



BRIEF



Christians perform the reenactment of Jesus' crucifixion during a procession on Good Friday, in Jalandhar, Friday.

Healthcare model

■ **New Delhi:** The Congress on Friday claimed the healthcare model of Rajasthan is being studied the world over and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to emulate the state's Chiranjeevi scheme and Right to Health initiative across the country. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara and Rajasthan Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said at a press conference at the party headquarters here that the Chiranjeevi scheme helped a large number of people during the COVID-19 period as they did not have to spend even a single penny on their treatment in hospitals.

Girls charred

■ **Dehradun:** Four girls have been killed in a fire in a building in Uttarakhand's Dehradun district, officials said on Friday, putting the age of the children between two-and-a-half and nine years. The building in the district's Chakrata area caught fire on Thursday evening.

AMID SURGE IN COVID CASES

States asked to stay alert, prepared

■ Identify emergency hotspots

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

Amid rising cases of coronavirus, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday held a review meeting and advised states to stay alert and be prepared for COVID-19 management.

In the meeting with state health ministers and principal and additional chief secretaries held virtually, Mandaviya stressed on identifying emergency hotspots by monitoring trends of influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases, ramping up testing and vaccination and ensuring readiness of



Students wearing masks attend a class at school, at a slum area on the outskirts of Jammu, Friday.

hospital infrastructure. Along with enhancing genome sequencing and ramping up whole genome sequencing of positive

samples, he also emphasised on creating awareness about following Covid-appropriate behaviour. The Centre and the states need to continue working in collaborative spirit as was done during the previous surges for COVID-19 prevention and management, Mandaviya said. He also urged the state health ministers to conduct mock drills of all hospital infrastructure on April 10 and 11 and review the health preparedness with district administrations and health officials on April 8 and 9.

Govt to launch special scheme to provide financial support to poor prisoners: MHA

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

In a move expected to decongest the prisons, the Centre has decided to launch a special scheme to provide financial support to poor people languishing in jails as they are unable to afford the penalty or the bail amount.

"This will enable poor prisoners, majority of whom belong to socially disadvantaged or marginalised groups with lower education and income level, to get out of prison," the Home Ministry said in a statement on Friday.

The broad contours of

the scheme - Support for Poor Prisoners - have been finalised in consultation with stakeholders, it said.

To ensure the benefits of the scheme reach the poor prisoners, technology-driven solutions will be put in place. E-prisons platform will be reinforced and District Legal Services Authority will be strengthened, besides stakeholders will be sensitised and stress will be given on capacity building. Providing financial support to poor prisoners who are unable to afford their penalties or bail amounts was one of the announcements

Finance

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had made in her Budget speech this year. The Home Ministry said the government is taking various steps to address the issue of undertrials in prisons. Under this, one of the announcements is 'Support for Poor Prisoners'.

Other steps include inserting Section 436A in the Code of Criminal Procedure and inserting a new chapter XXIA 'Plea Bargaining' in the CrPC. Free legal aid is being provided to poor prisoners through Legal Services Authority at various levels, the ministry said.

Leader of Oppn's son arrested in rape case, gets bail

Janjgir, Apr 07 (PTI):

Palash Chandel, son of Chhattisgarh Leader of Opposition and BJP MLA Narayan Chandel, was arrested in a case of alleged rape after being on the run for more than two months, police said on Friday.

Held on Thursday night, Palash was released on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 25,000 as he had secured anticipatory bail from the Chhattisgarh High Court, said an official. He was arrested by police in Janjgir-Champa district, said the district's Additional Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar Soni. Narayan Chandel is the MLA from Janjgir Champa constituency. The HC had granted an-

anticipatory bail to Palash on April 4. A case was registered against Palash in the state capital Raipur on January 19 after a woman teacher from a tribal community in Janjgir Champa district accused him of sexually exploiting her for several years by promising to marry her. The complainant also claimed that Palash forced her to have an abortion. A case under Indian Penal Code sections 376(2)(n) (commit rape repeatedly on the same woman) and 313 (causing miscarriage without woman's consent) besides the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was registered against him.

Schoolboy held from Lucknow for sending assassination threat to PM, UP CM

Noida, Apr 07 (PTI):

The Noida Police on Friday apprehended a teenager from Lucknow who is believed to have sent an email to a media house, threatening to assassinate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, officials said. The 16-year-old boy, who hails from Bihar, was picked up from the Chinhat area of the state capital on Friday morning and has been brought here, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Noida) Rajneesh Verma said. "An FIR was lodged in connection with the case of April 5 at

Sector 20 police station here after which the matter was investigated, technical teams also roped in to trace the sender of the email, which contained the threat message," Verma said. "On the basis of the investigation, the email sender was traced and found in Lucknow's Chinhat area. The sender turned out to be a schoolboy, who has just completed his Class 11 and will be beginning Class 12 in this session," the police officer told PTI. The boy is being produced in a juvenile court here and further legal proceedings are being carried out, Verma added.



Ease of Living With Modern Infrastructure

A new pace of progress

Under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**, more than **42 thousand kilometers** of roads constructed, strengthening the rural road infrastructure and connectivity of Chhattisgarh.

A new flight to dreams

Under **UDAN scheme**, Chhattisgarh reaches new height of development by connecting with **14 air routes**.

Housing for all in Chhattisgarh

Under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**, more than **10 lakh** pucca houses were constructed, giving people better and dignified life.

Strengthened Chhattisgarh

Electrification of more than **7 lakh** houses under **Saubhagya scheme** in rural Chhattisgarh, electricity reached every household.

Chhattisgarh on the path of cleanliness

More than **34 lakh** toilets constructed under **Swachh Bharat Mission**, respect for women for the first time.

“ Nations which have given top priority to infrastructure have prospered. Our Government is continuously upgrading social and physical infrastructure. This will benefit the present and coming generations. ”

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**



CM interacts with common people at Ganj Mandi

Bhilai, Apr 07:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel interacted with the common people during his Bhent Mulaqat pogramme here at Ganj Mandi on Friday. While addressing the Bhent Mulaqat program, Chief Minister said that in the continuation of Bhent Mulaqat, while traversing many districts, he has reached Durg city. Farmers who seek waiver of debt and want to sell paddy are present in Durg city as well. He said that the Ration card scheme is



applicable throughout the state. During interaction, Pooja Sahu, a resident of Ward No 16, informed

the Chief Minister that she applied at the Choice Center but that the work was not completed. Chief Minister responded im-



mediately and asked the department to dispose of the application within 15 days.

Anita Tigga, a resident of ward number 50, said that her ration card has been made in another

state. When asked by the Chief Minister, she told that she has been living here in Chhattisgarh for 5 years. Chief Minister asked her to get the name of the other state removed, as she would be issued a new ration card in Chhattisgarh. When Chief Minister asked about the visits of mobile medical units, a local Vishnu Nishad informed that the mobile medical unit visits every week. He is availing free treatment of diabetes, saving him Rs 4-5 thousand.

Gayatri informed Chief Minister that women of the village are become financially independent through the cow dung collection. Gayatri has an MBA degree, she is actively involved in the works of super compost and vermi compost production, poultry farming and other works conducted by her self help group in Gauthan. Mahendra said that he is a patient suffering from kidney disease, he undergoes regular dialysis, he had taken a loan for fencing wire, he has to spend a lot of money

for kidney treatment. He has incurred huge debts. After listening to his problem, the Chief Minister has assured him that the treatment of his disease will be borne by the Government. Lakhani Lal Sharma requested for monetary assistance from the Chief Minister for his operation in Hyderabad, which will cost him Rs 8 lakh. Chief Minister has announced that Lakhan's treatment will be undertaken by the Government under the 'M u k h y a m a n t r i

Swasthya Yojana'. Important announcements made by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for Durg City Assembly includes, upgradation of Badminton courts and sports grounds; construction and upgradation of Muktidham; maintenance work of Indira Market; expansion of roads, drains and electricity facilities; new office of DMC; pipeline expansion; four-lane road from Jail Tiraha to Mini Mata Chowk; new Atmanand School in Borsi, etc.

Offers prayers at Sattichaura Maa Durga temple



Bhilai, Apr 07:

The Chief Minister wished for the happiness, and prosperity of the state's residents by offering prayers at Maa Durga temple located at Sattichaura in Ganjpara of Durg assembly. Public representatives including the Minister in-charge of the district and Housing and Environment minister Mohammad Akbar and



Durg MLA Arun Vora were also present. The history of the Sattichaura temple in Ganjpara is well known to the locals. Sattichaura Maa Durga Temple was established in 2010. Locals offer coconut in the temple before performing religious and

auspicious work. There is a square in Ganjpara Sattichaura, where a woman sacrificed her life as sati by lighting a fire with her own strength, and with her blessings and inspiration, the idol of Maa Durga was installed at Sattichaura in Ganjpara.

New building of SAGES in Deepak Nagar inaugurated



Bhilai, Apr 07:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the new building of Swami Atmanand Government English Medium School located in Deepak Nagar, Durg. The new school building is designed keeping modern educational facilities in mind that includes smart class rooms, activity rooms, libraries, and well-equipped labs. Following

the inauguration, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel interacted with the students and visited the Activity Room, Library, and Smart Class Room. Swami Atmanand English Medium School has a new smart class room, activity room, library, and well-equipped labs for physics, chemistry, and biology that cost Rs 1.55 crore. The old school building has also been renovated.

Relishes delicious Chhattisgarhi food at residence of Sonkar family

Bhilai, Apr 07:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, under the statewide Bhent Mulaqat program, reached Durg City Assembly constituency's Ward no 39 in Durg District on Friday. He visited Punuram Sonkar's residence to have lunch. The Sonkar family welcomed the Chief Minister with 'Tilak-Aarti' and a floral bouquet. On this occasion, the Forest Minister and Minister In charge of the District Mohammad Akbar, Local MLA Arun Vora, and President of CG State Mineral Development Corporation Girish Dewangan were present. Here, the Chief Minister was served Chhattisgarhi dishes in his meal. The Chief Minister relished the taste



of various dishes like rice, dal, 'Munga' with Chapati, Baigan Badi' and 'Semi', 'Lal Bhaji', Parwal Alu, 'Jimikand Sabzi' and 'Bijauri', 'Laai Badi', Papad, Salad and Tomato chutney, Kheer-Puri, and Gujhiya. Punuram Sonkar said to the Chief Minister that he owns a vegetable shop in Indira market, and the income from the vegetable shop is the source of his family's livelihood. He has ration card and all mem-

bers of his family possess their respective Ayushman Cards as well. There are 5 members in his family. He said that his two elder sons work as drivers and his younger son helps him in the vegetable shop. The Chief Minister thanked the Sonkar family for the delicious Chhattisgarhi meal and also gave them presents. The family members were delighted to have the Chief Minister amongst themselves.

Baghel's Bhent Mulaqat program in Bhilai today

Bhilai, Apr 07:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will participate in numerous programs including the Bhent Mulaqat program organized at Shanti Nagar, Dussehra Maidan at 12.30 hrs and interact with the local people. After the program, he will reach Vaishali Nagar at 13.50 hrs and will inaugurate the Millets Cafe in the Vending Zone and distribute certificates to the beneficiaries. After this, he will unveil the statue of martyr Chumman Yadav in Chhawani at 14.00 hrs. He will inaugurate the Swami Atmanand School

at Khursipar at 15.10 hrs. He will attend the meeting organized at Naveen College ground at 15.25 hrs and interact with the general public. After this, the Chief Minister will meet social organizations at Bhilai Niwas Hotel at 17.45 hrs and will inaugurate the Arjun Rath at Civic Center at 19.40 hrs. After this, at 20.00 hrs, Chief Minister, will garland the statue of former Union Minister Chandulal Chandrakar at Supela Chowk, and will also inaugurate the beautification work of 'Saat Ajooba'. After this, he will leave for the capital Raipur at 20.05 hrs.

Several shops of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant have recorded all-time highs of performance in the concluding month of financial year 2022-23. From coke production to sinter, cast steel from SMS 3, rails, structurals and total finished steel production, new records were made in the month of March 23. The Plant's Coke Ovens recorded a new high with best ever monthly production of 2,78,296 Tonnes of dry blast furnace coke as against previous best of 2,78,102 T recorded in January 23. Sinter Plant 3

Bhilai Steel Plant records New Highs in March 23

Bhilai, Apr 07:

recorded its highest monthly production of 5,38,095 Tonnes of sinter as against previous best of 5,17,703 T in Jan 23. Total



sinter production of 7,59,729 T in March 23 was also best ever as against previous best of 7,59,643 T in March 22.

Steel Melting Shop 3 recorded best ever cast steel production of 3,12,032 T in March 23, surpassing previous best of 3,04,757 T in Jan 23. This included best ever production of 1,83,546 T of cast billets and 1,28,487 T of cast blooms. Universal Rail Mill too has recorded best ever monthly production of 85,503 T of finished rails in March 23 including highest ever monthly production of 77,596 T of long rails. Total long rail production of 94,042 T by both URM and Rail & Strl Mill has also been the best ever in any month as against pre-

vious best of 86,621 T recorded in Jan 23. Loading of 80,780 T of long rails from URM and total loading of long rails by both the rail mills at 97,681 T too have been the best ever in any month since inception. The Plant's Bar & Rod Mill too has recorded best ever monthly production of 91,119 T in March 23 as against previous best of 80,321 T in Dec 22. The Plant's finishing mills combined to produce highest ever finished steel production of 4,43,763 T, surpassing previous best of 4,13,134 T recorded in Jan 23.

Training for women empowerment held at Dulki Mines

Bhilai, Apr 07:

Twenty-Five women are being trained in Bamboo Handicrafts, in Dulki village of Dulki Mines, under the Kaushal Vikas Yojna, run by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Rajhara group of mines. CSR Department of SAIL - Bhilai Steel Plant, in collaboration with Chhattisgarh Handicrafts Development Board, is empowering women by providing them vocational training under Kaushal Vikas Yojana. The training program is being operated under the guidance of Shivratan Nair, GM(CSR). The training sessions were attended and observed by Rajni Rajak, Devt Assistant, CSR, Ashutosh Soni, Assistant, CSR. Most of the women trainees are from Kamkasur, Dulki Kosmi, Puse, Wadda and Katta Paar villages and mostly belong to Tribal and BPL backgrounds. These women are moving towards self-reliance by getting trained in Bamboo handicrafts. Rahul Bhagat, an expert Bamboo Craftsman from Jashpur is the Chief Instructor of this training. He is skilfully teaching the trainees to make various decorative items and useful domestic articles using bamboo, such as tray, mirror

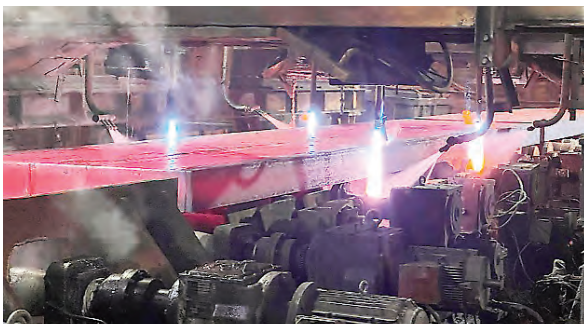


frame, brush holder, cup stand, flower-vase, bamboo chair and round tea-table etc. He is also teaching them to make various other articles essential for daily rural life like Tukni, Chariha, Supa, Parri-Parra, Jhapi, Jhouhan, etc. The villagers expressed their gratitude to BSP for this initiative as women who were only engaged in domestic chores till now, will now become self-sufficient and will be able to financially support their families by making such products. The women undergoing training are also getting a monthly incentive of Rs 3000. This quarterly training program is going to conclude in the coming week.

Caster 6 of SMS 2 creates New Records

Bhilai, Apr 07:

Caster 6 of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Steel Melting Shop 2 recorded best ever yearly production of 0.88 million tonnes (MT) of cast steel as against the rated capacity of 0.8 MT and previous best production of 0.82 MT in the year 2014-15. The High Speed Caster 6 has also recorded best ever average tundish life of 25.80 heats against the guaranteed life of 17 heats. Previous best tundish life achieved was 18.53 in fiscal year 2021-22.



During the year 2022-23, Caster 6 has also recorded best ever monthly production record of 778 heats and best ever monthly average tundish life of 51

heats. Longer casting sequence has resulted in higher production. Hot charging of slabs to plate mill was also the best. This has facilitated plate

mill to increase its rolling rate. The Caster 6 team performed under the leadership of CGM SMS 2 S Ghoshal. The Mechanical and Electrical teams were led by Yogesh Shastri (GM) and Sourabh Jain (GM). The Operations team was led by Alok Mathur (GM). Director in-charge Bhilai Steel Plant, Anirban Dasgupta and ED (Works) Anjani Kumar along with other senior officials of the Plant have congratulated the team for its performance.

Man gets 20 years RI under POCSO Act

Bhilai, Apr 07:

A Fast Track Special Court in Durg sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for abducting and raping a minor girl at knife point. Additional Sessions Judge (Fourth), FTSC - POCSO, Sangeeta Naveen Tiwari convicted 24-year-old Pawan Rakanna of S t a t i o n p a r a , Rajnandgaon on Thursday. The girl's family had lodged a complaint at Mohan Nagar Police Station on November 11,

2021 after she went missing on November 10, 2021. Later the police rescued the girl from Rajnandgaon. Special Public Prosecutor Santosh Kasar informed that the accused abducted the girl on November 10, 2021. He took the girl to Rajnandgaon and raped her at knife point. When the girl did not return home, the family lodged an FIR at Mohan Nagar Police Station after which the girl was rescued on November 11, 2021.

