



BRIEF



A labourer winnows wheat grain during the harvesting season at a grain market on the outskirts of Amritsar, Thursday.

Judgment

Mumbai: Almost ten years after she was found dead at her home, a special CBI court here is likely to pass its judgment on April 28 in the Bollywood actor Jiah Khan suicide case in which her boyfriend and film star Suraj Pancholi has been charged for abetment. Special CBI Judge AS Sayyad on Thursday heard the final arguments of both sides and reserved his judgment in the case.

Safety

New Delhi: India on Thursday said the ground situation in Sudan is very "tense" and it is in touch with various countries with a key focus on ensuring the safety of Indians in the violence-hit country. Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Arindam Bagchi said India is keeping a close watch on developments in Sudan. He said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is expected to meet the UN Secretary-General in New York on the situation in Sudan.

Mishap

Arvalli: At least four workers were charred to death after a blaze broke out in a firecracker godown near Modasa town in Gujarat's Aravalli district on Thursday evening, officials said. Charred bodies of four workers were recovered from the scene, Arvalli Superintendent of Police Sanjay Kharat said. A local fire department official said that efforts are underway to control the blaze.

Busted

Medinagar: The police have busted a gang of bike lifters in Palamu and Latehar districts with the arrest of six people and the recovery of over 24 stolen motorcycles. The arrest and recovery of the stolen bikes were made during a special drive launched in Latehar and Palamu districts on Wednesday, Additional Superintendent of Police Rishab Garg said.

Revive

New Delhi: The MCD has taken up the work to revive three small water bodies in east Delhi with large-scale landscaping and rejuvenation, officials said on Thursday. The three water bodies each cover an area of not more than an acre. There are around 20 water bodies in the national capital that will be restored under the first phase of the Mission Amrit Sarovar, they said.

Weather
High 39 Low 25

MARKET
NIFTY 17,624.45
SENSEX 59,632.35

BULLION
GOLD 60,570
SILVER 75,862

TROUBLE FOR RAHUL

Court refuses to stay conviction

Surat, Apr 20 (PTI):

A court in Gujarat's Surat city on Thursday rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's application for a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

The court of additional sessions judge R P Mogera rejected Gandhi's plea for stay on conviction which, if allowed, could have paved the way for his reinstatement as the Member of Parliament (MP).

While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hailed the Surat court's decision as a "victory" of the judiciary and the people, the Congress said it will continue to avail all options still available under the law.

Gandhi's lawyer Kirit Panwala said the sessions court's order will be challenged in Gujarat High Court. He also said the sessions court has set May 20 as the date to



BJP leader and plaintiff Purnesh Modi with lawyers at Surat District Court during hearing of a criminal defamation case filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his alleged 'Modi surname' remark, in Surat, Thursday.

Rahul to move HC

Congress senior spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said they would move the High Court "very shortly" as the judgement is "fallacious" and contrary to all basic principles of law. "A most unfortunate and unsustainable legal decision of the magistrate has been upheld in an even more unsustainable and erroneous judgement of the Sessions court given today. The conviction has been upheld contrary to all basic elementary principles of law," Singhvi told reporters at a press conference. "Let me assure you that the judgement will be challenged in accordance with law in the very near future," he said.

begin hearing on his appeal against the lower court's March 23 order. On

April 3, Gandhi's lawyer filed two applications along with his main ap-

Victory of people, judiciary: BJP

The BJP Thursday hailed the Surat court's decision to reject Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's plea for a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case as a "victory" of the judiciary and the people. Hitting out at the Congress, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "The court's decision is a blow to the arrogance of the Gandhi family, especially Rahul Gandhi." It also proves that the law is equal for everyone, he said at a press conference here. A court in Gujarat's Surat city on Thursday rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's application for a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

peal against the lower court's order sentencing him to two years in jail, one for bail and another for stay on conviction pending his appeal.

Three tribal girls gang-raped

Bhawanipatna, Apr 20 (PTI):

Three teenage tribal girls were allegedly gang-raped in Odisha's Kalahandi district when they were returning home after watching jatra, police said on Thursday. The incident happened on the night of April 16, but a complaint was filed at the Bijepur police station on Wednesday evening after tribal leaders decided to report the matter to the police as the accused are from a different community.

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5 soldiers killed as terrorists ambush army vehicle

Poonch, Apr 20 (PTI):

Five army personnel were killed after terrorists ambushed their vehicle in Poonch area of Jammu and Kashmir taking advantage of heavy rains and low visibility, officials said on Thursday. Another soldier was seriously injured in the incident and was evacuated immediately to the Army Hospital at Rajouri, they said. "On Thursday, at approximately 1500 hours, one Army vehicle, moving be-



tween Bhimber Gali and Poonch in the Rajouri sector was fired on by unidentified terrorists, taking advantage of heavy rains and low visibility in the area. The vehicle caught fire, due to likely use of grenades by terrorists," the Northern Command Headquarters

said in a statement. It said the five deceased personnel belonged to the Rashtriya Rifles Unit and were deployed for counterterrorist operations in the area. Operations are in progress to trace the perpetrators, the statement said, adding further details are being ascertained. Earlier, a Jammu-based defence spokesperson had said the soldiers were killed after their vehicle caught fire while moving from Bhimber Gali to Sangiot in Poonch.

Three children drown in pond



Jagdalpur, Apr 20:

Three children drowned in a pond in Bastar district on Thursday afternoon, a police official said.

The incident took place in Nagarnar, some 20 kilometres from here, and the deceased have been identified as Priyanshu Kashyap (8), Pramod Goel (9) and Vikki Besra (8). They are residents of Durga Chpwk area and it seems they went into Gondimuda pond to get relief from the scorching sun. They were taken to a hospital in Jagdalpur where doctors declared them dead on arrival.

About the mishap

The incident took place in Nagarnar, some 20 kilometres from here, and the deceased have been identified as Priyanshu Kashyap (8), Pramod Goel (9) and Vikki Besra (8). They are residents of Durga Chpwk area and it seems they went into Gondimuda pond to get relief from the scorching sun. They were taken to a hospital in Jagdalpur where doctors declared them dead on arrival.

hospital in Jagdalpur where doctors declared them dead on arrival," he said. A case has been registered and probe into the incident is underway, the official added.

Bride, groom and 10 kin suffer burn injuries in attack

With 'acid-like' substance

Jagdalpur, Apr 20 (PTI):

A bride, her groom and their 10 relatives suffered from burn injuries after an unidentified person allegedly threw an "acid-like" substance on them during the wedding function in a village in Bastar district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Wednesday evening in Chhote Amabal village under Bhanpur police station limits when the wedding ceremony was underway, an official said.

Groom Damrudhar Baghel (25), bride Sunita Kshyap (19) and 10 others received minor burns.

About the incident

As per preliminary information, during the marriage at the bride's house, the power supply went off and someone taking advantage of the darkness allegedly threw an "acid-like" substance on the bride and the groom who were sitting in the 'mandap', causing them a burning sensation, the official said. The family members who were sitting around them also came in contact with the liquid. The incident took place on Wednesday evening in Chhote Amabal village under Bhanpur police station limits when the wedding ceremony was underway. Groom Damrudhar Baghel (25), bride Sunita Kshyap (19) and 10 others received minor burns.

