

Khairagarh to be developed as Ch'garh's art capital : CM

CM inaugurates three-day long Khairagarh festival

Bhoomipujan and foundation stone laid for development works worth Rs 6.53 cr

Inauguration of 9 SAGEMs established at a cost of Rs 15 cr in R'gaon district

An amount of Rs 1.97 cr was returned to the investors of R'gaon district duped by chit fund companies

Raipur, Apr 28: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the three-day long Khairagarh festival late on Wednesday. On the occasion, he performed Bhoomipujan of development works worth Rs 6 crore 51 lakh and returned the amount of Rs 1 crore 57 lakh to 17127 investors in Rajnandgaon district duped by chit fund companies. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel also inaugurated 9 Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools established at a cost of Rs 14 crore 74 lakh in Rajnandgaon district.

Chief Minister Mr. Baghel paid tributes to the



founder of Khairagarh Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, 'Raja' of Khairagarh Raja Virendra Bahadur Singh, and Rani Padmavati Devi and Princess Indira. Established in the year 1956 with a dedicated spirit it towards music, the university has made a special identity in the country and the world. He congratulated everyone for the creation of Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai district and for the organization of Khairagarh festival. He said that Khairagarh district formation process has started and an OSD has also been appointed here. Besides, Salhewara has been upgraded as Tehsil while Jalbandha as Sub Tehsil. He stressed on the need to promote the rich and unique historical culture, folk culture and art and music of the state. The

newly formed Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai district is to be developed as a prosperous district and 'art capital' of Chhattisgarh state. He said that there should be a study centre for art and music in Bastar, Surguja, Raigarh and Raipur. He informed about provision for this in the state budget.

The Chief Minister said that the state of Chhattisgarh has been famous as a prosperous state since ancient times. There is a need to promote and preserve the rich historical culture, civilization and art of the state on world stage. Giving information about the characteristic elements in the state's history he said that many ancient remains have been found from the excavation of Tarighat Rewaghat which displays the rich culture of state. The state not only leads in

terms of mineral wealth but also has a rich and unique cultural heritage. Work is being done in Chhattisgarh to preserve its glorious history through Ram Van Gaman Path so that the identity of the state can be established on the world map. Chief Minister also enjoyed the songs of famous playback singer Smt. Kavita Krishnamurthy.

Higher Education Minister Umesh Patel said in his address that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is committed to improve quality of education in Chhattisgarh. He said that in the field of higher education, work is being done to make every college NAAC accredited.

On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Mokshada (Mamata) Chandrakar said that she has got the privilege of doing cre-

ative and qualitative work as vice chancellor in that university in which she has pursued her higher studies. Referring to the specialty of the university, she said that since its inception, it has made many remarkable achievements in the field of art and music. She put forth various demands for the university, which Chief Minister assured to fulfil in the next budget.

Collector Taran Prakash Sinha gave information about the notable achievements of the district and grants given by the Chief Minister to the district. He informed that Swami Atmanand English Medium School will be started soon in Salhewara of Khairagarh. Famous playback singer Kavita Krishnamurthy graced the occasion by her melodious song performances. Parliamentary Secretary Kunwer Singh Nishad, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Other Backward Classes Development Authority Daleshwar Sahu, newly elected MLA Yashoda Nilamber Verma, Chairman of Khairagarh Municipality Shailendra Verma, IG OP Pal, and Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh along with SDM Tankeshwar Sahu and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

REPAIR WORK



The linemen are carrying out repair of the water pipeline in hot sun and a person is standing with an umbrella to offer shade.

NSUI creates ruckus in Amity University

Raipur, Apr 28: At a time when the government is taking strict action against dharna and demonstration at public places, NSUI on Wednesday showed their true colour when they stormed inside Amity University campus with a petty issue of late fees charged from some students and ransacked the university property. They even kept female staff of the university hostage for some time and kept moving inside the campus. When Congress government is in power and its student wing is creating indiscipline then it is expected that administration to strict action against



NSUI activists. Some time back NSUI submitted a memorandum to the university administration for cooler in hostels and job to local persons. The univer-

sity administration clarified that administration prefers to give local employment and that cooler has been installed in hostel rooms.

'6 in 1 vaccination - a big boon for babies and parents'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 28: Children are exposed to an innumerable number of germs, some of which can cause serious diseases. A child's immune system is still developing, and it cannot fight against all deadly diseases. According to the World Health Organization, immunization is one of the most successful public health interventions to prevent deaths from infections such as diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus in all age groups. The 6 in 1 combination vaccination protects children from 6 serious illnesses: diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, haemophilus



influenza type B, hepatitis B, and poliomyelitis.

Speaking about this, Dr. Raj Kumar Agrawal, MBBS, DCH, Senior Paediatric Consultant said, "Combination vaccination is necessary and important to ensure compliance to the immunization schedule. It reduces

the number of pricks being given, making it easier for a child to receive all the necessary vaccinations at the stipulated age. Lately, the awareness about the value of combination vaccination has increased."

In recent years, India has intensified its efforts to increase immunization coverage in the country, which has resulted in significant improvement as shown by the National Family Health Survey - NFHS-5. The percentage of children aged 12 to 23 months who are fully vaccinated has increased from 62% (NFHS-4; 2015-16) to 76.4% (NFHS-5; 2019-21) in India and from 76.4% to 79.7% in Chhattisgarh.

DGM Poppy Sharma promoted as GM

Raipur, Apr 28: Central Bank of India SRM, Dy. General Manager, Smt Poppy Sharma promoted as General Manager and posted as Zonal Head Chandigarh. AGMs Shri Sunil Nayak and Shri B J Rao, Chief Managers, Branch Heads and large number of staff from various branches were present during her farewell function.

67th RAILWAY WEEK DRM honours 220 railway staff



For excellency at work place

Raipur, Apr 28: 67th Railway Week celebration was organized at SECR Raipur Division in which DRM Shyam Sunder Gupta honoured 126 railway staff with individual awards and 24 group awards. The railway staff and their family members presented colourful cultural programme on this occasion. Assistant Personal Officer R

Shankaran proposed vote of thanks. RPF presented dog show. On this occasion ADRM (Operation) Lokesh Vishnoi, ADRM (Infra) Ashish Mishra, senior officials of Raipur Division, union office bearers were present. The programme was chaired by SECRWVO president Mrs Radha Gupta.

Further one-day railway exhibition was organized at Community Hall WRS Colony here from 10:30 am to 9:00 pm.

Baghel flagged off 61 vehicles for highway patrolling

And prevent human trafficking Ch'garh Police gets 61 new vehicles for taking prompt action

Raipur, Apr 28: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel flagged off 61 new vehicles for highway patrolling and prevention of human trafficking, in a brief programme held at his residence office here today. This will help police take prompt action. These include 15 vehicles dedicated for highway patrolling, 24 vehicles for anti-human trafficking unit and 22 vehicles for maintaining law and order. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Manendragarh MLA Dr. Vinay Jaiswal, Additional Chief Secretary Home Subrat Sahoo, Director General of Police Ashok Juneja, Additional Director General of Police Pradeep Gupta, Inspector General of Police Dr. Anand Chhabra, Inspector General of Police SC Dwivedi, Superintendent of Police Raipur Prashant Agrawal, Assistant Inspector General of Police Sanjay Sharma were among those present



on the occasion.

Under the highway patrolling system, a total of 15 new Ertiga vehicles have been made available to ensure safety of common citizens on highways, smooth traffic movement and to provide immediate relief and assistance in road accidents. These vehicles will operate in Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Gariyaband, Kabirdham, Bilaspur, Korba, Janjgir-Champa, Raigarh, Surguja and Bastar (Jagdalpur). The well-equipped highway patrolling vehicles are stationed at a predetermined place and systematically patrol in the predetermined road segments of the national highway.

On receiving information regarding accident in the segment concerned, the Highway Patrol imme-

diately rush to the accident spot and make proper arrangements to send the victim to the nearest hospital for immediate medical assistance. They also provide necessary assistance by reporting the incident to the jurisdictional police station. They also maintain law and order till the arrival of the local police force. They keep the spot safe till the police station in-charge and the staff reaches the spot and keeps traffic normal on the highway.

Earlier, a total of 30 highway patrolling vehicles in the state were operating in Raipur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Balodabazar, Dhamtari, Balod, Bemetara, Korea, Jashpur, Surajpur, Balrampur, Kanker and



Kondagaon districts. As many as 15 new highway patrol vehicles have been purchased from road safety item for Rs.1 crore 19 lakh 6 thousand 977.

Similarly, in a bid to strengthen the system for combating human trafficking, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit is actively working on rescue of victims of human trafficking, providing proper care and counselling to the victims, organizing training workshops for police and other department officials concerned, maintaining records of crime related to human trafficking, establishing inter-state coordination and conducting public awareness campaign to fight human trafficking.

Earlier, one four-wheeler, motorcycle and other

necessary resources were provided to 11 districts of the state including Jashpur, Surguja, Korba, Raigarh, Bilaspur, Janjgir-Champa, Balodabazar, Mahasamund, Bastar, Narayanpur and Balrampur for prevention of human trafficking. This year, new vehicles worth Rs 3.60 crore have been provided in all the districts of the state under the 'Nirbhaya Fund' for the establishment of new Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) and strengthening of the pre-established AHTUs. A total of 24 light vehicles and 46 motor cycles and other resources have been made available to each pre-established and newly formed anti-human trafficking unit using this fund.

1000 Transport Facilitation Centres to be set up in Ch'garh: CM

Raipur, Apr 28: To provide convenient transport related services in the proximity of people's home, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on January 26 had announced to set up transport facilitation centres throughout the state. After this announcement, the Transport department prepared a draft and after the notification, the process for the establishment of transport facilitation centers has already started. Moreover, applications are being invited from interested people at the district level. After the implementation of this facility, there will be no need to make rounds of unauthorized agents for transport related facilities. At the same time, transportation related facilities will be available in

the proximity of peoples home.

After the establishment of these centers, people's access to transport facilities will become convenient without any unauthorized agents involved. At the same time, it will also generate employment oriented avenues in Chhattisgarh. It is predicted that these transport facilitation centres will create a possibility of employment generation for about five thousand youth. According to the information received from the department, the Transport Facilitation Center can be authorized to make a learning license abiding by the norms of the Gazette No. 240 (A) of the Government of India which was issued on 31 March 2021. The guide also

prescribes the charges for various services at the Transport Facilitation Centers.

Eligibility to operate a Facilitation Center:

According to the format and guidelines issued by the Transport Department, any person, organization, union, cooperative society or any legal entity will be eligible to set up a transport facilitation centre. At the same time, for the operation of the center, it is necessary to have at least 100 square feet of own building or rent contract building. It is also necessary to have a separate divided room for the process of attaining a learning license. For the operation of the facility, it will be necessary to present the GST certificate or Gumashta certificate is-

sued by the urban body as per the requirement. There should also be a waiting room, technical room and CCTV camera with basic arrangements for the applicants. The person applying to set up a centre should have passed the Higher Secondary Examination. Preference will be given to DCA/PGDCA or equivalent qualification. Applicants should not have any criminal record.

The prescribed fees that will be taken from the applicants by the Facilitation Centers:

Rs.100 as service fee for online application as per guide, Rs.50 for making online fee/tax payment to Transport Department (for each one thousand rupees or part thereof), Rs.50 for learn-

ing license, the procedure of documentation needed for application like, required documents for scanning, compressing and uploading (per page) are Rs.5 per process and the printout fee (per page) of complete documents for online application completion is Rs.5.

People will not fall in the trap of unauthorized agents

The biggest benefit of the establishment of transport facilitation centers in the state will be availed by the general public. Till now, due to lack of correct information, a large number of people have been applying for transportation related service by contacting unauthorized agents. Due to which they have to suffer financial loss in addition to undergoing a lengthy process.

With the establishment of these centres, there will be no need to visit unauthorized agents for transport related facilities.

More than 9 lakh people have been benefited so far in door to door delivery of transport services:

It is noteworthy that from June 1, 2021, the door to door delivery of 22 types of transport related facilities was started by the Transport Department of Chhattisgarh. Under this, after the application, other documents including the license are sent directly to the home of the applicant via post. After the introduction of this facility, so far 6 lakh 9 thousand 188 registration certificates and 3 lakh 830 driving licenses have been delivered to people's home.

INDIA ART FAIR



Visitors look at an art installation during the inaugural day of India Art Fair, in New Delhi, Thursday.

CBSE tells board exam centres

'Make proper arrangements in view of COVID situation, heatwave'

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Thursday issued directions to the board examination centres to make proper arrangements in the wake of the current Covid situation and the heatwave. The CBSE Class 10 and 12 board exams for the second term began on Tuesday in the country and abroad after two years of pandemic-induced disruptions.

"The board has paid Rs 5,000 fixed and Rs 5 per candidate per day for the examination day to make proper arrangements to

avoid spread of COVID, it is requested that full proof arrangements may be made at the examination centre and COVID protocols may be followed strictly as given in the guidelines for centre superintendents and as instructed by the concerned state government," CBSE Exam Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said in a letter to superintendents of examination centres.

"The CBSE has also decided to pay Rs 2 per candidate per day for making available potable water, hence proper arrangements for drinking water may be made at the examination centre. Your per-

sonal intervention for making arrangements in the matter and otherwise will help in maintaining the better health index of the students and staff," he added. In the ongoing board exams, the number of students permitted in each classroom has been capped at 18 and schools have been asked to provide separate rooms to students suffering from COVID-19.

"CBSE has made elaborate arrangements for the conduct of examinations in India and 26 countries. Since the exams are being conducted after Covid, the board has made all arrangements for its smooth conduct. Because

of Covid, these examinations are being conducted in April, May and June 2022," Bhardwaj said. The Class 10 board exams are being conducted at 7,406 centres while the Class 12 board exams are being held at 6,720 exam centres.

Large swathes of India are reeling under a punishing heatwave, with temperatures nearing the 45-degree mark at several places in the national capital. The heatwave is predicted to turn deadlier in the coming days. India on Thursday reported 3,303 fresh COVID-19 cases and 39 fatalities. The daily cases crossed the 3,000 mark after 46 days.

Shah Faesal rejoins govt service

Says life has given him another chance

Srinagar, Apr 28 (PTI):

Former IAS officer Shah Faesal, who had quit the government service in 2019 citing rising intolerance in the country and to float a political party, has rejoined the service, officials said on Thursday.

They said Faesal's resignation had not been accepted. Faesal's services have been kept at the disposal of the J-K's general administration department, the officials said, adding he is awaiting the orders of posting. Faesal, who was the first UPSC topper from Jammu and Kashmir, had on Wednesday dropped hints about his return to the government service.

In a series of tweets, he spoke about his idealism letting him down in 2019 when he resigned from the government service to



Shah Faesal

join politics. "8 months of my life (Jan 2019-Aug 2019) created so much baggage that I was almost finished. While chasing a chimera, I lost almost everything that I had built over the years. Job. Friends. Reputation. Public goodwill. But I never lost hope. My idealism had let me down," he said.

"But I had faith in myself. That I would undo the mistakes I had made. That

life would give me another chance. A part of me is exhausted with the memory of those 8 months and wants to erase that legacy. Much of it is already gone. Time will mop off the rest in believe," he added.

Though Faesal did not spell out what he meant by "another chance", speculation has been rife here over the past one year that he might return to the government service either as an IAS officer or in some advisory role to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Just thought of sharing that life is beautiful. It is always worth giving ourselves another chance. Setbacks make us stronger. And there is an amazing world beyond the shadows of the past. I turn 39 next month. And I'm really excited to start all over again," he tweeted.

CU ranks first among central and state varsities

Mamata expresses happiness

Kolkata, Apr 28 (PTI): Calcutta University has been ranked first among all the central and state-aided public universities in the country by THE Impact Rankings 2022 and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday expressed her happiness over it. She shared the news of it being ranked 14th globally in the 'Decent Work and Economic Growth' sub-category and congratulated the authorities, faculty and students of the 165-year-old university for the feat. Glad to learn that Calcutta University has been ranked 1st in India among all central and state aided public universities and institutes by Times Higher Education Impact Ranking 2022, Banerjee tweeted.

'Don't want to become President, rather be PM'

Lucknow, Apr 28 (PTI):

BSP supremo Mayawati on Thursday trashed SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's remark suggesting that the BJP could make her the President, saying she would prefer becoming the country's prime minister someday to realise her goals for the downtrodden.

Reacting to the dig at her on Wednesday, Mayawati said she never aspired to being the President and the Samajwadi Party leader was dreaming about it only to clear his own path to become the Uttar Pradesh chief minister.

"I can only dream of becoming the chief minister of UP and the prime minister of the country in the

days to come but can never dream of becoming the President," the Bahujan Samaj Party leader, who has been chief minister four times, told reporters.

"I have not spent my life in comfort and have struggled to work on the path shown by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram to ensure that their followers and the downtrodden stand on their feet. All know that this work can be done not by becoming the President



Mayawati

but by becoming the CM of UP and the PM of the country," she said. In the past as well, her party has projected her as a "future prime minister". Mayawati said if Dalits, adivasis, the

backwards, Muslims and the poor from the upper castes join forces with the BSP, not only can they make its leader the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh again but also the prime minister in the time to come.

The SP dreaming of making her the President

for its "selfish political motives" is futile, she said.

In Mainpuri on Wednesday, Yadav said the BSP transferred its votes to the BJP in the recent Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls. Now it will be interesting to see whether the BJP makes Mayawati the President or not in return, he added.

"The reality is that the SP is dreaming of making me the president in order to clear the path (for Akhilesh Yadav) to become the CM of UP, which is not possible," Mayawati has now responded. "Despite striking alliances with different parties, the SP has not been able to form the government," she said.

IRCTC launches low-cost 'religious tour package'

From Lucknow to Nepal

Lucknow, Apr 28 (PTI):

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched an international religious tour package from Lucknow to Nepal by air at a moderate cost for this summer, an official said on Thursday. The six-day-five-night package will start from June 19 and end on June 24. IRCTC Chief Regional Manager (Lucknow) Ajit Kumar Sinha said as part of the programme, people will fly from the Amausi airport here to Kathmandu. In Nepal, they would be taken to the Pashupatinath temple, the Boudhanath Stupa, the Durbar Square and different locations in Pokhara.

CHOPPER SCAM

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to former defence secretary Shashi Kant Sharma in a case related to the Agusta Westland chopper scam.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar grants relief to Sharma on a personal bond of Rs two lakh, with one surety in the like amount, after he appeared before the court in pursuance of the summons issued against him earlier.

The court noted the submission of CBI counsel who said that the agency

had no objection if the accused was granted bail.

The advocates appearing for Sharma told the court that he was innocent and was falsely implicated in the case.

The court had on April 11 summoned Sharma, while taking cognisance of a charge sheet filed by the CBI, after the agency submitted that the sanction to prosecute him had been granted by the authorities concerned.

The charge sheet also named retired Indian Air Force (IAF) officers Jasbir Singh Panesa, N Santosh, S A Kunte, and Thomas Mathew, but the CBI said the requisite sanction to

prosecute them is yet to be procured from the authorities concerned. The first charge sheet in the case was filed in September 2017 naming former IAF chief SP Tyagi and others.

The agency had earlier told the court that during the course of the investigation, copies of classified/secret official documents of Indian Air Force (IAF)/Ministry of Defence (MoD) such as Operational Requirements for VVIP helicopters before issuance of Request of Proposal and other incriminating documents running into more than one lakh pages received from Italy and Switzerland.

EID SHOPPING



Women shop ahead of the upcoming Eid-al-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, at a market in Srinagar, Thursday.

Kamal Nath resigns as Leader of Oppn

To continue as MPCC chief

Bhopal, Apr 28 (PTI):

Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Thursday tendered his resignation as the Leader of Opposition in Madhya Pradesh Assembly, but will continue as the MPCC president, party sources said. Nath resigned from the post as per the party's 'one person-one post' policy.

The Congress leadership accepted his resignation and approved the appointment of former minister and seven-time Congress MLA Dr Govind Singh in his place as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP), they said.

In a communication addressed to Nath on Thursday, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K C Venugopal said, "The Congress president has accepted your resignation from the post of Leader, Congress Legislature Party (CLP), Madhya Pradesh with immediate effect."

Nath had offered to resign from the post as part of the Congress's 'one person-one post' formula, the sources said. The communication further said, "The Congress president has approved the proposal to appoint Dr Govind Singh as the CLP leader."

Need to prepare for 'short swift wars': IAF Chief

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

The current geopolitical situation necessitates the Indian Air Force to prepare for "short swift wars and long drawn standoffs" akin to the situation in eastern Ladakh, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said on Thursday. Addressing a seminar, he also called for focusing on operational logistics to deal with various security challenges and quoted famous military strategist Sun Tzu as saying very aptly that "the line between disorder and order lies in logistics."

"In the force, space and time continuum, there would be a need for us to prepare for short swift

wars as well as be ready for a long drawn standoff akin to what we are seeing in eastern Ladakh," he said. India and China have been locked in a bitter faceoff at certain friction points in eastern Ladakh for nearly two years though the two sides carried out disengagement of troops from a number of areas following a series of military and diplomatic talks.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the recent experiences of the Indian Air Force (IAF) as well as evolving geopolitical scenario mandates it to be operationally and logistically responsive at all times.

"The current geopolitical situation necessitates the Indian Air Force to

prepare for intense and small duration operations at a short notice. This new paradigm of high-intensity operations, coupled with minimal build-up time would require major changes in terms of operational logistics," he said.

Though he did not specifically elaborate on the geopolitical situation, the comments are seen as a reference to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its possible implications.

The IAF Chief said logistics support in such a scenario would be ex-

tremely challenging considering the fact that the force has a fairly vast and diversified inventory. He said there will be a need to cater for "resources bridging" and transportation for such contingencies. "A focused action plan needs to be developed for indigenisation of all critical components in order to achieve the nation's mandate of 'Atma-Nirbharta' (self-reliance)," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said logistics have been identified as a

critical tool for the nation's economic progress and one of the key drivers for ease of doing business and making Indian supply chains globally competitive. He also noted that there would be a need to cater for resource bridging and transportation to deal with contingencies.

"Only a commander who understands logistics can push the military machine to the limits without risking a total breakdown," the IAF Chief said.

Therefore, logisticians of tomorrow must possess a scientific and analytical mindset in order to resolve complex problems of aerospace power sustenance and this edifice can only be built through a focus on training, he added.

He also pitched for formalising an "integrated road and rail management plan and exploring the feasibility of increased containerisation and use of civilian wide-bodied aircraft."

Highlighting various aspects of military preparedness, the IAF Chief observed that the way forward would be to have a serviceability-linked inventory management system.

"To address issues like availability of spares, I feel we need to re-evaluate demand forecasting methods and stocking philosophies. The way forward will be to have a serviceability-linked inventory management system," he said.



VR Chaudhari

Stokes appointed as captain of England's Test cricket team



London, Apr 28 (AP):

Ben Stokes was appointed as captain of England's Test cricket team on Thursday.

The all-rounder replaced Joe Root, who quit the role two weeks ago with England having only won one of its last 17 Test matches.

Stokes has just returned to the team after a spell out for mental health reasons.

It is the first big deci-

sion by Rob Key, the former England batsman who was recently hired as managing director of men's cricket in England.

"He epitomizes the mentality and approach we want to take this team forward into the next era of red-ball cricket," Key said.

"I am delighted that he has accepted, and he is ready for the added responsibility and the honour. He thoroughly deserves the opportunity."

Sindhu, Satwik-Chirag enter BAC quarterfinals; Srikanth, Saina out

Manila, Apr 28 (PTI):

Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu notched up a straight game win over lowly-ranked Yue Yann Jaslyn Hooi of Singapore in women's singles competition to advance to the quarterfinals of Badminton Asia Championships here on Thursday.

The Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also made it to the quarterfinals but it was curtains for London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal and world championships silver winner Kidambi Srikanth.

Sindhu, seeded fourth, who had claimed a bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition, defeated Jaslyn Hooi, ranked 100th, 21-16 21-16 in 42 minutes to set up a clash against third seed Chinese He Bing Jiao, whom she had beaten for a bronze at the Tokyo Olympics.

World number 7 Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, has a 7-9 head-to-head record against Bing Jiao, whom she has beaten twice in the last two meetings.

The third seeded mixed doubles duo of Satwik and



Chirag too produced a fine performance to sail into the last-eight round with a 21-17 21-15 win over Japan's Akira Koga and Taichi Saito. The world number 7 Indian pairing will next face either fifth seeded Malaysian combination of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik or Singaporean duo of Danny Bawa Chrisnanta and Jun Liang Andy Kwek.

However, Saina's dream of claiming her fourth medal in the prestigious tournament ended after she ran out of steam to eventually lose 21-12 7-21 13-21 to 22-year-old Chinese Wang Zhi Yi, ranked 16th in the

world. Saina is on a comeback trail after recovering from some nagging injuries and had skipped the selection trials for the upcoming major events such as Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Uber Cup.

Srikanth, seeded seventh, too couldn't step up his game when it mattered, going down narrowly to China's Weng Hong Yang 16-21 21-17 17-21 in a men's singles second round match that lasted an hour and 17 minutes.

Earlier, despite the huge difference in their rank-

ings, it was a tight battle for supremacy between Sindhu and Jaslyn Hooi.

At one stage, the Indian was two-point behind at 7-9 against her opponent, who managed to take a slender 11-10 lead at the interval but Sindhu stepped up and levelled 16-16 before pocketing the opening game.

The Indian managed to move to a 12-8 advantage in the second game after an initial fight following a change of sides.

The Singaporean erased the deficit, coming as close as 15-16, before Sindhu once again stepped on the gas to pocket the match.

Liverpool overwhelms Villarreal 2-0, on course for CL final



Liverpool's Egyptian midfielder Mohamed Salah (C) fights for the ball with Villarreal's French midfielder Etienne Capoue (L) and Villarreal's Spanish midfielder Manuel Trigueros during the UEFA Champions League semi-final first leg football match between Liverpool and Villarreal, at the Anfield Stadium, in Liverpool.

Liverpool, Apr 28 (AP):

Liverpool looks like being one European giant too many for Villarreal. Wins in the Champions League semifinals are rarely as routine as Liverpool's 2-0 first-leg victory on Wednesday over the Spanish underdog, which appears to have finally come unstuck on a fairytale run that has already accounted for European football royalty in Juventus and Bayern Munich. Liverpool, still on course for an unprecedented quadruple of

major trophies, proved to be a bigger test. The six-time European champions slowly dismantled the limited challenge of Villarreal on another night when they were swept along by the power of Anfield.

The goals came early in the second half and within 133 seconds of each other as Villarreal left back Pervis Estupinan unwittingly deflected a cross by Jordan Henderson into his own net in the 53rd minute, with goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli only managing to tip a looping ball into his own net.

Punjab Kings aim to stifle in-form KL Rahul in IPL game against Lucknow Super Giants

Pune, Apr 28 (PTI):

Punjab Kings would be keen to put brakes on Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul's rollicking batting form and notch up a win when the two sides clash in an IPL game here on Friday.

Lucknow are currently in fourth spot, having five wins and three losses from eight games, while Punjab are at sixth, with four wins and as many losses.

Lucknow beat Mumbai Indians by 36 runs in their last game, while Punjab come into the game after defeating Chennai Super Kings by 11 runs.

Rahul has been in sublime form at the top of order and has already hit two hundreds -- both against Mumbai Indians -- and a fifty-plus score this season.



With 368 runs, he is the second highest run-getter so far this season, just behind Rajasthan Royals' Jos Buttler and has been the batting mainstay for his team.

Punjab's balanced bowling attack, led by South African pacer Kasigo Rabada, would be keen to put the brakes on the stylish right-handed batter.

Rabada and the likes of Arshdeep Singh, who has been impressive in death overs, Sandeep Sharma, Rishi Dhawan and Rahul Chahar, would need to pose serious questions to Rahul at the MCA stadium, which has witnessed high-scoring thrillers.

Leg-spinner Chahar is the leading wicket taker for Punjab with 10 scalps but he would need to step up even more to help his team's cause.

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

Describing Sunrisers Hyderabad fast bowler Umran Malik as a "gem", New Zealand bowling great Daniel Vettori says the youngster's raw pace generates anxiety among batters and brings an "X-factor" to the game.

Vettori, a former New Zealand captain and leg-spin great, said Malik was a "rare" talent emerging after the end of era of Brett Lee, Shoaib Akhtar and Shaun Tait.

"That pace generates anxiety among batters and not just tailenders, it's all batters," Vettori told ESPNcricinfo's T20 Time Out show.

"We don't often see bowlers get around 153-154 mark. That's exceptional pace, that's a rarity that we



haven't seen I suppose consistently since the likes of (Brett) Lee, Shoaib Akhtar or Shaun Tait. "So to see that is a huge part of the game now. You can see the excitement factor, brings a bit of X-factor." The 22-year-old Jammu and Kashmir player's maiden five-for dismantled Gujarat Titans' batting line-up in SRH's IPL game before Rahul Tewatia and Rashid Khan pulled off a heist by hitting four sixes in the final over to win the match by five wickets.

Vettori said the BCCI should quickly step in and manage Malik's workload to safeguard his unique talent. "This is a gem here and it's just how it's looked after in the next couple of years for Indian cricket and how to get the best out of him.

I had self belief in my batting, I've been working on it in last two years: Rashid

Mumbai, Apr 28 (PTI):

Hitting three sixes in four balls, including the match-winning maximum from the final delivery, is a stupendous achievement for any batter but Afghan star Rashid Khan says he has the self-belief to execute such performances after working on his batting in the last two years.

Rashid (31 off just 11 balls), known more for his match-winning leg-spin bowling, pulled off a heist as he struck three sixes from four balls, bowled by pacer Marco Jansen, to hand Gujarat Titans a thrilling five-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad on Wednesday night.

His partner Rahul Tewatia (40 not out off 21 balls) had hit a six from the first ball and ran a single after the Titans needed 22 runs from the final over while chasing a stiff 196 for a win.

"The feeling is good...you just have it in mind to go out there and have the self-belief, keep my shape strong and hit it," Rashid said after his batting heroics.

"I was happy to do it against them (former club Sunrisers Hyderabad), but I was just trying to play my game and have the belief in my batting which I've been working on the last two years."



that belief, anything is possible. Just stay there, keep your shape and hit it strong. So that was our plan and luckily we had those four sixes."

Tewatia also echoed Rashid's sentiments and said his earlier experience of finishing matches helped him in such situations.

"We needed 22 runs from last over. Rashid bhai said it was chaseable. I told him we can take the match closer (to a win) if I can hit six from the first ball. I said I will go all out for a six and let's see what happens," Tewatia said at the post-match press conference.

"I batted at same order for my domestic team (Haryana) and I have played in such situations a few times. When I got this role in IPL two years back, I did a lot of practice for these kind of situations for my Haryana team as well as for IPL, especially for death overs.

"If you need 40 to 50 runs in the last four-five overs, you need to choose the deliveries of the bowler (to hit)."

Asked why he ran for a single from the second ball of the last delivery, Tewatia said, "Rashid bhai bats very well and he had finished matches earlier and had won matches (with the bat) for us.

Osaka wants go easy on herself entering clay season

Madrid, Apr 28 (AP):

Former No. 1 Naomi Osaka enters the clay-court season with the goal of not being too hard on herself.

Osaka made the final in Miami last month and will be playing as a wild-card entry when the Madrid Open begins on Thursday. "I'm trying to embrace my mistakes compared to the previous years as well, so I'm not that hard on myself, she said Wednesday.

If I make a mistake or if I don't move up to the ball fast enough because I find on clay you actually have to move much more but if I do stuff like that I just tell myself not to be mad."

Osaka withdrew from the French Open last year and took a break from competition after saying she suffered long bouts of depression and experienced huge waves of anxiety before speaking to the media.

The four-time Grand Slam champion has openly talked about working on her mental health since winning the 2018 U.S. Open over Serena Williams. She left last year's U.S. Open in tears and was brought to tears again by a comment from a spectator at Indian Wells earlier this year.

I'm still a student so I should try to keep learning, she said ahead of her



debut in Madrid. Osaka said she hoped to learn from some of the clay-court specialists who are playing in Madrid, including Rafael Nadal and the red-hot Carlos Alcaraz.

Honestly, I've been wanting to watch the really good clay-court players practice because I feel like I'm the type of person that learns really fast if I see it up close, and honestly it's a bit of a waste to have all these really good professional tennis players and not watch them," the 24-year-old Japanese player said. "I've kind of wanted to see Alcaraz, so it'd be cool to watch everyone practice.

Osaka said she stole one of the things that Nadal did and was practicing it, without elaborating.

India to open Asia Cup men's hockey campaign against Pakistan on May 23

Jakarta, Apr 28 (PTI):

Defending champions India will open its campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan in the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament to be played here from May 23 to June 1. India and Pakistan will face each other in the last match of the opening day of the tournament.

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist India is placed in a tough Pool A alongside Japan, Pakistan and hosts Indonesia, while Pool B consists of Malaysia, Korea, Oman and Bangladesh. After Pakistan, India will play Japan on May 24 followed by final pool game against Indonesia on May 26. The tournament will be played in a Super4s pool format with top two teams from each pool progressing to the next stage. The final of the tournament will be played on June 1. India and Pakistan have won the Asia Cup three times each, while South Korea is the most successful team with four titles. India's titles came in 2003 in Kuala Lumpur; in 2007 in Chennai and in 2017 in Dhaka.

