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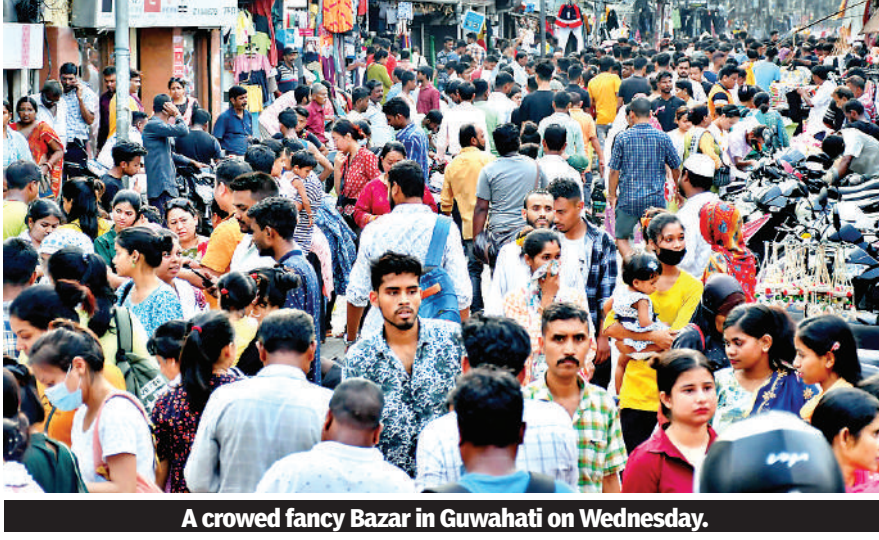
India surpasses China to become world's most populous nation

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTI)

India has surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people, UN data showed.

China has a population of 142.57 crore, according to the UN world population dashboard.

According to a new UNFPA report, 25 per cent of India's population is in the age group of 0-14 years, 18 per cent in the 10 to 19 age group, 26 per cent in the age bracket of 10 to 24 years, 68 per cent in 15 to 64 years age group, and 7 per cent above 65 years.



A crowded fancy Bazar in Guwahati on Wednesday.

New Delhi: As India became the most populous country in the world, UN projections estimate that the country's population is expected to grow for the next three decades after which it will begin declining. According to experts, India has achieved the replacement level of fertility but the population will grow due to momentum phenomenon. Replacement level fertility is the level of fertility at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next. The UN analysis stated that India's population is expected to grow for the next three decades after which it will start declining.

iMaska for all!

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Cabinet nod for National Quantum Mission

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTI)

The government on Wednesday approved the National Quantum Mission to nurture and scale up scientific and industrial research and development in quantum technology.

The mission involves a cost to Rs 6,003.65 crore from 2023-24 to 2030-31. The National Quantum Mission (NQM), approved at a meeting of the Union Cabinet

chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will accelerate quantum technology-led economic growth and nurture the ecosystem in the country. "NQM is going to give India a quantum jump in this arena," Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh told reporters here. India will be the seventh country to have a dedicated quantum mission after the US, Austria, Finland, France, Canada and China.

'India's population expected to rise for next three decades before starting to decline'

Amit Shah to anti-narcotics agencies

'Be 'ruthless' against drug traffickers'

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTI)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said anti-narcotics agencies should be "ruthless" in dealing with drug traffickers and cartels, stressing that they are the main culprits and those consuming drugs their "victims".

Citing the ill-effects of drugs on the youth as well as the country's economy and security, he asked all states to work in close coordination and join the battle against the menace with "a whole-of-government" and "Team India" approach, keeping aside their political differences.

Addressing the first conference of the heads of Anti-Narcotics Task Forces of states and Union territories, Shah said the Ministry of Home Affairs, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has set a target to create a drug-free India by 2047 when the country attains 100th year of independence.

"Drug traders are the main culprits as the drug consumers are the victims. We have to take a ruthless approach against the drug traders and the strongest



possible action should be taken against them," he said.

The home minister said the Narendra Modi government is committed to eradicating the menace of drugs and a "whole of government" approach should be taken against it as it can destroy the future generations, he said.

"Narcotics not only make the young generation hollow, but along with this, there are many bad effects on the country's economy as well. Simultaneously, through narco-terror, through smuggling of narcotics, the security of the country's border can be breached.... If the 130 crore Indians fight it together, we will win this battle," he said.

Atiq killers sent to police custody for four days

Prayagraj (UP), Apr 19 (PTI):

The three persons accused of killing gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Mohammad Ashraf were sent to police custody for four days by the court of chief judicial magistrate here on Wednesday.

Lovelesh Tiwari, Mohit and Arun Kumar Maurya were produced in the court amid tight security on Wednesday morning as the police sought a seven-day remand.

Passing the order later, the court sent them to police custody for four days -- from 2 pm on Wednesday till 5 pm on April 23, district government advocate Gulab Chandra Agrahari said.

Rail employee killed as goods train derailed after hitting another train

Shahdol/Bilaspur, Apr 19 (PTI):

A railway employee was killed and five other personnel injured when a moving freight train hit a stationary goods train and then derailed in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district on Wednesday, rail officials said.

Shahdol district collector Vandana Vaidya told reporters that one of the railway personnel injured in the freight trains accident died. Two out of the five other injured are in critical condition and undergoing treatment at local government medical college, she said.

Railway sources said the deceased was the 48-year-old loco pilot of the stationary goods train.



Wreckage of two goods trains after a collision, in Shahdol district, Wednesday.

The incident, which disrupted traffic on Bilaspur-Katni rail route, took place due to signal overshoot at around 6.50 am near Singhpur station, which falls under Bilaspur railway division, an official from South East Central Railway (SECR) said.

At least 10 trains operated on the route have been cancelled, he said.

Eight wagons and a locomotive of the iron ore-laden moving goods train derailed in the incident, disrupting traffic on Bilaspur-Katni rail route, the officials said.

BRIEF



National Defence Academy (NDA) entrance exam 2022 topper Anurag Sangwan at his school in Gurugram, Wednesday.

IEDs seized

Chalbasa: Five Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were seized by security personnel in Naxal-affected West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand on Wednesday, police said. A massive anti-Naxal operation is underway in Kolhan region of Jharkhand since January 1 this year. During the operation, a team of state police and CRPF found the IEDs buried in a kuccha road between Chota Kuira and Maradiri villages in Gailkera Police Station area, Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar said.

Kishtwar blast

Jammu: A man died and his brother was injured in a blast at their home in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Wednesday, police said. "Initial reports revealed that the blast occurred when the duo tried heating an abandoned object they found while collecting mushrooms in a nearby forest," a police officer said. "The blast took place in the kitchen of the house of Mohd Abbas Naik in Symbol village," the officer added.

SC urged to use plenary power, moral authority to ensure acceptance of same-sex marriages

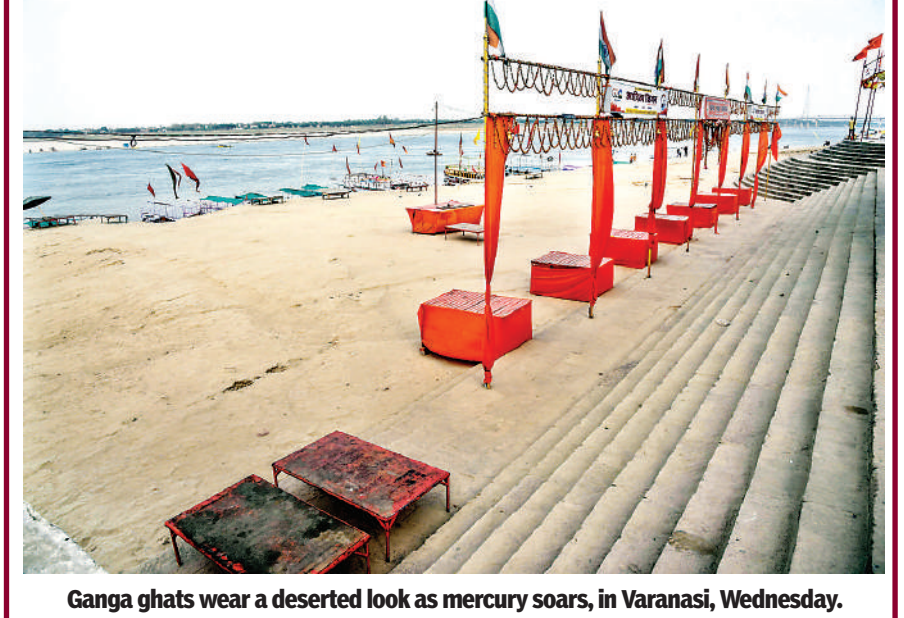


New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTI):

The petitioners seeking legal validation of same-sex marriage on Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to use its plenary power, "prestige and moral authority" to push the society to acknowledge such a union which would ensure LGBTQA persons lead a

"dignified" life like heterosexuals. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud was told by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for one of the petitioners, that "the State should come forward and provide recognition to same-sex marriage." He referred to the law on widow re-marriage, and said the society did accept it then and the "law acted with alacrity" and the social acceptance followed. "Here, this court needs to push the society to acknowledge the same-sex marriage."

MERCURY SOARS



Ganga ghats wear a deserted look as mercury soars, in Varanasi, Wednesday.

NCW seeks probe into harassment charges against YC chief Srinivas BV

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTI):

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has asked the Assam Police to conduct an inquiry into the harassment allegations levelled against Indian Youth Congress president Srinivas B V by its Assam unit chief Angkita Dutta.

Srinivas on Tuesday issued a legal notice to Dutta, saying she was defaming him.

The NCW, in a statement, said it has come across a Twitter post enclosing screenshots of

posts made by Dutta, alleging harassment, use of derogatory language and discrimination against Srinivas.

The NCW claimed that Dutta has posted on her Twitter handle that she even raised her grievance with Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu, but no action was taken on her complaint.

The Commission said it is "appalled and disappointed" and has taken cognizance of the allegations levelled by Dutta against Srinivas.

Youth booked

Ballia (UP): A youth was booked for allegedly posting objectionable comments against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on a social networking site, a police official here said on Wednesday. The youth was identified as Mohammad Azim alias Aju, a resident of the Revati area.

UGC to universities 'Allow students to write exams in local languages even if course is in English medium'

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTI)

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked universities to allow students to write exams in local languages even if the course is offered in English medium, while arranging evaluators and encouraging the translation of textbooks, according to Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar.

The Commission has also asked the universities to promote the use of local language in teaching and learning processes as well.

"Promotion and regular use of Indian languages in education is a crucial area of focus in the new National Education Policy (NEP). It emphasises the

importance of teaching and instruction in the mother tongue and local languages.

"It also lays thrust on the need to optimise communication in all Indian languages for better cognitive attainment and the development of a holistic personality of the learners," Kumar said.

Noting that the academic ecosystem continues to be English medium-centric, the UGC chief said once the teaching, learning and assessment are done in local languages, student engagement will gradually increase, leading to an increase in the success rate.

"The Commission has requested the universities that students be allowed to write the answers in local languages in examinations even if the programme is offered in English medium, and promote translation of original writing in local languages and use local language in the teaching-learning process at universities," he said.

Asked about how students writing in local languages will be evaluated, he said, "This will be possible if the evaluators also know the local language and the University can make the effort to find the evaluators who know the local language." "The idea is to let the students write the answers in a language that will provide them the opportunity to express easily," Kumar said

Rajnath asks Army to maintain strong vigil along LAC as situation remains 'tense'

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTI):



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visits an exhibition at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday asked the Army to maintain strong vigil along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China as the situation in the northern sector remained "tense" in view of deployment of PLA troops.

In his address at the Army Commanders' Conference, Singh, without making specific references, called upon the armed forces to take note of geopolitical changes around the world, and accordingly mould their planning and strategies, sources said.

"The situation is tense due to deployment of PLA troops in the northern sector. Our armed forces, espe-

cially the Indian Army, will have to continuously keep their vigilance in order to maintain the security of the LAC," he said, according to the sources. Singh's

comments came in the backdrop of the three-year border row in eastern Ladakh. The defence minister said the security of the country is the "topmost priority" for the government. "I assure all of you that it is the whole endeavour of the government to provide the best weapons and facilities to each and every soldier posted on the border," he said at the conference in Delhi.

The five-day Army Commanders' Conference began on Monday. It is liberating on India's national security challenges along the borders with China and Pakistan and ways to boost combat capability of the force.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir, the defence minister said it is witnessing peace and stability and there has been a significant decline in the number of terrorist activities in the Union Territory.

Weather
 High 42 Low 25

MARKET

NIFTY 17,618.75
 SENSEX 59,567.80

BULLION

GOLD 60,237
 SILVER 75,494

Four arrested for mobile tower installation fraud

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: Police arrested four persons of an interstate gang of fraudsters involved in cheating people in pretext of mobile tower installation. The accused worked at a call centre in West Bengal 24 Parganas. Patan Police Station arrested them in connection with a complaint of fraud filed by Tejendra Chakradhar.

The accused duped him of Rs 59460. The accused lured him to pay different amounts on assurance of providing Rs 15 lakh as advance in lieu of installing a mobile tower of Airtel company in his agricultural field. The accused further assured that the company would pay Rs 20000 rent per month after installation of the tower.

SP Dr Abhishek Pallava



informed that during investigation of this matter, they found that the accused used mobile numbers 9477122319, 9073850137, 9593522494, 8617776775. They also used the bank accounts of SBI, HDFC, Canara Bank and Bank of Baroda.

Police traced the loca-

tion of the mobile numbers as well as examined the details of the bank transactions. A Police team was sent to West Bengal from where the accused were taken into custody. During interrogation, the accused confessed to duping Rs 21 lakh from a person in Kawardha district, 03.36

lakh from a person in Dhamtari district, Rs 90000 from a person of Dhamdha and Rs 38460 from a person in Seoni in Madhya Pradesh as well as Tejendra Kumar of Patan. The arrested accused are Barun Singh alias Mayank Singh (39) son of Mangal Rishabh a resi-

dent of Bunkakala Police Station, Patahi District, East Champaran, Motihari Bihar (presently residing at Subhash Nagar, Dum Dum Police Station); Asima Rai (30) daughter of Mohd Mansoor Ali a resident of Duttabad Road Bagpara, Opposite Apollo Hospital, Police Station Vidhan Nagar, CC Block, District North 24 Parganas (WB); Deepika Mandal (26) daughter of Sapan Mandal a resident of Duttabad Road, Salt Lake Kolkata, PS Vidhan Nagar Kolkata; and Sneha Pal (25) daughter of Dulalchand Pal a resident of 1/B-5 Ramlal Agarwal Lane, Opposite Meghdoot Apartment, Ghoshwara Thana Badanagar, Kolkata (WB). Police seized 44 mobiles, 22 diaries and one motorcycle bullet from the accused.

Bhilai Steel Plant organises one day free health camp at Joratarai



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant remains upfront in fulfilling its organizational social responsibility by doing several public welfare activities for the communities within which it works. The Corporate Social Responsibility Department (CSR) of Bhilai Steel Plant takes multiple initiatives towards establishing, cultural unity, professional development, environment sustainability, education,

sports, health and well-being in Bhilai and adjoining areas. The CSR Department contributes actively for healthcare, through initiatives like health camps, which are organized from time to time to provide medical assistance to villagers. In this series, a free health camp was organized by the CSR Department in village Joratarai recently. An expert medical team from CSR, comprising of Dr Nishi Minj, Shri Gaur, Pharmacist, Rekha Dev

for Blood Sugar and BP Examination and Shambhu for Registration, conducted the camp at Joratarai. Shri Soni from the CSR Department of Bhilai Steel plant was also present in the camp, along with School Principal from the village school, village councilor representative. A total of 32 individuals, including 9 men, 11 women and 12 children, were examined in the camp and free medicines were distributed in the camp.

RPS celebrates Tenth Foundation Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: It was a memorable day for the management, staff and students of Rungta Public School that runs under the aegis of Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions, when they all celebrated their Tenth Foundation Day on April 17, 2023. The school completed its glorious journey of 9 years and stepped into the 10th year on April 09, 2023.

The journey so far has been a very rewarding one. The Chairman of SRGI, Sanjay Rungta, Director Harsha Rungta, Principal, Jagadish

Dhami and Vice Principal, Deepti Singh graced the occasion by their presence.

