEP India for the project CounterMEASURE at the NPC. The clean-up drives were conducted in a scientific manner with clearly marked grids and turned out to be good learning opportunities for those involved, said an NPC team member. 'At one of our clean-up drives in Agra near the Yamuna river, we needed 40-50 gunny bags to hold all the waste collected,' she added.

Haridwar, the second-largest city in the northern state of Uttarakhand generates close to 11 tonnes of plastic waste as untreated waste and litter on a regular day. The city, regarded as a holy place in the Hindu religion, may generate more than twice this amount of plastic waste during festivals, found the CounterMEASURE project. In the neighbouring state of Uttar Pradesh, in the city of Agra, an estimated 10-30 tonnes of plastic waste from 9 hotspots make their way into the Yamuna river, which is a major tributary of the Ganga. Much of this leakage seems to occur from riverside slums where garbage collection is poor, and plastic waste enters the river through open drains. A significant amount of the plastic in the river also consists of thin plastic sheets (used in sweet shops) or comes from the industrial sector as trimmings of synthetic leather and synthetic rubber from the footwear industry. Meanwhile in Prayagraj, about 500 kilometres from Agra, roughly eight tonnes of plastic litter per day are estimated to leak into land and riverine ecosystems. A majority of this is household plastic waste often dumped in open areas, many of which are in flood

zones. The leakage scenario in Prayagraj appears to be the most diffuse of all three cities with almost 100 hotspots identified across the city limits. Plastics are now found in almost every ocean, sea, river, wetland and lake on the earth. Even remote areas like the alpine lake Sassolo in Switzerland, which is hundreds of kilometres away from any human habitation, have been contaminated by plastics. The first ever report of plastic in the oceans has been traced to 1965 when an old-fashioned metal box used to monitor plankton snagged a plastic bag off the coast of Ireland. However, the issue of marine plastic litter truly came into the spotlight with the discovery of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in 1997. This patch stretches across 1.6 million square kilometres, and contains plastic not only on its surface, but all through the water column and on the ocean floor. Research has shown that rivers are like highways that transport 0.4-4 million metric tonnes of plastic from human inhabited land into the oceans.

A recent study states that roughly 1000 rivers account for 80 percent of all the riverine plastic waste that flows into marine environments. While previous research from 2018 identified ten of the largest rivers in the world as the top plastic waste carriers including the Indus, Brahmaputra, and Ganga from India, this new study reports a more complicated picture. It finds that smaller rivers that pass through heavily populated areas can often carry more plastic than larger rivers. As of now, much of the data on plastic waste in water bodies is from marine environments as research has mostly been focused on plastic pollution in the oceans. Research on fresh water bodies has lagged behind; consequently, little is known about how plastic leaks into and is transported by riverine systems. The leakage hotspot analyses and work on ghost fishing gear, however, only expose the tip of the plastic waste iceberg in the Ganga as they deal solely with macroplastics - plastic pieces that are larger than 5 mm in size and usually clearly visible to the naked eye. Macroplastics entangle, choke,

and kill millions of aquatic animals every year; macroplastics floating on ocean surfaces may also affect surface temperatures and optical properties of water columns and through them, cause unanticipated climate change effects. Besides these effects, macroplastics cause further issues by fragmenting into smaller pieces known as microplastics. Besides the Ganga and its tributaries, several other freshwater systems in India have been investigated for the presence of plastic pollution. Clean-up drives on the Karamana river in Kerala have shown that macroplastics make up 80 percent of the trash found in the river and along its banks; most of this comes from household waste and litter.

Another study on the Netravathi river which originates in Kudremukh in Karnataka and flows through the major pilgrimage centres of Dharmasthala and Subrahmanya to empty into the Arabian sea, concludes that the river is contaminated with microplastics from its source to its sink. On an average, hundreds of microplastic particles are found in every cubic meter of water and kilo of sediment from the river. Much like what was found in the Ganga and its tributaries, most of these microplastics are fibres released from garment washing or bits of polyethylene and PET. A study on the Sabarmati river found hundreds of microplastic particles per kilo of river sediment. Investigations on the Adayar and Kosasthalaiyar rivers in Chennai indicate that they may be responsible for discharging 11.6 trillion microplastic particles into the Bay of Bengal. The same study also indicates that remote mountain rivers with low anthropogenic influences (the Muthirappuzhayar River, that flows along the Southern Western Ghats) may contain microplastic particle levels as high as 0.2 particles per litre. Similar investigations in the Vembanad lake in Kerala as well as the Red Hills lake and Veeranam lake in Tamil Nadu have found microplastic particles in both water and sediment samples.

(Anusha Krishnan writes about new scientific discoveries and based in Bengaluru.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Harmony

Some reports of communal harmony reminds me of what historian and political scientist Howard Zinn says in A People's History of the United States: 'Our future may be found in the past's fugitive moments of compassion rather than in its solid centuries of warfare.' In the now communally tense political atmosphere of India, distorted public conscience is eager to zoom into even small tensions between communities while ignoring to appreciate the many sides of harmonious co-existence. The British ruined that old syncretic culture in order to weaken the fight by Indians against them. And, today, some forces try to use the same colonial narratives to vilify other communities. There is absolutely no doubt that we have to reinforce our culture of compassion rather than a new line of hatred.

Sukumaran, via email

Wildlife crime

There is urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species, which have wide-ranging economic, environmental, and social impacts. According to data from the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of threatened species, over 8,400 species of wild fauna and flora are critically endangered, while close to 30,000 more are understood to be endangered or vulnerable. Based on these estimates, it is suggested that over a million species are threatened with extinction. Over the years, human interference in the world's natural ecosystems, including wildlife hunting and poaching, became more common and, thus the wildlife populations started to decline across the globe. The continued loss of species and habitats is a threat to the very survival of ecosystems. The preservation of the world's wildlife is crucial to the fulfillment of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is time to act and work together to preserve and protect wildlife, ensure their survival, and promote sustainable use by humanity.

Krishna Kumar, via email

Due process

The suspension of Russia from the United Nations Human Rights Council appears to be premature action, as 'due process' has not been strictly followed, as pointed out by India in its 'Explanation of Vote' speech on the resolution. When an independent international commission of inquiry has been already established by the HRC itself to investigate alleged violations and abuses of human rights by Russia in Ukraine, it is inexplicable as to how a precipitate action could be taken against Russia even before the commission has submitted its report. What has allegedly happened in Bucha is highly condemnable and demands strongest action, if the allegations are found to be true. But the commission of inquiry has neither completed its investigation nor submitted a report. Even an oral update by the commission is mandated to be submitted in the HRC's 51st session only. Under these circumstances, the suspension of Russia from the HRC is illegal and premature. This will only lower the stature of the UN body. The US in its eagerness to push Russia into a corner should not initiate hasty actions that could make the UN and its various bodies irrelevant in the long run.

Kosaraju, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Monica@TrulyMonica

Today I met a Muslim Cab Driver. After talking about Ramzan and his Roza, I asked what's his take on 'rising intolerance'. He said, 'An average Muslim's concern just like an average Hindu is his livelihood. It is the big people who play victim cards'. I was stunned by his clarity.

Shubhrata@shubhrata_p

I often provide peer support to people who are struggling with mental health issues, esp #depression. A common thread running thru all such conversations is the gaslighting done by family members and society, to the extent that one begins to doubt one's own distress.



Disha@disharavii

You don't need to know everything about the environment to know that Sadhguru's save soil movement is shady. A man who has been grabbing land from adivasis and has his foundation on forest land has little interest in saving soil. A google search would have told you as much.

Sumit@Sumitkadel

The main problem with most of the hindi event films is that 40-50 percent of the entire budget are spent on Actors & Director Fee.. Thats the reason in most of these films we cant see the huge budget on screen.. Industry must think about it- Quality shouldn't be compromised at any cost.



canniiking@cuttingchai_v2
Chandigarh has the loveliest trees!



Aishwarya@whosthatmiss

My younger sister was a board topper, I wasn't. My younger sister went to IIM, I didn't. And looking at her salary, let me tell you confidently that do not believe this! Badges, marks, and exams don't matter only if you are rich or lucky. Now go study!

Rhitam@TheChaiDude

We don't need more gatekeepers. Let this be a free market place of ideas and see which idea thrives and survives. Arbitrary moderation doesn't promote competitive spaces. Only in competitive spaces can better ideas emerge.

BRIEF

Grow

■ Indore: Software export from four IT special economic zones, including those of TCS and Infosys, here climbed to Rs 1,761.19 crore in the last fiscal, registering around 52 per cent growth following a surge in demand in IT services. The four IT SEZs accounted for Rs 1,161.40 crore of exports in 2020-21, an official of the Central Commercial and Industries Ministry said on Saturday. He said that software exports from TCS SEZ rose to Rs 867.35 crore, registering a growth of around 60 per cent in the last fiscal. Software exports of Infosys SEZ rose by 96 per cent to Rs 137.72 crore while that of Impetus SEZ by 64 per cent to Rs 159 crores during 2021-22.

IPO

■ New Delhi: Keynes Technology India Limited (KTIL), an end-to-end and IoT solutions enabled integrated electronics manufacturing player, has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO consists of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating to Rs 650 crore, and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 7.2 crore equity shares by a promoter and an existing shareholder, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). The OFS comprises sale of up to 37 lakh equity shares by promoter Ramesh Kunhikannan and up to 35 lakh equity shares by existing shareholder Freny Firoze Irani.

Certify

■ New Delhi: Tech Mahindra announced a collaboration with Keysight Technologies to certify 5G vendors' equipment at its O-RAN (open radio access network) lab in New Jersey, the US. Put simply, Open RAN or open radio access network architecture is industry terminology for interoperability and standardisation of radio access network elements, including products and software from various vendors. Tech Mahindra has announced a collaboration with Keysight Technologies to certify 5G equipment of open radio access network (O-RAN) in Tech Mahindra's 5G O-RAN test lab facility located in New Jersey, US, the company said.

Returns

■ Mumbai: Inflection Point Ventures (IPV), which is a collective of over 6,600 angel investors/HNIs and family offices, and is among the largest domestic angel investment platforms for startups, has returned 190 per cent IRR (internal rate of returns) in 2021 on the 13 exits it made in the year and is planning to exit over 10 more this year. The New Delhi-based IPV, founded in 2018 by Vinay Bansal, Ankur Mittal and Mitesh Shah, has already made three partial exits till March and remains invested in close to 100 startups worth Rs 356 crore, and will add at least 50 more investee companies this fiscal.

Fuel sales fall in April on high prices

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

India's fuel sales fell in the first half of April as a record rise in prices in a short 16-day period dented demand, preliminary industry data showed on Saturday. Petrol sales fell almost 10 per cent in the first half of April when compared with the same period in the preceding month, while diesel demand slid 15.6 per cent.

Even cooking gas LPG, which had consistently shown growth even during the pandemic period, saw a 1.7 per cent month-on-month fall in consumption during April 1-15. State-owned oil firms on March 22 ended a 137-day hiatus in rate revision and began passing on a USD 30 per barrel increase in cost of raw material (crude oil) during that period when five states including Uttar Pradesh went to polls.

Petrol and diesel prices rose by Rs 10 per litre between March 22 and April 6 -- the highest ever in-



crease during a 16-day period since fuel prices were deregulated two decades back. On March 22, cooking gas prices too were hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder to Rs 949.50 -- the highest-ever rate for the subsidised fuel. Jet fuel prices too climbed to the highest-ever Rs 1,13,202.33 per kilolitre, resulting in a 20.5 per cent fall in sales month-on-month. In the first two weeks of March, dealers as well as the public topped up their tanks in

anticipation of an increase in prices that had been on hold in the run-up to the elections in states like Uttar Pradesh.

While daily price revisions restarted on March 22, the increases were calibrated. The price increases moderated the consumption. Petrol sales by state-owned fuel retailers, which control roughly 90 per cent of the market, at 1.12 million tonnes during April 1-15 were nearly 12.1 per cent higher than the

same period last year and 19.6 per cent higher than the period in 2019, preliminary industry data showed.

The consumption was, however, 9.7 per cent lower than the 1.24 million tonnes sales in the same period in March 2022. Diesel, the most-used fuel in the country, saw sales jumping 7.4 per cent year-on-year to almost 3 million tonnes. This was 4.8 per cent higher than sales in March 2019, but 15.6 per cent lower than 3.53 million tonnes consumption during March 1-15.

Petrol and diesel sales had risen 18 per cent and 23.7 per cent respectively in the first half of March when most of the hoarding on price hike expectations took place. Diesel sales during March were the most in any month in the last two years and more than the total volume of diesel sold in April 2020 when the country was under a complete lockdown.

HDFC Bank standalone net profit jumps 23%

■ To Rs 10,055 cr in Q4

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 22.8 per cent jump in its standalone net profit at Rs 10,055.2 crore for the quarter ended March 2022.

The country's largest private sector lender had posted a net profit of Rs 8,186.50 crore in the corresponding fourth quarter of the previous fiscal.

"After providing Rs 2,989.5 crore for taxation, the bank earned a net profit of Rs 10,055.20 crore, an increase of 22.8 per cent over the quarter ended March 31, 2021," HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing. Total



income (standalone) rose to Rs 41,085.78 crore during Q4 FY22 as against Rs 38,017.50 crore in the year-ago period. Net revenues (net interest income plus other income) increased by 7.3 per cent to Rs 26,509.80 crore for the quarter ended March, from Rs 24,714.10 crore earlier, it said.

The net interest income (interest earned minus interest expended) for the reported quarter grew by 10.2 per cent from a year ago to Rs 18,872.70 crore.

Debt recovery via insolvency cases at 31%

■ 47% cases liquidated

Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):

Nearly half of the 3,247 insolvency cases have been resolved through liquidation, and only a paltry 457 or 14 per cent of them through asset sale as per their lenders-approved resolution plans, a report said.

Even the various resolution processes have witnessed the recovery of debt of just 31 per cent on an average, said the data from the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India. The data which covers all the cases since the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)



five years ago till December 2021 reflects very slow pace of the process, according to an analysis by Ica Ratings.

Liquidation means lenders or financial firms face the maximum brunt of losses on their books.

Of the Rs 7.52 lakh crore claims made by the creditors on their borrowers, the lenders could realise only Rs 2.5 lakh crore, reflecting the pains of liquidation that lenders were forced to suffer, Ica Ratings said in its analysis.

Govt must revisit mineral policies to accelerate GDP

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

There is an urgent need for mineral sector reforms to accelerate GDP and boost exports, says a book which also suggests that all existing and future "captive mines" may be converted to "merchant mines" enabling to increase supply of minerals and coal to small or medium-sized businesses.

In "Jan Andolan: For Turning Around India", entrepreneur RP Gupta discusses burning issues pertaining to the Indian economy and says Indian businessmen must play a vital role to make the country prosperous and vibrant. He says minerals and primary energy (coal, petroleum and gas) are basic inputs for the devel-



opment of modern industrial economy and India must spend heavily to ensure surplus availability of these mineral resources and reduce import dependency.

"For this, the mineral policies and associated regulations should be facilitated. High royalty, taxation and logistics cost on the basic minerals are misplaced choices. Currently, these are increasing the cost of metals

and power affecting the global competitiveness in most of the manufactured products. For accelerating GDP and boosting exports, India must revisit mineral policies. Eventually, that will generate several direct and indirect jobs," he suggests.

According to Gupta, after 2001, India had witnessed industrial growth of 12-15 per cent which could not sustain due to shortage of minerals and coal.

Excess regulatory controls superseded the facilitation leading to closure of mines and causing further shortage, he says, adding its impact travelled to the entire economy and invited inflation and trade deficit.

"Regulatory phobia was

extended to minor minerals such as sand and stone aggregates. Production was curbed and the artificial shortage was crafted leading to abnormal price hikes. Hence, the construction cost was inflated affecting the Infrastructure projects and construction sector affecting the job growth," he writes.

During 2014-20, lease periods of existing mines were extended. This could avoid disruption of mineral production till 2020 for merchant mines and 2030 for captive mines. Auction system was introduced for granting new mining leases which expedited the process with transparency. But these reforms couldn't give any major push to mineral production, Gupta says.

Govt launches quiz contest to build citizen awareness on schemes

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

MyGov under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is organising 'Sabka Vikas Mahaquiz' series, as part of an outreach and is planning to exit over 10 more this year. The New Delhi-based IPV, founded in 2018 by Vinay Bansal, Ankur Mittal and Mitesh Shah, has already made three partial exits till March and remains invested in close to 100 startups worth Rs 356 crore, and will add at least 50 more investee companies this fiscal.

Massive participation in the quiz series will deepen government engagement at the grassroots level, an official release said. In this context, MyGov has invited the people to participate and test their knowledge of 'New India'.

The quiz can be played on <http://mygov.in/mahaquiz>, the release added.



Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Announcing the country's biggest-ever quiz 'Sabka Vikas Mahaquiz', the release said the contest was aptly launched on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on April 14, 2022. On the occasion of the launch, Minister for IT and

Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw asked all Indians to participate in this Vikas parv and strengthen citizen engagement.

Minister of State for IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar termed Sabka Vikas Mahaquiz as one of the biggest citizen engagement initiatives of the Government.

The first quiz is on Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

"This quiz is a part of the Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz Series in which different quizzes on various themes will be launched.

April 2022 biz trending higher than April 2019

Chennai, Apr 16 (PTI):

Oriental Hotels Ltd, an associate company of the Indian Hotels Company Ltd and a part of the Taj Group, has recorded profitability for the second consecutive quarter and the business looks positive with April 2022 trending higher than the same period in 2019, a top company official said on Saturday.

Oriental Hotels Ltd on Saturday reported profits at Rs 1.28 crore for the fourth quarter ending March 31, 2022 as compared to a net loss at Rs 4.64 crore registered in the same period the previous year, a company statement said here. Revenues during the quarter under review grew to Rs 68.32 crore from Rs 54.21 crore registered corresponding period last fiscal.

Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) as on March 31, 2022 stood at 13.88 as against 7.30 per cent recorded a year ago.

"The company witnessed significant recovery in February and March 2022 with easing of lockdown restrictions post the Omicron wave in January 2022," Oriental Hotels Ltd, Managing Director and CEO, Pramod Ranjan said.

Govt plans to mandate telecom infra installation inside housing projects

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

The government is planning to mandate installation of telecom infrastructure inside housing projects and premises by making changes in the national building code and model building bye-laws, according to draft Right of Way guidelines issued by the Department of Telecom.

The Department of Telecom (DoT) has come up with the draft Right of Way (RoW) guidelines for establishment of telecommunications infrastructure across the country to amend old norms and fine-tune the rules to suit the requirement of 5G network rollout. Telecom operators will need to install 5G sites closer to the ground as the signals transmitted for the service will move at very high speed but cover shorter distances. Unlike 2G, 3G and 4G, the access points for 5G have to be closer to the devices.

"In-Building Solutions (IBS) for laying cables or installing telecom infrastructure shall be made mandatory inside the housing



projects and premises," the draft RoW guidelines said.

The draft proposes to do away with application fee and compensation for using street furniture like electric poles, traffic lights, billboards etc established by any person or entity over the immovable property of any local or government authority, for installing small cells and optical fibre cable required to connect small cells. The entity rolling out telecom infrastructure "shall not require any permission from the Authority for establishing telecommunications infrastructure over any private property falling under the jurisdiction of the authority," it added.

Olectra launches heavy-duty electric truck trials

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Olectra Greentech Ltd, a part of industrial conglomerate MEIL, said it has begun trials of a 6x4 heavy-duty electric tipper as part of an expansion into the electric truck segment.

"Pioneer and market leader in electric bus manufacturing, Olectra now entered into truck manufacturing and this prototype is built on heavy-duty electric tipper platform," the firm said in a statement. The first of its kind truck in India, Olectra tipper, with a 220-km range on a single charge, is built with a heavy-duty bogie suspension tipper capable of managing gradability of more than 25 per cent (scaling slopes on roads with elevation, and ghat roads). "Olectra Greentech Ltd has successfully begun 6x4 heavy-duty electric



tipper trials" in Hyderabad, it said. The manufacturing will be scaled up in the state-of-the-art facility coming up on the outskirts of Hyderabad soon. Speaking on the occasion, chairman and managing director KV Pradeep said, "Being a pioneer in electric mobility in India, Olectra has now begun heavy-duty tipper trials. This is the first of its kind truck in India. This breakthrough gives us immense pleasure and a moment of pride." "As the fossil fuel costs are skyrocketing, the electric trucks will be a game-changer in the segment.

CommMin eases certain norms under EPCG scheme

■ To promote ease of doing biz

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

The commerce ministry has relaxed various procedures under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme in order to reduce compliance requirements and facilitate ease of doing business.

Under the scheme, imports of capital goods are allowed duty free, subject to an export obligation.

The authorisation holder (or exporter) under the scheme has to export finished goods worth six times of the actual duty saved in value terms in six

EPCG Scheme: Conditions and Requirements



years. The objective of the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme is to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness.

"With a view to enhance ease of doing business and reduce compliance bur-

den, certain provisions of chapter 5 related to the EPCG scheme of the Handbook of procedures (2015-20) are amended for EPCG authorisations issued under Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20)," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade has said in a public notice.

Elon Musk's move to buy Twitter faces roadblocks

Washington, Apr 16 (AFP):

Even for the richest person on the planet, buying Twitter was always going to be a challenge -- a highly complex financial transaction now made even trickier by a defensive "poison pill" move from the platform's board.

Musk's \$43 billion offer lays out the myriad potential pitfalls: possible government approvals, legal as well as regulatory due diligence, negotiations of a final agreement and, of course, how to pay for it all.

Then Twitter's board showed it won't go quietly, saying any acquisition of over 15 per cent of the firm's stock without its OK would trigger a plan to flood the market with shares and



thus make a buyout much harder.

"Your move @elonmusk," tweeted Silicon Valley journalist Kara Swisher.

The offer itself, which Musk said was final, values Twitter at \$54.20 per share -- above the closing price ahead of his bid, but below a high of \$77.06 hit in February of last year. Even with a moderate and inflex-

ible proposal, which could help the board argue for rejection, it's a fraught moment that could end in lawsuits from just about everyone involved.

To succeed in repelling Musk's offer, the Twitter board will need to be on solid ground making an argument that the company is worth more, said Wharton School finance professor

Kevin Kaiser. Shareholders who feel that the board is rejecting a profitable deal will be free to file lawsuits against Twitter.

Musk has the option of sidestepping the board and trying to buy shares directly from shareholders on the market, but that could lead to tedious negotiations with some stock owners holding out for more money.

"The Twitter board has limited ability under Delaware law to stop a tender offer made directly to the shareholders, which Elon Musk hasn't done, but which he could do if he chose to," Kaiser said. "If he does this, and if the shareholders elect to tender their shares, then he can succeed without needing board support or approval."

'Antim' premiers on & pictures today

Massive fan acclaim and a record-breaking box office success - 'Antim: The Final Truth,' with its powerful performance went on to become one of the biggest blockbusters of 2021! 'Antim' brings two protagonists, Rajveer and Rahulya from two entirely divergent worlds and ideologies in a face-off, leading to a ravaging and a nail-biting finale. Get ready to witness this battle of a lifetime with the & pictures premiere of Antim on 17th April at 8pm. Unlike the swagger cop avatar of Salman Khan, Antim breaks away from this image



and brings forth a turban-clad Sikh cop, Rajveer Singh who is calm and full-on dhamakedar at the same

time. Contrasting his persona, the film brings out a villain, Rahulya that stands on moral grey ground inflicting

terror over the town. Thus begins the epic face-off between Hindustan ka Bhai, Salman Khan and Pune

ka Bhai, Rahulya (Aayush Sharma) to establish their stance. Full on entertainment is guaranteed with the ground-breaking action sequences, riveting drama and unconventional camaraderie between Rajveer and Rahulya. Directed by Mahesh Manjrekar, the film features a stellar cast with Salman Khan and Aayush Sharma battling it out on screen along with Sachin Khedekar, Upendra Limaye and debutante Mahima Makwana in the pivotal roles.

To find out, catch & pictures premiere of Antim on 17th April at 8 pm.

Bollywood actress and judge Sonali Bendre was left stunned looking at 'DID L'il Masters 5' contestants Sadiya Parveen and Vartika's performance on 'Do you love me'.

She mentioned how she felt grateful that she is still alive today and is able to witness such a great act.

Sonali said: "I have come back on a reality show after 4 years, and I am so happy that I took this decision. In fact, when I look back, I am so glad that I am still alive today and I get to witness such amazing performances." "I was so stunned by the act that I even forgot to clap. It was phenomenal. Vartika's choreography was just outstanding. I could've never imagined this song being performed in such a different way. Sadiya also matched up to Vartika's level and the whole act was just a treat to the eyes. I am extremely stunned by this performance," she added. The dance reality show judged by Sonali Bendre, Mouni Roy and Remo D'Souza airs on Zee TV.