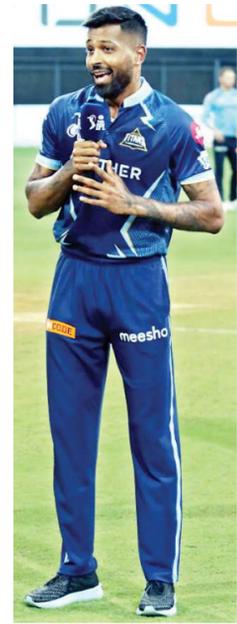
We are quite practical as well and talk about winning right situations: Hardik

Mumbai, Apr 28 (PTI):

Gujarat Titans skipper Hardik Pandya said there is a lot of self-belief in his players and they always talk about winning the "right situations", which was evident in their victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in a thrilling IPL match here on Wednesday.

Needing 56 in the last four overs and 22 off the final six balls, the Titans rode on Rahul Tewatia (40 not out off 21 balls) and Rashid Khan's (31 not out off 11) incredible power-hitting to end on the winning side.

This was after SRH pace sensation Umran Malik (5/25) had the Titans tottering at 140 for five in the 16th over in a stiff chase of 196. Asked at the presentation ceremony about Rahul and Rashid's onslaught, Pandya said, "We are quite practical as well and talk about winning the right situations. We always back them because they have a lot of self belief. "We have intentionally tried to make sure that the dugout or in the dressing room to keep the atmosphere calm because it helps the players play their best game. A lot of credit goes to the support staff." In a lighter vein, the



GT skipper said that he keeps telling his players that "God is helping" them out. "I keep joking in the dressing room that God is telling us 'You guys are good, I'll help you'. It's happening so often that I fear we may run out of luck in the knockout games." Pandya thanked the team's support staff for the performance in its maiden season in IPL.

BRIEF

Plans



Manila: Radisson Hotel Group plans to add 100 hotels in India by the end of 2025 as part of its ambitious plans for expansion in the Asia-Pacific region CEO Federico Gonzalez told PTI.

Turnover

New Delhi: Power products marker Microtek International on Thursday said it has recorded a turnover of Rs 1,700 crore for the financial year ended on March 31, 2022, registering a growth of 26 per cent. The home-grown firm has now set a growth target of over 50 per cent for the current financial year 2022-23, as the company is expanding its product lines in existing and new categories, a company statement said.

Users



New Delhi: Meesho has acquired over 100 million transacting users on its platform in the last one year, the company said on Thursday. CXO Utkrishna Kumar said with nearly 80 per cent of the demand coming from tier 2 plus cities, vision is to democratize e-commerce.

Buys

New Delhi: Realty firm Godrej Properties Ltd on Thursday said it has acquired a 58-acre land parcel in Nagpur to develop a residential project as part of its strategy to expand business. The company, which is part of Godrej group, did not disclose the value of this land deal. The development on this land will comprise primarily of plotted residential units, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Stake



New Delhi: IMGC on Thursday said Sagen MI Canada has agreed to acquire 31 per cent stake in the mortgage guarantee firm for an undisclosed amount.

JV

Mumbai: Fresh fruit importers IG International said it has set up a joint venture with Aatre Green - IG Aatreyas - to become the largest tunnel supplier in the tunnel system production segment. The newly formed company has set a target to reach Rs 100-crore revenue by 2024 and enter the overseas markets as well, IG International said.

Focus on tier 2, 3 cities: DPIIT Secretary to startups

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

The government has taken several steps to strengthen the startup ecosystem and startups should focus on tier 2 and 3 cities, which holds huge business opportunities, DPIIT Secretary Anurag Jain said on Thursday.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary also called upon startups to look for sustainable solutions for the problems being faced by the society at large. "We should not forget the rural markets, tier 2 and 3 cities. Rural market will grow very fast... In our solutions, we should always remember



whether my solution is sustainable or not," Jain said at CII's Global Unicorn Summit Nurturing 1000 Unicorns by 2030.

He added that India's startup ecosystem is the third largest in the world and the country is second highest in adding the number of unicorns. "Now we are adding 80 startups everyday and that pace is the highest in the world... We can hope to become the largest

startup ecosystem in the world in the times to come... More than half of the startups come from tier 2-3 cities," he added.

In a separate announcement, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) plans to empanel retired officials for conducting departmental inquiries.

According to an office memorandum, the department "proposes to prepare a panel of retired officers to be considered for appointment as inquiry officer for conducting inquiry against officers of this department as well as its attached and subordinate offices".

Rupee 4 paise higher at 76.53 against USD, bullion falls

Mumbai, Apr 28 (PTI):

The rupee pared initial losses to settle 4 paise higher at 76.53 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking positive domestic equities.

The appreciation bias in the local unit is likely to be capped in the near term amid strong American currency, inflationary concerns and fears about an aggressive pace of the US rate hikes, traders said.

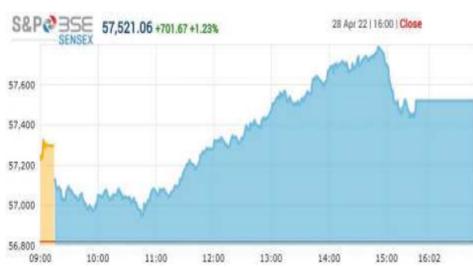
At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 76.60 against the greenback and moved in a range of 76.43 to 76.71 in the day trade. It finally closed at 76.53, registering a rise of just 4 paise over its previous close of 76.57. On Wednesday, the rupee had settled almost flat at 76.57 against the US dollar. "Rupee weakened in the first half of the session but

rose in the latter half despite broader gains in the dollar. The dollar has been rising on the expectation that the Fed could raise rates at the next week's meeting," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Inflation remains a concern for the central bank and it could continue to hold a hawkish stance.

"Major crosses Euro and Pound continued to remain under pressure against the US dollar. The focus will be on the advance GDP number from the US and weaker-than-estimated data could keep gains capped for the dollar," Somaiya said. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, surged 0.44 per cent to 103.41. Bullion prices fell on Thursday.

Markets rebound, Sensex rallies 702 pts



Mumbai, Apr 28 (PTI):

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded to close over 1 per cent higher on Thursday, propelled by buying in index majors Reliance Industries, HUL and Infosys along with an overall positive trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 701.67 points or 1.23 per cent to end at 57,521.06. During the day, it zoomed 971.46 points or 1.70 per cent to 57,790.85 on the expiry of derivatives

MINING PARTNERSHIP



World Coal Association CEO Michelle Manook with Gainwell Engineering Chairman Sunil Chaturvedi (L) during a joint press conference on their partnership for sustainable coal mining, in Kolkata, Thursday (PTI).

India among most challenging economies, says USTR

Washington, Apr 28 (PTI):

India remains one of the most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of intellectual property, the office of the US Trade Representative said in a report as it decided to retain New Delhi on the Priority Watch List.

In its 2022 Special 301 Report, the USTR designated seven countries in the Priority Watch List. These are Argentina, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Russia and Venezuela.

The review of Ukraine has been suspended due to Russia's premeditated and unprovoked invasion of the country, the USTR said. The USTR in the India section of the report said over the past year, India has remained inconsistent in its progress on

IP protection and enforcement.

While India made meaningful progress to promote IP protection and enforcement in some areas over the past year, it failed to resolve recent and long-standing challenges and it created new concerns for right holders, the report said.

"India remains one of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of IP," it said.

The report further said India's accession to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Performances and Phonograms Treaty and WIPO Copyright Treaty, collectively known as the WIPO Internet Treaties, in 2018 and the Nice Agreement in 2019 were positive steps.

India's Q1 gold demand declines 18% to 135.5 tonnes amid higher prices

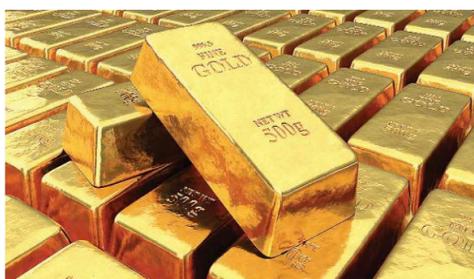
Mumbai, Apr 28 (PTI):

India's gold demand declined 18 per cent to 135.5 tonnes in the first three months of this year, mainly due to a sharp rise in prices, according to the World Gold Council (WGC).

The demand stood at 165.8 tonnes in the first three months of 2021.

In terms of value, gold demand dropped 12 per cent to Rs 61,550 crore in the January-March period. It stood at Rs 69,720 crore in the year-ago period, the 'Gold Demand Trends Q1 2022' report released by the WGC said.

WGC Regional CEO, India, Somasundaram PR told PTI that gold prices began rising in January, increasing by 8 per cent to Rs 45,434 per 10 grams



(without taxes) in the first quarter of this year, mainly due to geopolitical tensions.

In comparison, the prices were at around Rs 42,045 crore in January-March 2021 period.

As per the report, total jewellery demand in the country during the latest March quarter fell 26 per cent to 94.2 tonnes. It was at 126.5 tonnes in the same

period last year.

In terms of value, jewellery demand plunged 20 per cent to Rs 42,800 crore in the first quarter of this year. The same was at Rs Rs 53,200 crore in the year-ago period.

"After rising to record levels in the fourth quarter of 2021, India's gold jewellery demand fell by 26 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of this

year to 94 tonnes. Since 2010, barring the pandemic periods, this is only the third time the first quarter total has been below 100 tonnes," Somasundaram said.

Further, he said that fewer auspicious days coupled with a sharp rise in gold prices meant fewer weddings and a pause in retail demand, with households postponing gold buying in anticipation of a price correction.

This year, he said the overall demand for gold is likely to be around 800-850 tonnes.

Total investment demand for gold increased 5 per cent to 41.3 tonnes in the latest March quarter compared to 39.3 tonnes in the same period a year ago.

5G spectrum auction likely in early June

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

The government is likely to hold 5G spectrum auction in early June, telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Thursday.

The minister said that the Department of Telecom is working as per expected timeline and the process is on to resolve industry concerns around spectrum pricing.

Asked about the schedule of the spectrum auction, Vaishnav said that it is expected to be in early June.

Setting the stage for the rollout of 5G services, telecom regulator Trai has mooted a mega auction plan valued at over Rs 7.5 lakh crore at the base price across multiple bands for radio waves allocated over 30 years.

"We are very much as per our timeline to conduct the auction,"



Vaishnav said.

The minister said that the Digital Communications Commission will take a call on Trai recommendations and approach them for clarification.

The watchdog has recommended a mega auction plan of over Rs 7.5 lakh crore for over 1 lakh megahertz spectrum in case the government allocates it for a period of 30 years.

In case of 20 years, the total value of the proposed spectrum auction will stand at around Rs 5.07 lakh crore at the reserve price, according to the back-of-the-envelope calculation.

While Trai has reduced spectrum price by about 39 per cent compared to last price, telecom operators have said that the recommended rates are higher than global benchmarks.

Bank of Maharashtra Q4 profit more than doubles to Rs 355 cr

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra on Thursday reported an over two-fold increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 355 crore in the quarter ended March, helped by a fall in the bad loan proportions, thus requiring lesser provisioning. The Pune-based lender had posted a net profit of Rs 165.23 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income of the bank, however, was down at Rs 3,948.48 crore in the January-March quarter of 2021-22, as against Rs 4,334.98 crore in the same quarter of 2020-21, Bank of Maharashtra said in a regulatory filing. For the full year 2021-22, the bank's consolidated net profit doubled to Rs 1,151.64 crore, as against Rs 551.41

Q4 2021-22			
	MARCH 31 2021	2022	YoY Growth %
Income	4334.98	3948.48	-8.92
Expenditure	2793.33	2769.73	-0.84
Op Profit	1541.65	1178.75	-23.54
PBT	200.38	813.37	305.91
Net Profit	165.23	354.92	114.80
EPS (₹)	0.26	0.53	

Consolidated, Audited

crore in 2020-21. Total income was higher at Rs 15,672.17 crore during the

year, from Rs 14,497.56 crore in the previous fiscal 2020-21.

ZED certification scheme launched for MSMEs

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

Union Minister Narayan Rane on Thursday launched a sustainable certification scheme (ZED) to facilitate MSMEs to adopt 'Zero Defect Zero Effect' practices and become energy efficient while improving quality through increased compliance with manufacturing processes. MSMEs can reduce wastages substantially, increase productivity, enhance environmental consciousness, save energy, optimally use natural resources, expand their markets, etc. through the ZED certification scheme, a part of the MSME Champions scheme. "The ZED certification scheme will be beneficial towards improving quality, increasing manufacturing output and profits and controlling the



MSME minister Narayan Rane launching the MSME Sustainable (ZED) Scheme, in New Delhi on Thursday.

detrimental impact on the environment," said MSME Minister Rane at the launch. R P Singh, Secretary General, Quality Council of India highlighted that adoption of ZED certification by MSMEs will automatically lead to various types of compliances needed for MSME. Phase 1 of the scheme launched on

Thursday will focus largely on maximising inclusion of manufacturing MSMEs and taking them through the ZED journey.

The Phase 2 of the scheme will entail the inclusion of services sector MSMEs and also strive to integrate manufacturing and services sector MSMEs that are registered under a state govern-

ment system but not on Udyam. This phase will also make provisions to align ZED certification with the international certifications for its global acceptance. The scheme comprises three certification levels including bronze, silver and gold. MSMEs can apply for any certification level but would need to comply with its requirements. The 20 parameters under the scheme are mapped with existing certifications wherever applicable. The MSMEs will have to undertake a ZED pledge upon registration. MSMEs will get subsidy on the cost of ZED certification. The subsidy amount will be up to 80 per cent of the certification cost for micro enterprises, whereas for small and medium units it will be 60 per cent and 50 per cent respectively.



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Caught in power crisis

Industry associations in India have demanded duty-free import of coal, greater availability of railways rake to transport the dry fuel and different rate of diesel for captive generators for dealing with power supply issue amid summer. Indian power generating units have been hit hard with low coal supply, even as industrial demand has been high and rising temperature has escalated household demand. India is caught between sourcing coal for meeting short term power needs and hurdles to implement solar power. Earlier it was reported that a fourth of India's power generation capacity shut, mainly due to lack of fuel. At a time when India's electricity demand is seen rising at the fastest pace in decades, almost a fourth of its total thermal, nuclear, and hydropower installed capacity is shut down. According to the Central Electricity Authority's operation performance monitoring report, 72,074.14 megawatts (MW) that comprise thermal, nuclear, and hydropower were shut down as of April 20. This accounts for almost 25 percent of the total monitored capacity of 289,581.24 MW. CEA's monitored capacity includes thermal, hydro, and nuclear power units, but excludes 110 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy. At the beginning of April, the total capacity that was shut down was 66,534.31 MW, but the lack of fuel had tripped more units. The maximum all India power demand met or the highest supply in a day crossed the record level of 201 GW mark showing spurt this week amid sweltering heat in large parts of the country. The maximum All India power demand met is 201.066 GW, the power ministry claimed. India has the greatest number of proposed coal power plants after China. Also, 2021 saw 13 per cent decline in global coal power plants under development. This was revealed in the latest Boom and Bust report released by Global Energy Monitor. According to the report, pre-construction coal power capacity between 2015 to 2021 decreased nearly 90 per cent in India.

From approximately 238.6 GW in 2015, it decreased to 36.6 GW in 202 and down an additional 12.7 GW in 2021. Despite signs of coal phase down in India, more than 23.8 GW of planned capacity remains, with more than half (12.6 GW or 52 percent) permitted, 31.3 GW under construction and few with firm retirement dates, the report stated. India's new target of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 could enable the country to start phasing down coal well before 2030, even assuming power demand growth continues at pre-pandemic rates. If a bold non-coal plan for the power sector is finalized and implemented, this would be a hugely significant move, as it would formalize energy and economic development plans in line with India's clean energy integration pathway as committed at COP26. Despite government hope to ramp up power from solar panels, there are hurdles. Prospects for India achieving the target of generating 100 gigawatts of solar power in 2022 have waned because of high levels of atmospheric pollution. Atmospheric pollution reduces solar power generation in two main ways: by absorbing and scattering the sun's rays and by soiling solar panels, says Sagnik Dey, chair professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. A study carried out by IIT Delhi and published March in Environmental Research Letters, calculates that between 2001 and 2018 India lost 29 percent of its solar energy potential as a result of atmospheric pollution equivalent to an annual loss of USD 835 million. As of March, India had only reached the halfway mark of 50 gigawatts of installed solar capacity, according to the research group, Mercom India. While wildfires are a bane for the people living in the vicinity of forests, they are also responsible for limiting renewable power production. A new study has revealed how forest fires lead to a major reduction in solar power production in India and affect the entire grid network. The study has been published in the journal Remote Sensing. The rooftop policy for solar is not affordable for most of India's population. The government is caught regarding meeting power demand.

Governance models

Kerala government decided to send a two-member team led by Chief Secretary VP Joy to Gujarat for three days to study the dashboard system for e-governance. Kerala is studying the dashboard system started in 2019 when Vijay Rupani was the Gujarat chief minister. The scheme was started to monitor the district-level implementation of various government schemes. This system was set up to resolve the grievances of the common man. The goal is to make government officials more responsible. Public administration experts have divided eras of governance. In the Governance 1.0 period immediately after World War II, both public and corporate governance were marked by the rule of the one man as the elected or unelected strong leader and the boss. This type of leadership worked well in a society where the cost of information was high, hierarchical power and management functioned relatively smoothly, and technological and economic advances benefited almost everyone. The Governance 2.0 model, which emerged at the end of the 1960s, affirmed the primacy of material wealth.

And while the 2008 global financial crisis dealt Governance 2.0 a serious blow, its narrow vision continued to prevail until the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The brutal social and economic shock inflicted by COVID-19 ushered in Governance 3.0. Crisis management currently dominates decision-making, with leaders focusing on operational thinking and showing a relative disregard for possible unintended consequences. Governance 4.0 would differ from its predecessors in several fundamental respects. It would need to replace short-term crisis management with long-term strategic thinking. A focus on current problems must be complemented with action. Governance 4.0 must replace the tunnel vision and top-down approach that prevailed in the past. The world has changed, and public governance must change with it. The dashboard system for e-governance meant for constant monitoring of administration. States ruled by different political parties are cooperating for better governance model to serve the public. Any governance model needs full public participation to succeed.

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.

FORCED TO BE UNDERGROUND



People forced to be living in a large underground parking lot in Kharkiv, eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine's subterranean fighters highlight history of tunnels in warfare

PAUL J SPRINGER



Faced with the prospect of sending Russian troops into subterranean combat, Vladimir Putin demurred. 'There is no need to climb into these catacombs and crawl underground,' he told his defence minister on April 21, 2022, ordering him to cancel a planned storming of a steel plant in the besieged Ukrainian port city of Mariupol. While Putin's back-up plan, to form a seal around trapped Ukrainian forces and wait it out, is no less brutal and there are reports that Russians may still have mounted an offensive on the site, Putin's hesitancy to send his forces into a sprawling network of tunnels under the complex hints at a truth in warfare: Tunnels can be an effective tool in resisting an oppressor. Indeed, since the war began in February, reports have emerged of Ukrainian defenders using underground tunnel networks in efforts to deny Russian invaders control of major cities, as well as to provide sanctuary for civilians.

As an expert in military history and theory, I know there is sound thinking behind using tunnels as both a defensive and offensive tactic. Such networks allow small units to move undetected by aerial sensors and emerge in unexpected locations to launch surprise attacks and then essentially disappear. For an invader who does not possess a thorough map of the subterranean passages, this can present a nightmare scenario, leading to massive personnel losses, plummeting morale and an inability to finish the conquest of their urban objective - all factors that may have factored in Putin's decision not to send troops underground in

Mariupol. The use of tunnels and underground chambers in times of conflict is nothing new. The use of tunnels has been a common aspect of warfare for millennia. Ancient besieging forces used tunnelling operations as a means to weaken otherwise well-fortified positions. This typically required engineers to construct long passages under walls or other obstacles. Collapsing the tunnel weakened the fortification. If well-timed, an assault conducted in the immediate aftermath of the breach might lead to a successful storming of the defended position. One of the earliest examples of this technique is depicted on Assyrian carvings that are thousands of years old. While some attackers climb ladders to storm the walls of an Egyptian city, others can be seen digging at the foundations of the walls.

Roman armies relied heavily upon sophisticated engineering techniques such as putting arches into the tunnels they built during sieges. Roman defenders also perfected the art of digging counter-tunnels to intercept those used by attackers before they presented a threat. Upon penetrating an enemy tunnel, they flooded it with caustic smoke to drive out the enemy or launched a surprise attack upon unsuspecting miners. The success of tunnelling under fortifications led European engineers in the Middle Ages to design ways to thwart the tactic. They built castles on bedrock foundations, making any attempt to dig beneath them much slower, and surrounded walls with moats so that tunnels would need to be far deeper. Although tunnelling remained an important aspect of sieges through the 13th century, it was eventually replaced by the introduction of gunpowder artillery - which proved a more effective way to breach fortifications. However, by the mid-19th century, advances in mining and tunnel construction led to a resurgence in subterranean approaches to warfare. During the Crimean War in the 1850s, British and French attackers attempted to tunnel under Russian fortifications at the Battle of Sevastopol. Ten years later, Ulysses S Grant authorized an attempt

to tunnel under Confederate defences at the siege of Petersburg, Virginia. In both cases, large caches of gunpowder were placed in chambers created by tunnelling under key positions and detonated in coordination with an infantry assault.

With warfare increasingly relying on aircraft in the 20th century, military strategists again turned to tunnels - undetectable from the skies and protected from falling bombs. In World War I, tunnelling was attempted as a means to launch surprise attacks on the Western Front, potentially bypassing the other side's system of trenches and remaining undetected by aerial observers. In particular, the Ypres salient in war-ravaged Belgium was the site of hundreds of tunnels dug by British and German miners, and the horrifying stories of combat under the earth provide one of the most terrifying vignettes of that awful war. During World War II, Japanese troops in occupied areas in the Pacific constructed extensive tunnel networks to make their forces virtually immune to aerial attack and naval bombardment from Allied forces. During amphibious assaults in places such as the Philippines and Iwo Jima, American and Allied forces had to contend with a warren of Japanese tunnel networks. Eventually they resorted to using high explosives to collapse tunnel entrances, trapping thousands of Japanese troops inside. The Viet Cong tunnel networks, particularly in the vicinity of Saigon, were an essential part of their guerrilla strategy and remain a popular tourist stop today. Some of the tunnels were large enough to house hospital and barracks facilities and strong enough to withstand anything short of nuclear bombardment.

The tunnels not only protected Vietnamese fighters from overwhelming American firepower, they also facilitated hit-and-run style attacks. Specialized 'tunnel rats,' American soldiers who ventured into the tunnels armed only with a knife and pistol, became adept at navigating the tunnel networks. But they could not be trained in sufficient numbers to negate the value of the tunnel systems. In the

21st century, tunnels have been used to facilitate the activities of terror organizations. During the American-led invasion of Afghanistan, military operatives soon discovered that al-Qaida had fortified a series of tunnel networks connecting naturally occurring caves in the Tora Bora region. Not only did they hide the movement of troops and supplies, they proved impervious to virtually every weapon in the US-led coalition's arsenal. The complexes included air filtration systems to prevent chemical contamination, as well as massive storerooms and sophisticated communications gear allowing al-Qaida leadership to maintain control over their followers. And tunnelling activity in and around Gaza continues to provide a tool for Hamas to get fighters into Israeli territory, while at the same time allowing Palestinians to circumvent Israel's blockade of Gaza's borders.

Many of the tunnels being utilized today in Ukrainian efforts to defend the country were built in the Cold War era, when the United States routinely engaged in overflights of Soviet territory. To counteract the significant air and satellite advantage held by the United States and NATO, the Soviet military dug underground passages under major population centers. These subterranean systems offered a certain amount of shelter for the civilian population in the event of a nuclear attack and allowed for the movement of military forces unobserved by the ever-present eyes in the sky. These same tunnels serve to connect much of the industrial infrastructure in Mariupol today - and have become a major asset for the outnumbered Ukrainian forces. Other Ukrainian cities have similar systems, some dating back centuries. For example, Odesa, another key Black Sea port, has a catacomb network stretching over 2,500 kilometers. It began as part of a limestone mining effort - and to date, there is no documented map of the full extent of the tunnels.

(Paul J Springer is Professor of Comparative Military Studies, Air University in US.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Self-serving

Unable to understand how Prashant Kishor is a wily self-serving election consultant expected that he will become as a saviour of the Indian National Congress --- 137-year-old party that had led India's freedom struggle and governed the country for over 60 years? How does he expect that he will work only if he is given absolute power by the party, an impossible proposition for an established party? Why would Prasant like election strategist join any political party particularly, after his miserable experience with Nitish Kumar. Kishore is essentially a consulting business man and is very successful at that. Starting with Narendra Modi's BJP to the latest Telangana Chief Minister Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao's Telangana Rashtira Samithi (TRS) is a better choice than Congress! The chances of TRS winning in Telangana is far higher than Congress, because a regional party like TRS is a better business proposition as Prasant need not become a member of TRS, and easy to control. Moreover, if Prasant becomes a member of the Congress, not only his fees will be diluted but his chances of winning are also questionable. Even all ifs and buts, the Congress was widely expected to decide whether it will accept Prashant's proposal (had at least three meetings with the Congress leadership, during which he had given detailed presentations on his plan to rejuvenate the party reeling under a series of poll debacles over the past few years) to revamp the grand old party ahead of the 2024 elections. Whatsoever, Congress is not ready to accept Kishore's dictating terms rather than deploying his skills to help the party.

Bidyut K Chatterjee, Faridabad Unnoticed heroes

Heroes are not born but made by situations. There are many heroes who adorn each and every corner of our diverse country. Some get recognised and many go unnoticed and unpraised. Recently I came across Ajeet Singh's story who has single-handedly worked towards rescuing more than 1500 minor girls from human trafficking. He has been doing this since the early 90s but it is now after three decades that people are knowing about him and the wonderful work he has been doing all these years. It is surely a failure of the media who is more concerned about which designer wear are celebrities wearing than doing real work. It pains to see the fourth pillar of democracy running after trivial issues like which car did a certain celebrity recently bought or how much did the Prime Minister's overcoat cost. Reporting is not meant to be done only on red carpets, it has to cross muddy terrains and climb heights.

Noopur Baruah, Tezpur

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Nirant@NirantK
unpopular opinion: iPhone is really really hard to use. I've been using one for last 4-5 weeks and still don't know how to reject a call. Or do most things I could with Android. Not to mention, I missed 37 calls because I didn't know how focus modes work.



Mini@Minnie_Mehra
Landed in India in the bitterly cold month of January and ended up experiencing three seasons.. winter, summer and tonight, even monsoon! #aapda Mein Avsar !!! #Delhi #Rainstorm I'm fit to fly back home early next week!



Ashu@sentintones
Table for...





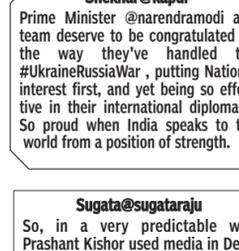
Brig V@Mahalingam
The world today is shaping to become a multipolar world. National interest & economy are going to be the prime drivers of foreign policies of countries. In that context none of maj countries would like to be dictated upon in the name of strategic partner by anyone.



Nitish@borzhypetrain
I don't feel the #Heatwave in my house. Only when I go out do I realise how hot it is. Truly feel bad for the less fortunate. Not sure how India is going to survive summer in the coming decades. As more & more industrialization happens, a lot of places will become unliveable.



Shekhar@kapur
Prime Minister @narendramodi and team deserve to be congratulated on the way they've handled the #UkraineRussiaWar, putting National interest first, and yet being so effective in their international diplomacy. So proud when India speaks to the world from a position of strength.



Sugata@sugataraju
So, in a very predictable way Prashant Kishor used media in Delhi to do a faux build up with his 600-slide solution, and finally ended up embarrassing the @INCIndia and diminishing its leadership. He set a trap and the party's top leadership walked into it in broad daylight.

BRIEF

Agrees

Warsaw: Poland's air navigation agency said that it has agreed to implement all of the demands of the country's air traffic controllers' union, preventing the mass cancellation of flights in coming days. Poland's government announced plans earlier this week to drastically reduce flights at Warsaw's two airports starting if talks with air traffic controllers demanding better working conditions failed. The majority of air traffic controllers in Warsaw were threatening to quit.

Guilty

Richmond: A former top-ranking State Department official is set to plead guilty for improperly helping a wealthy Gulf country try to influence US policy and not disclosing a government ethics form gifts he received from a disgraced political fundraiser. Court records filed earlier this month say that Richard G Olson, who was the State Department's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the end of the Obama administration, provided aid and advice.

Proposes

Brussels: The European Union's executive arm said that it wants to see the EU adopt a law to protect journalists and civil rights activists from lawsuits aimed at censoring them. The European Commission proposed safeguards to curb SLAPPS, or strategic lawsuits against public participation. It described such litigation as a serious threat to democracy and fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and information. A Maltese journalist was killed.

Inquiry

London: British fraud investigators have raided the UK offices of the GFG Alliance, owners of the country's third largest steelmaker, as part of an investigation into possible fraud and money laundering related to financing from a now bankrupt lender with ties to former Prime Minister David Cameron. The Serious Fraud Office opened an investigation last year after Greensill Capital's collapse forced the owner of Liberty Steel, which has thousands of staff in the UK.

Withdraws

Madrid: Russia announced it was withdrawing from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation just hours before the body's assembly voted to temporarily suspend the country's membership over the invasion of Ukraine. UNWTO Secretary General Zurab Pololikashvili made the announcement on his official Twitter account. He said it was the first UN body to address Russia's membership. The organization went ahead and approved the suspension at special meeting.

'India developed ties with Russia as US couldn't do it earlier'

Washington, Apr 28 (PTD):

India built its partnership with Russia out of necessity as America was not in a position to do that earlier, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has told a Congressional hearing, underlining that Washington is now investing in that effort.

Blinken, during a Congressional hearing by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, said that the India-US partnership has the potential to be one of the most important and foundational partnerships going forward over the next decades.

Amidst Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the US has been pressing India and other nations to impose sanctions on Moscow and reduce their reliance on Russian weapons, oil



Antony Blinken

and other commodities.

"In the case of India, there is a relationship that goes back decades. And Russia, for India, was out of necessity a partner of choice when we were not in a position to be a partner," he said in response to a question from Senator William Hagerty.

"Now, we are investing in that effort. I think there is a growing strategic convergence between the United States and India.

"And of course, China is a big part of that," Blinken said.

Hagerty, a Republican Senator, had sought Blinken's views on the India-US relationship. "What I see before us is something I'm certain that is very frustrating in the short-term when we have our differences and you deal with that every day.

"But in the long-term, the strategic partnership that we have with India I think poses the opportunity to do more good in the 21st century," Hagerty said. In response, Blinken said that he very much shares the perspective shared by the Senator.

"I think this partnership has the potential to be one of the most important and foundational partnerships that we have going forward over the next decades," he said.

Political reckoning in Sri Lanka as debt crisis grows

Dominant Rajapaksas have been powerful land-owning family

Colombo, Apr 28 (AP):

Sherry Fonseka joined millions in 2019 in electing President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a military strategist whose brutal campaign helped end Sri Lanka's 30-year civil war 10 years earlier. Now he is one of thousands who, for weeks, have protested outside the president's office, calling on Rajapaksa and his brother, Mahinda, who is prime minister, to resign for leading the country into



Stalks of bananas are seen at the deserted Manin market in Colombo on Thursday.

its worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948.

With the island teetering near bankruptcy, Fonseka, who owns a small garment business in the capital, Colombo, has resorted to spending his own savings to

pay the salaries of his 30 employees. But he knows he will soon have to let them go and is clear about who is to blame. "All of us thought we made the correct decision (to elect Rajapaksa), but we've realized we were wrong. We should have the backbone to tell people, and the world, that we made a mistake," he said. In recent weeks, protests have erupted across the country demanding that Rajapaksa quit. The protests highlight the dramatic fall of the Rajapaksas from Sri Lanka's most powerful political dynasty in decades to a family grasping to retain power. Despite accusations of atrocities during the civil war, Gotabaya and Mahinda, who was previously president, remained heroes to many of the island's Buddhist-Sinhalese majority and were firmly entrenched at the top of Sri Lankan politics before the revolt by previous supporters like Fonseka.

China city cancels flights after suspected Covid case



People wait for COVID-19 test in Guangzhou on Thursday.

Beijing, Apr 28 (AFP):

The Chinese megacity of Guangzhou cancelled hundreds of flights Thursday and launched mass testing of 5.6 million people after one suspected Covid case, as the battle to contain the coronavirus

sweeps across the country.

China is facing its worst outbreak since the peak of the first wave in early 2020, with eastern Shanghai recording dozens of daily deaths and the capital Beijing sealing off whole neighbourhoods where hand-

fuls of cases have been detected.