BSP employees bag accolades at work skills competition 2023

Bhilai, Apr 07:

34th CII Western Regional work skills competition 2023 was held at Kolkata between 21st to 24th February 2023. 13 employees of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant have bagged the prizes in this competition among competitors of different Industries of CII Western Region creating a record. Out of this, 10 employees of 5 trades namely

Carpentry, Fitter, PLC, Machinist and Turner have bagged all two prizes of the category in each trade and employees of 3 trades namely Electrician, Hydraulics and Welder have bagged one prize in each trade. Ms. Nisha Soni CGM (HRD & BE) and Shri Mukul Kumar Saharia, Workshop Incharge and DGM (HRD) congratulated the winners of the competi-

tion for winning laurels for Bhilai Steel Plant. This extensive participation (54) in 9 trades was held with the support of Shri S B Patel Sr.Mgr(HRD) and, Shri Mayank Kumar Karmahe, & Shri Jitendra Kumar Banchhor, Master Instructors in 34th CII Western Regional Work Skills Competition held at Kolkata between 21st to 24th February 2023 at MCKV & RKMS Shilpgram Kolkata.

Free Medical Camp held in Gram Panchayat Nandori

Bhilai, Apr 07:

The Corporate Social Responsibility Department (CSR) of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant organised a one-day Free Medical Camp at Gram Panchayat Nandori, District Durg, on April 5, 2023. A total of 28 villagers including 11 women, 9 men and 8 children, of village Nandori got their health check-up done free of cost in the Medical Camp. Dr Isha Kujur of Bhilai Ispat Klyan Chikitsalay (BISC), Sector-6, along with Paramedical Staff, and Anjani Kumar Dwivedi from CSR Department were present in this Medical Camp.



'Why can't Hinduism be taught in schools when religion is taught in Madrasas?'

● **Asks Swamy Avimukteshwaranand**

Raipur, Apr 07: Head of Jyotish Peeth Shankaracharya Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati has called for amendment in education policy. When religious education can be imparted in madrasas and prayers can be held in Christian missionary schools, then why Hinduism cannot be taught in schools? he asked. It is not told in the schools how the 'Aachaman' will be done, how the Aarti will be done, he said in Raipur.

'We do not want a Hindu Rashtra. We wish for Ram Rajya. The Hindu nation



was also with Ravana and Kansa, but public were in trouble. If there was a most ideal state, it was Ram Rajya', he said. According to him saints joining political parties cannot be called Hindu Mahatmas. On the issue of 'Hindu Rashtra', Swami

Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati said that those talking of it did not explain its format. 'It is not decided what the form of Hindu Rashtra will be and what changes will this bring in our lives? That's why when we don't know what will happen in it, we neither support nor oppose it', he said.

On the removal of the chapters of Mughals in NCERT books, he said 'in earlier times, only Mughals except our kings were taught. Now it is equally wrong to remove it completely as much as earlier it was wrong to teach only Mughals'. According to him one has to remain neutral in the matter of history.

HOARDINGS BLOWN-OFF



Hoardings in city were blown off due to strong winds in the evening here on Friday.

'Bombs, bullets discussed in Madrasas'

● **Controversial statement of BJP leader Nitin Nabin**

Raipur, Apr 07: Chhattisgarh BJP co-in-charge Nitin Nabin's controversial statement regarding madrassas has come to the fore. Nitin Nabin said, bombs, bullets and gunpowder are discussed in madrassas. According to him ways to encourage terrorism are taught in Madrassas.

Nitin Nabin, who reached Chhattisgarh on a tour, answered the question raised by Shankaracharya Avimukteshwaranand on the exemption to Muslims and Christians for religious



education and the ban on religious education for Hindus.

According to him it would be futile to talk about the education of Madrassas. 'Ours had Gurukul tradition. The teachings of Gurukul should be carried forward', he said.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's to visit Bastar on April 12

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 07: Congress in the state is now going to reach every village on the pretext of Rahul Gandhi's issue. In this campaign, Congress will inform the people about the failure of Modi government. Information about the allegation of dictatorship by BJP and the central government will also be conveyed to every household. Addressing the scribes here State Congress President Mohan Markam at Rajiv Bhavan said that through 'Nukkad Sabha', we will go from village to village to inform about the failures of the Modi government. It is the responsi-



bility of every person to save the democratic values of the country. If Rahul Gandhi can walk 4000 kilometers to save democracy, then every Congress worker should join this campaign. The party will set up a chaupal, will march in the Vidhansabha and present the truth of the Modi government in front of the public, he added.

Regarding Congress National General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's visit to Bastar on April 12, Markam said that three general secretaries - Yashvardhan Rao, Rajnu Netam and Rukhmani Karma have been entrusted with the responsibility for this programme. These three leaders will work with coordination during Priyanka's visit. Markam said that a grand women's conference will be held in Bastar. We are working for the women of the state to be self-reliant. Priyanka Gandhi's visit will give more strength to women. In response to a question, Markam said

that power can be reached through the route of Bastar. The focus of every party is in Bastar. On the discussion of change in the organization, Markam said that we fulfill the responsibility given by the central organization.

Whatever responsibility will be given in future, I will fulfill it. On removing some subjects from the textbook, Markam said that the work of removing history is being done by the central government. Children learn from history that who contributed what, what was their role in nation building. If the BJP is working to remove it, then its plans will never succeed.

Three arrested in connection with fraud

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 07: Raipur Police have arrested three persons including a member of inter-state gang involved in cheating people in the name of buying and selling digital currency. They allegedly cheated operator of Primewell Technology Pvt Ltd located in Krishna Complex of Maudhapara.

They allegedly committed fraud in the name of buying digital currency USDT. Complaint against them was lodged with Maudhapara police station.

According to complainant Koloru Shriram Murthy, resident of

Shivanand Nagar Raipur, frauds got his 28 thousand 327 digital currency USDT transferred to their digital wallet.

The total value of digital currency USDT is being estimated at Rs 25 lakh 6 thousand 940. Frauds were not paying even after taking the digital currency. After registering the complaint the police arrested Prakash Jha from Delhi. Another person Shailesh Patel is absconding in this incident.

Murthy runs Primewell Technology Private Limited which works for buying and selling block chain development and digital currency.

Young woman commits suicide

● **Dead body found hanging from the noose**

Raipur, Apr 07: A young woman in Raipur committed suicide by hanging herself in her house in Sudama Nagar, falling under jurisdiction of Tikrapara Police Station. The deceased has been identified as 24-year-old Likeshwari Dhangar, resident of Sudama Nagar, Raipur. Police started investigation into the incident.

When her family members woke up in the morning they knocked on the door of her room. When the door didn't open they informed police. The police team reached the spot and broke open the door of the room. The case of suicide

came to fore after her body was found hanging with a noose.

According to information the deceased used to teach music at Prayas School. Her relatives informed that she was fine till Thursday night. But when they woke up in the morning, door of her room was not opened. She did not even come out of her room even after noose.

Deceased's relatives also informed that her phone got damaged and that she was not using the phone for the last three months. Police reached the spot, recovered the body and sent it for postmortem. The police did not find any suicide note from the girl's room. What prompted her to commit suicide is not known yet.

BJP Foundation Day celebration



● **Minority Morcha honours seniors of minority community**

Raipur, Apr 07: Various programmes were organised by all frontal cells of BJP on the occasion of its foundation day on April 6. BJP Minority Cell, led by its district president Nasir Khan honoured seniors of Muslim community in presence of BJP district president Jayanti Bhai Patel, state executive member Mirza Aijaz Beg, district vice president Akbar Ali and Amarjit Chhabda, at a programme organised at Mahila Muslim Hall, Motibagh here.

Senior citizens belonging to Muslim Community honoured on the occasion were Sufi Moulana Ilyas, Akbar Ali,

Moulana Amir Beig, Moulana Sarafuddin, Moulana Salam, Imran Ashrafi, Hamid Guddu, Parvej Quraishi, Jishan, Md Mobin, Mojanan Memon and others.

Myth about minority community not voting in favor of BJP has broken now given the decisive role of minority community in assembly and Lok Sabha election results that went in favour of BJP, District President Jayanti Bhai Patel said in his address.

Mirza Aijaz Beg in his address said that BJP worked to realise the concept of all round development. According to him the slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' was made a reality by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it a reality.

Two plants of CSPGCL attain 6th ranking



Included among the top 21 power plants in ranking by CEA for 2022-23

CM and Chairman greets all employees of CSPGCL

Raipur, Apr 07: Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Limited (CSPGCL) has secured 6th place for best power production all over the country. The public enterprise of the central government viz. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) New Delhi has given this above ranking to CSPGCL among the 33 state sectors all over the country for its best performance. In addition to



this two other Thermal Power Plants of Chhattisgarh have created best power production record among the 200 thermal power plants in the country.

Central Electricity Authority (CEA) New Delhi conducts such ranking every year. According to CEA, CSPGCL has achieved a plant load factor (PLF) of 71.19% and attained 6th ranking.

Along with this the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Thermal Power Plant in Korb and Hasdeo Thermal Power Plant Korba too have se-

cured place among the top 25 plants for maximum power production among the 200 plants all over the country.

CEA in its interim report for 2022-23 has given the above ranking. For this achievement, CM Bhupesh Baghel and Secretary Energy Department and Chairman CSPC Ankit Anand has extended greetings to all the officers and employees of CSPGCL.

MD CSPGCL Sanjeev Kumar Katiyar informed that CSGCL despite all the challenges has done remarkable performance and the credit for its goes to all the officers and employees.

The Generation Company produces power at lesser cost compared to

other thermal power plants. The Plant Load Factor of two plants of 250 MW of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Thermal Power Plant (DSPM) Korba earlier was 83.30% and it got the 19th ranking.

He informed that Hasdeo Thermal Power Plant (HTPP) Korba got the 21st ranking and here the PLF was 82.51%. This ranking was achieved by HTPP Korba when it is in the 38th year of its existence. This plant was established in 1984 and in it four units of 210 MW were established. After formation of state one unit of 500 MW was also established. All these five units are considered now as one plant and its ranking is done jointly in the name of HTPP Korba.

RMC opens Ch'garh's first extra green diesel pump



Raipur, Apr 07: Raipur Municipal Corporation has opened Extra Green Diesel Pump for the use of fuel in its vehicles. It is costlier by Rs 3 per liter than normal diesel, but due to high mileage, RMC will save Rs 2 per liter. RMC Speaker Pramod Dubey and Municipal Corporation, Commissioner, Mayank Chaturvedi inaugurated the pump by cutting the ribbon on Thursday morning in the motor workshop department premises of RMC.

Motor Workshop Department, Executive Engineer, Badri Chandrakar said that the corporation has its own diesel pump since 2012. There are two types of diesel pumps. The place

from where common people buy diesel is called a retail outlet. On the other hand, those who keep their own pump when diesel is used in large quantities, such pump is called consumer diesel pump.

Last year, the rate of consumer diesel has exceeded that of the retail outlet. It is notable that due to heavy loss, RMC had stopped its diesel pump and started buying it from outside. Extra Green Diesel emits 12 percent less carbon. This diesel is three rupees more expensive than normal diesel, but its use increases the mileage of vehicles by six percent, as a result, it is cheaper by Rs 2 per litre than normal diesel.

More than 3000 students will get bonus marks in class 10th-12th board exams

● **Maximum 280 students from Raipur to get benefit**

Raipur, Apr 07: The Directorate of Public Education has released the number of students who got bonus marks in the class 10th and 12th board exams in the academic session 2022-23. Bonus marks are given to students participating in activities like sports, scouts, NCC, NSS, and Vidya Bharti. Apart from this there is also a provision to give bonus marks to the state students who participate in competitions at national and international level.

3,161 students across the state will get the benefit of bonus marks. In Raipur district maximum 280 students are getting the benefit of bonus marks. The least in Chirmiri Manendragarh dis-



trict, only five students were found eligible for bonus marks. Not a single candidate is eligible for bonus marks in Sukma. Eleven students each have been selected in Korea and Bijapur. 1,272 students in class X and 1,889 in class XII will get bonus marks. It may be noted that a letter was sought from the Board of Secondary Education last days asking for the

list of eligible students who got bonus marks in the state. The bonus marks awarded to the students will not be added to the merit list. It is worth noting that for the last several years the bonus marks have been removed from the merit list. Earlier the student used to get included in the merit list by taking advantage of the bonus marks. Many a times, students have also become toppers by getting bonus marks. Bonus marks are not added to the merit list due to student protests, but the students get passed. Many students pass only with the help of bonus marks. In the National Service Scheme, this year not a single student has got bonus marks across the state. Similarly, not a single application has been received for the bonus marks given in sports and youth welfare.

Educational recovery in Ch'garh better than other states

Raipur, Apr 07: Releasing the Annual States of Education Report (ASER) - 2022 from his residence on Friday, School Education Minister Dr. Premasi Singh Tekam said that due to Corona, there was a lot of loss in the learning level of children in various states, whereas in Chhattisgarh, the school education department and teachers worked hard to return to their former position in 2022 in comparison to 2021. Departments will work unitedly in the direction of bringing in a better condition soon. ASER surveyed 64,131 children in the age group of 3 to 16 by reaching 33,330 houses in 1679 villages in 28 districts of Chhattisgarh. Information on enrollment of children in pre-primary school and



school in rural areas was collected. Children aged 5-16 were tested for comprehension skills in reading, Maths and English. School Education Minister Dr. Premasi Singh Tekam released the impact report and shared it with all the districts and directed to take follow-up action in the districts based on it. He also said that the way mothers have been connected in Chhattisgarh through 'Angana Ma Shiksha Karyakram'. Taking this program forward in the summer of this year, work

will be done to raise its level further by taking the responsibility of teaching and learning community-wise. By the end of April the children will be given basic education for two months after preparing the community for this work and orienting them. Minister Dr. Tekam said that repair work will be done in all the schools under the 'Mukhyamantri Jatan Yojana', so that the children get an attractive environment to study in the school in the new session. He said that as per the intention of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, the level of education has improved due to the opening of Kindergarten and academic activities carried out in the local language.

District level officers have been given online training

on multilingual education to work in the local language. Chhattisgarh is the first state, where initiative has been taken to do corrective work on the basis of linguistic survey to give education to children in local language. Further work has started in 200 schools of Bastar under this project. Chhattisgarh ranks 6th in the level of learning of children in reading skills in class VIII. Despite the corona lockdown, there was an increase of 4.1 percent in learning, while the loss at the national level is 2.8 percent. It ranks second in terms of level of learning of children's math skills in class VIII. Despite the Corona lockdown, there has been an increase of 10.6 percent in learning, whereas at the national level this increase is only 1.8 percent.

Ch'garh govt implements the SWE Policy 2023-28

Policy aims toward rapid development of women groups, entrepreneurs, businessmen and startups

Financial assistance will be given to women entrepreneurs in manufacturing, service and business

Raipur, Apr 07: The more empowered the women are, the faster the pace of development will be. The Government of Chhattisgarh is creating new women centric schemes to ensure their participation and progress in every field. A large number of women are

working in small scale and cottage industries in rural and urban areas. Along with this, through self-help groups, women working in Gothans, forest produce collection and other areas are making important contribution in the overall development of the state. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and under the guidance of Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma, the state government has implemented the State Women Entrepreneurship Policy 2023-28 to give a new identity to the efficiency of women and to connect them with entrepreneurship. Under this policy, provision has been made to provide financial assistance (loan) to women for setting up industries. Due to this, along with increase

in women workforce, their participation in industry and trade will increase. With this policy, the number of startups commenced by women will also increase rapidly.

Up to 55% of fixed capital investment, up to 1.20 cr fixed capital investment grant

Under the State Women Entrepreneurship (SWE) Policy 2023-28, a provision has been made to give loans up to a maximum of Rs 50 lakh to the women entrepreneurs of the state for manufacturing enterprise projects, up to Rs 25 lakh for service enterprise projects and up to Rs 10 lakh for business enterprise projects. Under this policy, economic investment incentives will be provided to eligible micro, small and medium manufacturing and service en-

terprises established by women entrepreneurs in the state for further expansion. Provisions have been made for the following under the State Women Entrepreneurship policy: Fixed capital investment grant up to 30-55 percent of the fixed capital investment made in the enterprise i.e. from Rs 40 lakh to Rs 1 crore 20 lakh, term loans obtained for the enterprises and working capital provisioned in the project report (with a maximum requirement of three months), 45 to 70 percent, maximum amount of Rs. 15 to 60 lakhs interest subsidy, 50 percent for setting up new enterprises, margin money subsidy up to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs, Net State Goods and Services Tax (Net SGST) reimbursement Commercial production

For 6 to 16 years from the date of commencement, exemption from electricity duty, exemption from stamp duty, transport grant, exemption from market fee.

5% additional subsidy in startup package, one year additional discount

Women self-help groups will be given an additional grant of 5 percent in grants as additional economic investment incentive and an additional time period of 1 year in cases of exemption. Under the Industrial Policy 2019-24, a provision has also been made for 5 percent additional grant and one year additional exemption in cases of exemption to start-up enterprises established by women in the startup package announced under the Industrial Policy 2019-24.

Senior citizens felicitated by BJP leaders

● On occasion of BJP Foundation Day

Central Chronicle News

Dhamdha, Apr 07: As per decision by the BJP state's leadership, a programme on the party's foundation day was organised at Gram Nandvai in 'Durga Manch' here on Thursday. First the photo of former PM Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee was garlanded and then the guests were welcomed. On the foundation day of BJP, all the senior social workers viz. Durga Prasad Gaikwad, Firtu Ratre, Pardeshi Ram, Pancharam Patel, Manharan, Banshilal Verma, Gajanand Verma, Prakash Patel were felicitated.

The programme in-charge Pawan Sharma



and co-in-charge Hima Sahu were present on the occasion. The Chief Guest was former Parliamentary Secretary Labhchand Bafna and it was chaired by Jaisingh Rajput- former Janpad Panchayat Dhamdha president. Special guests on the occasion were - BJP Dhamdha mandal President Rohit Rajput, general secretary Bhushan Dheemar, Sunil Gupta Kissan leader, Brijendra Dani,

Aruni Dani-BJYM state working committee member, Dilip Gupta - Kissan neta, former Nagar Panchayat Dhamdha President Raman Lal Yadav, former Mandal President Dhamdha Naresh Chandra Sahu, Sonu Chandel, Bhagat Verma, Mahila Morcha members- Shweta Sharma, Deepak Chouhan, Raja Swarnakar, Tushar Singh Rajput, Punendra Sonkar, Tukesh Sonwani and others were present.