Cop injured while trying to defuse IED

Bijapur, Apr 20:

A policeman was injured when an improvised explosive device (IED), suspected to have been planted by Maoists, exploded while he was trying to defuse it in Bijapur district on Thursday, police said.

This is the third such incident in Bijapur district in the last 22 days.

The latest incident took place near Bangapal village under Nelasnar police station limits when a police team was out on area domination operation, an official said.

During patrolling, the team detected an IED, suspected to have been planted by Maoists, three kilo-

meters ahead of Bangapal, he said. When the IED was being neutralised, it exploded, leaving jawan Sitaram Kudiyam injured, he said. The injured jawan was shifted to a local hospital and after preliminary treatment, he was being shifted to the district hospital in neighbouring Dantewada for further medication, the official said.

Earlier on April 17, a District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawan received injuries in a similar incident near Bade Tungali village. On March 30, member of CRPF's Bomb Disposal Squad suffered injuries while trying to defuse an IED in Nelasnar area in Bijapur district.

HOLY DIP



Devotees take holy dip in Ganga river on the occasion of Amavasya at Har ki Pouri in Haridwar, Thursday.

Excise Policy case: Sisodia kingpin of conspiracy

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

The CBI Thursday claimed before the Delhi High Court that former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, arrested in connection with the excise policy scam case, is involved in commission of grave economic offences and is key to unravelling the modus operandi of the crime.

The submissions were made by the CBI in a short written reply while opposing the senior AAP leader's bail plea, which it said was devoid of any

merit and was an attempt to misuse the intricacies of law to thwart the progress of investigation in the case. While the CBI contended that Sisodia is the "kingpin and architect of the conspiracy" and his influence and clout disentitle him to any parity with the co-accused enlarged on bail, the AAP leader urged the high court to grant him bail claiming no money trail linking him to the proceeds of alleged crime has been found.

His lawyers had sought parity for him with other accused who have got the

relief and said Sisodia is not in a position to influence the witnesses in the case or tamper with evidence.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma, after hearing the arguments of Sisodia's lawyers, fixed April 26 for submissions by CBI counsel. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had arrested Sisodia for alleged corruption in formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 on February 26 following several rounds of questioning.

Assam, Arunachal sign border pact to end disputes

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

The Assam and the Arunachal Pradesh governments on Thursday signed an agreement in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah here to resolve their decades old border disputes.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu signed the agreement. Assam and Arunachal Pradesh share an 804.1-km-long border. The two states have been in discussions to resolve the border dispute with Sarma and Khandu signing the Namsai Declaration on July 15 last year wherein they had pledged to find a solution



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma (L) and Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu during signing of the boundary agreement between the two states, in New Delhi, Thursday.

soon. Officials said the two states decided to resolve the dispute in 123 villages. Shah termed the border agreement as a "historic" event and said it ended decades long disputes. Sarma said the deal is a "big and successful" mo-

ment. Khandu described the deal as "historic". Regional committees dealing with specific areas were formed last year, comprising ministers, local MLAs, and officials from both sides to take the discussion forward.

Gujarat court acquits all 67 accused

Including ex-BJP minister Kodnani

Ahmedabad, Apr 20 (PTI):

A special court in Gujarat on Thursday acquitted all the 67 accused, including former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) minister Maya Kodnani, in the 2002 Naroda Gam riots case in which 11 people were killed.

The Ahmedabad-based court of S K Baxi, special judge for SIT cases, acquitted all the accused in one of the major post-Godhra riots cases which was probed by a Supreme-Court appointed Special Investigation Team.

NARODA GAM RIOTS CASE

21 yrs, 6 trial judges.....

More than two decades after 11 Muslim community members were killed in the post-Godhra riots in Ahmedabad's Naroda Gam, a special court here on Thursday acquitted all the 67 accused in the case, including former Gujarat minister Maya Kodnani and ex-Bajrang Dal leader Babu Bajrangji. The Ahmedabad-based court of S K Baxi, special judge for Special Investigation Team (SIT) cases, acquitted all the accused in one of the worst massacres witnessed during the state-wide riots triggered by the Sabarmati train carnage on February 27, 2002. The Naroda Gam case was probed by a Supreme Court-appointed SIT. A detailed court order was awaited. Soon after the brief verdict was announced, some of the accused raised slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' outside the court. Those acquitted include former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) minister in the Gujarat government Kodnani (67), former VHP leader Jaydeep Patel and ex-Bajrang Dal leader Babu Bajrangji. There were a total of 86 accused in the case, of which 18 died during the pendency of the trial, while one was discharged by the court earlier under section 169 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) due to insufficient evidence against him.

Those acquitted include Kodnani, former VHP leader Jaydeep Patel and ex-Bajrang Dal leader

Babu Bajrangji. There were a total of 86 accused in the case, of which 18 died during pen-

dency of the trial, while one was discharged earlier by the court.

The accused were facing charges under Indian Penal Code Sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting armed with deadly weapons), 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy), and 153 (provocation for riots), among others.

Eleven persons were killed in communal violence in Naroda Gam area of Ahmedabad city on February 28, 2002, during a bandh called to protest the Godhra train burning a day before in which 58 passengers, mostly kar sevaks returning from Ayodhya, were killed.

One day training workshop on Annual Industry Survey organised

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: National Statistical Office (Field Operations Division), Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Government of India, Sub Regional Office, Durg organised Camp for the purpose of training and cooperation for self-filling of annual industry survey returns on the web portal for the units selected in the annual industry survey, on April 19 at the Conference Hall of a hotel in Durg.

The program was inaugurated and lamp was lit by the Chief Guest, National Statistics Office, Deputy Director General of Western Zone, Nagpur, RC Gautam. The program was presided over by Roshan Lal Sahu, Deputy Director General, National Statistical Office, Raipur.

Representatives of various industrial associations and industrial units of Durg, Rajnandgaon, Balod, Bemetara and Kabirdham districts participated in the camp. While presiding over the programme, Roshan Lal Sahu, Deputy Director General, highlighting the purpose of organising this camp, said that according to the Statistics Collection Act 2008 and the rules made under it in 2011, the annual industry survey is conducted every year by the National Statistics Office. From which the data obtained is used for estimation of national income, study of industrial structure, plan formulation and policy - making for industrial development.

Along with this, data related to capital, employment and unemployment,



value added, labour, turnover, fuel and raw material, input - output etc are collected. This information is used to assess the contribution of the industrial sector to the GDP and for policy - making for industrial development. Sahu urged the representatives of the present industrial units to submit (self-compile) all the information in the return on

the web portal. The chief guest of the program RC Gautam, Deputy Director General, Zonal Office, Nagpur, gave information about the Annual Industry Survey as well as various other surveys being conducted by the National Statistics Office. He asked the representatives of the present units to make efforts to e-compile, and also in-

formed about the provisions of the Statistics Collection Act. He gave information regarding Definition, concept and procedure for filing Annual Industry Survey return.