Under its zero-Covid policy, China has used lockdowns, mass testing and travel restrictions to stamp out infections.

The strategy is under strain, with the highly transmissible Omicron variant punching through health controls.

Rolling virus restrictions — including a weeks-long lockdown of virtually all of Shanghai's 26 million residents — have damaged the economy, causing backlogs at the world's busiest container port, a key node in the global supply chain.

Colombian soldiers confess murders to victims' families

Ocana, Apr 28 (AFP):

Rural peasant Eliecer Ortega was on his own at his farm when soldiers burst onto his property to first kidnap and then murder him.

His wife, Eduvina Becerra, had to wait 15 years to hear his murderers confess and ask for forgiveness.

It happened during a historic two-day hearing of a special peace tribunal set up in Ocana — a town in northeastern Colombia near to where the 43-year-old's husband was killed.

Ortega, a local rural leader who was known for his personality and thick moustache, was one of 120 civilians, mostly men aged 25 to 35, who were murdered in cold blood between 2007 and 2008 by Colombian soldiers and then presented as far left guerrilla fighters killed in combat in the area, a bastion of illegal drug crops.

In an unprecedented event, 10 former members of the military, including a general and four colonels,



Retired general Paulino Coronado gestures during a hearing organized by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) in Ocana, Colombia.

publicly admitted their responsibility in the crimes to the families of their victims.

The most senior of them, general Paulino Coronado, who retired in 2008, said that even though he acted "by omission, I assume this legal responsibility... so that the

Colombian people never again, never live again, these abominable moments." He denied having ordered the killings in his area of responsibility, but admitted to "not having acted diligently" in the oversight of his men.

"How can you say that your responsibility is by



Passengers arrive at a seaport to travel to their hometowns ahead of Eid al-Fitr in Surabaya, Indonesia on Thursday.

SEAPORT

Bangkok's real-life fight club with private Facebook group

Bangkok, Apr 28 (AFP):

Harsh spotlights and street lamps illuminate a vicious brawl between two furious shirtless men as the screams of a crowd echo beneath a Bangkok underpass: Fight Club Thailand is on. In the capital city of a country renowned for its highly technical martial arts scene, amateur fighters gather regularly promising to exchange only blood and bruises in the underground club.

While the bout resembles a particularly frenzied boxing match, the setting — surrounded by shipping



Photos taken of fighters at an event by Fight Club Thailand.

containers in a poor port-side neighbourhood — is a far cry from the glitzy charms of Muay Thai boxing stadiums. "Here you

don't have to know how to fight. You just need to have heart and that's it," club co-founder Chana Worasart told AFP.

Occupied Ukrainian city fears sham Russian referendum plans

Lviv, Apr 28 (AP):

Ever since Russian forces took the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson in early March, residents sensed the occupiers had a special plan for their town.

Now, amid a crescendo of warnings from Ukraine that Russia plans to stage a sham referendum to transform the territory into a pro-Moscow people's republic, it appears locals guessed right. After Russian forces withdrew from occupied areas around Kyiv in early April, they left behind scenes of horror and traumatized communities. But in Kherson a large city with a major shipbuilding industry, located at the confluence of the Dnieper



People in Kherson.

River and the Black Sea near Russian-annexed Crimea the occupying forces have taken a different tack. The soldiers patrol and walk around silently. They don't shoot people in the streets, said Olga, a local teacher, in a telephone interview last month after the region was sealed off by

Russian forces. She gave only her first name for fear of reprisals.

While the city has so far been spared the atrocities committed elsewhere, daily life is far from normal. All access has been cut off. Kherson suffers from a shortage of medicine, cash and many

food products, and Ukrainian officials warn it could face a humanitarian catastrophe. With no cash deliveries to Kherson's banks, the circulation of Ukraine's hryvnia currency is dwindling, and credit card payments often fail to go through. Access to Ukrainian TV has been blocked and replaced by Russian state channels. A strict curfew has been imposed. Residents believe Russian troops have not yet besieged or terrorized the city as they did in Bucha and Mariupol because they are planning to hold a referendum to create a so-called People's Republic of Kherson like the pro-Russian breakaway territories in eastern Ukraine.

Massacres haunts Burundi after fifty years

Gitega, Apr 28 (AFP):

She is 60 years old, but Laetitia Ngendakumana still cries like the 10-year-old girl she was in 1972 when her father disappeared in a wave of ethnic massacres in Burundi now been classified as genocide by a government commission. Like thousands of others, Ngendakumana's world collapsed half a century ago when Burundi's Tutsi-dominated government arrested her father, a Hutu banker in the country's largest city, Bujumbura.

"We never knew where they took dad. What I know is that we lost everything we had," she said, wringing her hands during an interview with AFP at her home surrounded by lush banana trees near Gitega, Burundi's political capital. Neither her marriage to a teacher nor the birth of their 14 children — 12 survived — nor an end to the bloodletting erased her pain, which feels as

fresh today as it did in 1972.

For a long time, the massacres were a taboo subject in the public sphere, with Burundians referring to the period between the end of April and June 1972 as "ikiza" ("the scourge" in Kirundi, the country's official language).

But in 2019, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) set up by the authorities announced a plan to reopen mass graves to count and possibly identify the victims. Ngendakumana immediately reached out to the commission. Identifying human re-

mains after five decades was a near impossible task, but the farmer clung to a single hope: her father's dentures.

"My father had had an accident and lost his teeth. He was wearing gold prostheses," she said.

The tip about the metal dentures led the investigators to discover her father's remains, which were found on a wooded hillside, just a few kilometres (miles) from her home near Gitega. Since independence in 1962, hundreds of thousands of Burundians have lost their lives to ethnic violence between the Hutu and the Tutsi, and to a civil war.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur
(An Autonomous Institute under the MoHFW, Govt)

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For departments, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions, please visit website. All the notification, amendment, corrigendum etc. related to this advertisement, if any, will be published only in the website.

-Director

BRIEF

Bribery

Jaipur: A team of Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested the sarpanch of the Sagwada Panchayat Samiti in Dungarpur here for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 18,000, officials said. The woman sarpanch, Phulwanti Devi, had demanded the bribe from the complainant for clearing outstanding payment of a work, they said. After verification of the complaint, a trap was laid and the accused was held while taking the bribe, they said.

Held

Pune: A 37-year-old man was arrested by police here for allegedly running over a homeless person sleeping on the roadside in Market Yard area here a week ago. The arrested man was identified as Anup Mehta. A case was registered against an unidentified SUV driver after police investigation and CCTV footage disclosed that the deceased had been mowed down by an SUV. The deceased being a homeless man, his identity was yet to be ascertained, the police added.

Dishonouring

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police registered a case against some "unidentified miscreants" for dishonouring the national flag hoisted on a hospital in Rajouri district. The case under section 2 of the Prevention of Insults to the National Honour Act has been registered at Nowshera police station and investigation set into motion to bring the culprits to book.

Concealed

Jaipur: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has recovered five kg of gold concealed in a bag of a passenger who arrived here in a flight from Sharjah. The market price of the seized gold has been estimated at Rs 2 crore 62 lakh. According to DRI sources, the luggage of some passengers, who arrived in Jaipur.

Cheating

Thane: The city police have registered a case of cheating against a Kalyan resident in Thane district of Maharashtra for allegedly duping 49 people to the tune of Rs 3.59 crore by promising them help to get tenements under the Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) scheme, police said. A case was registered against the accused, Suresh Pawar, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code for cheating and other charges.

Hiked

Mumbai: The transport department in Maharashtra has increased the fees for issuing Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates to the vehicles by the PUC centres. The state transport commissioner office issued a circular based on the Maharashtra government's decision, and directed all the Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) and Deputy RTO offices about its implementation.

Stalin hits out at PM over tax cuts, says people know facts

Chennai, Apr 28 (PTI):



MK Stalin

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue of tax cuts on petroleum products, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Thursday said people were aware of the fact behind the issue and pointed out at his government effecting a Rs 3 a litre cut on petrol earlier.

Making a statement in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Stalin said since 2014, whenever international crude rates dipped, the NDA government did not pass on the benefit to the customers but only pocketed the additional revenue earned from the differential.

Referring to a Tamil saying, he indicated that the PM was not revealing the facts.

While the excise duty levied on petrol and diesel

has to be shared with states, that has been reduced, thus affecting the states' revenue, he said.

"While the cess and surcharges are not meant to be shared with the state governments, these have been exorbitantly hiked, thus burdening people and the union government is enjoying the revenue earned from this," the CM added.

He also accused the Centre of "pretending" to

have reduced the fuel-related taxes due to "elections in some states," in an apparent reference to the polls held earlier this year in five states, including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Goa.

"A week after the state elections, the prices were hiked and the Union government imposed further burden on people," he charged.

However, soon after winning the elections and forming the government last year, unmindful of the fiscal position, and according priority to people's welfare, his government had effected the tax cut for petrol even before Centre did, Stalin pointed out.

"People know all this. Who shows real keenness in reducing petrol rates and who pretends and lays the blames on others—I leave it to the people to decide," Stalin said.

Agartala-Kolkata bus service via Dhaka postponed

Agartala, Apr 28 (PTI):



Security personnel stand guard as the Agartala-Kolkata international bus service via Dhaka was to resume service but was postponed, in Agartala, Tripura on Thursday.

The Agartala-Kolkata bus service via Dhaka, which was scheduled to resume from Thursday after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was postponed owing to some "technical reasons", Agartala Mayor Dipak Majumder said.

The decision to defer the resumption of the service was taken minutes before a bus with 16 passengers was about to commence its journey for Kolkata from here, he said.

We were ready to flag off the Kolkata bound bus via Dhaka but due to some technical reasons in the clearance process, the resumption of service has been postponed, the Agartala Municipal Corporation mayor said. Assistant High

Commissioner of Bangladesh at Agartala, Arif Mohammad, was present at the Tripura State Transport Corporation International Terminal at Krishnanagar for the programme.

It appears that all partners concerned are not informed about the permission of resumption of the international bus service. But we all want to start the bus service at the earliest because there is demand

AGAINST INFLATION



Activists of Aam Admi Party (AAP) stage a protest against inflation, during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Assam, in Guwahati, Thursday.

Delhi Govt ups water supply to meet growing demand

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

on both sides," the Bangladeshi envoy said.

Bangladesh Assistant High Commission, Agartala receives 500-600 visa applications daily from people who want to visit their neighbouring country for various purposes.

TRTC's Managing Director Rajesh Kumar Das said, All the technical procedures- from permission to visa for crew members- were carried out on our side. We will sort out the problem for which the bus service could not be restarted."

Once the service will resume, a bus will cover a distance of around 500 km from Agartala to Kolkata via Dhaka in around 19 hours. A train journey between the two destinations via Guwahati takes around 35 hours,

Amid a deadly heatwave building up in various parts of the country, the Delhi government on Thursday said it will supply around 1,000 million gallons of drinking water every day during the summer season as against 935 MGD earlier to meet the rising demand.

Sharing its Summer Action Plan, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said a total of 1,198 water tankers will be deployed across the city during the peak summer season (April-July) to prevent water scarcity.

Large swathes of India are reeling under a punishing heatwave, with temperatures nearing the 45-degree mark at several places in the national capi-



People rush to fill water from a DJB tanker amid heatwave in Delhi on Thursday.

tal. The heatwave is predicted to turn deadlier in the coming days.

"To meet the water requirement of the city residents, especially considering the rising heat this year, the Delhi government is targeting to supply about 1,000 MGD of

potable water during the summer of 2022 by optimising all the resources," a statement quoted Water Minister Satyendar Jain as saying. Earlier, the DJB supplied 935 MGD of drinking water to the city residents on an average.

Five 'exotic' monkeys, wallaby rescued in Assam



In this combo photo, monkeys and wallaby rescued from a vehicle in Assam's Kamrup district.

Guwahati, Apr 28 (PTI):

Five "exotic" monkeys and a wallaby were rescued from a vehicle in Assam's Kamrup district and a person was arrested in this connection, a forest official said on Thursday. Acting on a tip-

off, a team of forest personnel intercepted the vehicle at Hajo and recovered six cages in which the animals were found.

The forest personnel team led by North Kamrup Division Range Officer Sangeeta Rani Singha apprehended the

person, while another fled the spot, the official said.

Further investigation is on to ascertain from where the animals were brought and to which destination they were being taken.

Species of the "exotic" monkeys were yet to be ascertained, while the wallaby is a marsupial that is like a small kangaroo and is found in Australia and New Guinea.

Assam has recently witnessed seizures of rare animals which are not found in the region.

Wildlife trafficking is a major concern in the northeastern states with endangered and rare animals being targeted, the official said.

TRS party resolutions sets narrative to take on BJP

Hyderabad, Apr 28 (PTI):



TRS party members passing resolutions during its foundation day meet in Hyderabad.

The ruling TRS' 21st Foundation Celebrations have not only given a clear roadmap for the party aiming to retain power in the 2023 assembly polls, but also unveiled an agenda that it wants to take on the BJP at the Centre, with only two years left for the next Lok Sabha polls, experts feel. Most of the resolutions being passed targeting the central government for "not doing enough" for the state is a pointer towards this direction, they aver. The K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR)-led TRS has won two successive elections since 2014, when the young southern state came into existence and has set its eyes on a third term, although the BJP had

sprang some electoral surprises in the recent past, including putting up a spirited show in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) polls in 2020 where it emerged as the second largest party after the ruling TRS, in the process bettering on its earlier performances.

Also, the BJP won the Assembly bypolls in

Dubbak and Huzurabad, prompting BJP supporters to cheer about a "saffron surge" in Telangana, with neighbouring Karnataka being a BJP-ruled state in the south. The 13 resolutions which were debated and passed during the day-long celebrations have been taken as a prelude to the launch of the poll campaign for the 2023 assembly elections, experts

BJP attacks Jharkhand Govt over frequent power cuts

Ranchi, Apr 28 (PTI):



BJP protest against power outage in Ranchi on Thursday.

The BJP has accused the JMM-led government in Jharkhand of failing to provide a steady supply of electricity and adequate water to people as the mineral-rich state is witnessing a prolonged power outage, amid a sweltering heatwave. Saffron party's national vice president Raghuraj Das has written to Chief Minister Hemant Soren, alleging that the deepening power crisis is a result of "lack of planning".

"Presently, Jharkhand requires 2,300 MW (megawatt) to 2,600 MW of power but is getting barely 1200 MW..The government's inaction is responsible for this power crisis. Similar power crisis had arisen in the year 2020, but the government did not learn any lesson

from the incident," Das, the former chief minister, said. He also claimed that neither plans were made in advance nor power purchase pacts were done with Tata Power, DVC or other companies.

Soren admitted that the state is unable to meet the peak demand, but said his government has sanctioned additional funds for

buying power from the open market through energy exchanges.

"The heat is beyond imagination... several states in the country are facing shortage of power. It is also difficult to purchase power from the open market due to high rates and competition among states," the CM said. However, the BJP had

staged protests against the government's "complete failure" to meet electricity demand in Jharkhand, which is the major coal-producing state and provides fuel to several power plants in the country.

Das also accused the Hemant Soren government of not taking steps for 800 MW power generation in the first phase as part of an agreement with energy producers during the erstwhile BJP regime to produce 4,000 MW by 2024. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone for the project.

Das also claimed that former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had laid the foundation stone of North Karanpura power project of NTPC, which "remained stalled for 10 years".

Goa polls winners won by average of 41 percent of total votes polled

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):



Map of Goa.

Candidates who emerged victorious in the Goa State Assembly elections won by an average 41 per cent of the total votes polled, poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said.

ADR and Goa Election Watch analysed the vote share for all the 40 constituencies in the Goa Assembly Elections, 2022.

The voter turnout for the Goa State Assembly election 2022 was 82 per cent whereas in 2017 it was 83 per cent, the ADR said in a new report. The winners of the Goa State Assembly elections, 2022 won by an average of 41 per cent of the total votes polled, the ADR said. The ADR said

eight (20 per cent) winners won with 50 per cent and above of the total votes polled in their constituency and 32 (80 per cent) winners won with less than 50 per cent of the total votes polled in their constituency. Four (25 per cent) out of 16 winners with declared criminal cases have won with a vote share of 50 per

cent and above and eight (21 per cent) out of 39 crorepati winners have won with a vote share of 50 per cent and above, it said.

All the winners of the Goa State Assembly Elections, 2022 won with an average of 34 per cent of the total registered voters. This implies that the winners represent on an average, 34 per cent of the total electorate.

In the Goa State Assembly Elections, 2017, candidates won by an average of 39 per cent of the total registered voters. Among the major parties, out of 20 winners of the BJP, 10 (50 per cent) won less than 35 per cent of votes of the total registered voters in the constituency.

Chairman of CSTC visits Bastar

Jagdalpur, Apr 28:

Chairman of the Central Scheduled Tribes Commission (CSTC) Harsh Chauhan reached Bastar on his maiden visit and laid emphasis on increasing entrepreneurship program. He also inaugurated the conclave at Jagalpur Government Kakatiya PG College and in his address said that the tribal population dominated Bastar and Jhabua have a special identity and they are complementary to each other. Jhabua, the tribal zone of the state, makes Bastar feel the proximity of these two zones, he exclaimed. He emphasized on promoting entrepreneurship according to the locally available resources and also stressed on entrepreneurship that

should be developed while protecting the forest wealth. On this occasion Vice Chancellor and Director of Tata Institute of Social Sciences Prof. Shalini Bharat said that she was very happy on her first stay in Bastar, as she had heard and read a lot about Bastar. She highly appreciated the Bastar district administration for taking the first initiative for guidance and support for entrepreneurship and describing the rapid urbanization as a big problem, she stressed on providing employment to the people at the local level and said that this work can be done easily by encouraging the local youth for entrepreneurship. On this occasion, Collector Rajat Bansal said that there are

some very good educational institutions in Bastar, whose students want to give something back to Bastar. He said that Bastar is very rich naturally and culturally and here the tribal's are still associated with their tradition and culture, which is a big center of attraction for outsiders. He talked about opening Think-B Clubs in all schools and colleges in future, so that the spirit of entrepreneurship is developed among the youth.

On this occasion Vice Chancellor and Director of Tata Institute of Social Sciences Prof. Shalini Bharat, Collector Rajat Bansal, Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat Rohit Vyas and entrepreneurial youth and experts were present.

Action on illegal felling of trees



Pandariya, Apr 28: Action is being taken against the people doing business of illegal felling of trees as per the instructions of the government for the last two days by the Pandariya Forest Department. Firewood including 9 cycles has been caught from Sagouna area where green trees are being cut continuously, due to which the forests are getting destroyed continuously.

The trees are first burnt down partially and then dried and sold in hotels and markets. Meanwhile there are reports that fire

wood cutting takes place under political protection and some people are constantly involved in illegal harvesting of firewood including timber.

What office says

Some people are continuously doing the work of selling firewood by cutting them. Action has been taken against them. In last two days, 26 cycles and wood being transported have been confiscated and this type of action will continue.

Jashveer Singh Maravi, SDO, Forest Department, Pandariya

Villagers open front against in-charge of Guru Ghansidas National Sanctuary



Baikunthpur, Apr 28: The functioning of Nokhelal Yadav, in-charge Ranger of Guru Ghansidas National Sanctuary has once again caught the eye of storm of villagers in village Sonwahi and they took up the matter with the local MLA Gulab Kamro. In-charge Ranger is con-

structing pond on the land of villager who is residing on it for 70 years. MLA instructed the ranger to construct pond in some other place but later is not interested to listen. The villagers demanded to immediately remove the in-charge ranger and take strong action against him. Yadav is always in news

for creating disputes and some time back staff of Jankapur too protested against him. Yadav claims that nothing will happen to him and any complaint against him will face no action. The villagers travelled 45 km to meet Bharatpur SDM Arun Kumar and apprised him with their problem.

BJP organizes meet of central scheme beneficiaries

**Bilaspur, Apr 28:**

As per the directives of State BJP Pichra Varg Morcha and under the aegis of BJP Pichra Varg Morcha Bilaspur, BJP Bodri Division organized a meet of central scheme beneficiaries. In this scheme 82 beneficiaries were welcomed by applying tilak

on forehead and later honoured by presenting bag and water bottle. Those present include BJP Pichra Varg Morcha Bilaspur president Krishna Kumar Kaushik, corporator Anil Verma and others. The programme was organized at Anurag Vidya Mandir Chakarbhata.

Workers migrate, officials allegedly prepare fake muster rolls

Konta, Apr 27: MGNREGA workers are on strike in the entire state of Chhattisgarh, due to which work has been affected in all the districts of the state as well as in Sukma district. The district officials are appeasing the government by making fake

Today, due to the closure of work under the MNREGA scheme, laborers from across the district are being forced to migrate from Sukma, the work in the village has stopped, the workers are going to Andhra Pradesh, Telangana for work and here the officials made a fake muster roll to please the government. Taxes are showing the presence of workers.

MGNREGA workers are on strike for their two-point demands, due to which the work has stopped in the villages, information has been re-



ceived from some villages of Sukma district about the workers migrating due to the closure of MGNREGA work.

10 from Pogabheji, 20 from Leda, 24 from Kanakapal, 17 from Rokel, 15 from Keratong, 12 from Rajamuda, 07 from Gorli, 10 from Gudra, 33 from Kodripal, 17 from Doleras, 25 from Urmopal, 10 from Dhoanpal, 10 from Chipurpal, 15 from Bodaras, 10 from Edjepal, 26 from Sagunghat, 06 from Adhikarikaras, 12 from

Pakela, 04 from Marenga, 06 from Pusgunna, 27 from Nagalunda (Kosaguda), 42 from Kankerlanka, 28 from Jirampal (Mutodi), Mankapal (Khaspara, Borrapara) from 28, 15 from Keralapal (Manjhipara), 20 from Kondre More than 500 tribals have gone to Andhra Pradesh, Telangana for employment, but the government is fake muster roll beyond reality.

Fake muster roll of completed works are going on

The officers who have been given the responsibility of preparing workers as a substitute in place of MNREGA workers are misleading the government and giving wrong information.

For example, the presence of laborers has been shown by issuing a muster roll of the CC road constructed two months ago in Pittepara of Chhindigarh, similarly, by showing the presence of laborers in the construction of Rokel shed and public toilets in Leda, a

muster roll has been made which is beyond reality. The reality is that the work has come to a standstill in the entire district and the villagers continue to migrate in search of wages.

Fake musterrolls being made in cash-paying panchayats in Chhindigarh

According to the information received, if one or two panchayats are left out, then in those panchayats where the amount of laborers does not go to their bank account and the pres-

ence of laborers is being shown by making fake musterrolls in those panchayats.

Support of Sarpanch and Secretary who got the responsibility, no direct contact with villagers

Technical assistants and employment assistants have direct contact with the laborers in the panchayats, due to which they do not face any kind of problem in the execution of any work, today the sarpanch and secretary have also come in support of the MNREGA workers and the government has given support to the MNREGA workers.

Those who have been given the responsibility at the place have no direct contact with the villagers, it also appears that the responsible are preparing fake musterrolls without any knowledge.

Corruption in construction of passenger waiting room

Dongargarh, April 28:

Under the protection of high-ranking officials and local public representatives, the construction agency that constructed passenger waiting room, is being given a clean chit by observing, evaluating and physical verification of the construction works, ignoring the massive corruption in many other construction works in the development block. On the complaint, the investigating officers, in their investigation report sent to the administration, have shown the amount of Rs 41 thousand to be recoverable from the responsible officer and public representative. But if the investigation report is examined closely on the basis of the document, then this amount will increase to more than Rs 3 lakh. On the complaint made on this, even after the order of



inquiry was removed from the office of the Panchayat Minister, the investigating officers gave wrong information about the corruption in the construction in the assembly. At the same time, every effort was made to suppress the corruption done in the construction, but in the second order taken out for investigation from the Panchayat Minister's office, the investigation conducted in Belgaum exposed the corruption in a

wide scale and the officers were forced to investigate on the point-wise complaint given by the applicant. It is also clear from the study of the documents received that by showing a fake shop, various types of materials related to construction were purchased without GST number, due to which the government has suffered a loss of lakhs of rupees. The cost of the material has also been shown to be higher than the market

price and fake signatures of laborers in master roll were also shown. In spite of showing expenditure of Rs.6 lakh 10 thousand received from MLA fund by Sarpanch Chhabeel Sahu of Gram Panchayat, Belgaum, an additional withdrawal of Rs.50 thousand was made. The amount of 50 thousand rupees withdrawn against the rules will be considered recoverable after investigation.

Meanwhile, the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Belgaum, Chhabeel Sahu, without naming anyone, had clearly said during the investigation that the entire construction work was done through the contractor by making the Gram Panchayat the agency of the construction work, but the investigating officers did not take into account the words of the Sarpanch.

14 forest employees to be charged in corruption case

Recovery to be done from retired DFO

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Apr 28: Action has been taken a month after the announcement in the Legislative Assembly in the corruption case of 7 crores in Marwahi forest division of Gaurela Pendra Marwahi district. Action has been taken against 14 forest workers, meanwhile Panchayat Minister TS Singhdeo had announced action against the officers and employees in the assembly, but there was delay in the proceedings and 12 out of 14 officers-employees have been suspended, while action on two more employees will be done.

In response to the question on the delay on the resolution of the assembly, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Charandas Mahant in Marwahi district had denied the contempt of the Legislative Assembly and said that there has definitely been a delay, action will be taken soon and no official involved in corruption will be able to escape from the action of the government.

According to the information received, construction of culverts and

stop dams was to be done in Chuktupani, Tadpathra, Pakaria, Kenvchi, Pandwaniya and Teraigaon villages of Gaurela range of Marwahi forest division, but the responsible created the scam of Rs 7 crore, without construction work. According to Forest Department, 7 forest guards have been suspended, and their complicity has also come to

the fore in this scam and an order has been issued regarding to the then DFO and at the same time, the recovery of the amount will be done from the then DFO Rakesh Mishra.

At the same time, the order of the government's action taken on KP Dindore and Rajkumar Sharma may be issued in the next few days. Uday Tiwari Forest Ranger, Ambrish Dubey Forest Ranger, Ashwani Dubey Forest Ranger, Anoop Kumar Mishra Forest Ranger, Gopal Jande Ranger, Virendra Kumar Sahu Forest Guard, Deepak Kosle Forest Guard, Devendra Kashyap Forest Guard, Pannalal Jangde Forest Guard, Naveen Banjare Forest Guard, Lal Bahadur Kaushik Forest Guard, Neetu Dhruv Forest Guard are the main accused of the scam.

CM Baghel to inaugurate District Hospital

Along with 'Matra & Shishu Haspatal' in Koriya District**Koriya, Apr 28:**

CM Bhupesh Baghel will dedicate the 200 bedded District Hospital and 50 bedded 'Matra & Shishu Haspatal' at the cost of Rs 35 cr through a virtual programme on April 29 in Koriya district.

The programme will begin with state song at 11:00 am and after video presentation of the new District Hospital and 'Matra & Shishu Haspatal' that CM Bhupesh Baghel will make declaration about virtual inauguration of the two. In this pro-

gramme there will be address by the Chief Minister and along with him, Speaker State Assembly Dr Charandas Mahant, Minister for Health and Family Welfare TS Singh Deo, LS MP Korba Jyotsna Mahant, parliamentary secretary and MLA Baikunthpur Ambika Singh Deo, V-P Surguja Development Authority and MLA Bharatpur-Sonhat Gulab Kamro, Director Chhattisgarh Medical Services Corporation and MLA Manendragarh Dr Vinay Jaiswal will also address the virtual programme.

DMC removes 20 encroachments in city

Imposes fine of Rs 11,500 against 18 shopkeepers

Dhantari, Apr 28: Dhantari Municipal Corporation (DMC) has started its drive against encroachments in the city and on Saturday, 20 encroachers were removed from the site and a fine of Rs 11000 was charged from 18 shopkeepers for violating the norms. On the other hand, footpath vendors charged DMC of taking action against them and not so serious about big shopkeepers violating the norms.

It is notable here that for last few years, there is sort of flood of encroachers at different places in the city. Being VIP road, even the

Collectorate road has not being spared and encroachment is increasing on every road each day.

In such conditions, after receiving instructions from senior officers, DMC took to heels and took it seriously. In this series, on Saturday, DMC anti-encroachment team raided the Ambedkar Chowk area of city and after identifying the encroached area, removed total of 20 encroachments on either side of the road from this Chowk upto the Collectorate turn. In addition to this four encroachers were removed from Sihawa Chowk as well.

Sources inform that DMC team recovered fine of Rs 11,500 from 18 shopkeepers for encroaching upon the road or display-

ing of goods outside the shopping limit. During the demolition drive, there was little bit of minor scuffle between DMC team and encroachers and the issue was sorted with intervention by the officers. On this occasion Dy. Collector Arpita Pathak, Tehsildar Akanksha Sahu, Traffic in-Charge Devraj, health in-charge officers and others were present.

What officer says

"Encroachments were removed as per the rule and on charges of violation of norms by the encroachers and fine of Rs 11,500 was imposed against total 18 shopkeepers." **Nikhil Chandrakar - RI DMC.**

Demonstration held demanding release of MLA Jignesh Mevani

Dhantari, Apr 28:

In protest against the registration of FIR against Dalit MLA Jignesh Mevani, Congressmen staged a sit in protest, demanding release of the MLA and protesting the policies of the Central Government. MLAs Lakshmi Dhruv, Mohan Lalwani, Neelam Chandrakar, Anand Pawar, Krishna Markam, Hemant Sahu, Ishwar Sahu, Akash Golcha, Avash Hashmi, Kanak Shah, Rakesh Maurya, Tomesh Sahu, etc. were present in the protest.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all people that Shri Tikam Chand S/o Shri Bhagela Satnami R/o Village Sejbahar Raipur has sold the property an Open land bearing the Part of Kh. No. 389/1, Area 0.497 Hect., Situated at: Sejbahar, P. H. No. 119 Tah. & Distt. Raipur (C.G.) to Shri Vikash Dubey, S/o Shri Badriprasad Dubey R/o Birgunj, Raipur (C.G.), by registered Sale Deed Dt. 12.06.2006.

After that Shri Vikash Dubey has sold the above said property to Shri Manoj Goel S/o Shri Bijjal Goel R/o Santoshi Nagar, Raipur through sale Deed Dt. 30.08.2007.

That the original Previous Sale Deed date 12.06.2006 is lost somewhere. Whose report is complained in related police station Mujhan, Raipur Dt. 25.04.2022.

That Ganpati Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd., Raipur desire to mortgage the same property for getting loan to my Client HDFC Bank, Raipur.

Whose ever whether individual society, Association, Bank or housing board have any claim right authority are title over it, he should within 07 days of publication of this public notice approach and apprise this office under the following address of his claim and objections.

After expiry of 07 days no objection shall be entertained, such objection deemed invalid and void and shall be not tenable.

Please take notice
Date - 28.04.2022
Yours truly,
Vijay Rathore, Advocate
Off. Cum Res. - Behind of Barat Gas Godam
Laxmi Nagar, Pachpadli Naka, Raipur (C.G.)
Mob. 9425202167

Public Notice

This is to inform to the public that the original Abadi Patta Memo No. 02 Dated 20/12/1986 executed by Sarpanch Somni in favour of Smt. Pushpalata Bai W/O Shri Banshi Lal Verma R/O House No. 31, Ward No. 04, Village- Somni, Tahsil & Dist. Rajnandgaon (C.G.) for the property Abadi Land Part of Kh. No. 190/2 (190/1), Plot No. 24, Area 1050 Sq. Ft., Situated at Village - Somni, P. C. No. 30, R. I. C. Rajnandgaon, Tahsil & District - Rajnandgaon (C.G.) in respect of property owner has been lost/Misplaced by Owner Smt. Shakuntala Verma W/O Shri Prakash Kumar Verma R/O House No. 31, Ward No. 04, Village- Somni, Tahsil & Dist. Rajnandgaon (C.G.). The FIR has been placed for lost of the above said Abadi Patta Memo No. 02 in the name of Smt. Pushpalata Bai Dated 20/12/1986 by the owner.

Now Smt. Shakuntala Verma has applied for loan from Roha Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. Raipur hereby invites claims & objections, if any, for the mortgage the above said property within the 07 days from the date of publication of this notice along with relevant proofs and documents supporting the claim in my office. If no objections are received within above mentioned time, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

Raipur
Dated 28/04/2022
Vijay Shankar Tiwari
Advocate
779, 'Gauri - Kesar Kuni',
Sundar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)
Phone 0771-2242945,
Mobile 94252-08945, Mobile 90390-08945

Khairagarh to be developed as Ch'garh's art capital : CM

CM inaugurates three-day long Khairagarh festival

Bhoomipujan and foundation stone laid for development works worth Rs 6.53 cr

Inauguration of 9 SAGEMs established at a cost of Rs 15 cr in R'gaon district

An amount of Rs 1.97 cr was returned to the investors of R'gaon district duped by chit fund companies

Raipur, Apr 28: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the three-day long Khairagarh festival late on Wednesday. On the occasion, he performed Bhoomipujan of development works worth Rs 6 crore 51 lakh and returned the amount of Rs 1 crore 57 lakh to 17127 investors in Rajnandgaon district duped by chit fund companies. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel also inaugurated 9 Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools established at a cost of Rs 14 crore 74 lakh in Rajnandgaon district.