Celebrating this milestone achievement, a special assembly was organized by Raman House. The energy and passion of the students was visible in the performances that they put up. The day started with remembering the Almighty, God and seeking blessings for the entire school community.

This was followed by a Thought and a Speech on Foundation Day. The students choir presented a melodious song which was followed by a mes-



merizing dance performance. After this some of the students of class XII, who have been in this school since inception, shared their experience and spoke about their wonderful journey and memories related to their school life.

Commemorating the special occasion, the cake cutting ceremony was held. All the students, teachers and other staff members cherished the moments of celebration reminiscing the incredible journey that the school has embarked in since the year 2014.

The Principal, Jagadish Dhami wished

the students and staff and said that it was a collaborative effort of everyone that has made the journey of the school till now so fruitful and interesting. He advised the students to keep making steady progress in their life, to always keep their spirits high and to make every possible effort to improve and upgrade themselves.

He reminded them of their responsibilities towards their school, to take it higher in every sphere, for which they require to be dedicated and focussed.

The Chairman of SRGI, Sanjay Rungta in

his address extended his heart felt wishes to everyone on the completion of 9 years of the school. He recounted some exceptional achievements of the past years and established faith and hope that the students will excel in every field and take the name of the institution to the pinnacle.

He wished that all his students will become good and responsible members of their community and good citizens of their country eventually. The ceremony ended with the joint rendition of the national Anthem.

Uday Mahavidyalaya organises self defence training for students

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: Considering the importance of self defence for the girls, Uday Mahavidyalaya organised a special training session for the girl students. Creative Karate Academy Director Sensai Sandeep Tamrakar (Black Belt 3rd Dan, National Referee Grade A and Coach); Self Defence Expert and Trainer Sensai Anjana Rajveer Singh (Certified Female Instructor; Kata / Kumate Judge - B) conducted the training session.

They demonstrated the self defence tricks and tactics using various items. The objective of the programme was to



make the girls aware of the anti-social elements so that they can remain cautious and defend themselves in case of any problem.

Uday Group Director Dr TR Sahu and Principal Dr Alipa Sahu said that they would continue organising such events in future as well for the safe-

ty of the girls. Faculty members and BED students of Uday Mahavidyalaya, Jamul were present in the programme.

DAV Hudco acclaims Mahatma Hansraj

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: To commemorate the 159th birth anniversary of Mahatma Hansraj Ji - An Embodiment of Excellence a special Havan Yajna was organized in DAV Public School, Hudco, under the aegis of Aarya Pradeshik Pratinidhi Upsabha of CG Zone on April 19, 2023. Mahatma Hansraj, was one of the greatest Arya Samajists & founder of DAV Institutions, great compassionate soul and undoubtedly, the pillar of DAV institutions.

The program was initiated with the floral tribute to the great immortal soul Mahatma Hansraj Ji followed by the Havan Yajna by the Supervisory Heads (Senior and Junior wings), Faculty members



and the students of classes VIII - XII who actively and enthusiastically participated in the Havan, metamorphosing the ambience full of positivity, divinity, vibration of joy and contentment.

Speaking on the occasion, Raghendra Sahu (Senior Faculty Member,

Hindi Department) enlightened students about this real scholar, a great writer and a true Vedic preacher and whose commendable contribution in the field of education has given a great height to it.

He dreamt of an educated generation, enriched with values, patri-

otism and discipline. He was an embodiment of sacrifice, kindness and mercy, who helped and served the poor and needy all through his life. The Havan concluded with the chanting of Pious Mantras, bhajans, distribution of Prasad and Shanti Path.

SAIL Chairman inaugurates Milk Distribution Scheme by BSP

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Chairman, Soma Mondal, virtually inaugurated a Milk Distribution Scheme launched under the CSR activities of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, on April, 18, 2023. Mondal was on a day's visit to BSP, where she also presided over various meetings and functions at DIC Conference hall of Ispat Bhawan.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c(BSP), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) with Additional Charge, ED

(P&A), Dr AK Panda, ED(F&A), Samir Swarup, CGMI/c (Mines & Rowghat), Smriti Singh from NDDB, TS Ahuja from Devbhog Milk, JY Sapkale, CGM (TSD&CSR), NM Padhy, CGM (Chairman Secretariat), Anupam Bisht, GM (Mines Hq), Shivrajan, GM (CSR) and other Senior management.

This welfare scheme has been envisaged for the student beneficiaries from various villages of four districts of Chhattisgarh, namely Narayanpur, Kanker, Balod and Manpur-mohla, under the Rowghat Mines Project of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. An MoU was exe-



cuted for this scheme, in March 2023 between SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and National Dairy Development Board

(NDDB), to provide nutritious flavored milk to 3,000 students, during the lunch-time in the beneficiary schools.

Addressing the gathering virtually, Chairman Mondal lauded Bhilai Steel Plant for this initiative and encouraged the

students to study and play well and fulfill their dreams. She also appreciated the teachers for their role in nation

building by educating the future of the country. I am happy to see the smiling faces of children, added Chairman, Mondal.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c(BSP), wished good health and happiness to the students and said that the objective is to provide nutritious and tasty milk to the students, which would ensure proper nutrition and also encourage student's participation in school education.

In his welcome address, S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) with Additional Charge, ED(P&A) said that, as a part of BSP's CSR activities, by partnering with

NDDB, Bhilai Steel Plant will provide free nutritious and tasty flavoured milk to students, in the beneficiary schools, as a step towards promoting education and nutrition in the mines areas under Bhilai Steel Plant.

Under this initiative, by partnering with NDDB, Bhilai Steel Plant will provide free nutritious and tasty flavoured milk to 3,000 students, during the lunch-time. The milk packets will be supplied by Devbhog Milk of Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Dairy Federation. The program was conducted by Rajni Rajak from CSR department.

Feedback, survey at different level determines eligibility for ticket: Markam

● Holds review meeting of office bearers at booth-level



ment has got survey done for many times. Feedback is being taken at organizational level on regular basis. Prior to finalization of ticket for a candidate,

even the party High Command also gets a survey done, he added.

Head of PCC in state Mohan Markam said that we will want the tickets to be given to all the existing 71 MLAs, but as to whom the ticket is to be distributed will be finalized by the High Command. In case if there are any shortcomings then instructions are being given to sort it out at government and organizational level. Through survey we get feedback and then necessary work is done, he added.

Mohan Markam said

that in today's meeting, booth works were reviewed and instructions were given to form booths where it is not existing. 90% of the booths have been formed and in the coming days, Vidhan Sabha-wise training will be imparted. About committee at booth-level, he said that a committee of 35-members is formed and we have asked the office bearers to form committee, keeping in mind representation to all sections of the society. During the elections, it will help in moving among the voters, he added.

Raipur's Kota Gudhyari Marg renamed as Shri Santosh Agrawal Marg

● Under Bhent-Mulaqat prog at Raipur (W) Vidhan Sabha



ceremony, Chief Minister Shri Baghel paid tribute to the former mayor, Shri Santosh Agrawal, by offering flowers on his portrait. He said that Shri Agrawal was a simple person with a personality that was influential enough not to be ignored. He made a significant contribution to the development of Raipur city. Parliamentary Secretary Vikas

Upadhyay, MLA Satyanarayan Sharma, Amitesh Shukla, Dhanendra Sahu, Chhattisgarh Housing Board President Kuldeep Juneja, Chhattisgarh Khadi and Village Industries Board Chairman Rajendra Tiwari, Chhattisgarh State Yoga Commission Chairman Gyanesh Sharma were present on the occasion.

100th episode of the radio prog 'Mann Ki Baat' will be broadcast exclusively at Raj Bhavan

● A meeting was held in Raj Bhavan regarding the preparations for the prog

Raipur, Apr 19: The 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio program "Mann Ki Baat" will be exclusively broadcast at Raj Bhavan across the country. Governor Bishwanath Harichandan will preside over this program at the Chhattisgarh Raj Bhavan. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, will organize this program. The Secretary to the Governor, Amrit Khalkho, chaired a meeting today at Raj Bhavan to review the preparation of its



Chairman Yoga Commission inaugurates 33rd regular yoga practice center

Raipur, Apr 19: Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission is starting yoga practice in Municipal Corporation area. In this series, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission Mr. Gyanesh Sharma inaugurated the 33rd free regular yoga practice center in Kurud. Yoga practice center will be operated by yoga instructor Bhema Sahu daily from 6:00 am to 7:30 am at old Krishi Upaj Mandi premises. The program was presided over by Neelam Chandrakar, President Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Kurud.

LONG WAIT



With delay in arrival of few trains and many cancelled due to collision between two goods train, the passengers were left with no option but to wait for arrival at the railway station.

'School timings changed in Raipur'



● Now classes to be held from 7 am to 11 am, CM tweeted

Raipur, Apr 19: The state government has changed the timings of the schools in view of the scorching heat. Classes will now be held from 7 am to 11 am in the entire state including Raipur. Giving this information, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has tweeted. He has written to the parents that to take care of themselves and their children. CM Bhupesh Baghel has informed about the changes made in the timings of the schools by tweeting. Along with this,

he has written that in view of the scorching heat in the state, it has been decided to change the timing of all government/non-government schools and educational institutions in the state. All primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools operating in one shift will have to follow this order. While in schools operating in two shifts, the first shift can be opened from 7 am to 11 am and in the second shift only high-higher secondary schools can be opened from 11 am to 3 pm. This order issued by the Director of Public Instruction will be effective till April 30. After this, students will be given summer vacation from May 1 to June 15. It may be noted that due to continuous heat waves increasing in the state in the month of April itself. In such a situation, it is becoming difficult for common people to come out of their houses. At the same time, even children are shying away from going to school in summer. The days have started getting hot since 11 am and mercury has crossed 35 degrees. The timings were also changed in the beginning of April. In view of the scorching heat, a partial change was also made in the opening time of the schools by the Education Department.

Students should contribute for the progress of the country and society: Governor



Governor and Chief Minister attended the 9th convocation of IGAU

Degree awarded to 12,384 students, gold medals distributed to 62 students

Raipur, Apr 19: It is a matter of pride for the students that they are the citizens of the largest democratic country in the world. Nation and society have an important contribution in their achievements. It is also the duty of the students to use their education for the progress of the nation and society. Governor Mr. Vishwabhushan Harichandan expressed the above views in the 9th convocation ceremony of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur. On this occasion Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel as chief guest and Agriculture

Minister Mr. Ravindra Choubey and Dr. Trilochan Mahapatra, former Director General, ICAR were present as special guests. Degrees were awarded to 12,384 students in the grand and dignified convocation ceremony held at the auditorium of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur. These include 9,908 graduates, 2096 postgraduates and 380 PhD degree holders. 62 Gold, 140 silver and 23 bronze medals were awarded to students of the merit list. Addressing the function, Governor Mr. Vishwabhushan Harichandan said that agricultural universities are playing an important role in the development of the nation by providing quality education, research and extension education. At the time of formation of Chhattisgarh state this university had only one agriculture college and at present there are 39 colleges of agriculture and allied subjects.

Private entrepreneurs should be encouraged to set up millet processing plants: CS



● Review of works of Forest, Home and Jail Department

Raipur, Apr 19: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain has given instructions to the officials to encourage private entrepreneurs to set up processing plants to promote the use of millets. He was reviewing the works of Home and Jail and Forest Department in Mantralaya Mahanadi here on Wednesday in order of priority schemes of the state government. DGP Mr. Ashok Juneja, PCCF Dr. Sanjay Shukla, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Mr. Subrata Sahu and Principal Secretary of Forest, Home and Jail Department Mr. Manoj Pingua were also present in the meeting.

In the meeting, the Chief Secretary instructed to work under the compre-

hensive action plan for planting trees on the private lands of farmers and other beneficiaries under the 'Mukhyamantri Vriksha Sampada Yojana'. He laid special emphasis on planting trees of commercial species. He said that cooperative organisations should be encouraged in tree plantation work to promote wood and plywood based industries. He also instructed the officers to set up more and more units for making Dona Patal. Forest Department officials told in the meeting that under the Millet Mission, 52 thousand 730 quintals of millet grains have been purchased in the state in the year 2022 on the support price. In the year 2023, 38 thousand 700 quintal millet has been purchased at the support price.

In the review of the Narva development works

by the Chief Secretary, the officials said that in the year 2022-23, 1503 works of Narva development have been done, in which 2 lakh 81 thousand 879 water storage areas have been taken. In Chhattisgarh, special efforts are being made for collection, processing and industry development of minor forest produce resources.

In the meeting, the increase in forest revenue, tree plantation, loan disbursement on forest rights patta were reviewed in detail. Similarly, in the meeting, the progress of refund of funds to chit fund victims, submission of challans in criminal cases against women and children and women helpline, crime control and control of cybercrime were reviewed in detail.

Home Department Secretary Mr. S. Basavaraju, Managing Director Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association Mr. Anil Rai, Chief Executive Officer CAMPA Mr. Nivasrao and other senior officers of Home and Forest Department participated in the meeting.

'ORRA strengthens its retail footprint'



● Launches a massive store in Bilaspur

Bilaspur, Apr 19: ORRA, India's leading trusted brand for diamond jewellery is expanding its presence in Bilaspur with the launch of the 1st store in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. The showroom will house the latest diamond jewellery collections. ORRA's patented 73-faceted ORRA Crown Star, the brightest diamond in India, will also be exclusively available at the new retail showroom.

At the launch, the brand is offering its patrons, 25% off on diamond jewellery (for a limited period) and at 0% interest on EMI facilities. Speaking about the launch, Dipu Mehta, Managing Director, ORRA, said, "Bilaspur is an important market for us. With this launch, we aim to strengthen our brand presence and craft a lasting shopping experience for our customers. The collection at the store is thoughtfully curated, keeping in mind the overall demand for diamond jewellery and the evolving tastes and choices of our customers."

The showroom which is 2300 sq.ft has been creatively designed with comfortable seating, contemporary interiors and 1 bridal lounge to enhance the customer's shopping experience. The tomer base with 100% certified jewellery, which comes with complimentary insurance and assured free-of-cost lifetime maintenance. ORRA provides its patrons with lifetime exchange and buyback in addition to a seven-day return policy on the brand's conflict-free diamonds.



The journey of a million gazes began in 1888 before it metamorphosed into ORRA. From sculpting and manufacturing diamonds to crafting and retailing the finest diamond and gold jewellery, ORRA has come a long way since its inception. Today, ORRA is one of India's finest bridal jewellery retail chains, having spread its glow with 74Stores across 34 Cities and has consistently been at the forefront of design, leadership and product innovation with 5 global design centres in Antwerp, Hongkong, New York, Tokyo & Mumbai.

CM Baghel inaugurates 2nd Millet Cafe of the city at Nalanda Parisar

Raipur, Apr 19: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today inaugurated the first millet Cafe of the city at Nalanda Parisar. Now the students preparing for competitive exams in Nalanda Parisar will have easy access to millet based food items in the premises. People of the city can also visit Millet Cafe and enjoy the food items made of Ragi kodo-kutki etc. Chief Minister inaugurated this Cafe today during his public interaction program i.e. Bhent-Mulaqat in Raipur West Assembly Constituency.

Inaugurating the second millet Cafe of capital city Raipur, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that now the students coming to Nalanda Parisar for studies will get nutritious yet delicious snacks at this cafe in the premises. Now students will no longer



have to go for junk food when hungry, while nutritious millet snacks will help them stay healthy and focus on their education. Chief Minister praised Collector Sarveshwar Bhure and the officials of the municipal corporation for setting up this cafe. Occasion Chief Minister Baghel cut the cake made of Ragi and also enjoyed the taste of cheela made of Kutki, Ragi bread sandwich, Ragi vegetable cutlet, Kisi kheer, Ragi cupcake, Ragi

halwa, Ragi pav bhaji, etc. On the occasion incharge Minister West Mr. Ravindra Choubey, MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, Mayor Ejaz Dhebar, Chairman of Yog Commission Gyanesh Sharma, Speaker Municipal Corporation Pramod Dubey, SSO Prashant Agrawal, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mayank Chaturvedi, and many other public representatives were present. Healthy Traditional Food Habits are being revived and promoted: Chief Minister said that Ragi kodo kutki and millets like these have been an important part of our daily diet for generations. However, use of these grains declined over time. These food grains are rich in nutrients. At the newly inaugurated Millet Cafe, people will get healthy options of

the delicious snacks made of millets. Millet Cafes opened in many cities including Raigarh and Jagdalpur Chief Minister said that Chhattisgarh was the first state in the country to launch millet mission, and now central government has also adopted this strategy. Millet based cafes and hotels are being opened in many cities of the state including Raigarh and Jagdalpur. This cafe in Raipur has been started on the initiative of District Administration in association with Municipal Corporation. He further said that maximum of the millet cafes opened in the major cities of the state are being run by women entrepreneurs or women groups. Through these cafes, entrepreneurship is being promoted among women.