Along with this, he guided the units to complete the return by contacting the senior statistics officers of the local office in case of any difficul-

ties in self-compiling the return. Ravi Gupta, President of Borai Industrial Association, present in the program, said that he will encourage more and more units to submit self-compile returns in future and will make all possible efforts for this important work.

On this occasion, President of Durg Industrial Area Sushil

Bakliwal also expressed his views. Durg Industrial State Association Durg, Chhattisgarh Devbhog Milk Federation, Urla, Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited Bhilai Unit, Vishnu Chemicals Limited Bhilai, JK Laxmi Cement (II), Essel Projects, Simplex Engineering & Foundry Works Private Limited, Danteshwari Maiya Sahakari Sugar Factory Mahayadi Balod, ACC Ltd, Akshaya Patra Foundation, VNR Seeds, Abis Export Pvt Ltd, Uniwebs Sleepers Pvt Ltd Dongargarh, Sunshine Rubber Products & Conveyors Pvt Ltd, Yugbodh Digital Prints, Rajendra Traders, Kamal Solvent Rajnandgaon units also participated.

At the end of the inaugural session, RK Srivastava, Senior

Statistics Officer expressed his gratitude to the representatives and officers of all industrial organizations present in the programme. George Minz, Assistant Director, National Statistical Office, Raipur and Officers-in-Charge PL Sonwani, RK Srivastava

and OP Sahu, Senior Statistics Officer along with Sub Regional Office, Durg Senior Statistics Officer and In-charge A Malik, CPS Markam, Yasin Ali, Vijay Kumar Rakhonde, Senior Statistics Officer attended the Camp.

In the second session of the programme, OP Sahu, Roshan Kumar Vijay Kumar Rakhonde, Senior Statistics Officer, trained the representatives of industrial organizations to Self-Compile the returns on the web portal.

Collector asks officials to inspect polling booths

- More officials to be deployed for socio-economic survey
- Strict action to be taken against illegal mining and plotting

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: In view of the upcoming assembly elections 2023, the Collector chaired a meeting of the concerned officials and asked them to conduct physical verification of polling booths and ensure availability of basic facilities at the booths.

Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena spoke about resolution of pending applications in ERONET, physical verification of polling stations, information about minimum as-

sured facilities in polling stations, names of polling stations, building or site changes, location of polling stations and critical and sensitive voter centers.

The Collector ordered the officials to visit the spot for physical verification of the polling station. He asked the officials to clearly follow the guidelines given by the Election Commission and in case of change of venue of the polling station, the newly selected venue should be kept within a radius of 2 kilometers according to voter access facility.

He also asked to improve basic facilities like electricity, drinking water, toilet, ramp etc in the booths. The Collector sought information from the Municipal Commissioners regarding the vending zone to be



built in the urban body areas. He discussed with the concerned officials the figures of carts, street vendors and kiosks in the city. He asked the concerned officials of the urban bodies to cross-check the figures of the vendors.

The Collector also discussed with the concerned officials about the socio-economic survey which started from 1st April. He asked to add more people to the teams

to complete the work in the stipulated time. Along with this, in the villages where the cluster teams are in their final stage i.e. those which have completed more than 90 percent survey work; will be linked with other teams so that the target could be achieved before the deadline.

At present, 75 percent of the survey work has been completed in District Panchayat Durg, Patan and Dhamdha. Apart from

this, revenue matters were discussed in the meeting, in which mainly the ownership plan was discussed. The Collector asked for information regarding survey and mapping.

Apart from this, the Collector said that in order to curb the cases related to illegal mining, the complaint related to the excavation of sand and mud will be registered by Kotwar in the concerned revenue officer and the nearest police station. He

also asked the revenue officials to take a tough stand against illegal plotting.

Additional Collector Arvind Ekka, Additional Collector Padmani Bhoi, Commissioner of Bhilai Municipal Corporation Rohit Vyas, District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Dewangan, Joint Collector Praveen Verma, Joint Collector Yogita Dewangan, Joint Collector Vinay Soni, SDM Durg Mukesh Rawte, SDM Dhamdha Brijesh Singh Kshatriya, Durg Municipal Corporation Commissioner Lokesh Chandra Kar, Commissioner of Risali Municipal Corporation Ashish Dewangan, Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Bhilai Charoda Ajay Tripathi and other officers were present.

BTITA provides monetary assistance for marriage of girls

**Central Chronicle News**

Bhilai, Apr 20: Basant Kumar Gendre, a member of Bhilai Truck Trailer Transport Association, is a driver by profession. The office bearers of the organization provided monetary assistance of Rs 25000 for his daughter's marriage. Basant Kumar thanked BTITA Patron Achal Bhatia and President Inderjeet Singh Chhotu for helping his family. Another member Pappu Prasad is also a driver by profession.

He is working in Bhilai as a driver for the last 30 years. BTITA provided monetary assistance of Rs 25000 for the marriage of his daughter.

Pappu Prasad said that this initiative is very good. He added that such noble work should be done in other organisations also.

Patron of Bhilai Truck Trailer Transport Association, Achal Bhatia, President Inderjeet Singh Chhotu, General Secretary Malkit Singh, media in-charge Gokul Sharma, Nirmla Singh, Executive President Anil Chaudhary, Joga Rao, Sandeep Singh, Dilip Khatwani, Sudhir Singh, Mahendra Singh, Pappi, Shah Nawaz Sanu, Riju Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Anand Singh, Amit Singh, Sonu, Moni, Baljinder Singh (Billa), Raman and other members were present.

Durg stands second in disposal of revenue case

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: Prior to the weekly TL meeting, Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena takes a review meeting of revenue officers whereby he orders the concerned officers to follow the revenue process and take action according to the rules for disposal of the cases. As a result of this constant monitoring, the number of pending revenue cases in the district has decreased rapidly.

In the last 03 months, 15300 cases of undisputed name transfer cases, 705 cases of undisputed account division, 1761 cases of disputed nomination, 337 cases of disputed

account division, 1669 cases of diversion and 2307 cases of demarcation have been resolved in the revenue courts of the district.

As on April 19, 2023, a total of 9646 cases are pending in the above mentioned areas within the time limit, for which instructions have been given to resolve the same within the time limit. Along with this, all the cases have been compulsorily registered in the e-court and instructions have been given to settle them and update the hearing dates. The online update of all the cases registered in the e-court of Durg district is 86 percent, which is second in the state.

The Collector has directed the officers to resolve the number of remaining pending cases including the newly registered cases as soon as possible. He has given the officials a target of 100 percent disposal of new and pending revenue cases.

For the convenience of the applicants and the general public, information about the date of demarcation for disposal of demarcation cases registered in the revenue courts under the district is being uploaded on the website of the district for the convenience of the applicants and the general public, which the general public can observe from time to time.

Bhilai should be declared Steel City, demands HMS

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: National Vice President of Steel Metal and Engineering Workers Federation of India and President of Bhilai Shramik Sabha (HMS) HS Mishra informed that Bhilai Shramik Sabha (HMS) has sent a letter to the SAIL Chairman through the IR department of Bhilai Steel Plant.