I'm so glad to be alive and witness such amazing performances: Sonali Bendre

Bindu Madhavi starrer 'Naga' goes on floors

Director Charles's next film 'Naga', featuring actress Bindu Madhavi in the lead, began production on Saturday with a simple pooja.

The film, which is being produced on a huge budget, will have Bindu Madhavi playing a devotee of Manasa Devi Naga Amman, a goddess who is known to protect the dignity of women. Producer K Murugan, who is known for having produced films like 'Adithadi', 'Kusthi', and 'Bhaskar the Rascal', is producing this film under the banner of M S Movies. Bindu Madhavi, who is now an inmate of the Telugu reality show Bigg Boss, will join the sets of 'Naga' once she gets out of the Bigg Boss House. Apart from Bindu Madhavi, the film will also feature actress Raiza Wilson and actor Srikanth, who plays an archaeologist. The pooja of the film, which happened on Saturday, was attended by the cast and crew of the film. Sources say that the shoot of the film will commence on April 27 in Pondicherry. Following this, the shoot will happen in Hampi and on the seashores of Kerala for 55 days. Sources close to the unit of the film say that the film is about how a goddess descends on earth to slay a depraved man who has ruined the lives of thousands of women. Director Charles, known for his films 'Nanjapuram' and 'Alagu Kutty Chellam', will be directing this fantasy story on a lavish budget. Sources hint that a sum of Rs three crores has been allotted just for graphics alone. Music for the film will be by Vishal Chandrasekar and cinematography will be by S.R. Sathishkumar.



Tiger Shroff showers gifts on 'Warrior Squad'

Sony Entertainment Television's much loved talent reality show, India's Got Talent will finally have this season's winner on 17th April, 2022. Making the Grand Finale a memorable affair, the cast of Heropanti 2 - Tiger Shroff, Tara Sutaria and Nawazuddin Siddiqui will not only be seen promoting their film but also motivate the Top 7 finalists! In a grand gesture of sorts, Gurugram's Warrior Squad will be in for a huge surprise as Tiger Shroff gifts the group not only his studio but also his trainers!

Talking about their amazing gift, the Warrior Squad who feel extremely grateful shared, "Thank you is a very small word and what Tiger Sir has done for us, is huge!" They spoke about how

they did not have access to any trainers with them for their stunts and performed sheerly depending upon social media videos. The Squad spoke about how grateful they were when they received an opportunity to be trained in Tiger Shroff's studio. Tiger also responded to their gratitude saying, "I am very thankful because you are

going to represent India and asli Heropanti aapne hi dikhayi hai (you've shown what real Heropanti is)! I think going ahead, you are already winners and you will surely win and come back home." Tune in to the Grand Finale of India's Got Talent this Sunday at 8:30 pm on Sony Entertainment Television.

Sukhwinder launches 'Shri Hanuman Chalisa'



National Awardee singer of Bollywood Sukhwinder Singh, is bringing the biggest gift for the devotees of Lord Ram. Yes, through Shri Hanuman Chalisa, Sukhwinder Singh will present this priceless gift at the feet of Lord Shri Ram.

Sukhwinder Singh who has composed and sung

the song shared "I have always been a devotee of Lord Shri Hanumanji and had a vision of an unique sound for the power mantra. With the blessings of Lord Shri Hanumanji, my dream has come true. And now to be able to get Shri Ramjis blessings at the most auspicious Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Mandir is the biggest blessing. I would like every devotee of Shri Hanumanji to sing this song with me."

The music video is first of kind combination of Live Action and Animation / VFX has been conceptualized and designed by Chirag Chandrakant Bhuva and Shambhu J Singh. Directed by Rajeev Khandewal. Choreographer is Lollipop, DOP is Santosh Damodar Detke. Bhavin C Bhuv is its editor and VFX is provided by Raj VFX (P)Ltd.

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Ishaan Khatter, Mrunal Thakur wrap up the shoot of 'Pippa'



Bollywood actors Ishaan Khatter and Mrunal Thakur wrapped up the shoot of their upcoming war drama 'Pippa' on Friday after shooting it across multiple locations of Nasik, Pune, Mumbai and a few districts of West Bengal.

The film's team threw a wrap-up party which was attended by producers Ronnie Screwvala, Siddharth Roy Kapur, director Raja Menon, the leads Ishaan and Mrunal. The celebrations were brought in with a cake cutting ceremony.

The film is based on the book, 'The Burning

Chaffees' written by Brigadier Balram Singh Mehta. Directed by Raja Krishna Menon, the war drama presents the Indo-Pak war of 1971 that led to the liberation of Bangladesh. Ishaan Khatter will be seen essaying the role of the young Brigadier Balram Singh Mehta, who was instrumental in India winning the war.

Produced by RSVP and Roy Kapur Films, directed by Raja Krishna Menon and with music by A R Rahman, 'Pippa' also stars Priyanshu Painyuli and Soni Razdan. The war drama will debut in theatres on December 9, 2022.

HOROSCOPE SUNDAY APRIL 17

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

This is bound to be a wonderful day, Aquarius. You're looking and feeling great and it shows! This is a day of kindness and cooperation. You could find that your family pitches in to help at home without being asked. Your romantic partner might volunteer to clean out the garage and your children start to clean their rooms.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

This is a good day for you to analyze information, Pisces. You have an especially acute business sense, which you should use to your advantage. Whether you're thinking of translating a creative project into a business proposal or working on that business plan, all indications say that your efforts will yield rich rewards.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

You have a strong spirit of cooperation today, Gemini. It inspires you to pitch in and help others without being asked. Your romantic partner could be surprised to see you show up and help with a chore. Never mind that you don't know what you're doing - you'll figure it out.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Keep your eyes and ears open to all new possibilities, Cancer. Even if it isn't your habit to read the "Help Wanted" section of the newspaper, do so today. You might be surprised at what you find there. Your skills apply to all sorts of jobs. You don't need to limit your search to one profession.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

You have much to be grateful for, Libra. Why not go out tonight and celebrate today, Gemini. It inspires you to pitch in and help others without being asked. Your romantic partner could be surprised to see you show up and help with a chore. Never mind that you don't know what you're doing - you'll figure it out.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

You're eager and optimistic today, Scorpio, which works well with your strong, capable nature. You're likely to find that things begin to click into place at work. Something that has been troubling you for some time suddenly becomes clear. What was once a stumbling block is now a mere bump in the road and easily overcome.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

You're a conscientious, hard worker, Aries, but today your thoughts are more on home than work. You feel especially close to your family and friends. They mean the most to you. Jobs and even careers come and go, but friends and family are forever. Enjoy being with them today.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Today your strong sense of nostalgia likely has you leaning toward all things old. If you do some furniture shopping, you'll be drawn to antique shops rather than contemporary stores. There is something about the patina that only comes with age.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

Today should be devoted to paperwork and getting your financial affairs and budgets in order, Sagittarius. Once this is done, you can relax in the evening with friends and loved ones. You're especially intuitive right now, so you'll be able to pick up on all the unspoken thoughts and feelings of those around you.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Today is likely to be another busy one for you, Taurus. You might have a volunteer activity in the morning and then get roped into running errands in the afternoon. It will be busy bordering on hectic, but the hustle and bustle of being out and about is energizing for you.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

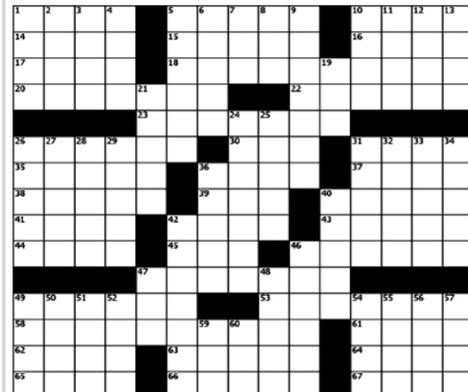
This is bound to be a wonderful day, Virgo, as everybody seems to be in a warm and congenial mood. You and your romantic partner, in particular, are feeling especially close and connected today. If marriage is the process of falling in and out of love, then you're both definitely in the "in" phase.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

All financial undertakings have good aspects today, Capricorn. It could be that you have been thinking of starting a new business venture. If so, you're likely to meet the ideal business partner. Keep your eyes and ears tuned as you go about your daily routine. You never know when you might be introduced to that one special person you need in your life.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- Tennis strokes
- Designated
- Pass over
- Bright thought
- Wipe away
- Gambling game
- Skyrocket
- Having a backbone
- Silversmith, e.g.
- Keyboard instruments

DOWN

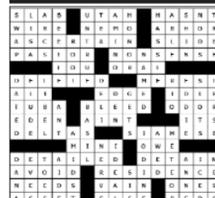
- Modified
- Mouth liquid
- Cruces
- Netting
- Hoisting machine
- Enthralled
- Wheel shaft
- More mature
- Crack pilot
- Slow mover
- Consumer
- "The Lion King" villain

- Author Oscar
- Leather strap
- Permit
- Straighten up
- Predict
- Soul
- Food provider
- Type of paint
- Zip
- Matured
- In the know
- Air
- Movie fish
- Marry again
- Pub beverages

DOWN

- Kudrow of "Friends"
- Scent
- Defeat
- Mumbai dress
- Las Vegas's state
- Fight site
- Spoil
- OH time zone
- Least shallow
- Gumbo ingredient
- Nasty
- Fascinated by
- Foot digits
- Auction offer
- Screen
- Appease
- Thin candle
- Clean thoroughly
- Get up

SOLUTION 271



Rahul ton, Avesh three-for as MI lose six in six

Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):

Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul made batting look like a walk in the park with a 56-ball century in his 100th IPL game to put five-time champions Mumbai Indians all but out of the league with an 18-run win on Saturday.

Rahul's unbeaten 60-ball 103, his third three-figure mark across all editions of IPL, propelled Lucknow to a commanding score of 199 for four and then his bowlers joined the party to restrict MI to 181 for nine in 20 overs.

With six consecutive defeats, the tournament is as good as over for the league's most popular team, even before it has reached the halfway stage.

Rohit Sharma's (6) nightmare of a tournament continued while Ishan Kishan (13 off 17 balls) is certainly feeling the pressure of the Rs 15.25 crore price tag as he played on a Marcus Stoinis delivery and displayed his frustration by smashing the foam-based boundary rope.

In between, Dewald Breviss (31 off 13 balls) hit some breathtaking shots before another find of the season, NT Tilak Varma (26 off 26 balls), and the ever dependable Suryakumar Yadav (37 off 27 balls) added 64 runs to resurrect the innings.

Once Jason Holder yanked Tilak, the match as a contest was over with Surya not getting the required support from other batters, although Kieron Pollard (25 off 14 balls) threw his bat



around in a losing cause. Surya's dismissal, after he failed to dispatch a Ravi Bishnoi long-hop, was the

Chameera (1/48 in 4 overs) got good support from medium pacers Holder (1/34 in 4 overs) and Stoinis (1/13 in 2 overs).

Lucknow have four wins from six games while MI have lost a dozen games on the trot for the first time in 15 editions of IPL.

With the kind of team they have assembled, it will only get worse from hereon as there is no plan B, and more importantly, the players to execute the plan.

For Rahul, both as a batter and skipper, the IPL is proving to be the platform which he desperately needed to enhance his captaincy credentials as far as the national team is concerned.

On way to his hundred, he added 52 for the opening stand with Quinton de Kock (24 off 13 balls), 72 with Manish Pandey (38 off 29 balls), and another brisk 43 runs with Deepak Hooda (15 off 8 balls) for the fourth wicket.

MI's fielding was perhaps their worst in the past four to five seasons and it didn't help matters that Rahul was in imperious form to make full use of it.

Bereft of credible options in the dug-out, it was only natural that the tournament's most successful skipper, Rohit Sharma looked clearly out of ideas and his play of playing an extra spinner in left-arm orthodox Fabian Allen (1/46 in 4 overs) didn't quite work out.

Jasprit Bumrah (0/24 in 4 overs) is manfully carrying the burden but one man can't save the team from the disaster that this season has

turned out to be.

Otherwise why would the MI skipper start with part-time off-spinner Tilak Varma, knowing that the Lucknow captain is a master player of slow bowlers.

The six powerplay overs saw six different bowlers being used and de Kock should blame himself for wasting an opportunity to score a big one on a track that resembled a shirtfront.

There were too many short balls for Rahul to play the cuts and pulls at will and also the slog sweep, and not to forget some delectable drives when anything was pitched up.

Twenty fours and seven sixes were testimony to MI's plight and the likes of Tymal Mills (0/54 in 3 overs), Jaydev Unadkat (2/32 in 4 overs) and Murugan Ashwin (1/33 in 4 overs) tried their best but could not succeed.

Sample this: Ashwin bowled a decent googly and Stoinis hit him for the biggest sixes. Allen bowled a wicket-to-wicket delivery and was swept behind square for a six by Rahul.

Between overs 13 to 16, Rahul and company added 60 runs and it didn't help their cause that MI have had one of the worst days in the outfield, not being able to cut the boundaries even after getting hold of the ball. Not having a Trent Boult, Krunal Pandya or a Rahul Chahar is hurting MI badly and getting as many as 16 middle-of-the-road players for just 18 crore hasn't proved to be a wise business decision so far.

Shastri backs RCB to make playoffs



Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):

Former India coach Ravi Shastri is backing Royal Challengers Bangalore to make the playoffs of the ongoing IPL, having played some good cricket under new skipper Faf du Plessis.

After kicking off their campaign with a loss to Punjab Kings, three-time runners-up RCB bounced back to defeat Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals.

"I believe we will see a new champion this season. Royal Challengers Bangalore are on a roll in this IPL and they are definitely going to make it to the playoffs," Shastri told Star Sports.

"They are getting hotter and hotter as the tournament is progressing. They are looking in a good space. They are getting better and better with every game."

Shastri further said the team's new captain Du Plessis, former skipper Virat Kohli and all-rounder Glenn Maxwell are going to play an important role this season.

"Virat has been doing well, Glenn Maxwell is back with the side, and we all know how destructive he can be with the bat."

"He's capable of taking the spinners to the cleaners and will be important from RCB's perspective as the tournament progresses. And then, Faf being their leader is a big bonus for them," Shastri added.

CSK take on GT in clash of new captains



Pune, Apr 16 (PTI):

It will be a test of wits between two new captains in Ravindra Jadeja and Hardik Pandya when defending champions Chennai Super Kings clash with debutants Gujarat Titans in an IPL game here on Sunday.

Known for their all-round skills, both Jadeja and Pandya have served Indian cricket well and the duo will be engaged in a battle of tactical supremacy on Sunday with both teams looking to continue their momentum after wins in their previous matches.

While Jadeja was elevated to the captaincy role by CSK, Pandya was roped in as the leader of the Titans after Mumbai Indians didn't retain the gifted all-rounder as he struggled with his fitness.

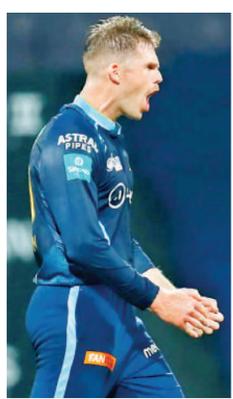
Pandya has given the newcomers a rollicking start with four wins in five games. The Titans are headed into the match after bouncing back from their only loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad with a 37-run win over Rajasthan Royals on Thursday. Jadeja, on the

other hand, has endured a tough initial phase with the team losing their first four matches before opening account with a 23-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Bowling has been a major concern for CSK but the former champions produced a better show against RCB with the spin duo of Maheesh Theekshana and skipper Jadeja running riot with seven wickets between them in their last match.

But pacer Mukesh Choudhary has not been able to rise to the occasion in the absence of CSK's main weapon Deepak Chahar, who has been ruled out of the IPL due to a back injury. Chris Jordan and Wayne Bravo have done well overall to keep things in check even though the latter was taken for runs in the last match. The Titans, however, boast of a formidable bowling line-up with New Zealand speedster Lockie Ferguson (8 wickets), India quick Mohammed Shami (7) and Pandya (4) himself all capable of taking wickets and putting the opposition under the pump.

Hardik's relaxed attitude and performance infused energy into group: Ferguson



New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Skipper Hardik Pandya's philosophy of playing "not just to win" but "to entertain" has infused energy and life into Gujarat Titans' stellar campaign so far in IPL-15, feels pace spearhead Lockie Ferguson.

The New Zealand speed merchant has been one of the pillars for Titans in their debut season with eight wickets from five games including two match-turning performances. When asked how the new skipper has measured up with his leadership skills, Ferguson was generous in his praise. "Hardik has a pretty relaxed approach towards game of cricket and he plays the game to entertain people as much as to win the game. I think that kind of attitude breathes energy and life into the group, and of course, he is leading with his performances which counts for a lot," Ferguson told PTI in an exclusive interview. The New Zealand speedster is comfortable around the leadership group which has helped the team win four out of its first five games.

Sunrisers Hyderabad eye fourth win on the trot, run into Punjab Kings

Navi Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):

A resurgent Sunrisers Hyderabad would look to extend their three-match winning streak but have their task cut out against Punjab Kings, when the two sides square off in an IPL game here on Sunday.

Among a bunch of teams on six points each, both SRH and PBKS will go all out to snap the two crucial points to nose ahead in the race for play-offs.

Sunrisers began their campaign with two defeats but bounced back with three successive wins -- against Chennai Super Kings, Gujarat Titans and Kolkata Knight Riders -- and look good for more, going by the trend of their improving performance.

Punjab Kings had a morale-boosting 12-run win over Mumbai Indians in their last outing and the Sunrisers would certainly



know that the Mayank Agarwal-led side, who are in the third spot, would be a tough team to beat.

All the three wins for the Sunrisers came while chasing and they have found a new hero each time.

Openers Abhishek Sharma and skipper Kane Williamson, after playing match-winning knocks

against CSK and Gujarat Titans respectively, had a failure against KKR.

But with a wide range of shots at his disposal, left-handed Sharma would be aiming to give an aggressive start.

After getting the starts, Rahul Tripathi's moment of glory came against KKR when he struck a 37-ball 71

and ditto for Aiden Markram, whose 36-ball unbeaten 68 helped the team go over the line.

With the swashbuckling Nicholas Pooran, who can be brutal when in full flow, in their ranks, the Sunrisers can set or chase down a big total. Rahul, Pooran and Markram will have to once again shoulder responsibility in the middle-order.

But they are up against a strong and varied Punjab attack led by South African speedster Kagiso Rabada, who has been right on the money. Rabada would, however, need support from Vaibhav Arora, who bled 43 runs against Mumbai Indians, and the fast improving Arshdeep Singh.

The weakest link in the Punjab attack is probably spinner Rahul Chahar, who was taken to task in the last game, where he leaked 44 runs.

Stokes is obvious choice to lead England Test team: Former captains

London, Apr 16 (PTI):

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes has a "smart cricket brain" and is the "obvious" choice to take over as England Test captain following the exit of Joe Root, according to former captains Michael Vaughan and Nasser Hussain.

Root on Friday stepped down from captaincy, ending his five-year tenure after facing criticism following England's 0-4 Ashes defeat against Australia and 0-1 series loss to West Indies.

"I don't see anyone else who could take the position and be guaranteed of their place in the side," Vaughan told the BBC.

"In Ben Stokes, you have clearly got someone who has got a smart cricket brain, he's going to give it everything, he is certainly going to have the respect of



the players around him." Hussain, who led England from 1999-2003, also backed Stokes to take over as Test captain.

"For me the obvious candidate is Ben Stokes. (He) Stokes has done some phenomenal things as a cricketer and has a very smart cricket brain. He showed that in World Cup final, he showed that at Headingley...He showed that when he's taken over occasionally from Joe Root," Hussain was quoted as saying in skysports.com.

Sajan Prakash strikes gold, Vedaant Madhavan clinches silver

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Top Indian swimmer Sajan Prakash began his season on a winning note by clinching the men's 200m butterfly gold at the Danish Open swimming meet in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Competing in his first international meet this year, Prakash stopped the clock at 1:59.27 to stand atop the podium on Friday night.

Earlier, the Kerala swimmer, who trains in Dubai under coach Pradeep Kumar, had clocked 2:03.67 in the heats to qualify for the 'A' final.

However, Friday's performance was not even close to the 28-year-old's personal best timing of 1:56:38 that came last year in Rome, when Prakash became the first Indian swimmer to breach the Olympic 'A' standard



time. "We have some competitions coming up this month. It (Denmark Open) is a preparation meet, we will slowly try to peak towards the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, Prakash, a two-time Olympian, told PTI. Teenager Vedaant Madhavan's also began on a positive note as he improved his personal best time to bag the silver medal in the men's 1500m freestyle event.

Vedaant, son of Indian actor R Madhavan, clocked 15:57.86 to finish second in the 10-swimmer final.

Santosh Trophy

West Bengal narrowly beat Punjab in Santosh Trophy Opener

Malappuram, Apr 16 (PTI):

West Bengal kicked off their campaign in the Santosh Trophy with a narrow 1-0 victory over Punjab in the opening game of the national football championships here on Saturday.

The tournament's two most successful teams showed attacking intent right from the start, seeking to grab all three points from the Group A match.

The chances flowed at both ends fairly quickly. In the eighth minute, West Bengal goalkeeper Priyant Kumar Singh made a fine save off a Jashandeep Singh free kick. The rebound was too quick for Amarpreet Singh to capitalize as the ball rolled wide. Punjab had not conceded a single goal through their qualifying campaign,



but against West Bengal, they faced their stiffest test, conceding possession often in the first half, and goalkeeper Harpreet Singh was called into action several times.

In the 20th minute, Harpreet made his first real save of the game, parrying Basu Deb Mandi's long range swerving shot to safety. And yet, it was Punjab who could have gone into the break with the lead. A long ball from

the deep was misjudged by Bengal captain Monotosh Chakladar, and the ball fell to Tarun Slathia a few yards outside the box. Slathia collected neatly and charged in, with only goalkeeper Priyant to beat, but dragged his shot wide.

West Bengal took control of the proceedings more forcefully in the second half, holding possession for longer periods and stitching neater passes in midfield.

New Zealand, England to tour Pakistan over next 12 months

Karachi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Pakistan will host five men's and women's teams over the next 12 months as PCB announced the international calendar on Friday. The Pakistan men's team is scheduled to play seven Tests, 17 ODIs and a minimum of 25 T20Is in the next 12 months while the women's team participate in the ICC Women's Championship, ICC U19 and T20 World Cups and B i r m i n g h a m Commonwealth Games.

The PCB confirmed that West Indies, England and New Zealand men's sides will tour Pakistan twice each in the next 12 months while Sri Lanka and Ireland women will visit Pakistan in May/June and October/November. New Zealand and England had withdrawn from Pakistan tours last year.

Ishan Kishan not worth blowing nearly your whole salary on: Watson tells MI

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Former Australia all-rounder and current Delhi Capitals assistant coach Shane Watson has slammed Mumbai Indians for spending over Rs 15 crore on Ishan Kishan in the IPL auction, saying the talented opener was "not worth blowing nearly your whole salary on".

Watson also criticised MI for buying injured Jofra Archer for a huge sum.

Winless so far in five matches, MI has been struggling to put together a winning combination after they spent Rs 15.25 crore to get Ishan and Rs 8 crore to buy Jofra Archer, who is still recovering from elbow surgery.

The five-time champions had retained Rohit



Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav and Kieron Pollard. "It hasn't surprised me that Mumbai Indians are at the bottom of the table because they had a shocking auction," Watson said during a conversation in 'The Grade Cricketer' podcast. "Spending so much money on Ishan Kishan...He is a very talented and skillful player, but he's not worth blowing nearly your whole salary on."

KARAGA FEST



Devotees gather at the Dharamraya Swamy temple during the celebration of Karaga festival, in Bengaluru, Saturday.

Gradual rise in Covid cases in Delhi

District officials increase surveillance

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

With an uptick in Covid cases here, district authorities have intensified surveillance and are on alert mode for early detection and containment of people infected with the disease.

Some districts have also planned awareness campaigns from next week.

The daily Covid cases and the positivity rate in the national capital have seen an upward trend in the last few days.

The positivity rate in the last five days, between April 10 and April 15, has increased by three times, according to city health department data.

The positivity rate on April 10 was 1.29 per cent with 141 cases, and this rose to 3.95 per cent on Friday with 366 cases.

Surveillance teams are active, on alert mode and are monitoring the situation, a senior official of the South District administration said.

"Our surveillance is on. We are focusing more on testing and contact tracing. Symptomatic people are being tested. Contact tracing and surveillance was never stopped and now we are putting more emphasis on it," the official told PTI.

The official said that the district administration will further enhance containment strategies and ensure strict enforcement of Covid-appropriate behaviour, including wearing of masks, if suggested by the DDMA in its April 20 meeting.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) will meet on

April 20 to discuss the rise in Covid cases and also decide upon reimposing the penalty on not wearing face mask.