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Innovative Approach

India has taken a revolutionary step towards waste management and conservation of natural resources through its first steel slag road. The road, which was inaugurated in Surat last year, has a 32% reduced thickness but is four times stronger than conventional bituminous roads and can withstand heavy commercial traffic. The 1.2-kilometer-long, six-lane road was constructed under the guidance of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI) and used 100% processed steel slag aggregates instead of natural aggregates like sand, gravel, and crushed stones. The construction cost was reported to be around 40% less. The success of this technology has raised hopes for converting industrial waste into wealth while conserving nature through the reduced use of natural resources in road construction. The demand for natural aggregates for road construction has been increasing with the push for connectivity to meet the country's strategic and development requirements, leading to the destruction of hills, while indiscriminate sand, gravel, and boulder mining has destroyed river ecologies, triggering a livelihood crisis. India's steel production has been increasing steadily, making it the world's second-largest producer after China, with over 118 million tonnes (MT) produced, of which around 20% is generated as solid waste. The government estimates that steel slag waste generated in steel plants in the country will increase from its current level of 19 MT to 45 MT by 2030. The highest consumption of steel is by the housing and construction sectors, accounting for 43%, while infrastructure sectors account for 25%, engineering and packaging for 22%, and automobiles for about 9%. India's efforts to reduce imports and become self-reliant on steel production will increase the likelihood of generating more steel slag waste in the coming decades. The trial use of steel slag in road construction is in line with the Waste to Wealth Mission of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC). The mission's two key objectives are identifying and supporting the development of new technologies that can help create a cleaner and greener environment and creating circular economic models that are financially viable for waste management. The Waste to Wealth Mission has also led to the discovery of other cost-effective waste management solutions. The use of plastics in bituminous mixes in highway construction has unlocked tremendous opportunities for viable solutions for turning plastic waste into wealth. Asia's largest bio-CNG plant, set up on a municipal solid waste dumping site in Indore, has the capacity to process 550 tonnes of organic solid municipal waste to generate about 18,000 kg of bio-CNG and 100 tonnes of organic compost daily. The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India estimates that the "waste-to-energy and waste management market in India is set to be a 14-billion-dollar opportunity by the year 2025." However, scaling down these possibilities requires robust participation from all stakeholders, not just the central government. Bridging the gap between policy formulation and implementation remains a significant challenge. Due to a lack of awareness among the general public about the benefits of new technologies such as steel slag road technology or plastic road technology in conservation of nature, reducing pollution, and waste management, they fail to play any role in mounting pressure on government agencies to adopt the new technologies. Governments, as well as the private sector, need to support research and technology development with adequate financial grants for the establishment of innovation laboratories and funding technology development. This will help develop more cost-effective and sustainable technologies for better waste management. The policy of turning waste into wealth in infrastructure planning needs to be dovetailed with a clear roadmap for resource mobilization to yield better results. However, the implementation of new technologies and policies requires robust participation from all stakeholders, including governments, private sector, and the general public. Bridging the gap between policy formulation and implementation, raising awareness about the benefits of sustainable waste management solutions, and providing adequate financial grants for technology development can yield better results in creating a cleaner and greener environment while ensuring sustainable economic growth. The Waste to Wealth mission, with its focus on creating circular economic models, can play a significant role in achieving these goals.

India's Efforts to Protect Wild Tiger Population

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

India has made significant strides in the conservation and protection of tigers, with the number of wild tigers increasing at a rate of 6% per year, accounting for more than 70% of the world's wild tiger population. This achievement can be attributed to the cultural reverence that Indians hold towards nature, with protecting wildlife being a significant part of the country's ethos. The All-India Tiger Estimation, 2022 has revealed recently that India has made significant progress in the conservation of wild tigers, with the population increasing from 1,411 individuals in 2010 to 3,167 in the latest census. This success serves as an inspiration for other countries grappling with similar challenges of wildlife conservation. The latest tiger census estimates that India has at least 3,167 tigers, a remarkable increase since the last census in 2018, when 2,967 tigers were recorded. The Indian government has set up various initiatives, such as "Project Tiger," "IDWH," "Tiger Conservation Plan," "Strengthening of Anti-Poaching Activities," and "M-STIPES," aimed at protecting tigers and their habitats. The Tiger Conservation Plan is a comprehensive strategy that focuses on conserving and managing tiger populations and their habitats, improving tiger conservation efforts, increasing habitat connectivity, and reducing human-tiger conflict. It also emphasizes the importance of community involvement in conservation efforts and the need for effective anti-poaching measures. M-STIPES is a software-based monitoring system launched by the Indian government's National Tiger Conservation Authority in 2010 to strengthen patrolling and surveillance of Bengal tigers in Indian reserves. Forest guards use personal digital assistants and GPS devices to capture data on tiger sightings, deaths, wildlife crime, and ecological observations while patrolling. The data is then analyzed in a geographic information system to enhance the effectiveness and spatial coverage of patrols and evaluate human pressure and habitat change. The government's efforts have led to the establishment of protected areas, anti-poaching measures, habitat restoration, and community involvement in conservation efforts, resulting in a 75% increase in the tiger population in the last 10-12 years. However, habitat loss, human-tiger conflict, and poaching continue to be significant threats to the survival of tigers in India. India has six subspecies of tigers, out of which three are classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Bengal tiger is the most populous subspecies in the country, with an estimated population of around 2,500. The Indochinese tiger, found in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, has an estimated population of around 350 in India. Despite the success of conservation efforts, challenges remain in ensuring the long-term survival of tigers in India. The loss of habitat due to human activities such as deforestation and mining, human-tiger conflict, and poaching for tiger parts continue to be significant threats to the survival of tigers. Addressing these challenges will require continued investments in habitat protection, community involvement in conservation efforts, and stronger enforcement of wildlife laws to combat poaching and illegal trade. However, with continued efforts and collaboration between government, local communities, and conservation organizations, the future of tigers in India remains hopeful.

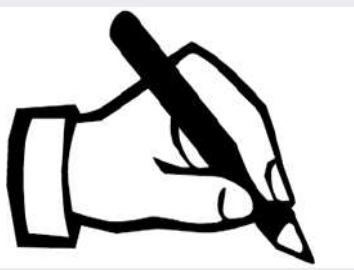
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TIM COOK VISITS SCHOOL



Apple CEO Tim Cook with students during and teachers his visit to an Ananksha Foundation school, in Mumbai, Wednesday, April 19.

Future in Food Industry

**PROF. ANIL JAIN**

I've given a little thought on the economy of the world. The economy of most of the countries is based on industry. It so happens that when the utilization of some product reaches its saturation point then the industry comes at the verge of collapsing which causes economic recession. In the eighties television was introduced. The demand for television was so vast that it created a huge market. In a couple of decades it reached its culmination. Later in the nineties computers came into existence. It was such a great invention that it helped to further the world economy. Again most of its users acquired computers and its demand lessened. After that were introduced mobiles. The advent of computers and the internet revolutionized the globe and it played a vital role to boost the world economy for the next twenty years. It proved to be a boon to the world. Such a state of affairs shaped a vast market in the

world because there were billions of consumers for that and it created millions of jobs too. Now we have laptops in every lap, mobiles in both hands and TVs in every home. Demand for all that has almost ended. That is why the news of economic depression makes headlines. So it may be concluded that until and unless some new inventions are introduced in the market there seems no possibility of any reform in the world economy in near future. For the boom in the economy there must be a demand for something. Whole of the economy is based on two basic fundamentals. What I studied from the very beginning during my school days when economics was introduced to me that there are two basics of economics - that is, demand and supply. In earlier times there was a lot of demand for almost everything and to supply that demand the world's economy remained balanced. The reason is that in earlier years the production was

so slow that the need for every item continued to exist but today the things are different. Today many machines are there and the production is so speedy that soon the marketplaces are filled with the produce. The production has increased at such a pace that shops are overflowing with goods. Go to any shop and mall you will find them crammed with a variety of articles and that too in bulk. Let's take an example of garments. Thousands and lakhs of outfits are there for our choice. I wonder how many of them are sold. One more factor that any common spectator can understand is that there is loss of demand or that the consumers are reluctant. Anyone who keeps an eye on market affairs may come to the conclusion that the reason behind the present recession is not that people do not have money. Each and everyone has enough money. They have a lot of purchasing power too but they do not need anything because they have almost everything for the smooth running of day to day life. So the reason behind the present day depression is the loss of demand. Many developed countries suffer with the ailment of recession off and on even on trivial grounds because their economy is industry based. Once the demand for some particular item decreases the

country wavers and starts lamenting over its economy. But India always comes out of this disease safe and sound. If we go a little deeper into it we can understand that India had a considerate legacy which has come down to us from our ancestors. They seemed quite aware to take agriculture as their profession and preferred to invest in gold. We all know that these two are the fundamentals of the economy of any country. We may not have luxury items but our barns are filled with food items. That is why India never falters. The demand of anything may lessen but never for food items for the obvious reasons. India also wants to come at par with developed countries and promote industries but it should concentrate on the food industry. It is here the seeds of India's prosperity lies. Crop growing can prosper the country and countrymen who are mostly farmers. Indians 'greed' for gold may also be a boon because even in the modern economic system gold will never lose its sheen. Thus, so long as the architects of India keep our country can always be hopeful about our future. (Writer is a Prof. Dept. of English Govt. PG College, DAMOH MP. Views are personal. can be contacted anil-jaindamoh@gmail.com)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sacred Marijuana

Cannabis or in Indian lingo Bhaang is a plant that finds mention in many ancient medical discourses like Sushruta Samhita where Bhaang or Cannabis is recommended as a treatment to clear excess mucus from the nose or throat, and for treating phlegm, it is also a wonder drug for the treatment of diarrhoea. The ayurvedic discourses are replete with mention of bhaang as a refresher and a cure for headache and fatigue. Bhaang was revered as a sacred plant as it is one of the offerings to the Hindu God Shiva but now if one possesses Bhaang he/she would be slapped with so many legal sanctions that it would be nearly impossible for them to come out of the legal hellhole. India was never against Bhaang until 1985 when the Rajiv Gandhi government labeled Bhaang as synthetic and imposed a ban on the once sacred plant for the Hindus. It is interesting because India was not a signatory to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs but after 25 years suddenly India was against its sacred plant. It is certainly not a coincidence that the alcohol market started to boom in India in the late 1980s. Alcohol kills more than 2 lakh Indians every year but there is not a single death related to marijuana consumption. We should not be blind to this fact. Noopur Baruah, Tezpur

Extrajudicial Killings

Killing of gangster Atiq and his brother in UP Police custody is a cause of concern. Such extrajudicial encounters not only tarnish the reputation of the police but also highlight the nexus between criminals and opposition party politicians in UP. The Supreme Court has taken a strict stance against extrajudicial encounters, and accountability must be fixed for the same. It is also essential to conduct a credible investigation into these killings, as India has a dark history when it comes to police encounters. The interest of the state and its citizens should be a priority, and such incidents should not go unchecked. The UP Police must ensure that they abide by the law while dealing with criminals. MK Nair, Raipur

Macron's Soft Stance on China

The changing geopolitical equations of the new world order are interesting and embarrassing to watch. However, it is alarming to see France's initiative to embrace China and undercut US efforts to rein in the country. This not only shackles India but also endangers the entire West. The complex international situation is further complicated by Russia's deep alliance with China, posing a challenge for countries like India in retaining old ties with Russia. The bonhomie between China and several erstwhile communist countries, including Germany and Britain, imperils NATO. It is crucial to understand that while changing relations may be easier for high-end countries, it is difficult for poor and traditional ones. France must reconsider its soft stance on China and prioritize the interest of the West. Krishna Kumar Nambiar, Korba

Increasing trend of self-medication and ineffective antibiotics

**Rajender Kumar Sharma**

Often we get to see around us, at our relatives' place, where people themselves start treating every small and big disease. The basis of this treatment is the internet search engine and the medicine given by the doctor for the same disease suffered by any other family member in the past and/or the medicine prescription. We forget that every person's physical structure, his need, the effect

of medicines on his body are different. Every person's body reacts differently to a particular medicine or chemical. But today's young, educated generation, by the grace of internet, is quite aware about medical tests, treatment methods and medicines. Having knowledge about diseases and medicines is a positive quality. The way medical services and education have become commercialized today. In such a situation, even the doctor has to be a little professional. In such circumstances, it is very important for you to have knowledge of diseases, medicines and medical tests, so that you or your patient cannot be unnecessarily exploited by the hospital and the doctors. But it does not mean at all that you become a doctor yourself and start giving medicines to the family members. The most dangerous and worrying aspect of self-medication use is com-

ing in front of us today, according to a news last year, according to the largest study ever done about the effect of antibiotics published in the medical journal The Lancet Journal, in the year 2019 the world worldwide, more than 1.2 million people have died, which has been attributed to anti-microbial resistance (AMR) or ineffectiveness of medicines. This makes treatment of diseases difficult and increases the risk of death. According to this research team, AMR was the direct or indirect cause of death of about 6 million people worldwide in the year 2019. This figure is much higher than the deaths due to malaria and AIDS. The gist of the above report is that the whole world has become addicted to antibiotics to such an extent that now antibiotics have become ineffective on many bacteria / pathogens and if this rate continues, then very soon we will reach the old era. The progress of

medical science may prove futile. On the basis of old prescriptions of doctors, patients are taking such medicines directly from medical stores. According to the age and weight of the patient, the doctor decides the dose of antibiotics and the medicine has to be taken for a certain period. Even if you have recovered, you will still have to take this medicine for the duration prescribed by the doctor. This is because it is essential for the body's immunity. But today people are joking with the medicines of antibiotics class. Whenever there is a desire, they start taking antibiotics, as soon as there is some relief, they stop taking antibiotics, which results in the microorganisms of the disease becoming resistant to the antibiotic, that is, if in the future, the same pathogen attack the body again, this antibiotic will no longer be effective against these pathogens. Now more power-

ful antibiotics will have to be taken. This is the reason that earlier a very few antibiotics were there, but now more new antibiotics are being invented everyday. And if this situation continues, then the human body will gradually become resistant to all antibiotics and antibiotics will not be effective on the bacteria / pathogens of the disease. Therefore, today we have to understand that practicing and following self-medication will only have bad effects on our body. Allergy caused by medicines can take fatal form in future. Therefore, medicines should not be consumed like other food items. Medicines should be taken only on the advice of the doctor. Medical stores shouldn't sell medicines without Doctor's prescriptions. (Writer is a Columnist & Sr. Educator, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Views are personal)



Jay Bhanushali brings out the 'Royal Andaaz' while playing 'Shivendra Barot'

Sony Entertainment Television's latest offering, 'Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum' brings viewers an engrossing saga that traces the journey of Damayanti, the stern traditionalist matriarch of the royal Barot family situated in Ranakgadh, and Surilii, a lively and forward-thinking young woman. Change induces fear and the usual reactions are to either fight, or flight - it is this inherent human nature of resistance to change which the show focuses on. This close-to-life yet inspirational saga sees Kitu Gidwani playing Damayanti Barot, Tina Datta essaying the role of Surilii Ahluwalia and Jay Bhanushali portraying the character of Shivendra Barot.

Taking the legacy of the Barot family ahead is the eldest son of Damayanti Devi, Shivendra Singh Barot who is a fair and kind person. Jay Bhanushali plays the role of this prince with a very charming personality who is entirely focused on profitable deals for the Barot business empire. To authentically portray this strong character and master the royal dialect, Jay Bhanushali reveals that he has started using the royal way of communication in real life!