The letter was handed over to Rohit Harit, Senior Manager (IR). Several significant demands of the employees of Bhilai Steel Plant were prominently raised

through this letter.

The union demanded that Bhilai should be declared as Steel City to get rid of increasing political interference and encroachment in Bhilai Steel Plant and its township.

To improve the medical standard in the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Center, specialist doctors should be recruited so that all medical equipment and resources available in the hospital can be fully utilized.

The union also demanded to recruit paramedical staff and nursing staff. In view of the

retirement of a large number of workers from 2024 to 2027, new recruitment should be done for sufficient posts. Free education should be provided to the children of regular and retired employees of the Plant in the school and college running on the land and buildings of Bhilai Steel Plant.

The union further demanded that 39 months arrears (From 01 January 2017 till date) of wage revision should be provided to the regular employees of SAIL and full arrears till the date of retirement should be provided to the employ-

ees who have retired after 01/01/2017. Similar to the Steel Club and Bhilai Club in Bhilai Township, at least two clubs, with facilities of swimming pool and trainer, should be constructed for the entertainment of the non-executive workers.

HS Mishra further informed that a copy of this letter has been sent to the Director Incharge of Bhilai Steel Plant - Anirban Dasgupta, National President of Steel Metal and Engineering Workers Federation of India - SD Tyagi and National General Secretary -

Sanjay S Wadhavkar. Along with this, they requested the Federation leaders to meet the SAIL President during their stay in Delhi and try to get the above demands fulfilled as soon as possible.

Prem Singh Chandel (National Organization Secretary of Steel Metal and Engineering Workers Federation of India and Acting President (Bhilai Shramik Sabha), Devendra Kumar Singh (National Executive Member, SMEFI), G Jogendra Rao (senior leader, HMS) and Prakash were present.

TBSI celebrates Ambedkar Jayanti with zeal

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: The Buddhist Society of India (TBSI), Budh Vihar Sector 6, Bhilai, celebrated the 132nd birth anniversary of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar with great enthusiasm. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel graced the function as Chief Guest. He lighted lamps and offered floral tributes at the portrait of Dr Ambedkar.

Members of the committee accorded a grand welcome to the Chief Minister. In his address, CM expressed his gratitude to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. He added that the country would run only with the Constitution made by Babasaheb. Baghel said that he became the Chief Minister only after taking a pledge to protect the constitution for democracy

and social harmony. He announced Rs 25 lakhs for the construction of the huge Budh Vihar and also assured cooperation in the future.

In her welcome speech, President Varsha Bagde spoke about the objectives of The Buddhist Society of India and detailed about the estimated cost of Buddha Vihar construction work and programme being conducted by Vihar for Dharma and social work.

She demanded Rs 1 crore from the government for construction of Vihar. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, MLA Devendra Yadav and Mayor Neeraj Pal also addressed the gathering. Trustee of the Buddhist



Society of India - SR Kande, Central Organizer CL Maheshwari, State President of Women Empowerment Association - Pragya Kande, State Vice President - Meena Nanavare, Divisional Commissioner Mahadev

Kawre, Apex Bank MD - KN Kande, Bright Association President - Baleshwar Choure, Additional Collector - Surendra Vaidya, Dr JP Meshram, Dr Uday Dhabarde, Umakant Sukhdeve, Sushil Gajbhiye, FC Borkar, Narendra Khobragade,

Anand Nikose, Asha Julme, Senior Vice President - Jeevan Suryavanshi, Treasurer - Narendra Shende, Accountant - Ajay Ramteke, Vice President - KK Chauhan, Nirmala Gajbhiye, Secretary - Amit Gajbhiye, Lata Meshram, Danshila Ramteke, Usha Meshram, Sangeeta Dhabarede, Sujata Chauhan, Nilima Ramteke, Kavita Rangari, Kavita Wankhede, Savita Wasnik, Subhash Gajbhiye,

Yashwant Ramteke, Raman Gajbhiye, Dinesh Kapade, Rajkumar Gadpayle, Kapil Tabhane, Satyam Gajbhiye, Rahul Chaur, Shweta Tirpude and others were present. Rajni Rajak compeered the programme. Office Secretary

Arun Vaidya, General Secretary Sudesh Kumar Ramteke and Vice President Deepak Wasnik assisted in conducting the programme, Trustee SR Kande proposed the vote of thanks and demanded to establish Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Auditorium in all the districts of Chhattisgarh.

Professor Laxman Yadav, who came from Delhi, delivered the keynote address. Bhim Jwala Musical Nights of Rahat Olekar from Maharashtra staged musical programmes which continued till the night. Baleshwar Chaur had made the arrangements of food while Rekha Nandeshwar had made arrangements of water. TBSI expressed gratitude towards all those who directly or indirectly supported in organising the programme.

Team constituted to prevent child marriage on Akshya Tritiya

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: On the upcoming auspicious occasion of Akshya Tritiya the district administration is all set to prevent child marriages that are usually conducted in both urban and rural area often due to ignorance, illiteracy and misconceptions. To curb this social ill a joint team that includes members from Women and Child Development Department, Police Department, Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee, Child Line - has been constituted.

Here it needs a mention that the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 prohibits the marriage of a boy below the age of 21 years and a girl below the age of 18 years. If a man below the age of 21 years marries a girl below the age of 18 years, he shall be punished with rigorous im-

prisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both. Any person who causes, performs or aids child marriage shall be punished and any person who promotes or knowingly permits child marriage, participates in child marriage shall also be punished. No woman can be punished with imprisonment.

Child marriage is a social evil and a legal crime and to make the general public aware of the consequences of child marriage and if any person is aware of child marriage, the Women and Child Development Department (Phone No. - 0788-2213363, 23237047) Child Line (1098), Project Office, Police Department (112,100), Women Helpline (181) Ward level and Panchayat level Child Protection Committee can be contacted.

Negligence in street light maintenance work comes to fore

Show-cause notice to commissioner of Chirmiri Municipal Corporation



Raipur, Apr 20:

Taking note of gross negligence on part of vendor EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) in street light maintenance in urban bodies of the state the Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr Shivkumar Daharia instructed the concerned departmental officers to drop EESL with immediate effect. In a review meeting of the departmental work here today he also directed to issue a show-cause notice

to the Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Chirmiri and suspend the Chief Municipal Officer of Bade Bachel for negligence in the implementation of government schemes. In view of the onset of summer season focus should be laid on providing basic facilities to the citizens, Daharia said, adding that all necessary arrangements should be strengthened to provide pure drinking water to the people and the use of tankers should be reduced and water should be supplied

through tankers only when required. During review of the implementation of state government's ambitious scheme 'Shi Dhanwantari Medical Store', the Minister said that the scheme was launched on the initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel with the objective of providing medicines to the people of the state at cheap prices. He called for promotion of Dhanwantari Medical Store in a bid to provide its benefits to maximum people. He also inquired about works of medical

mobile unit and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, works under Amrit Mission Yojana. The meeting was attended by Dr Ayyaz Tamboli, Special Secretary, Urban Administration and Development Department, Director Urban Administration, Remigius Ekka, State Urban Development Agency CEO Saumil Ranjan Choubey, Commissioners of all Municipal Corporations and Chief Municipal Officers of the Municipal Council.