Ban on fish seed production of exotic Magur

And Big head fishes in the state

Provision of one-year imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10,000 for violating the ban

Raipur, Apr 07: Fish seed production and farming of exotic Magur (Clarias gariepinus) and Big head (Hypophthalmichthys nobilis) fishes have been declared prohibited by the Fisheries Department of Chhattisgarh Government. No fisherman, individual, group, or committee shall produce fish seed of these prohibited fishes in any central or

state government or personal water bodies. According to the notification issued by the state government, the transportation, import, and marketing of these fish have also been banned.

According to the order issued by the Director Fisheries for violation of the ban, one-year imprisonment and Rs 10,000 or both can be punished under the Chhattisgarh Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2015. If the state government found that any person or persons involved in any activity related to these banned fish, then they will be banned from all kinds of schemes offered by the fisheries department.

CAIT called for formation of a monitoring system: Parwani

● For social media & OTT platforms

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 07: CAIT National Senior Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Mangal Maloo, Amar Gidwani State President Jitendra Doshi, States Working President Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, State General Secretary, Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary Bharat Jain, State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal and state media incharge Sanjay Choubey informed that the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) while calling for a monitoring mechanism for social media and OTT platforms said that whatever was being served on these platforms in the name of freedom of expression, is undesirable. Mr. Amar Parwani National Senior Vice President and Mr. Jitendra Doshi State President of the CAIT said that it is also necessary to block these social media platforms from taking advantage of "intermediaries" under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act because even if a complaint is found to be correct, these social platforms will get themselves saved under the guise of section 79 of the IT Act by terming themselves as intermediaries and the efforts of the govern-

ment to form a complaint panel will prove to be useless. In the past, these platforms and various companies of different sectors have taken recourse to this provision and shied away from the complaints against them. Mr. Parwani and Mr. Doshi also strongly demanded the Government to take similar steps for OTT platforms immediately where obscenity is at its peak and there is no mechanism in India to monitor or watch them. Mr. Parwani and Mr. Doshi said that we should not forget that all these social media platforms are puppets in the hands of foreign companies and dance at their behest whereas in a country like India where culture and civilization

keeps prevailing all the time, these social platforms have directly hurt Indian traditions and notorious and unsocial elements have been using them according to their wish in an unbridled way and in the absence of any complaint mechanism, all voice are going unheard.

In a way, they are waging war on our ancient culture, which needs to be stopped immediately. Mr. Parwani and Mr. Doshi said that earlier the cinema was the only tool for giving messages to the society and to protect it from giving unwanted messages, the Censor Board was set up so that the country's culture, civilization and ancient heritage are preserved.

Collector instructs for immediate survey



Kondagaon, Apr 07: Taking cognizance of the damage to the crops of the farmers due to sudden rains and hailstorms in the district, District Collector Deepak Soni has ordered a special campaign and survey in all the tehsils.

In this context, he directed all the concerned officials to conduct a joint survey by the Revenue and Agriculture Department and assess the damage to

crops and houses etc. For its implementation, a joint team of revenue and culture department has been formed under the guidance of SDM in all the tehsils of the district and the work of surveying has been started. Under this the survey teams would go to the affected areas and visit the spot and assess the crop and other damage and prepare a case for providing financial assistance.

Villagers wandering for compensation of land acquired: Gupta

Pending for last 4 yrs

Additional Collector assured to provide compensation amount in 1 month

Jagdalpur, Apr 07: The villagers of Koernar Panchayat of Darbha development block of the district are wandering for the compensation amount for the last 4 years. The land of the villagers was acquired for the construction of a bridge on the Koernar-Sedwa road. Before the acquisition of the land, the villagers were assured in the Gram Sabha meeting that they would get due compensation for these lands. But even after 4 years, they are wandering to the government offices for the compensation of the land. BJP District President (urban) Suresh Gupta got the Additional Collector to



meet the wandering villagers and informed the Collector about their visiting the offices for last 4 years. Additional Collector Hareesh Mandavi, after listening to everything seriously, has assured to get the compensation amount to the villagers within 1 month.

During this, City Vice President Rakesh Tiwari, Roshan Jha, Prakash Jha, Lala Kishore Mahavar, Prem Yadav, Rural Suman, Ramdhan, Subati, Praful Dushrath,

Sukhman were present.

BJP's city president Suresh Gupta informed that in these 4 years, he continuously contacted Patwari, RI, Tehsildar, SDM, PWD department. Everyone kept returning these villagers while blaming the other department. Ignorance and illiteracy of these tribal villagers became an obstacle somewhere in getting them their rights. And these villagers continued to wander. The local public representative of Congress did

not showed any interest.

He said that Koynar Panchayat comes under Jagdalpur Vidhan Sabha. Local MLA Rekhchand Jain does not get tired of continuously telling about the achievements of the government and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's concern for the tribals. On the other hand, the villagers of Jagdalpur Vidhan Sabha have been wandering to the govt offices since 4 years and no officer took care of them.

Suresh Gupta alleged that if the villagers had agreed to pay commission to the officers, they would have received compensation by now. The work in which the concerned responsible officers do not see their interest, it is not done in this government, he charged. Congress leaders have given a free-hand to the officials to commit corruption. As a result of which the villagers are wandering since 4 years.



Konta/Sukma, Apr 07: Residents of Konta block in Sukma district are facing numerous difficulties due to the continuous operation of crushers and quarries by contractor Shailendra Bahadur Singh (Pramod Rathore) in Dhondra and Injaram. The dust from the crushers and the blasting at the mines are causing respiratory problems for CRPF soldiers in nearby camps and making it difficult for villagers to go about their daily routines. Despite the

flouting of NGT (National Green Tribunal) rules, officials have not taken any action to investigate the issue. The district administration seems to be turning a blind eye to the plight of the villagers. Even the nearby houses have developed cracks due to the blasting, and villagers are not able to repair their homes. The villagers also fear political backlash if they protest against the crusher and stone quarries.

Clouds of dust are ris-



ing continuously throughout the day due to the operation of the crushers. Residents and commuters are having a tough time due to the dust. Although there is an asphalt road built by the government's plan, many rules are not being followed.

The crusher operators have to comply with the rules of NGT under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Forest (Protection) Act, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Environment

(Protection), Public Liability Insurance and Biological Diversity Act, but they have not been following these rules.

The district administration needs to take swift action to ensure that the crusher operators comply with the NGT rules and reduce the impact of the operation on the villagers' health and daily life. The issue needs to be investigated and resolved immediately to ensure a better living condition for the residents of Konta block.

ITM University organizes Int'l expert session

● On Project Management & Work-life balance in the IT Industry

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 07: School of Engineering and Research, ITM University Raipur organized an expert session on Project Management and Work-life balance in the IT Industry on Thursday at the university campus. The Assistant Vice President of Barclays, New Jersey USA Brijesh Mishra graced the program as the expert speaker. Vice Chancellor of ITM University Professor Dr. Sumer Singh welcomed the expert in the inaugural event and emphasized the importance of the ses-



sion topic for young university students. Addressing the students and faculty members, guest Speaker Brijesh Mishra shared his industry-related experience and presented a real view of the workplace. He guided students on how Project Management plays a vital role in resolving real-life problems, citing examples from working models of the industry. Students

were also made aware of the ten knowledge areas of Project Management: Integration, Scope, Time, Cost, Quality, Resource, Communication, Risk, Procurement, and Stakeholder.

Brijesh Mishra also spoke about work-life balance and advised students on maintaining healthy habits, and diet, setting goals, and priorities, and how it helps in developing

productivity and efficiency. He addressed a question about the ongoing IT industry recession, stating that it is a part of every industry, and freshers should focus on developing retention and creativity.

With years of experience in software development and test lifecycle, Brijesh Mishra further emphasized that happiness and work satisfaction matter. The program was well-coordinated by Dr. Nitin Jaiswal and Dr. Mohit Sahu while hosted by Prof. Jyoti Singh. Students at the university. The session provided valuable insights to B. Tech, BCA, MCA, and B. Arch students and faculty members, equipping them with knowledge and skills relevant to the IT industry.

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Combined 'Havan-Pujan' marks Hanuman Janmotsav

Central Chronicle News

Berla/Kodava, Apr 07: Hanuman Janmotsav was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety in Berla's Kodava and other place and in this the devotees of Lord Shri Hanuman distributed 'prasad' to the people at different places. On the other hand, combined 'havan-pujan' was organised in the temples and during this the devotional atmosphere was at its peak.

First in the morning, special prayers were performed in Lord Shri Hanuman's temple in Kodava and then 'havan-pujan' was done jointly. Here in Hanuman's temple



in Kodava, the devotees offered special prayers and then distributed 'prasad' in the form of water and 'Khichadi'. Similarly the festival of Hanuman Janmotsav was observed

in Hanumangadhi Temple in Kodava, Vajirganj and in other temples with great enthusiasm and fanfare.

After combined 'havan-pujan', 'prasad' was dis-

tributed to all. The religious organisations have made massive preparations and stalls for 'prasad' distribution was done in different areas and the people passing nearby were offered the same. During this the religious songs and 'bhajans' were played and people sought blessings of Lord Shri Hanuman.

The organisers viz. Sharad Shukla, Ganesh Vaishnav, Ramakant Joshi, Omkar Gupta, Mukesh Patel, Hemant Sahu, Shankar Sahu, Bhishan Parkar, Susheel Sahu, Sandeep Verma, Hirday Sahu, Chavi Sahu, Gopal, Satish Yadav and others were present.

Elders explained importance of Yoga

On World Health Day in village Bacherabhata

Central Chronicle News



Vilom', 'Pranayam' and other Yoga exercises. Jyoti Kede appealed all to include Yoga in their day-to-day practices to remain healthy and explained the importance of trees in leading a healthy life. Saroj Rajekar held discussions about the im-

portance of eating quality food with good supplements viz. salad, sprouted grains and others. Lukesh Mandavi gave information about TB disease.

For elders of the village, a musical chair programme was organised

and in this Fulkumar Dhurve came first; Ramkali came second and both were presented with a sapling in a pot. In the programmes for elders of the village, Anuradha Sharma, corporator Harish Motghare, Raja and others were present.

Consecration ceremony of idols of Lord Hanuman and Lord Shiva held

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Apr 07: On occasion of Hanuman Janmotsav in city, consecration ceremony of idol of Lord Shri Hanuman and Lord Shiva was done by TI Dongargarh police Surendra Swarnakar and entire Thana family in Dongargarh police thana here on Thursday.

With installation of Lord Shri Hanuman and Lord 'Bholenath' in the thana premises, first prayers were offered as per rituals and then 'havan-puja' was done and consecration of idols of Lord Hanuman and Lord Shiva was done.



After this the programmes of distribution

of 'Mahaprasadi' was done. Devotees in large number also offered prayers and paid obeisance to Lord Shri Hanuman and Lord Shiva and sought blessings.

As such everybody knows that Dongargarh is a religious city and due to this there is an inner feeling that there should be a place of worshipping and prayer at the work-place as well and so the thana staff of Dongargarh police thana contributed and constructed this temple in the thana premises so that all can have blessings of the Lord Hanuman and Lord Shiva.

'Cong to raise issues before general public'

● MS Saluja and Parliamentary Secy. Yadav addresses a press conference

Central Chronicle News

Bagbahra, Apr 07: Charging the dictatorial attitude of BJP-led central government, Manjit Singh Saluja and Parliamentary Secretary Dwarkadheesh Yadav said that raising voice of common men and speaking about corruption has become a crime in BJP's government.

But Congress is not going to be afraid about suppressive policies of the Centre, rather they would all go out among the masses and raise

voice making the lanes, by-lanes and Chowks-Chourahas as the Parliament and put forth the reality of BJP government.

Addressing a press conference MS Saluja he wants to clarify step-by-step about the cancellation of Rahul Gandhi LS membership to general public and added that he has put his hand on PM's sensitive pulse of Modi-Adani relations.

By raising this issue of from where Adani got Rs 20000 crore in the Parliament, Rahul Gandhi wanted an answer from PM. But instead of answer, his mike was put off and the BJP MPs did not allowed him to speak.



So in order to raise his voice, he would now go to the public and it is the fear of the likely response to Rahul Gandhi, that BJP is taking all such actions.

Parliamentary Secretary Dwarkadheesh Yadav said that raising the issue of Modi-Adani's relation and related question, has become a crime in the Parliament now. Instead of giving replies to his ques-

done in the Parliament. He said that BJP suffering from fear and threat from Rahul Gandhi is taking all such action, even to the extent of asking him to vacate his official house in Delhi.

On this occasion Kissan Kalyan Parishad V-P Mahendra Chandrakar also came down heavily against the Modi-led BJP government at the Centre. On this occasion District Panchayat Speaker B Thakur, member CTB Ankit Bagbahra, DCC V-P E Khairaki, Tanveer Saeed, Madakini Sahu, Treasurer- Heera Sejram Baghel, Tejan Chandrakar, DCC President duo- Ravi Nishad, Bhupendra Thakur and others were present.

RIPA plays an important role in strengthening rural economy: CM

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Apr 07: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today addressed the divisional level workshop of RIPA of District Panchayat Bilaspur through VC. The workshop was organized under the chairmanship of Pradeep Sharma; Advisor to CM. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel told the nodal officers, technical support agencies and managers of RIPA that you people have an important role in this scheme launched to strengthen the rural economy and said that the government is increasing employment opportunities at the local level so that people do not have to go outside for work.

Rural Industrial Park is providing necessary resources for self-employment in villages and vil-



lages are becoming self-supporting through RIPA. In the workshop, District Panchayat President Arun Singh Chauhan, District Panchayat President Rajeshwar Bhargava, Vice President of Arpa Development Authority Abhay Narayan, Joint Secretary of Panchayat and Rural Development

Department and State Incharge of RIPA Gaurav Singh, District Panchayat CEO Jayshree Jain, other state level officers of RIPA and Technical Support Agency of the division, RIPA Manager, RIPA Nodal Officer were present.

The meeting was also addressed by Pradeep

Sharma who said that RIPA has an important role in strengthening the rural economy. Joint Secretary and state incharge of RIPA, Gaurav Singh emphasized on the participation of unemployed youth. He said that women are writing a new chapter of self-reliance and success through RIPA.

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Apr 07: In the weekly time-limit meeting held here, District Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara gave instructions to benefit all sections by proper implementation of important schemes of the government, under which to speed up the work of Chhattisgarh Socio-Economic Survey, to issue instructions to all the enumerator teams to work in the field with full seriousness and to diagnose the problems faced during the work, so that the Socio-Economic Survey work should be 100% completed.

Explaining the importance of the survey and organizing the Gram Sabha in the presence of the District Officer, necessary guidelines were given to the supervisors



for taking regular reports of the works to complete the survey work in time. Chhattisgarh government has asked all the registered and eligible beneficiaries to benefit from the scheme, cluster-wise quick verification under the unemployment allowance scheme, and necessary publicity should be spread to all the eligible beneficiaries to benefit

from the scheme.

New guidelines have been issued for the implementation of the Rajiv Gandhi Landless Agricultural Labor Justice Scheme in urban and rural areas, under which the scheme has been implemented in Nagar Panchayats as well. The date for receiving new applications is fixed till April 15.

Necessary guidelines were given for all the eligible applicants to benefit from the scheme as on 01 April 2023. DFO Ashok Patel, Joint Collector Sumanraj, Pawan Kumar Premi and senior district level officers, SDMs of all sections, Tehsildars, CEOs of Janpad Panchayats and CMOs of urban bodies were present in the meeting.

Free mobile health path lab being run by Bhavna Bohra

Central Chronicle News

Kabirdham, Apr 07: With the aim of a healthy society and better health check-up facility, the residents of the area are getting benefits from the free mobile health path lab run by Bhavna Samaj Sevi Sansthan.

Under Rashrotkarsh Abhiyan, this mobile health path lab operated by Bhavna Samaj Sevi Sansthan was dedicated to the service of the public by inaugurating the mobile health path lab run by Bhavna Samaj Sevi Sansthan by Peethadishwar Jagatguru Shankaracharya Swami Nischalanand Saraswati Maharaj of Rigvedic Purvamnaya Govardhan Math Jagannathpuri in village Ranveerpur.

In just two months, the free health checkup facility has been made available to more than 1000 area residents through this mobile health path lab. With the goal of "Hamar Gaon,

Swastha Gaon", the founder of Bhavna Samaj Sevi Sansthan and Chairman of Kabirdham District Panchayat, Bhavna Bohra, has made a commendable effort, with the aim of providing health check-up facilities to the general public, free operation of Mobile Health Path Lab.

More than 1000 people avail benefits

So far more than 130 people in Ranveerpur village of Kabirdham district, 168 in village Bania, 160 in village Kuan, 150 in village Chorbhatti, 133 in village Kampadah, 50 in village Bamhani, 124 in village Dullapur, and 70 in village Damapur and more than 164 people in village Kunda were given to consult the nearest health center and doctors for proper treatment.

Through this mobile health path lab, a target



has been set to benefit more than 30 thousand people in a year. On this occasion, Bhavna Bohra said that due to the lack of health equipment and better health facilities in the area, seeing the problems being faced by the people of the area, it felt like trying to solve them.

Today it is a matter of happiness for us that through this service, villagers of many villages

are taking advantage of this facility.

Bohra, who is continuously working for the service, protection and assistance of needy and poor people, said that through this free mobile health unit, a target has been set to benefit more than 30 thousand people every year.

Along with providing better health facilities to the people living there,

more than 20 different, complex and general tests will be done free of cost, which are done in private labs for about Rs.200 to Rs.2000.

Works done by Bohra

It may be noted that continuous work is being done by Bhavna Bohra in Kabirdham district for public service, education, women empowerment, health security and helping every needy people in various fields.