Tune in to watch Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum every Monday to Friday at 9:00 PM only on Sony Entertainment Television.

Khushi Dubey shoots challenging sequence for 'Aashiqana 3' despite food poisoning

Actress Khushi Dubey, known for her role as Chikki in the streaming series 'Aashiqana 3', was recently detected with food poisoning, but she continued to shoot for her part to meet the deadlines.

Talking about her experience, Khushi said, "I was down with food poisoning and I wasn't well. I was feeling dehydrated, uneasy and pukish the entire day. I couldn't eat anything and spent the entire day without food. Amid all this, I had to shoot for a challenging sequence where Chikki goes out of the mental



asylum." Khushi revealed that a doctor visited her on the sets of the show and gave her certain medicines so that she could work.

"I had to scream, shout and showcase all the pain, angst and madness through my body language. In fact, the doctor came on the sets and gave me medicines so I could continue shooting this taxing sequence. In fact, the show's creator Gul mam had asked me to take rest, no matter how tight and hectic the schedule was."

The third season of 'Aashiqana' is available for streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

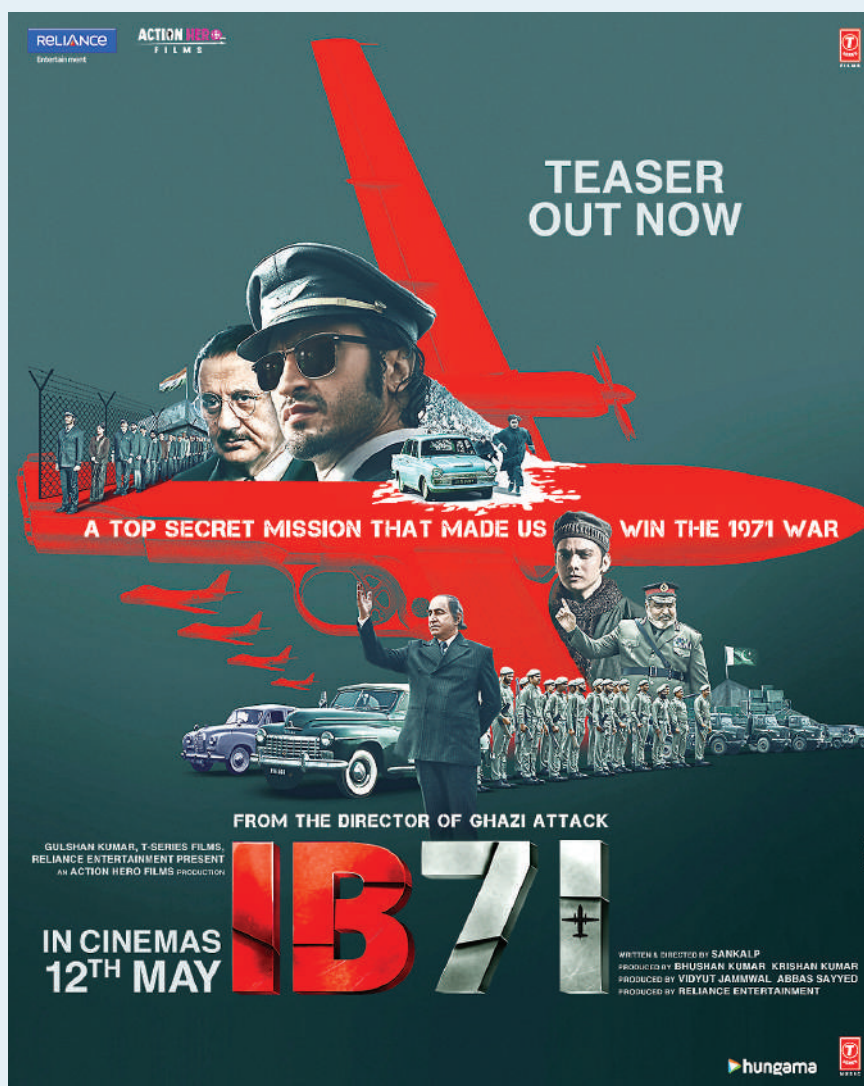
Vidyut Jammwal unveils dynamic poster of spy thriller 'IB 71'

Vidyut Jammwal is set to dominate the screen in the upcoming national award winner Sankalp Reddy's directorial 'IB 71'. The film marks Vidyut turning producer for the first time which elevates the film to new heights. The makers of the highly anticipated espionage thriller implemented a unique launch strategy to announce their release date with poster and teaser.

In a never seen before, hoarding innovation, a confidential envelope took over the streets of India, with a cryptic message "A secret that will shock the nation!" Providing a tantalizing glimpse of the highly classified mission that the movie talks about.

The following day, top influencers and celebs also started posting about these intriguing confidential hoardings in their city creating huge uproar among the netizens. At a key location in Mumbai, along with fans and media, Jammwal finally unveiled the first look of IB71 putting all speculations to rest revealing the details of the envelope that read 'A top secret mission that made us win the 1971 war'.

Talking about the film, Jammwal says, "IB71 for the first time, talks about



how the Indian Intelligence Bureau conducted a secret mission

and outwitted the enemy which gave our armed forces the required advan-

tage to face a two-front war. I am excited to bring this project to life and

share it with the world!" Director Sankalp Reddy adds, "Working on IB71 has been an absolute thrill ride for me. From the very beginning, I was drawn to the film's intriguing premise and the opportunity to explore the world of undercover operations. With Vidyut Jammwal in the lead, I knew that I had an actor who not only had the physicality to pull off high-octane action scenes but also the depth and nuance to bring his character to life. I can't wait for audiences to experience the world of IB71."

IB 71 is presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series Film and Reliance Entertainment. The Action Hero Films production stars Vidyut Jammwal, Anupam Kher and Vishal Jethwa in pivotal roles and is produced by Bhusan Kumar, Action Hero Films and Reliance Entertainment. Produced by Vidyut Jammwal & Abbas Sayyed, co-produced by Aditya Shastri, Aditya Chowksey and Shiv Chanana. The film is directed by national award winner Sankalp Reddy with the story by Aditya Shastri and the screenplay by Storyhouse Films LLP. The film is slated for a theatrical release on 12th May 2023.

Samantha's cryptic Instagram note addresses failure of 'Shaakuntalam'



Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who was recently seen in the film 'Shaakuntalam', shared a cryptic post on her social media on Tuesday. The film was hugely anticipated by the fans of the actress but it failed to deliver and entertain the audience. After the film tanked, a Telugu film producer named Chittibabu criticized Samantha, saying that her career is 'finished'. He told a YouTube channel that the days of stardom are over for the actress and she should do whatever offers she gets from now on. But it seems Samantha is unfazed by the failure of her highly anticipated film as she took to her Instagram on Tuesday to share a picture of herself with a caption in Sanskrit quoted from Bhagavad Gita, the foundational text of Hinduism. She seemed to have addressed the underwhelming response to the film calling that she can only do her duty, and can't control the outcome.

Karthi assures PS-2 will be easier for North Indian audiences to comprehend

Tamil star Karthi, who plays the victorious Chola general in Mani Ratnam's 'Ponniyin Selvan' period drama, has said that the second part of the movie will be easier for North Indian audiences to understand.

Karthi admitted that unfamiliarity with the Chola dynasty's history made it difficult for people to comprehend the first part, which grossed Rs 502 crore at the Tamil box office. However, he assured that the second part would bring out the real story and be less tricky for viewers.

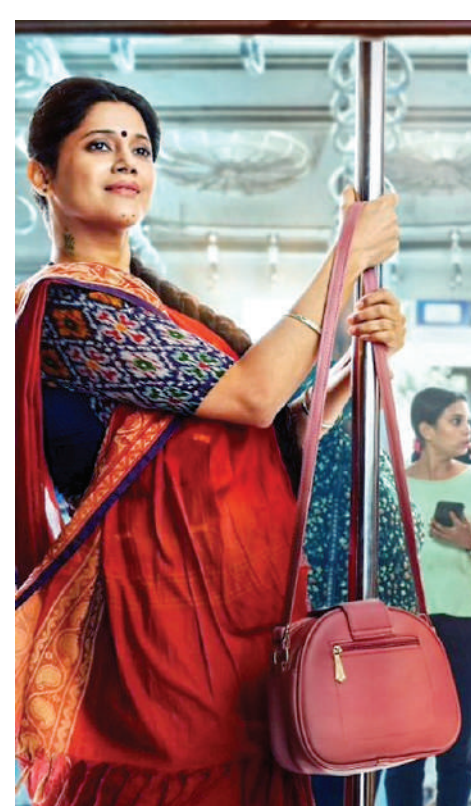
'Ponniyin Selvan-2', which is based on the Tamil classic 'Ponniyin Selvan' by Kalki Krishnamurthy, revolves around the early life of prince Arulmozhi Varman, who went on to become the famous Rajaraja Chola I. Its principal cast includes Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Trisha, Jayam Ravi, and Sobhita



Dhulipala. The movie will be released on April 28. Speaking to the media, Karthi shared how he explained the story to his friends. "I sent them a WhatsApp message with info about the story and it helped them understand the film. PS-1 has done the basic work and introduced the story. So, PS 2 won't be tricky," Karthi said. Vikram, who plays the Chola prince Aditya Karikalan, elaborated on what Karthi had said and added: "The confusion is about the names."

Kangana reminisces her friendship with Aamir Khan before Hrithik's legal battle

Actress Kangana Ranaut recently shared on Instagram that Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan used to be her best friend before her much-talked-about legal battle with actor Hrithik Roshan. Kangana posted a video of her conversation with Aamir on the sets of the TV show 'Satyamev Jayate', in which she talked about how the 'Dangal' star used to guide and mentor her with her choices. In the clip, Kangana also revealed how she has consciously avoided dance numbers in Bollywood after witnessing a young girl performing to an item number. She captioned the post, "Actually mujhe bhi kabhi kabhi woh din yaad aate hain jab Aamir sir was my best friend... jaane kahan gaye woh din." Kangana went on to say that Aamir mentored and shaped a lot of her choices before Hrithik initiated a legal case against her. She added, "One thing is for sure that he has mentored me, appreciated me, and shaped a lot of my choices, before Hrithik did that legal case on me. Post that they made their loyalties clear - it was one woman against entire industry."



'Will Ashwin forgive his father Dilip for all his wrongdoings'

Pushpa Impossible, one of Sony SAB's marquee shows follows the inspiring story of Pushpa a single mother who strives to provide for her children while pursuing her studies. Her positive and problem-solving attitude, coupled with a charming clumsiness, makes her endearing to the audience. She for her entire life has done everything possible in her capacity to provide her children with the best things.

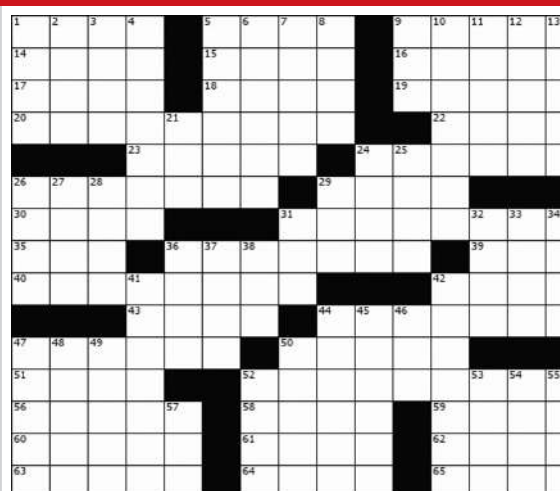
In recent episodes, viewers witness Dilip (Jayesh More) shifting in the chawl and becoming Pushpa's (Karuna Pandey) neighbour. As Dilip moves in, both Pushpa and

Raashi are seen leaving for their SSC exam and due to this new catastrophe, Pushpa happens to miss her exam.

In the upcoming episodes, we will see a lot of drama taking place in the chawl. Pushpa will be left shocked on seeing Dilip turning up in front of her while she is leaving for her exam. The very next day he plans to perform a havan in the chawl to prove to everyone that he has changed and has become a pure and holy person. Ashwin enters the chawl and is disgusted at seeing Dilip pretend. In that rage, he throws Dilip's nameplate in the havan and both Dilip and Pushpa are furious at that moment.

CROSSWORD

621



ACROSS

- Infant
- Picnic nuisances
- Shatter
- Between ports
- Jump
- Major artery
- Pinocchio, e.g.
- Feeble, as an excuse
- Havana export
- Cleaned (clothes)

DOWN

- _____ bearing
- Europe's neighbor
- Boyfriend
- Money makers
- Assert
- More adjacent
- More docile
- Went fast
- Cul-de-_____
- Dampen
- Debate
- Fixed gaze
- Sultan's wives
- Father
- Omelet ingredients
- Mattress support
- Not fake
- Singer _____ Fitzgerald
- Overlook

29. Crude mineral
31. Grand _____ Oprey
32. List entry
33. Royal title
34. Minister to
36. Doctor's "at once!"
37. Toothpaste container
38. Commercial
41. Ants, e.g.
42. Corrosion layer
44. Blood vessel
45. Certain leathers
46. Not him
47. Chick's comment
48. Howdy!
49. Regions
50. Forbidden
52. Agreement
53. Motionless
54. Group of players
55. Thanksgiving dish
57. Golf gizmo

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Cabinet nod for National Quantum Mission

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTD)

The government on Wednesday approved the National Quantum Mission to nurture and scale up scientific and industrial research and development in quantum technology.

The mission involves a cost of Rs 6,003.65 crore from 2023-24 to 2030-31. The National Quantum Mission (NQM), approved at a meeting of the Union Cabinet

chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will accelerate quantum technology-led economic growth and nurture the ecosystem in the country. "NQM is going to give India a quantum jump in this arena," Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh told reporters here. India will be the seventh country to have a dedicated quantum mission after the US, Austria, Finland, France, Canada and China.

India surpasses China to become world's most populous nation

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTD)

India has surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people, UN data showed.

China has a population of 142.57 crore, according to the UN world population dashboard.

According to a new UNFPA report, 25 per cent of India's population is in the age group of 0-14 years, 18 per cent in the 10 to 19 age group, 26 per cent in the age bracket of 10 to 24 years, 68 per cent in 15 to 64 years age group, and 7 per cent above 65 years.

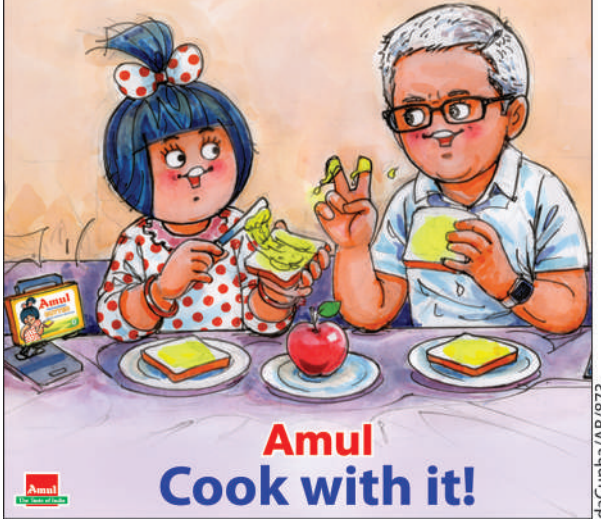


A crowded fancy Bazar in Guwahati on Wednesday.

'India's population expected to rise for next three decades before starting to decline'

New Delhi: As India became the most populous country in the world, UN projections estimate that the country's population is expected to grow for the next three decades after which it will begin declining. According to experts, India has achieved the replacement level of fertility but the population will grow due to momentum phenomenon. Replacement level fertility is the level of fertility at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next. The UN analysis stated that India's population is expected to grow for the next three decades after which it will start declining.

iMaska for all!



Amul Cook with it!

NIA files charge sheet for organising arms training camps

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTD): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has charge-sheeted Ibrahim Puthanathani, the national coordinator of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), for his alleged involvement in organising arms training camps across the country, an official said on Wednesday.

The charge sheet against Puthanathani, alias Ibrahim M K, was filed in a special court here as a follow-up in the investigation in a case registered against the PFI and its leaders and cadre, a spokesperson of the NIA said.