CM extends greeting on National Public Relations Day

Raipur, Apr 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel extended greetings to the people involved in public relations on National Public Relations Day which falls on April 21.

He said that Public Relations is an effective medium to convey information to the public in both government and private sectors. Public Relations is an important tool that makes the administration more reliable, and transparent, thereby empowering good governance.

Public relations plays an important role in strengthening democracy by providing correct information to the people and making them aware of misleading or fake news.

Cooled Radiofrequency for Pain Management in AIIMS-R

State-of-the-art machine will ease life for osteoarthritis of knee, hip and frozen shoulder Patients

Raipur, Apr 20:

A state-of-the-art machine equipped with cooled radiofrequency has started functioning in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur. The new machine will ease those suffering from common ailments including osteoarthritis of knee, hip, frozen shoulder, slipped disc & low backache, and facial pain.

Director Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar said that this innovative approach to pain management offers a non-surgical option for patients suffering from chronic and cancer pain. Radiofrequency ablation uses heat by radio waves to destroy nerve fibers that transmit pain signals.

According to Prof. Nandkishore Agrawal,



particularly helpful to those who are aged, have health related issues or pain location and could not get surgery, he said.

The introduction of radiofrequency ablation at AIIMS Raipur demonstrates the department's commitment to providing patients with the latest and most effective treatments for chronic pain. Patients interested in learning more about this innovative procedure are encouraged to contact the department to schedule a consultation with one of the pain management specialists.

Cong to hold interviews for selection of Speaker

From April 20-30; through 'Cong-ki-Awaz' in districts



Raipur, Apr 20:

Meeting of members of 'Vakta Chayan Samiti' (Speaker Selection Committee) of PCC was held at Rajiv Bhavan head office here on Thursday. In the meeting it was decided that from April 22 to 30, it is by inviting people associated with party ideology and those from DCC, YC, Mahila Congress and NSUI, Sewa Dal, and other cells of PCC will be invited and would be interviewed for the said post.

In every district there

will be minimum of 10 speakers of the party and maximum there is no limit and this list would be submitted to the party hq's. Among the party's speakers selected, opinion will be taken from them about the schemes of the Chhattisgarh state government; breaking of promises by the Modi government; unemployment in Chhattisgarh compared to unemployment rate of the Centre; corruption in Modi's govt; Misutilisation of central agencies; inflation; Congress contribution in

India's re-development; party's contribution in Independence struggle, conspiracy to stop existence of constitutional firms in the Modi-led government at the Centre; condition of farmers in the state V/s those in Chhattisgarh.

Meeting was attended by Sushil Anand Shukla, member Dhananjay Singh Thakur, Ghanshyam Raju, Vikas Tiwari, Abhaynarayan Rai, Subodh Haritwal, Ajay Sahu, Sandeep Sahu, Surendra Verma, Sharik Raees Khan, Shashi Bhagat, Vibhor Singh, Nitin Bhansali, Gitesh Gandhi, Amit Shrivastava, Prakashmani Vaishnav, Satyaprakash Singh, Vijay Baghel, Vandana Rajput, Ajay Gangwani and others.

Extend the benefit of NPCDCS progr to maximum number of people: Sandipan

Raipur, Apr 20: Director of National Health Mission Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan reviewed the NPCDCS program (National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke). In the review meeting held at Swasthya Bhawan, Nava Raipur he instructed the officials of the health department to take the benefits of the NPCDCS programme to maximum number of people at the district and development block level. Sandipan motivated them to continue the good work by awarding the districts which have done excellent work in screening, re-screening, diagnosis of diabetes and diagnosis of high blood pressure at the district and block level. He presented insignia and certificates to the officers. Dr Netram Navratana, Deputy Director, NPCDCS, Dr Sumi Jain, NCD State Programme Coordinator, Nodal Officers and Assistant District Nodal Officers of all the districts were present in the review meeting.

Maximum number of free-hold cases resolved in Raipur district

Raipur, Apr 20:

Raipur has become the only district in the state in sorting out highest number of free-hold cases under the guidance of Collector Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and implementing the order of Revenue and Disaster Management Department.

According to the information received from Mrs. Shimmi Nahid, Officer-in-Charge of Nazool branch of Raipur district, Raipur district has been performing excellently in the entire state in the ambitious plan of the government to settle the encroached land in urban areas and provide land ownership rights to permanent tenants. The government has received revenue of crores of rupees.

A total of 1863 cases were disposed of by providing land

ownership rights to government patta holders (lessees) in the form of free-hold as per the plan of the government. Government received Rs 38 crore 31 lakh 33 thousand 242 as free-hold amount at the rate of 2 percent of the prevailing guide line rate on these cases.

Similarly, an amount of Rs 5 crore 92 lakh 33 thousand 5 was received by the government in the form of Nazool land rent and other cess. A total of Rs 8 crore 15 lakh 38 thousand 849 has been received by the government in this form of 152 percent of the collector guide line rate with resolution of 45 cases of rehabilitation of encroachers.

This way Raipur district has deposited Rs 52 crore 39 lakh 5 thousand 96 in treasury by sorting out highest number of cases.

Three nabbed in illegal sale of liquor

From shops and restaurant illegally

Raipur, Apr 20:

In case of illegal sale of liquor from shops and restaurants, three owners of the shop have been taken into arrest. As per information in this regard, anti-crime and cyber crime unit of police got tip from an informer that liquor is being illegally sold by the shop owner in Gram Gatapar under Abhanpur thana area. On this Addl SP Crime Abhishekh Maheshwari directed Anti-Crime and Cyber Crime to nab the ac-





cused red-handed.

So combined team of anti-crime, cyber crime and Thana Abhanpur was formed and they raided the shops in Gatapar as per information. During the raid the shop owner was present and on interrogation he disclosed his name as Kailash Dhritlahare and

Bhanwarlal Dhritlahare. When the police conducted search in their shops, they found total 106 quarter bottles of liquor worth Rs 12,100 and sold income of Rs 3400, totaling 15,500 and nabbed both the accused. A case under section 34 (2) of Excise Act was filed against the two.


In the same way in action taken against Kiran Restaurant owner Ajay Singh in Gram Dulna of Gobaranavapara, 51 quarter bottles of liquor worth Rs 5610 were seized and a case under section 34 (2) of Excise Act was filed against him and liquor was seized from his restaurant.