Chief Minister Mr. Baghel paid tributes to the



founder of Khairagarh Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, 'Raja' of Khairagarh Raja Virendra Bahadur Singh, and Rani Padmavati Devi and Princess Indira. Established in the year 1956 with a dedicated spirit it towards music, the university has made a special identity in the country and the world. He congratulated everyone for the creation of Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai district and for the organization of Khairagarh festival. He said that Khairagarh district formation process has started and an OSD has also been appointed here. Besides, Salhewara has been upgraded as Tehsil while Jalbandha as Sub Tehsil. He stressed on the need to promote the rich and unique historical culture, folk culture and art and music of the state. The

newly formed Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai district is to be developed as a prosperous district and 'art capital' of Chhattisgarh state. He said that there should be a study centre for art and music in Bastar, Surguja, Raigarh and Raipur. He informed about provision for this in the state budget. The Chief Minister said that the state of Chhattisgarh has been famous as a prosperous state since ancient times. There is a need to promote and preserve the rich historical culture, civilization and art of the state on world stage. Giving information about the characteristic elements in the state's history he said that many ancient remains have been found from the excavation of Tarighat Rewaghat which displays the rich culture of state. The state not only leads in

terms of mineral wealth but also has a rich and unique cultural heritage. Work is being done in Chhattisgarh to preserve its glorious history through Ram Van Gaman Path so that the identity of the state can be established on the world map. Chief Minister also enjoyed the songs of famous playback singer Smt. Kavita Krishnamurthy. Higher Education Minister Umesh Patel said in his address that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is committed to improve quality of education in Chhattisgarh. He said that in the field of higher education, work is being done to make every college NAAC accredited. On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Mokshada (Mamata) Chandrakar said that she has got the privilege of doing cre-

ative and qualitative work as vice chancellor in that university in which she has pursued her higher studies. Referring to the specialty of the university, she said that since its inception, it has made many remarkable achievements in the field of art and music. She put forth various demands for the university, which Chief Minister assured to fulfil in the next budget.

Collector Taran Prakash Sinha gave information about the notable achievements of the district and grants given by the Chief Minister to the district. He informed that Swami Atmanand English Medium School will be started soon in Salhewara of Khairagarh. Famous playback singer Kavita Krishnamurthy graced the occasion by her melodious song performances. Parliamentary Secretary Kunwer Singh Nishad, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Other Backward Classes Development Authority Daleshwar Sahu, newly elected MLA Yashoda Nilamber Verma, Chairman of Khairagarh Municipality Shailendra Verma, IG OP Pal, and Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh along with SDM Tankeshwar Sahu and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

REPAIR WORK



The linemen are carrying out repair of the water pipeline in hot sun and a person is standing with an umbrella to offer shade.

NSUI creates ruckus in Amity University

Raipur, Apr 28: At a time when the government is taking strict action against dharna and demonstration at public places, NSUI on Wednesday showed their true colour when they stormed inside Amity University campus with a petty issue of late fees charged from some students and ransacked the university property. They even kept female staff of the university hostage for some time and kept moving inside the campus. When Congress government is in power and its student wing is creating indiscipline then it is expected that administration to strict action against



NSUI activists. Some time back NSUI submitted a memorandum to the university administration for cooler in hostels and job to local persons. The university administration clarified that administration prefers to give local employment and that cooler has been installed in hostel rooms.

'6 in 1 vaccination - a big boon for babies and parents'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 28: Children are exposed to an innumerable number of germs, some of which can cause serious diseases. A child's immune system is still developing, and it cannot fight against all deadly diseases. According to the World Health Organization, immunization is one of the most successful public health interventions to prevent deaths from infections such as diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus in all age groups. The 6 in 1 combination vaccination protects children from 6 serious illnesses: diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, haemophilus



influenza type B, hepatitis B, and poliomyelitis. Speaking about this, Dr. Raj Kumar Agrawal, MBBS, DCH, Senior Paediatric Consultant said, "Combination vaccination is necessary and important to ensure compliance to the immunization schedule. It reduces

the number of pricks being given, making it easier for a child to receive all the necessary vaccinations at the stipulated age. Lately, the awareness about the value of combination vaccination has increased." In recent years, India has intensified its efforts to increase immunization coverage in the country, which has resulted in significant improvement as shown by the National Family Health Survey - NFHS-5. The percentage of children aged 12 to 23 months who are fully vaccinated has increased from 62% (NFHS-4; 2015-16) to 76.4% (NFHS-5; 2019-21) in India and from 76.4% to 79.7% in Chhattisgarh.

Baghel flagged off 61 vehicles for highway patrolling

And prevent human trafficking
Ch'garh Police gets 61 new vehicles for taking prompt action

Raipur, Apr 28: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel flagged off 61 new vehicles for highway patrolling and prevention of human trafficking, in a brief programme held at his residence office here today. This will help police take prompt action. These include 15 vehicles dedicated for highway patrolling, 24 vehicles for anti-human trafficking unit and 22 vehicles for maintaining law and order. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Manendragarh MLA Dr. Vinay Jaiswal, Additional Chief Secretary Home Subrat Sahoo, Director General of Police Ashok Juneja, Additional Director General of Police Pradeep Gupta, Inspector General of Police Dr. Anand Chhabra, Inspector General of Police SC Dwivedi, Superintendent of Police Raipur Prashant Agrawal, Assistant Inspector General of Police Sanjay Sharma were among those present



on the occasion. Under the highway patrolling system, a total of 15 new Ertiga vehicles have been made available to ensure safety of common citizens on highways, smooth traffic movement and to provide immediate relief and assistance in road accidents. These vehicles will operate in Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Gariyaband, Kabirdham, Bilaspur, Korba, Janjgir-Champa, Raigarh, Surguja and Bastar (Jagdalpur). The well-equipped highway patrolling vehicles are stationed at a predetermined place and systematically patrol in the predetermined road segments of the national highway. On receiving information regarding accident in the segment concerned, the Highway Patrol immediately rush to the accident spot and make proper arrangements to send the victim to the nearest hospital for immediate medical assistance. They also provide necessary assistance by reporting the incident to the jurisdictional police station. They also maintain law and order till the arrival of the local police force. They keep the spot safe till the police station in-charge and the staff reaches the spot and keeps traffic normal on the highway. Earlier, a total of 30 highway patrolling vehicles in the state were operating in Raipur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Balodabazar, Dhamtari, Balod, Bemetara, Korea, Jashpur, Surajpur, Balrampur, Kanker and



Kondagaon districts. As many as 15 new highway patrol vehicles have been purchased from road safety item for Rs.1 crore 19 lakh 6 thousand 977. Similarly, in a bid to strengthen the system for combating human trafficking, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit is actively working on rescue of victims of human trafficking, providing proper care and counselling to the victims, organizing training workshops for police and other department officials concerned, maintaining records of crime related to human trafficking, establishing inter-state coordination and conducting public awareness campaign to fight human trafficking. Earlier, one four-wheeler, motorcycle and other necessary resources were provided to 11 districts of the state including Jashpur, Surguja, Korba, Raigarh, Bilaspur, Janjgir-Champa, Balodabazar, Mahasamund, Bastar, Narayanpur and Balrampur for prevention of human trafficking. This year, new vehicles worth Rs 3.60 crore have been provided in all the districts of the state under the 'Nirbhaya Fund' for the establishment of new Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) and strengthening of the pre-established AHTUs. A total of 24 light vehicles and 46 motor cycles and other resources have been made available to each pre-established and newly formed anti-human trafficking unit using this fund.

67th RAILWAY WEEK DRM honours 220 railway staff



For excellency at work place

Raipur, Apr 28: 67th Railway Week celebration was organized at SECR Raipur Division in which DRM Shyam Sunder Gupta honoured 126 railway staff with individual awards and 24 group awards. The railway staff and their family members presented colourful cultural programme on this occasion. Assistant Personal Officer R

Shankaran proposed vote of thanks. RPF presented dog show. On this occasion ADRM (Operation) Lokesh Vishnoi, ADRM (Infra) Ashish Mishra, senior officials of Raipur Division, union office bearers were present. The programme was chaired by SECRWVO president Mrs Radha Gupta. Further one-day railway exhibition was organized at Community Hall WRS Colony here from 10:30 am to 9:00 pm.

1000 Transport Facilitation Centres to be set up in Ch'garh: CM

Raipur, Apr 28: To provide convenient transport related services in the proximity of people's home, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on January 26 had announced to set up transport facilitation centres throughout the state. After this announcement, the Transport department prepared a draft and after the notification, the process for the establishment of transport facilitation centers has already started. Moreover, applications are being invited from interested people at the district level. After the implementation of this facility, there will be no need to make rounds of unauthorized agents for transport related facilities. At the same time, transportation related facilities will be available in

the proximity of peoples home. After the establishment of these centers, people's access to transport facilities will become convenient without any unauthorized agents involved. At the same time, it will also generate employment oriented avenues in Chhattisgarh. It is predicted that these transport facilitation centres will create a possibility of employment generation for about five thousand youth. According to the information received from the department, the Transport Facilitation Center can be authorized to make a learning license abiding by the norms of the Gazette No. 240 (A) of the Government of India which was issued on 31 March 2021. The guide also

prescribes the charges for various services at the Transport Facilitation Centers. **Eligibility to operate a Facilitation Center:** According to the format and guidelines issued by the Transport Department, any person, organization, union, cooperative society or any legal entity will be eligible to set up a transport facilitation centre. At the same time, for the operation of the center, it is necessary to have at least 100 square feet of own building or rent contract building. It is also necessary to have a separate divided room for the process of attaining a learning license. For the operation of the facility, it will be necessary to present the GST certificate or Gumashta certificate is-

subscribed by the urban body as per the requirement. There should also be a waiting room, technical room and CCTV camera with basic arrangements for the applicants. The person applying to set up a centre should have passed the Higher Secondary Examination. Preference will be given to DCA/PGDCA or equivalent qualification. Applicants should not have any criminal record. **The prescribed fees that will be taken from the applicants by the Facilitation Centers:** Rs.100 as service fee for online application as per guide, Rs.50 for making online fee/tax payment to Transport Department (for each one thousand rupees or part thereof), Rs.50 for learn-

ing license, the procedure of documentation needed for application like, required documents for scanning, compressing and uploading (per page) are Rs.5 per process and the printout fee (per page) of complete documents for online application completion is Rs.5. **People will not fall in the trap of unauthorized agents** The biggest benefit of the establishment of transport facilitation centers in the state will be availed by the general public. Till now, due to lack of correct information, a large number of people have been applying for transportation related service by contacting unauthorized agents. Due to which they have to suffer financial loss in addition to undergoing a lengthy process.

With the establishment of these centres, there will be no need to visit unauthorized agents for transport related facilities. **More than 9 lakh people have been benefited so far in door to door delivery of transport services:** It is noteworthy that from June 1, 2021, the door to door delivery of 22 types of transport related facilities was started by the Transport Department of Chhattisgarh. Under this, after the application, other documents including the license are sent directly to the home of the applicant via post. After the introduction of this facility, so far 6 lakh 9 thousand 188 registration certificates and 3 lakh 830 driving licenses have been delivered to people's home.

Party taking target of 71 MLAs for mission 2023: CM

No party in state has ever reached this figure

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 28: CM Bhupesh Baghel has made major declaration in context of Mission 2023 and speaking to media persons said that never in the State of Chhattisgarh any party has got 71 MLAs and that too even after switching over of political party either: Winning 71 seats is in itself a big challenge and the party would continue to work and march ahead with the same objective for mission 2023 VS polls, he added.

CM Bhupesh Baghel said that in 2018, the party



got 68 MLAs, but after the by-poll its strength continued to rise. Khairagarh by-poll is important in itself, as in this party's candidate Yashoda Verma won with thumping 20000 votes and which is a record in itself and for this he extended greetings to all voters of Khairagarh VS poll.

About the tour of BJP party leaders to Chhattisgarh, CM Baghel said that D Purandeshwari has al-

ways being expressing dissatisfaction towards the existing party leadership in the state. It is from different statements made it was very much evident that the state's leadership of BJP is not the one of her expectations. So it is the BJP leaders who have lost the confidence of common men and their party High Command as well. To another question about meeting with farmers' leader Rakesh Tikait, CM said that he is a guest of Chhattisgarh and if he wants to meet him in person then he is most welcome, but if it is something to do about Kissan Sanghatan, then the Ministers of his government would talk to him, CM added.

PROTECTION FROM HEAT



People of all age-group faced intense heat as the mercury shot up above 43 Deg Celsius here on Thursday.

Yashoda takes oath as 71st MLA of Congress



Raipur, Apr 28: The newly-elected Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Khairagarh constituency Yashoda Verma was on Thursday administered her oath as an MLA of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly here. Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant administered her oath at a function held at Assembly premises during which the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and several members of his cabinet were present.

Assembly Secretary Dinesh Sharma conducted the oath taking proceeding during which Minister for Health TS Singhdeo, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Ravindra Choubey, Home Minister Tamradwaj Sahu, Food & Civil Supplies Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, Lok Sabha member from Korba Jyotsana Mahant and others were also present. Speaker Dr Mahant, CM Baghel and other Ministers congratulated her and accorded warm welcome to her and extended best wishes. She is the 71st MLA of Congress in the 90-member Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly.

Private universities too come under RTI purview: SIC



Applicant can directly complain to State Information Commission on misleading information

RTI workshop organized in Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission office

Raipur, Apr 28: All private universities of Chhattisgarh also come under the purview of Right

to Information Act-2005 and it is their duty to inform the applicant, said State Information Commissioner Ashok Agrawal while addressing the Right to Information Act-2005 workshop organized by the Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission for the private universities of Chhattisgarh.

Addressing the Public Information Officers and First Appellate Officers of 15 private universities of the state, Agrawal said that most of the questions are answered only by reading the Right to Information Act properly and the situation of



appeal is not created. According to Agrawal the Public Information Officer of the concerned university is responsible for the delay in information and the applicant can directly complain to the State Information Commission (SIC) on getting misleading information.

Different sections of Right to Information Act-2005 were explained to private universities at the workshop and information was given about third party and confidential documents. It was informed at the workshop that people

would get information with maximum publication on online website and that number of applications seeking information would be less. The State Information Commissioner also answered to queries of Public information officers of private universities over Right to Information Act.

Proposing a vote of thanks at the workshop held at Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission office in Naya Raipur the Acting Chairman of the Commission Umesh

Kumar Mishra said that all the private universities of the state and the officers and employees of the Commission will get benefit from this workshop and they will be able to do better work by understanding the need of the Right to Information Act. administrative member of Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission, Brajesh Chandra Mishra and Public Information Officers and First Appellate Officers of 15 private universities of the state were present.

Mining projects given clearance ignoring Village Meet: AAP

Raipur, Apr 28: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday alleged that environmental concerns are ignored by the Chhattisgarh government as it has given green signals to the Mining Projects in the Hasdeo Forest region at the behest of Chief Ministers of other states as well as the Industrialists.

In a statement issued here, the AAP President Chhattisgarh Unit Komal



Hupendi said that final approval has been given by the state government to the mining projects on the

grounds of fake Village Meet in Hadeo Forest region. He said that while several tribals would be displaced, the lakhs of trees would be brought down in the process of mining activities in the region. He further added that all their concerns have been ignored by the state government on the issue. He said that the residents are agitated with the administrations as their concerns have been ignored.

MD & CEO of Central Bank Of India Matam Venkata Rao arriving today

Raipur, Apr 28: Matam Venkata Rao, Managing Director & CEO of Central Bank of India will be on a day's visit to Raipur on April 29. Rao took charge of the Bank as MD & CEO with effect from 1st March, 2021.

Rao is a Post Graduate in Agriculture from Sri Venkatesh Wara Agriculture College, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. He is a Certified Associate of Indian Institute of



Bankers. Rao will review Raipur Region's performance. Mayank Shah, General Manager, Central Office, Mumbai, S.D.Mahurkar, Zonal

Head, Tarsem Singh Zira, Zonal Head will also be with Rao during this short visit which will be co-ordinated by Mahendra Singh, Regional Head, Raipur. The visit of the Top Executive of the Bank is in connection with business development at Raipur. The officers and staff of Raipur Region are very delighted to welcome the Bank's MD & CEO during his maiden visit to Raipur.

Heat wave condition grips Chhattisgarh

Raipur, Apr 28: Heatwave condition is prevailing in Chhattisgarh with mercury hovering around 46 degree Celsius on Thursday. Mungeli remained hottest place on Thursday with maximum temperature of 45.7 degree Celsius. Bilaspur with 44.6 degree Celsius and Raipur city with 44.1 degree Celsius also inched close to all-time record of April maximum temperature.

Heat wave conditions persisted in parts of Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur divisions and Surguja divisions of the state. Extreme heat had become unbearable since 10 in the morning. People working and traveling outside faced a lot of trouble due to the sweltering heat in the afternoon. According to the

Meteorological Department, the maximum temperature in Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur and Surguja divisions of the state remained above normal by three degrees whereas in Bastar division, it reached normal or about one degree Celsius above normal.

The maximum temperature was recorded at 43.3 in Durg, 42.8 in Rajnandgaon, 42.1 in Pendra Road and 42 degree Celsius in Ambikapur. The maximum temperature of Raigarh, which was the hottest till a day ago, was 44.6 degree Celsius. Only Jagdalpur recorded maximum temperature of 38.5 degree Celsius. Light rain has also occurred at one or two places of Bastar division. The Meteorological Department has

recorded one millimeter rain in Geedam. Due to rainfall the maximum temperature in the districts of Bastar division remained normal.

The central and northern part of the state has been receiving hot and dry air from the north, while relatively cold and moist air is continuing to arrive in the southern part. According to forecast of meteorological department light rain or thundershowers are likely to occur at one or two places in the state on April 29. Significant change in maximum temperature is not likely. There is a possibility of heat wave in one or two packets of the state. Heat wave like conditions are very likely to persist at some places.

Bastar takes lead of 85 runs in U-23 Cricket match

Raipur, Apr 28: Bastar has taken a lead of 85 runs against Narayanpur in the Under 23 Inter District Plate Group Tournament being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS).

Batting first, the Narayanpur team scored just 145 runs in first innings with Sumit Jain (37 runs) and Rahul Jain (36 runs) being the major contributor for the team. Palash Mandal was the most successful bowler

for Bastar as he claimed maximum 5 wickets for his team whereas Abdul Anas Khan also claimed three wickets.

In reply, the Bastar team had reached 230 runs for 3 wickets at close of play on day one. Palash again scored maximum 79 runs for his team with the help of 14 fours whereas Abdul Anas Khan was unbeaten on 71 runs with the help of 7 fours and 2 sixes. Nilay Kumar claimed all the three wickets for Narayanpur.

Rajbala secures silver in Khelo India Boxing event

Raipur, Apr 28: Rajbala from Pt Ravishankar Shukla University has secured silver medal in the Khelo India University Games underway at



from Haryana

Bangluru. She faced a fight against Deepika Sharma from Haryana University. PRSU Director Physical Education Vipin Chandra Sharma and others have congratulated her on the above achievement.

'Lumos Tez' by AIIMS-R for decontamination of N 95 Masks

UV Box designed by an Intern can be helpful to re-use N 95 Masks

Research Published in International Journal of Scientific Research

Raipur, Apr 28: A team of an intern and consultants have designed a UV box named 'Lumos Tez' for decontaminating N95 masks used in COVID-19 treatment. The team's four-month dedicated efforts resulted in a long-awaited solution to contaminated masks. Now, used N95 masks can be placed inside the box and viruses can be eliminated within minutes. The research work is published in the International Journal of Scientific Research. Dr. Shashi Shekhar



Dubey, an intern with AIIMS was posted to the Pulmonary Medicine department in 2020. As the COVID-19 Pandemic spread in the country, he started working on decontamination of N 95 masks as a large number of masks created an environmental hazard. His idea was to make them re-us-

able after going through a decontamination process.

He took the help of a carpenter and technicians and designed a box of 6x3x4 feet in five days. During the lockdown, he faced several challenges in getting the UV C lights but managed to get them. With the help of lights, aluminum composite pan-

els, and other materials, he successfully designed a panel and named it 'Lumos Tez'. With due protection and following COVID-19 protocols, he experimented with several infected materials and successfully decontaminated N95 masks during his four-month project. Dr. Dubey credited his

research work to Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar for allowing him to conduct the research. He also expressed his gratitude towards Prof. (Dr.) Sarita Agrawal, Dean (Research), Dr. Atul Jindal, and consultants/researchers at VRD Lab for continuous motivation and guidance. His research work has been published in the International Journal of Scientific Research. The project was also submitted to the State Council of Science and Technology for further funding.

Prof. Nagarkar congratulated Dr. Dubey and said that his project would undoubtedly help medical institutions to decontaminate N95 masks. "This is an excellent example of practical and scientific experiment which can be used for the betterment of the society, Prof. Nagarkar said.

श्री खाटू श्याम ज्योतिष

पं. रविकांत शर्मा

पं. एस.के. शास्त्री

जन्मकुण्डली विशेषज्ञ

हर मुश्किल से मुश्किल समस्या का समाधान
"ज्योतिष मेरा काम नहीं, मेरी साधना है"
"जब कहीं ना हो काम, तो हमसे ले समाधान"

श्री खाटू श्याम की असीम कृपा से आपकी हस्त रेखा, चेहरा फोटो देखकर भविष्य बताते हैं। रोग पीड़ा, कलह, कष्ट, संतान योग, विवाह व्यापार उन्नति, नौकरी, प्रमोशन, मकान, दुकान, फैंक्ट्री, विदेश यात्रा, बच्चों का कैरियर, मानसिक, शारीरिक एवं आर्थिक परेशानी, कालसर्प दोष जीवन, पति-पत्नी, शादी, लड़का, लड़की के टूटे रिश्ते पर मार्गदर्शन, स्त्री-पुरुष सभी का समाधान भक्ति, पुजा पाठ द्वारा मार्गदर्शन करते हैं। एक बार अवश्य मिलें।

व्यापार बढ़ोतरी, किया कराया, शादी के लिए माता पिता को मनाना, मोहनी स्पेशलिस्ट

बुकिंग के लिए संपर्क करें:-
बुकिंग समय -
सुबह 9.00 बजे से सुबह 10.00 बजे तक
मिलने का समय :
सुबह 10.00 बजे से शाम 6.00 बजे तक
नोट: मिलने के लिए अपॉइंटमेंट लेना आवश्यक है

पोलसायपारा चौक, गुप्ता प्रेस के नीचे, स्टेशन रोड, दुर्ग (छ.ग.)
Mobile : 9755964567, 8269882138

TUs demand Police Protection for Enforcement Squad

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: The Joint Trade Union Front has demanded police protection for the employees of the Enforcement Squad of BSP's Town Administration Department. They further demanded strict action against the anti-social elements who have illegally captured the BSP houses and have threatened / abused the Enforcement Squad employees when they try to get the illegally captured houses vacated.

It needs to be mentioned here that the Enforcement Squad of Bhilai Steel Plant is conducting intense operations against the illegal occupants of BSP quarters. The employees of the Enforcement Department



of Bhilai Steel Plant are facing unpleasant situations when they visit the illegally captured houses and try to vacate them. The illegal occupiers often threaten and abuse the Squad members. Considering the situation, the Joint Trade Union Front submitted a memorandum to the office of Additional Superintendent

of Police (City) and demanded strict action against the guilty persons. They urged the police department to ensure adequate security arrangements for the BSP employees deployed on the task to free the illegal possession. In the joint union meeting, it was decided that the houses which are being vacated from illegal occupa-

tion should be immediately allotted to a BSP employee.

When the Enforcement Squad officials visit the illegally captured houses, the illegal occupiers threaten and abuse them. Sometimes the situation becomes violent and the illegal occupants even threaten to kill them. The BSP has full rights over the government property of the BSP.

No anti-social element should be allowed to capture this property and the officers and employees of the Enforcement Department should be given complete police protection by the administration. Representatives of INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AICTU, Steel Workers Union and Ispat Shramik Manch were present.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: Kavita Tandi, ward corporator, Ward no 47, DMC submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel seeking lease document for the residents of Sindh Colony in the ward. She demanded that the people of Sindh Colony located at 47 Civil Lines (North) had been residing here since the India-Pakistan partition in 1947.

During that time hundreds of Sindh community people had settled in Raipur Naka as refugees. They have been residing for almost 80 years now but till date they have not got the residential lease. As a result, they are deprived of the benefits of various government schemes includ-



ing the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana. Therefore, it is necessary that a survey be conducted in the Sindh Colony and the residential lease should be made available to all those people so that they too can take advantage of government schemes. In yet an-

other memorandum submitted Councillor Kavita Tandi has demanded for construction of a community hall in Ward No 47. There has also been a demand for the construction of a fully equipped community hall for the last 50 years, hundreds of fami-

lies are residing in the slum area, in which the maximum number is from the scheduled caste category. There is not a single community building here, as a result they face great difficulty in organizing marriages or other social events,

Sahu Mitra Sabha celebrates Karma Jayanti



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: Karma Jayanti was celebrated by Kshetriya Sahu Mitra Sabha Kailash Nagar Sunder Nagar Housing Board. Chief guest of the function was Girwar Bunt Sahu, Speaker, Bhilai Municipal Corporation. The function was presided over by HP Sahu, District Sahu Sangh, Bhilai Nagar. Special guest Neha Sahu, Councilor

and MIC member, Munna Lal Sahu Working President Sahu Mitra Sabha Bhilai Nagar, Manjusha Sahu Vice President Sahu Mitra Sabha, Daneshwari Sahu in-charge Women's Cell. The welcome address was given by Ram Prakash Sahu, Chairman, Housing Board. In the function, children and women presented dance item, karate performance, passing the ball and musical chair. Others present were

Vice President Lalita Sahu, Tekchand Sahu, Treasurer Purushottam Virwani, Secretary Roshan Sahu, Women Coordinator Premalata Sahu, Jagdish Ram Sahu, Ichha Ram Sahu, Bharat Lal Sahu, DR Sahu, Hirwani Seema Sahu, Durga Charan Sahu, Mahendra Hirwani, Narendra Kumar Sahu, Narendra Hirwani, Neelkamal, Khushi, Megha and others.

BMC Commissioner inspects Deendayal Colony in Junwani

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve along with the officials of BMC conducted a surprise inspection at the residential colony of Deendayal Awas Yojna in Junwani. He interacted with the residents of the colony. This was the Commissioner's first visit to this colony after it was handed over to the civic body. Residents informed that there are many families residing in Deendayal Colony which was constructed under Deendayal Awas Yojana by Chhattisgarh Housing Board. The officials were made aware of the basic problems of the colony.

It needs to be mentioned here that Mayor Neeraj Pal has kept basic facilities on the top priority.

While inspecting the entire colony, the Corporation Commissioner inquired about the existing facilities of cleanliness and drinking water, drain cleaning, etc. He also took stock of the pipeline expansion and tap water supply to homes from high level water tanks. The residents of the locality drew the attention of the Commissioner towards cleanliness. Taking the matter into cognizance, Municipal Commissioner gave instructions to the Health Officer Dharmendra Mishra to de-

ploy a gang for conducting cleanliness works. He further instructed to organise a departmental camp for tax collection. Property Tax Department employee BL Asati has been directed to organise a camp so that the residents of the colony



can get the benefit of rebate of 6.25% which is available in the months of April and May. This initiative would increase the revenue of the corporation and also solve the basic problems of the colony. After discussion with the residents, it was decided that the camp for tax collection will be or-

ganized from May 5 in Deendayal Colony. Commissioner Prakash Surve was accompanied by Chhattisgarh Housing Board official Mr Verma, Municipal Corporation Bhilai Building Permission Officer Himanshu Deshmukh, Executive Engineer Sanjay Sharma, Assistant

Engineer Alok Pasine, Deputy Engineer Shweta Verma, Zone Health Officer Ankit Saxena, Local Corporator Mukesh Agarwal and other officers/employees.

It needs to be mentioned here that Chhattisgarh Housing Board transferred 32.45 acres of Industrial Area in Bhilai, Vishwa Bank Colony Kurud, Kailash Nagar Kurud, Deendayal Awas Yojna Junwani, Deendayal Awas Yojna Khamaria and General Housing Scheme Kohka Bhilai to Bhilai Municipal Corporation. The number of houses in Deendayal Colony Junwani is 636. Most of these houses are occupied by the families. BMC Commissioner had reached this colony to explore their problems and provide appropriate resolution.

DMC continues action against traders obstructing traffic in Indira Market area

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: On Thursday, the Durg Municipal staff took action against traders doing business by spreading goods on the main roads including the main market of Durg city Indira Market.

The corporation staff who reached the market first took photos and videography of the encroachers done and thereafter the goods kept on the road were removed. Action is being taken against traders as they are continuing to spread goods right upto the road, due to which there is a problem with the traffic inside the market and on the main road.

On the instructions of Durg Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, the Corporation's market department and en-



croachment squad reached Indira Market. Corporation employees covered the Press Complex area including Indira Market, Market area, Station Road, New Bus Stand area on the roadside where the goods were displayed to do business. In view of the strictness shown by the corporation, some businessmen started removing their goods vol-



untarily. Durgesh Gupta, in-charge of the anti-encroachment wing in Corporation explained to the traders the need to keep the roads and nearby area obstacle free. He asked them not to keep the goods outside the shop and cooperate with the corporation administration in maintaining the traffic system. He asked them not to re-

peat the process of displaying items as the drive against encroachment will continue on regular basis continuously. The Municipal staff present during the proceedings included Durgesh Gupta, Officer-in-Charge of Market Department Thansing Yadav, Ishwar Verma, Shashikant Yadav, Bhuvan Das Sahu.

DMC continuing night cleaning work in market areas and public places

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: The cleanliness campaign in Durg Municipal Corporation is gaining in momentum with every passing day. Apart from the regular cleanliness drive, it has been decided to intensify the cleanliness drive in many public places as well. Apart from morning, cleanliness work is being carried out in night time as well at identified places by sending a team of sanitation workers in the night as well.

Working on the directions and guidance of the Corporation's Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, the Health Department has worked on the congested areas and major places of the city, including Indira Market, Hatri Bazar, around the



railway station premises, new bus stand, Sikolabatha, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Complex etc are being cov-

ered. Continuous efforts are being made to make a garbage free city by keeping a constant vigil on the cleaning work in the night.

Health Officer Girish Diwan, Assistant Health Officer Javed Ali have been entrusted with the responsibility for the smooth completion of this work and daily night cleaning is being monitored by them.

Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi has appealed to the residents and traders of the city not to throw the garbage of their homes and shops here and there on the road, drain etc. Vehicles are making rounds in three shifts for garbage collection in Durg Municipal limits.

Therefore, give the waste of homes and institutions/shops to the garbage collecting vehicles. This would reduce the threat to health from garbage as well as improve the beauty of the city and the city will remain clean and beautiful.

Students trained in Yoga meet Bhilai-Charoda Mayor



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: On Thursday, the students of Yoga who have obtained citation after getting training in Yoga met the Municipal Corporation Bhilai-Charoda Mayor Nirmal Kosare. It is noteworthy that a yoga competition was organized by the Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission from April 25, 2022 to April 27, 2022 at Pandit Deendayal Auditorium, Raipur. Students from Bhilai Charoda region in-

cluding Meghesh Soni, Harshita Agarwal, Akanksha, Vishesh Jain, Aditya Agarwal participated. After the event, all these yoga students were given a certificate of training from the Yoga Commission. Expressing happiness at the achievement, the Corporation Mayor congratulated all the Yoga participants and Yoga Guru and encouraged them. Information on this account was given by Vikas Chandra Tripathi from the Public Relations Department of the Corporation.

Out of 167 MoUs; establishment of 90 units underway

● Chief Minister inaugurates Rs 20 cr development works in Hathkhaj

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: The state government is continuously working towards improving the industrial scenario. The government has so far signed 167 MoUs for setting up industries in the state. Through these MoUs, an investment of Rs 78000 crore is proposed in the state, out of which the process of setting up 90 units has also commenced, said Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel while addressing the inaugural function of the newly constructed Rail Industrial Park in Hathkhaj and the infrastructural projects in the Heavy and Light Industrial Area of Bhilai. He said that earlier when industrial areas were established,



they suffered lack of basic facilities. But today the Rail Park has been established with availability of all the necessary infrastructure. CM anticipated that units will be established here soon.