BRIEF



National Defence Academy (NDA) entrance exam 2022 topper Anurag Sangwan at his school in Gurugram, Wednesday.

IEDs seized

Chalbas: Five Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were seized by security personnel in Naxal-affected West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand on Wednesday, police said. A massive anti-Naxal operation is underway in Kolhan region of Jharkhand since January 1 this year. During the operation, a team of state police and CRPF found the IEDs buried in a kucha road between Chota Kuira and Maradiri villages in Goikera Police Station area, Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar said.

Kishtwar blast

Jammu: A man died and his brother was injured in a blast at their home in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Wednesday, police said. "Initial reports revealed that the blast occurred when the duo tried heating an abandoned object they found while collecting mushrooms in a nearby forest," a police officer said. "The blast took place in the kitchen of the house of Mohd Abass Naik in Symbol village," the officer added.

Youth booked

Balia (UP): A youth was booked for allegedly posting objectionable comments against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on a social networking site, a police official here said on Wednesday. The youth was identified as Mohammad Azim alias Aju, a resident of the Revati area.

Weather	
High	42
Low	25
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,618.75
SENSEX	59,567.80
BULLION	
GOLD	60,237
SILVER	75,494

Amit Shah to anti-narcotics agencies

'Be 'ruthless' against drug traffickers'

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTD)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said anti-narcotics agencies should be "ruthless" in dealing with drug traffickers and cartels, stressing that they are the main culprits and those consuming drugs their "victims".

Citing the ill-effects of drugs on the youth as well as the country's economy and security, he asked all states to work in close coordination and join the battle against the menace with "a whole-of-government" and "Team India" approach, keeping aside their political differences.

Addressing the first conference of the heads of Anti-Narcotics Task Forces of states and Union territo-



ries, Shah said the Ministry of Home Affairs, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has set a target to create a drug-free India by 2047 when the country attains 100th year of independence.

"Drug traders are the main culprits as the drug consumers are the victims. We have to take a ruthless approach against the drug traders and the strongest

possible action should be taken against them," he said.

The home minister said the Narendra Modi government is committed to eradicating the menace of drugs and a "whole of government" approach should be taken against it as it can destroy the future generations, he said.

"Narcotics not only make the young generation hollow, but along with this, there are many bad effects on the country's economy as well. Simultaneously, through narco-terrorism, through smuggling of narcotics, the security of the country's border can be breached... If the 130 crore Indians fight it together, we will win this battle," he said.

SC urged to use plenary power, moral authority to ensure acceptance of same-sex marriages



New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTD):

The petitioners seeking legal validation of same-sex marriage on Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to use its plenary power, "prestige and moral authority" to push the society to acknowledge such a union which would ensure LGBTQA persons lead a

"dignified" life like heterosexuals. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud was told by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for one of the petitioners, that "the State should come forward and provide recognition to same-sex marriage." He referred to the law on widow re-marriage, and said the society did accept it then and the "law acted with alacrity" and the social acceptance followed. "Here, this court needs to push the society to acknowledge the same-sex marriage.

Atiq killers sent to police custody for four days

Prayagraj (UP), Apr 19 (PTD):

The three persons accused of killing gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Mohammad Ashraf were sent to police custody for four days by the court of chief judicial magistrate here on Wednesday.

Lovelesh Tiwari, Mohit and Arun Kumar Maurya were produced in the court amid tight security on Wednesday morning as the police sought a seven-day remand.

Passing the order later, the court sent them to police custody for four days -- from 2 pm on Wednesday till 5 pm on April 23, district government advocate Gulab Chandra Agrahari said.

Rail employee killed as goods train derails after hitting another train

Shahdol/Bilaspur, Apr 19 (PTD):

A railway employee was killed and five other personnel injured when a moving freight train hit a stationary goods train and then derailed in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district on Wednesday, rail officials said.

Shahdol district collector Vandana Vaidya told reporters that one of the railway personnel injured in the freight trains accident died. Two out of the five other injured are in critical condition and undergoing treatment at local government medical college, she said.

Railway sources said the deceased was the 48-year-old loco pilot of the stationary goods train.



Wreckage of two goods trains after a collision, in Shahdol district, Wednesday.

The incident, which disrupted traffic on Bilaspur-Katni rail route, took place due to signal overshoot at around 6.50 am near Singhpur station, which falls under Bilaspur railway division, an official from South East Central Railway (SECR) said.

At least 10 trains operated on the route have been cancelled, he said.

Eight wagons and a locomotive of the iron ore-laden moving goods train derailed in the incident, disrupting traffic on Bilaspur-Katni rail route, the officials said.

MERCURY SOARS



Ganga ghats wear a deserted look as mercury soars, in Varanasi, Wednesday.

NCW seeks probe into harassment charges against YC chief Srinivas BV

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTD):

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has asked the Assam Police to conduct an inquiry into the harassment allegations levelled against Indian Youth Congress president Srinivas B V by its Assam unit chief Ankita Dutta. Srinivas on Tuesday issued a legal notice to Dutta, saying she was defaming him.

The NCW, in a statement, said it has come across a Twitter post enclosing screenshots of

posts made by Dutta, alleging harassment, use of derogatory language and discrimination against Srinivas.

The NCW claimed that Dutta has posted on her Twitter handle that she even raised her grievance with Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu, but no action was taken on her complaint.

The Commission said it is "appalled and disappointed" and has taken cognizance of the allegations levelled by Dutta against Srinivas.

Rajnath asks Army to maintain strong vigil along LAC as situation remains 'tense'

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTD):

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday asked the Army to maintain strong vigil along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China as the situation in the northern sector remained "tense" in view of deployment of PLA troops.

In his address at the Army Commanders' Conference, Singh, without making specific references, called upon the armed forces to take note of geopolitical changes around the world, and accordingly mould their planning and strategies, sources said. "The situation is tense due to deployment of PLA troops in the northern sector. Our armed forces, espe-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visits an exhibition at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, Wednesday.

cially the Indian Army, will have to continuously keep their vigilance in order to maintain the security of the LAC," he said, according to the sources. Singh's

comments came in the backdrop of the three-year border row in eastern Ladakh. The defence minister said the security of the country is the "topmost

priority" for the government. "I assure all of you that it is the whole endeavour of the government to provide the best weapons and facilities to each and every soldier posted on the border," he said at the conference in Delhi.

The five-day Army Commanders' Conference began on Monday. It is liberating on India's national security challenges along the borders with China and Pakistan and ways to boost combat capability of the force.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir, the defence minister said it is witnessing peace and stability and there has been a significant decline in the number of terrorist activities in the Union Territory.

Four arrested for mobile tower installation fraud

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: Police arrested four persons of an interstate gang of fraudsters involved in cheating people in pretext of mobile tower installation. The accused worked at a call centre in West Bengal 24 Parganas. Patan Police Station arrested them in connection with a complaint of fraud filed by Tejendra Chakradhar.

The accused duped him of Rs 59460. The accused lured him to pay different amounts on assurance of providing Rs 15 lakh as advance in lieu of installing a mobile tower of Airtel company in his agricultural field. The accused further assured that the company would pay Rs 20000 rent per month after installation of the tower.

SP Dr Abhishek Pallava



informed that during investigation of this matter, they found that the accused used mobile numbers 9477122319, 9073850137, 9593522494, 8617776775. They also used the bank accounts of SBI, HDFC, Canara Bank and Bank of Baroda.

Police traced the loca-

tion of the mobile numbers as well as examined the details of the bank transactions. A Police team was sent to West Bengal from where the accused were taken into custody. During interrogation, the accused confessed to duping Rs 21 lakh from a person in Kawardha district, 03.36

lakh from a person in Dhamtari district, Rs 90000 from a person of Dhamdha and Rs 38460 from a person in Seoni in Madhya Pradesh as well as Tejendra Kumar of Patan. The arrested accused are Barun Singh alias Mayank Singh (39) son of Mangal Rishabh a resi-

dent of Bukanejala Police Station, Patahi District, East Champaran, Motihari Bihar (presently residing at Subhash Nagar, Dum Dum Police Station); Asima Rai (30) daughter of Mohd Mansoor Ali a resident of Duttabad Road Bagpara, Opposite Apollo Hospital, Police Station Vidhan Nagar, CC Block, District North 24 Parganas (WB); Deepika Mandal (26) daughter of Sapan Mandal a resident of Duttabad Road, Salt Lake Kolkata, PS Vidhan Nagar Kolkata; and Sneha Pal (25) daughter of Dulalchand Pal a resident of 1/B-5 Ramlal Agarwal Lane, Opposite Meghdoot Apartment, Ghoshwara Thana Badanagar, Kolkata (WB). Police seized 44 mobiles, 22 diaries and one motorcycle bullet from the accused.

Bhilai Steel Plant organises one day free health camp at Joratarai



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant remains upfront in fulfilling its organizational social responsibility by doing several public welfare activities for the communities within which it works. The Corporate Social Responsibility Department (CSR) of Bhilai Steel Plant takes multiple initiatives towards establishing, cultural unity, professional development, environment sustainability, education,

sports, health and well-being in Bhilai and adjoining areas. The CSR Department contributes actively for healthcare, through initiatives like health camps, which are organized from time to time to provide medical assistance to villagers.

In this series, a free health camp was organized by the CSR Department in village Joratarai recently. An expert medical team from CSR, comprising of Dr Nishi Minj, Shri Gaur, Pharmacist, Rekha Dev

for Blood Sugar and BP Examination and Shambhu for Registration, conducted the camp at Joratarai. Shri Soni from the CSR Department of Bhilai Steel plant was also present in the camp, along with School Principal from the village school, village councilor representative.

A total of 32 individuals, including 9 men, 11 women and 12 children, were examined in the camp and free medicines were distributed in the camp.

RPS celebrates Tenth Foundation Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: It was a memorable day for the management, staff and students of Rungta Public School that runs under the aegis of Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions, when they all celebrated their Tenth Foundation Day on April 17, 2023. The school completed its glorious journey of 9 years and stepped into the 10th year on April 09, 2023.

The journey so far has been a very rewarding one. The Chairman of SRGI, Sanjay Rungta, Director Harsha Rungta, Principal, Jagadish

Dhami and Vice Principal, Deepti Singh graced the occasion by their presence.

Celebrating this milestone achievement, a special assembly was organized by Raman House. The energy and passion of the students was visible in the performances that they put up. The day started with remembering the Almighty, God and seeking blessings for the entire school community.

This was followed by a Thought and a Speech on Foundation Day. The students choir presented a melodious song which was followed by a mes-



merizing dance performance. After this some of the students of class XII, who have been in this school since inception, shared their experience and spoke about their wonderful journey and memories related to their school life.

Commemorating the special occasion, the cake cutting ceremony was held. All the students, teachers and other staff members cherished the moments of celebration reminiscing the incredible journey that the school has embarked in since the year 2014.

The Principal, Jagadish Dhami wished

the students and staff and said that it was a collaborative effort of everyone that has made the journey of the school till now so fruitful and interesting. He advised the students to keep making steady progress in their life, to always keep their spirits high and to make every possible effort to improve and upgrade themselves.

He reminded them of their responsibilities towards their school, to take it higher in every sphere, for which they require to be dedicated and focussed.

The Chairman of SRGI, Sanjay Rungta in

his address extended his heart felt wishes to everyone on the completion of 9 years of the school. He recounted some exceptional achievements of the past years and established faith and hope that the students will excel in every field and take the name of the institution to the pinnacle.

He wished that all his students will become good and responsible members of their community and good citizens of their country eventually. The ceremony ended with the joint rendition of the national Anthem.

Uday Mahavidyalaya organises self defence training for students

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: Considering the importance of self defence for the girls, Uday Mahavidyalaya organised a special training session for the girl students. Creative Karate Academy Director Sensai Sandeep Tamrakar (Black Belt 3rd Dan, National Referee Grade A and Coach); Self Defence Expert and Trainer Sensai Anjana Rajveer Singh (Certified Female Instructor; Kata / Kumate Judge - B) conducted the training session.

They demonstrated the self defence tricks and tactics using various items. The objective of the programme was to



make the girls aware of the anti-social elements so that they can remain cautious and defend themselves in case of any problem.

Uday Group Director Dr TR Sahu and Principal Dr Alipa Sahu said that they would continue organising such events in future as well for the safe-

ty of the girls. Faculty members and BED students of Uday Mahavidyalaya, Jamul were present in the programme.

DAV Hudco acclaims Mahatma Hansraj

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: To commemorate the 159th birth anniversary of Mahatma Hansraj Ji - An Embodiment of Excellence a special Havan Yajna was organized in DAV Public School, Hudco, under the aegis of Aarya Pradeshik Pratinidhi Upsabha of CG Zone on April 19, 2023. Mahatma Hansraj, was one of the greatest Arya Samajists & founder of DAV Institutions, great compassionate soul and undoubtedly, the pillar of DAV institutions.

The program was initiated with the floral tribute to the great immortal soul Mahatma Hansraj Ji followed by the Havan Yajna by the Supervisory Heads (Senior and Junior wings), Faculty members



and the students of classes VIII - XII who actively and enthusiastically participated in the Havan, metamorphosing the ambience full of positivity, divinity, vibration of joy and contentment.

Speaking on the occasion, Raghvendra Sahu (Senior Faculty Member,

Hindi Department) enlightened students about this real scholar, a great writer and a true Vedic preacher and whose commendable contribution in the field of education has given a great height to it.

He dreamt of an educated generation, enriched with values, patri-

otism and discipline. He was an embodiment of sacrifice, kindness and mercy, who helped and served the poor and needy all through his life. The Havan concluded with the chanting of Pious Mantras, bhajans, distribution of Prasad and Shanti Path.

SAIL Chairman inaugurates Milk Distribution Scheme by BSP

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 19: Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Chairman, Soma Mondal, virtually inaugurated a Milk Distribution Scheme launched under the CSR activities of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, on April, 18, 2023. Mondal was on a day's visit to BSP, where she also presided over various meetings and functions at DIC Conference hall of Ispat Bhawan.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c(BSP), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) with Additional Charge, ED

(P&A), Dr AK Panda, ED(F&A), Samir Swarup, CGMI/c (Mines & Rowghat), Smriti Singh from NDDB, TS Ahuja from Devbhog Milk, JY Sapkale, CGM (TSD&CSR), NM Padhy, CGM (Chairman Secretariat), Anupam Bisht, GM (Mines Hq), Shivrajan, GM (CSR) and other Senior management.

This welfare scheme has been envisaged for the student beneficiaries from various villages of four districts of Chhattisgarh, namely Narayanpur, Kanker, Balod and Manpur-mohla, under the Rowghat Mines Project of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. An MoU was exe-



cuted for this scheme, in March 2023 between SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and National Dairy Development Board

(NDDB), to provide nutritious flavored milk to 3,000 students, during the lunch-time in the beneficiary schools.

Addressing the gathering virtually, Chairman Mondal lauded Bhilai Steel Plant for this initiative and encouraged the

students to study and play well and fulfill their dreams. She also appreciated the teachers for their role in nation

building by educating the future of the country. I am happy to see the smiling faces of children, added Chairman, Mondal.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c(BSP), wished good health and happiness to the students and said that the objective is to provide nutritious and tasty milk to the students, which would ensure proper nutrition and also encourage student's participation in school education.

In his welcome address, S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) with Additional Charge, ED(P&A) said that, as a part of BSP's CSR activities, by partnering with

NDDB, Bhilai Steel Plant will provide free nutritious and tasty flavoured milk to students, in the beneficiary schools, as a step towards promoting education and nutrition in the mines areas under Bhilai Steel Plant.

Under this initiative, by partnering with NDDB, Bhilai Steel Plant will provide free nutritious and tasty flavoured milk to 3,000 students, during the lunch-time. The milk packets will be supplied by Devbhog Milk of Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Dairy Federation. The program was conducted by Rajni Rajak from CSR department.

Feedback, survey at different level determines eligibility for ticket: Markam

Holds review meeting of office bearers at booth-level

Raipur, Apr 19: PCC Chief Mohan Markam conducted booth review with office bearers of Raipur division here on Wednesday. In this he checked about the preparations for the election at booth-level and made a major statement in context of survey for distribution of tickets.