Quarterly Return Monthly Payment (QRMP)


A step towards ease of doing business for small taxpayers having Aggregate Annual Turnover upto ₹ 5 Crore during the F.Y. 2022-23

The eligible taxpayers who wish to avail the QRMP scheme may opt in by performing the following steps on the GST portal (www.gst.gov.in):

 **Log in to the Taxpayers' Interface**

Go to Services > Returns > Opt-in for quarterly return option


Taxpayers already availing QRMP Scheme are not required to reapply for the Scheme



Benefits

- File GST statements>Returns in FORM GSTR-1 & GSTR-3B just once in a Quarter
- Pay monthly Tax conveniently using Fixed Sum Method (Pre-filled Challan) or Self-Assessment Method (actual tax due after adjusting ITC) in first two month of a Quarter
- Easily opt in and opt out of the Scheme
- Enjoy the convenience of a Flexible Invoice Filing Facility (IFF)
- Self Assessment of ITC & Tax once every Quarter

Please scan for more details on QRMP scheme



For more details, please refer to the Notification No. 81 to 85/2020-Central Tax & Circular No. 143/13/2020-GST all dated 10.11.2020

Last date to opt for QRMP Scheme from Q1 of F.Y. 2023-24 is 30th April, 2023

Eligible registered person can opt in for any quarter from first day of second month of preceding quarter to the last day of the first month of the quarter

GST Return Filing: Its Fast, Easy and Simplified

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

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CM Baghel launches 'MCPSNY' for the non-scheduled areas

Raipur, Apr 20:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel participated in the launch of the "Mukhyamantri Chhattisgarhi Parv Samman Nidhi Yojana" (MCPSNY) for non-scheduled areas of the state, on the lines of Mukhyamantri Adivasi Parv Samman Nidhi Yojana in a virtual program organized at his residence office today.

The scheme will be carried out in 61 development block community areas and 6 thousand 111 gram panchayats. Gram Panchayats will be the primary unit of this scheme.

To commemorate local festivals, each gram panchayat will receive Rs.10,000 in two installments under this scheme.

Chief Minister,

Bhupesh Baghel, released a total of 3 crore 5 lakh, with 55 thousand to 6 thousand 111-gram panchayats covered by this plan receiving a sum of 5 thousand each.

Along with this, Chief Minister Baghel released a total of Rs. 1 crore, 89 lakh, 65 thousand to 3 thousand for 793-gram panchayats of 14 districts of the Scheduled Area under Mukhyamantri Adivasi Parv Samman Nidhi.

It is worth noting that Chief Minister Baghel, while launching the 'Mukhyamantri Adivasi Parv Samman Nidhi Yojana' at the Bharose ka Sammelan in Bastar on April 13, distributed Rs. 5,000 grants to each of the division's 1840 gram panchayats.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister stated that

the work of maintaining Chhattisgarh's culture and traditions is important to the state's development.

Teeja, Hareli, Bhaktin Maa Karma Jayanti, Maa Shakambhari Jayanti (Chherchera), Chhath, and World Tribal Day are all public holidays in the state.

The state administration believes that through Teej festivals, the youth of today should be imbued with traditional values and feel proud of their culture. This is why we organize activities such as the National Tribal Dance Festival, Youth Festival, Chhattisgarhi Olympics, and Basi-Tihar.

Devgudi and Ghotul development work is also being done for the purpose of preserving and promoting folk culture.

Online Round-Table by CIIL, SLT of HNLU on April 23

● On the topic **ChatGPT- Beginning of the End of Juris Copyright?**

Raipur, Apr 20: On the occasion of World Copyright Day, the Centre for Innovation and IP Laws (CIIL) of the School of Law & Technology (SLT) of HNLU will be hosting an online Round table on 23rd April 2023 (Sunday) between 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM on the topic "ChatGPT- Beginning of the End of Juris Copyright?". Prof. (Dr.) Shubha Ghosh, Crandall Melvin Professor of Law and Director, Technology Commercialization Law Program, Syracuse University College of Law and Dr. Vikas Kathuria, Associate Professor BML Munjal Law School will be the panelist. The rise of

ChatGPT, a large language model trained by OpenAI, has sparked debates and discussions about the future of copyright law. ChatGPT is capable of generating human-like original work and has a potential to significantly impact the protection of intellectual property laws.

Thus, this round table conference aims to discuss the capabilities of ChatGPT and its potential impact on copyright law. It will also provide a platform wherein the experts and stakeholders will share their perspectives on this emerging issue and engage in constructive dialogue. It will essentially explore the AI as authors and the technology impact on copyright jurisprudence. The panel is open for students, faculties, IP enthusiasts and policy wonks.

Int'l Booker Prize winner Geetanjali Shree arrives for 'Kalam Session'

To be organised by PKF today



Raipur, Apr 20:

International Booker Prize winner Geetanjali Shree has arrived in Raipur for the Kalam session organised by the Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF) to be held on the April 21.

Prabha Khaitan Foundation through its various verticals has been

successfully and consistently promoting the works of deserving writers, artists and musicians of Indian origin.

Geetanjali Shree is a celebrated Hindi writer, who was awarded the prestigious International Booker Prize for her best seller "Ret Samadhi" on the 27th of May, 2022.

She made history when

her novel, "Tomb Of Sand" went on to become the first ever Hindi novel to win the prestigious International Booker Prize Award.

Shree has written five novels, a biography of Munshi Premchand, two short stories and is a distinguished name not just in the Hindi literary world but also in the literary sector globally.

Geetanjali Shree's debut novel "Mai" has been translated into many other languages namely English, French, German, Serbian and Korean. The English translation by Nitu Kumar won the Sahitya Akademy Translation prize. Some of Shree's other acclaimed works include "Khaali Jagah", "Tirohit" and "Hamara Shahar Us Baras" to name just a few.

Tourism Minister Sahu lays stone of a hostel building

- With 50 seat capacity in IHM
- Annual magazine "Sukwa" released on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Institute of Hotel Management

Raipur, Apr 20:

A total of 138 students are pursuing the degree and diploma courses at Nava Raipur-based Institute of Hotel Management. This institute is operated under the Department of Tourism, Government of Chhattisgarh. To further enhance the education facilities at the institute, B.Sc. HHA (Hospitality and Hotel Administration) course has been started and degree for this course



will be obtained from the prestigious University of Delhi, JNU. There is no compulsion of age limit for taking admission in any of the degree and diploma courses in IHM.

As Chief Guest of the second annual function of the institute, Tourism Minister Mr. Tamradhwaj Sahu laid the foundation of a hostel building with 50 seat capacity to provide accommodation facility to the students of the institute. On the occasion, MLA Dhanendra Sahu,

Chairman of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Atal Srivastava, Vice President of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Chitrarekha Sahu, Secretary of Tourism Department Ambalagan P, and Principal Rekha Shukla were present. At the function, the annual magazine "Sukwa" of the institute was also released by Chief Guest Tourism Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu. In his address, Tourism Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu wished



a bright future to the students of the Institute of Hotel Management Raipur. He said that this institute will achieve a new milestone in the field of hospitality. He said that it is a matter of joy and pride that the students of the institute have been placed in prestigious hotels of the country. As per the vision of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, facilities at the institute are being improved and upgraded with the goal of making it the best hotel

management institute of the country. It is noteworthy that in the academic session 2022-23, the first batch of 06 students in the three-year B.Sc degree program are about to graduate. Four of these students have been selected in various prestigious hotels of the country. In the academic session 2021-22, 63 students studying in diploma courses have been placed in various prestigious hotels. In the last 03 years, modern infrastructure has been developed

and existing infrastructure here has been expanded with the aim of making the Institute of Hotel Management Raipur the leading institute of the country. Chhattisgarh State Skill Development Council is conducting 18 skill development programs under hospitality and tourism, and preparations are in progress to commence 08 of these programs in the institute.