In his address, the Chief Minister said that an investment of Rs 19550 crore has been done in the state through various industries. About 33000 people have got employment in these industries. He added that Chhattisgarh state is an agricultural state and keeping in

view its potential, the state government laid special emphasis on food processing units. In the food and processing sector, an investment of Rs 1167 crore has been made through 478 units, which have provided employment to 6000 people. The Chief Minister said that after the establishment of Rail Industrial Park, industrial activities would expand rapidly in this region. It is the priority of the government to provide all possible facilities in the field of infrastructure and policies



to advance the enterprises in the state and work is being done continuously in this direction. Speaking about the Rail Park, Principal Secretary (Industries) Manoj Pingua informed about the industrial scenario and Rail Park. He said that there are 22 plots in the rail park with all the necessary infrastructure. He informed that work is being done by the Industries Department towards the establishment of food parks in the state. This will enable rapid economic de-



velopment of our agricultural dominated state. Chief Minister's Advisor Pradeep Sharma, Bhilai Charoda Mayor Nirmal Kosare, Speaker Krishna Chandrakar and other dignitaries were present. Divisional Commissioner Mahadev Kavre, IGP Badri Narayan Meena, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, CSIDC MD Arun Prasad and other officers were present. It needs to be mentioned here that the arrangement of CC road, pipeline, overhead tank, street light

etc has been ensured in the rail park. Rs 8.40 crore has been spent on this project. Units manufacturing equipments for railways will benefit from having better infrastructure. Entrepreneurs will get the benefit of having infrastructure available at one place. Along with this, 4.5 km CC road worth Rs 12 crore was also inaugurated in Light and Heavy Industrial area. Simon Ekka, General Manager, Industries and Trade Center, proposed the vote of thanks.



BRIEF



A boy takes a dip in a canal on a hot summer day, on the outskirts of Amritsar, Thursday.

Bais arriving on 30th

Raipur: Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais is arriving in state capital from Ranchi on April 30 as part of his two day visit. He will be taking part in different programmes and leave for Ranchi on May 02 morning.

Suspended

Hazaribag: Five policemen have been suspended on charges of dereliction of duty in connection with the custodial death of a member of a banned Naxalite outfit inside a police station in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district, a senior police officer said.

Acid attack

Bengaluru: A 24-year-old woman sustained serious burns when a jilted lover allegedly threw acid on her on Thursday after she rejected his marriage proposal. According to police, the incident happened in a finance company where she worked. The woman was climbing the stairs when 27-year-old Nagesh, a garment factory worker, threw acid on her. She sustained burns in the face, neck, hands and head.

Improving

Lucknow: The health condition of Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, the president of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, undergoing treatment for a urinary tract infection in a hospital here, has improved. The 84-year-old Mahant was admitted to Medanta Hospital in Lucknow on Sunday afternoon following complaints of urinary tract infection and a serious kidney problem.

Weather
High 43 Low 28

MARKET
NIFTY 17,245.05
SENSEX 57,521.06

BULLION
GOLD 51,159
SILVER 63,789

'Govt committed to boost health infra'

To provide best treatment to people'

Dibrugarh, Apr 28 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the government is committed to strengthen the health infrastructure to provide the best and the cheapest treatment to the ailing people, particularly those suffering from cancer.



Addressing a rally at Dibrugarh in Assam after inaugurating seven cancer care centres and laying the foundation stone for seven others across the state, Modi said that he does not want anyone to fall ill but if they do, we have built hospitals for them to get the best treatment without any financial burden.

There was a time when setting up one hospital in seven years was a big achievement but times have changed and seven cancer hospitals were inaugurated on a single day while three more will be ready in the next few months, he said.

I pray for the good health of all and do not want anybody to go there. If hospitals are empty, I will be happy, Modi said. Cancer is detected in large numbers not only in Assam but the entire North East and the worst affected are the poor and the middle class. Earlier, people had to go outside the state for treatment and this resulted in a huge financial burden for them, he said.

Man gets life imprisonment till death for raping disabled woman

Rajnandgaon, Apr 28:

A fast-track court (FTC) has sentenced a man to life imprisonment till natural death for raping a 25-year-old disabled woman in Rajnandgaon district. Additional district and sessions judge (FTC) Rajnandgaon Abhishek Sharma on Wednesday found Bisan Lal Salame (56) guilty of rape and sentenced him to life imprisonment till natural death and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on him.

According to the prosecution, the incident took place two and half years ago, when the accused entered the victim's house when she was alone and raped her. The woman died due to an illness and her mother lodged a complaint at Mohla police station about the incident. A case under relevant sections of the IPC was registered and based on a probe, the accused was arrested.

Heatwave, coal shortage fuel blackouts across states

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTD):

A potent combination of sweltering summer and acute coal shortages have triggered blackouts across many parts of the country as states struggle to manage record demand for electricity and low feedstock at power plants.

From Jammu and Kashmir to Andhra Pradesh, consumers are facing power cuts ranging from 2 hours to 8 hours. Factories are the worst hit as the industrial sector is the first port of call for regulating electricity supplies.

After the hottest March on record, a large part of the country continue to experience extreme heat in April, sending power demand to an all-time high. The total electricity shortage in the country has hit 623 million units, surpassing the total shortage in March. At the heart of the crisis are low inventories of coal -- the fossil fuel that produces 70 per cent of India's electricity.

Yeh cheez badi hai Musk, Musk!

Amul Share it, don't have it Elon!

Railway signs pact with C-DOT

For modernisation of telecommunication facilities

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTD):

The Ministry of Railways has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) for modernisation of telecommunication facilities related to operations and safety, the ministry said in a statement on Thursday. The agreement is aimed at establishing a collaborative working partnership between the ministry and C-DOT for coordination and resource sharing. C-DOT and the ministry will work together for modernisation of telecommunication in the national transporter for public safety and security services using LTE-R, which is a next-gen communications network dedicated for railway services, enabling high-speed wireless voice and data communications inside trains, from train to the ground and from train to train, it said.

It would also help the railways follow world standards in line with 'Make in India' policy, it said. "The synergy between C-DOT and the Ministry of Railways will help in providing indigenous affordable telecom equipment and services for train operation, public safety and security applications by lowering the total cost of ownership, boost the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India and help in bridging the digital divide in the country, the ministry said.

Eye on 2023 polls, Nadda holds meetings with MP, Chh'garh leaders

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTD):

Scheduled tribes, were discussed in the meeting with Madhya Pradesh leaders, including Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar, national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and the state's in-charge Muralidhar Rao, state party chief Vishnu Dutt Sharma and state minister Narottam Mishra. Madhya Pradesh BJP general secretary (organisation) Hitanand Sharma also attended the meeting. BJP national general secretary (organisation) B L

Santhosh joined Nadda in the two separated meetings with leaders from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Amid speculation about reshuffle in the Madhya Pradesh Cabinet and changes in the party's organisation, a leader who attended the meeting claimed that these issues were discussed. Despite losing to the Congress in the 2018 polls, the party returned to power in 2020 after winning over a chunk of its MLAs, who owed allegiance to Jyotiraditya Scindia, now a Union minister.

Three Maoists surrender

Konta, Apr 28:

Three active Naxalites on Thursday, influenced by the promotion of "Rehabilitation Policy" of Chhattisgarh Government and "Poona Narkom Campaign" (New Morning, New Beginning) being run by Sukma Police laid down arms. Laxman alias Lakshma (Surapanguda RPC member and Jungle Committee President), 02. Kawasi Kosa (DAKMS member), 03. Sodi Badru (Jan Militia member) expressed their desire to surrender and lead a normal life by joining the mainstream.

Court reserves order on Mevani's bail plea

Barpeta, Apr 28 (PTD):

A Barpeta court on Thursday reserved its order on the bail plea of Gujarat Independent MLA Jignesh Mevani in connection with a case of alleged assault of a woman police officer here till Friday. Mevani's advocate Angshuman Bora told PTI that the court has completed its hearing in the case on Thursday. The prosecution tried to get an adjournment but the court declined it and ordered it to submit their arguments on Thursday itself, he said. Meanwhile, Congress, which supports Mevani, held protests across Assam during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the state during the day. Mevani was remanded to police custody for five days on Tuesday for allegedly assaulting a woman police officer when she was accompanying him from Guwahati airport to Kokrajhar, where a case had been lodged against him in connection with the tweet, after being brought from Gujarat.

'Not good to give 'Bible colour' to all Christian schools'

Bengaluru, Apr 28 (PTD):

Archbishop Peter Machado on Thursday asked the Karnataka government to inquire into the number of students, who studied at Christian schools and have converted to Christianity in the last 100 years, as he defended the institution, which allegedly insisted on carrying or studying Bible as part of the curriculum. He said the institution conducted Bible or religious classes for Christian students before or after the school hours, and such a practice



Archbishop Peter Machado that required them to carry Bible existed in the past, but not now. Clarence High School,

which has been served a notice by the Department of Primary and Secondary Education said it has sought the opinion of legal advisors to respond to it. "...there is nothing like the Bible or religious education. We impart the same education to everyone. We cannot differentiate between spirituality and morality," Machado told reporters here. Noting that 75 per cent students studying in the Clarence school are Christians, he said, "it was prescribed that Bible be brought because, in our

Christian institutions we have religion class for Christian students either before or after the class..." "However, from last year onwards the management has seen to it that no mention is made about the Bible at all and so the Children if they want they can bring," he added. Referring to the education department order to conduct an inquiry to ascertain whether the Bible was used and religion was taught in schools, the Bishop said, "it is not concerning only this school, but all Christian schools in Karnataka.

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Chairman of CSTC visits Bastar

Jagdalpur, Apr 28:

Chairman of the Central Scheduled Tribes Commission (CSTC) Harsh Chauhan reached Bastar on his maiden visit and laid emphasis on increasing entrepreneurship program. He also inaugurated the conclave at Jagalpur Government Kakatiya PG College and in his address said that the tribal population dominated Bastar and Jhabua have a special identity and they are complementary to each other. Jhabua, the tribal zone of the state, makes Bastar feel the proximity of these two zones, he exclaimed. He emphasized on promoting entrepreneurship according to the locally available resources and also stressed on entrepreneurship that

should be developed while protecting the forest wealth. On this occasion Vice Chancellor and Director of Tata Institute of Social Sciences Prof. Shalini Bharat said that she was very happy on her first stay in Bastar, as she had heard and read a lot about Bastar. She highly appreciated the Bastar district administration for taking the first initiative for guidance and support for entrepreneurship and describing the rapid urbanization as a big problem, she stressed on providing employment to the people at the local level and said that this work can be done easily by encouraging the local youth for entrepreneurship. On this occasion, Collector Rajat Bansal said that there are

some very good educational institutions in Bastar, whose students want to give something back to Bastar. He said that Bastar is very rich naturally and culturally and here the tribal's are still associated with their tradition and culture, which is a big center of attraction for outsiders. He talked about opening Think-B Clubs in all schools and colleges in future, so that the spirit of entrepreneurship is developed among the youth.

On this occasion Vice Chancellor and Director of Tata Institute of Social Sciences Prof. Shalini Bharat, Collector Rajat Bansal, Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat Rohit Vyas and entrepreneurial youth and experts were present.

BJP organizes meet of central scheme beneficiaries



Bilaspur, Apr 28:

As per the directives of State BJP Pichra Varg Morcha and under the aegis of BJP Pichra Varg Morcha Bilaspur, BJP Bodri Division organized a meet of central scheme beneficiaries. In this scheme 82 beneficiaries were welcomed by applying tilak

on forehead and later honoured by presenting bag and water bottle. Those present include BJP Pichra Varg Morcha Bilaspur president Krishna Kumar Kaushik, corporator Anil Verma and others. The programme was organized at Anurag Vidya Mandir Chakarbhatta.

Workers migrate, officials allegedly prepare fake muster rolls

Konta, Apr 27: MGNREGA workers are on strike in the entire state of Chhattisgarh, due to which work has been affected in all the districts of the state as well as in Sukma district. The district officials are appeasing the government by making fake

Today, due to the closure of work under the MNREGA scheme, laborers from across the district are being forced to migrate from Sukma, the work in the village has stopped, the workers are going to Andhra Pradesh, Telangana for work and here the officials made a fake muster roll to please the government. Taxes are showing the presence of workers.

MGNREGA workers are on strike for their two-point demands, due to which the work has stopped in the villages, information has been re-

Action on illegal felling of trees



Pandariya, Apr 28: Action is being taken against the people doing business of illegal felling of trees as per the instructions of the government for the last two days by the Pandariya Forest Department. Firewood including 9 cycles has been caught from Sagouna area where green trees are being cut continuously, due to which the forests are getting destroyed continuously.

The trees are first burnt down partially and then dried and sold in hotels and markets. Meanwhile there are reports that fire

wood cutting takes place under political protection and some people are constantly involved in illegal harvesting of firewood including timber.

What office says

Some people are continuously doing the work of selling firewood by cutting them. Action has been taken against them. In last two days, 26 cycles and wood being transported have been confiscated and this type of action will continue.

Jashveer Singh Maravi, SDO, Forest Department, Pandariya

Villagers open front against in-charge of Guru Ghansidas National Sanctuary



Baikunthpur, Apr 28: The functioning of Nokhelal Yadav, in-charge Ranger of Guru Ghansidas National Sanctuary has once again caught the eye of storm of villagers in village Sonwahi and they took up the matter with the local MLA Gulab Kamro. In-charge Ranger is con-

structing pond on the land of villager who is residing on it for 70 years. MLA instructed the ranger to construct pond in some other place but later is not interested to listen. The villagers demanded to immediately remove the in-charge ranger and take strong action against him. Yadav is always in news

for creating disputes and some time back staff of Jankapur too protested against him. Yadav claims that nothing will happen to him and any complaint against him will face no action. The villagers travelled 45 km to meet Bharatpur SDM Arun Kumar and apprised him with their problem.

Corruption in construction of passenger waiting room

Dongargarh, April 28:

Under the protection of high-ranking officials and local public representatives, the construction agency that constructed passenger waiting room, is being given a clean chit by observing, evaluating and physical verification of the construction works, ignoring the massive corruption in many other construction works in the development block. On the complaint, the investigating officers, in their investigation report sent to the administration, have shown the amount of Rs 41 thousand to be recoverable from the responsible officer and public representative. But if the investigation report is examined closely on the basis of the document, then this amount will increase to more than Rs 3 lakh. On the complaint made on this, even after the order of



inquiry was removed from the office of the Panchayat Minister, the investigating officers gave wrong information about the corruption in the construction in the assembly. At the same time, every effort was made to suppress the corruption done in the construction, but in the second order taken out for investigation from the Panchayat Minister's office, the investigation conducted in Belgaum exposed the corruption in a

wide scale and the officers were forced to investigate on the point-wise complaint given by the applicant. It is also clear from the study of the documents received that by showing a fake shop, various types of materials related to construction were purchased without GST number, due to which the government has suffered a loss of lakhs of rupees. The cost of the material has also been shown to be higher than the market

price and fake signatures of laborers in master roll were also shown. In spite of showing expenditure of Rs.6 lakh 10 thousand received from MLA fund by Sarpanch Chhabeel Sahu of Gram Panchayat, Belgaum, an additional withdrawal of Rs.50 thousand was made. The amount of 50 thousand rupees withdrawn against the rules will be considered recoverable after investigation.

Meanwhile, the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Belgaum, Chhabeel Sahu, without naming anyone, had clearly said during the investigation that the entire construction work was done through the contractor by making the Gram Panchayat the agency of the construction work, but the investigating officers did not take into account the words of the Sarpanch.

14 forest employees to be charged in corruption case

Recovery to be done from retired DFO

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Apr 28: Action has been taken a month after the announcement in the Legislative Assembly in the corruption case of 7 crores in Marwahi forest division of Gaurela Pendra Marwahi district. Action has been taken against 14 forest workers, meanwhile Panchayat Minister TS Singhdeo had announced action against the officers and employees in the assembly, but there was delay in the proceedings and 12 out of 14 officers-employees have been suspended, while action on two more employees will be done.

In response to the question on the delay on the resolution of the assembly, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Charandas Mahant in Marwahi district had denied the contempt of the Legislative Assembly and said that there has definitely been a delay, action will be taken soon and no official involved in corruption will be able to escape from the action of the government.

According to the information received, construction of culverts and

stop dams was to be done in Chuktiani, Tadpathra, Pakaria, Kenvchi, Pandwaniya and Teraigaon villages of Gaurela range of Marwahi forest division, but the responsible created the scam of Rs 7 crore, without construction work. According to Forest Department, 7 forest guards have been suspended, and their complicity has also come to

the fore in this scam and an order has been issued regarding to the then DFO and at the same time, the recovery of the amount will be done from the then DFO Rakesh Mishra.

At the same time, the order of the government's action taken on KP Dindore and Rajkumar Sharma may be issued in the next few days. Uday Tiwari Forest Ranger, Ambrish Dubey Forest Ranger, Ashwani Dubey Forest Ranger, Anoop Kumar Mishra Forest Ranger, Gopal Jande Ranger, Virendra Kumar Sahu Forest Guard, Deepak Kosle Forest Guard, Devendra Kashyap Forest Guard, Pannalal Jangde Forest Guard, Naveen Banjare Forest Guard, Lal Bahadur Kaushik Forest Guard, Neetu Dhruv Forest Guard are the main accused of the scam.

CM Baghel to inaugurate District Hospital

Along with 'Matra & Shishu Haspatal' in Koriya District

Koriya, Apr 28:

CM Bhupesh Baghel will dedicate the 200 bedded District Hospital and 50 bedded 'Matra & Shishu Haspatal' at the cost of Rs 35 cr through a virtual programme on April 29 in Koriya district.

The programme will begin with state song at 11:00 am and after video presentation of the new District Hospital and 'Matra & Shishu Haspatal' that CM Bhupesh Baghel will make declaration about virtual inauguration of the two. In this pro-

gramme there will be address by the Chief Minister and along with him, Speaker State Assembly Dr Charandas Mahant, Minister for Health and Family Welfare TS Singh Deo, LS MP Korba Jyotsna Mahant, parliamentary secretary and MLA Baikunthpur Ambika Singh Deo, V-P Surguja Development Authority and MLA Bharatpur-Sonhat Gulab Kamro, Director Chhattisgarh Medical Services Corporation and MLA Manendragarh Dr Vinay Jaiswal will also address the virtual programme.

DMC removes 20 encroachments in city

Imposes fine of Rs 11,500 against 18 shopkeepers

Dhantari, Apr 28: Dhantari Municipal Corporation (DMC) has started its drive against encroachments in the city and on Saturday, 20 encroachers were removed from the site and a fine of Rs 11000 was charged from 18 shopkeepers for violating the norms. On the other hand, footpath vendors charged DMC of taking action against them and not so serious about big shopkeepers violating the norms.

It is notable here that for last few years, there is sort of flood of encroachers at different places in the city. Being VIP road, even the

Collectorate road has not being spared and encroachment is increasing on every road each day.

In such conditions, after receiving instructions from senior officers, DMC took to heels and took it seriously. In this series, on Saturday, DMC anti-encroachment team raided the Ambedkar Chowk area of city and after identifying the encroached area, removed total of 20 encroachments on either side of the road from this Chowk upto the Collectorate turn. In addition to this four encroachers were removed from Sihawa Chowk as well.

Sources inform that DMC team recovered fine of Rs 11,500 from 18 shopkeepers for encroaching upon the road or display-

ing of goods outside the shopping limit. During the demolition drive, there was little bit of minor scuffle between DMC team and encroachers and the issue was sorted with intervention by the officers. On this occasion Dy. Collector Arpita Pathak, Tehsildar Akanksha Sahu, Traffic in-Charge Devraju, health in-charge officers and others were present.

What officer says

"Encroachments were removed as per the rule and on charges of violation of norms by the encroachers and fine of Rs 11,500 was imposed against total 18 shopkeepers." Nikhil Chandraker - RI DMC.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is informed to the general public that I Akash Tiwari S/o. Bhagwat Prasad Tiwari my son's old name Arian Tiwari S/o Akash Tiwari has been changed to new name Arian Tiwari S/o. Akash Tiwari resident of A-25, Sipat Road, Rajkishore Nagar, Ringiyadih, S.E.C.L., Bilaspur C.G. 495006 so in future my son should be recognized by his new name Arian Tiwari S/o. Akash Tiwari in all government and other documents.

AKASH TIWARI A-25, Sipat Road, Rajkishore Nagar, Ringiyadih, S.E.C.L., Bilaspur C.G.495006

Corporate & Registered Office : Unit No. 801, Centrum House, CST Road, Vidyannagri Marg, Kalina Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400098, CIN No. U65922MH2016PLC273826

POSSESSION NOTICE (As per Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002) Loan Account No. BSPBS18001088 & BSPBS18001323 Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Centrum Housing Finance Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Issued a demand notice dated 01-12-2021 calling upon Chandbali Ray as Borrower and Jitendra Kumar Ray, as the Co-borrower to repay the outstanding amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1272543/- (Rupees Twelve Lac Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Forty Three Only) along with contractual interest, penal interest, charges, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

BRIEF

Bribery

Jaipur: A team of Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested the sarpanch of the Sagwada Panchayat Samiti in Dungarpur here for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 18,000, officials said. The woman sarpanch, Phulwanti Devi, had demanded the bribe from the complainant for clearing outstanding payment of a work, they said. After verification of the complaint, a trap was laid and the accused was held while taking the bribe, they said.

Held

Pune: A 37-year-old man was arrested by police here for allegedly running over a homeless person sleeping on the roadside in Market Yard area here a week ago. The arrested man was identified as Anup Mehta. A case was registered against an unidentified SUV driver after police investigation and CCTV footage disclosed that the deceased had been mowed down by an SUV. The deceased being a homeless man, his identity was yet to be ascertained, the police added.

Dishonouring

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police registered a case against some "unidentified miscreants" for dishonouring the national flag hoisted on a hospital in Rajouri district. The case under section 2 of the Prevention of Insults to the National Honour Act has been registered at Nowshera police station and investigation set into motion to bring the culprits to book.

Concealed

Jaipur: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has recovered five kg of gold concealed in a bag of a passenger who arrived here in a flight from Sharjah. The market price of the seized gold has been estimated at Rs 2 crore 62 lakh. According to DRI sources, the luggage of some passengers, who arrived in Jaipur.

Cheating

Thane: The city police have registered a case of cheating against a Kalyan resident in Thane district of Maharashtra for allegedly duping 49 people to the tune of Rs 3.59 crore by promising them help to get tenements under the Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) scheme, police said. A case was registered against the accused, Suresh Pawar, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code for cheating and other charges.

Hiked

Mumbai: The transport department in Maharashtra has increased the fees for issuing Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates to the vehicles by the PUC centres. The state transport commissioner office issued a circular based on the Maharashtra government's decision, and directed all the Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) and Deputy RTO offices about its implementation.

Stalin hits out at PM over tax cuts, says people know facts

Chennai, Apr 28 (PTI):

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue of tax cuts on petroleum products, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Thursday said people were aware of the fact behind the issue and pointed out at his government effecting a Rs 3 a litre cut on petrol earlier.

Making a statement in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Stalin said since 2014, whenever international crude rates dipped, the NDA government did not pass on the benefit to the customers but only pocketed the additional revenue earned from the differential.

Referring to a Tamil saying, he indicated that the PM was not revealing the facts.

While the excise duty levied on petrol and diesel



MK Stalin

has to be shared with states, that has been reduced, thus affecting the states' revenue, he said.

"While the cess and surcharges are not meant to be shared with the state governments, these have been exorbitantly hiked, thus burdening people and the union government is enjoying the revenue earned from this," the CM added.

He also accused the Centre of "pretending" to

have reduced the fuel-related taxes due to "elections in some states," in an apparent reference to the polls held earlier this year in five states, including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Goa.

"A week after the state elections, the prices were hiked and the Union government imposed further burden on people," he charged.

However, soon after winning the elections and forming the government last year, unmindful of the fiscal position, and according priority to people's welfare, his government had effected the tax cut for petrol even before Centre did, Stalin pointed out.

"People know all this. Who shows real keenness in reducing petrol rates and who pretends and lays the blames on others—I leave it to the people to decide," Stalin said.

Agartala-Kolkata bus service via Dhaka postponed

Agartala, Apr 28 (PTI):

The Agartala-Kolkata bus service via Dhaka, which was scheduled to resume from Thursday after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was postponed owing to some "technical reasons", Agartala Mayor Dipak Majumder said.

The decision to defer the resumption of the service was taken minutes before a bus with 16 passengers was about to commence its journey for Kolkata from here, he said.

We were ready to flag off the Kolkata bound bus via Dhaka but due to some technical reasons in the clearance process, the resumption of service has been postponed, the Agartala Municipal Corporation mayor said. Assistant High



Security personnel stand guard as the Agartala-Kolkata international bus service via Dhaka was to resume service but was postponed, in Agartala, Tripura on Thursday.

Commissioner of Bangladesh at Agartala, Arif Mohammad, was present at the Tripura State Transport Corporation International Terminal at Krishnanagar for the programme.

It appears that all partners concerned are not informed about the permission of resumption of the international bus service. But we all want to start the bus service at the earliest because there is demand

AGAINST INFLATION



Activists of Aam Admi Party (AAP) stage a protest against inflation, during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Assam, in Guwahati, Thursday.

Delhi Govt ups water supply to meet growing demand

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

Amid a deadly heatwave building up in various parts of the country, the Delhi government on Thursday said it will supply around 1,000 million gallons of drinking water every day during the summer season as against 935 MGD earlier to meet the rising demand.

Sharing its Summer Action Plan, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said a total of 1,198 water tankers will be deployed across the city during the peak summer season (April-July) to prevent water scarcity.

Large swathes of India are reeling under a punishing heatwave, with temperatures nearing the 45-degree mark at several places in the national capi-



People rush to fill water from a DJB tanker amid heatwave in Delhi on Thursday.

tal. The heatwave is predicted to turn deadlier in the coming days.

"To meet the water requirement of the city residents, especially considering the rising heat this year, the Delhi government is targeting to supply about 1,000 MGD of

potable water during the summer of 2022 by optimising all the resources," a statement quoted Water Minister Satyendar Jain as saying. Earlier, the DJB supplied 935 MGD of drinking water to the city residents on an average.

Five 'exotic' monkeys, wallaby rescued in Assam



In this combo photo, monkeys and wallaby rescued from a vehicle in Assam's Kamrup district.

Guwahati, Apr 28 (PTI):

Five "exotic" monkeys and a wallaby were rescued from a vehicle in Assam's Kamrup district and a person was arrested in this connection, a forest official said on Thursday. Acting on a tip-

off, a team of forest personnel intercepted the vehicle at Hajo and recovered six cages in which the animals were found.

The forest personnel team led by North Kamrup Division Range Officer Sangeeta Rani Singha apprehended the

person, while another fled the spot, the official said.

Further investigation is on to ascertain from where the animals were brought and to which destination they were being taken.

Species of the "exotic" monkeys were yet to be ascertained, while the wallaby is a marsupial that is like a small kangaroo and is found in Australia and New Guinea.

Assam has recently witnessed seizures of rare animals which are not found in the region.

Wildlife trafficking is a major concern in the northeastern states with endangered and rare animals being targeted, the official said.

TRS party resolutions sets narrative to take on BJP

Hyderabad, Apr 28 (PTI):

The ruling TRS' 21st Foundation Celebrations have not only given a clear roadmap for the party aiming to retain power in the 2023 assembly polls, but also unveiled an agenda that it wants to take on the BJP at the Centre, with only two years left for the next Lok Sabha polls, experts feel. Most of the resolutions being passed targeting the central government for "not doing enough" for the state is a pointer towards this direction, they aver. The K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR)-led TRS has won two successive elections since 2014, when the young southern state came into existence and has set its eyes on a third term, although the BJP had



TRS party members passing resolutions during its foundation day meet in Hyderabad.

sprang some electoral surprises in the recent past, including putting up a spirited show in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) polls in 2020 where it emerged as the second largest party after the ruling TRS, in the process bettering on its earlier performances.

Also, the BJP won the Assembly bypolls in

Dubbak and Huzurabad, prompting BJP supporters to cheer about a "saffron surge" in Telangana, with neighbouring Karnataka being a BJP-ruled state in the south. The 13 resolutions which were debated and passed during the day-long celebrations have been taken as a prelude to the launch of the poll campaign for the 2023 assembly elections, experts

BJP attacks Jharkhand Govt over frequent power cuts

Ranchi, Apr 28 (PTI):

The BJP has accused the JMM-led government in Jharkhand of failing to provide a steady supply of electricity and adequate water to people as the mineral-rich state is witnessing a prolonged power outage, amid a sweltering heatwave. Saffron party's national vice president Raghuraj Das has written to Chief Minister Hemant Soren, alleging that the deepening power crisis is a result of "lack of planning".

"Presently, Jharkhand requires 2,300 MW (megawatt) to 2,600 MW of power but is getting barely 1200 MW..The government's inaction is responsible for this power crisis. Similar power crisis had arisen in the year 2020, but the government did not learn any lesson



BJP protest against power outage in Ranchi on Thursday.

from the incident," Das, the former chief minister, said. He also claimed that neither plans were made in advance nor power purchase pacts were done with Tata Power, DVC or other companies.

Soren admitted that the state is unable to meet the peak demand, but said his government has sanctioned additional funds for

buying power from the open market through energy exchanges.

"The heat is beyond imagination... several states in the country are facing shortage of power. It is also difficult to purchase power from the open market due to high rates and competition among states," the CM said. However, the BJP had

staged protests against the government's "complete failure" to meet electricity demand in Jharkhand, which is the major coal-producing state and provides fuel to several power plants in the country.

Das also accused the Hemant Soren government of not taking steps for 800 MW power generation in the first phase as part of an agreement with energy producers during the erstwhile BJP regime to produce 4,000 MW by 2024. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone for the project.

Das also claimed that former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had laid the foundation stone of North Karanpura power project of NTPC, which "remained stalled for 10 years".

Goa polls winners won by average of 41 percent of total votes polled

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

Candidates who emerged victorious in the Goa State Assembly elections won by an average 41 per cent of the total votes polled, poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said.

ADR and Goa Election Watch analysed the vote share for all the 40 constituencies in the Goa Assembly Elections, 2022.

The voter turnout for the Goa State Assembly election 2022 was 82 per cent whereas in 2017 it was 83 per cent, the ADR said in a new report. The winners of the Goa State Assembly elections, 2022 won by an average of 41 per cent of the total votes polled, the ADR said. The ADR said



Map of Goa.

eight (20 per cent) winners won with 50 per cent and above of the total votes polled in their constituency and 32 (80 per cent) winners won with less than 50 per cent of the total votes polled in their constituency. Four (25 per cent) out of 16 winners with declared criminal cases have won with a vote share of 50 per

cent and above and eight (21 per cent) out of 39 crorepati winners have won with a vote share of 50 per cent and above, it said.

All the winners of the Goa State Assembly Elections, 2022 won with an average of 34 per cent of the total registered voters. This implies that the winners represent on an average, 34 per cent of the total electorate.

In the Goa State Assembly Elections, 2017, candidates won by an average of 39 per cent of the total registered voters. Among the major parties, out of 20 winners of the BJP, 10 (50 per cent) won less than 35 per cent of votes of the total registered voters in the constituency.

BRIEF

Agrees

Warsaw: Poland's air navigation agency said that it has agreed to implement all of the demands of the country's air traffic controllers' union, preventing the mass cancellation of flights in coming days. Poland's government announced plans earlier this week to drastically reduce flights at Warsaw's two airports starting if talks with air traffic controllers demanding better working conditions failed. The majority of air traffic controllers in Warsaw were threatening to quit.

Guilty

Richmond: A former top-ranking State Department official is set to plead guilty for improperly helping a wealthy Gulf country try to influence US policy and not disclosing on a government ethics form gifts he received from a disgraced political fundraiser. Court records filed earlier this month say that Richard G Olson, who was the State Department's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the end of the Obama administration, provided aid and advice.

Proposes

Brussels: The European Union's executive arm said that it wants to see the EU adopt a law to protect journalists and civil rights activists from lawsuits aimed at censoring them. The European Commission proposed safeguards to curb SLAPPS, or strategic lawsuits against public participation. It described such litigation as a serious threat to democracy and fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and information. A Maltese journalist was killed.

Inquiry

London: British fraud investigators have raided the UK offices of the GFG Alliance, owners of the country's third largest steelmaker, as part of an investigation into possible fraud and money laundering related to financing from a now bankrupt lender with ties to former Prime Minister David Cameron. The Serious Fraud Office opened an investigation last year after Greensill Capital's collapse forced the owner of Liberty Steel, which has thousands of staff in the UK.

Withdraws

Madrid: Russia announced it was withdrawing from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation just hours before the body's assembly voted to temporarily suspend the country's membership over the invasion of Ukraine. UNWTO Secretary General Zurab Pololikashvili made the announcement on his official Twitter account. He said it was the first UN body to address Russia's membership. The organization went ahead and approved the suspension at special meeting.

'India developed ties with Russia as US couldn't do it earlier'

Washington, Apr 28 (PTD):



Antony Blinken

India built its partnership with Russia out of necessity as America was not in a position to do that earlier, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has told a Congressional hearing, underlining that Washington is now investing in that effort.

Blinken, during a Congressional hearing by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, said that the India-US partnership has the potential to be one of the most important and foundational partnerships going forward over the next decades.

Amidst Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the US has been pressing India and other nations to impose sanctions on Moscow and reduce their reliance on Russian weapons, oil

and other commodities. "In the case of India, there is a relationship that goes back decades. And Russia, for India, was out of necessity a partner of choice when we were not in a position to be a partner," he said in response to a question from Senator William Hagerty. "Now, we are investing in that effort. I think there is a growing strategic convergence between the United States and India.

"And of course, China is a big part of that," Blinken said.