Three free buses were started for college students of District Panchayat area no. 12 for commuting from home to college and from college to home, due to which more than 150 girl students studying in Than-Khamharia, Sahasapur, Lohara and Kawardha College are getting its benefit.

Through the two free ambulance services oper-

ated by him, the facility of home-to-hospital and hospital-to-home transportation is being made available to thousands of families living in Kabirdham district as well as nearby districts.

Along with this, Arogyam free health camp for better health of the residents, distribution of free equipment to 72 disabled people on the 72nd birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, free food and rest facility for Kanwar pilgrims going from Kabirdham district, oxygen concentrator in community health centers, Nari Samman Alankaran for women empowerment, Meri Sakhi self-protection program, sewing machine to women, installation of sanitary pad vending machine, Corona Warrior Service Award, free ration distribution, Haldhar Sammelan for farmers, pure drinking water supply in major places of the region

Various events organized on Mahavir Jayanti



Central Chronicle News

Balod, Apr 07: Mahavir Janma Kalyanak Samiti, organized various events on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti and after Prabhatter in the morning, a procession was taken out from the Jain temple and the bid to make the Lord sit in the chariot was taken by Chandrakant, Saurabh Ranpariya family. As per information, Puja Sadhvi Vrind Priyanka Shreeji Adi Thana 4 is seated here. Like every year, Prasad was distributed by Maheshwari Samaj in honor of the procession, after which religious quiz was also organized by Indu Dheldia and Subhash Dheldia. In the middle of the program, dignitaries were felicitated who help Jain monks and nuns during their stay arrangements etc. Jain

Shree Sangh felicitated Shambhu Sahu Taraud, Subodh Tawari Balod Laxman Sahu Tekapar, Rajesh Tapadia Baklitola, Shyam Rathi Karhibdar with certificates. After this program there was a programme of Gautam Prasad (food) which was taken charge by Jain Mandal and Samta Manch. President of Mahaveerjanma Kalyanak Samiti, Tarachand Sankhala expressed his gratitude to all the members of Jainshree Sangh, organizations and guests from nearby areas, Maheshwari Samaj and all those who got direct and indirect co-operation. On this occasion, Jainshree Sangh President Dr. Pradeep Jain, Mohan Nahta, Babulal Dheldia, Roopchand Golcha Mangial Dheldia, Pradeep Chouradia and others were present.

BRIEF



Devotees take part in the “Karaga” festival at Sri Dharmaraya Temple, in Bengaluru, Friday.

Mob attack

■ **Pratapgarh (UP):** A businessman died after being attacked by a mob at his home in a village here, police said on Friday. The victim, Md Saeed (30), was attacked by his neighbours at his home on Thursday night, Station House Officer (Kohrour) Ajit Shukla said. The ambulance in which Saeed was being taken to the hospital collided with an electricity pole on its way and he died, police sources said. The ambulance driver and his helper sustained injuries in the accident, they said. On the complaint of the victim’s family, a case has been lodged against Akhtar, Suhail and Afsar, the SHO said. “The accused are Saeed’s neighbours and prima facie it appears that the attack occurred following a dispute that took place a few days ago. All aspects of the case are being looked into,” he said.

Crude bomb

■ **Prayagraj (UP):** Some unidentified bike-borne persons hurled a crude bomb at local BJP leader Vijay Laxmi Chandel’s son at a residential colony here, police said on Friday. The incident happened in Jhuns police station area on Thursday evening, they said. According to police, Chandel’s son Vidhan Singh (20) was sitting in his car when some people threw the bomb at him. Vidhan narrowly escaped the attack, SHO (Jhuns) Vaibhav Singh said, adding the attackers fled from the spot. CCTV footage of the incident surfaced on social media in which some youths on two motorcycles can be seen hurling a crude bomb at a car in which Vidhan was sitting.

Siblings charred

■ **Hardoi (UP):** Two siblings were charred to death in a fire in Harpalpur village here on Friday, police said. Harpalpur Circle Officer (CO) Satyendra Kumar said the wife of one Tejram, a resident of Makhai Purwa, lit a stove to cook food and went to attend nature’s call. While other members of the family had gone to the field for work, Tejram’s son Gyanendra (5) and daughter Nanhi (3) were present in the house.

Lamp fire

■ **Noida:** A fire broke out inside an apartment on Friday in a housing society in Noida, suspected to have been triggered from a prayer lamp lit in the flat’s balcony, officials said. The fire was reported around 12.20 pm from the second-floor flat of the Shiv Shakti society in Sector 71, Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Pradeep Choubey said.

Akal Takht Jathedar to Punjab govt

Don’t try to create panic ahead of Baisakhi

Bathinda, Apr 7 (PTI)

Concerned by the deployment of heavy security here, Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh Friday asked the Punjab government to not try to create panic ahead of Baisakhi.

The Jathedar called a special gathering at Takht Damdama Sahib on Friday to discuss the role of Sikh and Punjabi journalism, Sikh media contribution, and challenges the state is facing at present.

The gathering comes at a time when concerns about the rise of secessionist forces in the border state are being expressed, especially in the wake of a major law and order breach in Ajnala Police Station attack led by radical preacher Amritpal Singh, who has been declared a fugitive by police.

Addressing the gathering, the Jathedar of Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs, said because of the security



Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel conducts a flag march ahead of the Baisakhi festival, in Amritsar, Friday.

strictness, only a fraction of the usual number of devotees has come here this time ahead of Baisakhi.

“Every year, we see a big gathering which starts from April 5 (for Baisakhi). But (at present), the number of ‘sangat’ is just 10 per cent. The reason is the panic created by the government,” he said. “I want to tell the Punjab government through this platform that this strictness has created

a panic, and it should be ended,” he asserted.

Apparently referring to certain media reports, the Jathedar said, “earlier they said Amritpal Singh will surrender here. Now they will start saying that he will surrender on Baisakhi day, and an attempt will be made to create panic in his name. The government should avoid it.” The Jathedar said when such a situation is created, it does not affect only the image of

Punjabis and Punjab, but also the government which is ruling Punjab. “At least save your image.”

The Jathedar said leaves of police staff in Punjab have been cancelled and they have been asked to be present for duty. “All of them have been sent to Damdama Sahib. What will happen here?” he said.

Punjab Police has cancelled leaves of all its staff till April 14, said sources on Friday.

‘NCERT’s revision of textbooks part of ‘saffronisation’ agenda’

Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 7 (PTI):

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday strongly condemned the dropping of certain chapters and portions from NCERT class 12 textbooks and alleged that “complete saffronisation” of academic books was the objective behind the move.

Historical facts cannot be denied by just cutting out portions that are inconvenient (to some one) from textbooks, he said in a Facebook post.

Excluding certain portions and chapters from the textbooks with a political motive was not only a negation of history but also a condemnable move. It is evident that the objective behind such actions is the “complete saffronisation of textbooks”, the CM added. In the hard-hitting post, Vijayan said it was clear whose interest was being served by the omission of portions about the assassination of the ‘Father of the Nation’ Mahatma Gandhi and the subsequent banning of the RSS, from the political science textbook



fronisation of textbooks”, the CM added. In the hard-hitting post, Vijayan said it was clear whose interest was being served by the omission of portions about the assassination of the ‘Father of the Nation’ Mahatma Gandhi and the subsequent banning of the RSS, from the political science textbook

of class 12.

Portions about the Mughal Empire were also cut down from the history textbook of the same class, he pointed out.

“The medieval history of India, excluding the Mughal Empire, is incomplete,” he said, alleging that medieval Indian history had always been an area that the Sangh Parivar had twisted and distorted.

The Kerala CM accused the NCERT of “white-washing the fake history” created by the Sangh Parivar by excluding these portions.

The Sangh Parivar, through the textbooks, was trying to inculcate the politics of hatred and division into the minds of children, the Marxist veteran further charged.

DMK, allies to hold ‘massive protest’ against Governor Ravi on April 12

Chennai, Apr 6 (PTI)

Slamming Governor R N Ravi for commenting that foreign funding fuelled anti-Sterlite demonstrations, the ruling DMK and its allies on Friday announced a massive protest against him here on April 12.

The DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA) said that ever since Ravi assumed office in 2021, his speeches and activities have been controversial and mysterious. “Our struggle will not cease until he stops activities that lower the Assembly’s dignity.”

On April 5, Ravi had stoked fresh controversy by remarking that foreign funds had fuelled the protests against Sterlite

BJP Parliamentary Board to meet to finalise candidates for Karnataka polls

Hubballi (KTK), Apr 7 (PTI)

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday said the BJP’s State Election Committee has shortlisted three names per constituency for the May 10 Assembly polls, and the party’s Parliamentary Board will meet in New Delhi on April 8 to discuss and finalise the list of candidates.

The Chief Minister is leaving for New Delhi this evening. “Tomorrow our Parliamentary Board

meeting will take place there (in Delhi). After discussions tomorrow (on candidates) the Parliamentary Board will finalise,” Bommai said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, “Opinions have been gathered from constituency and district level, after which the State Election Committee has shortlisted three names (per constituency).. it will be discussed and finalised by the Parliamentary Board in Delhi.”

Ticket aspirants are waiting for the BJP to an-

nounce the list of candidates, with election date approaching. Addressing the media in Bengaluru, BJP Parliamentary Board member and former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, who will also be attending the meeting in Delhi said, the list of candidates will be announced probably in two to three days. “Naturally (there is pressure), as there are three to five aspirants in certain constituencies. We have shortlisted two-three names per constituency and sent it to centre.

Azamgarh known for terrorism in past has a changed identity today: Shah

Azamgarh (UP), Apr 7 (PTI)

During SP, BSP, and Congress rule Azamgarh was known for terrorism whereas under Prime Minister Narendra Modi it is witnessing development, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

The PM has opened

the government purse for the development of Uttar Pradesh, Shah said addressing a rally here.

Shah recounted that links of terrorists exploding a bomb in a Gujarat temple were found in Azamgarh.

He was speaking after laying the foundation stone of Hariharpur

Music college and various other development projects in the district.

Bhojpuri star Dinesh Lal Yadav “Nirahua” had won the 2022 bypoll from Azamgarh Lok Sabha seat, which was vacated by Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav after becoming MLA.

Indore temple tragedy: Protesters condemn demolition

Indore, Apr 7 (PTI)

A large number of people protested in Indore in Madhya Pradesh on Friday against the demolition of the temple built over a ‘bawdi’ or stepwell where a floor cave-in on Ram Navami killed 36 persons.

The floor cave-in took place at the Beleshwar Mahadev Jhulelal Temple in Patel Nagar on March 30, after which, on April 3, the Indore Municipal Corporation demolished the structure and filled the exposed stepwell with debris with the aim of closing it forever. Condemning the

civic action against the temple and promising to get it built at the same site once again, the protesters marched to the collectorate and submitted a memorandum to Collector Dr Ilaiyaraaja T. Deepak Khatri, leader of the ‘Samagra Sindhi Samaj’, which organised the protest, said the administration erred in demolishing the temple and claimed Hindus were angry.

“The temple will be built at the same site. Action should have been taken against those due to whom the accident took place,” Khatri said.

Police apprehends 18 call centre employees who used Chinese loan app to defraud people

New Delhi, Apr 7 (PTI)

Eighteen people of a East of Kailash-based call centre, which operated under the guise of a financial company, were apprehended for allegedly defrauding people after giving them loans at low interest rates through a Chinese mobile application, officials said on Friday.

They would first offer short-term loans at “very low” interest rates through Chinese mobile loan application “Diolesce”, and after transferring the amount through it, they would in-

crease the rates, according to the officials.

Borrowers were coerced to repay loans at “exorbitant” interest rates and even after repayment, more money was demanded on the threat that they would be defamed through ways such as posting of morphed photos online, they said.

The officials said 17 employees, including women, have been detained while their team leader Amit, a resident of Sarita Vihar, has been arrested. However, the main accused in the case, Mohsin Khan, and his accomplices are still absconding, they

said and added that raids are being conducted to nab them.

Probe was started in the matter in February after a complaint was received at the North Delhi Cyber Police Station, the officials said. The complainant, a resident of Majnu ka Tilla, said a woman called him on his mobile-phone and said his daughter had a taken a loan of Rs 3,500 and he should deposit it through a link sent to him.

The woman threatened that if the amount was not deposited, his daughter’s nude photos would be posted online, the officials said quoting the complaint.

VCs told to submit weekly activity report to Guv

Kolkata, Apr 7 (PTI)

Vice-Chancellors of all state-run universities in West Bengal have been asked to submit a weekly activity report to Governor C V Ananda Bose and to keep the Chancellor in the loop about any major issue henceforth.

The Governor is also the Chancellor of all state-run universities.

Vice-Chancellor of two universities told PTI on Friday that they have received a letter in this regard from the Governor’s Secretariat.

The letter, sent by a joint secretary level officer of Governor’s Secretariat on April 4, said “weekly activity report shall be submitted on the last working day of the week by email and any decision which has financial implications may be submitted for prior approval of the hon’ble chancellor.”

“Vice-Chancellors can contact the Hon’ble Chancellor over telephone or mail on any major issue through the ADC (Major Nikhil Kumar),” the letter said giving the mobile number and email ID for contacting Kumar.

AIADMK Panneerselvan faction gears up to contest in LS, Karnataka polls

Chennai, Apr 7 (PTI)

Panneerselvam, the beleaguered AIADMK leader who has been waging a legal battle to establish his hold over the party as its coordinator, on Friday announced that his party would contest the Lok Sabha election next year.

His supporter V Pugazhendhi called on BJP leader B S Yediyurappa in Bengaluru and said his party expressed a desire to contest in the May Assembly elections in Karnataka as well.

“Talks are on with the BJP on firming up an alliance, and we will contest the Lok Sabha election,” Panneerselvam announced. The former chief minister

told reporters here that he would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the latter’s visit to the city on Saturday, “if possible”.

“Panneerselvam told us to hold consultations with Yediyurappa on contesting from the Tamil-dominated areas in Karnataka. We conveyed this to the BJP leader with whom we cherish a fond relationship. I hope the BJP will confer and inform us,” Pugazhendhi said after calling on Yediyurappa earlier in the day.

Responding to a question, he said the general secretary election in the Edappadi K Palaniswami faction had created confusion among the cadres.

In Chennai, party senior Panruti S Ramachandran

claimed that the AIADMK was caught in a maya (illusion) projected by Palaniswami and hence many were unable to see the reality. “This maya will soon disappear if we approach the people’s court and face the 2024 Lok Sabha election,” he said.

Contending that the July 11 general council convened by the rival faction was “illegal” as it did not have the approval of the party coordinator, Panneerselvam said he had hoped to get respite through the court verdict. “We are prepared to take our case to the people’s court. We have planned to organise a rally in Tiruchirappalli on July 24 and thereafter I would tour the districts,” Panneerselvam said.

S Korea, US, Japan call for support of ban on N Korea workers

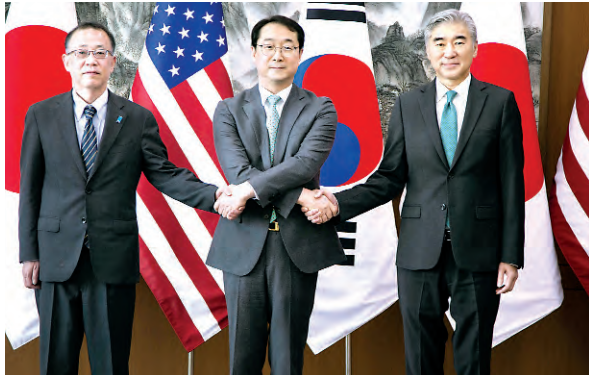
Seoul (South Korea), Apr 07 (AP):

South Korea, the US and Japan called for stronger international support of efforts to ban North Korea from sending workers abroad and curb the North's cybercrimes as a way to block the country's means to fund its nuclear program.

The top South Korean, US and Japanese nuclear envoys met in Seoul on Friday in their first gathering in four months to discuss how to cope with North Korea's growing nuclear arsenal.

The North's recent weapons tests show it is intent on acquiring more advanced missiles designed to attack the US and its allies, rather than returning to talks.

Despite 11 rounds of UN sanctions and pandemic-related hardships that have worsened its economic and food problems,



From left to right, Japanese nuclear envoy Takehiro Funakoshi, chief South Korean nuclear negotiator, Kim Gunn, and Sung Kim, the U.S. special representative to North Korea shake hands before their three-way meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, April 7.

North Korea still devotes much of its scarce resources to its nuclear and missile programs.

Contributing to financing its weapons program is also likely the North's crypto hacking and other illicit cyber activities and the wages sent by North Korean workers remain-

ing in China, Russia and elsewhere despite an earlier UN order to repatriate them by the end of 2019, experts say.

In a joint statement, the South Korean, US and Japanese envoys urged the international community to thoroughly abide by UN resolutions on the ban-

ning of North Korean workers overseas, according to Seoul's Foreign Ministry.

The ministry said a large number of North Korean workers remains engaged in economic activities around the world and transmits money that is used in the North's weapons programs.

It said the three envoys tried to call attention to the North Korean workers because the North may further reopen its international borders as the global COVID-19 situation improves.

It is not known exactly how many North Korean workers remain abroad. But before the 2019 UN deadline passed, the US State Department had estimated there were about 100,000 North Koreans working in factories, construction sites, logging industries and other places worldwide.

GOOD FRIDAY



Wilfredo Salvador, center, and two actors stay on crosses during a reenactment of Jesus Christ's sufferings as part of Good Friday rituals April 7 in the village of San Pedro, Cutud, Pampanga province, northern Philippines. The real-life crucifixions, a gory Good Friday tradition that is rejected by the Catholic church, resumes in this farming village after a three-year pause due to the coronavirus pandemic.