During the second anniversary celebration at the institute, students staged various mesmerizing performances including a skit on Hotel Management Awareness, dance performances on Chhattisgarhi Sua Dance, Confluence of Cultures, My India. On this occasion, the chief guest gave away the awards to the students for their excellent performances in the field of sports, debate, essay writing etc.

IIT Bhilai and IIT Guwahati signed a MoU



Raipur, Apr 20:

Prof. Rajiv Prakash, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to initiate academic and research collaborations and to promote faculty and student mobility, in the presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Dr. R. I. Modi, Chairman of the Board of Governors, IIT Guwahati, and Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education were also present on the occasion.

ing, Prof. Rajiv Prakash and Prof. P. K. Iyer, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to initiate academic and research collaborations and to promote faculty and student mobility, in the presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Dr. R. I. Modi, Chairman of the Board of Governors, IIT Guwahati, and Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education were also present on the occasion.

E-Summit, 2023: 3-day entrepreneurship event underway

● At IIIT Naya Raipur

Raipur, Apr 20:

E-Cell IIIT-NR started its annual event E-Summit, 2023, on 20th April. The program will take a run over three days. E-Summit '23 aims to provide a platform for discussion on innovative ideas that have the potential to transform current challenges into opportunities for positive change. The goal of the event is to inspire and offer rays of hope to attendees. It has many exciting business challenges and competitions such as IPL Auction, Invade the Mint (E-Sports), Rio's Advent (Buildathon), An Ode to



Nairobi (UI/UX contest), Trade Rampage (Stock Battle), Trade Rampage (Crypto Wars), Be the Professor (What If), Berlin's Battlefield (Simulation Game), Sharks' Heist (Treasure Hunt), Stockholm's Dilemma (Capture the Flag), FIFA and Treasure Hunt. The attraction of

the event was the keynote session by many phenomenal personalities. The event began with a warm, welcoming speech by the director and vice-chancellor of the institute Dr. Pradeep K. Sinha, following these young entrepreneurs brimming with talent. The first speaker was Radhika Bojoria, the

founder of Radically Yours. She spoke about the power of storytelling in branding and marketing for women entrepreneurs.

Following her was Ankit Prasad, the co-founder, and CEO of Bobble.ai. He shed light on his journey from being a college dropout to establishing a company. Both speakers interacted with the students to motivate them. E-Sports and IPL auction engrossed a massive audience in the following session. These competitions had an enormous turnout, and the overall event had massive participation. Dr. Abhishek Sharma and Prof. K. G. Srinivasa co-ordinated the program.

Handicrafts exhibition and sale inaugurated

By Handicrafts Board Chairman Chandan Kashyap



Kondagaon, Apr 20:

The sale and exhibition of handicrafts and handloom items in Shilpnagari located at the district headquarters was inaugurated by

Handicrafts Board Chairman and MLA Narayanpur Chandan Kashyap. District Panchayat President Devchand Matlam along with District Panchayat Kondagaon President

Shivlal Mandavi and other public representatives participated on this occasion. It is notable here that the Handicraft Development Board is organizing a grand handicraft exhibition and sale

programme from April 18-27. More than 60 sculptors from different districts of the state have participated in it. In which 24 sculptors of the district have exhibited their works. It exhibits sculptors made out of iron, 'para', bamboo, bel-metal, wood, 'chind', Stone, Terracotta, 'Koudi', 'kasidakari shilp', 'Aari-work', tattoo painting along with Khadi and Kosa textiles.

On this occasion, after the launch and lighting of the lamp by the Chairman Handicrafts Development Board, he visited all the stalls and observed the sculptures produced by all the craftsmen and welcomed the craftsmen and wished them all the best.

OBITUARY

Kenwara Bai Diwan



Raipur: Kenwara Bai Diwan, R/o Brahminpara, Raipur, breathed her last here on Thursday. She was 100. She was W/o Late Dashrath Dhar Diwan (Tumgaon-wale). She was elder mother of Chandrashekhar Diwan and Sanjay Diwan. The final rites were held in Raipur on Thursday.

Emphasis should be given on socio-economic devp thru schemes: Nayak

Jagdalpur, Apr 19: The schemes being run for the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes in the district were reviewed by Anant Nayak, member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at the Astha meeting hall of the district office here on Wednesday. Nayak said on the occasion that the tribal community needs to make necessary efforts regarding their development while maintaining their traditional cultural practices and basic nature. Their socio-economic development has to be done through the schemes of governance. At the same time, their interests have to be protected while promoting community spirit. On this occasion, Collector Chandan Kumar, CEO District Panchayat Prakash Sarve, Tribal Welfare Department RK Dubey, PK Das, Additional Director Jitendra Gupta and other district level



officers were present. Nayak, a member of the Tribal Commission, reviewed about the works being done for the welfare of tribals in the district, social status certificate, forest rights recognition certificate, representation of tribals in Panchayati Raj institutions, inclusion of tribal groups in various businesses and tribal women self-help. Work done by groups, housing given to families under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, literacy of tribals, status of ashram hostel run by Department of Education, Social Welfare and Tribal Development Department-scholarship scheme, farming done by tribal

class. Discussion was held regarding the crops and the schemes provided by the government. Apart from this, under economic resources, collection of minor forest produce by tribal community, educated unemployed, schemes run by Tribal Financial Development Corporation, infrastructure development in tribal dominated areas, drinking water, electricity system, status of distribution of ration cards and ration materials, Prevention of Atrocities Act. Case under Tribal Area Scheme and Special Central Assistance Scheme, efforts to stop child labour, schemes run in Anganwadi centers as well as

mobile connectivity were discussed. Along with this, discussion was also held by Mr. Nayak in relation to the Badal Academy run by the district administration for the protection and promotion of tribal culture. In the meeting, Commission member Nayak said that there is a need to reduce the difference between male and female literacy in the district. He also instructed to inform about the demand for tribal hostel, post matriculation hostel. He instructed the landless farmers to prepare an action plan for self-employment under the project head.

Instructions to provide financial assistance to scheduled tribe women through self-help groups and to give wide publicity to increase the sale of the products prepared by the groups was also given. He discussed about the activities of Van Dhan Kendra.

CM sanctions Rs 25 lakh to GBS

Raipur, Apr 20:

A delegation of 16 social organizations from Raipur (North) VS constituency met Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel with their problems and for economic assistance. In this connection a 10 member delegation of Shri Gujrati Brahma Samaj (GBS) also met the Chief Minister.

They expressed gratitude towards naming of Telghani Naka to Station Chowk road in memory of Late Pranlal Pandya and Rs 5 lakh assistance to the family members of freedom fighter Late Pranlal Pandya.

The delegation invited the CM to be present at a felicitation programme to be hosted in his honour. Neeraj Purohit expressed gratitude to-



wards CM and Mayor for their cooperation in organising the discourse of Ramesh Bhai Ojha. At the end GBS President Kirti Bhai Vyas requested the Chief Minister to sanction an amount of Rs 40 lakh for the completion of first floor work of Daya Bhavan.