Hagerty, a Republican Senator, had sought Blinken's views on the India-US relationship. "What I see before us is something I'm certain that is very frustrating in the short-term when we have our differences and you deal with that every day.

"But in the long-term, the strategic partnership that we have with India I think poses the opportunity to do more good in the 21st century," Hagerty said. In response, Blinken said that he very much shares the perspective shared by the Senator.

"I think this partnership has the potential to be one of the most important and foundational partnerships that we have going forward over the next decades," he said.

Political reckoning in Sri Lanka as debt crisis grows

Dominant Rajapaksas have been powerful land-owning family

Colombo, Apr 28 (AP):

Sherry Fonseka joined millions in 2019 in electing President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a military strategist whose brutal campaign helped end Sri Lanka's 30-year civil war 10 years earlier. Now he is one of thousands who, for weeks, have protested outside the president's office, calling on Rajapaksa and his brother, Mahinda, who is prime minister, to resign for leading the country into



Stalks of bananas are seen at the deserted Manin market in Colombo on Thursday.

its worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948.

With the island teetering near bankruptcy, Fonseka, who owns a small garment business in the capital, Colombo, has resorted to spending his own savings to

pay the salaries of his 30 employees. But he knows he will soon have to let them go and is clear about who is to blame. "All of us thought we made the correct decision (to elect Rajapaksa), but we've realized we were wrong. We should have the



Passengers arrive at a seaport to travel to their hometowns ahead of Eid al-Fitr in Surabaya, Indonesia on Thursday.

Bangkok's real-life fight club with private Facebook group

Bangkok, Apr 28 (AFP):

Harsh spotlights and street lamps illuminate a vicious brawl between two furious shirtless men as the screams of a crowd echo beneath a Bangkok underpass: Fight Club Thailand is on. In the capital city of a country renowned for its highly technical martial arts scene, amateur fighters gather regularly promising to exchange only blood and bruises in the underground club.

While the bout resembles a particularly frenzied boxing match, the setting — surrounded by shipping



Photos taken of fighters at an event by Fight Club Thailand.

containers in a poor port-side neighbourhood — is a far cry from the glitzy charms of Muay Thai boxing stadiums. "Here you

don't have to know how to fight. You just need to have heart and that's it," club co-founder Chana Worasart told AFP.

China city cancels flights after suspected Covid case



People wait for COVID-19 test in Guangzhou on Thursday.

Beijing, Apr 28 (AFP):

The Chinese megacity of Guangzhou cancelled hundreds of flights Thursday and launched mass testing of 5.6 million people after one suspected Covid case, as the battle to contain the coronavirus

sweeps across the country. China is facing its worst outbreak since the peak of the first wave in early 2020, with eastern Shanghai recording dozens of daily deaths and the capital Beijing sealing off whole neighbourhoods where hand-

fuls of cases have been detected.

Under its zero-Covid policy, China has used lockdowns, mass testing and travel restrictions to stamp out infections.

The strategy is under strain, with the highly transmissible Omicron variant punching through health controls.

Rolling virus restrictions — including a weeks-long lockdown of virtually all of Shanghai's 26 million residents — have damaged the economy, causing backlogs at the world's busiest container port, a key node in the global supply chain.

Occupied Ukrainian city fears sham Russian referendum plans

Lviv, Apr 28 (AP):

Ever since Russian forces took the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson in early March, residents sensed the occupiers had a special plan for their town.

Now, amid a crescendo of warnings from Ukraine that Russia plans to stage a sham referendum to transform the territory into a pro-Moscow people's republic, it appears locals guessed right. After Russian forces withdrew from occupied areas around Kyiv in early April, they left behind scenes of horror and traumatized communities. But in Kherson a large city with a major shipbuilding industry, located at the confluence of the Dnieper



People in Kherson.

River and the Black Sea near Russian-annexed Crimea the occupying forces have taken a different tack. The soldiers patrol and walk around silently. They don't shoot people in the streets, said Olga, a local teacher, in a telephone interview last month after the region was sealed off by

Russian forces. She gave only her first name for fear of reprisals.

While the city has so far been spared the atrocities committed elsewhere, daily life is far from normal. All access has been cut off. Kherson suffers from a shortage of medicine, cash and many

food products, and Ukrainian officials warn it could face a humanitarian catastrophe. With no cash deliveries to Kherson's banks, the circulation of Ukraine's hryvnia currency is dwindling, and credit card payments often fail to go through. Access to Ukrainian TV has been blocked and replaced by Russian state channels. A strict curfew has been imposed. Residents believe Russian troops have not yet besieged or terrorized the city as they did in Bucha and Mariupol because they are planning to hold a referendum to create a so-called People's Republic of Kherson like the pro-Russian breakaway territories in eastern Ukraine.

Colombian soldiers confess murders to victims' families

Ocana, Apr 28 (AFP):

Rural peasant Eliecer Ortega was on his own at his farm when soldiers burst onto his property to first kidnap and then murder him.

His wife, Eduvina Becerra, had to wait 15 years to hear his murderers confess and ask for forgiveness.

It happened during a historic two-day hearing of a special peace tribunal set up in Ocana — a town in northeastern Colombia near to where the 43-year-old's husband was killed.

Ortega, a local rural leader who was known for his personality and thick moustache, was one of 120 civilians, mostly men aged 25 to 35, who were murdered in cold blood between 2007 and 2008 by Colombian soldiers and then presented as far left guerrilla fighters killed in combat in the area, a bastion of illegal drug crops.

In an unprecedented event, 10 former members of the military, including a general and four colonels,



Retired general Paulino Coronado gestures during a hearing organized by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) in Ocana, Colombia.

publicly admitted their responsibility in the crimes to the families of their victims.

The most senior of them, general Paulino Coronado, who retired in 2008, said that even though he acted "by omission, I assume this legal responsibility... so that the

Colombian people never again, never live again, these abominable moments." He denied having ordered the killings in his area of responsibility, but admitted to "not having acted diligently" in the oversight of his men.

"How can you say that your responsibility is by

omission if you gave the order to your soldiers... and the whole army was aware of what they were doing?" said Zoraida Munoz, mother of Jonny Soto, a 22-year-old who dreamed of becoming a soldier before being kidnapped and killed by the military.

Massacres haunts Burundi after fifty years

Gitega, Apr 28 (AFP):

She is 60 years old, but Laetitia Ngendakumana still cries like the 10-year-old girl she was in 1972 when her father disappeared in a wave of ethnic massacres in Burundi now been classified as genocide by a government commission. Like thousands of others, Ngendakumana's world collapsed half a century ago when Burundi's Tutsi-dominated government arrested her father, a Hutu banker in the country's largest city, Bujumbura.

"We never knew where they took dad. What I know is that we lost everything we had," she said, wringing her hands during an interview with AFP at her home surrounded by lush banana trees near Gitega, Burundi's political capital. Neither her marriage to a teacher nor the birth of their 14 children — 12 survived — nor an end to the bloodletting erased her pain, which feels as

fresh today as it did in 1972.

For a long time, the massacres were a taboo subject in the public sphere, with Burundians referring to the period between the end of April and June 1972 as "ikiza" ("the scourge" in Kirundi, the country's official language).

But in 2019, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) set up by the authorities announced a plan to reopen mass graves to count and possibly identify the victims. Ngendakumana immediately reached out to the commission. Identifying human re-

mains after five decades was a near impossible task, but the farmer clung to a single hope: her father's dentures.

"My father had had an accident and lost his teeth. He was wearing gold prostheses," she said.

The tip about the metal dentures led the investigators to discover her father's remains, which were found on a wooded hillside, just a few kilometres (miles) from her home near Gitega. Since independence in 1962, hundreds of thousands of Burundians have lost their lives to ethnic violence between the Hutu and the Tutsi, and to a civil war.

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-Director



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 29

Caught in power crisis

Industry associations in India have demanded duty-free import of coal, greater availability of railways rake to transport the dry fuel and different rate of diesel for captive generators for dealing with power supply issue amid summer. Indian power generating units have been hit hard with low coal supply, even as industrial demand has been high and rising temperature has escalated household demand. India is caught between sourcing coal for meeting short term power needs and hurdles to implement solar power. Earlier it was reported that a fourth of India's power generation capacity shut, mainly due to lack of fuel. At a time when India's electricity demand is seen rising at the fastest pace in decades, almost a fourth of its total thermal, nuclear, and hydropower installed capacity is shut down. According to the Central Electricity Authority's operation performance monitoring report, 72,074.14 megawatts (MW) that comprise thermal, nuclear, and hydropower were shut down as of April 20. This accounts for almost 25 percent of the total monitored capacity of 289,581.24 MW. CEA's monitored capacity includes thermal, hydro, and nuclear power units, but excludes 110 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy. At the beginning of April, the total capacity that was shut down was 66,534.31 MW, but the lack of fuel had tripped more units. The maximum all India power demand met or the highest supply in a day crossed the record level of 201 GW mark showing spurt this week amid sweltering heat in large parts of the country. The maximum All India power demand met is 201.066 GW, the power ministry claimed. India has the greatest number of proposed coal power plants after China. Also, 2021 saw 13 per cent decline in global coal power plants under development. This was revealed in the latest Boom and Bust report released by Global Energy Monitor. According to the report, pre-construction coal power capacity between 2015 to 2021 decreased nearly 90 per cent in India.

From approximately 238.6 GW in 2015, it decreased to 36.6 GW in 202 and down an additional 12.7 GW in 2021. Despite signs of coal phase down in India, more than 23.8 GW of planned capacity remains, with more than half (12.6 GW or 52 percent) permitted, 31.3 GW under construction and few with firm retirement dates, the report stated. India's new target of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 could enable the country to start phasing down coal well before 2030, even assuming power demand growth continues at pre-pandemic rates. If a bold non-coal plan for the power sector is finalized and implemented, this would be a hugely significant move, as it would formalize energy and economic development plans in line with India's clean energy integration pathway as committed at COP26. Despite government hope to ramp up power from solar panels, there are hurdles. Prospects for India achieving the target of generating 100 gigawatts of solar power in 2022 have waned because of high levels of atmospheric pollution. Atmospheric pollution reduces solar power generation in two main ways: by absorbing and scattering the sun's rays and by soiling solar panels, says Sagnik Dey, chair professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. A study carried out by IIT Delhi and published March in Environmental Research Letters, calculates that between 2001 and 2018 India lost 29 percent of its solar energy potential as a result of atmospheric pollution equivalent to an annual loss of USD 835 million. As of March, India had only reached the halfway mark of 50 gigawatts of installed solar capacity, according to the research group, Mercom India. While wildfires are a bane for the people living in the vicinity of forests, they are also responsible for limiting renewable power production. A new study has revealed how forest fires lead to a major reduction in solar power production in India and affect the entire grid network. The study has been published in the journal Remote Sensing. The rooftop policy for solar is not affordable for most of India's population. The government is caught regarding meeting power demand.

Governance models

Kerala government decided to send a two-member team led by Chief Secretary VP Joy to Gujarat for three days to study the dashboard system for e-governance. Kerala is studying the dashboard system started in 2019 when Vijay Rupani was the Gujarat chief minister. The scheme was started to monitor the district-level implementation of various government schemes. This system was set up to resolve the grievances of the common man. The goal is to make government officials more responsible. Public administration experts have divided eras of governance. In the Governance 1.0 period immediately after World War II, both public and corporate governance were marked by the rule of the one man as the elected or unelected strong leader and the boss. This type of leadership worked well in a society where the cost of information was high, hierarchical power and management functioned relatively smoothly, and technological and economic advances benefited almost everyone. The Governance 2.0 model, which emerged at the end of the 1960s, affirmed the primacy of material wealth.

And while the 2008 global financial crisis dealt Governance 2.0 a serious blow, its narrow vision continued to prevail until the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The brutal social and economic shock inflicted by COVID-19 ushered in Governance 3.0. Crisis management currently dominates decision-making, with leaders focusing on operational thinking and showing a relative disregard for possible unintended consequences. Governance 4.0 would differ from its predecessors in several fundamental respects. It would need to replace short-term crisis management with long-term strategic thinking. A focus on current problems must be complemented with action. Governance 4.0 must replace the tunnel vision and top-down approach that prevailed in the past. The world has changed, and public governance must change with it. The dashboard system for e-governance meant for constant monitoring of administration. States ruled by different political parties are cooperating for better governance model to serve the public. Any governance model needs full public participation to succeed.

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.

FORCED TO BE UNDERGROUND



People forced to be living in a large underground parking lot in Kharkiv, eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine's subterranean fighters highlight history of tunnels in warfare

PAUL J SPRINGER



Faced with the prospect of sending Russian troops into subterranean combat, Vladimir Putin demurred. 'There is no need to climb into these catacombs and crawl underground,' he told his defence minister on April 21, 2022, ordering him to cancel a planned storming of a steel plant in the besieged Ukrainian port city of Mariupol. While Putin's back-up plan, to form a seal around trapped Ukrainian forces and wait it out, is no less brutal and there are reports that Russians may still have mounted an offensive on the site, Putin's hesitancy to send his forces into a sprawling network of tunnels under the complex hints at a truth in warfare: Tunnels can be an effective tool in resisting an oppressor. Indeed, since the war began in February, reports have emerged of Ukrainian defenders using underground tunnel networks in efforts to deny Russian invaders control of major cities, as well as to provide sanctuary for civilians.

As an expert in military history and theory, I know there is sound thinking behind using tunnels as both a defensive and offensive tactic. Such networks allow small units to move undetected by aerial sensors and emerge in unexpected locations to launch surprise attacks and then essentially disappear. For an invader who does not possess a thorough map of the subterranean passages, this can present a nightmare scenario, leading to massive personnel losses, plummeting morale and an inability to finish the conquest of their urban objective - all factors that may have factored in Putin's decision not to send troops underground in

Mariupol. The use of tunnels and underground chambers in times of conflict is nothing new. The use of tunnels has been a common aspect of warfare for millennia. Ancient besieging forces used tunnelling operations as a means to weaken otherwise well-fortified positions. This typically required engineers to construct long passages under walls or other obstacles. Collapsing the tunnel weakened the fortification. If well-timed, an assault conducted in the immediate aftermath of the breach might lead to a successful storming of the defended position. One of the earliest examples of this technique is depicted on Assyrian carvings that are thousands of years old. While some attackers climb ladders to storm the walls of an Egyptian city, others can be seen digging at the foundations of the walls.

Roman armies relied heavily upon sophisticated engineering techniques such as putting arches into the tunnels they built during sieges. Roman defenders also perfected the art of digging counter-tunnels to intercept those used by attackers before they presented a threat. Upon penetrating an enemy tunnel, they flooded it with caustic smoke to drive out the enemy or launched a surprise attack upon unsuspecting miners. The success of tunnelling under fortifications led European engineers in the Middle Ages to design ways to thwart the tactic. They built castles on bedrock foundations, making any attempt to dig beneath them much slower, and surrounded walls with moats so that tunnels would need to be far deeper. Although tunnelling remained an important aspect of sieges through the 13th century, it was eventually replaced by the introduction of gunpowder artillery - which proved a more effective way to breach fortifications. However, by the mid-19th century, advances in mining and tunnel construction led to a resurgence in subterranean approaches to warfare. During the Crimean War in the 1850s, British and French attackers attempted to tunnel under Russian fortifications at the Battle of Sevastopol. Ten years later, Ulysses S Grant authorized an attempt

to tunnel under Confederate defences at the siege of Petersburg, Virginia. In both cases, large caches of gunpowder were placed in chambers created by tunnelling under key positions and detonated in coordination with an infantry assault.

With warfare increasingly relying on aircraft in the 20th century, military strategists again turned to tunnels - undetectable from the skies and protected from falling bombs. In World War I, tunnelling was attempted as a means to launch surprise attacks on the Western Front, potentially bypassing the other side's system of trenches and remaining undetected by aerial observers. In particular, the Ypres salient in war-ravaged Belgium was the site of hundreds of tunnels dug by British and German miners, and the horrifying stories of combat under the earth provide one of the most terrifying vignettes of that awful war. During World War II, Japanese troops in occupied areas in the Pacific constructed extensive tunnel networks to make their forces virtually immune to aerial attack and naval bombardment from Allied forces. During amphibious assaults in places such as the Philippines and Iwo Jima, American and Allied forces had to contend with a warren of Japanese tunnel networks. Eventually they resorted to using high explosives to collapse tunnel entrances, trapping thousands of Japanese troops inside. The Viet Cong tunnel networks, particularly in the vicinity of Saigon, were an essential part of their guerrilla strategy and remain a popular tourist stop today. Some of the tunnels were large enough to house hospital and barracks facilities and strong enough to withstand anything short of nuclear bombardment.

The tunnels not only protected Vietnamese fighters from overwhelming American firepower, they also facilitated hit-and-run style attacks. Specialized 'tunnel rats,' American soldiers who ventured into the tunnels armed only with a knife and pistol, became adept at navigating the tunnel networks. But they could not be trained in sufficient numbers to negate the value of the tunnel systems. In the

21st century, tunnels have been used to facilitate the activities of terror organizations. During the American-led invasion of Afghanistan, military operatives soon discovered that al-Qaida had fortified a series of tunnel networks connecting naturally occurring caves in the Tora Bora region. Not only did they hide the movement of troops and supplies, they proved impervious to virtually every weapon in the US-led coalition's arsenal. The complexes included air filtration systems to prevent chemical contamination, as well as massive storerooms and sophisticated communications gear allowing al-Qaida leadership to maintain control over their followers. And tunnelling activity in and around Gaza continues to provide a tool for Hamas to get fighters into Israeli territory, while at the same time allowing Palestinians to circumvent Israel's blockade of Gaza's borders.

Many of the tunnels being utilized today in Ukrainian efforts to defend the country were built in the Cold War era, when the United States routinely engaged in overflights of Soviet territory. To counteract the significant air and satellite advantage held by the United States and NATO, the Soviet military dug underground passages under major population centers. These subterranean systems offered a certain amount of shelter for the civilian population in the event of a nuclear attack and allowed for the movement of military forces unobserved by the ever-present eyes in the sky. These same tunnels serve to connect much of the industrial infrastructure in Mariupol today - and have become a major asset for the outnumbered Ukrainian forces. Other Ukrainian cities have similar systems, some dating back centuries. For example, Odesa, another key Black Sea port, has a catacomb network stretching over 2,500 kilometers. It began as part of a limestone mining effort - and to date, there is no documented map of the full extent of the tunnels.

(Paul J Springer is Professor of Comparative Military Studies, Air University in US.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Self-serving

Unable to understand how Prashant Kishor is a wily self-serving election consultant expected that he will become as a saviour of the Indian National Congress --- 137-year-old party that had led India's freedom struggle and governed the country for over 60 years? How does he expect that he will work only if he is given absolute power by the party, an impossible proposition for an established party? Why would Prasant like election strategist join any political party particularly, after his miserable experience with Nitish Kumar. Kishore is essentially a consulting business man and is very successful at that. Starting with Narendra Modi's BJP to the latest Telangana Chief Minister Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao's Telangana Rashtira Samithi (TRS) is a better choice than Congress! The chances of TRS winning in Telangana is far higher than Congress, because a regional party like TRS is a better business proposition as Prasant need not become a member of TRS, and easy to control. Moreover, if Prasant becomes a member of the Congress, not only his fees will be diluted but his chances of winning are also questionable. Even all ifs and buts, the Congress was widely expected to decide whether it will accept Prashant's proposal (had at least three meetings with the Congress leadership, during which he had given detailed presentations on his plan to rejuvenate the party reeling under a series of poll debacles over the past few years) to revamp the grand old party ahead of the 2024 elections. Whatsoever, Congress is not ready to accept Kishore's dictating terms rather than deploying his skills to help the party.

Bidyut K Chatterjee, Faridabad

Unnoticed heroes

Heroes are not born but made by situations. There are many heroes who adorn each and every corner of our diverse country. Some get recognised and many go unnoticed and unpraised. Recently I came across Ajeet Singh's story who has single-handedly worked towards rescuing more than 1500 minor girls from human trafficking. He has been doing this since the early 90s but it is now after three decades that people are knowing about him and the wonderful work he has been doing all these years. It is surely a failure of the media who is more concerned about which designer wear are celebrities wearing than doing real work. It pains to see the fourth pillar of democracy running after trivial issues like which car did a certain celebrity recently bought or how much did the Prime Minister's overcoat cost. Reporting is not meant to be done only on red carpets, it has to cross muddy terrains and climb heights.

Noopur Baruah, Tezpur

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Nirant@NirantK
unpopular opinion: iPhone is really really hard to use. I've been using one for last 4-5 weeks and still don't know how to reject a call. Or do most things I could with Android. Not to mention, I missed 37 calls because I didn't know how focus modes work.



Mini@Minnie_Mehra
Landed in India in the bitterly cold month of January and ended up experiencing three seasons.. winter, summer and tonight, even monsoon! #aapda Mein Avsar !!! #Delhi #Rainstorm I'm fit to fly back home early next week!



Ashu@sentintones
Table for...





Brig V@Mahalingam
The world today is shaping to become a multipolar world. National interest & economy are going to be the prime drivers of foreign policies of countries. In that context none of maj countries would like to be dictated upon in the name of strategic partner by anyone.



Nitish@borzhypetrain
I don't feel the #Heatwave in my house. Only when I go out do I realise how hot it is. Truly feel bad for the less fortunate. Not sure how India is going to survive summer in the coming decades. As more & more industrialization happens, a lot of places will become unliveable.



Shekhar@kapur
Prime Minister @narendramodi and team deserve to be congratulated on the way they've handled the #UkraineRussiaWar, putting National interest first, and yet being so effective in their international diplomacy. So proud when India speaks to the world from a position of strength.



Sugata@sugataraju
So, in a very predictable way Prashant Kishor used media in Delhi to do a faux build up with his 600-slide solution, and finally ended up embarrassing the @INCIndia and diminishing its leadership. He set a trap and the party's top leadership walked into it in broad daylight.

BRIEF

Plans



Manila: Radisson Hotel Group plans to add 100 hotels in India by the end of 2025 as part of its ambitious plans for expansion in the Asia-Pacific region CEO Federico Gonzalez told PTI.

Turnover

New Delhi: Power products maker Microtek International on Thursday said it has recorded a turnover of Rs 1,700 crore for the financial year ended on March 31, 2022, registering a growth of 26 per cent. The home-grown firm has now set a growth target of over 50 per cent for the current financial year 2022-23, as the company is expanding its product lines in existing and new categories, a company statement said.

Users



New Delhi: Meesho has acquired over 100 million transacting users on its platform in the last one year, the company said on Thursday. CXO Utkrishna Kumar said with nearly 80 per cent of the demand coming from tier 2 plus cities, vision is to democratize e-commerce.

Buys

New Delhi: Realty firm Godrej Properties Ltd on Thursday said it has acquired a 58-acre land parcel in Nagpur to develop a residential project as part of its strategy to expand business. The company, which is part of Godrej group, did not disclose the value of this land deal. The development on this land will comprise primarily of plotted residential units, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Stake



New Delhi: IMGC on Thursday said Sagen MI Canada has agreed to acquire 31 per cent stake in the mortgage guarantee firm for an undisclosed amount.

JV

Mumbai: Fresh fruit importers IG International said it has set up a joint venture with Aatre Green - IG Aatreyas - to become the largest tunnel supplier in the tunnel system production segment. The newly formed company has set a target to reach Rs 100-crore revenue by 2024 and enter the overseas markets as well, IG International said.

Focus on tier 2, 3 cities: DPIIT Secretary to startups

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

The government has taken several steps to strengthen the startup ecosystem and startups should focus on tier 2 and 3 cities, which holds huge business opportunities, DPIIT Secretary Anurag Jain said on Thursday.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary also called upon startups to look for sustainable solutions for the problems being faced by the society at large. "We should not forget the rural markets, tier 2 and 3 cities. Rural market will grow very fast... In our solutions, we should always remember



whether my solution is sustainable or not," Jain said at CII's Global Unicorn Summit Nurturing 1000 Unicorns by 2030.

He added that India's startup ecosystem is the third largest in the world and the country is second highest in adding the number of unicorns. "Now we are adding 80 startups everyday and that pace is the highest in the world... We can hope to become the largest

startup ecosystem in the world in the times to come... More than half of the startups come from tier 2-3 cities," he added.

In a separate announcement, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) plans to empanel retired officials for conducting departmental inquiries.

According to an office memorandum, the department "proposes to prepare a panel of retired officers to be considered for appointment as inquiry officer for conducting inquiry against officers of this department as well as its attached and subordinate offices".

Rupee 4 paise higher at 76.53 against USD, bullion falls

Mumbai, Apr 28 (PTI):

The rupee pared initial losses to settle 4 paise higher at 76.53 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking positive domestic equities.

The appreciation bias in the local unit is likely to be capped in the near term amid strong American currency, inflationary concerns and fears about an aggressive pace of the US rate hikes, traders said.

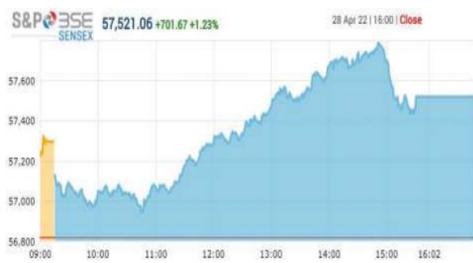
At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 76.60 against the greenback and moved in a range of 76.43 to 76.71 in the day trade. It finally closed at 76.53, registering a rise of just 4 paise over its previous close of 76.57. On Wednesday, the rupee had settled almost flat at 76.57 against the US dollar. "Rupee weakened in the first half of the session but

rose in the latter half despite broader gains in the dollar. The dollar has been rising on the expectation that the Fed could raise rates at the next week's meeting," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Inflation remains a concern for the central bank and it could continue to hold a hawkish stance.

"Major crosses Euro and Pound continued to remain under pressure against the US dollar. The focus will be on the advance GDP number from the US and weaker-than-estimated data could keep gains capped for the dollar," Somaiya said. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, surged 0.44 per cent to 103.41. Bullion prices fell on Thursday.

Markets rebound, Sensex rallies 702 pts



Mumbai, Apr 28 (PTI):

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded to close over 1 per cent higher on Thursday, propelled by buying in index majors Reliance Industries, HUL and Infosys along with an overall positive trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 701.67 points or 1.23 per cent to end at 57,521.06. During the day, it zoomed 971.46 points or 1.70 per cent to 57,790.85 on the expiry of derivatives

MINING PARTNERSHIP



World Coal Association CEO Michelle Manook with Gainwell Engineering Chairman Sunil Chaturvedi (L) during a joint press conference on their partnership for sustainable coal mining, in Kolkata, Thursday (PTI).

India among most challenging economies, says USTR

Washington, Apr 28 (PTI):

India remains one of the most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of intellectual property, the office of the US Trade Representative said in a report as it decided to retain New Delhi on the Priority Watch List.

In its 2022 Special 301 Report, the USTR designated seven countries in the Priority Watch List. These are Argentina, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Russia and Venezuela.

The review of Ukraine has been suspended due to Russia's premeditated and unprovoked invasion of the country, the USTR said. The USTR in the India section of the report said over the past year, India has remained inconsistent in its progress on

IP protection and enforcement.

While India made meaningful progress to promote IP protection and enforcement in some areas over the past year, it failed to resolve recent and long-standing challenges and it created new concerns for right holders, the report said.

"India remains one of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of IP," it said.

The report further said India's accession to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Performances and Phonograms Treaty and WIPO Copyright Treaty, collectively known as the WIPO Internet Treaties, in 2018 and the Nice Agreement in 2019 were positive steps.

India's Q1 gold demand declines 18% to 135.5 tonnes amid higher prices

Mumbai, Apr 28 (PTI):

India's gold demand declined 18 per cent to 135.5 tonnes in the first three months of this year, mainly due to a sharp rise in prices, according to the World Gold Council (WGC).

The demand stood at 165.8 tonnes in the first three months of 2021.

In terms of value, gold demand dropped 12 per cent to Rs 61,550 crore in the January-March period. It stood at Rs 69,720 crore in the year-ago period, the 'Gold Demand Trends Q1 2022' report released by the WGC said.

WGC Regional CEO, India, Somasundaram PR told PTI that gold prices began rising in January, increasing by 8 per cent to Rs 45,434 per 10 grams



(without taxes) in the first quarter of this year, mainly due to geopolitical tensions.

In comparison, the prices were at around Rs 42,045 crore in January-March 2021 period.

As per the report, total jewellery demand in the country during the latest March quarter fell 26 per cent to 94.2 tonnes. It was at 126.5 tonnes in the same

period last year.

In terms of value, jewellery demand plunged 20 per cent to Rs 42,800 crore in the first quarter of this year. The same was at Rs 53,200 crore in the year-ago period.

"After rising to record levels in the fourth quarter of 2021, India's gold jewellery demand fell by 26 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of this

year to 94 tonnes. Since 2010, barring the pandemic periods, this is only the third time the first quarter total has been below 100 tonnes," Somasundaram said.

Further, he said that fewer auspicious days coupled with a sharp rise in gold prices meant fewer weddings and a pause in retail demand, with households postponing gold buying in anticipation of a price correction.

This year, he said the overall demand for gold is likely to be around 800-850 tonnes.

Total investment demand for gold increased 5 per cent to 41.3 tonnes in the latest March quarter compared to 39.3 tonnes in the same period a year ago.

5G spectrum auction likely in early June

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

The government is likely to hold 5G spectrum auction in early June, telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Thursday.

The minister said that the Department of Telecom is working as per expected timeline and the process is on to resolve industry concerns around spectrum pricing.

Asked about the schedule of the spectrum auction, Vaishnav said that it is expected to be in early June.

Setting the stage for the rollout of 5G services, telecom regulator Trai has mooted a mega auction plan valued at over Rs 7.5 lakh crore at the base price across multiple bands for radio waves allocated over 30 years.

"We are very much as per our timeline to conduct the auction,"



Vaishnav said.

The minister said that the Digital Communications Commission will take a call on Trai recommendations and approach them for clarification.

The watchdog has recommended a mega auction plan of over Rs 7.5 lakh crore for over 1 lakh megahertz spectrum in case the government allocates it for a period of 30 years.

In case of 20 years, the total value of the proposed spectrum auction will stand at around Rs 5.07 lakh crore at the reserve price, according to the back-of-the-envelope calculation.

While Trai has reduced spectrum price by about 39 per cent compared to last price, telecom operators have said that the recommended rates are higher than global benchmarks.

Bank of Maharashtra Q4 profit more than doubles to Rs 355 cr

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra on Thursday reported an over two-fold increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 355 crore in the quarter ended March, helped by a fall in the bad loan proportions, thus requiring lesser provisioning. The Pune-based lender had posted a net profit of Rs 165.23 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income of the bank, however, was down at Rs 3,948.48 crore in the January-March quarter of 2021-22, as against Rs 4,334.98 crore in the same quarter of 2020-21, Bank of Maharashtra said in a regulatory filing. For the full year 2021-22, the bank's consolidated net profit doubled to Rs 1,151.64 crore, as against Rs 551.41

Q4 2021-22		Q4 2020-21		YoY Growth %
	2021	2022		
Income	4334.98	3948.48		-8.92
Expenditure	2793.33	2769.73		-0.84
Op Profit	1541.65	1178.75		-23.54
PBT	200.38	813.37		305.91
Net Profit	165.23	354.92		114.80
EPS (₹)	0.26	0.53		

Consolidated, Audited

crore in 2020-21. Total income was higher at Rs 15,672.17 crore during the

year, from Rs 14,497.56 crore in the previous fiscal 2020-21.

ZED certification scheme launched for MSMEs

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

Union Minister Narayan Rane on Thursday launched a sustainable certification scheme (ZED) to facilitate MSMEs to adopt 'Zero Defect Zero Effect' practices and become energy efficient while improving quality through increased compliance with manufacturing processes. MSMEs can reduce wastages substantially, increase productivity, enhance environmental consciousness, save energy, optimally use natural resources, expand their markets, etc. through the ZED certification scheme, a part of the MSME Champions scheme. "The ZED certification scheme will be beneficial towards improving quality, increasing manufacturing output and profits and controlling the



MSME minister Narayan Rane launching the MSME Sustainable (ZED) Scheme, in New Delhi on Thursday.

detrimental impact on the environment," said MSME Minister Rane at the launch. R P Singh, Secretary General, Quality Council of India highlighted that adoption of ZED certification by MSMEs will automatically lead to various types of compliances needed for MSME. Phase 1 of the scheme launched on

Thursday will focus largely on maximising inclusion of manufacturing MSMEs and taking them through the ZED journey.

The Phase 2 of the scheme will entail the inclusion of services sector MSMEs and also strive to integrate manufacturing and services sector MSMEs that are registered under a state govern-

ment system but not on Udyam. This phase will also make provisions to align ZED certification with the international certifications for its global acceptance. The scheme comprises three certification levels including bronze, silver and gold. MSMEs can apply for any certification level but would need to comply with its requirements. The 20 parameters under the scheme are mapped with existing certifications wherever applicable. The MSMEs will have to undertake a ZED pledge upon registration. MSMEs will get subsidy on the cost of ZED certification. The subsidy amount will be up to 80 per cent of the certification cost for micro enterprises, whereas for small and medium units it will be 60 per cent and 50 per cent respectively.