PCC Chief Mohan Markam said that hardly six months are left for the VS polls and the govern-



ment has got survey done for many times. Feedback is being taken at organizational level on regular basis. Prior to finalization of ticket for a candidate,

even the party High Command also gets a survey done, he added.

Head of PCC in state Mohan Markam said that we will want the tickets to be given to all the existing 71 MLAs, but as to whom the ticket is to be distributed will be finalized by the High Command. In case if there are any shortcomings then instructions are being given to sort it out at government and organizational level. Through survey we get feedback and then necessary work is done, he added.

Mohan Markam said

that in today's meeting, booth works were reviewed and instructions were given to form booths where it is not existing. 90% of the booths have been formed and in the coming days, Vidhan Sabha-wise training will be imparted. About committee at booth-level, he said that a committee of 35-members is formed and we have asked the office bearers to form committee, keeping in mind representation to all sections of the society. During the elections, it will help in moving among the voters, he added.



Chairman Yoga Commission inaugurates 33rd regular yoga practice center

Raipur, Apr 19: Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission is starting yoga practice in Municipal Corporation area. In this series, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission Mr. Gyanesh Sharma inaugurated the 33rd free regular yoga practice center in Kurud. Yoga practice center will be operated by yoga instructor Bhema Sahu daily from 6:00 am to 7:30 am at old Krishi Upaj Mandi premises. The program was presided over by Neelam Chandrakar, President Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Kurud.



With delay in arrival of few trains and many cancelled due to collision between two goods train, the passengers were left with no option but to wait for arrival at the railway station.

Raipur's Kota Gudhyari Marg renamed as Shri Santosh Agrawal Marg

Under Bhent-Mulaqat prog at Raipur (W) Vidhan Sabha

Raipur, Apr 19: The Kota Gudhyari Marg in Raipur has been renamed as the 'Shri Santosh Agrawal Marg'. During his 'Bhent-Mulaqat' programme in Raipur West Assembly Constituency, the Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel, participated in the renaming ceremony of the Kota Gudhyari Marg and unveiled a plaque in the name of the former mayor, Santosh Agrawal, on the road. The organizers also honored the Chief Minister with a symbolic memento on this occasion.



During the renaming ceremony, Chief Minister Shri Baghel paid tribute to the former mayor, Shri Santosh Agrawal, by offering flowers on his portrait. He said that Shri Agrawal was a simple person with a personality that was influential enough not to be ignored. He made a significant contribution to the development of Raipur city.

Parliamentary Secretary Vikas

Upadhyay, MLA Satyanarayan Sharma, Amitesh Shukla, Dhanendra Sahu, Chhattisgarh Housing Board President Kuldeep Juneja, Chhattisgarh Khadi and Village Industries Board Chairman Rajendra Tiwari, Chhattisgarh State Yoga Commission Chairman Gyanesh Sharma were present on the occasion.

100th episode of the radio prog 'Mann Ki Baat' will be broadcast exclusively at Raj Bhavan

A meeting was held in Raj Bhavan regarding the preparations for the prog

Raipur, Apr 19: The 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio program "Mann Ki Baat" will be exclusively broadcast at Raj Bhavans across the country. Governor Bishwanath Harichandan will preside over this program at the Chhattisgarh Raj Bhavan. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, will organize this program. The Secretary to the Governor, Amrit Khalkho, chaired a meeting today at Raj Bhavan to review the preparation of its

complete outline and coordination. In the meeting, the private secretary to the governor, B.S. Behra, the deputy secretary, Deepak Agarwal, the deputy director of Press Information Bureau, Sunil Tiwari, the central directors of Doordarshan and All India Radio, and senior officers were present.

In this regard, it was stated at the meeting that a state-level committee would be formed. Aside from that, discussions were held at the Raj Bhavan about the elaborate arrangements for the telecast of "Mann Ki Baat." A special photo exhibition related to previous "Mann Ki Baat" events will also be organized as part of the program by the Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India.

'School timings changed in Raipur'



Now classes to be held from 7 am to 11 am, CM tweeted

Raipur, Apr 19: The state government has changed the timings of the schools in view of the scorching heat. Classes will now be held from 7 am to 11 am in the entire state including Raipur. Giving this information, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has tweeted. He has written to the parents that to take care of themselves and their children. CM Bhupesh Baghel has informed about the changes made in the timings of the schools by tweeting. Along with this,

he has written that in view of the scorching heat in the state, it has been decided to change the timing of all government/non-government schools and educational institutions in the state. All primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools operating in one shift will have to follow this order. While in schools operating in two shifts, the first shift can be opened from 7 am to 11 am and in the second shift only high-higher secondary schools can be opened from 11 am to 3 pm. This order issued by the Director of Public Instruction will be effective till April 30. After this, students will be

given summer vacation from May 1 to June 15. It may be noted that due to continuous heat waves increasing in the state in the month of April itself. In such a situation, it is becoming difficult for common people to come out of their houses. At the same time, even children are shying away from going to school in summer. The days have started getting hot since 11 am and mercury has crossed 35 degrees. The timings were also changed in the beginning of April. In view of the scorching heat, a partial change was also made in the opening time of the schools by the Education Department.

Students should contribute for the progress of the country and society: Governor



Governor and Chief Minister attended the 9th convocation of IGau

Degree awarded to 12,384 students, gold medals distributed to 62 students

Raipur, Apr 19: It is a matter of pride for the students that they are the citizens of the largest democratic country in the world. Nation and society have an important contribution in their achievements. It is also the duty of the students to use their education for the progress of the nation and society. Governor Mr. Vishwabhushan Harichandan expressed the above views in the 9th convocation ceremony of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur. On this occasion Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel as chief guest and Agriculture

Minister Mr. Ravindra Choubey and Dr. Trilochan Mahapatra, former Director General, ICAR were present as special guests. Degrees were awarded to 12,384 students in the grand and dignified convocation ceremony held at the auditorium of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur. These include 9,908 graduates, 2096 postgraduates and 380 PhD degree holders. 62 Gold, 140 silver and 23 bronze medals were awarded to students of the merit list. Addressing the function, Governor Mr. Vishwabhushan Harichandan said that agricultural universities are playing an important role in the development of the nation by providing quality education, research and extension education. At the time of formation of Chhattisgarh state this university had only one agriculture college and at present there are 39 colleges of agriculture and allied subjects.

Private entrepreneurs should be encouraged to set up millet processing plants: CS



Review of works of Forest, Home and Jail Department

Raipur, Apr 19: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain has given instructions to the officials to encourage private entrepreneurs to set up processing plants to promote the use of millets. He was reviewing the works of Home and Jail and Forest Department in Mantralaya Mahanadi here on Wednesday in order of priority schemes of the state government. DGP Mr. Ashok Juneja, PCCF Dr. Sanjay Shukla, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Mr. Subrata Sahu and Principal Secretary of Forest, Home and Jail Department Mr. Manoj Pingua were also present in the meeting.

In the meeting, the Chief Secretary instructed to work under the compre-

hensive action plan for planting trees on the private lands of farmers and other beneficiaries under the 'Mukhyamantri Vriksha Sampada Yojana'. He laid special emphasis on planting trees of commercial species. He said that cooperative organisations should be encouraged in tree plantation work to promote wood and plywood based industries. He also instructed the officers to set up more and more units for making Dona Patal. Forest Department officials told in the meeting that under the Millet Mission, 52 thousand 730 quintals of millet grains have been purchased in the state in the year 2022. In the year 2023, 38 thousand 700 quintal millet has been purchased at the support price.

In the review of the Narva development works

by the Chief Secretary, the officials said that in the year 2022-23, 1503 works of Narva development have been done, in which 2 lakh 81 thousand 879 water storage areas have been taken. In Chhattisgarh, special efforts are being made for collection, processing and industry development of minor forest produce resources.

In the meeting, the increase in forest revenue, tree plantation, loan disbursement on forest rights patters were reviewed in detail. Similarly, in the meeting, the progress of refund of funds to chit fund victims, submission of challans in criminal cases against women and children and women helpline, crime control and control of cybercrime were reviewed in detail.

Home Department Secretary Mr. S. Basavaraju, Managing Director Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association Mr. Anil Rai, Chief Executive Officer CAMPA Mr. Nivasrao and other senior officers of Home and Forest Department participated in the meeting.

CM Baghel inaugurates 2nd Millet Cafe of the city at Nalanda Parisar

Raipur, Apr 19: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today inaugurated the first millet Cafe of the city at Nalanda Parisar. Now the students preparing for competitive exams in Nalanda Parisar will have easy access to millet based food items in the premises. People of the city can also visit Millet Cafe and enjoy the food items made of Ragi kodo-kutki etc. Chief Minister inaugurated this Cafe today during his public interaction program i.e. Bhent-Mulaqat in Raipur West Assembly Constituency.

Inaugurating the second millet Cafe of capital city Raipur, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that now the students coming to Nalanda Parisar for studies will get nutritious yet delicious snacks at this cafe in the premises. Now students will no longer



have to go for junk food when hungry, while nutritious millet snacks will help them stay healthy and focus on their education. Chief Minister praised Collector Sarveshwar Bhure and the officials of the municipal cor-

poration for setting up this cafe. Occasion Chief Minister Baghel cut the cake made of Ragi and also enjoyed the taste of cheela made of Kutki, Ragi bread sandwich, Ragi vegetable cutlet, Kisi kheer, Ragi cupcake, Ragi

halwa, Ragi pav bhaji, etc. On the occasion incharge Minister West Mr. Ravindra Choubey, MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, Mayor Ejaz Dhebar, Chairman of Yog Commission Gyanesh Sharma, Speaker Municipal Corporation Pramod Dubey, SSO Prashant Agrawal, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mayank Chaturvedi, and many other public representatives were present. Healthy Traditional Food Habits are being revived and promoted.

Chief Minister said that Ragi kodo kutki and millets like these have been an important part of our daily diet for generations. However, use of these grains declined over time. These food grains are rich in nutrients. At the newly inaugurated Millet Cafe, people will get healthy options of

the delicious snacks made of millets.

Millet Cafes opened in many cities including Raigarh and Jagdalpur

Chief Minister said that Chhattisgarh was the first state in the country to launch millet mission, and now central government has also adopted this strategy. Millet based cafes and hotels are being opened in many cities of the state including Raigarh and Jagdalpur. This cafe in Raipur has been started on the initiative of District Administration in association with Municipal Corporation. He further said that maximum of the millet cafes opened in the major cities of the state are being run by women entrepreneurs or women groups. Through these cafes, entrepreneurship is being promoted among women.

'ORRA strengthens its retail footprint'



Launches a massive store in Bilaspur

Bilaspur, Apr 19: ORRA, India's leading trusted brand for diamond jewellery is expanding its presence in Bilaspur with the launch of the 1st store in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. The showroom will house the latest diamond jewellery collections. ORRA's patented 73-faceted ORRA Crown Star, the brightest diamond in India, will also be exclusively available at the new retail showroom.

At the launch, the brand is offering its patrons, 25% off on diamond jewellery (for a limited period) and at 0% interest on EMI facilities. Speaking about the launch, Dipu Mehta, Managing Director, ORRA, said, "Bilaspur is an important market for us. With this launch, we aim to strengthen our brand presence and craft a lasting shopping experience for our customers. The collection at the store is thoughtfully curated, keeping in mind the overall demand for diamond jewellery and the evolving tastes and choices of our customers."

The showroom which is 2300 sq.ft has been creatively designed with comfortable seating, contemporary interiors and 1 bridal lounge to enhance the customer's shopping experience. The

tomor base with 100% certified jewellery, which comes with complimentary insurance and assured free-of-cost lifetime maintenance. ORRA provides its patrons with lifetime exchange and buyback in addition to a seven-day return policy on the brand's conflict-free diamonds.

The store is operational at ORRA Fine Jewellery, Opposite Sai Mandir, Near Rama Magneto Mall S.K. Verma Marg, Bilaspur.



The journey of a million gazes began in 1888 before it metamorphosed into ORRA. From sculpting and manufacturing diamonds to crafting and retailing the finest diamond and gold jewellery, ORRA has come a long way since its inception. Today, ORRA is one of India's finest bridal jewellery retail chains, having spread its glow with 74Stores across 34 Cities and has consistently been at the forefront of design, leadership and product innovation with 5 global design centres in Antwerp, Hongkong, New York, Tokyo & Mumbai.

Every registered worker should be kept well informed: CS

About labour dept's schemes
CS Amitabh Jain reviews works of Labour, Tribal and SC Development and GAD



Raipur, Apr 19: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain conducted an in-depth review of the works of Labour, Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Department and General Administration Department in order of priority schemes of the state government at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhavan here on Tuesday. The Chief Secretary has instructed the officials of the Labour Department that every registered labourer should be benefited by informing them about the schemes being run for them.

The Chief Secretary has given instructions to the officials of the Labour Department to carry out planned work for the construction of houses or purchase of new houses for the workers under the Chief Minister's Construction Workers' Housing Assistance Scheme. In the meeting, the progress made under individual and community forest rights under the Forest Rights Act was reviewed. The Chief Secretary has given instructions to the officials of the Scheduled Caste Department to ensure that the beneficiaries benefited from various schemes of the state government under the Forest Rights

Act. Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Subrata Sahoo was present in the meeting. While reviewing the schemes of the Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Department, the Chief Secretary reviewed individual and community forest rights recognition letters under the Forest Rights Act. Officials said that the number of approved and accepted claims under individual forest rights is about 4 lakh 67 thousand 569. 4 lakh 61 thousand 377 forest rights letters have been distributed to the beneficiaries. In the meet-

ing, Secretary, Tribal and Scheduled Castes Development Department, Mr. D.D. Singh, Secretary, General Administration Department, Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, Secretary, Energy Department, Mr. Ankit Anand, Secretary, Labor Department, Mr. Amrit Kumar Khalkho and Commissioner, Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development, Mrs. Shammi Abidi, Deputy Labor Commissioner, Ms. Savita Mishra, Tribal Development Department, Labor Department and other officers of General Administration Department were present.

Health Minister discusses effective implementation of PCPNDT Act

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 19: Health and Family Welfare Minister TS Singhdeo discussed with the representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working against gender discrimination and illegal abortion, for effective implementation of PCPNDT Act. In a meeting held at his residence office in Raipur, the Health Minister sought suggestions from non-governmental organizations for effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act and improving the male-female ratio in the state.



State Women's Commission Chairperson Dr Kiranmayi Nayak suggested in the meeting that debate, essay and speech competitions on such topics should be organized among children in high schools and higher secondary schools to create awareness to remove gender inequality and maintain a good sex ratio. Women's Commission is campaigning for awareness on these issues through awareness chariot, she said. NGO representatives

called for sensitizing the youth for effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act. Adequate publicity should also be given on social media to create awareness about this act and maintain better sex ratio in the state besides preventing illegal abortions. Dr Prashant Srivastava, Joint Director, PCPNDT Act told in the State Board of Observers meeting that 56 sonography centers in 14 districts of the state were inspected by the state level inspection team. Notices were issued to 14 centres for violation of the act

while recommendation was made to seal two centres and suspend one centre, after inspection, he said. He informed that the inspection teams constituted at the district level inspected 853 centers and action taken against 23 centers which violated the Act. Action has been taken by district level teams to issue notices to 16 centres, seal five centers and suspend two centres. Representatives of NGOs Annol Foundation, Participant, Pradan, Samarth and Arpan presented their suggestions.

Aat Gudhiyari Gogaon
Under Bhent Mulaqat at Raipur West Assembly Constituency

Raipur, Apr 19: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today unveiled the life-size statue of Chhattisgarh Mahatri at Gudhiyari, Gogaon. An attractive statue of Chhattisgarh Mahatri has been installed here at a cost of about Rs 25 lakh. Statues of four Chhattisgarhi women worshipping and praying to Chhattisgarh Mahatri have also been installed in front of the idol, and special arrangements have been made here for attractive decorations and light combinations.