UK PM Sunak, First Lady Akshata speak of pride after Padma Bhushan for Sudha Murty

London, Apr 07 (PTI):

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife, Akshata Murty, have spoken of their pride in author and philanthropist Sudha Murty being conferred the Padma Bhushan at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Akshata, the First Lady at 10 Downing Street, was present at the ceremony and later took to social media to express her emotions towards her parents Sudha Murty and Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy. Her husband, Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister, replied to his wife's post with the words "a proud day". "Yesterday I watched



with unspeakable pride as my mother received the Padma Bhushan from the President of India," Akshata Murty posted on Twitter on Thursday after her 72-year-old mother got the award. "On #IWD [International Women's Day] last month, I reflected on my mother's extraordi-

nary journey, from STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) to storytelling, but her charitable and volunteering efforts have served as her greatest inspiration to me," Akshata writes.

"Always asking if she can be doing more, she has given back to her commu-

nity countless times: founding and running a series of philanthropic organisations for 25 years; funding numerous literacy initiatives; and jumping into action to aid those most in need many in the most remote parts of India after natural disasters have destroyed their lives," she writes.

The First Lady said her mother's example has helped put "volunteering, learning and listening" at the heart of how she hopes to live at 10 Downing Street. "My mother doesn't live for recognition. The values my parents have instilled in my brother and me hard work, humility, selflessness mean she is always on to the next thing.

But it was such a moving experience to see her have a moment of recognition yesterday," she added. Her brother, Rohan Murty, similarly praised his mother as a "positive force" in their lives in his social media post. In her acceptance speech at the ceremony attended by her family, Sudha Murty thanked the people of India for their unconditional support.

"I owe this award to the people of India. I hope my recognition today inspires the younger generation to take up social welfare as a vocation. It is needed for the continuous development of our great nation. I always feel that the generosity of a few gives hope for a million," she said.

Afghan women-run radio resumes broadcasts after shutdown

Islamabad, Apr 07 (AP):

A women-run radio station in northeastern Afghanistan has resumed its broadcasts, after officials shut it down for a week for playing music during the holy month of Ramadan, a Taliban official and the head of the station said on Friday.

Sadai Banowan, which means "women's voice" in Dari, was launched 10 years ago in Badakhshan province and is Afghanistan's only women-run radio station. Six of its eight staff members are women.

Moezuddin Ahmadi, the director for Information and Culture in Badakhshan, said the station was allowed to resume activities on Thursday

after it had obeyed the "laws and regulations of the Islamic Emirate" and agreed to stop broadcasting any kind of music.

Station head Najia Sorosh said after the station "gave a commitment to officials at the information and culture department, they unlocked the door of the station," and they started broadcasting again. The Afghan Journalist Safety Committee, an Afghan watchdog organisation that promotes the safety of journalists and press freedom and which was involved in mediation for the station's reopening, welcomed the resumption of broadcasts. "Following AJSC's advocacy efforts, Sadia Banowan radio resumed its broadcasts," it

said in a tweet. Representatives from the Ministry of Information and Culture and the Vice and Virtue Directorate had shut down the station a week earlier.

Many journalists lost their jobs after the Taliban takeover in August 2021. Media outlets closed over a lack of funds or because staff left the country, according to the Afghan Independent Journalists Association. The Taliban have barred women from most forms of employment and education beyond the sixth grade, including university. There is no official ban on music. During their previous rule in the late 1990s, the Taliban barred most television, radio and newspapers in the country.

China sanctions American, Asian organisations

● Angry over Taiwan's President Tsai's US trip

Beijing, Apr 07 (PTI):

China on Friday sanctioned the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and other US- and Asian-based organisations in retaliation to the US House Speaker meeting Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen, a day after President Xi Jinping said it is "wishful" thinking to expect Beijing to compromise on its stand on the self-ruled island. Tsai's meeting with Speaker McCarthy - the third most senior official in the US - on Thursday took place against the

backdrop of repeated warnings from Beijing to Washington that the meeting should not happen. China views any official exchanges between foreign governments and Taiwan as an infringement on Beijing's claims of sovereignty over the island. The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, was the site where Tsai met McCarthy and a bipartisan group of congressional leaders. It was the second high-profile meeting between an American official and Taiwan's president. China also sanctioned the Hudson Institute, which hosted an event and presented Tsai

with its global leadership award on March 30. The sanctioned groups included Asia-based groups — The Prospect Foundation and the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats for their involvement in promoting Taiwan's independence. "[The] Taiwan issue is the core of China's core interests. The Chinese government and Chinese people will never agree to anyone making a fuss about the one-China issue," Xi told European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during a meeting in Beijing on Thursday. It was his first comment after the US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy met Tsai in

Simi Valley, California, which Beijing sharply criticised. "Anyone who expects China to compromise on the Taiwan question could only be wishful thinking and self-defeating," Xi was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, von der Leyen said the Taiwan issue had been discussed and she had told Xi that "the threat to use force to change the status quo is unacceptable. It is important that some of the tensions that might occur should be resolved through dialogue", Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

Islamabad notifies rules for Hindu Marriage Act after much delay

Islamabad, Apr 07 (PTI):

Pakistan's Islamabad capital administration has notified the Hindu Marriage Act 2017, more than five years after its passage, a development that could benefit members of the minority community who can now solemnise their marriage in line with established rituals, a media report said on Friday.

The notification titled Islamabad Capital Territory Hindu Marriage Rules 2023 will pave the way for the implementation of the marriage act passed in 2017 in the Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and

Balochistan provinces as well, the Dawn newspaper reported.

An Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration official said the notification was forwarded for implementation to all Union Councils of the federal territory.

According to the rules, relevant Union Councils in Islamabad will register a Maharaj' to solemnise marriages.

According to the report, a Hindu male with adequate knowledge of Hinduism can become a Pundit' or Maharaj'.

However, the 'Maharaj' will be appointed only after the submission of a character certificate from

the local police and the written approval of at least 10 members of the Hindu community, the report said.

Mehfooz Piracha, district attorney for Islamabad Capital Territory, who drafted the rules, told the newspaper that the notification "is a major step" towards ensuring the rights of the minority community.

He added that the Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces can adopt these rules now.

"Politically and technically, it is easy for provinces to adopt the laws enacted in Islamabad rather than formulating

new legislation for each jurisdiction," Piracha was quoted as saying in the report.

Similar to the case of the "registered nikah-khawan" for Muslims, respective Union Councils will issue a "Shaadi Pert" (marriage certificate) to the Maharaj' registered with the relevant local government body.

All marriages would be registered at the Union Councils as well, the report said.

According to the rules, a Maharaj' appointed under the Marriage Act would not take any money for officiating the marriage except for the fees mandated by the government.

Pakistan FM cancels US visit

● Amid domestic political and judicial crisis

Islamabad, Apr 07 (PTI):

Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has cancelled his visit to the US to attend the spring meetings of the World Bank and the IMF and hold talks with officials to unlock a much-needed USD 1.1 billion IMF bailout, amid deepening domestic political uncertainty and developing judicial crisis, according to a media report on Friday.

During the visit, Dar was to meet the International Monetary Fund management for the removal of bottlenecks in the staff-level agreement on the revival of the stalled bailout package. Sources said that Dar would not attend the spring meetings of the World Bank and the IMF that will take place from



April 10 to 16 in Washington, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. "I am not going due to the domestic state of affairs," the newspaper quoted Dar as saying.

The deepening political uncertainty and developing judicial crisis were said to be the reasons behind the cancellation of the trip to Washington, the paper said. Dar had the plan to address the financial and political worlds' concerns regarding the continuity of the Pakistan government, future economic plans and

bridging the once again trust deficit with the multilateral lenders.

The sources said that Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq would also not go to the United States due to the prevailing uncertain political conditions.

The economic affairs minister always represented Pakistan at the World Bank. Ayaz is considered very close to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and also handled the political affairs of the allied parties. The development came amid the widening chasm between the judiciary and the federal government over holding polls in the country's politically crucial Punjab province.

The federal government asserts that it has the power to delay the polls and hold them with the general elections in the country after August this year.

Washington, Apr 07 (PTI):

India has emerged as one of the top three markets for Microsoft's new Bing preview, which has ChatGPT incorporated into it, and is its biggest image creator market, a senior company official has said, asserting that the search engine is much better than its rival Google.

Powered by ChatGPT, Microsoft launched the new Bing preview on February 7. ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence chatbot developed by OpenAI and launched in November 2022.

"Search has changed and will change. It's not going away. Just like when television came into existence, radio didn't go away, but TV got a lot more ex-

citement. Same will happen here. The new capabilities of AI of chat of answers are now increasingly exciting because they're helping answer questions that search didn't do. And with Bing, we are completely unique in that leadership today," Yusuf Mehdi, corporate vice president and consumer chief marketing officer of Microsoft told PTI.

Microsoft, under its Indian-American CEO Satya Nadella, has a vision about the world moving from search engines to what it thinks of "as your co-pilot" for the web. That does four things: do better search, give answers to questions, chat and create content.

"We're now having over 100 million daily activities

on Bing. We are in 169 countries and India is one of the top three markets for us in this new Bing preview. In fact, India is the top image creator market, based on users using the feature, which is really pretty neat," Mehdi said. "So, of all the countries in the world, India's the top. With some of these visual capabilities, one of the things we also announced this last week is knowledge cards. So that you can now get richer views of the searches. We are seeing a Bollywood actor Kiara Advani as the top search in knowledge cards with other actors rounding out in the Indian market. So, seeing great engagement there (in India)," he said. Responding to a

question, he said, the Indian market is very active as people in the country are using many of the new features that

Microsoft has recently launched. The new Bing has been receiving very positive feedback from its users, he said.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना

क्र. 44/न.पा.वि./जोन क्र.06/2023-24 दिनांक 06.04.2023
एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सहम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निर्माण कार्य हेतु दिनांक 28.04.2023 को सायंक 5.30 बजे तक ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

निविदा क्रमांक/सिट्टम टेंडर नं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	अमानत राशि
129986	वार्ड क्र. 42 में रोड देवरीखुर्द से बरखदान एस.एल.आर.एम सेंटर पहुंच मार्ग तक सी.सी. सड़क निर्माण कार्य।	36.41	27307.00
129992	वार्ड क्र. 43 ऐरोकट से दोमुहानी एस.एल.आर.एम सेंटर पहुंच मार्ग तक सी.सी. सड़क निर्माण कार्य।	36.41	27307.00
129995	वार्ड क्र. 43 सफेदखदान स्कूल में बाउंड्रीवाल एवं स्कूल भवन निर्माण कार्य।	28.00	21000.00

उपरोक्त प्रदाय कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विधिपत्र, निविदा बरसावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

जोन आयुक्त, जोन क्र.06

Green City, Clean City, Dream City.

नगर पालिक निगम, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)



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China's Latest Provocation

As China continues to provoke India through aggressive measures, including renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh, India is rapidly working to bolster its defence preparedness. India is focusing on reducing its dependence on foreign countries by developing and producing indigenous defence technology and equipment, strengthening the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and increasing the percentage of equipment used by the armed forces procured from Indian manufacturers. Despite India's progress, there is still room for improvement in areas such as defence procurement, indigenous defence manufacturing, and coordination among different agencies. China's tendency to throw its weight around, notwithstanding its occasional attempts to play the peacemaker, is all-pervasive. Its recent move to rename 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh is aimed at riling India. China has conducted similar exercises in the past, and rejecting China's meddlesome action, New Delhi has asserted that "Arunachal Pradesh is, has been, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India" and "attempts to assign invented names will not alter this reality." However, such "strong" statements have failed to deter China from indulging in misadventures. China's aggressive moves on the ground and its doublespeak make it an unreliable neighbour. Beijing has stated that it wants to strengthen ties with India and Russia, but a triad comprising China, India and Russia will remain a treacherous distraction as long as the Chinese persist with their duplicity. India's main confrontation is with China, which has the world's largest standing army, larger air force and navy, and significantly larger defence budget than India. Both countries have nuclear weapons, and both have been strengthening their military presence along the border. China is the world's largest exporter of arms, while India is still in the early stages of developing its defence export capabilities. However, India has a clear edge in terms of its battle-toughened army, which has the ultimate experience in the highest battlefields, counterterrorism, and regular warfare. As the world order rapidly changes, new and emerging security threats are constantly evolving, driven by advances in technology, changing geopolitical dynamics, and socio-economic factors. Drones are one of the main perceived threats, with terrorists or other malicious actors using them to carry out attacks, gather intelligence, or disrupt critical infrastructure. Cyber attacks, the misuse of AI, terrorism, and the increasing use of space technology for military purposes are among the emerging security threats. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the threat posed by biological agents. India must expeditiously ramp up its infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh while continuing to focus on reducing its dependence on foreign countries for its defence preparedness. India must be vigilant against China's aggressive moves and ensure its military preparedness to counter any threats from emerging security threats. India must also build strategic alliances with countries that share its concerns and interests to maintain peace and stability in the region.

New research shows the impact of illiteracy in India

Darryn Keneally

New findings released highlights the financial cost and social impact brought about due to 33.9% of people in India with low level literacy skills. The "Economic Cost and Social Impact of Illiteracy" report has revealed that the estimated financial cost to the wider economy in India at \$53.36 billion USD per year. World Literacy Foundation Chief Executive Officer and co-author of the report Andrew Kay said reduced income earning capacity and social costs are the main reason why illiteracy is costed the Indian economy each year. "As a community of literacy experts, we face significant challenges as the early data shows a drop in literacy rates post-pandemic," Mr Kay said. "Literacy can change everything in the life of a young person and provide a pathway to reach their full potential." It's estimated in India approximately 475 million people struggle to read, write and hold basic numeracy skills. To highlight the true impact of illiteracy in India, Mr Kay has spoken about this economic cost and social impact report at the Oxford University World Literacy Summit 2023 on Monday April 3. Dr Tony Cree, Chair of the World Literacy Council said the literacy conference this week played a central role for the first time post-pandemic, which brought together practitioners and academics to share the latest global research and learnings to address a spike in illiteracy. Dr Cree said "the 3-day meeting put a spotlight on people and organizations doing exemplary and innovative work in the literacy sector around the world." "We know the past 24 months have highlighted the need for communities to unite for literacy". The World Literacy Summit hosted around 500 literary specialists from 85 countries from April 2-5 2023 at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. A further 48,000 people from the developing world attended the event via virtual/online TV channel. Globally, 770 million people can't read a single word, a further 2 billion people struggle to read a sentence. The Summit was a vital opportunity for the wider literacy community to come together, find solutions, and create a roadmap for the future.

Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of the original message, and ask that they be kept to around 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via email to editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

GOOD FRIDAY



Christian devotees take part in a religious procession on the occasion of Good Friday, in Chennai, Friday, April 7. Good Friday is a Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.

Regenerative Medicine: A Promising Solution for Chronic Diseases



DR KRISHNA KUMAR VEPAKOMMA



Regenerative medicine is a rapidly evolving field that offers new hope for treating a wide range of chronic diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, and more. It utilizes a variety of innovative approaches, such as stem cell therapy, tissue engineering, gene therapy, and transplantation of cells or tissues to address the underlying causes of disease, rather than simply managing symptoms. The growing demand for new therapies that can address chronic diseases has made regenerative medicine a highly sought-after field of research and development.

The Aging Population and Chronic Diseases

The world's aging population has led to a sharp increase in the prevalence of chronic diseases. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), by 2030, chronic diseases are projected to account for 75% of all deaths worldwide. Chronic diseases can severely impact a person's quality of life and require ongoing medical management that can be both expensive and time-consuming. As such, there is a growing need for new therapies that can address the root causes of chronic diseases and promote healing.

Regenerative Medicine Approaches

Stem cell therapy involves the use of stem cells to regenerate damaged tissues or organs. Stem cells have the unique ability to differentiate into any type of cell in the body, making them a valuable tool for repairing damaged tissues. For example, stem cells can be used to regenerate heart muscle tissue following a heart attack or to repair damaged nerve tissue after a spinal cord injury. Tissue engineering involves growing new tissues or organs in the laboratory and then transplanting them into the patient. This approach has shown promise in treating a variety of conditions, such as skin grafts for burn victims, and is currently being explored for use in developing replacement organs, such as kidneys and livers. Gene therapy involves altering the genetic material of a patient's cells to treat or prevent disease. This approach has shown potential in treating rare genetic disorders, such as cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anemia, by correcting the underlying genetic mutation that causes the disease.

Benefits of Regenerative Medicine

One of the most significant benefits of regenerative medicine is its potential to restore function and improve patient outcomes in a way

that was previously impossible. Traditional treatments often focus on managing symptoms, whereas regenerative medicine can address the root causes of disease by repairing or replacing damaged tissues and organs. This can lead to improved quality of life, reduced healthcare costs, and decreased reliance on medications. In addition, regenerative medicine offers new possibilities for treating conditions that are currently untreatable or difficult to treat. For example, spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's disease, and heart disease have all been identified as potential targets for regenerative medicine therapies. Regenerative medicine has also been shown to stimulate the body's natural healing processes. This is particularly beneficial for conditions such as chronic wounds, which can be challenging to treat with traditional approaches. By stimulating the body's natural healing mechanisms, regenerative medicine offers the potential to accelerate healing and reduce the risk of complications.

The Economic Impact of Regenerative Medicine

Regenerative medicine has the potential to create new industries and jobs, spurring economic growth and development. The development of new therapies and treatments requires investment in research and development, creating opportunities for scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs. This, in turn, can lead to the creation of new companies and the development of new technologies, driving economic growth and job creation.

Investment in Regenerative Medicine

Investment in regenerative medicine is crucial to unlocking its full potential. Continued research and development are needed to refine

existing therapies and develop new ones that can address a wider range of conditions. In addition, investment is needed to develop the infrastructure required to support the development and delivery of regenerative medicine therapies. There are already numerous examples of successful regenerative medicine therapies, such as skin grafts, bone marrow transplants, and corneal regeneration. However, there is still much to be learned about the underlying mechanisms of regenerative medicine and how to best harness its potential.

Moreover, ethical considerations must be taken into account in the development of regenerative medicine therapies. For example, the use of embryonic stem cells has been a source of controversy due to ethical concerns surrounding the destruction of embryos. As such, researchers have been exploring alternative sources of stem cells, such as induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), which are derived from adult cells and do not raise the same ethical concerns.