The health department in its order on April 2 had said that fine will not be imposed on not wearing of face mask at public places.

Some district have shown an upward trend in the number of Covid cases in last couple of days.

Government figures show that the highest number of Covid cases (81) on April 14 was reported in the South District while on April 13, this number was 44.

On April 14, the number of cases in the Southeast District was 72 while on April 13, it was 53.

Lowest number of Covid cases was reported

on April 14 in the Northeast, the North and the Central districts with one, six and nine patients respectively.

A southeast district administration official said that all necessary measures are being taken to contain the virus' spread and an awareness campaign will begin in the region from Monday.

He said that the current uptick in Covid cases may also be because many people have stopped using masks at public places after the penalty was lifted.

Our awareness campaigns will be started from Monday onwards. In the campaign we will appeal people to wear masks and follow social distancing. We are keeping a close vigil on the situation," the official said.

Khargone peaceful on Hanuman Jayanti, curfew relaxed for 4 hrs

CM assures help for victims of damaged houses

Khargone, Apr 16 (PTI):

On Hanuman Jayanti, temples of Lord Hanuman remained closed in riot-hit Khargone where curfew was relaxed for four hours at two intervals on Saturday even as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan assured the government's help in building and repairing some houses damaged during communal clashes last week.

This was the third straight day when the cur-

few, which was clamped on Ram Navami following violence on April 10, was relaxed in the entire Khargone city for two hours twice from 10 AM to 12 and 3 PM to 5 PM, officials said. Ram Navami celebrations were marred due to incidents of arson and stone-pelting on Sunday. Police have arrested 148 people so far in connection with the violence. "Khargone is peaceful now", Chouhan told reporters in Bhopal.

He said the state government will extend full support in building the ten houses damaged completely by rioters in Khargone. The government will also help in repairing 70 houses

damaged partially in that city, he said. The injured persons are being provided free treatment and steps are being taken to ensure that they do not face any hardship, the chief minister said. The state government will extend all the support to the people who have lost their livelihood to restart their businesses. A list of such persons is being made. So far 16 such people have been identified, Chouhan said. He said damages would be recovered from the rioters.

The government will help the people during the time of crisis. The government is with them, he added. As the curfew was relaxed, people in

Khargone city made brisk purchases. The administration has allowed only shops of milk, vegetables, medicine and grocery to remain open during the curfew relaxation period.

Dinesh Patel, who is in his 40s, said that though the Lord Hanuman's temple located at the post office square and other places in Khargone city remained closed he had a darshan of the deity from an open space between the closed gate. I prayed to Lord Hanuman for lasting peace and harmony in Khargone, he said. The situation is under complete control and peaceful, Collector Anugraha P and Superintendent of Police Rohit Kashwani told PTI.

Oppn leaders express concern over recent communal violence

Question PM's 'silence'

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Leaders of 13 Opposition political parties on Saturday expressed deep concern over the recent incidents of hate speech and communal violence in the country, and urged people to maintain peace and harmony.

In a joint statement, the leaders including Congress president Sonia Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and her Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand counterparts M K Stalin and Hemant Soren, also raised concern over the manner in which issues re-

lating to food, dress, faith, festivals and language "are being used" by the ruling establishment to polarise society.

"We are shocked at the silence of the Prime Minister, who has failed to speak against the words and actions of those who propagate bigotry and those who, by their words and actions, incite and provoke our society.

This silence is an eloquent testimony to the fact that such private armed mobs enjoy the luxury of official patronage," they said in the joint statement.

Reiterating their collective resolve to work together to strengthen the bonds of social harmony that "defined and enriched India for centuries", the

Opposition leaders said, "We reiterate our commitment to combat and confront the poisonous ideologies which are attempting to entrench divisiveness in our society."

"We appeal to all sections of the people to maintain peace and foil the sinister objective of those who wish to sharpen communal polarisation.

We call upon all our party units across the country to independently and jointly work for maintaining peace and harmony," they said in the joint appeal.

Incidents of communal violence were reported from some parts of the country on the occasion of Ram Navami on April 10.

'Khand ropeway accident

Rs 25 lakh compensation to kin of deceased

Ranchi, Apr 16 (PTI): Damodar Ropeways and Infra Ltd on Saturday said it will provide Rs 25 lakh each as compensation to the next of kin of those who died in a recent cable car tragedy in Jharkhand's Deoghar district. Three people lost their lives in the ropeway accident at Trikut Hills, around 20 km from the temple town of Baidyanath Dham.

All other 60 tourists, stranded since 4 pm on April 10, after a ropeway malfunction resulted in trolleys colliding at the hills, were safely evacuated in a 46-hour long rescue operation. The rescue efforts were undertaken by a joint team, comprising personnel of Indian Air Force, Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, National Disaster Response Force, and the district administration.

"The company has decided to provide Rs 25 lakh each as compensation on humanitarian grounds to the family members of those who died in the accident. We have provided cheques to the Deoghar administration for distribution, DRIL general manager Mahesh Mehto told PTI.

The district administration has also sent a file to the state disaster management department to initiate the process for disbursement of ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of the three who lost their lives in the ropeway tragedy, Deoghar sub-divisional officer (SDO) Dinesh Kumar Yadav told PTI.

'CM's communal appeasement reason for recurring murders'

Palakkad (Kerala), Apr 16 (PTI):

As back-to-back political murders of an RSS activist and an SDPI worker here rocked Kerala, the opposition Congress on Saturday came down heavily on the Left government alleging that the increasing number of communal and political murders happening in the state nowadays was a result of communal appeasement being done by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The police force have become mute spectators of violence and murders and people are living under fear as there is no protection for their life and property, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly V D Satheesan said.

Alleging that the southern state has turned into a "goonda corridor" from north to south, he also said communal forces like RSS



V D Satheesan

and SDPI were unleashing violence in the state.

"All these killings are the result of the communal appeasement being done by the Chief Minister in the name of social engineering. The government does not have the power to oppose anyone," he told reporters in Varkala.

The fundamentalist forces from both the minority and the majority communities have infil-

trated into the police force, he further alleged, adding that there was criticism against the home department headed by Vijayan even in the Marxist party's recently concluded district conferences. Meanwhile, reacting to the incident of the RSS man's murder, the BJP alleged that the Social Democratic Party of India, the political offshoot of PFI, was behind the killing of Srinivasan.

Srinivasan, 45, was attacked by a group of assailants at his shop in the heart of Palakkad town.

The incident occurred less than 24 hours after a Popular Front of India (PFI) leader was killed in a village near here. PFI leader Subair, 43, was allegedly hacked to death at Elappully in the district while he was returning home after offering prayers in a mosque on Friday afternoon.

EARTHEN POTS ON SALE



People buy earthen pots used to store cool drinking water, during summer season, at a roadside stall, in Amritsar, Saturday.

'Indian parents prefer to read out to kids books they liked in childhood'

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Many parents in India prefer to read their children books they enjoyed in their own childhood, rather than choosing newer titles, according to a new study by Oxford University Press (OUP).

The survey, which gathered the views of 4,000 parents across India, the UK, Australia, Hong Kong and China, formed part of OUP's second annual 'Gift of Words' campaign, which aims to encourage parents, family, and friends to celebrate and

share the power of language and reading, especially following a second year of disruption to education due to Covid.

In the global study, almost four in 10 (37 per cent) parents said that they did not know how to find out what the latest books are, and almost half (47 per cent) prefer to re-read books to their child, rather than look for something new.

It isn't just parents who favour familiar books: six in 10 (56 per cent) said their children preferred them to revisit the same books at story time, and half (48 per cent) of those

whose children read independently said their children prefer to re-read books to themselves, according to the survey.

The parents surveyed in India reflected a similar sentiment. However, over 70 per cent of these parents preferred reading physical books to their children rather than audio books or websites.

The research also revealed the power of reading in helping young people to make sense of the world around them. More than 75 per cent of parents surveyed in India, see reading to their child as an opportunity to discuss dif-

ficult or sensitive topics with them and 85 per cent look for books that teach their child about wider society or have a meaningful message at their heart.

The top three reasons parents cited for reading to their child were building a love for learning and reading, improving literacy and vocabulary, and developing communication skills.

Seventy eight per cent of parents surveyed in India said that reading to their child helps them to bond and connect, and 83 per cent wished they had more time to read to their child, the survey found.

'Load-shedding unavoidable in Maha'

Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):

Maharashtra was facing a power deficit of 4700 megawatt but agriculture sector consumers have been spared load-shedding, state energy minister Nitin Raut said on Saturday.

The minister said load-shedding had become unavoidable due to shortage of coal and insufficient gas supply.

"However, agriculture users are being provided eight hours electricity during day time and eight hours during the night daily without interruption," the minister said in a statement.



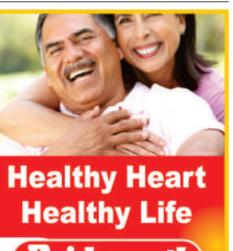
Nitin Raut

Raut said power purchase agreements have been inked with Coastal Gujarat Power Ltd (CGPL) for 760 MW and NTPC for 673 MW per day till June 15, while state-run Mahavitaran is buying

1500-2000 MW from the power exchange.

"The peak demand is 25,144 MW now. The power tariff is Rs 12 per unit. Mahavitaran has entered into power purchase agreements to procure 21,057 MW but only 16,487 MW, which is 78 per cent of demand, is available due to coal shortage," he said.

The Koyna hydroelectric power plant is functioning at full capacity and the permission to use additional 10 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water for generation has been received, the minister informed.



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BRIEF



Mother of Kartik, who was shot in Canadas Toronto on April 7, mourns beside the mortal remains of her son, in Ghaziabad, Saturday.

Greet

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday greeted citizens on the eve of Easter and hoped the festival re-instills sense of unity and reinforces commitment to the well-being and prosperity of the nation. In a message, the president said, "On the auspicious occasion of Easter, I extend my best wishes and heartiest congratulations to all fellow citizens, especially from Christian community, living in India and abroad."

Encounter

Srinagar: An encounter broke out between security forces and militants in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. Acting on specific input about the presence of militants in Watnar area of Kokernag in the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there, a police official said.

Tribute

Srinagar: The Army on Saturday paid floral tributes to three soldiers who died in an accident while on way to an encounter site in Shopian on Thursday. "Army today paid tribute to Subedar Shri Om, Havildar Ramautar and Sepahi Pawan Singh Gurjar, who made the supreme sacrifice on 14 Apr 2022 near Kanipora village of South Kashmir's Shopian district," Srinagar-based defence spokesman Col Emron Musavi said.

Injured

Ambala: Three inmates sustained burn injuries when boiling food released from a pressure cooker fell on them in the Ambala central jail here, police said on Saturday. The incident took place when the inmates were cooking a meal in the prison kitchen on Friday night, they said. Two of them, who suffered serious burn injuries, were referred to the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, police said.

Fire

Lucknow: Ten fire tenders were rushed to a godown here on Saturday when power cables lain inside it in the open caught fire, officials said. It took them three hours to put out the fire completely, they said. Lucknow Chief Fire Officer Vijay Kumar Singh said the reason for the fire is yet to be ascertained. The godown was located in the Kakori Police Station area.

Weather
High 41 Low 26

LOKSABHA, ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

Cong bags Khairagarh assembly bypoll

Rajnandgaon, Apr 16:

The ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh on Saturday won byelection to the Khairagarh assembly constituency in Rajnandgaon district and maintained its winning streak in bypolls in the state. Congress' Yashoda Verma won by a margin of 20,176 votes against her nearest rival Komal Janghel of the BJP, a poll official said here. Verma got 87,879 votes while Janghel secured 67,703 votes, he said. Narendra Soni, the nominee of the Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J), could get only 1,222 votes. Byelection was held on April 12 following the death of incumbent JCC (J) MLA and former MP



Devvrat Singh in November 2021. With the victory, the strength of Congress in the 90-member Assembly went up to 71. The opposition BJP suffered a fourth successive defeat at the hands of Congress in assembly bypolls held after the 2018 elections in the state. Devvrat Singh, who belonged to the erstwhile royal family of Khairagarh, quit Congress in 2017 and joined JCC (J) the next year. He contested the 2018

TMC, Cong, RJD win; BJP draws blank

The Trinamool Congress on Saturday made a clean sweep winning both the Asansol Lok Sabha and the Ballygunge assembly seats in West Bengal while the Congress and the RJD bagged one constituency each in Maharashtra and Bihar in the bypolls to these seats with the BJP drawing a blank. In West Bengal, movie actor-turned politician Shatrughan Sinha of the TMC defeated BJP's Agnimitra Paul by 3,03,209 votes in Asansol. Supriyo, who was nominated by the TMC from the prestigious Ballygunge assembly constituency, defeated CPI(M)'s Saira Shah Halim by a margin of 20,228 votes. BJP's Keya Ghosh managed to bag just 13,220 votes. In a boost to the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) combine in Maharashtra, the Congress won the bypoll to the Kolhapur North assembly constituency, retaining the seat by defeating the BJP by a margin of over 18,000 votes.

assembly polls on JCC(J) ticket and defeated BJP candidate Komal Janghel by a thin margin of 870 votes. In 2018, Congress swept the elections winning 68 out of 90 seats while the BJP won 15. The JCC (J) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) contested the poll in alliance and bagged five and two seats, respectively. In 2019, Congress won bypolls to Dantewada (won by the BJP in 2018) and Chitrakot assembly constituencies. The byelection to Chitrakot was necessitated after Congress MLA Dipak Baij was elected as MP.

Massive fire at J'khand forest

4 firefighters injured

Hazaribag, Apr 16 (PTD):

Four firefighters were critically injured as they were dousing a massive fire that broke out in a forest in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district on Saturday morning, officials said. The fire broke out at the Bigha Forest along the Hazaribag-Gaya Road in Chouparan police station area, they said. The fire ravaged trees spread over six hectares of land, causing huge loss to the department, said Divisional Forest Officer RN Mishra. A team of firefighters was working on dousing the flames which turned severe around 9 am. Four members of the team were injured during the operations, he said. The blaze was brought under control after more firefighters were called in from Barhi and Hazaribag, he added. It is suspected that some miscreants among those who collect mohua flowers from the forest could have set the fire, the officer said.

Cong MLA's son booked for assaulting cop, truck driver

At police station

Raigarh, Apr 16:

An offence has been registered against the son of a Congress MLA for allegedly assaulting a policeman and truck driver inside a police station in Raigarh on Saturday, police said. The incident took place around 1 am in Kotraroad police station, following which two separate FIRs were registered against Ritik Nayak (24), son of Raigarh Congress MLA Prakash Nayak, based on the complaint lodged by the victims, an official here said. A dispute broke out between the truck driver, identified as Mulayam Yadav, and Ritik and his associates at Kotraroad bypass. Subsequently, Yadav fled the spot and reached the police station and Ritik and his aides allegedly abused and thrashed Yadav and constable L S Rathiya, who was on duty at the police station, and threatened them with dire consequences.

About the incident

A dispute broke out between the truck driver, identified as Mulayam Yadav, and Ritik and his associates at Kotraroad bypass. Subsequently, Yadav fled the spot and reached the police station and Ritik and his aides allegedly abused and thrashed Yadav and constable L S Rathiya, who was on duty at the police station, and threatened them with dire consequences. Based on a complaint lodged by the constable and the truck driver, two separate cases have been registered against the accused and others at City Kotwali police station as Kotraroad police station building is located in its jurisdiction, he said.

stable L S Rathiya, who was on duty at the police station, and threatened them with dire consequences, he said. Based on a complaint lodged by the constable and the truck driver, two separate cases have been registered against the accused and others at City Kotwali police station as Kotraroad police station building is located in its jurisdiction, he said.

POLITICAL MURDER

RSS leader hacked to death

Palakkad, Apr 16 (PTI):



SK Srinivasan

Kerala's Palakkad district on Saturday witnessed a second political murder in the last 24 hours after a bike-borne gang hacked to death an RSS leader at his shop in the heart of the town. S K Srinivasan (45), a former district leader and office-bearer of RSS, was attacked by a six-member gang at his motorbike shop in Melamuri near here, police said. The incident occurred less than 24 hours after a Popular Front of India (PFI) leader was killed in a village near here, allegedly by the BJP. Following the RSS leader's murder which happened in the afternoon,

locals have closed shops in the nearby areas and the police have increased the security. The CCTV visuals from the nearby shops, which was aired by TV channels, show that the assailants riding three motorbikes reaching the shop and three of them attacking Srinivasan. A massive manhunt has been launched by the police to nab the culprits who fled the scene after committing

the murder of the RSS leader. ADGP (Law and Order) Vijay Sakhare will reach Palakkad town and camp there to coordinate with the investigation into the two political murders which took place within a span of 24 hours. "Three companies of Kerala Armed Police-1 (KAP-1) have been directed to move to Palakkad," a senior police official told PTI. Around 270 members of the armed police battalion will camp in Palakkad as part of security measures. Meanwhile, police on Saturday reportedly took into custody four RSS workers in connection with the murder of Subair the previous day.

Prashant Kishor wants to join Cong

Briefs top brass on strategy for 2024

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTD):



With the Congress reeling from a string of defeats, poll strategist Prashant Kishor on Saturday gave a detailed presentation to its top brass at Sonia Gandhi's residence on the way forward for 2024 general elections, while expressing readiness to join the party. AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said a decision on Kishor's suggestions, including on whether he will join the party, will be known in a week. There had been intense speculation in the past too on the possibility of Kishor joining the

Congress including before the recent assembly polls. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior party leaders were present at the four-hour meeting at the Congress president's 10, Janpath residence that discussed the party's strategy for the upcoming assembly polls and the next Lok Sabha election. According to sources, Kishor told the select gath-

ering that he is ready to join the Congress "without any expectations" and does not want anything but his plan should be implemented to help strengthen the party at the grassroots level. Venugopal told reporters after the meeting that a group will be set up to discuss the suggestions. "Prashant Kishor has made a detailed presentation for the 2024 election strategy. It needs some detailed discussion and the Congress president will set up a small group to discuss this entire presentation. That group will submit a report within a week's time for a final decision," Venugopal said. Asked whether Kishor will join the party or will be its strategist, he said all

the details will be known within a week. Sources said Kishor gave his long-term strategy for the Congress' revival before the top party leadership. With an eye on the 2024 general elections, he is understood to have told the leadership to focus on 365-370 parliamentary seats alone and strengthen its base in these constituencies. Kishor suggested that the party contest alone in a few state assembly elections where it is strong and has remained either in the top or in the second position in previous elections. He also told the leadership to start afresh in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha.

HANUMAN JAYANTI PROCESSION



Artists dressed as Lord Ram and Sita, participate in a procession during Hanuman Jayanti celebrations at Cannaught Place, in New Delhi, Saturday.

Raut's jibe at Raj Thackeray

'Rise of new Hindu Owaisi'

Nashik, Apr 16 (PTD):

In a veiled barb at Raj Thackeray who has taken an aggressive stand against loudspeakers on mosques, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Saturday termed the MNS chief a "new Hindu Owaisi" and his party a "new Hindutva MIM". Alleging the BJP's hand behind the demands for removing loudspeakers from mosques and reciting Hanuman Chalisa, Raut claimed that Intelligence inputs suggest that a conspiracy is on to create communal tension in Maharashtra and recommend President's rule dismissing the MVA government. In an ultimatum to the state government, Raj Thackeray recently said that loudspeakers on mosques should be removed by May 3 or else 'Hanuman Chalisa' will be

played in a higher volume outside mosques. Raising the pitch for Hindutva, Shiv Sena has organised the recitation of 'Hanuman Chalisa' in Dadar in Mumbai this evening on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, while the MNS chief is scheduled to perform a 'maha aarti' in Pune later in the day. "The demand for removing loudspeakers on mosques and the reciting Hanuman Chalisa are parts of an effort to create a communal hatred to topple the MVA government by BJP in collaboration with the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS)," Raut alleged. He alleged that BJP is "frustrated" as its efforts to win over MLAs from MVA parties-Shiv Sena, NCP, and Congress-have failed while the people have rejected the bid to create a communal discord.

CORRUPTION CASE

Deshmukh, Waze remanded in judicial custody

Court rejects CBI plea

Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):



were "not good and satisfactory", the court remanded Deshmukh, his aides Sanjeev Palande and Kundan Shinde as well as dismissed policeman Sachin Waze in 14-day judicial custody. Deshmukh and his two aides had been in judicial custody following their arrest in a money laun-

dering case by the Enforcement Directorate, while Waze was in judicial custody after being arrested in the Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hiran murder case. Earlier this month, all the accused were remanded in the custody of the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with a corruption case and were produced before Special CBI Judge DP Shingade on Saturday after their remand ended.

'India need to become self-reliant'

PM asks people to buy locally-made goods

Ahmedabad, Apr 16 (PTI):



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the unveiling ceremony of the 108 ft tall statue of Lord Hanuman, in Morbi, Gujarat, on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, via video conferencing, in New Delhi.



India cannot afford to remain stagnant at this juncture and it has to become self-reliant, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday while urging people to buy locally-made products only. He said if people use local goods for the next 25 years, then the country will not have to face the issue of unemployment. Modi was speaking after unveiling a 108-foot tall statue of Lord Hanuman in Gujarat's Morbi via video link on the occasion

of Hanuman Jayanti. "India cannot afford to remain stagnant today. Whether we are awake or asleep, we cannot continue to remain where we are. The global situation is such that the entire world is thinking on how to become 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant)," Modi said. "I would request the saints of the country to teach people to buy local

products only. 'Vocal for local' is the in thing. At our homes, we should only use things made by our people. Imagine the high number of people who will get employment due to this," he said. "We may like foreign-made goods, but these things do not have the feel of the hard work of our people, the scent of our Mother Earth," Modi said, adding, "In the next 25 years, if we just use local products, there won't be unemployment for our people." The prime minister inaugurated the statue of Lord Hanuman at the Ashram of 'Param Pujya Keshvanand ji' at Morbi in Saurashtra region.

Ruffian held with heavy sharp weapon

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: Police have arrested a ruffian with a heavy sharp weapon (Gandasa). The accused was roaming in suspicious condition with the weapon. The accused having a previous criminal record was supposedly carrying the weapon to commit another crime. Acting on a tip off, police took him into custody and later sent him to jail.

CSP (Durg) Jitendra Yadav informed that on the directions of SSP (Durg) Badri Narayan Meena and under the supervision of ASP (City) Sanjay Kumar Dhruv, the teams of various police stations are conducting crime prevention and control operations. In this sequel, Patrolling Team of Mohan Nagar Police Station received a tip off regarding a suspect who was moving around with a



sharp weapon. The accused had hidden the weapon beneath his clothes and was spotted near Gulati Nursing Home in Durg.

Police team immediately swung into action and reached the spot. On sensing trouble, the accused tried to flee but the cops chased him and took him into custody. The sharp weapon was recovered from his possession. The accused is identified as Sachindra alias Mota Golu Nagwanshi (32) son of Bhaudas Nagwanshi a resident of Shankar nagar, Durg. He has been booked under the provisions mentioned in Section 25 of Arms Act. He was produced before the court and has been sent to jail on judicial remand.

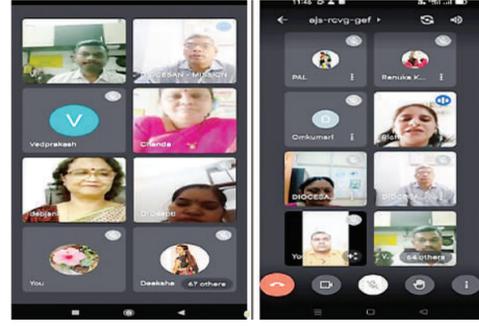
ASI Ashok Sahu, Constable Manish Agnihotri and Prashant Patankar played vital role in arresting the accused.

Webinar at St Thomas College on Intellectual Property Rights

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: PG Department of Chemistry, IQAC of St Thomas College and APSGMNS Government PG College, Kawardha organized a one day webinar on Intellectual Property Rights. The resource person of the webinar was Dr Vivekananda Mandal, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy, Guru Ghasidas Central University Bilaspur.

Dr James Mathew NAAC Coordinator and HOD, welcomed the virtual gathering. IQAC Coordinator, Dr Debjani Mukherjee, highlighted importance of patent filing procedure. Dr Chanda Verma, Additional Head, focused on the topic and also emphasized the students to get full benefit of



the talk and come out with their interesting invention. The expert of the session was introduced by Dr Arvind Kumar Sahu (Asst Prof).

The resource person Dr Vivekananda Mandal in his talk he explained the operative system of patent filing; he came out with the copyrights of the inventions and discussed the

Hands on training on Indian Patent Filing and Document Handling.