Kajal Pisal: Surviving hardship gives us a broader perspective



Actress Kajal Pisal, currently seen in TV show 'Sirf Tum', feels difficult times make us perfect. She says: "Going through difficult times leaves us with a lasting impression. They alter us and change the way we view our lives. We actually learn who and what matters in our life and undoubtedly we have a greater appreciation for them. Such experiences makes us more perfect in life."

The actress reveals after surviving ups and down in life. She has more gratitude towards life.

She continues: "Surviving hardship gives us a broader perspective on what hardship really is. You will look back on the things you use to complain about and be thankful they are your only worries. After we have survived a difficult time, we are given a deep gratitude for our life."

The actress feel she is lucky to have lights in her real life from her characters and situation she acts onscreen.

She adds: "Going through difficult times happens. To find the light, I make sure to have learning while acting for the tracks in our TV shows, we go through the darkness and as an actor I enjoy the opportunity to take a deep learning from my onscreen characters or tracks. And remember that the lessons I'm learning will shift my view of life offscreen too. End of the day I easily learn what matters, who matters, how strong I'm and how lucky I'm to exist." Kajal is known for featuring in shows like 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain', 'Saath Nibhaana Saathiya' and 'Naagin 5', among others.

Aamir releases first song from 'Laal Singh Chaddha'

After making the audience go gaga over his 'Kahani' with his curiosity raising videos, superstar Aamir Khan finally revealed it on Thursday.

'Kahani' is the first song to be released from his upcoming film 'Laal Singh Chaddha' where he stars opposite Kareena Kapoor Khan.

'Kahani', crooned by Mohan Kannan, has been composed by Pritam, who enjoys the solo credit for the entire album of 'Laal Singh Chaddha' with lyrics penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya. The song encapsulates the movie and in essence introduces the audiences to the film.

Interestingly, in a game changing move, Aamir Khan has chosen to not release the video of the song, but instead only the audio



so that the audiences' attention is diverted to the actual hero of the music - the music itself and the team that put these pieces together. The actor-producer decided to put the musicians and the music of the film centre stage.

Talking about the same, Aamir said, "I truly believe that the songs in 'Laal Singh Chaddha' are the soul of the film and this album has some of my career's best songs. It was a very intentional decision to put Pritam, Amitabh, the singers and technicians in the spotlight be-

cause not only do they deserve to be centre stage but also the music deserves its due credit. I can't wait to see how audiences react to the music that the team has poured their heart and soul into."

Commenting on the occasion, Pritam added, "Aamir Khan is a hero both onscreen and off it. He understands that music needs to be under the spotlight at times and has allowed it to take centre stage in his films. It's the most fantastic and satisfying experience working with him on his films."

Mohan Mannan, the singer of 'Kahani' shared an interesting anecdote with regards to the song, he said, "Kahani", or the 'feather song' as it's referred to internally, is a beautiful composition by Pritam and is written by

incomparable Amitabh Bhattacharya and as soon as I entered Pritam's studio to sing it, everyone told me just how excited they were about this song and the way it had turned out."

He added that he is "super glad" to have lent his voice to the song and naturally "can't wait for everyone to listen to it too."

Lyricist Amitabh Bhattacharya, who is known for doling out hits such as, 'Channa Mereya', 'Kalank', 'Saavre', 'Haanikarak Babu' and many more, said, "I have tried my best to encapsulate the soul of the film through the lyrics of this song. It was a beautiful experience and I am so happy that the release of this song is going to be a novel experience for all of us."

Mannu and Gargi confess their feelings for each other



Love has blossomed for Mannu (Mohit Kumar) and Gargi (Kangan Baruah) in Sony SAB's Sab Satrangi, with both finally confessing their feelings to each other. As Mannu comes back from the dead miraculously, Gargi welcomes him home with open arms and hands him a letter with her confession. Mannu is on cloud nine to know that Gargi also reciprocates his feelings. After a lot of trials and turmoil, the duo has finally got a chance to express their emotions truly.

Meanwhile, the Jai Mata Di tent house gets a new contract for a wedding, in Mannu's absence. While Roshan takes care of the arrangements, he requests Mannu and Gargi to take a final look. Gargi asks Mannu to rest it out while she goes alone to run a check. But



Mannu arrives at the venue eventually and both of them take pheras again, promising to take care of each other and stick together through thick and thin.

Mohit Kumar essaying the role of Mannu in Sony SAB's Sab Satrangi said, "Mannu is overjoyed that his love story is finally becoming a reality after such a long wait. When he entered the house, he had no idea that Gargi had got something

planned for him. Till that situation, they had only shared a few romantic moments, so Mannu didn't know what to expect. But Gargi's confession and statement that she wants to give this marriage a chance uplifts his spirits. Gargi is Mannu's first love and he takes the pheras with her again to strengthen the promise of love and togetherness."

Stay Tuned to Sab Satrangi, Mon-Sat, 7:30 PM only on Sony SAB!

Aayush Sharma joins cast of 'Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali'

Bollywood actor Aayush Sharma has been roped to star in the family drama 'Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali' where he will play a pivotal role as one of the on-screen brothers of the lead protagonist of the film essayed by superstar Salman Khan.

Confirming the news, Aayush said, "Yes, I am a part of the film and I'm looking forward to experimenting with my cinematic aptitude with this project. From a romantic drama to an action film and now a family drama, I'm grateful with how my innings in the film industry have panned out." The film, which holds a cross-cultural love story at its heart, will also offer a healthy dose of comedy, romance and action. The film will be helmed by Farhad Samji, who also directed the Akshay Kumar, Kriti Sanon and Arshad Warsi-starrer 'Bachchan Paandey'. Aayush further said, "I've never wanted to limit my creative aesthetics within one genre and my creative aptitude has al-

ways been a reflection of versatility and diversity. Going forward I'd love to explore newer genres and newer formats that leverage my innate authenticity and passion for the performing arts."

Speaking about how this film will mark his second film opposite Salman Khan and third film under the Salman Khan Films banner he expands, "I am extremely grateful and humbled. This will be my second film opposite bhai and never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd earn the rare opportunity to feature alongside him in two consecutive projects." "From my perspective, I see it as a blessing because I get to hone my craft in the presence of one of the cinematic legends of the country. It has been a great learning curve for me and there are so many avenues that I need to conquer", he added.

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'I am glad to play a character with multiple layers

Sony Entertainment Television's slice of life drama 'Kaamna - jahan hoga khwaahish aur usoolon ka aamna saamna' starring Abhishek Rawat, Chandni Sharma and Manav Gohil sheds light on the clash between principles and desires through the heartfelt journey of a middle class couple Manav and Akanksha with different ideologies. During the course of the show, viewers have witnessed how Yatharth starts to distance himself from Akanksha as she leaves him and his father for Vaibhav Kapoor. On noticing Yatharth's behaviour, Akanksha gets upset and takes it upon herself to win him back even if it means going the extreme way. On the other hand, a furious Manav warns Akanksha to stay away from his child; this



really hurts her ego and she decides to take this matter to court. With Yatharth's custody battle, the drama has surely intensified making it intriguing for the viewers to find out who will finally win Yatharth's custody. Actress Chandni Sharma who essays the character of Akanksha has been receiving praises for her exceptional acting skills and character graph in the show. Shedding light on her character transformation, she said, "Playing Akanksha has been one of the challenging experience because her character has seen a drastic transformation right from the start of the show. She is not a negative character rather she is just a women with big dreams and is carried away by the worldly pleasures of life which makes her do things without thinking about the repercussion that comes along with it."

HOROSCOPE FRIDAY APRIL 29

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

A contract of some kind, perhaps involving the home, might need some careful consideration today, Aquarius. You could find it a little difficult to understand, as it could be full of fine print and legalese. Don't be afraid to ask someone with a little more savvy to explain what you're trying to read.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You might pick up some rather disturbing thoughts from a friend, neighbor, or relative, Pisces. This person could be upset over something and not communicating his or her feelings. It isn't appropriate to try to coax this person into sharing with you now. They aren't upset with you, but they might be if you push!

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

A sudden desire to expand your horizons could have you and possibly a romantic partner considering returning to school, Aries, perhaps for an advanced degree. The school you're considering, however, might be located in another state or even a foreign country.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Today you might find yourself the center of attention, Taurus. Friends could ask for some information they know you have. It might involve telling a story or giving practical advice. Whatever it is, you might find it difficult to explain without going into some pretty heavy detail.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Today you might take up some sort of occult study, such as astrology, numerology, or alchemy that seems like Greek to you at first, Gemini. As a result, you could be tempted to abandon it. Don't! Once you get past the jargon, you'll probably find it fascinating.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

A friend might be in such a dour mood that you wonder if this is the same person you know and love, Cancer. During the day you might be tempted to try to analyze what's going on, but this is apt to raise more questions than answers. Probably this is a case of too many problems hitting your friend at once.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

A friend or romantic partner might need your advice, Leo, and want to discuss a few things that you don't really understand. This could concern this person's job, which involves a lot of technicalities with which you're unfamiliar. Don't be afraid to stop occasionally and ask for an explanation.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Today you might read a book on exercise or nutrition that seems a bit unsettling, Virgo. According to the book, you're doing everything wrong! Remember that what the author is probably outlining is a certain practice that worked for him or her. Everyone is different. Don't change your habits for practices that don't feel right.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Memories and emotions welling up from the past might excite your creative impulses today, Libra. You may not quite be able to understand what all of this means, but the pictures should keep coming to you nonetheless. It might be a good idea to take some notes, even though you might not comprehend all you write.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

A subject you're researching, perhaps for a class or workshop, might prove more difficult than you expected, Scorpio. The resources you consult might be very scholarly and thus difficult to read. If you can't find anything comprehensible, try to rent or buy a video on the subject. It's more important to understand the material than force yourself to approach it in the accepted scholarly manner.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

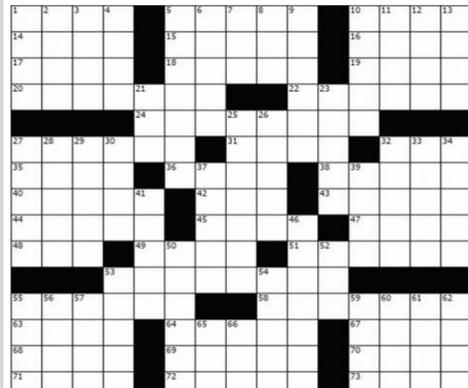
A neighbor or relative might volunteer to help you with some chores around the house, Sagittarius, but you could sense that his or her heart isn't in it. This person is probably thinking about things and just needs some kind words and a little advice. Just accept that even though you have help, you'll probably end up doing most of the work yourself.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Paperwork involving money could be a real drag for you today, Capricorn. You'll have to get it done, but you'd rather be elsewhere. It might also seem a little confusing. If you get to it early and concentrate, you should finish it quickly and then get on to what you want to do. After a morning of intense, tedious work, you'll probably be ready for some entertainment like a movie or sports event.

CROSSWORD

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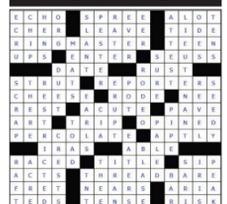


ACROSS

- Passed effortlessly
- Graded
- Big Dipper component
- Lose brightness
- In flames
- Cab
- Largest continent
- Ship's rear
- Actor _____ Guinness
- Go back over
- Winter eave hanger
- Cheese variety
- Hanging ornament
- Fired
- Metered vehicle
- Singing voice
- Calcutta dress
- Thrill
- Explosion
- Building addition
- Fortuneteller's card
- Work

- Soak through
- Popcorn seasoning
- Printers' measures
- Wrinkle remover
- Baby's toy
- Intensified
- Toronto's country
- Perform surgery
- Depart
- Beijing's country
- Like summertime tea
- Model _____ Macpherson
- Singing voice
- Metallic sound
- Kernel
- _____ of humor
- Whirlpool
- Dinette piece
- Edgar _____ Poe
- Pierces
- Middling (hyph.)
- Diamond weight
- Lagoon's boundary
- Midler or Davis
- Fable writer
- Endure
- Attempted
- Get ready
- Responds
- Summer cooler
- Out of style
- Forbidden items (hyph.)
- Average grades
- Wheel shaft
- African river
- Ready to eat
- Vineyard
- Watch over
- Tense
- Giggles sound
- Roadhouse

SOLUTION 283



Stokes appointed as captain of England's Test cricket team



London, Apr 28 (API):

Ben Stokes was appointed as captain of England's Test cricket team on Thursday.

The all-rounder replaced Joe Root, who quit the role two weeks ago with England having only won one of its last 17 Test matches.

Stokes has just returned to the team after a spell out for mental health reasons.

It is the first big deci-

sion by Rob Key, the former England batsman who was recently hired as managing director of men's cricket in England. "He epitomizes the mentality and approach we want to take this team forward into the next era of red-ball cricket," Key said.

"I am delighted that he has accepted, and he is ready for the added responsibility and the honour. He thoroughly deserves the opportunity."

Sindhu, Satwik-Chirag enter BAC quarterfinals; Srikanth, Saina out

Manila, Apr 28 (PTI):

Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu notched up a straight game win over lowly-ranked Yue Yann Jaslyn Hooi of Singapore in women's singles competition to advance to the quarterfinals of Badminton Asia Championships here on Thursday.

The Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also made it to the quarterfinals but it was curtains for London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal and world championships silver winner Kidambi Srikanth.

Sindhu, seeded fourth, who had claimed a bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition, defeated Jaslyn Hooi, ranked 100th, 21-16 21-16 in 42 minutes to set up a clash against third seed Chinese He Bing Jiao, whom she had beaten for a bronze at the Tokyo Olympics.

World number 7 Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, has a 7-9 head-to-head record against Bing Jiao, whom she has beaten twice in the last two meetings.

The third seeded mixed doubles duo of Satwik and



Chirag too produced a fine performance to sail into the last-eight round with a 21-17 21-15 win over Japan's Akira Koga and Taichi Saito. The world number 7 Indian pairing will next face either fifth seeded Malaysian combination of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik or Singaporean duo of Danny Bawa Chrisnanta and Jun Liang Andy Kwek.

However, Saina's dream of claiming her fourth medal in the prestigious tournament ended after she ran out of steam to eventually lose 21-12 7-21 13-21 to 22-year-old Chinese Wang Zhi Yi, ranked 16th in the

world. Saina is on a comeback trail after recovering from some nagging injuries and had skipped the selection trials for the upcoming major events such as Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Uber Cup.

Srikanth, seeded seventh, too couldn't step up his game when it mattered, going down narrowly to China's Weng Hong Yang 16-21 21-17 17-21 in a men's singles second round match that lasted an hour and 17 minutes. Earlier, despite the huge difference in their rank-

ings, it was a tight battle for supremacy between Sindhu and Jaslyn Hooi.

At one stage, the Indian was two-point behind at 7-9 against her opponent, who managed to take a slender 11-10 lead at the interval but Sindhu stepped up and levelled 16-16 before pocketing the opening game.

The Indian managed to move to a 12-8 advantage in the second game after an initial fight following a change of sides.

The Singaporean erased the deficit, coming as close as 15-16, before Sindhu once again stepped on the gas to pocket the match.

Liverpool overwhelms Villarreal 2-0, on course for CL final



Liverpool's Egyptian midfielder Mohamed Salah (C) fights for the ball with Villarreal's French midfielder Etienne Capoue (L) and Villarreal's Spanish midfielder Manuel Trigueros during the UEFA Champions League semi-final first leg football match between Liverpool and Villarreal, at the Anfield Stadium, in Liverpool.

Liverpool, Apr 28 (API):

Liverpool looks like being one European giant too many for Villarreal. Wins in the Champions League semifinals are rarely as routine as Liverpool's 2-0 first-leg victory on Wednesday over the Spanish underdog, which appears to have finally come unstuck on a fairytale run that has already accounted for European football royalty in Juventus and Bayern Munich. Liverpool, still on course for an unprecedented quadruple of

major trophies, proved to be a bigger test. The six-time European champions slowly dismantled the limited challenge of Villarreal on another night when they were swept along by the power of Anfield.

The goals came early in the second half and within 133 seconds of each other as Villarreal left back Pervis Estupinan unwittingly deflected a cross by Jordan Henderson into his own net in the 53rd minute, with goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli only managing to tip a looping ball into his own net.

Punjab Kings aim to stifle in-form KL Rahul in IPL game against Lucknow Super Giants

Pune, Apr 28 (PTI):

Punjab Kings would be keen to put brakes on Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul's rollicking batting form and notch up a win when the two sides clash in an IPL game here on Friday.

Lucknow are currently in fourth spot, having five wins and three losses from eight games, while Punjab are at sixth, with four wins and as many losses.

Lucknow beat Mumbai Indians by 36 runs in their last game, while Punjab come into the game after defeating Chennai Super Kings by 11 runs.

Rahul has been in sublime form at the top of order and has already hit two hundreds -- both against Mumbai Indians -- and a fifty-plus score this season.



With 368 runs, he is the second highest run-getter so far this season, just behind Rajasthan Royals' Jos Buttler and has been the batting mainstay for his team.

Punjab's balanced bowling attack, led by South African pacer Kasigo Rabada, would be keen to put the brakes on the stylish right-handed batter.

Rabada and the likes of Arshdeep Singh, who has been impressive in death overs, Sandeep Sharma, Rishi Dhawan and Rahul Chahar, would need to pose serious questions to Rahul at the MCA stadium, which has witnessed high-scoring thrillers.

Leg-spinner Chahar is the leading wicket taker for Punjab with 10 scalps but he would need to step up even more to help his team's cause.

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

Describing Sunrisers Hyderabad fast bowler Umran Malik as a "gem", New Zealand bowling great Daniel Vettori says the youngster's raw pace generates anxiety among batters and brings an "X-factor" to the game.

Vettori, a former New Zealand captain and leg-spin great, said Malik was a "rare" talent emerging after the end of era of Brett Lee, Shoaib Akhtar and Shaun Tait.

"That pace generates anxiety among batters and not just tailenders, it's all batters," Vettori told ESPNcricinfo's T20 Time Out show.

"We don't often see bowlers get around 153-154 mark. That's exceptional pace, that's a rarity that we



haven't seen I suppose consistently since the likes of (Brett) Lee, Shoaib Akhtar or Shaun Tait. "So to see that is a huge part of the game now. You can see the excitement factor, brings a bit of X-factor." The 22-year-old Jammu and Kashmir player's maiden five-for dismantled Gujarat Titans' batting line-up in SRH's IPL game before Rahul Tewatia and Rashid Khan pulled off a heist by hitting four sixes in the final over to win the match by five wickets.

Vettori said the BCCI should quickly step in and manage Malik's workload to safeguard his unique talent. "This is a gem here and it's just how it's looked after in the next couple of years for Indian cricket and how to get the best out of him.

I had self belief in my batting, I've been working on it in last two years: Rashid

Mumbai, Apr 28 (PTI):

Hitting three sixes in four balls, including the match-winning maximum from the final delivery, is a stupendous achievement for any batter but Afghan star Rashid Khan says he has the self-belief to execute such performances after working on his batting in the last two years.

Rashid (31 off just 11 balls), known more for his match-winning leg-spin bowling, pulled off a heist as he struck three sixes from four balls, bowled by pacer Marco Jansen, to hand Gujarat Titans a thrilling five-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad on Wednesday night.

His partner Rahul Tewatia (40 not out off 21 balls) had hit a six from the first ball and ran a single after the Titans needed 22 runs from the final over while chasing a stiff 196 for a win.

"The feeling is good...you just have it in mind to go out there and have the self-belief, keep my shape strong and hit it," Rashid said after his batting heroics.

"I was happy to do it against them (former club Sunrisers Hyderabad), but I was just trying to play my game and have the belief in my batting which I've been working on the last two years."



that belief, anything is possible. Just stay there, keep your shape and hit it strong. So that was our plan and luckily we had those four sixes."

Tewatia also echoed Rashid's sentiments and said his earlier experience of finishing matches helped him in such situations.

"We needed 22 runs from last over. Rashid bhai said it was chaseable. I told him we can take the match closer (to a win) if I can hit six from the first ball. I said I will go all out for a six and let's see what happens," Tewatia said at the post-match press conference.

"I batted at same order for my domestic team (Haryana) and I have played in such situations a few times. When I got this role in IPL two years back, I did a lot of practice for these kind of situations for my Haryana team as well as for IPL, especially for death overs.

"If you need 40 to 50 runs in the last four-five overs, you need to choose the deliveries of the bowler (to hit)."

Asked why he ran for a single from the second ball of the last delivery, Tewatia said, "Rashid bhai bats very well and he had finished matches earlier and had won matches (with the bat) for us.

Osaka wants go easy on herself entering clay season

Madrid, Apr 28 (API):

Former No. 1 Naomi Osaka enters the clay-court season with the goal of not being too hard on herself.

Osaka made the final in Miami last month and will be playing as a wild-card entry when the Madrid Open begins on Thursday. "I'm trying to embrace my mistakes compared to the previous years as well, so I'm not that hard on myself, she said Wednesday.

If I make a mistake or if I don't move up to the ball fast enough because I find on clay you actually have to move much more but if I do stuff like that I just tell myself not to be mad."

Osaka withdrew from the French Open last year and took a break from competition after saying she suffered long bouts of depression and experienced huge waves of anxiety before speaking to the media.

The four-time Grand Slam champion has openly talked about working on her mental health since winning the 2018 U.S. Open over Serena Williams. She left last year's U.S. Open in tears and was brought to tears again by a comment from a spectator at Indian Wells earlier this year.

I'm still a student so I should try to keep learning, she said ahead of her



debut in Madrid. Osaka said she hoped to learn from some of the clay-court specialists who are playing in Madrid, including Rafael Nadal and the red-hot Carlos Alcaraz.

Honestly, I've been wanting to watch the really good clay-court players practice because I feel like I'm the type of person that learns really fast if I see it up close, and honestly it's a bit of a waste to have all these really good professional tennis players and not watch them," the 24-year-old Japanese player said. "I've kind of wanted to see Alcaraz, so it'd be cool to watch everyone practice.

Osaka said she stole one of the things that Nadal did and was practicing it, without elaborating.

India to open Asia Cup men's hockey campaign against Pakistan on May 23

Jakarta, Apr 28 (PTI):

Defending champions India will open its campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan in the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament to be played here from May 23 to June 1. India and Pakistan will face each other in the last match of the opening day of the tournament.

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist India is placed in a tough Pool A alongside Japan, Pakistan and hosts Indonesia, while Pool B consists of Malaysia, Korea, Oman and Bangladesh. After Pakistan, India will play Japan on May 24 followed by final pool game against Indonesia on May 26. The tournament will be played in a Super4s pool format with top two teams from each pool progressing to the next stage. The final of the tournament will be played on June 1. India and Pakistan have won the Asia Cup three times each, while South Korea is the most successful team with four titles. India's titles came in 2003 in Kuala Lumpur; in 2007 in Chennai and in 2017 in Dhaka.

We are quite practical as well and talk about winning right situations: Hardik

Mumbai, Apr 28 (PTI):

Gujarat Titans skipper Hardik Pandya said there is a lot of self-belief in his players and they always talk about winning the "right situations", which was evident in their victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in a thrilling IPL match here on Wednesday.

Needing 56 in the last four overs and 22 off the final six balls, the Titans rode on Rahul Tewatia (40 not out off 21 balls) and Rashid Khan's (31 not out off 11) incredible power-hitting to end on the winning side.

This was after SRH pace sensation Umran Malik (5/25) had the Titans tottering at 140 for five in the 16th over in a stiff chase of 196. Asked at the presentation ceremony about Rahul and Rashid's onslaught, Pandya said, "We are quite practical as well and talk about winning the right situations. We always back them because they have a lot of self belief. "We have intentionally tried to make sure that the dugout or in the dressing room to keep the atmosphere calm because it helps the players play their best game. A lot of credit goes to the support staff." In a lighter vein, the



GT skipper said that he keeps telling his players that "God is helping" them out. "I keep joking in the dressing room that God is telling us 'You guys are good, I'll help you'. It's happening so often that I fear we may run out of luck in the knockout games." Pandya thanked the team's support staff for the performance in its maiden season in IPL.

INDIA ART FAIR



Visitors look at an art installation during the inaugural day of India Art Fair, in New Delhi, Thursday.

CBSE tells board exam centres

'Make proper arrangements in view of COVID situation, heatwave'

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Thursday issued directions to the board examination centres to make proper arrangements in the wake of the current Covid situation and the heatwave. The CBSE Class 10 and 12 board exams for the second term began on Tuesday in the country and abroad after two years of pandemic-induced disruptions.

"The board has paid Rs 5,000 fixed and Rs 5 per candidate per day for making proper arrangements to

avoid spread of COVID, it is requested that full proof arrangements may be made at the examination centre and COVID protocols may be followed strictly as given in the guidelines for centre superintendents and as instructed by the concerned state government," CBSE Exam Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said in a letter to superintendents of examination centres.

"The CBSE has also decided to pay Rs 2 per candidate per day for making available potable water, hence proper arrangements for drinking water may be made at the examination centre. Your per-

sonal intervention for making arrangements in the matter and otherwise will help in maintaining the better health index of the students and staff," he added. In the ongoing board exams, the number of students permitted in each classroom has been capped at 18 and schools have been asked to provide separate rooms to students suffering from COVID-19.

"CBSE has made elaborate arrangements for the conduct of examinations in India and 26 countries. Since the exams are being conducted after Covid, the board has made all arrangements for its smooth conduct. Because

of Covid, these examinations are being conducted in April, May and June 2022," Bhardwaj said. The Class 10 board exams are being conducted at 7,406 centres while the Class 12 board exams are being held at 6,720 exam centres.

Large swathes of India are reeling under a punishing heatwave, with temperatures nearing the 45-degree mark at several places in the national capital. The heatwave is predicted to turn deadlier in the coming days. India on Thursday reported 3,303 fresh COVID-19 cases and 39 fatalities. The daily cases crossed the 3,000 mark after 46 days.

Shah Faesal rejoins govt service

Says life has given him another chance

Srinagar, Apr 28 (PTI):

Former IAS officer Shah Faesal, who had quit the government service in 2019 citing rising intolerance in the country and to float a political party, has rejoined the service, officials said on Thursday.

They said Faesal's resignation had not been accepted. Faesal's services have been kept at the disposal of the J-K's general administration department, the officials said, adding he is awaiting the orders of posting. Faesal, who was the first UPSC topper from Jammu and Kashmir, had on Wednesday dropped hints about his return to the government service.

In a series of tweets, he spoke about his idealism letting him down in 2019 when he resigned from the government service to



Shah Faesal

join politics. "8 months of my life (Jan 2019-Aug 2019) created so much baggage that I was almost finished. While chasing a chimera, I lost almost everything that I had built over the years. Job. Friends. Reputation. Public goodwill. But I never lost hope. My idealism had let me down," he said.

"But I had faith in myself. That I would undo the mistakes I had made. That

life would give me another chance. A part of me is exhausted with the memory of those 8 months and wants to erase that legacy. Much of it is already gone. Time will mop off the rest in believe," he added.

Though Faesal did not spell out what he meant by "another chance", speculation has been rife here over the past one year that he might return to the government service either as an IAS officer or in some advisory role to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Just thought of sharing that life is beautiful. It is always worth giving ourselves another chance. Setbacks make us stronger. And there is an amazing world beyond the shadows of the past. I turn 39 next month. And I'm really excited to start all over again," he tweeted.

CU ranks first among central and state varsities

● Mamata expresses happiness

Kolkata, Apr 28 (PTI): Calcutta University has been ranked first among all the central and state-aided public universities in the country by THE Impact Rankings 2022 and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday expressed her happiness over it. She shared the news of it being ranked 14th globally in the 'Decent Work and Economic Growth' sub-category and congratulated the authorities, faculty and students of the 165-year-old university for the feat. Glad to learn that Calcutta University has been ranked 1st in India among all central and state aided public universities and institutes by Times Higher Education Impact Ranking 2022, Banerjee tweeted.

'Don't want to become President, rather be PM'

Lucknow, Apr 28 (PTI):

BSP supremo Mayawati on Thursday trashed SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's remark suggesting that the BJP could make her the President, saying she would prefer becoming the country's prime minister someday to realise her goals for the downtrodden.

Reacting to the dig at her on Wednesday, Mayawati said she never aspired to being the President and the Samajwadi Party leader was dreaming about it only to clear his own path to become the Uttar Pradesh chief minister.

"I can only dream of becoming the chief minister of UP and the prime minister of the country in the

days to come but can never dream of becoming the President," the Bahujan Samaj Party leader, who has been chief minister four times, told reporters.

"I have not spent my life in comfort and have struggled to work on the path shown by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram to ensure that their followers and the downtrodden stand on their feet. All know that this work can be done not by becoming the President



Mayawati

but by becoming the CM of UP and the PM of the country," she said.

In Mainpuri on Wednesday, Yadav said the BSP transferred its votes to the BJP in the recent Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls. Now it will be interesting to see whether the BJP makes Mayawati the President or not in return, he added.

"The reality is that the SP is dreaming of making me the president in order to clear the path (for Akhilesh Yadav) to become the CM of UP, which is not possible," Mayawati has now responded. "Despite striking alliances with different parties, the SP has not been able to form the government," she said.

Muslims and the poor from the upper castes join forces with the BSP, not only can they make its leader the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh again but also the prime minister in the time to come.

The SP dreaming of making her the President

IRCTC launches low-cost 'religious tour package'

From Lucknow to Nepal

Lucknow, Apr 28 (PTI):

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched an international religious tour package from Lucknow to Nepal by air at a moderate cost for this summer, an official said on Thursday. The six-day-five-night package will start from June 19 and end on June 24. IRCTC Chief Regional Manager (Lucknow) Ajit Kumar Sinha said as part of the programme, people will fly from the Amausi airport here to Kathmandu. In Nepal, they would be taken to the Pashupatinath temple, the Boudhanath Stupa, the Durbar Square and different locations in Pokhara.

CHOPPER SCAM

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to former defence secretary Shashi Kant Sharma in a case related to the Agusta Westland chopper scam.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar grants relief to Sharma on a personal bond of Rs two lakh, with one surety in the like amount, after he appeared before the court in pursuance of the summons issued against him earlier.

The court noted the submission of CBI counsel who said that the agency

had no objection if the accused was granted bail.

The advocates appearing for Sharma told the court that he was innocent and was falsely implicated in the case.

The court had on April 11 summoned Sharma, while taking cognisance of a charge sheet filed by the CBI, after the agency submitted that the sanction to prosecute him had been granted by the authorities concerned.

The charge sheet also named retired Indian Air Force (IAF) officers Jasbir Singh Panesa, N Santosh, S A Kunte, and Thomas Mathew, but the CBI said the requisite sanction to

prosecute them is yet to be procured from the authorities concerned. The first charge sheet in the case was filed in September 2017 naming former IAF chief SP Tyagi and others.

The agency had earlier told the court that during the course of the investigation, copies of classified/secret official documents of Indian Air Force (IAF)/Ministry of Defence (MoD) such as Operational Requirements for VVIP helicopters before issuance of Request of Proposal and other incriminating documents running into more than one lakh pages received from Italy and Switzerland.

EID SHOPPING



Women shop ahead of the upcoming Eid-al-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, at a market in Srinagar, Thursday.

Kamal Nath resigns as Leader of Oppn

To continue as MPCC chief

Bhopal, Apr 28 (PTI):

Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Thursday tendered his resignation as the Leader of Opposition in Madhya Pradesh Assembly, but will continue as the MPCC president, party sources said. Nath resigned from the post as per the party's 'one person-one post' policy.

The Congress leadership accepted his resignation and approved the appointment of former minister and seven-time Congress MLA Dr Govind Singh in his place as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP), they said.

In a communication addressed to Nath on Thursday, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K C Venugopal said, "The Congress president has accepted your resignation from the post of Leader, Congress Legislature Party (CLP), Madhya Pradesh with immediate effect."

Nath had offered to resign from the post as part of the Congress's 'one person-one post' formula, the sources said. The communication further said, "The Congress president has approved the proposal to appoint Dr Govind Singh as the CLP leader."

Need to prepare for 'short swift wars': IAF Chief

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTI):

The current geopolitical situation necessitates the Indian Air Force to prepare for "short swift wars and long drawn standoffs" akin to the situation in eastern Ladakh, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said on Thursday. Addressing a seminar, he also called for focusing on operational logistics to deal with various security challenges and quoted famous military strategist Sun Tzu as saying very aptly that "the line between disorder and order lies in logistics."

"In the force, space and time continuum, there would be a need for us to prepare for short swift

wars as well as be ready for a long drawn standoff akin to what we are seeing in eastern Ladakh," he said. India and China have been locked in a bitter faceoff at certain friction points in eastern Ladakh for nearly two years though the two sides carried out disengagement of troops from a number of areas following a series of military and diplomatic talks.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the recent experiences of the Indian Air Force (IAF) as well as evolving geopolitical scenario mandates it to be operationally and logistically responsive at all times.