Regenerative Medicine: A Promising Future

Regenerative medicine offers a promising future for the treatment of chronic diseases. Its potential to address the underlying causes of disease and promote healing represents a significant shift in the approach to healthcare. With continued investment and research, regenerative medicine has the potential to revolutionize the way we treat chronic diseases and improve patient outcomes. However, it is important to proceed with caution and ensure that ethical considerations are taken into account in the development of regenerative medicine therapies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let the opposition parties go to voters

The Supreme Court has rejected a plea by 14 opposition parties, including Congress, DMK, and TMC, to have a separate set of rules for politicians. The court said that politicians stand on the same footing as the rest of the citizens of the country and that the same laws apply to them. The Chief Justice of India added that the remedy for opposition parties, whose political space they say has shrunk, is in that space, not the court. The opposition parties need to go to the voters and make public-oriented programmes, as they have lost contact with the voters, and the public support is essential for them. The parliament's disturbance caused by opposition parties has not allowed any legislative work to be completed, and they should allow parliament to function in the national interest.

Yash pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Welcome move by EC

With plutocrat power being flagged off as a major concern in Karnataka, the Election Commission of India is likely to emplace further Central spectators to keep an eye on the bean expenditure of political parties and candidates. It's likely that one IRS officer will be stationed for every two Assembly constituencies to cover election expenditure. This is a welcome move by EC. Furthermore District Expenditure Monitoring panels involving State police, Excise, Investigation Directorate of the Income Tax Department, Enforcement Directorate and Financial Intelligence Unit, among others, have been set up to crack down on electoral malpractices. EC call on the number of Central spectators grounded on the need, perceptivity and assessment of the ground situation seems to be imperative and inevitable.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Organ Donation: A Noble Cause

I am writing to address the misconceptions surrounding organ donation, which prevent many from coming forward to donate their organs. Despite the fact that organ donation can give a new lease of life to those in need, many people are still hesitant due to the lack of awareness on the subject. Organ donation is the best gift one can give to others. As the donor, you have nothing to lose, but the receiver has everything to gain. Organ transplant is the only hope for a multitude of patients suffering from life-threatening diseases. It is a noble cause that deserves more attention. Religion also plays a major role in decision-making for the donor and their family. However, it is important to remember that all major religions support organ donation as an act of compassion and kindness towards others. By doing so, we can save countless lives and make a real difference in the world.

MKN Raipur

Evil grows when good people do nothing?



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

If you allow something inherently bad or bad to happen when you had knowledge or experience that the event was morally wrong, you will let "evil" triumph. For example, when you see an old man being robbed or a girl being molested and you choose to be in action about it during the incident. You may have felt that you could not intervene because "it was none of your business". Or you were afraid that you would be the next target. Or maybe, you just assumed someone else would come forward and say something. Or

you thought you just couldn't find the time. Or you might even think that maybe you just misunderstood the situation. Or someone will take action or say something for you. Despite every possible reason on earth, we allow evil to prevail because we are afraid, scared, or frankly, just don't care, about being unpopular.

Our world is full of people who are doing nothing. When you give the finger to evil, they devour you all. So, why are people so passive about all the bad things that are happening? First, we are programmed by the elite to think this way. We are taught to take care of ourselves and compete with others in school, sports, work, politics, religion, and more. It is a creation that has been going on for thousands of years. We have learned to idolize and not see the real value in every human being. People have "idols" they follow and believe in. Why can't you just be your own "idol"? You

can still appreciate the people who create great things but all people are capable of creating.

This is a replica of the events that have taken place in Afghanistan with the Taliban taking control of Kabul. What the world is witnessing with the victory of the Taliban and people trying to flee Afghanistan and many killed in the effort is indeed pure evil. No one can justify this in any way, shape, or form. We cannot sit comfortably and watch it on our computer screens and TV screens. It has to be fought otherwise it will spread like cancer all over the world. President Biden said that his hands were tied for a comeback given the terrible peace deal between the Trump administration and the Taliban. But there was still a way to withdraw American troops while giving the Afghans a better chance of maintaining the gains America had made with them over the past two decades. Biden chose other-

wise. How he announced the withdrawal and eventual departure of US troops - early in the fighting season, on a rushed timeline, and without adequate coordination with the Afghan government - has got us to the current situation.

At the very least, the United States should have continued to support the Afghans during this period to help blunt the latest Taliban offensive and buy time to plan for a future devoid of American military aid. US diplomats could use this time to negotiate access to regional bases from where counterterrorist operations could be continued. At the same time, the US military should have been prepared for an emergency should those talks fail. Reasonable people can disagree about the wisdom of keeping US military forces in Afghanistan indefinitely. A responsible comeback required more time and better preparation. Another famous philosopher, John Stuart Mill,

said: 'No one should lull his conscience under the illusion that he can do no harm if he takes no part and forms no opinion. The bad men need nothing else to round their heads, but those good men to watch and do nothing.'

We cannot match evil with evil. Anger and hatred have no place in a world of peace and love. The only way to fight this is to expose the truth. Share knowledge with your world when you know corrupt things, manipulated to control people. I know many people are paid to keep their mouths shut because otherwise they will be publicly ridiculed and humiliated or eventually killed. Some people are brave and expose the truth. Are you going to be one of them? And stop feeding the elite. You support them through banks, stock markets, media, politics, and other things.

Research scholar, poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist.

BRIEF

New chairman



New Delhi: Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association said Anshuman Singhania, Managing Director of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd, has been elected its new Chairman. In a statement, Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) said Arnab Banerjee, Managing Director & CEO of CEAT Ltd has taken over as the Vice-Chairman. Singhania, a graduate from Oxford Brookes University, the UK and an alumnus of London Business School, has held several positions in planning, production, product development, finance, sales and marketing, among others, besides playing a key role in implementing the latest technologies in the manufacturing process at JK Tyre, it added.

Growth rate



Mangaluru: Karnataka Bank plans to achieve a growth of 17.69 per cent in its centenary year of 2023-24 to take its total business turnover to Rs 1,75,000 crore, its CEO and Managing Director M S Mahabaleshwar has said. Addressing the staff members of branches and offices across the country in the new financial year from the Mangaluru head office through virtual mode on Friday, he outlined the blueprint of the strategies and broad plan of action for the year 2023-24. As per the provisional numbers, the business turnover of the bank stood at Rs 1,48,694 crore with a growth rate of 7.63 per cent, comprising deposits of Rs 87,362 crore and advances of Rs 61,326.00 crore, he said.

Resignation



New Delhi: Forging company Kalyani Forge on Friday said its Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Laxmi Narayan Patra has resigned. His resignation is effective from April 6, 2023. "CFO Laxmi Narayan Patra has tendered his resignation due to personal reasons," the company said in a regulatory filing. Kalyani Forge is an engineering company with an expertise in metal forming. It makes forged, machined and assembled products for customers in industries like automotive, construction, power generation, marine, railway, and industrial goods.

FinMin sets up panel to review pension system for govt employees

New Delhi, Apr 07:

Finance Ministry set up a committee under Finance Secretary T V Somanathan to review the pension system for government employees. The committee would suggest whether in the light of the existing framework and structure of the National Pension System (NPS), as applicable to government employees, any changes therein are warranted. As per its terms of reference, the committee would suggest measures to modify the same with a view to improving upon the pensionary benefits of government employees covered under the NPS, keeping in view the fiscal implications and impact on overall budgetary space, so that fiscal prudence is maintained to protect the common citizens. The committee, to be chaired by Somanathan, would



have Secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Special Secretary in the Department of Expenditure and Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) as members. Last month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that a Finance Secretary-chaired Committee would look into the issue of pensions under the NPS for government employees and evolve an approach which

addresses the needs of employees while maintaining fiscal prudence. The announcement came in the backdrop of several non-BJP states deciding to revert to the DA-linked Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and also employee organisations in some other states raising demand for the same.

The state governments of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have informed the Centre about their decision to revert to the old pension scheme and have requested a refund of the corpus accumulated under the NPS.

Last month, Finance Ministry informed Parliament that it is not considering any proposal to restore the OPS in respect of the central government employees recruited after January 1, 2004.

Investors' wealth jumps over Rs 10.43 lakh cr in last 5 days of market rally

New Delhi, Apr 07: Equity investors became richer by over Rs 10.43 lakh crore in the past five days, as markets continued their winning momentum helped by foreign fund inflows and stable global trends. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms have surged Rs 10,43,216.79 crore to Rs 2,62,37,776.13 crore in the last five trading sessions (March 29-April 6). This week, equity markets were closed on Tuesday (April 4) for "Mahavir Jayanti". Markets are closed on Friday on account of "Good Friday". Last week, stock markets were closed on Thursday for "Ram Navami". The 30-share BSE Sensex has jumped 2,219.25 points or 3.85 per

cent in the past five trading sessions. According to market analysts the benchmark indices have rallied aided by improved overseas fund inflows and positive global cues. "The Indian equity market saw gains for the second week in a row after a protracted period of underperformance, thanks to stable global cues, FII buying amid valuation comfort, and signs of a worldwide peak in interest rates," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd. On Thursday, the BSE Sensex had climbed 143.66 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at 59,832.97 after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unexpectedly kept the benchmark rate unchanged.

FMCG cos expect easing commodity inflation to help boost consumption

New Delhi, Apr 07:

Easing of commodity inflation is favourable for the overall consumption trend for FMCG products, especially in rural markets, which have remained muted for the last five to six quarters, according to leading manufacturers Dabur and Marico. Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) also expects margins to show an improvement in the March quarter. "During the quarter, the sector continued to witness gradual recovery with year-on-year volume trends improving in each quarter. While urban and premium categories were stable, easing of broader commodity inflation bodes well for overall consumption trends, especially in

rural markets," Marico said. Among key inputs, copra prices remained steady in a favourable zone and edible oils resumed a downtrend while crude derivatives remained firm. "... gross margin is expected to expand and drive reasonable growth in operating profit on a year-on-year basis," Marico, which owns brands such as Saffola, Parachute, Hair & Care and Nihar Naturals, said. According to Dabur, demand trajectory across both urban and rural markets in India has shown a slight improvement sequentially, although it falls short of a full recovery. "While urban markets have returned to positive volume growth, rural markets still remain muted," the homegrown FMCG

major, which owns power brands such as Dabur Chyawanprash, Dabur Honey and Ral, said.

However, it also added that despite "near-term consumption pressure", there are some "green shoots which are emerging such as moderating inflation, improving consumer confidence and increase in government spending". Inflation continued to cool off for most of the commodities and gross margins for its India business are expected to show an improvement. On the revenue front, Dabur's India and international businesses expect to report mid-single digit growth in the March quarter. GCPL said in the Indian markets, consumer demand trends remained

Housing sales climb 22 pc annually in Jan-Mar; new launches rise 86 pc: PropTiger.com

New Delhi, Apr 07:

Housing sales and new supply increased 22 per cent and 86 per cent, respectively, during January-March this year on better demand, according to residential brokerage firm PropTiger.com. REA India, a full-stack real estate technology platform, owns Housing.com, PropTiger.com and Makaan.com. In its report titled Real Insight Residential - January-March 2023, PropTiger.com said that housing sales rose to 85,850 units across eight cities in January-March 2023 from 70,630 units in the year-ago period. New launches grew 86 per cent to 1,47,780 units — highest in a quarter — from 79,530 units. Reports of other property consultants have also reported an increase in housing sales during the



January-March quarter despite a rise in mortgage rates in the last one year. "The Indian housing market is witnessing a significant growth, with both sales and new launches on the rise. This is particularly noteworthy considering the challenging global environment and the hardening of interest rates on

home loans in the domestic market," said Vikas Wadhawan, Group CFO of PropTiger.com, Housing.com and Makaan.com. The surge in new launches also provides evidence of real estate developers confidence in the market and their commitment to cater to the rising demand. As per

data, Hyderabad witnessed maximum growth in sales of 55 per cent to 10,200 units during the January-March period from 6,560 units a year ago. In Maharashtra's two key property markets, Mumbai and Pune, sales grew by 39 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively. While in Mumbai, sales of residential properties went up to 32,380 units in the first quarter of 2023 from 23,370 units in the same quarter of the previous year. Pune saw housing sales rising to 18,920 units in the first quarter of 2023 calendar year from 16,320 units in the year-ago period. Housing sales in Ahmedabad were up 31 pc to 7,250 units in January-March 2023 from 5,540 units in the year-ago period. Sales of residential properties in Chennai increased 10 per cent to 3,630 units from 3,290 units.

India's forex reserves drop by USD 329 mln to USD 578.45 bln

Mumbai, Apr 07:

India's forex reserves dropped by USD 329 million to USD 578.449 billion for the week ended March 31, on decline in gold reserves, the RBI said on Friday. The forex kitty had risen handsomely in the previous two reporting weeks, and rose by USD 5.977 billion to USD 578.778 billion for the week ended March 24. For FY23, the overall kitty has dropped by USD 28.86 billion. It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments. For the week ended March 31, the foreign currency as-

sets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 36 million to USD 509.691 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves decreased by USD 279 million to USD 45.20 billion, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 27 million to USD 18.392 billion, the apex bank said. The country's reserve position with the IMF was up by USD 14 million to USD 5.165 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Govt revises gas pricing formula; CNG, piped cooking gas to cost 10% less

New Delhi, Apr 07:

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved a revision in the formula for pricing of natural gas and imposed cap or ceiling price to help cut CNG and piped cooking gas prices by up to 10 per cent. Natural gas produced from legacy or old fields, known as APM gas, will now be indexed to the price of imported crude oil instead of benchmarking it to gas prices in four surplus nations such as the US, Canada and Russia, Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters after a meeting of the Cabinet. APM gas will be priced at 10 per cent of the price of basket of crude oil that India

imports (Indian basket of crude oil). The rate such arrived at however will be capped at USD 6.5 per million British thermal unit. There will also be a floor or base price of USD 4 per mmBtu. The ceiling price is lower than the current rate of USD 8.57 per mmBtu and would translate into a reduction in prices of piped cooking gas as well as CNG sold to automobiles, he said. Piped cooking gas prices will be cut by up to 10 per cent across cities while CNG will see a little lower reduction, he said. Rates of piped cooking gas, called PNG, and CNG have jumped 80 per cent in one year to August 2022. This follows a spurt in international energy prices.

Following the decision, the CNG price in Delhi will be cut from Rs 79.56 per kg to Rs 73.59 and that of PNG from Rs 53.59 per thousand cubic meters to Rs 47.59. In Mumbai, CNG will cost Rs 79 per kg instead of Rs 87 and PNG will cost Rs 49 per scm instead of Rs 54. The Indian basket of crude oil is currently priced at USD 85 per barrel and 10 per cent of that translates into a price of USD 8.5 but the cap would mean the APM gas produces, ONGC and Oil India Ltd would get only USD 6.5 per mmBtu.

These caps and floor prices will be for two years and rates will increase by USD 0.25 per mmBtu per year thereafter, the minister said.

RBI may continue with pause on rate hike for longer period: Economists

Mumbai, Apr 07:

Economists seem to be divided over RBI's decision to leave interest rate unchanged, with some seeing a prolonged pause while others expecting that much will depend on economic data. In a surprise move, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Thursday decided to keep repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent. At the press conference after the policy announcement, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said that today's status "is a pause and not a pivot" because "MPC wanted to assess the impact of the cumulative 250 basis points hike in the policy rates since May last". Deputy Governor Michael Patra chipped in to reiterate that today's pause is "valid only till 10 am on June 8, 2023, when the Governor will announce the next policy".

Tanvee Gupta-Jain of UBS India and Rahul Bajoria of Barclays India opined that the surprise, unanimous decision of MPC to hold the rate is an indication of "prolonged pause". Dharmakriti Joshi, chief economist at Crisil, said RBI will remain on pause as long as inflation does not rise materially above its forecast while Sunil Sinha of India Ratings said the next move would depend on the incoming data. Barclays now expect RBI to hold rate for the rest of this fiscal, with only a major upside inflation shock likely to stir back the bank into rate action. Aditi Nayar, the chief economist & head of research at Icm Ratings, said financial stability concerns appear to have pre-empted the move as MPC assesses the impact of its cumulative 250 bps of rate hikes. "But if inflation does not

fall in line with MPC assessment for Q1FY24, another hike could be in the offing, especially if the financial stability situation stabilises."

According to Joshi, the next move will be data dependent and that the rates are expected to remain higher for longer as inflation persists above target. "All this means that while the phase of aggressive rate hikes may be behind us, the after effects on financial conditions, along with any upside to inflation, would be the risks to watch for in the new fiscal year," he said. Sinha said the pause perhaps is due to the fact that past rate hikes are still playing out and it now expects retail inflation to come in at 5.2 per cent lower than its earlier forecast of 5.3 per cent and if inflation does not fall, future rate hikes cannot be ruled out.

Mumbai, Apr 07: Reliance Jewels, one of the most trusted jewellery brands of India, has launched an exquisite jewellery collection, Thanjavur, to mark the occasion of Akshay Tritiya. The collection draws inspiration from the artistic traditions of Thanjavur temples, the royal darbar halls of its palaces, the adorable Bommai dolls, and the majestic Poompuhar ships. It was launched at a special event in Shangri-La, Bangalore, which was attended by customers, media, and leading members of the fashion fraternity.

Thanjavur offers an array of exquisite jewellery pieces that suit every occasion, from weddings to festive events. It includes stunning necklace sets, chokers, layered necklaces, bangles, bracelets, earrings, rings, waistbelts, maang

Reliance Jewels unveils the majestic Thanjavur collection



tikkas, and ear chains; each crafted to exude elegance and sophistication. With its inspiration rooted in the glorious heritage of Thanjavur, the collection is a perfect blend of traditional art and contemporary designs, making it the perfect choice for the modern, fashion-conscious woman.