Finally the expert requested the students and member to implement the procedure of patent filing through new inventions. At the conclusion of the webinar, there was a fruitful healthy interactive session between the speaker and the participants. The

webinar was conducted by Dr Chanda Verma of St Thomas College, Bhilai and concluded by Dr Deepthi Jangde, HOD, Department of Chemistry, Government PG College, Kawardha.

Dr Richa Mishra, IQAC Coordinator, Government College, Kawardha proposed the vote of thanks. The faculty expressed their gratitude to Rev Fr Dr Joshi Varghese, (Administrator), Dr MG Roymon (Principal) and Dr Mariam Jacob (Principal in charge) for providing the necessary motivation for organizing the program. The webinar was made successful by assistance provided by Mohini Sharma (Lecturer) and Anil Varghese (Technical Assistant), Department of Chemistry, St Thomas College.

Graduate level exam for B Sc begins at Hemchand Yadav University

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: At Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, the on-line examination of about 39000 regular and private candidates of B Sc First, Second and Third, B Sc Home Science and B Sc BEd began peacefully. Giving this information, the Registrar of the University, Bhupendra Kuldeep said that the first paper exam was conducted across 68 main and sub-centres. The answer books of Hindi language paper of all classes of B Sc were submitted on time. The submission of answer sheets by the students continued till 17:00 hrs. According to Kuldeep, as soon as the question paper was uploaded on the official website of the university at 7:00 hrs, about 30,000

students simultaneously hit the university website and downloaded the question paper related to their class. No student had to face any kind of problems during the download process due to the high hitability of the university website.

The Deputy Registrar of Examinations of the University, Dr Rajmani Patel informed that no question paper will be uploaded on Sundays. The next question paper of B Sc B Ed, B Sc Home Science of English language will be uploaded on April 18 at 7:00 hrs, which the students will have to solve on the same day and submit it in the respective examination center between 12:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs. It will be mandatory for every student to bring his/her examina-

tion admit card. The admit cards for B Com students will be available on the university's website from April 18. On showing them, the candidates will be able to get the answer sheets from the respective examination center. B Com examinations will start from April 23.

The Dean of the University Student Welfare, Dr Prashant Shrivastava informed that the ongoing BLIB and BCA examinations are ending on April 19. The evaluation of about 1.5 lakh answer sheets of postgraduate private and B Lib and BCA is going on in the university at a rapid pace. It is the endeavour of the university administration that by the end of April, the results of private postgraduate examinations should be released.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: The 15th edition of SAIL Khel Mela organised by Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur and SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant concluded on April 14, 2022. Anirban Dasgupta, Director Incharge, BSP was the Chief Guest on the occasion. As many as 1500 tribal students including 300 girl students from 25 schools in Antagarh, Orchha and Narayanpur blocks surrounding Rowghat area participated in various sports events like Football, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Badminton, Athletics, Archery etc in the SAIL Khel Mela, which was organised from April 11-14, 22. The SAIL Khel

SAIL Khel Mela concludes at Narayanpur

Central Chronicle News



Mela could not be organised in the last two years owing to COVID.

The Valedictory ceremony was presided by Swami Vyaptanandji Maharaj, Secretary Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur. Manash Biswas, ED (Mines and Rowghat); Samir Swaroop, CGM Mines-Rowghat, BSP; Devnath Usendi, President, Zila Congress, Narayanpur; Sairam Jakhad, DGM, Sports, Culture & Civic

Amneties Dept.; Mohanlal, Addl Secretary, Chhattisgarh Football Association; Jawahar Das, International Football Coach; Swami Anubhavanand, Joint Secy, Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur; Swami Vasudanand, Swami Krishnamritanand, Swami Tapasanand, Swami Pranatpaland were present. Teachers and other staff members of Ramkrishna Mission,

Narayanpur were also present. Anirban Dasgupta, Director Incharge, BSP felicitated the winners of different competitions. Vivekanand Vidyapeeth from Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur won the 'Overall championship'. Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur won in Football while Vivekanand Vidyamandir, Kundla was the Runners-up in Football. Ramkrishna Mission,

Narayanpur topped in Kho-Kho while Eklavya Vidyalaya, Antagarh emerged as the Runners-up. Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur won in Volleyball while Govt. Higher secondary school, Chhedibeda was the Runners up. In the Girls category, Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur was the winner while Ma Sharda Vidyamandir, Orchha was the Runners up in Volleyball. Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur won in Kho-Kho. In Badminton, Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur was the winner in both Boys and Girls category while Govt. Vidyalaya, Chatedongar was the Runners up.

Hanuman Janmotsava celebrated with religious fervour

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: On Saturday, Janmotsava of Lord Hanuman was celebrated with religious fervour across the twin-city. Despite scorching heat, the devotees queued up at Hanuman Temples to pay obeisance to Sankatmochan Hanuman. The temples reverberated with slogans of Jai Shri Ram and Jai Hanuman.

Celebrations were held at every temple across the city. Devotees had specially decorated the temples with flowers and lights. After offering special prayers, they recited Hanuman Chalisa, Sundar Kand and performed yajna. Grand bhandaras were also organised at the Hanuman Temples. Lord



Hanuman is worshipped as a deity with the ability to attain victory against evil and provide protection. On this auspicious day, devotees of Lord Hanuman celebrated his Janmotsava and sought his protection and blessings. The main event was held at Lord Hanuman temple located in JLN Hospital, Sector 9. About one



lakh devotees reached here to pay obeisance to the deity. The preparations for bhandara had begun here on Friday itself. Jai Hanuman Seva Samiti took out a grand Dhvaj Yatra on the eve of Hanuman Janmotsava. The processions were taken out from 101 temples which joined together to make a larger proces-



sion. The devotees danced to the tunes of devotional songs. The procession concluded at Sector 9 Hanuman temple where Mahaarti was performed. Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav along with his wife participated in the Dhvaj yatra. He carried a saffron flag of Hanuman from Sector 2 temple to Sector 9



Hanuman temple. Mayor Neeraj Pal, Congress District President Mukesh Chandrakar, Public Works in-charge Ekansh Banchoore, Councilor Aditya Singh, Abhishek Mishra, Sumit Pawar and all the office bearers of the organizing committee and more than 50000 devotees participated in the procession.



The dhvaj yatra began from Sector 2 and moved across Central Avenue to reach Sector-9 Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir. Lord Hanuman's Maha Aarti was performed and Hanuman Chalisa was recited. After the Maha Aarti, Mahaprasad was distributed among devotees. Chants of Jai



Shri Ram and Jai Hanuman resonated throughout the journey. The entire Central Avenue Road was decorated with the saffron flags. People welcomed the Dhvaj Yatra by lighting thousands of lamps at the traffic squares.

The main attraction of the procession was the Pathaks (Artists) of Jagdamba Dhol Tasa Group. Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated every year with pomp and gaiety by Jai Hanuman Seva Samiti. For the first time, the Dhvaj yatra of 101 Hanuman temples was taken out. The tableau of Hanuman ji was also the center of special attraction in the procession.

Bookies nabbed with satta-patti

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 16: Police conducted a special operation against the people involved in betting, gambling and other illegal activities and rounded up five persons who were accepting bets on Satta-Patti. The special team of Padmanabhpur Chowki conducted raids at Utai Tempo Stand, Diprapara Kachahri ward and Irani Dera Kelabadi area and rounded up five persons who were accepting bets on Satta-Patti in public places.

Padmanabhpur SHO Vaibhav Banker (Probationary IPS) informed that under the directions of SSP Badri Narayan Meena, they conducted a special operation against the people involved in illegal betting and gambling activities. The team caught five persons red handed while accepting bets on Satta-Patti. Mohit Ravat (34) son of Late Bhaskar ravat a resident of Azad Chowk, Padmanabhpur; Sunil Vishwakarma (33) son of Late Randhir Vishwakarma a resident of Shastri

Chowk, Diprapara, Kachahripara; Tamlesh Kumar Soni alias Tamdu (28) son of Late Ratnakar Soni a resident of Indira Colony, Potia Road; Sunil Kumar Gendre (29) son of Bholu Ram Gendre a resident of Satnamipara, Kasarideeh; and Kamal Nagesh (19) son of Prakash Nagesh a resident of Indira Colony, Potia Road, Durg were arrested. Betting records and Rs 3550 cash were recovered from their possession. They were arrested under the provisions of Gambling Act and later the prohibitory sections of IPC were also included in the chhlan. Padmanabhpur SHO Vaibhav Banker (Probationary IPS, Sub Inspector Dharam Mandavi, ASI Vinay rajak, Head Constable Shiv Prasad Dubey, Constable Kishore Soni, Punesh Sahu and Civil team members Constable Javed Khan, Pradeep Thakur, Chitrasen, Mohammad Farukh, Dharendra Yadav, Keshav Sahu and Tileshwar Rathore played vital role in arresting the accused.

Padma Shree J. M. Nelson
(Sculpture Artist)

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Celebrations at PCC headquarters over victory in Khairagarh assembly by-poll

Firecrackers burst outside Rajiv Bhavan

Raipur, Apr 16: Congress workers celebrated the victory of party candidate in Khairagarh assembly by-poll, at Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) headquarters here. Congress candidate Yashoda Verma defeated BJP candidate Komal Janghel by a margin of 20 thousand votes in the by-election to Khairagarh assembly seat. Ever since the Congress candidate was leading from the first round of vote counting Congress workers started gathering at Rajiv Bhavan.

As the counting of votes was progressing the celebration of the workers had started. A large number of Congress workers reached Rajiv Bhavan with band. After this they celebrated enthusiastically and danced to drum beats besides bursting firecrackers and exchanging sweets. PCC chief Mohan Markam also reached Rajiv Bhavan and congratulated the party office bearers for victory by of-



fering them sweets.

According to Markam the people of Khairagarh have voted for the government's work for three years and in the name of a separate district. The announcement of the district was a master stroke of the party, he said, adding that people in this constituency remained neglected in the BJP government for 15 years. In such a situation, people have relied on the policies of the Congress and the functioning of the government, he added.

Rajnandgaon minister in-charge Amarjit Bhagat said that state government fulfilled its every promise under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel. Whether it is a promise to make Marwahi a district or to increase the income of farmers, every time the Congress has lived up to the expectations of the people and its benefit has been seen during the Khairagarh by-election, he said.

The number of Congress MLAs in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly has increased to 71 with the victory of party candidate in the Khairagarh by-election. In the by-elections held in Dantewada, Chitrakot and Marwahi, the Congress had won all three seats. Now the Congress has made the fourth by-election in its favor.

Its victory of policies: Bhupesh on Khairagarh by-poll result

Raipur, Apr 16: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has expressed his gratitude to the people of Khairagarh for the victory of Congress candidate in Khairagarh by-election. According to him mere creation of a district does not lead to victory, rather people of Khairagarh have once again expressed their faith in the welfare policies and programs of the state government.

Addressing a press conference Baghel thanked the people of Khairagarh and congratulated the workers and leaders. CM Baghel said that Congress got 87 thousand votes with increase from 31 thousand and this way the party received 56 thousand more votes. Voters have shown trust on the work done by the Congress government in three years, he said.

According to Baghel this election is alarming for Dr Raman Singh, his political future is now at stake. He said that the an-



ouncement of creating a district may be an issue, but the government's decisions and schemes have yielded positive results. People have shown trust on the schemes of the government. According to Baghel BJP called it a semi-final in which it was badly defeated. Now in 2023 also the same result is expected.

Baghel said that the previous government had created nine districts, but it had to face a crushing defeat in the 2018 general elections in eight districts except Mungeli. According to him mere creation of a district does not bring victory. Significantly, Bhupesh Baghel is the first Chief Minister to win all the

four by-elections in three and a quarter years. According to him public has given huge support, expressing confidence in his government and its policies. Baghel who was present during filing of nomination of Congress candidate Yashoda Verma, addressed 27 general meetings after visiting the area for 6 consecu-

tive days. While in 2018 elections, Congress had got 30 thousand less votes, this time the Congress candidate has won by more than 20 thousand votes, bridging the gap of 30 thousand votes in Khairagarh constituency. In this way, Congress has got about 50 thousand more votes and 8 out of 10 candidates have forfeited their deposits.

According to Baghel the state government's Nyay schemes - Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, procurement of minor forest produce and value addition and increase in rate of Tendu leaf collection to Rs 4000 benefited directly to the people. The Chhattisgarh state government has also fulfilled its promise of waiving farmers' loans and providing farmers with a price of Rs 2,500 per quintal of paddy, he added.

Hanuman Jayanti celebrated with religious fervour in city

Raipur, Apr 16: Hanuman Jayanti was celebrated with religious fervour in the city on Saturday. Streets across the city reverberated with "Jai Sri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman" slogans as many temples organised special programmes to celebrate Hanuman Jayanti. Right from the strike of dawn, Lord Hanuman temples teemed with visitors and serpentine queues were witnessed on the temple premises in different areas. Despite scorching heat, many temples buzzed with activity and visitors dressed in tradi-



tional attire thronged the temples. Many temples committees provided 'bhandara', drinking water, butter milk and arranged tents for the convenience of devotees. Lord Hanuman temples teemed with visitors and long

queues were seen in different areas of the city. The day began with the performance of special pujas at Hanuman Temples early in the morning.

At the Lord Ram temple located at VIP Road, pujas and rituals began at 6 am,

with devotees lining up before the temple right from early morning to seek the blessings of Lord Hanuman.

Special pujas marked the celebrations at Hanuman Temple located near RDA Office at Shastri Chowk. Prasad was distributed to the devotees on the occasion. Special pujas were also performed at Anjaneya Temples at Byron Bazar, Tatiyapara Chowk, Tikrapara Chowk and other localities in city. Mass feeding and bhajans also marked the celebrations at various Hanuman Temples.

Tribal litterateurs from across the country to gather in Raipur

CM to inaugurate 3-day National Tribal Literature Festival from April 19 at Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 16: A gathering of tribal litterateurs from across the country is being organized in the capital city of Raipur. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will inaugurate this three-day National Tribal Literary Festival being organized at Pandit Deendayal Auditorium from April 19. Tribal dance performance and art and painting competition will be organized in this festival. Apart from this book fair, exhibition of various departments will also be organized.

In the National Tribal

Festival being organized under the aegis of Tribal Research and Training Institute, enlightened persons, social leaders, litterateurs and art experts from different regions of the state are also being invited. Cultural programs will also be held on this occasion. Bastar band performance, child artist Sahadev Netam and tribal dance will be the main attractions. Preliminary preparations for this event have been started.

The objective of the festival is to introduce the traditional and contemporary tribal literature across the country and to know the status of their development in the modern context besides motivating and encouraging the preservation and promotion of tribal literature by providing a platform to the researchers, litterateurs, creators working in the field of tribal literature in C h h a t t i s g a r h .

Discussions will be held on literature and present situation in tribal tradition, tribal stories, tribal poems, ancestor literature etc.

Tribal and non-tribal established and eminent litterateurs, writers, university scholars, research scholars, subject experts are being invited from different states of the country in the literary festival. Research papers will also be published. Art and painting competition will be organized under Sahitya Mahotsav. Apart from this, a live display of soil, bamboo, bell metal, wood, etc. will also be done under handicraft. Around 350 contestants will participate in this competition.

Various dance forms of Chhattisgarh will be performed in the festival, in which tribal dances performed in different tribal areas are Shaila, Sarhul, Karma, Sondu, Kukud, Dunda, Dosselra Karma,

Marriage dance (Hulki), Madai dance, Gavar Singh, Gedi, Dances like Karsad, Mandri, Dandar etc. will be performed. A book fair is also being organized in the festival. Book stalls have been arranged in the gallery of the inner premises of the auditorium. Apart from this, 30 stalls for display cum sale are being set up.

Stalls from various handicraft boards and Mati Kala boards of Chhattisgarh state will be set up at the venue. The items and materials created by these artists will be displayed and sold. Sanjeevani, Forest Produce and Forest Medicine, Exhibition of Tribal Research and Training Institute, Exhibition of Departmental Schemes of Antyavsa Nigam, TRIFED etc. stalls will be set up.

Hand pumps, power pumps started drying up in Birgaon, people rely on tankers

Severe water crisis in Birgaon

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 16: With the onset of summer in Birgaon, water scarcity has started, as more than 50 percent of the hand-pumps and power pumps under the corporation area have started drying up. Due to drying of hand pumps, people are facing severe water crisis in the area. At the same time, Municipal Corporation is not getting enough water from Kharun river. In order to ensure that the residents of Birgaon get sufficient quantity of water, the wards where the water level has not gone down, is getting bore excavations done. Along with this, water supply has also



been started in the wards through tankers, so that the thirst of the residents of Birgaon can be quenched. Birgaon Corporation officials said that hand pumps and power pumps have started drying up, but water is being supplied in sufficient quantity from

tankers. At the same time, some localities of the corporation area like Urla, Acholi, Sarora, Budhwari Bazar, Urkura, Ravanbatha and Mathpara are being supplied water through pipelines, so that the residents of the area do not face water problems.

Birgaon Municipal Corporation is supplying water through tanker in each ward. For water, the residents of Birgaon are queue for hours waiting for the tanker.

Residents of Birgaon said that sometimes they get late in going to duty due to long wait in the queue. They said that that every year same problem is witnessed, so the corporation should make a permanent system, so that this problem can be overcome. Water is being supplied through tankers and pipelines so that the people of Birgaon do not have to face the problem of water. Along with this, bore excavation work is also being done in some areas, said Shrikant Verma, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Birgaon.

Chhattisgarh sees 3 COVID-19 cases, no death; active tally now 19

Raipur, Apr 16: Chhattisgarh on Friday reported three COVID-19 cases at a positivity rate of 0.17 per cent, taking the state's tally to 11,52,217, while the death toll stood unchanged at 14,034, an official said. The recovery count rose to 11,38,164 after eight people completed home isolation during the day, leaving the state with 19 active cases, he added.

Raigarh, Korba and Jashpur districts recorded one case each. No new case was reported in 25 districts. As on Friday, 19 districts had no active case," he said. With 1,743 samples examined during the day, the tally of tests carried out so far in Chhattisgarh went up to 1,75,84,086, he added. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,52,217, new cases 3, death toll 14,034, recovered 11,38,164, active cases 19, today tests 1,743, total tests 1,75,84,086.

Kawasi Lakhma performs Bhoomi Pujan of ITI Bhawan



Raipur, Apr 16: Commerce and Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma performed Bhoomipujan for the construction work of new building of Industrial Training Institute at Nagarnar in Bastar district. This building will be built at a cost of Rs 3 crore 44 lakh 59 thousand. A large number of villagers including MP Deepak Baij, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Renewable Energy Development Agency, Mithilesh Swarnkar; public representatives, officers and employees of the concerned departments were present on the occasion.

Food lovers to relish Punjabi food at Punjabi Food Festival

Raipur, Apr 16: To offer something new to the food lovers of Raipur, Courtyard by Marriott, Raipur is hosting a Punjabi Food Festival with dishes from the land of five rivers- Punjab from April 15 to 24 . The undergoing Punjabi Food festival is offering connoisseurs a wide range of Punjabi taste with varieties of dishes from the north. The menu of this 10-day food festival has a wide variety of classical as well as traditional Punjabi cuisines. The Punjabi feast is taking food lovers to the heavenly journey from starters through main course and desserts to the nostalgia of rich north cuisine. The elabo-



rate menu includes Kebabs, Tikkas, and traditional Sarso da Saag and Makke di Roti. Hotel's General Manager Anukam Tiwari while addressing a press conference said "When it comes to North Indian food, the flavor one recalls is Punjabi. We have a large Punjabi community here in Raipur and what else could be a better occasion to cher-

ish the beauty of rich Punjabi culture with them. Keeping the recipes traditional and authentic, we have used a lot of spices in the cooking." Hotel's Executive Chef Anuj Singh said "For the 'Pet Pujaris' of the city we are offering unending Tadkedar starters like Dahi Aur Mewe Ke Kebab, Macchi Amritsari, Tandoori Kukkad, Ajwain

Macchi, Kathal Ka Tikka, Kali Mirch Ka Machhi Tikka and much more. The Chhole Masala, Khumb Hara Pyaaz, Kadi Pakoda, Paneer Makhhan Wala, Matar Methi Malai and Sarso Da Saag, Langar Wali Daal are the vegetarian delicacies and Railway Kukkad Curry, Meat Shahi Patiyala, Munge Wala Kukkad, Makhhani Chozze, Murg Masaledar Machhi, and Chicken and Mutton Biryani are among the non-vegetarians. There is a wide selection of desserts like Badam Kheer, Gajar Ka Haluwa, Zafrani Firni, Kesri Kheer, and Matka Malai Lassi etc".

Advertisement for Ratan's Ayurvedic products including Sudol Body Toner Gel. Text includes: 'आयुर्वेद से आयुष्यमान', 'रतन्स आयुर्वेदिक समाधान', 'मेरी समस्या यह है कि मेरी शादी की उम्र हो गई है पर मुझे शरीर में फूलपन महसूस होता है, क्या करूं? -गौरी, अहिकापुर.', 'मेरी समस्या यह है कि मेरी शादी की उम्र हो गई है पर मुझे शरीर में फूलपन महसूस होता है, क्या करूं? -गौरी, अहिकापुर.', 'मेरी उम्र 20 वर्ष है, मेरे बाल बहुत मात्रा में झड़ चुके हैं। बालों को मजबूत बनाने का उपाय बताएं। -नताशा, रामानुजगंज.', 'आज बाजार में कई ऐसे तेल हैं, जिनमें युवक केमिकल बालों को नुकसान पहुंचाते हैं। आप आयुर्वेदिक औषधियों से बना 'केश वरदान' तेल नियमित प्रयोग कर सकते हैं। साथ ही 'केश वरदान' केप्सूल 9-9 सुबह-शाम नियमित सेवन कर सकते हैं।', 'शरीर में उचित आर्कषण की कमी है, कृपया कोई प्रभावकारक उपाय बताएं। -एक पाठिका, रायपुर.', 'उत्प्रेतक सालाह रोगियों के लक्षणों को ध्यान में रखकर दी गई है. दवाओं का प्रयोग वैद्यकीय मार्गनिर्देश में करें.', 'Ratan's Sudol Body Toner Gel', 'बॉडी टोनर जैल', 'आयुर्वेदिक औषधि', 'HELPLINE 7728-7722', 'प्रमुख आयुर्वेदिक व मेडिकल स्टोर्स पर उपलब्ध. Buy online: www.ratanayurvedic.com', 'Unique ID : MP25D17564A21/101', 'Apr 17/22'.

Health Minister sends proposal to CM

Based upon demands of agitating Mitanins

Singhdeo gives important suggestions to consider the demand of Mitanins

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 16: State Health Minister TS Singhdeo has sent a departmental proposal to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and expressed concern about the Mitanins (community

health workers) who have been on strike for almost two weeks. Showing sensitivity towards about 72000 Mitanins working in the state he wrote to Chief Minister that health Mitanins who are called backbone of health department are sitting on dharna since last 13 days in scorching heat with temperature soaring above 40 degrees. Despite all odds they are sitting on the dharna for their demands. The Health Department on its part has also made a medium of informal discussions besides persuading to with-

draw their strike without facing troubles.

Singhdeo had written a letter to the Finance Department twice in the past on the issue of Mitanin, which is pending due to some reason. Apart from this, Singhdeo met the delegation of Mitanins and discussed their demands in detail and keeping in mind the information received from this discussion, he sent a proposal of important suggestions to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

Singhdeo wrote in his proposal to Chief Minister that apart from

performing health related works Mitanins are also entrusted with many other tasks by the administration and their service time is more than 8 hours in a day. On many occasions emergency medical care has to be provided overnight.

Taking serious note of this matter, Health Minister TS Singhdeo has requested Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to consider practical aspects from the government keeping in mind the untiring hard work of Mitanins and their basic contribution in health services.

Vijay Bajpai, conferred with Rising Star Communicators award

For new innovation in PR

Raipur, Apr 16: Vijay Bajpai, Asso. Manager (PR) has been conferred with Rising Star Communicators award for new innovation in PR by "Media Federation of India" during their annual award function "16th Media Excellence Award" organized on 2nd April, 2022 at New Delhi.

The award has been conferred to Bajpai by Prof. Sanjay Diwedi, DG, Indian Institute of Mass



Communication (IIMC), New Delhi, renowned Media personality Dr Sandeep Marwaha, Chancellor. AAFIT University, NOIDA. Award ceremony was graced by media, journalism and PR professionals from all over India.

Balco has become pioneer of modern PR among all the PSUs and Corporates.