"The current geopolitical situation necessitates the Indian Air Force to

prepare for intense and small duration operations at a short notice. This new paradigm of high-intensity operations, coupled with minimal build-up time would require major changes in terms of operational logistics," he said.

Though he did not specifically elaborate on the geopolitical situation, the comments are seen as a reference to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its possible implications.

The IAF Chief said logistics support in such a scenario would be ex-

tremely challenging considering the fact that the force has a fairly vast and diversified inventory. He said there will be a need to cater for "resources bridging" and transportation for such contingencies.

"A focused action plan needs to be developed for indigenisation of all critical components in order to achieve the nation's mandate of 'Atma-Nirbharta' (self-reliance)," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said logistics have been identified as a

critical tool for the nation's economic progress and one of the key drivers for ease of doing business and making Indian supply chains globally competitive. He also noted that there would be a need to cater for resource bridging and transportation to deal with contingencies.

"Only a commander who understands logistics can push the military machine to the limits without risking a total breakdown," the IAF Chief said.

Therefore, logistics of tomorrow must possess a scientific and analytical mindset in order to resolve complex problems of aerospace power sustenance and this edifice can only be built through a focus on training, he added.

He also pitched for formalising an "integrated road and rail management plan and exploring the feasibility of increased containerisation and use of civilian wide-bodied aircraft."

Highlighting various aspects of military preparedness, the IAF Chief observed that the way forward would be to have a serviceability-linked inventory management system.

"To address issues like availability of spares, I feel we need to re-evaluate demand forecasting methods and stocking philosophies. The way forward will be to have a serviceability-linked inventory management system," he said.



VR Chaudhari

BRIEF



A boy takes a dip in a canal on a hot summer day, on the outskirts of Amritsar, Thursday.

Bais arriving on 30th

Raipur: Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais is arriving in state capital from Ranchi on April 30 as part of his two day visit. He will be taking part in different programmes and leave for Ranchi on May 02 morning.

Suspended

Hazaribag: Five policemen have been suspended on charges of dereliction of duty in connection with the custodial death of a member of a banned Naxalite outfit inside a police station in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district, a senior police officer said.

Acid attack

Bengaluru: A 24-year-old woman sustained serious burns when a jilted lover allegedly threw acid on her on Thursday after she rejected his marriage proposal. According to police, the incident happened in a finance company where she worked. The woman was climbing the stairs when 27-year-old Nagesh, a garment factory worker, threw acid on her. She sustained burns in the face, neck, hands and head.

Improving

Lucknow: The health condition of Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, the president of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, undergoing treatment for a urinary tract infection in a hospital here, has improved. The 84-year-old Mahant was admitted to Medanta Hospital in Lucknow on Sunday afternoon following complaints of urinary tract infection and a serious kidney problem.

Weather
High 43 Low 28

MARKET
NIFTY 17,245.05
SENSEX 57,521.06

BULLION
GOLD 51,159
SILVER 63,789

'Govt committed to boost health infra'

To provide best treatment to people'

Dibrugarh, Apr 28 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the government is committed to strengthen the health infrastructure to provide the best and the cheapest treatment to the ailing people, particularly those suffering from cancer.



Addressing a rally at Dibrugarh in Assam after inaugurating seven cancer care centres and laying the foundation stone for seven others across the state, Modi said that he does not want anyone to fall ill but if they do, we have built hospitals for them to get the best treatment without any financial burden.

There was a time when setting up one hospital in seven years was a big achievement but times have changed and seven cancer hospitals were inaugurated on a single day while three more will be ready in the next few months, he said.

I pray for the good health of all and do not want anybody to go there. If hospitals are empty, I will be happy, Modi said. Cancer is detected in large numbers not only in Assam but the entire North East and the worst affected are the poor and the middle class. Earlier, people had to go outside the state for treatment and this resulted in a huge financial burden for them, he said.

Man gets life imprisonment till death for raping disabled woman

Rajnandgaon, Apr 28:

A fast-track court (FTC) has sentenced a man to life imprisonment till natural death for raping a 25-year-old disabled woman in Rajnandgaon district. Additional district and sessions judge (FTC) Rajnandgaon Abhishek Sharma on Wednesday found Bisan Lal Salame (56) guilty of rape and sentenced him to life imprisonment till natural death and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on him.

About the case
Additional district and sessions judge (FTC) Rajnandgaon Abhishek Sharma on Wednesday found Bisan Lal Salame (56) guilty of rape and sentenced him to life imprisonment till natural death and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on him. According to the prosecution, the incident took place two and half years ago, when the accused entered the victim's house when she was alone and raped her.

Heatwave, coal shortage fuel blackouts across states

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTD):

A potent combination of sweltering summer and acute coal shortages have triggered blackouts across many parts of the country as states struggle to manage record demand for electricity and low feedstock at power plants. From Jammu and Kashmir to Andhra Pradesh, consumers are facing power cuts ranging from 2 hours to 8 hours. Factories are the worst hit as the industrial sector is the first port of call for regulating electricity supplies.

The total electricity shortage in the country has hit 623 million units, surpassing the total shortage in March. At the heart of the crisis are low inventories of coal -- the fossil fuel that produces 70 per cent of India's electricity. While the government insists that there is enough coal available to meet the demand, the reduced availability of railway rakes to transport coal has led to coal inventories being at the lowest pre-summer levels in at least nine years. Also, with international energy prices shooting up following the war in Ukraine, coal imports have dipped. Besides measures to increase coal supplies to power plants, the Union government has asked states to step up coal

imports for the next three years to build up inventories. Thermal plants across the country are grappling with coal shortages, indicating a looming power crisis in the country. All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) said. Peak power demand met or the highest supply in a day was 200.65 GW on April 27 while peak power shortage was 10.29 GW. Latest data showed that 147 non-pit head plants with total capacity of over 163 GW monitored by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) had 25 per cent of the normative coal stocks on April 26. These plants had 14,172 thousand tonnes of coal against the norm of 57,033 thousand tonnes.

Yeh cheez badi hai Musk, Musk!

Amul Share it, don't have it Elon!

Railway signs pact with C-DOT

For modernisation of telecommunication facilities

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTD):

The Ministry of Railways has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) for modernisation of telecommunication facilities related to operations and safety, the ministry said in a statement on Thursday. The agreement is aimed at establishing a collaborative working partnership between the ministry and C-DOT for coordination and resource sharing. C-DOT and the ministry will work together for modernisation of telecommunication in the national transporter for public

safety and security services using LTE-R, which is a next-gen communications network dedicated for railway services, enabling high-speed wireless voice and data communications inside trains, from train to the ground and from train to train, it said. It would also help the railways follow world standards in line with 'Make in India' policy, it said. "The synergy between C-DOT and the Ministry of Railways will help in providing indigenous affordable telecom equipment and services for train operation, public safety and security applications by lowering the total cost of ownership, boost the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India and help in bridging the digital divide in the country, the ministry said.

Eye on 2023 polls, Nadda holds meetings with MP, Chh'garh leaders

New Delhi, Apr 28 (PTD):

Eye on the 2023 assembly polls, BJP president J P Nadda on Thursday held meetings with the party's senior leaders from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to tone up its organisational machinery in the two states where it had suffered defeat in the 2018 elections. Coordination between the state government and the party organisation and various outreach programmes aimed at different sections of society, including Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled tribes, were discussed in the meeting with Madhya Pradesh leaders, including Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar, national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and the state's in-charge Muralidhar Rao, state party chief Vishnu Dutt Sharma and state minister Narottam Mishra. Madhya Pradesh BJP general secretary (organisation) Hitanand Sharma also attended the meeting. BJP national general secretary (organisation) B L

Santhosh joined Nadda in the two separated meetings with leaders from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Amid speculation about reshuffle in the Madhya Pradesh Cabinet and changes in the party's organisation, a leader who attended the meeting claimed that these issues were discussed. Despite losing to the Congress in the 2018 polls, the party returned to power in 2020 after winning over a chunk of its MLAs, who owed allegiance to Jyotiraditya Scindia, now a Union minister.

Court reserves order on Mevani's bail plea

Barpeta, Apr 28 (PTD):

A Barpeta court on Thursday reserved its order on the bail plea of Gujarat Independent MLA Jignesh Mevani in connection with a case of alleged assault of a woman police officer here till Friday. Mevani's advocate Anshuman Bora told PTI that the court has completed its hearing in the case on Thursday. The prosecution tried to get an adjournment but the court declined it and ordered it to submit their arguments on Thursday it-

self, he said. Meanwhile, Congress, which supports Mevani, held protests across Assam during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the state during the day. Mevani was remanded to police custody for five days on Tuesday for allegedly assaulting a woman police officer when she was accompanying him from Guwahati airport to Kokrajhar, where a case had been lodged against him in connection with the tweet, after being brought from Gujarat.

Three Maoists surrender

Konta, Apr 28:

Three active Naxalites on Thursday, influenced by the promotion of "Rehabilitation Policy" of Chhattisgarh Government and "Poona Narkom Campaign" (New Morning, New Beginning) being run by Sukma Police laid down arms. Laxman alias Lakshma (Surapanguda RPC member and Jungle Committee President), 02. Kawasi Kosa (DAKMS member), 03. Sodi Badru (Jan Militia member) expressed their desire to surrender and lead a normal life by joining the mainstream.

'Not good to give 'Bible colour' to all Christian schools'

Bengaluru, Apr 28 (PTD):

Archbishop Peter Machado on Thursday asked the Karnataka government to inquire into the number of students, who studied at Christian schools and have converted to Christianity in the last 100 years, as he defended the institution, which allegedly insisted on carrying or studying Bible as part of the curriculum. He said the institution conducted Bible or religious classes for Christian students before or after the school hours, and such a practice

Archbishop Peter Machado

that required them to carry Bible existed in the past, but not now. Clarence High School,

which has been served a notice by the Department of Primary and Secondary Education said it has sought the opinion of legal advisors to respond to it. "...there is nothing like the Bible or religious education. We impart the same education to everyone. We cannot differentiate between spirituality and morality," Machado told reporters here. Noting that 75 per cent students studying in the Clarence school are Christians, he said, "it was prescribed that Bible be brought because, in our

Christian institutions we have religion class for Christian students either before or after the class..." "However, from last year onwards the management has seen to it that no mention is made about the Bible at all and so the Children if they want they can bring," he added. Referring to the education department order to conduct an inquiry to ascertain whether the Bible was used and religion was taught in schools, the Bishop said, "it is not concerning only this school, but all Christian schools in Karnataka.

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TUs demand Police Protection for Enforcement Squad

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: The Joint Trade Union Front has demanded police protection for the employees of the Enforcement Squad of BSP's Town Administration Department. They further demanded strict action against the anti-social elements who have illegally captured the BSP houses and have threatened / abused the Enforcement Squad employees when they try to get the illegally captured houses vacated.

It needs to be mentioned here that the Enforcement Squad of Bhilai Steel Plant is conducting intense operations against the illegal occupants of BSP quarters. The employees of the Enforcement Department



of Bhilai Steel Plant are facing unpleasant situations when they visit the illegally captured houses and try to vacate them. The illegal occupiers often threaten and abuse the Squad members. Considering the situation, the Joint Trade Union Front submitted a memorandum to the office of Additional Superintendent

of Police (City) and demanded strict action against the guilty persons. They urged the police department to ensure adequate security arrangements for the BSP employees deployed on the task to free the illegal possession. In the joint union meeting, it was decided that the houses which are being vacated from illegal occupa-

tion should be immediately allotted to a BSP employee.

When the Enforcement Squad officials visit the illegally captured houses, the illegal occupiers threaten and abuse them. Sometimes the situation becomes violent and the illegal occupants even threaten to kill them. The BSP has full rights over the government property of the BSP.

No anti-social element should be allowed to capture this property and the officers and employees of the Enforcement Department should be given complete police protection by the administration. Representatives of INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AICTU, Steel Workers Union and Ispat Shramik Manch were present.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: Kavita Tandi, ward corporator, Ward no 47, DMC submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel seeking lease document for the residents of Sindh Colony in the ward. She demanded that the people of Sindh Colony located at 47 Civil Lines (North) had been residing here since the India-Pakistan partition in 1947.

During that time hundreds of Sindh community people had settled in Raipur Naka as refugees. They have been residing for almost 80 years now but till date they have not got the residential lease. As a result, they are deprived of the benefits of various government schemes includ-



ing the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana. Therefore, it is necessary that a survey be conducted in the Sindh Colony and the residential lease should be made available to all those people so that they too can take advantage of government schemes. In yet an-

other memorandum submitted Councillor Kavita Tandi has demanded for construction of a community hall in Ward No 47. There has also been a demand for the construction of a fully equipped community hall for the last 50 years, hundreds of fami-

lies are residing in the slum area, in which the maximum number is from the scheduled caste category. There is not a single community building here, as a result they face great difficulty in organizing marriages or other social events,

Sahu Mitra Sabha celebrates Karma Jayanti



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: Karma Jayanti was celebrated by Kshetriya Sahu Mitra Sabha Kailash Nagar Sunder Nagar Housing Board. Chief guest of the function was Girwar Bunt Sahu, Speaker, Bhilai Municipal Corporation. The function was presided over by HP Sahu, District Sahu Sangh, Bhilai Nagar. Special guest Neha Sahu, Councilor

and MIC member, Munna Lal Sahu Working President Sahu Mitra Sabha Bhilai Nagar, Manjusha Sahu Vice President Sahu Mitra Sabha, Daneshwari Sahu in-charge Women's Cell. The welcome address was given by Ram Prakash Sahu, Chairman, Housing Board. In the function, children and women presented dance item, karate performance, passing the ball and musical chair. Others present were

Vice President Lalita Sahu, Tekchand Sahu, Treasurer Purushottam Virwani, Secretary Roshan Sahu, Women Coordinator Premalata Sahu, Jagdish Ram Sahu, Ichha Ram Sahu, Bharat Lal Sahu, DR Sahu, Hirwani Seema Sahu, Durga Charan Sahu, Mahendra Hirwani, Narendra Kumar Sahu, Narendra Hirwani, Neelkamal, Khushi, Megha and others.

BMC Commissioner inspects Deendayal Colony in Junwani

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve along with the officials of BMC conducted a surprise inspection at the residential colony of Deendayal Awas Yojna in Junwani. He interacted with the residents of the colony. This was the Commissioner's first visit to this colony after it was handed over to the civic body. Residents informed that there are many families residing in Deendayal Colony which was constructed under Deendayal Awas Yojana by Chhattisgarh Housing Board. The officials were made aware of the basic problems of the colony.

It needs to be mentioned here that Mayor Neeraj Pal has kept basic facilities on the top priority.

While inspecting the entire colony, the Corporation Commissioner inquired about the existing facilities of cleanliness and drinking water, drain cleaning, etc. He also took stock of the pipeline expansion and tap water supply to homes from high level water tanks. The residents of the locality drew the attention of the Commissioner towards cleanliness. Taking the matter into cognizance, Municipal Commissioner gave instructions to the Health Officer Dharmendra Mishra to deploy a gang for conducting cleanliness works. He further instructed to organise a departmental camp for tax collection. Property Tax Department employee BL Asati has been directed to organise a camp so that the residents of the colony



can get the benefit of rebate of 6.25% which is available in the months of April and May. This initiative would increase the revenue of the corporation and also solve the basic problems of the colony. After discussion with the residents, it was decided that the camp for tax collection will be or-

ganized from May 5 in Deendayal Colony. Commissioner Prakash Surve was accompanied by Chhattisgarh Housing Board official Mr Verma, Municipal Corporation Bhilai Building Permission Officer Himanshu Deshmukh, Executive Engineer Sanjay Sharma, Assistant

Engineer Alok Pasine, Deputy Engineer Shweta Verma, Zone Health Officer Ankit Saxena, Local Corporator Mukesh Agarwal and other officers/employees.

It needs to be mentioned here that Chhattisgarh Housing Board transferred 32.45 acres of Industrial Area in Bhilai, Vishwa Bank Colony Kurud, Kailash Nagar Kurud, Deendayal Awas Yojna Junwani, Deendayal Awas Yojna Khamaria and General Housing Scheme Kohka Bhilai to Bhilai Municipal Corporation. The number of houses in Deendayal Colony Junwani is 636. Most of these houses are occupied by the families. BMC Commissioner had reached this colony to explore their problems and provide appropriate resolution.

DMC continues action against traders obstructing traffic in Indira Market area

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: On Thursday, the Durg Municipal staff took action against traders doing business by spreading goods on the main roads including the main market of Durg city Indira Market.

The corporation staff who reached the market first took photos and videography of the encroachers done and thereafter the goods kept on the road were removed. Action is being taken against traders as they are continuing to spread goods right upto the road, due to which there is a problem with the traffic inside the market and on the main road.

On the instructions of Durg Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, the Corporation's market department and en-



croachment squad reached Indira Market. Corporation employees covered the Press Complex area including Indira Market, Market area, Station Road, New Bus Stand area on the roadside where the goods were displayed to do business. In view of the strictness shown by the corporation, some businessmen started removing their goods vol-

untarily. Durgesh Gupta, in-charge of the anti-encroachment wing in Corporation explained to the traders the need to keep the roads and nearby area obstacle free. He asked them not to keep the goods outside the shop and cooperate with the corporation administration in maintaining the traffic system. He asked them not to re-

peat the process of displaying items as the drive against encroachment will continue on regular basis continuously. The Municipal staff present during the proceedings included Durgesh Gupta, Officer-in-Charge of Market Department Thansing Yadav, Ishwar Verma, Shashikant Yadav, Bhuvan Das Sahu.

DMC continuing night cleaning work in market areas and public places

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: The cleanliness campaign in Durg Municipal Corporation is gaining in momentum with every passing day. Apart from the regular cleanliness drive, it has been decided to intensify the cleanliness drive in many public places as well. Apart from morning, cleanliness work is being carried out in night time as well at identified places by sending a team of sanitation workers in the night as well.

Working on the directions and guidance of the Corporation's Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, the Health Department has worked on the congested areas and major places of the city, including Indira Market, Hatri Bazar, around the



railway station premises, new bus stand, Sikolabatha, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Complex etc are being cov-

ered. Continuous efforts are being made to make a garbage free city by keeping a constant vigil on the cleaning work in the night.

Health Officer Girish Diwan, Assistant Health Officer Javed Ali have been entrusted with the responsibility for the smooth completion of this work and daily night cleaning is being monitored by them.

Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi has appealed to the residents and traders of the city not to throw the garbage of their homes and shops here and there on the road, drain etc. Vehicles are making rounds in three shifts for garbage collection in Durg Municipal limits.

Therefore, give the waste of homes and institutions/shops to the garbage collecting vehicles. This would reduce the threat to health from garbage as well as improve the beauty of the city and the city will remain clean and beautiful.

Students trained in Yoga meet Bhilai-Charoda Mayor



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: On Thursday, the students of Yoga who have obtained citation after getting training in Yoga met the Municipal Corporation Bhilai-Charoda Mayor Nirmal Kosre. It is noteworthy that a yoga competition was organized by the Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission from April 25, 2022 to April 27, 2022 at Pandit Deendayal Auditorium, Raipur. Students from Bhilai Charoda region in-

cluding Meghesh Soni, Harshita Agarwal, Akanksha, Vishesh Jain, Aditya Agarwal participated. After the event, all these yoga students were given a certificate of training from the Yoga Commission. Expressing happiness at the achievement, the Corporation Mayor congratulated all the Yoga participants and Yoga Guru and encouraged them. Information on this account was given by Vikas Chandra Tripathi from the Public Relations Department of the Corporation.

Out of 167 MoUs; establishment of 90 units underway

● Chief Minister inaugurates Rs 20 cr development works in Hathkhaj

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 28: The state government is continuously working towards improving the industrial scenario. The government has so far signed 167 MoUs for setting up industries in the state. Through these MoUs, an investment of Rs 78000 crore is proposed in the state, out of which the process of setting up 90 units has also commenced, said Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel while addressing the inaugural function of the newly constructed Rail Industrial Park in Hathkhaj and the infrastructural projects in the Heavy and Light Industrial Area of Bhilai. He said that earlier when industrial areas were established,



they suffered lack of basic facilities. But today the Rail Park has been established with availability of all the necessary infrastructure. CM anticipated that units will be established here soon.

In his address, the Chief Minister said that an investment of Rs 19550 crore has been done in the state through various industries. About 33000 people have got employment in these industries. He added that Chhattisgarh state is an agricultural state and keeping in

view its potential, the state government laid special emphasis on food processing units. In the food and processing sector, an investment of Rs 1167 crore has been made through 478 units, which have provided employment to 6000 people. The Chief Minister said that after the establishment of Rail Industrial Park, industrial activities would expand rapidly in this region. It is the priority of the government to provide all possible facilities in the field of infrastructure and policies

to advance the enterprises in the state and work is being done continuously in this direction. Speaking about the Rail Park, Principal Secretary (Industries) Manoj Pingua informed about the industrial scenario and Rail Park. He said that there are 22 plots in the rail park with all the necessary infrastructure. He informed that work is being done by the Industries Department towards the establishment of food parks in the state. This will enable rapid economic de-

velopment of our agricultural dominated state. Chief Minister's Advisor Pradeep Sharma, Bhilai Charoda Mayor Nirmal Kosre, Speaker Krishna Chandrakar and other dignitaries were present. Divisional Commissioner Mahadev Kavre, IGP Badri Narayan Meena, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, CSIDC MD Arun Prasad and other officers were present. It needs to be mentioned here that the arrangement of CC road, pipeline, overhead tank, street light

etc has been ensured in the rail park. Rs 8.40 crore has been spent on this project. Units manufacturing equipments for railways will benefit from having better infrastructure. Entrepreneurs will get the benefit of having infrastructure available at one place. Along with this, 4.5 km CC road worth Rs 12 crore was also inaugurated in Light and Heavy Industrial area. Simon Ekka, General Manager, Industries and Trade Center, proposed the vote of thanks.

Party taking target of 71 MLAs for mission 2023: CM

No party in state has ever reached this figure

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 28: CM Bhupesh Baghel has made major declaration in context of Mission 2023 and speaking to media persons said that never in the State of Chhattisgarh any party has got 71 MLAs and that too even after switching over of political party either: Winning 71 seats is in itself a big challenge and the party would continue to work and march ahead with the same objective for mission 2023 VS polls, he added.

CM Bhupesh Baghel said that in 2018, the party



got 68 MLAs, but after the by-poll its strength continued to rise. Khairagarh by-poll is important in itself, as in this party's candidate Yashoda Verma won with thumping 20000 votes and which is a record in itself and for this he extended greetings to all voters of Khairagarh VS poll.

About the tour of BJP party leaders to Chhattisgarh, CM Baghel said that D Purandeshwari has al-

ways been expressing dissatisfaction towards the existing party leadership in the state. It is from different statements made it was very much evident that the state's leadership of BJP is not the one of her expectations. So it is the BJP leaders who have lost the confidence of common men and their party High Command as well. To another question about meeting with farmers' leader Rakesh Tikait, CM said that he is a guest of Chhattisgarh and if he wants to meet him in person then he is most welcome, but if it is something to do about Kissan Sanghatan, then the Ministers of his government would talk to him, CM added.

PROTECTION FROM HEAT



People of all age-group faced intense heat as the mercury shot up above 43 Deg Celsius here on Thursday.

Yashoda takes oath as 71st MLA of Congress



Raipur, Apr 28: The newly-elected Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Khairagarh constituency Yashoda Verma was on Thursday administered her oath as an MLA of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly here. Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant administered her oath at a function held at Assembly premises during which the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and several members of his cabinet were present.

Assembly Secretary Dinesh Sharma conducted the oath taking proceeding during which Minister for Health TS Singhdeo, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Ravindra Choubey, Home Minister

Tamradwaj Sahu, Food & Civil Supplies Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, Lok Sabha member from Korba Jyotsana Mahant and others were also present. Speaker Dr Mahant, CM Baghel and other Ministers congratulated her and accorded warm welcome to her and extended best wishes.

She is the 71st MLA of Congress in the 90-member Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly.

Private universities too come under RTI purview: SIC



Applicant can directly complain to State Information Commission on misleading information

RTI workshop organized in Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission office

Raipur, Apr 28: All private universities of Chhattisgarh also come under the purview of Right

to Information Act-2005 and it is their duty to inform the applicant, said State Information Commissioner Ashok Agrawal while addressing the Right to Information Act-2005 workshop organized by the Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission for the private universities of Chhattisgarh.

Addressing the Public Information Officers and First Appellate Officers of 15 private universities of the state, Agrawal said that most of the questions are answered only by reading the Right to Information Act properly and the situation of



appeal is not created. According to Agrawal the Public Information Officer of the concerned university is responsible for the delay in information and the applicant can directly complain to the State Information Commission (SIC) on getting misleading information.

Different sections of Right to Information Act-2005 were explained to private universities at the workshop and information was given about third party and confidential documents. It was informed at the workshop that people

would get information with maximum publication on online website and that number of applications seeking information would be less. The State Information Commissioner also answered to queries of Public information officers of private universities over Right to Information Act.

Proposing a vote of thanks at the workshop held at Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission office in Naya Raipur the Acting Chairman of the Commission Umesh

Kumar Mishra said that all the private universities of the state and the officers and employees of the Commission will get benefit from this workshop and they will be able to do better work by understanding the need of the Right to Information Act. administrative member of Chhattisgarh Private University Regulatory Commission, Brajesh Chandra Mishra and Public Information Officers and First Appellate Officers of 15 private universities of the state were present.

Mining projects given clearance ignoring Village Meet: AAP

Raipur, Apr 28: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday alleged that environmental concerns are ignored by the Chhattisgarh government as it has given green signals to the Mining Projects in the Hasdeo Forest region at the behest of Chief Ministers of other states as well as the Industrialists.

In a statement issued here, the AAP President Chhattisgarh Unit Komal



Hupendi said that final approval has been given by the state government to the mining projects on the

grounds of fake Village Meet in Hadeo Forest region. He said that while several tribals would be displaced, the lakhs of trees would be brought down in the process of mining activities in the region. He further added that all their concerns have been ignored by the state government on the issue. He said that the residents are agitated with the administrations as their concerns have been ignored.

MD & CEO of Central Bank Of India Matam Venkata Rao arriving today

Raipur, Apr 28: Matam Venkata Rao, Managing Director & CEO of Central Bank of India will be on a day's visit to Raipur on April 29. Rao took charge of the Bank as MD & CEO with effect from 1st March, 2021.

Rao is a Post Graduate in Agriculture from Sri Venkatesh Wara Agriculture College, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. He is a Certified Associate of Indian Institute of



Bankers. Rao will review Raipur Region's performance. Mayank Shah, General Manager, Central Office, Mumbai, S.D.Mahurkar, Zonal

Head, Tarsem Singh Zira, Zonal Head will also be with Rao during this short visit which will be co-ordinated by Mahendra Singh, Regional Head, Raipur. The visit of the Top Executive of the Bank is in connection with business development at Raipur. The officers and staff of Raipur Region are very delighted to welcome the Bank's MD & CEO during his maiden visit to Raipur.

Heat wave condition grips Chhattisgarh

Raipur, Apr 28: Heatwave condition is prevailing in Chhattisgarh with mercury hovering around 46 degree Celsius on Thursday. Mungeli remained hottest place on Thursday with maximum temperature of 45.7 degree Celsius. Bilaspur with 44.6 degree Celsius and Raipur city with 44.1 degree Celsius also inched close to all-time record of April maximum temperature.

Heat wave conditions persisted in parts of Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur divisions and Surguja divisions of the state. Extreme heat had become unbearable since 10 in the morning. People working and traveling outside faced a lot of trouble due to the sweltering heat in the afternoon. According to the

Meteorological Department, the maximum temperature in Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur and Surguja divisions of the state remained above normal by three degrees whereas in Bastar division, it reached normal or about one degree Celsius above normal.

The maximum temperature was recorded at 43.3 in Durg, 42.8 in Rajnandgaon, 42.1 in Pendra Road and 42 degree Celsius in Ambikapur. The maximum temperature of Raigarh, which was the hottest till a day ago, was 44.6 degree Celsius. Only Jagdalpur recorded maximum temperature of 38.5 degree Celsius. Light rain has also occurred at one or two places of Bastar division. The Meteorological Department has

recorded one millimeter rain in Geedam. Due to rainfall the maximum temperature in the districts of Bastar division remained normal.

The central and northern part of the state has been receiving hot and dry air from the north, while relatively cold and moist air is continuing to arrive in the southern part. According to forecast of meteorological department light rain or thundershowers are likely to occur at one or two places in the state on April 29. Significant change in maximum temperature is not likely. There is a possibility of heat wave in one or two packets of the state. Heat wave like conditions are very likely to persist at some places.

Bastar takes lead of 85 runs in U-23 Cricket match

Raipur, Apr 28: Bastar has taken a lead of 85 runs against Narayanpur in the Under 23 Inter District Plate Group Tournament being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS).

Batting first, the Narayanpur team scored just 145 runs in first innings with Sumit Jain (37 runs) and Rahul Jain (36 runs) being the major contributor for the team. Palash Mandal was the most successful bowler

for Bastar as he claimed maximum 5 wickets for his team whereas Abdul Anas Khan also claimed three wickets.

In reply, the Bastar team had reached 230 runs for 3 wickets at close of play on day one. Palash again scored maximum 79 runs for his team with the help of 14 fours whereas Abdul Anas Khan was unbeaten on 71 runs with the help of 7 fours and 2 sixes. Nilay Kumar claimed all the three wickets for Narayanpur.

'Lumos Tez' by AIIMS-R for decontamination of N 95 Masks

UV Box designed by an Intern can be helpful to re-use N 95 Masks

Research Published in International Journal of Scientific Research

Raipur, Apr 28: A team of an intern and consultants have designed a UV box named 'Lumos Tez' for decontaminating N95 masks used in COVID-19 treatment. The team's four-month dedicated efforts resulted in a long-awaited solution to contaminated masks. Now, used N95 masks can be placed inside the box and viruses can be eliminated within minutes. The research work is published in the International Journal of Scientific Research.



Dubey, an intern with AIIMS was posted to the Pulmonary Medicine department in 2020. As the COVID-19 Pandemic spread in the country, he started working on decontamination of N 95 masks as a large number of masks created an environmental hazard. His idea was to make them re-us-

able after going through a decontamination process.

He took the help of a carpenter and technicians and designed a box of 6x3x4 feet in five days. During the lockdown, he faced several challenges in getting the UV C lights but managed to get them. With the help of lights, aluminum composite pan-

els, and other materials, he successfully designed a panel and named it 'Lumos Tez'. With due protection and following COVID-19 protocols, he experimented with several infected materials and successfully decontaminated N95 masks during his four-month project. Dr. Dubey credited his

research work to Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar for allowing him to conduct the research. He also expressed his gratitude towards Prof. (Dr.) Sarita Agrawal, Dean (Research), Dr. Atul Jindal, and consultants/researchers at VRD Lab for continuous motivation and guidance. His research work has been published in the International Journal of Scientific Research. The project was also submitted to the State Council of Science and Technology for further funding.

Prof. Nagarkar congratulated Dr. Dubey and said that his project would undoubtedly help medical institutions to decontaminate N95 masks. "This is an excellent example of practical and scientific experiment which can be used for the betterment of the society, Prof. Nagarkar said.

Rajbala secures silver in Khelo India Boxing event

Raipur, Apr 28: Rajbala from Pt Ravishankar Shukla University has secured silver medal in the Khelo India University Games underway at



from Haryana

Bangluru. She faced a fight against Deepika Sharma from Haryana University. PRSU Director Physical Education Vipin Chandra Sharma and others have congratulated her on the above achievement.

श्री खाटू श्याम ज्योतिष

पं. रविकांत शर्मा

पं. एस.के. शास्त्री

जन्मकुण्डली विशेषज्ञ

हर मुश्किल से मुश्किल समस्या का समाधान
"ज्योतिष मेरा काम नहीं, मेरी साधना है"
"जब कहीं ना हो काम, तो हमसे ले समाधान"

श्री खाटू श्याम की असीम कृपा से आपकी हस्त रेखा, चेहरा फोटो देखकर भविष्य बताते हैं। रोग पीड़ा, कलह, कष्ट, संतान योग, विवाह व्यापार उन्नति, नौकरी, प्रमोशन, मकान, दुकान, फैंक्ट्री, विदेश यात्रा, बच्चों का कैरियर, मानसिक, शारीरिक एवं आर्थिक परेशानी, कालसर्प दोष जीवन, पति-पत्नि, शादी, लड़का, लड़की के टूटे रिश्ते पर मार्गदर्शन, स्त्री-पुरुष सभी का समाधान भक्ति, पुजा पाठ द्वारा मार्गदर्शन करते हैं। एक बार अवश्य मिलें।

व्यापार बढ़ोतरी, किया कराया, शादी के लिए माता पिता को मनाना, मोहनी स्पेशलिस्ट

बुकिंग के लिए संपर्क करें:-
बुकिंग समय -
सुबह 9.00 बजे से सुबह 10.00 बजे तक
मिलने का समय :
सुबह 10.00 बजे से शाम 6.00 बजे तक
नोट: मिलने के लिए अपॉइंटमेंट लेना आवश्यक है

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