A runway show illustrating the extensive range of gold and diamond jewellery pieces offered by Thanjavur was held at the launch event. The highlight of the event was Bollywood actress Jahnvi Kapoor walking the ramp wearing the showstopper piece - a diamond-studded necklace and earring collection inspired by temple mix designs, crafted in rose gold.

The intricate workmanship and attention to detail in the design perfectly captured the essence of Thanjavur heritage.

'Rabb Se Hai Dua' actress Aditi Sharma has transformed her makeup room with a personal touch. Aditi has designed her room by putting up some motivational posters on the wall and giving it a floral vibe by painting the door herself. She has also decorated her room with her fan's gifts and has set up a mini kitchen in her room since she loves to eat her meals. While sharing the reason for giving a personal touch to her makeup room, she said: "Since we spend most of our time on the set, we need a peaceful and homely vibe and to feel at home, I have done a set-up to feel comfortable while I spend my time in the room. My room has a white and blue theme, which is very calming, and looks simple and decent." "I also have this newfound love for the Boho vibe, so I've added a few accessories to the walls. I believe that reading motivational quotes gives out very positive energy, so I have added a lot of motivational quotes posters on one of the walls of the room. I have also set up a mini kitchen in my room that includes a microwave oven and a mini fridge because I am someone who loves to enjoy my food nice and warm," she added. After starring in a music video, 'Taare' along with Guru Randhawa in 2017, she started her TV career with 'Kaleerein' in 2018, and was also seen in 'Naagin 3', 'Yehh Jadu Hai Jinn Ka!', and many more. She also did a web series, 'Crashh'. Now, the actress is playing a lead role in the show 'Rabb Se Hai Dua' which is an emotional love story of a couple Dua, played by Aditi and Haider, essayed by Karanvir. It focuses on the life of Dua, whose life goes upside down after her husband Haider expresses a desire to marry another woman. She further elaborated on how she decorated the room and said: "There is a small mandir as well! And to add a little personal touch to my room, I have been painting the door of my room. The painting mainly embodies cherry blossoms with leaves, and I am really excited about how it is turning out to be. Whenever I get some time off on the set I work on it, and I am planning to paint the second half of the door as well, with some other design."

Aditi Sharma redesigns her 'Rabb Se Hai Dua' makeup room for a personal touch



Will Dhruv save Tara from the police?

Dhruv Tara - Samay Sadi Se Pare" on Sony SAB has captivated audiences with its one-of-a-kind romantic tale between Dhruv (Ishaan Dhawan) and Tarapriya (Riya Sharma), receiving high praise and adoration from all corners. Despite encountering various obstacles on her journey back to her own time period, Tara's plight has kept viewers engaged. In the forthcoming episodes, Dhruv will once again come to Tara's aid in the face of yet another daunting obstacle.

Susheela (Neelima Singh) deciding to marry off Dhruv before he moves to Canada turns out to be another big problem. Dhruv constantly keeps telling Susheela that he doesn't want to get married, which she misunderstands and forces him to meet the girl she has chosen. While Dhruv is trying to prove his point, he finally comes across a place like Navrang Van and is on cloud nine. He wants to share this information



with Tara; however, he comes to know that Tara has left his house forever. On the other hand, Tara, while trying to save a girl from goons, lands up in trouble and is taken away by the police.

Will Dhruv come to know that Tara's life is in danger? Will he save her?

Keep watching Dhruv Tara- Samay Sadi Se Pare every Monday to Saturday at 8:00 PM only on Sony SAB.

Exclusive sneak-peek into Janhvi Kapoor's work-fitness balance



We've all heard the term 'work-life balance', but have you heard of the term 'work-fitness balance'? Whether a woman is a homemaker or working, it can be challenging to maintain a good lifestyle when work almost always takes priority over everything else in our lives. Let's learn about Janhvi Kapoor's work-fitness harmony! The gorgeous B-town diva is known for her outstanding roles in blockbuster films like Roohi, Dhadak, and Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl. She is not only an endearing actress, but also a great inspiration for her dedication and commitment to fitness. Read on to know her fitness secrets and how with consistency half the fitness battle is won! "It has been a long journey and a constant conscious effort to prioritise what's important! Waking up and getting on our feet to work long hours is something that we all relate to,

but through all this, staying fit makes you feel much better. Consume meals that are protein-packed and consume them more often. Take your breaks well and indulge in nutritious snacking habits -this way you will achieve half of it and the other half is with a good and functional exercise routine and a good sleep schedule," said Janhvi, who firmly believes in - You Feel Better When You Are Fitter! "For me, before starting my workday, I make sure I have a protein-packed breakfast, like brown bread, oats, and my favourite Saffola FITTIFY Peanut Butter. I love that it comes in variants ranging from Omega 3, whey protein, unsweetened, and dark chocolate to vegan options both in extra crunchiness as well as super creamy forms. For lunch, I eat only home-cooked meals or consume fruits and vegetable juice if I am outdoors for shoots. I keep

my dinner very light, consuming lots of boiled vegetables and soup." "I never miss out on my nutritional supplements on the go and during my breaks. I personally love the Saffola FITTIFY - The Perfect Gummies that make supplements a tasty option. These super ingredients, which are high in Biotin as well as vitamins A, C, E and Zinc, are ideal supplements to get your daily dose of nutrients. It has helped me refuel my energy during hectic work schedules." Janhvi likes to - Master One Task at One Time! She said: "When I work out, shoot, or go on vacation with my family, I ensure I'm all in, in that very moment. I feel it's important to be 100 per cent present in whatever you're doing, and to be content and happy with yourself and your life. Don't compromise on your present for your past or future worries, just breathe and soak in whatever that moment has for you."



Raveena Tandon gets angry as fan pushes her daughter

Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon, who is known for films such as 'Mohra', 'Dulhe Raja', 'Shool' and many others, is back in the bay after receiving Padma Shri - the fourth highest civilian award by President Draupadi Murmu. She was clicked at the airport along with her daughter Rasha Thadani.

The actress smiled for the cameras as she walked in a blue coloured outfit with her hair tied neatly in a bun adorned with gajra. As she approached her car, a fan started intruding in her personal space to click a picture with her. The fan unknowingly pushed her daughter in the attempt to get the actress in his frame.

An angered Raveena intervened and nudged the fan back asking him to not push her daughter. She said: "Aap dhakka mat dijiye bhai sahab, bacchon ko dhakka mat dijiye (please don't push the kids)." The actress then sat in the car along with her daughter and left the airport.



Child actress Gaurika Sharma, who is known for working in TV shows such as 'Choti Sardarni', 'Banni Chow Home Delivery', among others, has been roped in to play the titular role in the show 'Shravani'. This show is inspired by the character of Shravan Kumar from mythology and Gaurika will be seen playing Shravani, who takes care of her blind parents like Shravan Kumar. Gaurika talked about her role and says: "I am so happy to be a part of Shravani. Playing the role of Shravani is amazing. She is such a kind and happy person, and I am trying my best to be like her." She further added on how it is to be part of the show and said: "Everyone on the team is really nice, and I am having so much fun on set. I hope people like watching me on the show and give me lots of love." 'Shravani' will be airing soon on Shemaroo Umang.s

Gaurika Sharma roped in to play titular role in 'Shravani'

Dibyendu to get felicitated at the prestigious 'Shailushik Rashbihari Group's Theatre Fest'

Dibyendu Bhattacharya is currently basking in the success of the critically acclaimed and widely loved web show, Rocket Boys 2. The versatile actor has got another reason to celebrate! Dibyendu Bhattacharya is all set to get felicitated at the illustrious Shailushik Rashbihari Group's Theatre Festival for his immense contribution to the Indian entertainment arena. Speaking from the 'city of joy', Kolkata, Dibyendu shared his delight, "It's an absolute honour to revisit your alma mater, that too in your hometown. I have performed theatre with the Shailushik Rashbihari Group since its inception. Circling back to the late 80s, I have been one of the initial members of this theatre group. It is a matter of immense pride for me. Back then, we never knew that the group



Rashbihari Group) shall go on to redefine art in Kolkata, the way it has."

Sharing about his plans in Kolkata, he further added, "I am around for a few days as I believe it is essential for an artist to revisit his roots from time to time. I plan on meeting my loved ones and spending some quality time with them. Apart from this, am also here for the post-production requirements of one of my Bengali films."

On the work front, Dibyendu currently has his hands full with multiple projects along with the Akshay Kumar-starrer 'Capsule Gill.'

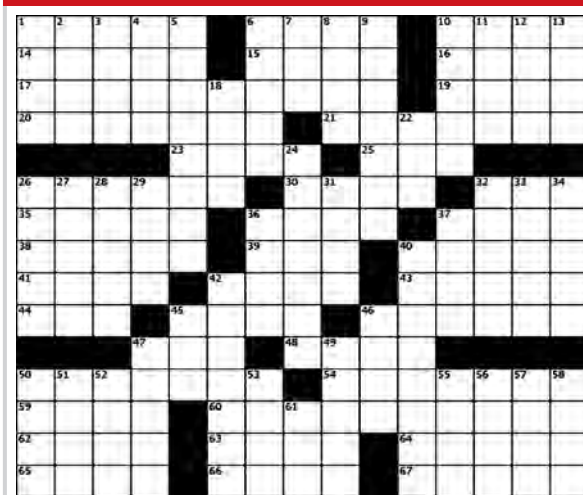
Tusharr learnt scuba diving for his debut film 'Starfish'

Making his feature film debut with T-Series's upcoming film Starfish, Tusharr Khanna portrays the leading role in the adaptation of Bina Nayak's best seller novel 'Starfish Pickle'. As the name suggests, the film delves into the depths of the ocean, requiring Tusharr Khanna to learn scuba diving for the character. Never having attempted scuba diving before, Tusharr Khanna took special lessons to learn it for four days in order to obtain the license to practice Scuba diving. As scuba diving is an integral part of the character, the actor has been shooting in the chilly temperatures of 11 degrees in Malta. From wearing a professional diving suit which requires covering the body in soap water for wearing, to pouring warm water all over himself regularly for maintaining body temperature, Tusharr Khanna has been taking



all the measures required for the shoot. Shooting on a ship also has the added challenge of sea sickness, amidst most of the crew members throwing up, Tusharr usually starves till completing the shoot at night to avoid any obstacles. Talking about the same, Tusharr said, "It has been an exhilarating experience. I had never attempted scuba diving in my life, as an actor, challenging myself to learn new skills for the character is extremely exciting. I look forward to such adventures along my journey." Making the transition from television to silver screen, the quintessential outsider from Amritsar, Tusharr Khanna is gearing up for the contemporary romance drama 'Starfish', directed by Akhilesh Jaiswal. Also starring Milind Soman, Khushalii Kumar and Ehan Bhatt, the film is produced by T-Series and Almighty Motion Pictures.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Unenthused
- Popcorn seasoning
- Voice range
- Pig's comments
- Guilty, e.g.
- Watch face
- Opposite
- Emerald
- Jam (impromptu concert)
- Strips
- Manner

DOWN

- Debt letters
- Overseas
- Actress Barrymore
- Puma, e.g.
- Holy person
- Courtier Christian
- Be bold
- Publish
- Decline
- Succinct
- Conks out
- Lampreys

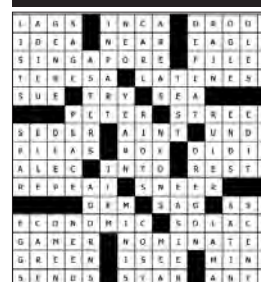
- Musician John
- Raised railways
- Peak
- Foreigners
- Completely
- Umpire's call
- Hereditary
- Ghastly
- Lumberjacks' tools
- Small, yappy dog
- Exec's car
- Bridge
- Be upright
- Over
- Observed
- Experiments

DOWN

- Constricting snakes
- Fishing string
- Colony insects
- Snow runners
- Educated guess
- Use money
- Capone and Pacino
- Hawaiian necklaces
- More flavorful
- French farewell
- "Mona"
- Speak
- Bullring cheers
- Cowl
- Use oars
- Foodstuffs
- All kidding
- Pesto ingredient

- Ascends
- Burden
- Steals from
- A la
- Fiery felony
- Young people
- Regard
- Sub store
- Transmit a TV show
- Overshadow
- Computer key
- Not nearby
- Fable collector
- Make right
- Party
- Way out
- "Finding"
- Imitate
- Opening bet
- Partiality
- Talk wildly
- Goals

SOLUTION 610



It's Rohit flair vs Dhoni's acumen as MI lock horns with CSK

Mumbai, Apr 07 (PTI):

Rohit Sharma will like to get his act together both as a batter as well as skipper, when his star-studded Mumbai Indians take on an astute Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings in what could be safely billed as a Saturday night IPL blockbuster.

Rested well for a week after their crushing loss against RCB in season-opener, Mumbai Indians will certainly be under additional pressure in front of their passionate home fans here at the Wankhede Stadium.

More so, given how ruthlessly they were blown away by Royal Challengers Bangalore in a one-sided game with Virat Kohli taking the MI attack to cleaners.

But to their advantage, inexperience of Rajvardhan Hangargekar and Tushar Deshpande, both warned by their skipper Dhoni for bowling wides and no-balls, will work in home team's favour as young duo might find the batting-friendly Wankhede track very challenging. How well spinners Moeen Ali and Mitchell Santner bowl will



also decide CSK's fate against the five-time champions. There will be however be a case for Sisanda Magala, who is known to nail wide york-

ers for South Africa might replace Santner in the playing XI. The focus will be a little extra on MI skipper Sharma, who hasn't exactly set the IPL stage

Match Starts at 7:30 pm.

on fire for a few seasons. The Indian skipper has had his share of blazing starts but a big knock has eluded him for quite some time now.

In a small ground with short side boundaries, how well Jofra Archer bowls will hold key for MI as the likes of Arshad Khan, Cameron Green could be lambs for slaughter for in-form Rituraj Gaikwad or Devon Conway.

Sharma has fronted questions over Bumrah's absence consistently but Mumbai Indians have also looked to plug in the holes by roping in Australian quick Riley Meredith in place of the injured Jhye Richardson, and Sandeep Warrier replacing the Indian star gives them another option.

The fresh track at the Wankhede can be expected to have some initial assistance for fast bowlers and as home team, Mumbai Indians would certainly want to make the most of it, especially given that CSK themselves have struggled in this department in their last two games.

DC aim for improved batting show against Rajasthan Royals

Guwahati, Apr 07 (PTI):

Battered and bruised by raw pace in back-to-back matches, Delhi Capitals' batting unit is likely to find some breathing space on a feathered when the side takes on Rajasthan Royals in an afternoon IPL match, here on Saturday.

Mark Wood and Alzarri Joseph have scarred the likes of Prithvi Shaw and Sarfaraz Khan in DC's line-up in the first two games.

And when these talented but low on confidence willow wielders face an attack comprising Trent Boult, KM Asif and Jason Holder, they would have to negotiate speed in mid 130 kmph, which is right up their alley.

However, the guile and artistry of Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal on a hot late afternoon and early evening in Guwahati won't be a pleasant proposition either. But the pattern of scores at the Barsapara Stadium suggests that batters get value for their shots and one can plunk his front-foot and hit through the line.

Another aspect that might give some relief to DC could be the absence of dangerous Jos Buttler, who has got stitches on the little finger of his left hand after sustaining a bruise while taking a catch in the last game. The bruised area with stitches is likely to remain sore and soft and it will be difficult to field even though batting with extra padding inside the gloves remain an option. In case Buttler is unable to play, Joe Root could be an option.



Match Starts at 3:30 pm.

DC, on paper, despite Rishabh Pant's absence, looked good but frailties of Shaw and Sarfaraz while facing international bowlers, who are 10 miles quicker than their Indian counterparts, has created a lot of problems, which the side wouldn't have initially comprehended.

There hasn't been too many silver-linings for DC in the two defeats so far and the main drawback of the team is poor bench-strength in terms of Indian talent, which doesn't inspire confidence. Even if the coaching staff wants to try other options in place of Sarfaraz, DC, in its

Indian batting roster only has Yash Dhull, Ripal Patel and Lalit Yadav to fall back upon and none of them are players who would perhaps score at a strike-rate of 150.

For Rajasthan Royals, Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Sanju Samson have been in good nick in the first two games and would hope to pose challenge for the likes of Anrich Nortje, Khaleel Ahmed and Kuldeep Yadav. The two aspects in DC's strategy that will be looked upon with keen interest will be usage of 'Impact Player' and Axar Patel's utility as a bowler with southpaws -- Jaiswal and Shimron Hetmyer batting in top six.

Kieron Pollard wants batters to fire in unison against CSK

Mumbai, Apr 07 (PTI):

After the failure of top-order in their IPL opener, Mumbai Indians batting coach Kieron Pollard is expecting the batters to fire in unison in the much awaited clash against arch-rivals Chennai Super Kings here on Saturday.

MI were reduced to 48/4 by RCB at one stage before rescue acts from Tilak Verma (84) and Nehal Wadhwa (21) dragged them to 171/7, which in the end proved too less against RCB.

"I believe all batters have to fire. I do not think we should not single out any individual. Cricket is played with eleven players, and again, the tournament has just started so everyone is just looking to start (on a) high.

"Yes we did not get off to a great start as a batting unit but in the end we



managed a decent total in Bangalore. Let us see what

happens since we are back at Wankhede," Pollard said on the eve of the game.

The Mumbai Indians' batting coach categorically declined that the team was concerned over the form of mainstay Suryakumar Yadav, the world No 1 T20I batter who flopped in the first game while coming off a horrendous ODI series against Australia.

"We have no concerns on Surya's form, again. I believe you guys make more of it than we do sometimes within the team set up.

"People have bad days and that is unfortunate as cricketers our bad days are highlighted and we keep speaking on and on about it rather than trying to look at the positive or what he has done over the past 18 months or so in cricket as an individual," Pollard said.

Indian men and women hockey teams get new support staff

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

Renowned Australian coach Anthony Farry has been appointed as the analytical coach of the Indian women's hockey team while South African Rhett Halkett will perform the same role with the men's team, Hockey India announced on Friday.