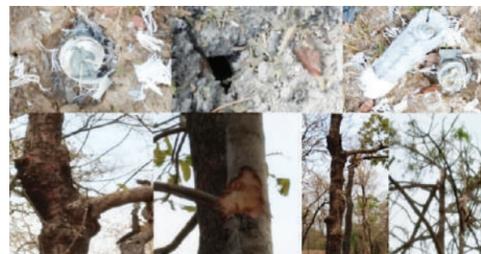
A seasoned PR professional and having more than 18 years of rich experience in the field of image building, branding and public relations. He has various prestigious awards and honours to his credit and has been awarded Rashtriya Media Ratan award, Rajbhasha Manishi award, Best Conclave Promoter (PRCI) and excellence in service by Balco in past.

Maoists again accuse security forces of airstrike

Release photo of the alleged aerial bomb in Bastar

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Apr 16: Once again in Bastar, the Naxalite organization has accused the security agencies and governments of carrying out air strikes, in this charge the organization has attacked the police and security agencies including the central government and the state government in different areas of Bastar. Not only this, in the pamphlet, the Naxalites have released photos in which the marks of trees damaged by explosive substances and explosions are visible. However, only the Naxalite organization confirms these pictures. Vikalp, spokesperson of Communist Party of India Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, has written in a press release that on the intervening



night of 14th and 15th April, Communist Party of India Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, Bottem, Rasam, Eram Metagudam, Sakiler, Madpa, South Bastar, mentioned Heavy bombardment had been done by military drones continuously between 1 pm and 2 pm targeting Duled, K a n n e m a r k a , Portemmangum Bottam etc. villages and forests.

Along with this, the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee also wrote in the press release that PLGA escaped safely in this entire bombing. The Naxalite organization has also written in the

press release that drones and helicopters of security agencies are constantly hovering over the PLGA organization and the security forces are intensifying the operation against them. Spokesperson Vikalp wrote in a press release that the tribal people whose life is depending on the forests, are being denied by the armed forces from going to the forests, the people are being deprived of the Mahua collection due to aerial bombs.

An attempt was made to contact Bastar IG P ??Sundar Raj over phone in this regard but he could not be contacted.

'Demand to open the mosque in Raipur Jail'



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 16: After consulting the Shahar Quazi Maulana Mohammad Ali Farooqi, Rajesh Singh Sisodia (Human Rights Activist & Convener of Nange Paon Satyagrah) has demanded to reopen the mosque in Raipur Central Jail which was closed during last two lockdowns. In a memorandum to Principal Secretary

Home & D.G. Prisons Sanjay Pillay, Sisodia has raised two demands which include to reopen the mosque and allow the religious heads in Jail to conduct prayers (Namaz) & Iftaar. Sisodia has lamented over a large number of muslim prisoners & detainees on being deprived from performing their religious rites during the holy month of Ramzan.

Balak Ashram Kariyakanta bring laurels to School

Kondagaon, Apr 16:

Eight students of Balak Ashram Kariyakanta Sankul Mayurdongar were selected for admission in class VI in District Level Residential Eklavya School Golavand Development Block/District Kondagaon run by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

The selection of maximum number of children from any one school reflects the quality of education in this institution. It is worth mentioning that the students of Balak Ashram Kariyakanta appeared in the eligibility test for admission in this class VI. Rikesh Netam has secured second place in the development block Kondagaon merit list. At the same time, two students of Balak Ashram Kariyakanta are among the first five of the merit list and three students are among the first ten of the merit list have registered



their presence. It is worth mentioning that there is an atmosphere of happiness due to the selection of eight out of twenty students of Class V of Balak Ashram Kariyakanta in the district level Eklavya Residential School, Golavand. Last year also, out of eleven students of Balak Ashram Kariyakanta, seven students were selected on the basis of class V marks in

district level Eklavya Residential School, Golavand. For this achievement of the institution, Block Education Officer, Social Worker and Educationist, Principal in-charge Sahu, School Shampur Development Block Makdi, C.A.C. Malkot, CAC Mayur Dongar, Sankul Principal Sha Uma V Mayur Dongar have conveyed their good wishes.

'Finished rural products to be available under one roof'

C-Mart being built across the state

Raipur, Apr 16:

Preparations are in full swing across the state for the establishment of C-Mart, which is included in the ambitious plans of the Chhattisgarh State Government. The State Government has brought the concept of C-Mart (Chhattisgarh-Mart) to give a new market to various products produced in the village and available in urban areas. Chief Minister Baghel has given instructions to set up C-marts in all the district headquarters of the state.

In the second phase, C-marts will be set up in metros outside the state. In this series, 6 thousand square feet showroom has been completed in Balodabazar district headquarters, which will be inaugurated



by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel soon. In Chhattisgarh, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the state government is making many efforts to strengthen the rural economy. In this series, the Government of Chhattisgarh has taken a positive initiative to sell the products manufactured by women self-help groups,

craftsmen, weavers, artisans and other traditional and cottage industries under one roof.

According to the format prepared for C-Mart, a variety of products made in villages, including different types of products prepared by women-self-help groups working in Gauthans, will be put up for sale under one roof. This will increase the means of employment at the

village level. C-Mart will prove to be a milestone in the path of becoming self-reliant for the members of women self-help groups. Their income will increase and their financial condition will improve.

Similar to daily use in C-Mart such as turmeric, chilli, papad, chips, badi-bijori, pickle, phenyl, hand-wash, wasting powder, incense sticks, incense, dona-

pattal, dhaki-grounded rice, thickly extracted oil, From Kodo, Kutki, Maize to all pulses crops will be available for sale. The above products have been prepared by women self-help groups working in 'Aajeevika' Center located in different Gauthan of the district. Along with this, various products like tamarind, mahua, harra, bahera, amla, honey will also be available in C-Mart from the famous brand of forest department 'Chhattisgarh Herbs'. Flowers made in the villages, terracotta, bell metal, bamboo products, leather goods, iron crafts, kosa silk and wooden products will also be sold here.

Chief Minister, Baghel has given instructions to make arrangements for marketing of rural products like the products of Chhattisgarh Herbs by Laghu Vanopaj Sangh. At the same time, he has asked

the district collectors to coordinate with the Managing Director, Small Forest Produce Association for processing, packaging, branding and marketing of all other traditional producers manufactured by women self-help groups.

A high-powered committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain for the C-Mart scheme. The committee will work for effective implementation, coordination and monitoring of the scheme. In this committee, Finance Department, Forest Department, Village Industries Department, Mineral Resources Department, Additional Chief Secretary of Commerce and Industry Department, Principal Secretary and Managing Director of Forest Produce Association have been made members.

Minister Anila Bhedia showers blessings to 22 newlyweds

Raipur, Apr 16:

Under the aegis of Mukhyamantri Samaj Kanya Vivah Yojna (MSKVY) and Manikpuri Panika Samaj in village Bhainsbod of Daundi development block of Balod district, Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Minister Anila Bhedia showered her blessings to the newlyweds for a happy married life.

On this occasion, she said that it is a very auspicious occasion, where 22 couples are tying nuptial knots. She said that Mukhyamantri Samaj Kanya Vivah Yojana (MSKVY) is an ambitious scheme of the government. On the initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the amount of the scheme has been increased from Rs. 15000 to Rs. 25000. On this occasion, Minister Bhedia gave detailed information about various public welfare



schemes of the government and inspired them to take advantage of the scheme.

Minister Bhedia was honoured with a memento by the office bearers of Manikpuri Panika Samaj in the program. On this occasion, District President of Manikpuri Panika Samaj, Brijmohan Das Manikpuri, Tehsil President, Lakhan Das Manikpuri along with other office bearers of the society, Vice President of District Panchayat, Mithilesh Niroti, former district member Anil Suthar, Piyush Soni, family members of the newlyweds and a large number of villagers were present.

SBI partners with Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital

Raipur, Apr 16: In an important function coinciding with the 10th year celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital (SSSSH), Nava Raipur; Om Prakash Mishra, DMD & CDO, SBI donated an Air Conditioned bus to Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Mother & Child Hospital. Vivek Gour, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Health & Education Trust received the key of the bus.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Binod Kumar Mishra, CGM; Gita Tripathi, GM; U. Dinesh Shanbhag, DGM CD; S.V. Radhakrishna Rao, DGM (B&O); Rajesh Kumar, DGM, Bilaspur.

On their arrival, they were accorded a warm welcome by the members



of Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital. The delegation interacted with the children in ICU, Wards and toured the campus to understand all the services offered by the Hospital Totally Free of Cost To All. The Bus was handed over to the Hospital for the benefit patient transportation, post which a meeting

was held in Dr. C. Rajeshwari Auditorium in Sri Sathya Sai Sowbhagyam. At the outset, a documentary on the Hospital and that on Sowbhagyam were screened.

Speaking on the occasion Om Prakash Mishra expressed his happiness that SBI joined hands with

Sathya Sai Sanjeevani on the auspicious occasion of Mahavir Jayanti. After the short medical tour; Shri Mishra was immensely satisfied to know that the treatment is totally free with quality, love and compassion. He concluded his speech by saying that bus is just a small beginning and he is quite hopeful of long-term collaboration with Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospitals in future. In his speech Vivek Gour briefly explained the journey of the Hospital in the last 9 years. He made a special mention of the non-stop activities during COVID Pandemic. Gour praised the noble gesture of the largest Bank of India i.e. the State Bank of India for choosing Sathya Sai Sanjeevani for the do-

nation of the Bus as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.

Gift of Life was given to the 3 children who underwent surgeries and 2 Mothers who delivered a healthy baby in the Hospital. All the beneficiaries shared their experience about receiving Free and Quality Healthcare Services at the Hospital, which otherwise, in a private hospital, would have been unaffordable, pushing them to the brink of debt. It turned out to be an emotional ceremony moving many of those present in the meeting. Vivek Gour felicitated the dignitaries on the dais. Finally the guests had a group photograph with all the patients and their attendants.

Child rescue drive: 12 children sent to shelter home in three days

Rescue of child beggars, child laborers and rag-pickers to run till April 17

Raipur, Apr 16: As many as 12 children have been rescued and admitted to the Shelter Home during the last three days in the capital Raipur. Such children have been rescued under an intensive drive at Telibandha and Bhagat Singh Chowk. A special drive is being run by the district administration for the rehabilitation of children who beg, work in shops, child rag pickers and children who are drug addicts. This drive is being run till April 17 by the Department of Women



and Child Development.

The drive is being run by the representatives of various social organizations along with officers of Women and Child Development Department, Child Shelter Home, Police and Social Welfare Department of Raipur district. The drive will be carried out till April 17, 2022 at Shastri Bazar, Gol

Bazar, Sadar Bazar, Railway Station, Fafadih Chowk, Devendra Nagar, Pachpedi Naka, Santoshi Nagar, Bhathagaon Chowk, Telibandha, Bhagat Singh Chowk, Bharat Mata Chowk.

Under this drive, child beggars, child labourers, child rag pickers and children who are drug addicts will get the benefit of rehabilitation and sponsorship. Under this drive, citizens are expected to give information on child line number 1098 if they see child beggars, child labourers, drug addicts and rag pickers in any road junctions or any other places in the city so that Raipur can become a safe future city for such children.

Instill values and discipline in children along with education: Dangi

Youths take out massive bike rally on Ambedkar Jayanti

Central Chronicle News

Masturi, Apr 16: A life-size statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was unveiled by the chief guest Bilaspur Range IG Ratanlal Dangi in the nearby Gram Panchayat Hardi (Gobari) and a bike rally was organized on this occasion, in which a large number of youths participated.

Addressing the program, IG Dangi said that along with education in children, the values and discipline that they get from parents and grandparents are very important. If you want your son not to drink alcohol, not to smoke bidi, cigarette, than you have to give up all this first.

Your child is watching how you behave in your

home, in the neighborhood, with others in the society and gradually everything affects him. He learns the same and then starts doing the same. If you want your child to go further, watch how he/she interacts with children. The eagle is a very high flying bird, if your child is in the wrong company, how will he grow up?

The programme was also addressed by the CEO of Masturi Chanting, Kumar Singh Lahere, Tehsildar Sundar Lal Ghritalhare, Prapa Sheshnarayan Gupta, Sukhran Khute.

The organizer of the program, Engineer Deepak Banjare Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Hardi (Gobari), Hetram Dande Kokdi Sarpanch and col-



leagues welcomed the chief guest Mr. Dangi with a garland. August, Sapna and Sumitra sang the welcome song.

Aurobindo Boudh, the sculptor who shaped the life-size statue of Bhimrao Ambedkar, was welcomed

into the dais.

The youth of the villages of the area, who participated in the bike rally in the said program, took out a rally on bikes with the slogans of Jai Bhim, in which hundreds of youths from villages including

Masturi, Chakarbedha, Pachpedi, Dhangawan participated. Mannulal Kurre and Santosh Yadav conducted the program.

The Sarpanch of Village Kokdi, Hetram Dande, youth companions and all the villagers had the cooperation in making the program a success. All the guests were welcomed with shawl and memento.

Among the distinguished guests of the program, retired teacher Aktram Sinha (Governor Award), District Panchayat member Kiran Santosh Yadav, District member Rajkumari Shivprasad Jagat, former district member Dharam Bhargava, State President Tribal Society Subhash Parte, Omprakash Pandey, Dilip Bhushan Kurre, Dinesh Bharti, Surendra Dahria, Prithvipal Rai, Village Paten Sirotan Singh, Pramod Raj, Vimala Jagat, Golu Sahu, Vimal Kant, Umesh Patle, Vijay Namdev were included.

Puri hails products made by members of 'Bihan' group

Conducts inspection of stalls of different products

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Apr 16: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Puri conducted inspection of variety of products made by women of 'Bihan' group in District Panchayat premises including herbal products, LED bulbs, cotton garments (sari), terracota and bamboo made products, 'masalas' and kitchen products and others. During talks with women of 'Bihan' group, Puri hailed the products made and out of all the music LED bulb attracted him the most.

Further the Union Minister inquired about the production cost and selling cost of the products and one of the members of 'Bihan' group lighted the music LED bulb through her mobile phone using bluetooth and even showed him how to start and stop the



LED light using a remote. She said it is costing Rs 350 each. Union Minister Puri hailed all the products made by members of 'Bihan' group and motivated them to continue to work in the same direction. On this occasion LS

MP Chunnail Sahu, former Minister and MLA Brijmohan Agrawal, ex-MLA and Collector Nilesh Kshirsagar, SP Vivek Shukla, CEO District Panchayat S Alok, DFO Pankaj Rajput and other officers and employees were present.

Officers allegedly misuse Govt vehicle

SDO to Ranger not responsible about their job



Central Chronicle News

Baikunthpur, Apr 17: Park Area Officer Sonhat are allegedly misusing the government vehicles within a range of 35-40 km. Office and residence of Guru Ghansi Das Park area has been constructed in Sonhat but ranger is not staying there and comes from his native village.

He allegedly misuses the government vehicles even official residence has been constructed at a cost of

lakhs. When discussed with the staff of park area it was confirmed that ranger do not come here even for two days in a week.

Most of the time he is in Baikunthpur and only rests for a while in the free accommodation constructed by the government. Baikunthpur park Deputy Director and park SDO has no time to keep watch on rangers as he himself comes from Ambikapur to perform his duty.

Ch'garh will develop with the prosperity of farmers: Choubey

MAgriculture Minister inaugurates three-day Kisan Fair

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Apr 16: Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey inaugurated a three-day state level Kisan Mela here at Science College ground on Tuesday and it will continue till the April 15th. Addressing the program, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey said that Kisan Samridhi Mela is being organized to make farmers prosperous in the direction of farming, and to connect them with innovations and new modern technology.

He said that Chhattisgarh is a state of farmers and if prosperity comes in the fields and barns of villages, prosperity will come in Chhattisgarh too. He said that the Chhattisgarh government was committed to



the progress of the farmers and to make them self-reliant. The policies run by the Chhattisgarh government certainly open the doors of prosperity for the farmers. In the program, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey also distributed cheques under the scheme to progressive and advanced farmers. Addressing the program, Leader of Opposition in VS Dharamlal Kaushik said that Chhattisgarh has become self-reliant in the matter of paddy, but there is a need to encourage and prepare an action plan in the production of pulses and oilseeds. He said that there

is immense potential for dairy, floriculture and horticulture in Bilaspur division. Efforts can be made in this direction by making an action plan with a better strategy at the government level. Addressing the farmers, MP Arun Sao said that it is necessary to adopt modern farming method for the progress of the farmers. This will not only increase the productivity but also increase the income of the farmers. Due to the better policies of the government, farmers become the carriers of prosperity. Addressing the program, Agriculture Production Commissioner Dr. Kamalpreet Singh said

that Krishi Mela is a means of improved farming and increasing the means of income. On this occasion Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Rashmi Ashish Singh, MLA Mr. Shailesh Pandey, MLA Mr. Rajneesh Singh, District Panchayat President Mr. Arun Singh Chouhan, Mayor Mr. Ramsharan Yadav, Chairman of Shakambari Board Mr. Ramkumar Patel, Chairman of Tourism Board Mr. Atal Srivastava and Fishermen Welfare Board Chairman Mr. MR Nishad, Special Secretary Agriculture Department Dr. S. Bharathidasan, Director Agriculture Department Mr. Yashwant Kumar Singh, Director Animal Department Mr. Sanjay Chandan Tripathi, Bilaspur Collector Dr. Saransh Mitter, SSP and a large number of farmers and public representatives from all over the state including Smt. Parul Mathur was present.

Jawans of Battalion offer 'Sharbat'



Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Apr 16: The office bearers of ITBF 38th Battalion Kharora camp, Raipur offered people and those in vehicles on Kharora- Maath road with 'Gulab Jal'(squash drink) and distributed 'prasad' on occasion of Mahavir Jayanti, Baisakhi and Ambedkar Jayanti. This provided great deal of relief to travellers and local people in hot summer and expressed gratitude towards the jawans of ITBF 38th Battalion.

On this occasion Dy. Commandant/GD 38th ITBF Battalion Vijendra Singh informed the people of the village that people of Sikh community celebrate 'Baisakhi fes-

tival' as new year and on occasion of crop harvesting. Every year this festival is celebrated on occasion of 'Mesh Sankranti' and on this day people exchange greetings to each other and celebrate the occasion. This festival also holds religious importance, as the 10th Guru of Sikhs- Guru Govind Singhji formed 'Khalsa Panth' in 1699 and therefore 'Baisakhi' has its own importance among the people of Sikh community. On this occasion other officers of the Battalion viz. Dr Rannik Mantu (CMO/ 2IC), Saroj Rani (AC/GD), Prem Singh Meena (AC/EG), and Vahini Karyavahak Subedar Major Kuldeep Singh was also present.

St. Joseph Bacheli Parish observe Good Friday

Central Chronicle News

Bacheli, Apr 16: Good Friday commemorates Jesus Christ's crucifixion. Christians observe the day by fasting and attending church services or re-enactments of Jesus Christ's last hour. The Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish Bacheli along with their Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Sajan, the main celebrant Rev. Fr. Kurias and Rev. Sisters took part in the Holy Mass with great devotion by commemorating



Jesus Christ's Crucifixion. A procession was taken out with devotees bearing

wooden crosses depicting the final hours of Jesus, from his condemnation to

placing the body in the tomb after his crucifixion on Mount Golgotha."

Strike by health workers worsens the condition of patients

Admitted in district hospital, PHCs, CHCs

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Apr 16: Demanding 7th pay scale implementation, the health workers of the region are currently on strike, due to which the condition of patients admitted in the district hospital, is worsening day-by-day. Mandatory services and diagnostic units are not functioning, which is

causing distress to the patients and their families.

It is noteworthy that with the aim of providing better health services to the common citizens, the district hospitals including PHC and CHC have been established, apart from catering to the regular health staff and also other health services like ambulance and laboratory services. But at present

health workers have gone on strike demanding 7th pay scale and 17 percent Dearness Allowances, the entire health system of the region is on hold. PCR Sahu, Gurucharan Sahu, Umakant Vaidh said that the health staff are doing strike for the last few years multiple times, and if their needs are not met, the strike may intensify. But as the staff continues to go on strike, the health system is paralyzed as more patients and their attendants suffer for basic needs and health amenities.

GCSI and IGE become global partners

For UNSDG 6 Clean Water & Sanitation Campaign
World Water Day Action Challenge 2022 launched

Central Chronicle News

Dantewada, Apr 16: Green Care Society India (GCSI) Chhattisgarh has been made a Global Partner for the World Water Day Action Challenge 2022 under United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 Clean Water and Sanitation Campaign by the Institution of Green Engineers (IGEN), Chennai Tamil Nadu, India. The inaugural ceremony was organized through virtual by releasing the poster

of World Water Day Action Challenge 2022. In the inaugural program, Green Care Society India President Dr Vishwanath Panigrahi and Director & COO Amujuri Biswanath gave a wonderful presentation on water conservation and cleanliness in the role of global partner across the globe.

Dr. Vishwanath Panigrahi, President, Green Care Society India said that the Sustainable Development Goals 1 to 17 were established by the United Nations in the year 2015 for quality living standards on the earth. To achieve this by the year 2030, many countries and organizations have mobilized globally. Director and COO of Green Care Society India & SDG Expert

Amujuri Biswanath said that work will be done on 4 challenges under the World Water Day Action Challenge 2022. Various programs on the theme of First Challenge Painting Competition, Second Challenge Speech Competition, Third Challenge Ideathon Project and Fourth Challenge Open Theme will be organized free of cost. In which students, teachers, environmentalists, scientists, social workers, general public can participate. President of The Institution of Green Engineers Prof. Dr. L. Ramesh said that Green Care Society India has been given an opportunity to officially organize programs on SDG 6 clean water and sanitation in North India,

East India and West India regions. Green Care Society India along with other three global partners Thanks Wing Green Lovers Forum Bangladesh, Global Sustainable Future London United Kingdom and Sai Ram Institution Chennai also got a chance to do free programs on water and sanitation. The Chief Guest of the program, President Global Sustainable Futures and Professor University College of Estate Management London United Kingdom Dr. Renuka Thakore presented ppt and expressed that there is a need to work in the direction of environmental and water conservation by empowering and enabling sustainable devel-

opment in developing and underdeveloped countries.

In the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Tanuja Balasundaram, head of the International Day of the Institution of Green Engineers, Dr. Kalyan Sagar, treasurer, Dr. M. Akila, Hon Secretary, K Pavitra moderator gave detailed information about the World Water Day Action Challenge 2022 program. Green Care Society India office bearers Vishnu Mahanand, Rupesh Goyal, Praveen Khare, Dr. Vikas Agarwal, Ishwari Prasad Naik, Vijay Sharma, Suresh Parmar, Pandit Bhagirathi Dubey, Govardhan Lal Baghel, Pandit Tikeshwar Mishra, Yogesh Badhi were given the responsibility for the project.

Aspire Home Finance Corporation Limited

Mottal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opposite ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025.
CIN :- U65923MH2013PLC248741

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice/s/date of receipt of the said notice/s.

The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account.

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd., for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S/No	Loan Agreement No. / Name of the Borrower/ Co Borrower/ Guarantor	Demand Notice date & Amount	Date of possession Taken	Description of the Property/ies mortgaged
1.	LXBIL00317-180061605 Varsha Mishra & Rajesh Mishra	22-11-2021 for Rs. 1601946/-	13-04-2022	Mauja Mangla, Ph - 21/33, Lig 994, Housing Board Colony, Din Dayal Colony, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh - 495001

Place : Chhattisgarh
Dated : 17.04.2022

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
(Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd.)

BRIEF

Firing

Thane: A man allegedly resorted to firing under the influence of alcohol amid a family feud in Kapurbawadi area of Thane city, a police official said. Rajesh Sharma (51) has been detained in the incident, in which no one was injured, and the process of registering an FIR was underway, Assistant Commissioner of Police Nilesh Sonawane said. The firing took place in the 23rd floor flat of housing complex. The accused lives with his three sons and is embroiled in property dispute.

List

New Delhi: All stakeholders in the vector-borne diseases control programme have been asked by civic authorities in east Delhi to provide a list of areas which are low-lying or prone to waterlogging during and after the rainy season, officials said. The decision was taken during a meeting of a task force set up in compliance with the directions of the Delhi High Court on prevention and control of vector-borne diseases, held under chairmanship of EDMC Commissioner.

Renovated

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has redeveloped and renovated 535 ponds in Udhampur district of the Union Territory. The information was provided by district officers to the Commissioner secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Sanjeev Verma, during his visit to Udhampur to review progress of development projects. Verma asked officers to also focus on rejuvenation of water bodies with involvement of panchayat members and NGOs.

FIR

New Delhi: An FIR has been registered, days after the official Twitter handle of the United Grants Commission (UGC), which has 2.98 lakh followers, was allegedly hacked and 24,000 spam messages were tweeted from it, the Delhi Police said. According to the FIR, the Twitter handle of the UGC (@ugc_india), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, was hacked at around 1.30 am on April 10. A complaint has been registered with Twitter as well.