CM Baghel unveils life-size statue of Ch'garh Mahatri



CM to launch Mukhyamantri CPSNY for non-scheduled regions today

Protection of the culture and tradition of festivals in village areas
Scheme will be implemented in 6111 Village Panchayats of 61 development block community areas
Each Village Panchayat will receive an amount of Rs. 10 thousand in two installments

Raipur, Apr 19: The 'Mukhyamantri Chhattisgarhi Parv Samman Nidhi Yojana' is being launched to protect the festivals, traditions, and culture of village areas in community development blocks of the state. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel will launch the scheme on 20 April. Earlier, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel had launched the Mukhyamantri Adivasi Parv Samman Nidhi Yojana on 13 April at the Bharosa Sammelan held in the Bastar division headquarters in Jagdalpur in the presence of Priyanka Gandhi.

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conferencing is to protect the tradition and culture of festivals celebrated in non-scheduled village areas of the state. It also aims to pass on these festivals to the next generation in their original form and to preserve these cultural traditions. There is special significance in local festivals, celebrations, and fairs in the villages of community areas. Each Village Panchayat will be provided an amount with the aim to preserve all these festivals and cultural traditions. The unit of the scheme will be the Village Panchayat.

Each Village Panchayat will be given Rs. 10 thousand in two installments. It is noteworthy that 61 development blocks in the state fall under community areas. This amount will be provided to 6 thousand 111 Village Panchayats of the community development block areas only.

For the implementation of the scheme, a Village Panchayat-level governing committee will be formed. The committee will include the Sarpanch (Chairman), Pujari, Baiga member, 2 senior members of the village, two female members of the village, Gram Kotwar, Patel members, and Village Secretary.

The Additional Chief Secretary of Panchayat and Rural Development has instructed the Collector and Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat to offer guidance to the members of the Village Panchayat level governing committee at Janpad Panchayat level for the implementation of the scheme, to ensure the proper use of the money. The Village Panchayat level Governing Committee will determine the festivals or occasions on which the amount will be utilized. The monitoring of the scheme's implementation and co-ordination related work will be done by the Janpad level governing body.

Dr Shivhare receives 'Fellowship of Research Trust of Diabetes India'

Raipur, Apr 19: Diabetes is a serious disease that affects millions of people across the world. In this, insulin is not produced in the body or insulin is not used properly. A 3-day international conference "DiabetesIndia 2023" was organized in Indore on diabetes prevention and related research, new technologies and medicines across the world, in which Dr. Raka Shivhare from Madhumeet Diabetes Hospital, Raipur also participated. During the event, Dr. Raka Shivhare has received the Research Trust of Diabetes India fellowship, given to selected physicians, diabetologists and endocrinologists from across the country who are doing exemplary work

to improve the life of people suffering from diabetes. Dr. Raka Shivhare dedicated this honor to his seniors and thanked the entire team of Diabetes India 2023. He told that, My topic at the conference was Tattoo and Botox Therapy. He apprised the doctors who came from all over the country that the patient can get tattoos and botox if their diabetes is under control. Serious contraindications related to these two have not come to the fore. Dr. Shivhare further added that Botox therapy is likely to cause muscle hypotonia, and the drugs in this therapy paralyze the contraction of the muscles. These medicines are easily available due to which India is becoming



the center of Botox. He further added, there is a possibility of spreading some infections such as HIV, Hepatitis and some blood borne infections due to which the chances of getting skin infection also increases. Dr Shivhare is of opinion that there should be a guideline at all

these centers and some tests should be done before tattoo and botox so that the patient can avoid lifelong complications. Regarding "DiabetesIndia 2023", Dr. Shivhare said that, The objective of the conference was to share ideas, analysis of innovative, feasible and imple-

mentable ways to encourage and disseminate knowledge, education and research to provide high quality care to diabetes patients worldwide. Dr. Shivhare thanked DiabetesIndia 2023, that they have given him this opportunity to speak as an expert. He congratulated President of DiabetesIndia, Dr. SR Arvind, Chief Advisor, Dr. Shashank Joshi, Secretary, Dr. Banshi Sabu, Organizing Chairman, Dr. Sunil M. Jain, Scientific Chairman, Dr. Manoj Chawla, Organizing Secretary, Dr. Bharat Sabu and the rest of the team with whose cooperation this 13th World Diabetes Conference was successfully completed.

GEMS observes 'House Inaugural Day'

● Students apprised about different houses

Raipur, Apr 19: It was another classical start for the new academic session (2023-24) and a red letter day for Shri Gujrati English Medium Higher Secondary School (GEMS) as 'House Inaugural Day' was observed for the very first time in the school premises along with regular school assembly. The morning assembly was organized in two phases- Class I-VIII (at Gyanoday Bhavan) and Class IX-XII at 'Dome' on the third floor. The concept of celebrating this day was the brainchild of dynamic principal Dr Shailesh Sharma who after taking the reins of this institution is creating ripples by introducing new concepts for the betterment of educational institution and overall development of children. As part of the celebration principal Dr Shailesh Sharma garlanded the photograph of four great personalities



(Chatrapati Shivaji House-Blue, Rabindranath Tagore House -Green, Swami Vivekananda House- Orange and Subhash Chandra Bose.House-Red) on whose names nomenclature of four different houses have been given. Thereafter regular assembly was conducted and students of four different houses standing in a queue side by side one after the other. Further Principal in his speech explained the idea behind celebrating this day and also highlighted the purpose behind the formation of four different houses. The students were made to understand that how the students divided

into four different houses develop a sense of health competition among themselves and also carry with them a sense of responsibility and discipline. The students representatives of four different houses also expressed their views on the occasion. The faculty representatives of different houses also spoke about the importance of different houses and about personalities on whose names houses have been named. The prominent among those present on the occasion were Vice Principal S V Chandrasekhar, Academic Coordinator Bhaskar Sharma and host of faculty members.

CM inaugurates C&D plant at Hirapur Jarwai



● C&D plant is important for the proper management of debris coming out of houses

Raipur, Apr 19: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the C&D plant at Hirapur Jarwai in Raipur during Bhent-Mulaqat today. On this occasion, the Chief Minister stated that, due to a surge in construction activity in cities, C&D plants have been built to properly handle construction and demolition waste, commonly known as debris, resulting from demolition and other procedures. After the trash has been

processed, paver blocks, tiles, and drain covers will be manufactured here. Effective debris disposal through a C&D plant will reduce issues such as air quality, drain blockage, and pond water storage capacity. When inspecting the building of a paver plant in Jarwai's C&D facility, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel asked Aarti Dahre of Attari village, who works here, how much money she earns per day. Aarti stated that she earns 200 rupees per day. Every day, 2500 paver blocks are manufactured here, said Aarti. She told the Chief Minister that this initiative is a wonderful first step toward creating jobs. Simultaneously, the Chief Minister congratulated her.

71 affected people not given jobs by Nagarnar Steel Plant

● In lieu of land acquired for the plant

Jagdalpur, Apr 19: Land was the only support for the 71 affected people of Nagarnar Steel Plant, including women. The land has been acquired, but they have not got employment till date. However, before the acquisition of the land, it was promised



that they would be given jobs in NMDC. The affected people expressed their frustration and anger towards NMDC and the

government, saying that their land was taken away with the promise of providing employment opportunities. But nothing was done in this regard. The affected families informed the media that the District Collector had also approved their demands. They disclosed that their life has been badly affected due to land acquisition, as they are not having any fixed source of income. It is notable here that the National Mineral

Development Corporation (NMDC) had acquired the land for the Nagarnar Steel Plant. In which it was promised to give jobs to those people, whose land was acquired. But even after 13 years of land acquisition, the affected people have not been given jobs. Those affected have spoken to the press about their present situation. They have shared their pain in front of media persons that how their life has been affected due to land acquisition

and how they have not got any job opportunities despite promises. In this issue, the affected people are demanding accountability from NMDC and the government. The Nagarnar Steel Plant project was expected to provide employment opportunities and contribute to the development of the region. The affected people are expecting redressal of their grievances from NMDC and the Government at the earliest.

BRIEF

Hydropower project



Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu directed to make the 100 MW Uhl III hydropower project functional by May 2024 and instructed the officers to complete the tender process for setting up six green corridors by October this year. He said that charging station infrastructure would be set up for approximately 1,600 kilometres length of these corridors, which would also include the cities in the ambit of these stretches. Presiding over a meeting of the Energy Department here today, he also directed to replace the damaged penstock (a structure that controls water inflow) of the power project within eight months.

Capital gains tax

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department said there is no proposal before the government on capital gains tax. The department in a tweet said: "It is clarified that there is no such proposal before the Government on capital gains tax". A media report earlier in the day said India is preparing an overhaul of its direct tax law, including changes in capital gains taxes. Following the report, the equity market benchmark Sensex declined 331 during the intra-day trade. It later recovered some losses and closed 183.74 points lower at 59,727.

Appointment



New Delhi: Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd announced appointment of former Intel Foundry Services President Randhir Thakur as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director. Thakur, a global leader and hands-on innovator in semiconductor industry, has worked with Intel for over 5 years. He brings over 40 years of experience in the global manufacturing, research and development, the company said in a statement.

Project development

New Delhi: The government is planning to develop more than 250 projects with a ropeway length of over 1,200 km in five years under Parvatmal Pariyojana, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday. The government is promoting the manufacturing of ropeway components under the 'Make in India' initiative, an official release quoted Gadkari as saying. The minister was addressing 'INTERALP 2023 Fair' in Austria, the release said.

Services exports may reach USD 400 bn during 2023-24: SEPC

New Delhi, Apr 19:

Buoyed by a significant jump in exports during 2022-23, Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) on Wednesday said the healthy growth trend will continue and shipments are expected to reach up to USD 400 billion this fiscal. During 2022-23, the country's services exports rose by 42 per cent to USD 322.72 billion from USD 254 billion in 2021-22, according to provisional data from the commerce ministry. "The services sector had targeted USD 300 billion but accomplished USD 322 billion. Subject to the final data we might touch USD 350 billion in 2022-23 and based on the current trend and the continuing growth our estimate is around USD 375 billion to USD 400 billion for 2023-24," SEPC Chairman Sunil H Talati told PTI. Sectors that con-

tributed to the services exports growth during the last fiscal include travel, transport, medical, and hospitality, he said. He added that the council has been working tirelessly in collaboration with the government to catapult services sector growth with business delegations, B2B meets, and market specific initiatives. "Export of IT and IT enabled services is going strong and is highly likely to maintain the growth momentum. Travel sector is catching up soon. The post-pandemic economic recovery has created increasing demand for goods and services from foreign markets, the stabilization of freight charges and the normalization of supply chains are positive developments for the transport sector," he said.

The business services such as engineering, architecture, legal and ac-

counting services as well as research and management consulting services stand to benefit leveraging the opportunities presented by the government initiatives. He also said that as for the key export destinations, India's service exports have historically been concentrated in North America and Europe, but there is also significant potential for growth in emerging markets such as Asia, Africa, and Latin America. "Diversification of export destinations can help to reduce dependence on traditional markets and open up new opportunities for service exports," the chairman said.

Talati said that certain incentives are necessary to further push the growth rates. "For example, Gaming, entertainment can perform very well with the right aid by the government.

Audi India reports over two-fold jump in sales in Jan-March quarter



New Delhi, Apr 19: Luxury carmaker Audi India on Wednesday said its sales witnessed over two-fold jump at 1,950 units in the January-March quarter this year as compared with the same period last year. The company had sold 862 units in the first quarter of 2022. "Our product line-up boasts of sixteen models

and we currently have the strongest ever SUV portfolio contributing to over 60 per cent of our total sales," Audi India head Balbir Singh Dhillon said in a statement. The newly launched Q3 and Q3 Sportback are witnessing strong demand from across the country, he added.

"We are on a growth path and are confident of a bullish performance through the year 2023," Dhillon noted. The company said it also continues the expansion of its pre-owned car business, Audi Approved: plus, in India.

Currently operating with twentytwo outlets across all major hubs in the country, the brand is rapidly expanding and will have twentyfive-plus pre-owned car facilities by the end of the year, it added.

Lucknow, Apr 19:

Union Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday lauded the infrastructural development in Uttar Pradesh and said an investor has suggested another F-flyover - in addition to existing 5Fs. "Besides 5Fs: from Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign, an investor suggested another F which is Flyover," Goyal said. He said that in the last six years, Uttar Pradesh has seen infrastructural development in terms of airports, highways, having the best expressways, Golden Quadrilateral, better road services and others.

Goyal said UP has fol-



An employee at the Apple retail store at Saket, during a media preview ahead of its opening, in New Delhi, Wednesday, April 19.

APPLE RETAIL STORE

Investor suggests 6th F-Flyover-for UP, says Goyal



lowed the Prime Minister's vision of speed, skill and scale. In this regard, projects are monitored, there is a transparent system of governance, observation of ongoing works, officers and politicians are accountable for the deadline, all these detailing has led to a dream, a dream of achieving the

KDP announces winners for 5th edition of Pen to Publish contest

Mumbai, Apr 19:

Amazon's self-publishing service Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) announced the results of the fifth edition of its flagship contest: Pen to Publish. The contest received a great response from aspiring authors who submitted their eBooks to be evaluated by an esteemed panel of jury members. KDP Pen to Publish contest recognises literary excellence among self-published authors across genres.

Through this contest, KDP recognised 11 self-published eBooks in each of the three participating languages of English, Hindi, and Tamil. The top 3 winners received a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each, and the first runners-

up were awarded Rs 50,000 each. The second runners-up won a cash prize of Rs 30,000 each, while the remaining 8 participants from the top 11 were granted an amount of Rs 10,000 each. The jury panel comprised of best-selling authors Sudeep Nagarkar and Sudha Nair for English entries, Satya Vyas and Vijay Kakwani for Hindi entries, and Naga Chokkan and Cable Sankar for Tamil entries.

This year, the contest witnessed participation spanning genres such as literature & fiction, romance, science fiction & fantasy, and mystery & thrillers. The entries were judged on the basis of several criteria including originality, creativity, and quality of writing by the judging panel.

Bookings open for the first-ever BMW X3 M40i xDrive

Limited units available for online booking only

Gurugram, Apr 19:

BMW India has opened bookings for the first-ever BMW X3 M40i xDrive from 12:30 hrs, 19 April 2023 onwards. The car will be available in limited units and can be exclusively booked at the BMW Online Shop for Rs 5,00,000. The car is scheduled to be launched in India in May 2023.

Engineered by M, the car elevates the sporty, modern BMW X3 to the realm of M. Numerous distinct M elements in the exterior and interior give birth to a commanding personality suited for high-performance circles. Under the hood, the M40i



3-litre engine, a powerhouse charged with M genes, is raring for unadulterated sheer driving pleasure. An outstanding driving experience is guaranteed together with Adaptive M Suspension, M

Sport differential, M Sport brakes and the BMW xDrive all-wheel drive. To further enhance the sporty appearance, customers can personalise their car with special M alloys. Customers can visit

<https://www.bmw.in/X3M40i> and explore a 360° view of the car's exterior and interior. They will be directed to a bookings page where booking can be done through a secure online payment mechanism. Deliveries will be done on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Introduction of the first-ever BMW X3 M40i xDrive builds on the enormous success of M powered BMW M340i sedan and the growing popularity of exclusive M Editions in India. This new M interpretation of the BMW X3 takes the excitement a notch higher into the Sports Activity Vehicle range.

Stock markets fall for 3rd day on selling in IT, banking shares



Mumbai, Apr 19:

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Wednesday, marking their third straight day of losses due to selling in IT and select banking shares and foreign fund outflows. Falling for a third day, the 30-share BSE Sensex de-

clined 159.21 points or 0.27 per cent to settle at 59,567.80. During the day, it fell 274.29 points or 0.45 per cent to 59,452.72.

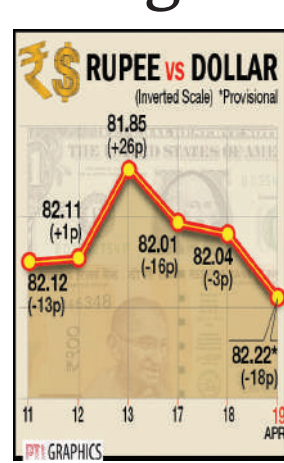
The broader NSE Nifty dipped 41.40 points or 0.23 per cent to end at 17,618.75. Among the Sensex firms, HCL Technologies, IndusInd Bank, Infosys, Wipro, NTPC, Asian Paints, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India and UltraTech Cement were the major laggards. Bharti Airtel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, HDFC, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance and Reliance Industries were among the winners. In Asian markets, Japan, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower, while Seoul ended in the green.