The national federation also announced other support staff members for both the teams. Farry, under whose supervision Canada men's team qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics and who also helped Japan women win their maiden Asian Games gold medal in 2018, will assist head coach Janneke Schopman in his new role.

Farry also helped Canada U-21 men's team qualify for two consecutive editions of the Junior World Cups and was the

head coach and High Performance Director of USA women's side from August 2020 to April 2022.

Besides Farry and Halkett, Hockey India also announced Australian Alan Tan's appointment as scientific advisor to the national men's team. Both Halkett and Tan will be a part of the coaching set up of the men's team led by newly-appointed chief coach Craig Fulton of South Africa. Rhett earned 155 international caps between 2010 and 2018 for South Africa. In 2020, he was assistant coach of the Netherlands women's side before moving to Scotland, where he coached both the senior as well as the U-21 outfits. Tan, meanwhile, comes with over 10 years of experience working as the strength and conditioning coach at the New South Wales Institute of Sport.

Mirpur, Apr 07 (AP):

Bangladesh wrapped up its one-off cricket Test against Ireland with a seven-wicket win just after lunch on the fourth day on Friday. Bangladesh scored 369 and 138-3 while Ireland made 214 and 292.

Mushfiqur Rahim, who scored 126 in the first innings, sealed victory for Bangladesh with 51 not out, while Mominul Haque was unbeaten on 20. Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan said: "This was a match where we could experiment with a few things. We tried to do that, some things came off and some things didn't.

"I thought we were positive enough and the wicket suited the way we wanted to bat. That's one area where we are looking to change our approach and that worked in the match. I wouldn't say this was an ideal Test wicket but it was a good batting track."



Bangladesh's captain Shakib Al Hasan (L) poses with the trophy after winning the Test cricket match between Bangladesh and Ireland at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka on April 7.

Liton Das gave Bangladesh a fluent start before he was bowled by pace-man Mark Adair for 23. Offspinner Andy McBrine, who registered an Ireland record 6-118 in the first innings, then had Najmul Hossain caught by skipper Andrew Balbirnie for 4. But Tamim and Mushfiqur put on 62 for the third wicket. Bangladesh earlier took 36 minutes to wrap up Ireland's

second innings after the visitors resumed on 286-6.

Pace bowler Ebadat Hossain rattled the stumps of McBrine in the fifth over of the day after he added one run to his overnight 71 to make a career-best 72. Ebadat then had Graham Hume caught by Das for 14 to finish with 3-37. Lorcan Tucker made 108 off 162 balls with 14 fours and one six while Harry Tector hit 56.

Top-seeded Pegula rallies to reach Charleston quarterfinals



Charleston, Apr 07 (AP):

Top-seeded Jessica Pegula lost 10 straight games and trailed 4-0 in the final set before rallying to reach the Charleston Open quarterfinals.

Pegula, an American ranked No. 3 in the world, led the top four seeds including No. 4 seed and defending champion Belinda Bencic, into the round of eight in the season's first clay-court tournament.

No match was the equal of Pegula's fight with Irina-Camelia Begu, who was down 4-0 in the second

set and two games away from a quick exit until finding her game. Begu, the 15th seed, strung together a 10-game win streak to turn things around. Pegula dug in to win the final six game and the exhausting match.

That was a pretty crazy match," Pegula said.

No doubt, Pegula will try to find more consistency against 12th-seeded Paula Badosa, a 6-3, 6-1 winner over Diana Schneider, for a spot in Saturday's semifinals. Others moving on with No. 2 seed Ons Jabeur, No. 3 seed Daria Kasatkina

and Bencic, who topped Jabeur to win last year's event on the Charleston's green clay. Jabeur topped Caroline Dolehide 6-3, 7-5; Kasatkina defeated Bernarda Pera 6-3, 7-6 (3); and Bencic bounced back after losing to opening set to oust Shelby Rogers 4-6, 7-5, 6-2. Pegula didn't totally understand how things went so wrong, then turned right again.

"What was going through my mind is, I can't believe I've lost six games in a row, seven games in a row, eight, nine, 10," she said.

Bengaluru FC firm favourites against Sreenidi Deccan in Super Cup opener

Kozhikode, Apr 07 (PTI):

Indian Super League runners-up Bengaluru FC will be firm favourites against Sreenidi Deccan FC of I-League in the Super Cup opener, here on Saturday. In a second Group A match of the day, newly-crowned I-League champions Punjab FC will face home favourites Kerala Blasters in a first meeting between the two sides. Punjab FC are set for ISL promotion this season subject to fulfilling club licensing criteria.

Returning after a gap of four years, the third edition of the tournament will feature 16 teams -- 11 from ISL and five from I-League -- and will be played in two venues in Kerala (EMS Corporation Stadium and Payyanad Stadium in Manjeri).

The 16 teams are divided equally into four groups. The group toppers will make the semi-finals. The final will be played here on April 25. Interestingly, both the earlier Super Cup editions have been won by teams who finished runners-up in the ISL the same year -- FC Goa in 2019 and Bengaluru FC in 2018.

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'Hindu spiritual community in South does much more than missionaries'

Jaipur, Apr 07 (PTI):

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday said social service by Hindu spiritual gurus in the southern states was several times more than that provided by missionaries, but added that this is not a matter of competition. He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a three-day conclave of the Rashtriya Sewa Sangam organised by a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh affiliate at Keshav Vidhyapeeth in Jamdoli near Jaipur.

Bhagwat said intellectuals in the country generally mention (Christian) missionaries when talking about service to society. "Missionary organisations run various institutions, schools and hospitals all over the world everyone knows this. But what is the Hindu seer community



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat Piramal Group Chairman Ajay Piramal (left) during the Rashtriya Sewa Sangam 2023, in Jaipur, Friday.

doing?" With this thought in mind, a Hindu service fair was held in Chennai, he said. It was noticed there that the service done by the acharyas, munis and sanyasis in Kannada-

speaking, Telugu-speaking, Malayalam-speaking and Tamil-speaking provinces "is many times more than the service done by the missionaries," he said. "But I am not talking about any

competition about more than them, less than them," the RSS chief added quickly. "This cannot be the measure of service. Service is service, service is not a matter of competition.

Service is the natural expression of man's humanity," he said. Bhagwat said animals too are sensitive but it is a human quality to act on sensitivity, which is called compassion. Emphasising on the need to eradicate backwardness from society, Bhagwat said everyone is equal. "We all are part of the society; we all are the society together. If we are not united, we will be incomplete," he said.

He said there is a disparity in society, which is not needed. "Unfortunately this situation has come. We do not want this situation, this disparity," he said. Citing the example of the human body, he said when there is a pain in the leg, all other parts start functioning together (as a support system) to focus on the pain. Similarly, service should be done in such a way that no section of society is left out.

'Country won't forgive Opposition for disrupting Parliament over Rahul's disqualification'

Kaushambi, Apr 07 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday claimed that people would not forgive the opposition parties for disrupting Parliament proceedings over Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha based on a legislation brought by the Congress-led UPA government. Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the Kaushambi Mahotsav, he exhorted people to elect Narendra Modi as prime minister once again in 2024 for the all-around welfare of all sections of society.

"The country will not forgive opposition parties for disrupting Parliament proceedings over Rahul Gandhi's disqualification... Democracy is not in danger, it is casteism and dynastic politics ('parivar-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses the gathering at Kaushambi Mahotsav, in Kaushambi, Friday.

wad) which are in danger," Shah said. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, his deputies Keshav Prasad Mautrya and Brajesh Pathak, and state BJP president Bhupendra Chaudhry also attended the event. In a big blow to the Congress, its leader Rahul Gandhi was on March 24 disqualified from Lok Sabha, nearly 24 hours after a Surat court convict-

ed him in a defamation case, an action the opposition party slammed as BJP's "vindictive politics" and vowed to fight legally and politically.

The court in Surat sentenced Gandhi to two years in jail in a defamation case, filed on a complaint by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi for his remark, "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?"

Mosque inside Qutub complex

SC rejects plea against order refusing to advance hearing

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

The Supreme Court has dismissed a petition challenging the Delhi High Court order which had refused to advance the hearing of a plea by the Managing Committee of Delhi Waqf Board against the Archaeological Society of India (ASI) stopping namaz at the Mughal Mosque in the city's Mehrauli area. The apex court, however, requested the high court to take up the pending matter and decide it as expeditiously as possible.

A bench of Justices Krishna Murari and C T Ravikumar passed the

order while hearing a petition filed by the Managing Committee of Delhi Waqf Board through advocate M Sufian Siddiqui against the March 7 order of the high court.

"We do not find any good ground to interfere in the matter which is already pending before the high court. Accordingly, the Special Leave Petition is dismissed," the bench said in its April 5 order.

"However looking in the facts and circumstances of the case, we request the high court to take up the pending matter ... and decide the same in accordance with law on its own merits as expeditiously as

possible," the bench said.

The grievance of the petitioner before the high court is that officials of the ASI have completely stopped namaz in the Mughal mosque since May 13 last year in an "absolutely unlawful, arbitrary and precipitous manner", without serving any notice or order.

The petitioner told the apex court that they were aggrieved by the high court's order which re-notified the matter to August 21 observing that similar relief is pending in another application.

"The high court has passed the impugned order without appreciating that

the CM (criminal miscellaneous) application... was necessitated in view of the holy month of Ramzan, which is set to begin on March 22, 2023 and no similar relief is pending in any of the previous applications," the plea filed in the top court said.

It said the germane relief in the application before the high court was to allow the performance of prayers and other religious practices at the mosque during the holy month of Ramzan in terms of the unceasing past practice and in consonance with the letter and spirit of Article 21 of the Constitution.

No written exams till class 2, assessment should cause additional burden for children: Draft NCF

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

Explicit tests and exams are completely inappropriate assessment tools for children up to class 2 and written tests should be introduced from class 3 onwards, the draft National Curriculum Framework (NCF) has recommended stressing that assessment methods should be such that they do not contribute to any additional burden for the child.

The framework which is being developed on the lines of new National Education Policy (NEP) suggests that two important methods of assessment that are appropriate for the foundational stage are observations of the child and analysing arte-

facts that the child has produced as part of their learning experience.

The draft notes that explicit tests and examinations are completely inappropriate assessment tools for the Foundational stage (preschool to class 2).

"Assessment should allow for diversity among children and in their learning. Children learn differently and express their learning differently too. There might be many ways to assess the achievement of a learning outcome or competency. The teacher should have the ability to design different kinds of assessment for the same learning outcome and use each assessment appropriately.

"Assessment should en-

able recording and documentation. Children's progress should be described and analysed through systematic collection of evidence. Assessment should not contribute to any additional burden for the child. Assessment tools and processes should be designed such that they are a natural extension of the learning experience for the child," it adds.

Describing the assessment for preparatory stage (class 3 to 5), the draft recommends that "written tests should be introduced at this stage".

"A variety of assessment methods should be used to promote learning. Portfolios can be used to capture student progress

holistically through their work. This could also provide a reliable picture of their learning to parents. Peer and self-assessments could also be introduced to help students monitor the trajectory of their own learning.

"At the end of the preparatory stage, there should be a comprehensive summative assessment of the student's readiness to enter the middle stage where several new curricular areas are introduced," it adds.

The education ministry released a "pre-draft" of the NCF for school education on Thursday and invited suggestions from stakeholders such as students, parents, teachers and scholars.

Ex-CM Kiran Reddy joins BJP

■ **Former CM slams Cong 'high command' for damaging party across country**

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

Former Congress leader and last chief minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh N Kiran Kumar Reddy joined the BJP on Friday, lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi and slamming his earlier organisation's leadership for "damaging" it across the country.

Reddy joined the BJP in the presence of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and hit out at the Congress "high command", an apparent reference to the Gandhi family, for its inability to accept people's verdict and make a course correction.



Former Andhra Pradesh chief minister Kiran Kumar Reddy after joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), at BJP HQ in New Delhi, Friday.

This is the reason why he has left the party, he said.

"My king is very intelligent. He does not think on his own and he does not listen to anyone's advice," he cited a saying to attack his former leaders. They believe they are correct and all others, including the people of India, are wrong, he said, accusing them of being unable to analyse re-

peated electoral failures of the party. They want authority to control but don't want to work hard or take any responsibility, said the four-time former MLA, who had quit the Congress last month. Citing his family's over seven-decade-long association with the Congress, Reddy said he never imagined he will leave the party.

Kaziranga (Assam), Apr 07 (PTI):

President Droupadi Murmu Friday urged people to treat elephants with compassion and keep elephant corridors free from obstructions to facilitate their easy movement. If a deep analysis of the human-elephant conflict (HEC) is carried out, it is evident that there are obstructions along their natural corridors and "humans are responsible for this", Murmu said.

"Elephants are wise and kind animals, and people should treat them with compassion," the President said at the inauguration of the 'Gaj Utsav-2023' here on the second day of her Assam visit. Dealing with HEC is both



President Droupadi Murmu during the inauguration of the Gaj Utsav-2023 at the Kaziranga National Park, in Golaghat, Friday.

the aim and challenge of Project Elephant', which is completing 30 years, she said. "It is our duty to conserve elephant corridors as these can serve as carbon sink and help people tackle the challenges of climate change," Murmu said, as she called upon all

stakeholders to join hands to deal with the situation. "The elephant is our national heritage animal and by protecting it, we are protecting our national heritage," the President said. Elephants live in herds and if anyone faces trouble, others help over-

come it. "This is something that humans must learn." Referring to the Oscar-winning documentary 'Elephant Whisperers', she said the adivasi community has a deep love for nature, birds and animals.

"I also had an attachment with elephants since childhood and when I saw Bellie and Bomman (characters in the documentary) taking care of the orphaned elephants, I felt proud of them. "What further touched me was that they always entered the forests barefoot as a mark of respect, and today when I took the jeep safari in the Kaziranga National Park, the officials and guards told me that they also accord the same respect to forests," Murmu said.

Withdraw 'draconian' amendments to IT Rules: Editors Guild

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

The Editors Guild of India on Friday said it was "deeply disturbed" by the "draconian" amendments to the Information Technology Rules that gave the government "absolute power" to determine fake news. In a statement here, the Guild urged the government to withdraw the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules and hold consultations with media organisations and press bodies, as it had promised earlier.

The Guild said as per the rules, the IT Ministry has given itself the power to constitute a "fact checking unit", which will have sweeping powers to determine what is "fake or false or misleading", with respect to "any business of the Central Government."

The ministry has also empowered itself to issue instructions to 'intermediaries' (including social media intermediaries, Internet Service Providers, and other service providers), to not host such content, the Guild said. "In effect, the government has given itself absolute power to determine what is fake or not, in respect of its own work, and order take down," the statement said.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं
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पलकों का न खुलना
ट्रेसिस PTOSIS का ईलाज
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 कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060
 Ajay Advt.

HC refuses to transfer rape case from male to female judge

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court has refused to transfer a rape case lodged by a woman from a male to female judge, saying it will open floodgates where all such cases would be required to be shifted to special courts dealing with POCSO matters or presided over by a woman judicial officer.

The high court said mere apprehension of the petitioner, which can be subjective, cannot become a ground for transfer of cases to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) courts even though the offence does not involve provi-

sions of the POCSO Act. Justice Anish Dayal said presiding officers, male or female, are expected to handle such cases in a sensitive manner having due regard to directions passed by the Supreme Court and the high court while dealing with matters involving women or children or sexual offences.

"In this context, it may be appropriate to remind ourselves of the famous aphorism: Justice must not only be done, but must also be seen to be done," the high court said.

The high court was hearing a case involving allegations of misuse of the complainant's photo-

graphs on a porn site following which the accused was arrested and his laptop seized.

While the criminal case is pending before a trial court at the stage of arguments on framing of charges, the woman approached the high court contending that the proceedings should be presided over by a female judge and not a male judge while citing certain provisions of the CrPC.

The high court, after perusing the provisions, said there is no inflexible mandate as regards the trial of matters under Section 376 IPC (rape) to be dealt with by a court presided over by a woman judge.

Section 26 (a)(iii) proviso of CrPC categorically provides that offences mentioned (including section 376 IPC) shall be tried "as far as practicable" by a court presided over by a woman.

The petitioner's counsel said the trial pursuant to the complaint under sections 376(rape), 354A (sexual harassment), 387 (putting someone in fear of death of grievous hurt to commit extortion) of the IPC and sections 66 E and 67 A of the Information Technology Act may be transferred to a newly created court of the ASJ (POCSO) which is presided over by a lady judge.

NGT forms panel to revisit environment clearance granted for Great Nicobar Island mega project

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI): The National Green Tribunal has constituted a high-powered committee to re-examine the environmental clearance granted to Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIDCO) for the multi-component mega project in the Great Nicobar Island. Along with the development of an international container transhipment terminal, the project also involves the development of a military-civil, dual-use airport, a gas, diesel, and solar-based power plant, and a township. The NGT was hearing appeals against forest clearance and environmental clearance provided to the project proponent (PP) ANIDCO. Earlier on January 11, it had sought a response from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the PP.

Indore temple tragedy

Five get eyesight due to organ donation assent from kin of victims

Indore, Apr 7 (PTI):

Five persons, including an octogenarian woman, have received the gift of sight after the kin of some of the deceased of the Indore temple tragedy agreed for organ donation, a senior health official said on Friday.

Thirty-six people died on March 30 on Ram Navami after the floor of Beleshwar Mahadev Jhulelal Temple built on a stepwell in Indore's Patel Nagar collapsed, hurtling devotees several feet below. "Our eye bank received six corneas, which

were used to carry out transplants into five persons. One more transplant will take place soon. The five recipients comprise four men aged 38,52,55 and 60 and an 80-year-old woman, all of whom had lost their sight due to ailments or age-related issues," Government Maharaja Yashwantrao (MY) Hospital ophthalmologist Dr Shweta Walia told PTI. Medicine shop owner Umesh Khanchandani, who lost his wife Bhumika (32) in the tragedy, said he and his wife had decided long ago on organ donation.