Lifer

Muzaffarnagar: A special court trying Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe cases sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing a Dalit worker. Special Judge Jamshed Ali also imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 on convict Popin Kumar after holding him guilty under IPC section 302 (murder) and the SC/ST Act. According to special lawyer Yashpal Singh, Sonu has gone to Kumar's factory but did not return home.

'300 units of free electricity each month in Punjab from Jul'

Chandigarh, Apr 16 (PTI):

Every household in Punjab will get monthly 300 units of free electricity from July 1, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced on Saturday as his government completed one month in office.

He said except for scheduled caste and backward class families, if electricity consumption exceeds 600 units in two months, then the consumer will have to pay for the entire power usage.

Scheduled Castes, backward castes, below-poverty-line households and freedom fighters currently getting free 200 units each month will now get 300 units of electricity monthly. But if their electricity consumption exceeds 600 units in two months, they will be charged just for over and above 600 units, the chief



Bhagwant Mann

minister clarified. "From July 1, 2022, each household in Punjab will get free electricity of 300 units per month. And it will be 600 units for two months," the chief minister said in a video message on Saturday. Punjab has a two-month billing cycle for power supply. The state's information and public relations department had put out advertisements with the announcement in various newspapers that came out on Saturday.

This was one of the major poll promises of

the Aam Aadmi Party during the Punjab assembly election. The party's national convener Arvind Kejriwal had promised free electricity of up to 300 units for the state in June last year.

Mann also announced waiving arrears of electricity bills pending till December 31, 2021, of those households having up to a two-kilowatt load. Moreover, he said there would be no increase in the electricity tariff for industrial and commercial consumers while free power to the farming community would continue. The Punjab chief minister further said his government would ensure round-the-clock electricity supply to every village and town in two to three years. He said that his government would also provide the cheapest electricity in the country to the state's consumers.

DESTRUCTION



A woman looks at tin sheets destroyed during a storm, at Uttara para in Baksa district, Assam on Saturday.

Family killed, SP says UP drowned in crime under BJP 2.0

Prayagraj, Apr 16 (PTI):

Five members of a family, including three children, were found dead at their home in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj district, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place in Khagalpur village under Nawabganj police station area on Friday night, they said.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav attacked the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government over the incident, saying the state has "drowned in crime".

Replying to Yadav, a senior police official said a preliminary probe indicates that the head of the family killed the others before committing suicide.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said the truth behind the



Police investigate after five members of a family were found dead at Khagalpur village in Prayagraj district, Saturday.

incident will be known once the probe is completed.

Superintendent of Police Abhishek Agarwal said Rahul (42), his wife Priti (38) and their daughters Mahi (15), Pihu (13) and Kuhu (11) were found dead at their home. A

forensic team and a dog squad are at the spot for investigation.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Prayagraj) Ajay Kumar said police received information about the incident around 7.30 am. "The body of the house owner, Rahul, was

found hanging from the ceiling with a saree and it had no injury marks. Three chairs were stacked where his body was found, indicating that he committed suicide.

"The bodies of Rahul's wife and three daughters bore injury marks inflicted by a sharp-edged weapon, which suggests murder. Both these angles are being probed," Kumar said.

Seven teams have been formed to probe the case and the bodies have been sent for a post-mortem examination, he said.

According to Rahul's sister and brother-in-law, he was embroiled in a dispute with his in-laws for a while, the police said. After the news broke, SP president Yadav targeted the BJP government over the law and order situation in the state.

Karnataka CM rejects interference in inquiry

Bengaluru, Apr 16 (PTI):

Accusing the opposition Congress of wanting to be investigator, prosecutor and judge in the case relating to civil contractor Santosh Patil's death, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday dismissed allegations of interference by his government in the investigation. Following a political furore that erupted on the issue, senior BJP leader KS Eshwarappa, against whom police have booked a case of abetment to suicide, submitted his resignation as the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister on Friday.

"Santosh Patil's suicide is being investigated, post-mortem has been done, FSL (forensic science laboratory) report will come. On the basis of it, what has happened will be scientifically



Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai and former CM BS Yeddiurappa at a state BJP meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday.

known," Bommai said in response to Congress' questioning, as to why Eshwarappa has not been booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Speaking to reporters here, he recalled that during Siddaramaiah-led Congress government's tenure in KJ George (former Minister) case, the police, despite having video allegations against him and the death note, did not mention his name in the

FIR, and there was an attempt to shut the case, and the court had to issue an order, when the deceased police officer MK Ganapathy's family approached it.

"But, we have filed FIR (in Santosh Patil case) as per the complaint and accordingly the investigation is on...based on the progress of investigation, further sections may be added, let the investigation happen," he added.

ED to probe possible money laundering in WBSSC recruitment case

Kolkata, Apr 16 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate will initiate a probe into a possible money laundering angle in the alleged irregularities in West Bengal's School Service Commission recruitment, a source in the agency said on Saturday. The Central Bureau of Investigation is probing into the anti-corruption aspect to it. The ED



West Bengal School Service Commission, Kolkata.

is "closely watching" the developments and if any

money laundering is established, it will file an enforcement case information report (ECIR), which is equivalent to an FIR, the source said. "If any money laundering aspect is ascertained, ED will definitely probe the case for which the directorate will seek documents from the commission and also talk to the persons allegedly involved, the source said.

Muslim community to move MP HC against 'selective' demolition drive

Bhopal, Apr 16 (PTI):

Some members of the Muslim community on Saturday said they have decided to approach the Madhya Pradesh High Court against the "selective" demolition drive launched by the BJP government in the state, under which it has started razing the houses of those who were allegedly in-



Syed Mushtaq

involved in the recent violence in Khargone city and

a few other places.

Stating that the demolition drive has rendered several people homeless, a Muslim cleric asked why the government was punishing the family members of those who were allegedly involved in the riots. The state government has launched the drive against "illegal" properties allegedly belonging to those involved

in the stone-pelting and other forms of violence that broke out during a Ram Navami procession on April 10. Several Muslim religious leaders in the state have earlier alleged that members of the community were being unfairly targeted by the authorities following the violence, and houses were demolished in some cases without due process.

Inquiry against police personnel for harassing woman cop

Erode, Apr 16 (PTI):

Erode Superintendent of Police V Sasimohan on Saturday ordered an enquiry against an inspector, additional SP and a constable attached to the Special Branch CID for allegedly harassing another woman inspector over an issue related to an inter-caste marriage.

On April 14, Erode All-Women Police Inspector Neelavathi (44) was on special bundobust duty when she received a call from a higher official, who spoke harshly with her over the issue. The inspector got livid and she allegedly told another official that she would commit suicide and left the place. In the meantime, Neelavathi went to her close friend's house where she apparently fell down and was taken to hospital. After receiving treatment, she returned to her house at Surampatti area in the district and a took leave for the past two days. According to police, a few days back a newly married inter-caste couple reached the All Women Police, Erode where they pleaded for protection from the bride's family, who were opposed to the

wedding.

After enquiring with the couple, Neelavathi found that they were both adults and had consented to tie the knot. She assured to provide protection and advised them to go home.

As the couple came out of the police station, the newly-married woman's relatives kidnapped her while the bridegroom was beaten up by them.

The bridegroom, then, lodged a complaint with Erode South Police and a case was registered against 30 people. The newly-wed woman was traced and produced before the court on Friday. In the court, the girl told the magistrate that she wanted to reunite with her parents and the judge also ordered the police to allow her to do so. Meanwhile, Neelavathi made a statement in sections of the media that she decided to end her life due to "unbearable torture" by a woman Additional SP and a male Special Branch Constable. The officer also said she would represent her plea with the Chief Minister and also the Director General of Police and that she doesn't want to serve in Erode district.

Central Chronicle

MATRIMONIAL

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वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिये- मारवाड़ी युवक 18-11-89 बीकानेर हैदराबाद ज्वेलरी शोरूम, इनकम 60 लाख सालाना खुद का बंगला घरेलू मारवाड़ी वधु चाहिये. फोटो बायोडाटा भेजिए. वाट्सअप-98261-61471. (248817)

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वधु चाहिये- गुजराती 41 वर्ष, आय-40000, हाइट 6 फिट लडके हेतु सर्व गुजराती या उच्च जाति वधु कन्या चाहिए. शीघ्र विवाह. संपर्क करें- मो.-98271-14645, 91311-39179. (248749)

वैवाहिकी

पंजाबी

वर चाहिये

Seeks groom for Punjabi Brahmin girl, Age: 28 Height: 5'4" B.COM, L.L.B, L.L.M, Beautiful & Fair Complexion From High Status Business Family. Contact: 9422146793.

सामान्य

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बौद्ध

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बंगाली

वर चाहिये

वधु बंगाली, जन्म 1983, 5'2", एम.ए., बी.एड. हाईस्कूल टीचर (सी.बी.एस.ई. नागपुर), रंग-गोरा, सुयोग्य वर चाहिए. अतिशय विवाह (जाति बंधन नहीं) संपर्क-बायोडाटा वाट्सअप करें-मो.-9529162259.

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BRIEF

Maps

Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Supreme Court in US adopted Republican-drawn maps for the state Legislature, after initially approving maps drawn by Democratic Gov Tony Evers. The court reversed itself after the US Supreme Court in March said Evers' maps were incorrectly adopted. The decision from the state's high court came the same day candidates could start circulating nomination papers to get on the ballot. Before ruling, candidates were not certain about areas.

Shield

Washington: The Homeland Security Department said it will temporarily shield people from deportation back to Cameroon, saying extreme violence between government forces and armed separatists in the African nation made it unsafe for them to return. The department also cited increasing attacks by the Boko Haram extremist group as grounds for giving Cameroonians an 18-month reprieve from deportation if they were in the US. They may apply for work permits.

Accepts

Kathmandu: The Nepal government has accepted USD 659 million in grant assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), officials said. It is not MCC. The decision was taken at the Cabinet Meeting, said Government Spokesperson Gyanendra Bahadur Karki. Apart from the USD 659 million grant, the Cabinet decided to accept a concessional loan of USD 150 million from the World Bank Group's International Development Association.

Seafood

Miami: A US ban on seafood imports from Russia over its invasion of Ukraine was supposed to sap billions of dollars from Vladimir Putin's war machine. But shortcomings in import regulations mean that Russian-caught pollock, salmon and crab are likely to enter the US anyway, by way of the country vital to seafood supply chains across the world from China. Like the US seafood industry, Russian companies rely heavily on China to process their catch, which is re-exported.

Ready

Nicosia: Lebanon is ready to work with Cyprus to exploit potential gas deposits in waters between the two east Mediterranean countries, Lebanon's top diplomat said, even though a deal on offshore rights hasn't been formally finalized. Cyprus and Lebanon signed an agreement delineating their respective offshore exclusive economic zones in 2007, but the Lebanese parliament has yet to ratify it amid the country's ongoing maritime border dispute with Israel.

Elderly people in Ukraine, left behind, mourn



Nadiya Trubchaninova stands next to volunteers while loading a plastic bag that contains the body of a civilian killed.

Mykulychi, Apr 16 (AP):

This is not where Nadiya Trubchaninova thought she would find herself at 70 years of age, hitchhiking daily from her

village to the shattered town of Bucha trying to bring her son's body home for burial.

The questions wear her down, heavy like the winter coat and boots she still

wears against the chill. Why had Vadym gone to Bucha, where the Russians were so much harsher than the ones occupying their village? Who shot him as he drove on Yablunska Street, where so many bodies were found? And why did she lose her son just one day before the Russians withdrew? Now 48-year-old Vadym is in a black bag in a refrigerated truck. After word reached her that he had been found and buried by strangers in a yard in Bucha, she has spent more than a week trying to bring him home for a proper grave. But he is one body among hundreds, part of an investigation into war crimes that has grown to global significance.

Sri Lankan police remove trucks from protest site

Colombo, Apr 16 (PTI):

Sri Lankan police on Saturday removed several empty trucks parked at a protest site near the presidential secretariat, possibly averting a crackdown on the protesters agitating against the government's handling of the island nation's worst economic crisis.

A large number of protesters have gathered at Galle Face near President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's secretariat since April 9, seeking the entire Rajapaksa family to resign from the powerful government positions they are holding in the wake of the poor handling of the ongoing economic crisis by the current regime that has brought the nation to a financial standstill.

While there have been attempts by the government to persuade the protesters to call it off, police trucks were seen moving near to the site early on Saturday.



People display placards during near the president's office in Colombo on Saturday.

However, hours later the police removed several empty trucks parked there, protesters said.

In a statement, The lawyers' body Bar Association of Sri Lanka warned the government that any attempt to disrupt protests will have grave repercussions.

The BASL views with grave concern any attempt to disrupt in whatever manner what is a peaceful protest by the people of this country. Any such attempt will

have grave repercussions for the country, its democracy, its economy and the rule of law, the BASL statement said.

The protesters have drawn support from all sections of the society from celebrities in the music and film industry to cricketers.

Ex-national captains Arjuna Ranatunga, Sanath Jayasuriya, Roshan Mahanama and notable past stars, Sidath Wettimuny, the first Test centurion of the country,

US lawmakers affirm Japan alliance eyeing China, North Korea

Tokyo, Apr 16 (AP):

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and visiting US lawmakers reaffirmed their commitment to working together under a long-standing bilateral alliance on Saturday, amid heightened global tensions spanning the war in Ukraine to threats from neighbouring China and North Korea.

In a meeting over breakfast, the delegation, led by Sen Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, agreed with Kishida on the importance of maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The six lawmakers' visit follows their earlier stop in Taiwan, where they made a pointed and public declaration of their support for the self-governing island democracy, while issuing a warning to China. They met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen.

China carried out mili-

tary drills near Taiwan in protest of the delegation's visit. Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said China was prepared to take strong measures to resolutely safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Japan has long been nervous about China's stance on Taiwan, but such views, especially among conservative politicians seeking a more assertive military, have heightened since the war in Ukraine.

The question is sensitive because Japan's pacifist constitution adopted after its defeat in World War II bans the use of force in international disputes. Japan keeps its overseas military operations to peacekeeping and humanitarian relief.

Officially, Japan does not recognise Taiwan but they maintain friendly relations. The questions of whether the US would intervene in the case of a military invasion of

Taiwan by China remains open.

Analysts say Japan's role in such a hypothetical situation is even more unclear because Japan houses a huge US military presence under the alliance.

Kishida told the representatives from Congress that the bilateral alliance superseded political party divisions, and sought their understanding on Japan's role in working toward peace and prosperity in the region.

Tokyo also asked for US support for ongoing efforts by Japan to bring home Japanese who were abducted by North Korea decades ago, the ministry said. North Korea returned some of the abducted people in 2004.

China is against any official exchanges between Taiwan's government and other foreign governments because it claims Taiwan is part of its national territory and not an independent country.

LOCKDOWN DUTY



A health worker talks to residents of a building during lockdown duty in Shanghai on Saturday.

Palestinians in Jenin evoke painful past as violence flares

Jenin, Apr 16 (AP):

The journey of the Palestinian who opened fire at a street-side bar in Tel Aviv last week, killing three young Israeli men and sending the city into lockdown, began a two-hour drive away in an impoverished refugee camp deep inside the occupied West Bank.

Twenty years after Jenin saw one of the biggest battles of the second Palestinian uprising, Israel is once again launching near-daily raids into the camp and trading fire with local fighters. Decades of dispossession, poverty and violence have only deepened the camp's reputation as a bastion of armed struggle against Israeli rule.

Tires, gutted appliances and other rubble are piled up near the entrances to the camp, which is trans-



A Palestinian man walks past graffiti that depicts notable Palestinians, at entrance of the Freedom Theatre in Jenin.

formed into a fortress at night, when the raids usually occur. Narrow roads wind through a confusion of squat concrete homes built on a hillside, some adorned with portraits of slain Palestinians and the flags of armed factions.

Palestinian assailants have killed 14 Israelis in a series of attacks in recent weeks, and clashes at a major Jerusalem holy site have raised tensions further. Last week, Raad

Hazem, a 28-year-old from the Jenin camp, attacked the bar in central Tel Aviv and eluded a massive manhunt for hours before police shot and killed him near a mosque. A large poster celebrating Hazem as a martyr to the Palestinian cause was hung over the main entrance to the camp after the attack, praising him for 'imposing a curfew' on the seaside metropolis.

Myanmar rebel troupe takes aim at junta with folk satire

'Thangyat' performances were prohibited under previous regime

Kayin, Apr 16 (AFP):

A troupe of Myanmar folk singers and satirists are taking their new show on a jungle tour, hoping to rally anti-coup fighters far from their families with barbs against the junta and jokes about home. Myanmar has been in chaos since last year's coup sparked renewed fighting with ethnic rebels and sprouted dozens of "People's Defence Forces" that have battled the junta across the country.

In eastern Kayin state, the "Peacock Generation" activist troupe are trying to boost morale with traditional "Thangyat" performances of poetry, comedy and satirical songs against the junta. Near the Thai border, their makeshift tour bus — with a three-finger salute popular with pro-democra-

cy protesters in Hong Kong and Thailand painted on one side — bumps along a dusty track en route to a camp.

Upon arrival, the unfazed troupe of around 15 mostly young performers rehearse their lines. "We are expecting the battle like we hope for rains," they sing, stepping in unison across a makeshift stage, accompanied by drums and cymbals. "Let's start the bullets raining."

Slam-poetry-like "Thangyat" is traditionally performed around the new year, and has been used for centuries in Myanmar to poke fun at politics and society and vent against injustices small and large. But the military has waged a brutal crackdown on dissent since the February 2021 coup.

More than 1,700 civilians have been killed and over 13,000 people arrested, including dozens of journalists, according to a local monitoring group. A handful of media outlets have



Members of the Peacock Generation activist troupe taking part in a traditional 'Thangyat' performance in Kayin state.

also been forced to shut down. At the camp, a handful of young fighters in camouflage uniforms sit cross-legged, some clapping along. "We also want to live like you — peacefully with cigarettes and coffee," the troupe sings to a row of smartphones in the audience, a message that will reach those sitting at home when the performance is broadcast online later.

"We are still young and we are missing our mothers who always scold us." The

few dozen at the camp are some of the hundreds, according to analyst estimates, who have trekked into border areas held by Myanmar's established rebel groups to receive weapons training.

"Thangyat gives us some freedom of expression in our culture," said veteran performer Zay Yar Lwin, 32, who fled to the jungle after the coup and refounded the Peacock Generation group he had performed with in previous years.

Indian-Americans slam professor for her disparaging comments

Washington, Apr 16 (PTI):

Leading Indian-Americans, including US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, have slammed a law professor from University of Pennsylvania for her disparaging comments about the Asian American community, with a specific disdain for Indian-Americans.

In a recent interview to Fox News, Prof Amy Wax from the University of Pennsylvania alleged that

Blacks and non-Western groups have a tremendous amount of resentment and shame against western people for [their] outsized achievements and contributions.

Here's the problem. They're taught that they are better than everybody else because they are Brahmin elites and yet, on some level, their country is a sh*t-hole. Wax, who has a long history of inflammatory remarks, said.

She also said that the westerners have out-

gunned and outclassed the Asian Americans in every way.

They've realised that we've outgunned and outclassed them in every way. They feel anger. They feel envy. They feel shame. It creates ingratitude of the most monstrous kind, she said.

Wax then targeted the influential Indian-American doctors' community as well.

They are on the ramparts for the antiracism initiative for dump on

America,' she alleged.

The comment was condemned by the Indian-Americans across the US.

After President Trump left office, I thought the days of calling others shithole countries were over, Krishnamoorthi said in a tweet.

As an Indian-American immigrant, I'm disgusted to hear this UPenn Professor define Indian-American immigrants, and all non-white Americans, in such insulting terms, he said.

Stating that such comments are borne of hatred and fear, he emphasised that such talks make it much harder to accomplish common-sense immigration reform.

Comments like these are borne of hatred and fear, and they lead to real harm for my constituents and our minority communities. They fuel hate crimes against minorities, and they make it much harder to accomplish common-sense im-

migration reform, Krishnamoorthi said.

Indian-American Law professor Neil Makhija also slammed Wax for her comments.

It's irresponsible to use your position to lend credibility to these overtly racist sentiments that don't recognise Indian-Americans for who we are," he told Axios.

Indian-American Impact is slated to hold a summit next month in DC. Makhija told Axios he's planning to adjust pro-

gramming to discuss the incident and create solutions against anti-Asian and South Asian hate in educational settings.

The most unfortunate thing is that we have a lot of brilliant and incredible students at the law school, he told NBC News.

It makes you question whether she can fairly grade or educate, he said. This is not the first time Wax's controversial comments about race have gone viral, the US media reported.



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 17

Reduce fuel consumption

Retail inflation soared to a 17-month high of 6.95 percent in March, according to official data released. This is the third consecutive month that inflation remained above the 6 percent mark. The previous high at 7.61 percent was recorded in October 2020. Retail inflation tracked by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the changes in prices from a retail buyer's perspective. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation rose mainly on account of rising prices of essential food items like 'oils and fats', vegetables and protein-rich items such as 'meat and fish'. Inflation is directly related to prices of fuel and fertilisers. It is very difficult to control inflation with mounting import of petroleum products. Government and society has to find ways to reduce fuel consumption drastically. International Energy Agency (IEA) has proposed actions that can be taken to reduce oil demand with immediate impact and provides recommendations for how those actions can help pave the way to putting oil demand onto a more sustainable path in the longer term. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has thrown global commodity markets into turmoil. The global oil market in which Russia is a major force, is one of the most heavily affected. Russia is the world's third largest oil producer and the largest oil exporter. The majority of oil demand is in transport, so the proposed measures of essentially focus on how to get from A to B. A country by country and state by state analysis shows that a reduction of speed limits on highways by 10 km per hour relative to current levels can significantly reduce fuel consumption for cars, light commercial vehicles and trucks. The impact of working from home on oil consumption varies widely by region, depending on the distance of the commute and average fuel consumption.

Working from home up to three days per week would cut oil demand and could reduce fuel bills. Banning the use of private cars on Sundays brings a number of additional benefits to public health and well-being. In warmer climates, reduced traffic can also reduce urban 'heat-island' effects. Where public transport exists, a short-term temporary response can be to reduce fares for public buses, metro and light rail. Restricting private cars' use of roads in large cities to those with even number-plates some weekdays and to those with odd-numbered plates on other weekdays is a measure with a long track record of successful implementation such as in case of Delhi. Non-urban car trips are responsible for over 4 million barrels a day of oil use. Vehicles can also be used more fuel efficiently by adopting best practices both in driving and maintenance. Governments can introduce so-called eco-driving techniques as part of the tuition and examination processes required to receive a driving license and advanced driving certificates. Trucks are major consumers of diesel, and so improving the efficiency of their operations can be an important contributor to reducing oil use. Rail services must be operated and serviced efficiently to get widespread acceptance as an alternative to flights. High oil prices may incentivise airlines to operate underutilised routes in response to reduced business travel. Reducing oil use must not remain a temporary measure. Sustained reductions are desirable in order not only to improve energy security but also to tackle climate change and reduce air pollution. Governments have all the necessary tools at their disposal to put oil demand into decline in the coming years, which would support efforts to both strengthen energy security and achieve vital climate goals.

Need for harmony

This year in 2022, Easter and Passover, observations central to Christianity and Judaism, respectively, began on the same weekend. This timing provides an ideal opportunity to address faulty and often dangerous misconceptions that have been part of Christian communities for nearly 2,000 years. It is a rare convergence of festive times for Jerusalem's major religions as Judaism's Passover; Christianity's Easter and Islam's Ramadan. But the triple blessing is being overshadowed by fresh tensions in Israel and Palestine. The different communities are urged to maintain harmony and understand difference in perception. The society needs lessons to address misconceptions. Many Christians of varying denominations regard their faith as having developed from Jesus's rejection of Judaism. But Jesus was a faithful Jew who respected and protected Jewish traditions, practices and laws. The belief that Christianity replaced or supplanted Judaism is known as Christian supersessionism. Christian supersessionism has not only fed into negative perceptions of Jews and Judaism since antiquity, but has also incited violence against Jews. Historically, Christian anti-Jewish sentiment often became especially pronounced when Christians observed Holy Week, the week commemorating the time leading up to Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection.

The notion that Jesus rejected Judaism and Jewish observances developed in the decades after the crucifixion. After the destruction of Jerusalem's Second Temple under Roman occupation in 70, some followers of Jesus felt there was no longer a reason to be concerned with impurity because no one could visit the temple. Many Christians today, especially those in the West, live with little or no concern for ritual impurity, and thus conclude that Jesus too must not have cared about it. But this is an inaccurate understanding of Jesus. In fact, many early Christians, some of whom were Jews and others of whom were non-Jews, continued to observe aspects of ritual purity, only abandoning it partially and over time. Some scholars discuss and evaluate contemporary Christian strategies for avoiding anti-Judaism during Christian Holy Week. One strategy she flags as misguided and insensitive is taking a romantic approach to the past, such as if churches seek to celebrate a 'Christian seder.' Passover and Easter both commemorate liberation, one in terms of escaping the bondage of slavery, the other in the form of resurrection from the dead and freedom from sin. Some earlier biblical scholars believed that what the Gospels describe as Jesus's Last Supper was in fact his celebration of the Passover seder, but most scholars now disagree. Such an understanding can bring stability to societies in middle eastern countries.