Rupee falls 18 paise to close at 82.22 against US dollar

Mumbai, Apr 19:

The rupee depreciated 18 paise to close at 82.22 (provisional) against the US currency on Wednesday, pressured by a strong greenback overseas and a negative trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said foreign fund outflows and firm crude oil prices also dragged the local unit down.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 82.10 against the dollar and finally ended the session at 82.22 (provisional), down 18 paise from its previous close. During the day, the rupee witnessed a high of 82.07 and a low of 82.25 against the greenback. On



Tuesday, the rupee settled at 82.04 against the dollar. The rupee depreciated on Wednesday on weak domestic equities and a strong US dollar. FII outflows over the past two sessions also weighed on

Vedanta expects to start building semiconductor plant by Oct-Dec quarter

New Delhi, Apr 19:

Vedanta group is expecting to start building its Rs 1.5 lakh crore semiconductor plant in October-December this year and producing electronic chips by the first half of 2027, senior company officials said.

Vedanta Semiconductor and Display business, global managing director, Akarsh Hebbar and Vedanta Foxconn Semiconductors Limited CEO David Reed in a joint interview with PTI said the group has submitted all the technology tie-ups to the government and banks are comfortable in funding the project cost in the ratio of 70 and 30 (from the company) after adjusting subsidy. "We are plan-



ning by the fourth quarter of this year to have the first shovel ceremony. We are working on everything to have revenue by 2027. We would have this start with 5,000 wafers in the first part of 2027.

And then, we will incrementally take that up to 40,000 wafers a month," Reed said. He noted that the company will also make 28 nm wafers simul-

taneously as it will need the same equipment that works for 40 nm. A semiconductor plant comes out with a large semiconductor disc, which is then processed to make electronic chips. Vedanta will also set up OSAT (outsourced semiconductor assembly and test) plant that will process the semiconductor wafers for making them usable by automobile and electronics companies.

"We are bringing in tried and tested technology - 28 nm, 40 nm, which is the best for ICT devices, automobiles, smartphones, which are...decently priced. With semiconductors and displays, we will be making 60 per cent of every electronic device inside India.

Govt to set up panel to work on model builder-buyer agreement: Official

Mumbai, Apr 19:

The government has decided to set up a committee to work on a model buyer agreement to help streamline the homebuying process and protect consumers from potential abuses, among others, a top government official said on Tuesday. The committee that will draw members from judges, national and state consumer commissions, various consumer bodies, lawyers as well as from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, is expected to be in place within the next three months, Consumer Affairs Ministry Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh told reporters here. The official earlier addressed a round table con-



ference on 'How to Effectively Redress the Grievances Pertaining to Real Estate Sector', in the city, hosted by the Department of Consumer Affairs, in association with the Government of Maharashtra. The problem (dispute between the home buyers and the developer) could be resolved quite to an extent if the contract between a builder and a buyer is standardised and uniformity is brought about.



Jay Bhanushali brings out the 'Royal Andaaz' while playing 'Shivendra Barot'

Sony Entertainment Television's latest offering, 'Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum' brings viewers an engrossing saga that traces the journey of Damayanti, the stern traditionalist matriarch of the royal Barot family situated in Ranakgadh, and Surilii, a lively and forward-thinking young woman. Change induces fear and the usual reactions are to either fight, or flight - it is this inherent human nature of resistance to change which the show focuses on. This close-to-life yet inspirational saga sees Kitu Gidwani playing Damayanti Barot, Tina Datta essaying the role of Surilii Ahluwalia and Jay Bhanushali portraying the character of Shivendra Barot.

Taking the legacy of the Barot family ahead is the eldest son of Damayanti Devi, Shivendra Singh Barot who is a fair and kind person. Jay Bhanushali plays the role of this prince with a very charming personality who is entirely focused on profitable deals for the Barot business empire. To authentically portray this strong character and master the royal dialect, Jay Bhanushali reveals that he has started using the royal way of communication in real life!

Tune in to watch Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum every Monday to Friday at 9:00 PM only on Sony Entertainment Television.

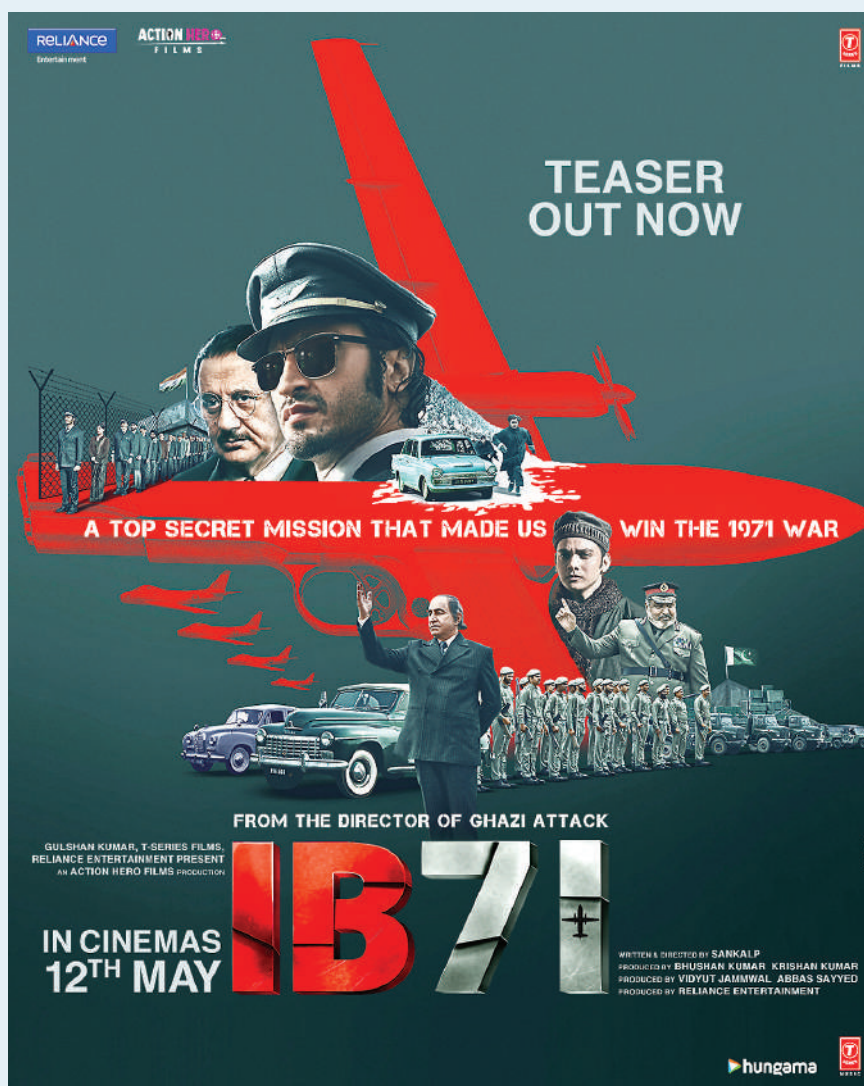
Vidyut Jammwal unveils dynamic poster of spy thriller 'IB 71'

Vidyut Jammwal is set to dominate the screen in the upcoming national award winner Sankalp Reddy's directorial 'IB 71'. The film marks Vidyut turning producer for the first time which elevates the film to new heights. The makers of the highly anticipated espionage thriller implemented a unique launch strategy to announce their release date with poster and teaser.

In a never seen before, hoarding innovation, a confidential envelope took over the streets of India, with a cryptic message "A secret that will shock the nation!" Providing a tantalizing glimpse of the highly classified mission that the movie talks about.

The following day, top influencers and celebs also started posting about these intriguing confidential hoardings in their city creating huge uproar among the netizens. At a key location in Mumbai, along with fans and media, Jammwal finally unveiled the first look of IB71 putting all speculations to rest revealing the details of the envelope that read 'A top secret mission that made us win the 1971 war'.

Talking about the film, Jammwal says, "IB71 for the first time, talks about



how the Indian Intelligence Bureau conducted a secret mission

and outwitted the enemy which gave our armed forces the required advan-

tage to face a two-front war. I am excited to bring this project to life and

share it with the world!" Director Sankalp Reddy adds, "Working on IB71 has been an absolute thrill ride for me. From the very beginning, I was drawn to the film's intriguing premise and the opportunity to explore the world of undercover operations. With Vidyut Jammwal in the lead, I knew that I had an actor who not only had the physicality to pull off high-octane action scenes but also the depth and nuance to bring his character to life. I can't wait for audiences to experience the world of IB71."

IB 71 is presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series Film and Reliance Entertainment. The Action Hero Films production stars Vidyut Jammwal, Anupam Kher and Vishal Jethwa in pivotal roles and is produced by Bhusan Kumar, Action Hero Films and Reliance Entertainment. Produced by Vidyut Jammwal & Abbas Sayyed, co-produced by Aditya Shastri, Aditya Chowksey and Shiv Chanana. The film is directed by national award winner Sankalp Reddy with the story by Aditya Shastri and the screenplay by Storyhouse Films LLP. The film is slated for a theatrical release on 12th May 2023.

Khushi Dubey shoots challenging sequence for 'Aashiqana 3' despite food poisoning

Actress Khushi Dubey, known for her role as Chikki in the streaming series 'Aashiqana 3', was recently detected with food poisoning, but she continued to shoot for her part to meet the deadlines.

Talking about her experience, Khushi said, "I was down with food poisoning and I wasn't well. I was feeling dehydrated, uneasy and pukish the entire day. I couldn't eat anything and spent the entire day without food. Amid all this, I had to shoot for a challenging sequence where Chikki goes out of the mental



asylum." Khushi revealed that a doctor visited her on the sets of the show and gave her certain medicines so that she could work.

"I had to scream, shout and showcase all the pain, angst and madness through my body language. In fact, the doctor came on the sets and gave me medicines so I could continue shooting this taxing sequence. In fact, the show's creator Gul mam had asked me to take rest, no matter how tight and hectic the schedule was."

The third season of 'Aashiqana' is available for streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

Samantha's cryptic Instagram note addresses failure of 'Shaakuntalam'



Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who was recently seen in the film 'Shaakuntalam', shared a cryptic post on her social media on Tuesday. The film was hugely anticipated by the fans of the actress but it failed to deliver and entertain the audience. After the film tanked, a Telugu film producer named Chittibabu criticized Samantha, saying that her career is 'finished'. He told a YouTube channel that the days of stardom are over for the actress and she should do whatever offers she gets from now on. But it seems Samantha is unfazed by the failure of her highly anticipated film as she took to her Instagram on Tuesday to share a picture of herself with a caption in Sanskrit quoted from Bhagavad Gita, the foundational text of Hinduism. She seemed to have addressed the underwhelming response to the film calling that she can only do her duty, and can't control the outcome.

Karthi assures PS-2 will be easier for North Indian audiences to comprehend

Tamil star Karthi, who plays the victorious Chola general in Mani Ratnam's 'Ponniyin Selvan' period drama, has said that the second part of the movie will be easier for North Indian audiences to understand.

Karthi admitted that unfamiliarity with the Chola dynasty's history made it difficult for people to comprehend the first part, which grossed Rs 502 crore at the Tamil box office. However, he assured that the second part would bring out the real story and be less tricky for viewers.

'Ponniyin Selvan-2', which is based on the Tamil classic 'Ponniyin Selvan' by Kalki Krishnamurthy, revolves around the early life of prince Arulmozhi Varman, who went on to become the famous Rajaraja Chola I. Its principal cast includes Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Trisha, Jayam Ravi, and Sobhita



Dhulipala. The movie will be released on April 28. Speaking to the media, Karthi shared how he explained the story to his friends. "I sent them a WhatsApp message with info about the story and it helped them understand the film. PS-1 has done the basic work and introduced the story. So, PS 2 won't be tricky," Karthi said. Vikram, who plays the Chola prince Aditya Karikalan, elaborated on what Karthi had said and added: "The confusion is about the names."

Kangana reminisces her friendship with Aamir Khan before Hrithik's legal battle

Actress Kangana Ranaut recently shared on Instagram that Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan used to be her best friend before her much-talked-about legal battle with actor Hrithik Roshan. Kangana posted a video of her conversation with Aamir on the sets of the TV show 'Satyamev Jayate', in which she talked about how the 'Dangal' star used to guide and mentor her with her choices. In the clip, Kangana also revealed how she has consciously avoided dance numbers in Bollywood after witnessing a young girl performing to an item number. She captioned the post, "Actually mujhe bhi kabhi kabhi woh din yaad aate hain jab Aamir sir was my best friend... jaane kahan gaye woh din." Kangana went on to say that Aamir mentored and shaped a lot of her choices before Hrithik initiated a legal case against her. She added, "One thing is for sure that he has mentored me, appreciated me, and shaped a lot of my choices, before Hrithik did that legal case on me. Post that they made their loyalties clear - it was one woman against entire industry."



'Will Ashwin forgive his father Dilip for all his wrongdoings'

Pushpa Impossible, one of Sony SAB's marquee shows follows the inspiring story of Pushpa a single mother who strives to provide for her children while pursuing her studies. Her positive and problem-solving attitude, coupled with a charming clumsiness, makes her endearing to the audience. She for her entire life has done everything possible in her capacity to provide her children with the best things.

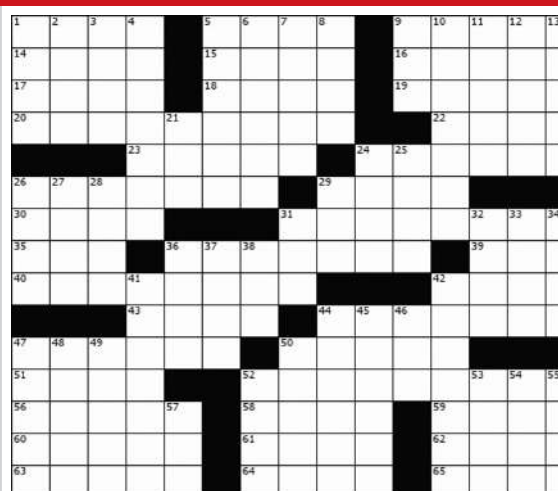
In recent episodes, viewers witness Dilip (Jayesh More) shifting in the chawl and becoming Pushpa's (Karuna Pandey) neighbour. As Dilip moves in, both Pushpa and

Raashi are seen leaving for their SSC exam and due to this new catastrophe, Pushpa happens to miss her exam.

In the upcoming episodes, we will see a lot of drama taking place in the chawl. Pushpa will be left shocked on seeing Dilip turning up in front of her while she is leaving for her exam. The very next day he plans to perform a havan in the chawl to prove to everyone that he has changed and has become a pure and holy person. Ashwin enters the chawl and is disgusted at seeing Dilip pretend. In that rage, he throws Dilip's nameplate in the havan and both Dilip and Pushpa are furious at that moment.

CROSSWORD

621



ACROSS

- Infant
- Picnic nuisances
- Shatter
- Between ports
- Jump
- Major artery
- Pinocchio, e.g.
- Feeble, as an excuse
- Havana export
- Cleaned (clothes)

DOWN

- bearing
- Europe's neighbor
- Boyfriend
- Money makers
- Assert
- More adjacent
- More docile
- Went fast
- Cul-de-_____
- Dampen
- Debate
- Fixed gaze
- Sultan's wives
- Father
- Omelet ingredients
- Mattress support
- Not fake
- Singer _____ Fitzgerald
- Overlook

- Catches
- Embarrassed
- Morally pure
- More loyal
- Not there
- Fatherhood
- Choose by vote
- Still snoring
- Brainstorm
- Please greatly
- Apple part
- Close loudly
- Sheriff's group
- Playthings
- Skirt edges

- Crude mineral
- Grand _____ Oprey
- List entry
- Royal title
- Minister to
- Doctor's "at once!"
- Toothpaste container
- Commercials
- Antis, e.g.
- Corrosion layer
- Blood vessel
- Certain leathers
- Not him
- Chick's comment
- Howdy!
- Regions
- Forbidden
- Agreement
- Motionless
- Group of players
- Thanksgiving dish
- Golf gizmo

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