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.

AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE



Men hold up signs against violence as they participate in a 'Die In' to draw attention to gun violence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in US.

India's rivers becoming highways for plastic waste

ANUSHA KRISHNAN



In an effort to identify plastic accumulation and leakage hotspots along the Ganga river, a recent project in three north Indian cities found that roughly 10-25 percent of all the plastic waste generated was littered and was not routed into recycling or appropriate waste disposal channels. This litter, which is either generated in or accumulates in the different cities' hotspots is a major source of plastic leaking into the riverine system in the area, especially during the rainy season. Much of the litter was multilayer plastic packaging, disposable bottles and cutlery, nylon sacks, and polythene bags. The CounterMEASURE project by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with funding from Japan, launched in 2020 to track and survey the leakage and movement of plastic waste in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in Ganga and Mekong rivers. In India, the project has been deployed in Haridwar, Agra, and Prayagraj (also known as Allahabad) along the Ganga to identify plastic accumulation and leakage hotspots - places within and around the cities where a higher than normal amount of plastic piles up and eventually enters the river.

In each city, physical surveys of geographical areas were combined with data from GIS (Geographical Information System) mapping to chart out land and drainage topologies and human land-use patterns, outlines a report published by the National Productivity Council (NPC) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Surveys and clean-up drives then provided information on plastic litter, which was combined with the physical survey data to gain an understanding of the plastic accumulation and leakage hotspots within each city. The clean-up drives to assess plastic litter were held in select hotspots. 'Each clean-up session at a hotspot required at least 40-50 volunteers and safai karamcharis from the local municipality to work for an entire day to collect, segregate, and pack the plastic waste for further analysis at our laboratories,' said Amit Jain, Technical and Plastic Pollution Consultant at UNEP India for the project CounterMEASURE at the NPC. The clean-up drives were conducted in a scientific manner with clearly marked grids and turned out to be good learning opportunities for those involved, said an NPC team member. 'At one of our clean-up drives in Agra near the Yamuna river, we needed 40-50 gunny bags to hold all the waste collected,' she added.

Haridwar, the second-largest city in the northern state of Uttarakhand generates close to 11 tonnes of plastic waste as untreated waste and litter on a regular day. The city, regarded as a holy place in the Hindu religion, may generate more than twice this amount of plastic waste during festivals, found the CounterMEASURE project. In the neighbouring state of Uttar Pradesh, in the city of Agra, an estimated 10-30 tonnes of plastic waste from 9 hotspots make their way into the Yamuna river, which is a major tributary of the Ganga. Much of this leakage seems to occur from riverside slums where garbage collection is poor, and plastic waste enters the river through open drains. A significant amount of the plastic in the river also consists of thin plastic sheets (used in sweet shops) or comes from the industrial sector as trimmings of synthetic leather and synthetic rubber from the footwear industry. Meanwhile in Prayagraj, about 500 kilometres from Agra, roughly eight tonnes of plastic litter per day are estimated to leak into land and riverine ecosystems. A majority of this is household plastic waste often dumped in open areas, many of which are in flood

zones. The leakage scenario in Prayagraj appears to be the most diffuse of all three cities with almost 100 hotspots identified across the city limits. Plastics are now found in almost every ocean, sea, river, wetland and lake on the earth. Even remote areas like the alpine lake Sassolo in Switzerland, which is hundreds of kilometres away from any human habitation, have been contaminated by plastics. The first ever report of plastic in the oceans has been traced to 1965 when an old-fashioned metal box used to monitor plankton snagged a plastic bag off the coast of Ireland. However, the issue of marine plastic litter truly came into the spotlight with the discovery of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in 1997. This patch stretches across 1.6 million square kilometres, and contains plastic not only on its surface, but all through the water column and on the ocean floor. Research has shown that rivers are like highways that transport 0.4-4 million metric tonnes of plastic from human inhabited land into the oceans.

A recent study states that roughly 1000 rivers account for 80 percent of all the riverine plastic waste that flows into marine environments. While previous research from 2018 identified ten of the largest rivers in the world as the top plastic waste carriers including the Indus, Brahmaputra, and Ganga from India, this new study reports a more complicated picture. It finds that smaller rivers that pass through heavily populated areas can often carry more plastic than larger rivers. As of now, much of the data on plastic waste in water bodies is from marine environments as research has mostly been focused on plastic pollution in the oceans. Research on fresh water bodies has lagged behind; consequently, little is known about how plastic leaks into and is transported by riverine systems. The leakage hotspot analyses and work on ghost fishing gear, however, only expose the tip of the plastic waste iceberg in the Ganga as they deal solely with macroplastics - plastic pieces that are larger than 5 mm in size and usually clearly visible to the naked eye. Macroplastics entangle, choke,

and kill millions of aquatic animals every year; macroplastics floating on ocean surfaces may also affect surface temperatures and optical properties of water columns and through them, cause unanticipated climate change effects. Besides these effects, macroplastics cause further issues by fragmenting into smaller pieces known as microplastics. Besides the Ganga and its tributaries, several other freshwater systems in India have been investigated for the presence of plastic pollution. Clean-up drives on the Karamana river in Kerala have shown that macroplastics make up 80 percent of the trash found in the river and along its banks; most of this comes from household waste and litter.

Another study on the Netravathi river which originates in Kudremukh in Karnataka and flows through the major pilgrimage centres of Dharmasthala and Subrahmanya to empty into the Arabian sea, concludes that the river is contaminated with microplastics from its source to its sink. On an average, hundreds of microplastic particles are found in every cubic meter of water and kilo of sediment from the river. Much like what was found in the Ganga and its tributaries, most of these microplastics are fibres released from garment washing or bits of polyethylene and PET. A study on the Sabarmati river found hundreds of microplastic particles per kilo of river sediment. Investigations on the Adayar and Kosasthalaiyar rivers in Chennai indicate that they may be responsible for discharging 11.6 trillion microplastic particles into the Bay of Bengal. The same study also indicates that remote mountain rivers with low anthropogenic influences (the Muthirappuzhayar River, that flows along the Southern Western Ghats) may contain microplastic particle levels as high as 0.2 particles per litre. Similar investigations in the Vembanad lake in Kerala as well as the Red Hills lake and Veeranam lake in Tamil Nadu have found microplastic particles in both water and sediment samples.

(Anusha Krishnan writes about new scientific discoveries and based in Bengaluru.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Harmony

Some reports of communal harmony reminds me of what historian and political scientist Howard Zinn says in A People's History of the United States: 'Our future may be found in the past's fugitive moments of compassion rather than in its solid centuries of warfare.' In the now communally tense political atmosphere of India, distorted public conscience is eager to zoom into even small tensions between communities while ignoring to appreciate the many sides of harmonious co-existence. The British ruined that old syncretic culture in order to weaken the fight by Indians against them. And, today, some forces try to use the same colonial narratives to vilify other communities. There is absolutely no doubt that we have to reinforce our culture of compassion rather than a new line of hatred.

Sukumaran, via email

Wildlife crime

There is urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species, which have wide-ranging economic, environmental, and social impacts. According to data from the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of threatened species, over 8,400 species of wild fauna and flora are critically endangered, while close to 30,000 more are understood to be endangered or vulnerable. Based on these estimates, it is suggested that over a million species are threatened with extinction. Over the years, human interference in the world's natural ecosystems, including wildlife hunting and poaching, became more common and, thus the wildlife populations started to decline across the globe. The continued loss of species and habitats is a threat to the very survival of ecosystems. The preservation of the world's wildlife is crucial to the fulfillment of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is time to act and work together to preserve and protect wildlife, ensure their survival, and promote sustainable use by humanity.

Krishna Kumar, via email

Due process

The suspension of Russia from the United Nations Human Rights Council appears to be premature action, as 'due process' has not been strictly followed, as pointed out by India in its 'Explanation of Vote' speech on the resolution. When an independent international commission of inquiry has been already established by the HRC itself to investigate alleged violations and abuses of human rights by Russia in Ukraine, it is inexplicable as to how a precipitate action could be taken against Russia even before the commission has submitted its report. What has allegedly happened in Bucha is highly condemnable and demands strongest action, if the allegations are found to be true. But the commission of inquiry has neither completed its investigation nor submitted a report. Even an oral update by the commission is mandated to be submitted in the HRC's 51st session only. Under these circumstances, the suspension of Russia from the HRC is illegal and premature. This will only lower the stature of the UN body. The US in its eagerness to push Russia into a corner should not initiate hasty actions that could make the UN and its various bodies irrelevant in the long run.

Kosaraju, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Monica@TrulyMonica

Today I met a Muslim Cab Driver. After talking about Ramzan and his Roza, I asked what's his take on 'rising intolerance'. He said, 'An average Muslim's concern just like an average Hindu is his livelihood. It is the big people who play victim cards'. I was stunned by his clarity.

Shubhrata@shubhrata_p

I often provide peer support to people who are struggling with mental health issues, esp #depression. A common thread running thru all such conversations is the gaslighting done by family members and society, to the extent that one begins to doubt one's own distress.



Disha@disharavii

You don't need to know everything about the environment to know that Sadhguru's save soil movement is shady. A man who has been grabbing land from adivasis and has his foundation on forest land has little interest in saving soil. A google search would have told you as much.

Sumit@Sumitkadel

The main problem with most of the hindi event films is that 40-50 percent of the entire budget are spent on Actors & Director Fee.. Thats the reason in most of these films we cant see the huge budget on screen.. Industry must think about it- Quality shouldn't be compromised at any cost.

canniiking@cuttingchai_v2
Chandigarh has the loveliest trees!



Aishwarya@whosthatmiss

My younger sister was a board topper, I wasn't. My younger sister went to IIM, I didn't. And looking at her salary, let me tell you confidently that do not believe this! Badges, marks, and exams don't matter only if you are rich or lucky. Now go study!

Rhitam@TheChaiDude

We don't need more gatekeepers. Let this be a free market place of ideas and see which idea thrives and survives. Arbitrary moderation doesn't promote competitive spaces. Only in competitive spaces can better ideas emerge.

BRIEF

Grow

■ Indore: Software export from four IT special economic zones, including those of TCS and Infosys, here climbed to Rs 1,761.19 crore in the last fiscal, registering around 52 per cent growth following a surge in demand in IT services. The four IT SEZs accounted for Rs 1,161.40 crore of exports in 2020-21, an official of the Central Commercial and Industries Ministry said on Saturday. He said that software exports from TCS SEZ rose to Rs 867.35 crore, registering a growth of around 60 per cent in the last fiscal. Software exports of Infosys SEZ were by 96 per cent to Rs 137.72 crore while that of Impetus SEZ by 64 per cent to Rs 159 crores during 2021-22.

IPO

■ New Delhi: Keynes Technology India Limited (KTIL), an end-to-end and IoT solutions enabled integrated electronics manufacturing player, has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO consists of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating to Rs 650 crore, and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 7.2 crore equity shares by a promoter and an existing shareholder, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). The OFS comprises sale of up to 37 lakh equity shares by promoter Ramesh Kunhikannan and up to 35 lakh equity shares by existing shareholder Freny Firoze Irani.

Certify

■ New Delhi: Tech Mahindra announced a collaboration with Keysight Technologies to certify 5G vendors' equipment at its O-RAN (open radio access network) lab in New Jersey, the US. Put simply, Open RAN or open radio access network architecture is industry terminology for interoperability and standardisation of radio access network elements, including products and software from various vendors. Tech Mahindra has announced a collaboration with Keysight Technologies to certify 5G equipment of open radio access network (O-RAN) in Tech Mahindra's 5G O-RAN test lab facility located in New Jersey, US, the company said.

Returns

■ Mumbai: Inflection Point Ventures (IPV), which is a collective of over 6,600 angel investors/HNIs and family offices, and is among the largest domestic angel investment platforms for startups, has returned 190 per cent IRR (internal rate of returns) in 2021 on the 13 exits it made in the year and is planning to exit over 10 more this year. The New Delhi-based IPV, founded in 2018 by Vinay Bansal, Ankur Mittal and Mitesh Shah, has already made three partial exits till March and remains invested in close to 100 startups worth Rs 356 crore, and will add at least 50 more investee companies this fiscal.

Fuel sales fall in April on high prices

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

India's fuel sales fell in the first half of April as a record rise in prices in a short 16-day period dented demand, preliminary industry data showed on Saturday. Petrol sales fell almost 10 per cent in the first half of April when compared with the same period in the preceding month, while diesel demand slid 15.6 per cent.

Even cooking gas LPG, which had consistently shown growth even during the pandemic period, saw a 1.7 per cent month-on-month fall in consumption during April 1-15. State-owned oil firms on March 22 ended a 137-day hiatus in rate revision and began passing on a USD 30 per barrel increase in cost of raw material (crude oil) during that period when five states including Uttar Pradesh went to polls.

Petrol and diesel prices rose by Rs 10 per litre between March 22 and April 6 -- the highest ever in-



crease during a 16-day period since fuel prices were deregulated two decades back. On March 22, cooking gas prices too were hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder to Rs 949.50 -- the highest-ever rate for the subsidised fuel. Jet fuel prices too climbed to the highest-ever Rs 1,13,202.33 per kilolitre, resulting in a 20.5 per cent fall in sales month-on-month. In the first two weeks of March, dealers as well as the public topped up their tanks in

anticipation of an increase in prices that had been on hold in the run-up to the elections in states like Uttar Pradesh.

While daily price revisions restarted on March 22, the increases were calibrated. The price increases moderated the consumption. Petrol sales by state-owned fuel retailers, which control roughly 90 per cent of the market, at 1.12 million tonnes during April 1-15 were nearly 12.1 per cent higher than the

same period last year and 19.6 per cent higher than the period in 2019, preliminary industry data showed.

The consumption was, however, 9.7 per cent lower than the 1.24 million tonnes sales in the same period in March 2022. Diesel, the most-used fuel in the country, saw sales jumping 7.4 per cent year-on-year to almost 3 million tonnes. This was 4.8 per cent higher than sales in March 2019, but 15.6 per cent lower than 3.53 million tonnes consumption during March 1-15.

Petrol and diesel sales had risen 18 per cent and 23.7 per cent respectively in the first half of March when most of the hoarding on price hike expectations took place. Diesel sales during March were the most in any month in the last two years and more than the total volume of diesel sold in April 2020 when the country was under a complete lockdown.

HDFC Bank standalone net profit jumps 23%

■ To Rs 10,055 cr in Q4

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 22.8 per cent jump in its standalone net profit at Rs 10,055.2 crore for the quarter ended March 2022.

The country's largest private sector lender had posted a net profit of Rs 8,186.50 crore in the corresponding fourth quarter of the previous fiscal.

"After providing Rs 2,989.5 crore for taxation, the bank earned a net profit of Rs 10,055.20 crore, an increase of 22.8 per cent over the quarter ended March 31, 2021," HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing. Total



income (standalone) rose to Rs 41,085.78 crore during Q4 FY22 as against Rs 38,017.50 crore in the year-ago period. Net revenues (net interest income plus other income) increased by 7.3 per cent to Rs 26,509.80 crore for the quarter ended March, from Rs 24,714.10 crore earlier, it said.

The net interest income (interest earned minus interest expended) for the reported quarter grew by 10.2 per cent from a year ago to Rs 18,872.70 crore.

Debt recovery via insolvency cases at 31%

■ 47% cases liquidated

Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):

Nearly half of the 3,247 insolvency cases have been resolved through liquidation, and only a paltry 457 or 14 per cent of them through asset sale as per their lenders-approved resolution plans, a report said.

Even the various resolution processes have witnessed the recovery of debt of just 31 per cent on an average, said the data from the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India. The data which covers all the cases since the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)



five years ago till December 2021 reflects very slow pace of the process, according to an analysis by Ica Ratings.

Liquidation means lenders or financial firms face the maximum brunt of losses on their books.

Of the Rs 7.52 lakh crore claims made by the creditors on their borrowers, the lenders could realise only Rs 2.5 lakh crore, reflecting the pains of liquidation that lenders were forced to suffer, Ica Ratings said in its analysis.

Govt must revisit mineral policies to accelerate GDP

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

There is an urgent need for mineral sector reforms to accelerate GDP and boost exports, says a book which also suggests that all existing and future "captive mines" may be converted to "merchant mines" enabling to increase supply of minerals and coal to small or medium-sized businesses.

In "Jan Andolan: For Turning Around India", entrepreneur RP Gupta discusses burning issues pertaining to the Indian economy and says Indian businessmen must play a vital role to make the country prosperous and vibrant. He says minerals and primary energy (coal, petroleum and gas) are basic inputs for the devel-



opment of modern industrial economy and India must spend heavily to ensure surplus availability of these mineral resources and reduce import dependency.

"For this, the mineral policies and associated regulations should be facilitated. High royalty, taxation and logistics cost on the basic minerals are misplaced choices. Currently, these are increasing the cost of metals

and power affecting the global competitiveness in most of the manufactured products. For accelerating GDP and boosting exports, India must revisit mineral policies. Eventually, that will generate several direct and indirect jobs," he suggests.

According to Gupta, after 2001, India had witnessed industrial growth of 12-15 per cent which could not sustain due to shortage of minerals and coal.

Excess regulatory controls superseded the facilitation leading to closure of mines and causing further shortage, he says, adding its impact travelled to the entire economy and invited inflation and trade deficit.

"Regulatory phobia was

extended to minor minerals such as sand and stone aggregates. Production was curbed and the artificial shortage was crafted leading to abnormal price hikes. Hence, the construction cost was inflated affecting the Infrastructure projects and construction sector affecting the job growth," he writes.

During 2014-20, lease periods of existing mines were extended. This could avoid disruption of mineral production till 2020 for merchant mines and 2030 for captive mines. Auction system was introduced for granting new mining leases which expedited the process with transparency. But these reforms couldn't give any major push to mineral production, Gupta says.

Govt launches quiz contest to build citizen awareness on schemes

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

MyGov under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is organising 'Sabka Vikas Mahaquiz' series, as part of an outreach and is planning to exit over 10 more this year. The New Delhi-based IPV, founded in 2018 by Vinay Bansal, Ankur Mittal and Mitesh Shah, has already made three partial exits till March and remains invested in close to 100 startups worth Rs 356 crore, and will add at least 50 more investee companies this fiscal.

Massive participation in the quiz series will deepen government engagement at the grassroots level, an official release said. In this context, MyGov has invited the people to participate and test their knowledge of 'New India'. The quiz can be played on <http://mygov.in/mahaquiz>, the release added.



Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Announcing the country's biggest-ever quiz 'Sabka Vikas Mahaquiz', the release said the contest was aptly launched on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on April 14, 2022. On the occasion of the launch, Minister for IT and

Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw asked all Indians to participate in this Vikas parv and strengthen citizen engagement.

Minister of State for IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar termed Sabka Vikas Mahaquiz as one of the biggest citizen engagement initiatives of the Government.

The first quiz is on Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

"This quiz is a part of the Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz Series in which different quizzes on various themes will be launched.

April 2022 biz trending higher than April 2019

Chennai, Apr 16 (PTI):

Oriental Hotels Ltd, an associate company of the Indian Hotels Company Ltd and a part of the Taj Group, has recorded profitability for the second consecutive quarter and the business looks positive with April 2022 trending higher than the same period in 2019, a top company official said on Saturday.

Oriental Hotels Ltd on Saturday reported profits at Rs 1.28 crore for the fourth quarter ending March 31, 2022 as compared to a net loss at Rs 4.64 crore registered in the same period the previous year, a company statement said here. Revenues during the quarter under review grew to Rs 68.32 crore from Rs 54.21 crore registered corresponding period last fiscal.

Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) as on March 31, 2022 stood at 13.88 as against 7.30 per cent recorded a year ago. "The company witnessed significant recovery in February and March 2022 with easing of lockdown restrictions post the Omicron wave in January 2022," Oriental Hotels Ltd, Managing Director and CEO, Pramod Ranjan said.

Govt plans to mandate telecom infra installation inside housing projects

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

The government is planning to mandate installation of telecom infrastructure inside housing projects and premises by making changes in the national building code and model building bye-laws, according to draft Right of Way guidelines issued by the Department of Telecom.

The Department of Telecom (DoT) has come up with the draft Right of Way (RoW) guidelines for establishment of telecommunications infrastructure across the country to amend old norms and fine-tune the rules to suit the requirement of 5G network rollout. Telecom operators will need to install 5G sites closer to the ground as the signals transmitted for the service will move at very high speed but cover shorter distances. Unlike 2G, 3G and 4G, the access points for 5G have to be closer to the devices.

"In-Building Solutions (IBS) for laying cables or installing telecom infrastructure shall be made mandatory inside the housing



projects and premises," the draft RoW guidelines said.

The draft proposes to do away with application fee and compensation for using street furniture like electric poles, traffic lights, billboards etc established by any person or entity over the immovable property of any local or government authority, for installing small cells and optical fibre cable required to connect small cells. The entity rolling out telecom infrastructure "shall not require any permission from the Authority for establishing telecommunications infrastructure over any private property falling under the jurisdiction of the authority," it added.

Olectra launches heavy-duty electric truck trials

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Olectra Greentech Ltd, a part of industrial conglomerate MEIL, said it has begun trials of a 6x4 heavy-duty electric tipper as part of an expansion into the electric truck segment.

"Pioneer and market leader in electric bus manufacturing, Olectra now entered into truck manufacturing and this prototype is built on heavy-duty electric tipper platform," the firm said in a statement. The first of its kind truck in India, Olectra tipper, with a 220-km range on a single charge, is built with a heavy-duty bogie suspension tipper capable of managing gradability of more than 25 per cent (scaling slopes on roads with elevation, and ghat roads). "Olectra Greentech Ltd has successfully begun 6x4 heavy-duty electric



tipper trials" in Hyderabad, it said. The manufacturing will be scaled up in the state-of-the-art facility coming up on the outskirts of Hyderabad soon. Speaking on the occasion, chairman and managing director KV Pradeep said, "Being a pioneer in electric mobility in India, Olectra has now begun heavy-duty tipper trials. This is the first of its kind truck in India. This breakthrough gives us immense pleasure and a moment of pride." "As the fossil fuel costs are skyrocketing, the electric trucks will be a game-changer in the segment.

CommMin eases certain norms under EPCG scheme

■ To promote ease of doing biz

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

The commerce ministry has relaxed various procedures under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme in order to reduce compliance requirements and facilitate ease of doing business.

Under the scheme, imports of capital goods are allowed duty free, subject to an export obligation.

The authorisation holder (or exporter) under the scheme has to export finished goods worth six times of the actual duty saved in value terms in six

EPCG Scheme: Conditions and Requirements



years. The objective of the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme is to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness.

"With a view to enhance ease of doing business and reduce compliance bur-

den, certain provisions of chapter 5 related to the EPCG scheme of the Handbook of procedures (2015-20) are amended for EPCG authorisations issued under Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20)," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade has said in a public notice.

Elon Musk's move to buy Twitter faces roadblocks

Washington, Apr 16 (AFP):

Even for the richest person on the planet, buying Twitter was always going to be a challenge -- a highly complex financial transaction now made even trickier by a defensive "poison pill" move from the platform's board.

Musk's \$43 billion offer lays out the myriad potential pitfalls: possible government approvals, legal as well as regulatory due diligence, negotiations of a final agreement and, of course, how to pay for it all.

Then Twitter's board showed it won't go quietly, saying any acquisition of over 15 per cent of the firm's stock without its OK would trigger a plan to flood the market with shares and



thus make a buyout much harder.

"Your move @elonmusk," tweeted Silicon Valley journalist Kara Swisher.

The offer itself, which Musk said was final, values Twitter at \$54.20 per share -- above the closing price ahead of his bid, but below a high of \$77.06 hit in February of last year. Even with a moderate and inflex-

ible proposal, which could help the board argue for rejection, it's a fraught moment that could end in lawsuits from just about everyone involved.

To succeed in repelling Musk's offer, the Twitter board will need to be on solid ground making an argument that the company is worth more, said Wharton School finance professor

Kevin Kaiser. Shareholders who feel that the board is rejecting a profitable deal will be free to file lawsuits against Twitter.

Musk has the option of sidestepping the board and trying to buy shares directly from shareholders on the market, but that could lead to tedious negotiations with some stock owners holding out for more money.

"The Twitter board has limited ability under Delaware law to stop a tender offer made directly to the shareholders, which Elon Musk hasn't done, but which he could do if he chose to," Kaiser said. "If he does this, and if the shareholders elect to tender their shares, then he can succeed without needing board support or approval."

Rahul ton, Avesh three-for as MI lose six in six

Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):

Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul made batting look like a walk in the park with a 56-ball century in his 100th IPL game to put five-time champions Mumbai Indians all but out of the league with an 18-run win on Saturday.

Rahul's unbeaten 60-ball 103, his third three-figure mark across all editions of IPL, propelled Lucknow to a commanding score of 199 for four and then his bowlers joined the party to restrict MI to 181 for nine in 20 overs.

With six consecutive defeats, the tournament is as good as over for the league's most popular team, even before it has reached the halfway stage.

Rohit Sharma's (6) nightmare of a tournament continued while Ishan Kishan (13 off 17 balls) is certainly feeling the pressure of the Rs 15.25 crore price tag as he played on a Marcus Stoinis delivery and displayed his frustration by smashing the foam-based boundary rope.

In between, Dewald Brevus (31 off 13 balls) hit some breathtaking shots before another find of the season, NT Tilak Varma (26 off 26 balls), and the ever dependable Suryakumar Yadav (37 off 27 balls) added 64 runs to resurrect the innings.

Once Jason Holder yanked Tilak, the match as a contest was over with Surya not getting the required support from other batters, although Kieron Pollard (25 off 14 balls) threw his bat



around in a losing cause. Surya's dismissal, after he failed to dispatch a Ravi Bishnoi long-hop, was the

Chameera (1/48 in 4 overs) got good support from medium pacers Holder (1/34 in 4 overs) and Stoinis (1/13 in 2 overs).

Lucknow have four wins from six games while MI have lost a dozen games on the trot for the first time in 15 editions of IPL.

With the kind of team they have assembled, it will only get worse from hereon as there is no plan B, and more importantly, the players to execute the plan.

For Rahul, both as a batter and skipper, the IPL is proving to be the platform which he desperately needed to enhance his captaincy credentials as far as the national team is concerned.

On way to his hundred, he added 52 for the opening stand with Quinton de Kock (24 off 13 balls), 72 with Manish Pandey (38 off 29 balls), and another brisk 43 runs with Deepak Hooda (15 off 8 balls) for the fourth wicket.

MI's fielding was perhaps their worst in the past four to five seasons and it didn't help matters that Rahul was in imperious form to make full use of it.

Bereft of credible options in the dug-out, it was only natural that the tournament's most successful skipper, Rohit Sharma looked clearly out of ideas and his play of playing an extra spinner in left-arm orthodox Fabian Allen (1/46 in 4 overs) didn't quite work out.

Jasprit Bumrah (0/24 in 4 overs) is manfully carrying the burden but one man can't save the team from the disaster that this season has

turned out to be.

Otherwise why would the MI skipper start with part-time off-spinner Tilak Varma, knowing that the Lucknow captain is a master player of slow bowlers.

The six powerplay overs saw six different bowlers being used and de Kock should blame himself for wasting an opportunity to score a big one on a track that resembled a shirtfront.

There were too many short balls for Rahul to play the cuts and pulls at will and also the slog sweep, and not to forget some delectable drives when anything was pitched up.

Twenty fours and seven sixes were testimony to MI's plight and the likes of Tymal Mills (0/54 in 3 overs), Jaydev Unadkat (2/32 in 4 overs) and Murugan Ashwin (1/33 in 4 overs) tried their best but could not succeed.

Sample this: Ashwin bowled a decent googly and Stoinis hit him for the biggest sixes. Allen bowled a wicket-to-wicket delivery and was swept behind square for a six by Rahul.

Between overs 13 to 16, Rahul and company added 60 runs and it didn't help their cause that MI have had one of the worst days in the outfield, not being able to cut the boundaries even after getting hold of the ball. Not having a Trent Boult, Krunal Pandya or a Rahul Chahar is hurting MI badly and getting as many as 16 middle-of-the-road players for just 18 crore hasn't proved to be a wise business decision so far.

Shastri backs RCB to make playoffs



Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):

Former India coach Ravi Shastri is backing Royal Challengers Bangalore to make the playoffs of the ongoing IPL, having played some good cricket under new skipper Faf du Plessis.

After kicking off their campaign with a loss to Punjab Kings, three-time runners-up RCB bounced back to defeat Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals.

"I believe we will see a new champion this season. Royal Challengers Bangalore are on a roll in this IPL and they are definitely going to make it to the playoffs," Shastri told Star Sports.

"They are getting hotter and hotter as the tournament is progressing. They are looking in a good space. They are getting better and better with every game."

Shastri further said the team's new captain Du Plessis, former skipper Virat Kohli and all-rounder Glenn Maxwell are going to play an important role this season.

"Virat has been doing well, Glenn Maxwell is back with the side, and we all know how destructive he can be with the bat."

"He's capable of taking the spinners to the cleaners and will be important from RCB's perspective as the tournament progresses. And then, Faf being their leader is a big bonus for them," Shastri added.

CSK take on GT in clash of new captains



Pune, Apr 16 (PTI):

It will be a test of wits between two new captains in Ravindra Jadeja and Hardik Pandya when defending champions Chennai Super Kings clash with debutants Gujarat Titans in an IPL game here on Sunday.

Known for their all-round skills, both Jadeja and Pandya have served Indian cricket well and the duo will be engaged in a battle of tactical supremacy on Sunday with both teams looking to continue their momentum after wins in their previous matches.

While Jadeja was elevated to the captaincy role by CSK, Pandya was roped in as the leader of the Titans after Mumbai Indians didn't retain the gifted all-rounder as he struggled with his fitness.

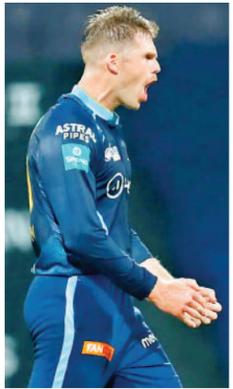
Pandya has given the newcomers a rollicking start with four wins in five games. The Titans are headed into the match after bouncing back from their only loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad with a 37-run win over Rajasthan Royals on Thursday. Jadeja, on the

other hand, has endured a tough initial phase with the team losing their first four matches before opening account with a 23-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Bowling has been a major concern for CSK but the former champions produced a better show against RCB with the spin duo of Maheesh Theekshana and skipper Jadeja running riot with seven wickets between them in their last match.

But pacer Mukesh Choudhary has not been able to rise to the occasion in the absence of CSK's main weapon Deepak Chahar, who has been ruled out of the IPL due to a back injury. Chris Jordan and Dwayne Bravo have done well overall to keep things in check even though the latter was taken for runs in the last match. The Titans, however, boast of a formidable bowling line-up with New Zealand speedster Lockie Ferguson (8 wickets), India quick Mohammed Shami (7) and Pandya (4) himself all capable of taking wickets and putting the opposition under the pump.

Hardik's relaxed attitude and performance infused energy into group: Ferguson



New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Skipper Hardik Pandya's philosophy of playing "not just to win" but "to entertain" has infused energy and life into Gujarat Titans' stellar campaign so far in IPL-15, feels pace spearhead Lockie Ferguson.

The New Zealand speed merchant has been one of the pillars for Titans in their debut season with eight wickets from five games including two match-turning performances. When asked how the new skipper has measured up with his leadership skills, Ferguson was generous in his praise.

"Hardik has a pretty relaxed approach towards game of cricket and he plays the game to entertain people as much as to win the game. I think that kind of attitude breathes energy and life into the group, and of course, he is leading with his performances which counts for a lot," Ferguson told PTI in an exclusive interview. The New Zealand speedster is comfortable around the leadership group which has helped the team win four out of its first five games.

Sunrisers Hyderabad eye fourth win on the trot, run into Punjab Kings

Navi Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):

A resurgent Sunrisers Hyderabad would look to extend their three-match winning streak but have their task cut out against Punjab Kings, when the two sides square off in an IPL game here on Sunday.

Among a bunch of teams on six points each, both SRH and PBKS will go all out to snap the two crucial points to nose ahead in the race for play-offs.

Sunrisers began their campaign with two defeats but bounced back with three successive wins -- against Chennai Super Kings, Gujarat Titans and Kolkata Knight Riders -- and look good for more, going by the trend of their improving performance.

Punjab Kings had a morale-boosting 12-run win over Mumbai Indians in their last outing and the Sunrisers would certainly



know that the Mayank Agarwal-led side, who are in the third spot, would be a tough team to beat.

All the three wins for the Sunrisers came while chasing and they have found a new hero each time.

Openers Abhishek Sharma and skipper Kane Williamson, after playing match-winning knocks

against CSK and Gujarat Titans respectively, had a failure against KKR.

But with a wide range of shots at his disposal, left-handed Sharma would be aiming to give an aggressive start.

After getting the starts, Rahul Tripathi's moment of glory came against KKR when he struck a 37-ball 71

and ditto for Aiden Markram, whose 36-ball unbeaten 68 helped the team go over the line.

With the swashbuckling Nicholas Pooran, who can be brutal when in full flow, in their ranks, the Sunrisers can set or chase down a big total. Rahul, Pooran and Markram will have to once again shoulder responsibility in the middle-order.

But they are up against a strong and varied Punjab attack led by South African speedster Kagiso Rabada, who has been right on the money. Rabada would, however, need support from Vaibhav Arora, who bled 43 runs against Mumbai Indians, and the fast improving Arshdeep Singh.

The weakest link in the Punjab attack is probably spinner Rahul Chahar, who was taken to task in the last game, where he leaked 44 runs.

Stokes is obvious choice to lead England Test team: Former captains

London, Apr 16 (PTI):

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes has a "smart cricket brain" and is the "obvious" choice to take over as England Test captain following the exit of Joe Root, according to former captains Michael Vaughan and Nasser Hussain.

Root on Friday stepped down from captaincy, ending his five-year tenure after facing criticism following England's 0-4 Ashes defeat against Australia and 0-1 series loss to West Indies.

"I don't see anyone else who could take the position and be guaranteed of their place in the side," Vaughan told the BBC.

"In Ben Stokes, you have clearly got someone who has got a smart cricket brain, he's going to give it everything, he is certainly going to have the respect of



the players around him." Hussain, who led England from 1999-2003, also backed Stokes to take over as Test captain.

"For me the obvious candidate is Ben Stokes. (He) Stokes has done some phenomenal things as a cricketer and has a very smart cricket brain. He showed that in World Cup final, he showed that at Headingley...He showed that when he's taken over occasionally from Joe Root," Hussain was quoted as saying in skysports.com.

Sajan Prakash strikes gold, Vedaant Madhavan clinches silver

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Top Indian swimmer Sajan Prakash began his season on a winning note by clinching the men's 200m butterfly gold at the Danish Open swimming meet in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Competing in his first international meet this year, Prakash stopped the clock at 1:59.27 to stand atop the podium on Friday night.

Earlier, the Kerala swimmer, who trains in Dubai under coach Pradeep Kumar, had clocked 2:03.67 in the heats to qualify for the 'A' final.

However, Friday's performance was not even close to the 28-year-old's personal best timing of 1:56:38 that came last year in Rome, when Prakash became the first Indian swimmer to breach the Olympic 'A' standard



time. "We have some competitions coming up this month. It (Denmark Open) is a preparation meet, we will slowly try to peak towards the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, Prakash, a two-time Olympian, told PTI. Teenager Vedaant Madhavan's also began on a positive note as he improved his personal best time to bag the silver medal in the men's 1500m freestyle event.

Vedaant, son of Indian actor R Madhavan, clocked 15:57.86 to finish second in the 10-swimmer final.

Santosh Trophy

West Bengal narrowly beat Punjab in Santosh Trophy Opener

Malappuram, Apr 16 (PTI):

West Bengal kicked off their campaign in the Santosh Trophy with a narrow 1-0 victory over Punjab in the opening game of the national football championships here on Saturday.

The tournament's two most successful teams showed attacking intent right from the start, seeking to grab all three points from the Group A match.

The chances flowed at both ends fairly quickly. In the eighth minute, West Bengal goalkeeper Priyant Kumar Singh made a fine save off a Jashandeep Singh free kick. The rebound was too quick for Amarpreet Singh to capitalize as the ball rolled wide. Punjab had not conceded a single goal through their qualifying campaign,



but against West Bengal, they faced their stiffest test, conceding possession often in the first half, and goalkeeper Harpreet Singh was called into action several times.

In the 20th minute, Harpreet made his first real save of the game, parrying Basu Deb Mandi's long range swerving shot to safety. And yet, it was Punjab who could have gone into the break with the lead. A long ball from

the deep was misjudged by Bengal captain Monotosh Chakladar, and the ball fell to Tarun Slathia a few yards outside the box. Slathia collected neatly and charged in, with only goalkeeper Priyant to beat, but dragged his shot wide.

West Bengal took control of the proceedings more forcefully in the second half, holding possession for longer periods and stitching neater passes in midfield.

New Zealand, England to tour Pakistan over next 12 months

Karachi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Pakistan will host five men's and women's teams over the next 12 months as PCB announced the international calendar on Friday. The Pakistan men's team is scheduled to play seven Tests, 17 ODIs and a minimum of 25 T20Is in the next 12 months while the women's team participate in the ICC Women's Championship, ICC U19 and T20 World Cups and B i r m i n g h a m Commonwealth Games.

The PCB confirmed that West Indies, England and New Zealand men's sides will tour Pakistan twice each in the next 12 months while Sri Lanka and Ireland women will visit Pakistan in May/June and October/November. New Zealand and England had withdrawn from Pakistan tours last year.

Ishan Kishan not worth blowing nearly your whole salary on: Watson tells MI

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Former Australia all-rounder and current Delhi Capitals assistant coach Shane Watson has slammed Mumbai Indians for spending over Rs 15 crore on Ishan Kishan in the IPL auction, saying the talented opener was "not worth blowing nearly your whole salary on".

Watson also criticised MI for buying injured Jofra Archer for a huge sum.

Winless so far in five matches, MI has been struggling to put together a winning combination after they spent Rs 15.25 crore to get Ishan and Rs 8 crore to buy Jofra Archer, who is still recovering from elbow surgery.

The five-time champions had retained Rohit



Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav and Kieron Pollard. "It hasn't surprised me that Mumbai Indians are at the bottom of the table because they had a shocking auction," Watson said during a conversation in 'The Grade Cricketer' podcast. "Spending so much money on Ishan Kishan...He is a very talented and skillful player, but he's not worth blowing nearly your whole salary on."

KARAGA FEST



Devotees gather at the Dharamraya Swamy temple during the celebration of Karaga festival, in Bengaluru, Saturday.

Gradual rise in Covid cases in Delhi

District officials increase surveillance

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

With an uptick in Covid cases here, district authorities have intensified surveillance and are on alert mode for early detection and containment of people infected with the disease.

Some districts have also planned awareness campaigns from next week.

The daily Covid cases and the positivity rate in the national capital have seen an upward trend in the last few days.

The positivity rate in the last five days, between April 10 and April 15, has increased by three times, according to city health department data.

The positivity rate on April 10 was 1.29 per cent with 141 cases, and this rose to 3.95 per cent on Friday with 366 cases.

Surveillance teams are active, on alert mode and are monitoring the situation, a senior official of the South District administration said.

"Our surveillance is on. We are focusing more on testing and contact tracing. Symptomatic people are being tested. Contact tracing and surveillance was never stopped and now we are putting more emphasis on it," the official told PTI.

The official said that the district administration will further enhance containment strategies and ensure strict enforcement of Covid-appropriate behaviour, including wearing of masks, if suggested by the DDMA in its April 20 meeting.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) will meet on

April 20 to discuss the rise in Covid cases and also decide upon reimposing the penalty on not wearing face mask.

The health department in its order on April 2 had said that fine will not be imposed on not wearing of face mask at public places.

Some district have shown an upward trend in the number of Covid cases in last couple of days.

Government figures show that the highest number of Covid cases (81) on April 14 was reported in the South District while on April 13, this number was 44.

On April 14, the number of cases in the Southeast District was 72 while on April 13, it was 53.

Lowest number of Covid cases was reported

on April 14 in the Northeast, the North and the Central districts with one, six and nine patients respectively.

A southeast district administration official said that all necessary measures are being taken to contain the virus' spread and an awareness campaign will begin in the region from Monday.

He said that the current uptick in Covid cases may also be because many people have stopped using masks at public places after the penalty was lifted.

Our awareness campaigns will be started from Monday onwards. In the campaign we will appeal people to wear masks and follow social distancing. We are keeping a close vigil on the situation," the official said.

'Khand ropeway accident

Rs 25 lakh compensation to kin of deceased

Ranchi, Apr 16 (PTI): Damodar Ropeways and Infra Ltd on Saturday said it will provide Rs 25 lakh each as compensation to the next of kin of those who died in a recent cable car tragedy in Jharkhand's Deoghar district. Three people lost their lives in the ropeway accident at Trikut Hills, around 20 km from the temple town of Baidyanath Dham.

All other 60 tourists, stranded since 4 pm on April 10, after a ropeway malfunction resulted in trolleys colliding at the hills, were safely evacuated in a 46-hour long rescue operation. The rescue efforts were undertaken by a joint team, comprising personnel of Indian Air Force, Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, National Disaster Response Force, and the district administration.

"The company has decided to provide Rs 25 lakh each as compensation on humanitarian grounds to the family members of those who died in the accident. We have provided cheques to the Deoghar administration for distribution. DRIL general manager Mahesh Mehta told PTI.

The district administration has also sent a file to the state disaster management department to initiate the process for disbursement of ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of the three who lost their lives in the ropeway tragedy. Deoghar sub-divisional officer (SDO) Dinesh Kumar Yadav told PTI.

Oppn leaders express concern over recent communal violence

Question PM's 'silence'

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Leaders of 13 Opposition political parties on Saturday expressed deep concern over the recent incidents of hate speech and communal violence in the country, and urged people to maintain peace and harmony.

Dinesh Patel, who is in his 40s, said that though the Lord Hanuman's temple located at the post office square and other places in Khargone city remained closed he had a darshan of the deity from an open space between the closed gate. I prayed to Lord Hanuman for lasting peace and harmony in Khargone, he said. The situation is under complete control and peaceful, Collector Anugraha P and Superintendent of Police Rohit Kashwani told PTI.

relating to food, dress, faith, festivals and language "are being used" by the ruling establishment to polarise society.

"We are shocked at the silence of the Prime Minister, who has failed to speak against the words and actions of those who propagate bigotry and those who, by their words and actions, incite and provoke our society.

This silence is an eloquent testimony to the fact that such private armed mobs enjoy the luxury of official patronage," they said in the joint statement.

Reiterating their collective resolve to work together to strengthen the bonds of social harmony that "defined and enriched India for centuries", the

Opposition leaders said, "We reiterate our commitment to combat and confront the poisonous ideologies which are attempting to entrench divisiveness in our society."

"We appeal to all sections of the people to maintain peace and foil the sinister objective of those who wish to sharpen communal polarisation.

We call upon all our party units across the country to independently and jointly work for maintaining peace and harmony," they said in the joint appeal.

Incidents of communal violence were reported from some parts of the country on the occasion of Ram Navami on April 10.

Khargone peaceful on Hanuman Jayanti, curfew relaxed for 4 hrs

CM assures help for victims of damaged houses

Khargone, Apr 16 (PTI):

On Hanuman Jayanti, temples of Lord Hanuman remained closed in riot-hit Khargone where curfew was relaxed for four hours at two intervals on Saturday even as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan assured the government's help in building and repairing some houses damaged during communal clashes last week.

This was the third straight day when the cur-

few, which was clamped on Ram Navami following violence on April 10, was relaxed in the entire Khargone city for two hours twice from 10 AM to 12 and 3 PM to 5 PM, officials said. Ram Navami celebrations were marred due to incidents of arson and stone-pelting on Sunday. Police have arrested 148 people so far in connection with the violence. "Khargone is peaceful now", Chouhan told reporters in Bhopal.

He said the state government will extend full support in building the ten houses damaged completely by rioters in Khargone. The government will also help in repairing 70 houses

damaged partially in that city, he said. The injured persons are being provided free treatment and steps are being taken to ensure that they do not face any hardship, the chief minister said. The state government will extend all the support to the people who have lost their livelihood to restart their businesses. A list of such persons is being made. So far 16 such people have been identified, Chouhan said. He said damages would be recovered from the rioters.

The government will help the people during the time of crisis. The government is with them, he added. As the curfew was relaxed, people in

Khargone city made brisk purchases. The administration has allowed only shops of milk, vegetables, medicine and grocery to remain open during the curfew relaxation period.

Dinesh Patel, who is in his 40s, said that though the Lord Hanuman's temple located at the post office square and other places in Khargone city remained closed he had a darshan of the deity from an open space between the closed gate. I prayed to Lord Hanuman for lasting peace and harmony in Khargone, he said. The situation is under complete control and peaceful, Collector Anugraha P and Superintendent of Police Rohit Kashwani told PTI.

'CM's communal appeasement reason for recurring murders'

Palakkad (Kerala), Apr 16 (PTI):

As back-to-back political murders of an RSS activist and an SDPI worker here rocked Kerala, the opposition Congress on Saturday came down heavily on the Left government alleging that the increasing number of communal and political murders happening in the state nowadays was a result of communal appeasement being done by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The police force have become mute spectators of violence and murders and people are living under fear as there is no protection for their life and property, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly V D Satheesan said.

Alleging that the southern state has turned into a "goonda corridor" from north to south, he also said communal forces like RSS



V D Satheesan

and SDPI were unleashing violence in the state.

"All these killings are the result of the communal appeasement being done by the Chief Minister in the name of social engineering. The government does not have the power to oppose anyone," he told reporters in Varkala.

The fundamentalist forces from both the minority and the majority communities have infil-

trated into the police force, he further alleged, adding that there was criticism against the home department headed by Vijayan even in the Marxist party's recently concluded district conferences. Meanwhile, reacting to the incident of the RSS man's murder, the BJP alleged that the Social Democratic Party of India, the political offshoot of PFI, was behind the killing of Srinivasan.

Srinivasan, 45, was attacked by a group of assailants at his shop in the heart of Palakkad town.

The incident occurred less than 24 hours after a Popular Front of India (PFI) leader was killed in a village near here. PFI leader Subair, 43, was allegedly hacked to death at Elappully in the district while he was returning home after offering prayers in a mosque on Friday afternoon.

EARTHEN POTS ON SALE



People buy earthen pots used to store cool drinking water, during summer season, at a roadside stall, in Amritsar, Saturday.

'Indian parents prefer to read out to kids books they liked in childhood'

New Delhi, Apr 16 (PTI):

Many parents in India prefer to read their children books they enjoyed in their own childhood, rather than choosing newer titles, according to a new study by Oxford University Press (OUP).

The survey, which gathered the views of 4,000 parents across India, the UK, Australia, Hong Kong and China, formed part of OUP's second annual 'Gift of Words' campaign, which aims to encourage parents, family, and friends to celebrate and

share the power of language and reading, especially following a second year of disruption to education due to Covid.

In the global study, almost four in 10 (37 per cent) parents said that they did not know how to find out what the latest books are, and almost half (47 per cent) prefer to re-read books to their child, rather than look for something new.

It isn't just parents who favour familiar books: six in 10 (56 per cent) said their children preferred them to revisit the same books at story time, and half (48 per cent) of those

whose children read independently said their children prefer to re-read books to themselves, according to the survey.

The parents surveyed in India reflected a similar sentiment. However, over 70 per cent of these parents preferred reading physical books to their children rather than audio books or websites.

The research also revealed the power of reading in helping young people to make sense of the world around them. More than 75 per cent of parents surveyed in India, see reading to their child as an opportunity to discuss dif-

ficult or sensitive topics with them and 85 per cent look for books that teach their child about wider society or have a meaningful message at their heart.

The top three reasons parents cited for reading to their child were building a love for learning and reading, improving literacy and vocabulary, and developing communication skills.

Seventy eight per cent of parents surveyed in India said that reading to their child helps them to bond and connect, and 83 per cent wished they had more time to read to their child, the survey found.

'Load-shedding unavoidable in Maha'

Mumbai, Apr 16 (PTI):

Maharashtra was facing a power deficit of 4700 megawatt but agriculture sector consumers have been spared load-shedding, state energy minister Nitin Raut said on Saturday.

The minister said load-shedding had become unavoidable due to shortage of coal and insufficient gas supply.

"However, agriculture users are being provided eight hours electricity during day time and eight hours during the night daily without interruption," the minister said in a statement.



Nitin Raut

1500-2000 MW from the power exchange.

"The peak demand is 25,144 MW now. The power tariff is Rs 12 per unit. Mahavitaran has entered into power purchase agreements to procure 21,057 MW but only 16,487 MW, which is 78 per cent of demand, is available due to coal shortage," he said.

The Koyna hydroelectric power plant is functioning at full capacity and the permission to use additional 10 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water for generation has been received, the minister informed.

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