It was informed that 235 families which consist of 1100 members of Gujarati Brahmin fami-

lies reside in Raipur and Daya Bhavan is available for the people of all caste and creed at a discounted price on first come first serve basis. CM immediately sanctioned Rs 25 lakh to GBS. Vyas also informed that GBS offered 20-25 scholarships to meritorious students every year. He mentioned in detailed about other social service work done by GBS.

Panchayat Sachiv take out bike rally, submit memo

- To local MLA in the name of CM
- Demands regularisation as govt employee



affected and the condition is such that with absence of Sachiv in Panchayats, no work is getting done at Panchayat-level.

On top of it, most surprising thing here is that with strike for last one month by Panchayat Sachiv for last one month, no one has even taken initiative to hold talks with them and sort out their problems.

Due to strike by Sachiv in Gram Panchayats, the villagers are facing scores of problems in getting their works done in the Panchayat.

Works like demarcation, division, mutation etc getting affected:

Due to strike by Panchayat Sachivs, the works like that of death-birth certificates, ration card, mutation, division,

demarcation, 'bazar auction', payment under 15th Finance, payment for the construction works done; pension case and other types of certificates are being badly affected.

The villagers informed that with Panchayat Sachivs on strike, the work that of birth certificate of children; BPL certificate for admission in schools and other types of

certificates are not being made.

Panchayat Sachivs says it is do-or-die battle this time:

Annoyed over not being regularised as part of the government services, Panchayat Sachiv say that this time they are not going to call off their strike even after assurances, but this time it is going to be a do-or-die battle. Panchayat Sachivs say that being regularised as government employee is their right.

For last 27 years they are rendering services and not getting regularised even after 27 yrs of service is highly unfortunate for all of them. At Janpad Panchayat Tilda, all the Panchayat Sachivs were present at the dharna venue.

Panchayat, villagers object to construction of Central Jail



- In Gram Godhi, Minister assured not to disturb the pasture and commercial land of Gram Godhi

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Apr 20: Discussions were held with Cabinet Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia on his recent visit to Gram

Panchayat Godhi over likely affect on basic facilities to the villagers on construction of 'Special Central Jail' here. On this Minister Daharia laying emphasis on conservation of water, jungle and land and other natural resources, gave assurance to provide all necessary assistance to the villagers as per their requirement. On this CG Sarpanch Sangh

President Gopal Dheewar and other senior citizens of the village expressed satisfaction and it was after assurance by the Minister, the 'pasture' and commercial area of the land in the village will not be disturbed and the special Central Jail will be constructed at other place in the Raipur district or at an appropriate place in Naya Raipur.

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Apr 20: Members of Panchayat Sachiv Sangh (PSS) Tilda-Newara Janpad Panchayat is on strike for last 34 days and as per regional call, they took out a bike rally and submitted a memorandum in the name of CM to local MLA Pramod Sharma at his local residence in support of their one-point demand.

Due to indefinite strike by Panchayat Sachiv, the day-to-day work of Gram Panchayats have got badly

Massive Shobha Yatra in Rajim on Apr 23

On occasion of Lord Shri Parshuram 'Prakaty Utsav'

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Apr 20: The members of Brahmin Samaj have started the preparations to observed Lord Shri Parshuram 'Prakaty Utsav' and taking out a massive 'Shobha Yatra' on this occasion.

Giving information in this regard, President Rajim Brahmin Samaj (RBS) Devendra Sharma informed that on April 22 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, 'puja-archana' will be performed with great enthusiasm at Vipra Samajik Bhavan, in Rajim, Patharra Marg.

On this occasion all the persons from Brahmin



Samaj have been asked to take part in large number along with their family members. Sharma in-

formed that on April 23, massive 'Shobha Yatra' will be taken out from Lord Shri Ram's temple at 3:00 pm and in this all the members of Brahmin Samaj will be taking part.

This Shobha Yatra will pass through Rajiv Lochan Mandir, Shri Gyatri Mandir, Pt. Shyama Charan Shukla Chowk, Pt. Sunderlal Sharma Chowk, Maa Mahamaya Mandir and return back to Shri Ram Mandir and conclude.

President Sharma has urged all Brahmin families in Rajim and nearby areas to be present in large number for this programme.

Justice Bhaduri took notice of the delay in pension and other payments

- To retired officers and employees

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, apr 20: News of this nature is frequently published in various newspapers, that the salaries and post-retirement benefits of officers and employees retiring from different departments of the government are unnecessarily delayed. Many times, senior citizens have to go through the hassle of dealing with their department and treasury for small reasons related to the payment of these benefits.

Recently, His lordship became aware through a news article that a princi-

pal had been wandering for 13 months after retirement for the payment of her dues. Justice Goutam Bhaduri, Judge, High Court of Chhattisgarh and Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur directed Anand Prakash Wariyal, Secretary, State Legal Services Authority, to send a letter to the Secretary, School Education, along with a detailed report on how many pension cases related to employees of the education department are pending and for what reasons. He also instructed the accountant general to send a letter in this regard to retired individuals.

As per His lordship's direction SLSA has instruct-

ed the office of accountant general to send a letter on this matter as well, emphasizing that prompt action be taken with special attention to cases of retired individuals.

Justice Goutam Bhaduri has also directed District Judges to coordinate with the relevant department to expedite the resolution of cases of pensioners in established pension lok adalats in the districts of the regions. Pension lok adalats are operational in Raipur;

Bilaspur, Jagdalpur, Ambikapur, and Durg for the resolution of cases of retired officials and employees. Employees from various departments visit them for the prompt resolution of cases.

Justice Bhaduri took notice of the case of Principal Manjula Shukla

The case of Principal Manjula Shukla, who has been struggling for her pension for the last 13 months, has been brought to the attention of Hon'ble Justice Goutam Bhaduri. As per the news published in the media on 17.04.2023, Justice Bhaduri has directed the Education Secretary to expedite the resolution of her case, submit a report on the delay, and instructed Mr. Anand Prakash Wariyal, the Secretary Member, to provide information on how many officials and employees in the Education Department across the state are pending pension cases. He also directed that report be called in this regard from accountant general. In compliance of his lordship's direction it has also been directed to District Judge to provide immediate relief to such applicant in their respective districts by means of Pension Lok Adalat established in the district court and to actively provide relief to those who are struggling for their pensions after retirement.

Singh Deo conducts inspection of GST Bhavan

Holds talks with officers, employees



Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Apr 20: Minister for Health and Commercial Tax TS Singh Deo conducted inspection of GST office under-construction at 'Tifara Chowk' during his tour to Bilaspur on Wednesday. During the inspection, he took information about the works and activities of different officers and employees visiting each cabin and office and gave them necessary instructions. On this occa-

sion Health Minister said that with construction of new office here, the staff has got good working atmosphere and facilities as well. With this the officers and employees would be able to carry out their work in better way and with more of efficiency. On this occasion TS Singh Deo took information in detail from Special Commissioner GST Bilaspur TL Dhruv about the expansion in works of GST office and their working.

Ram Katha spread positive energy: Sunil Maheshwari

- Attends 'Navadha Ramayan' at Killapara

Central Chronicle News

Singa, Apr 20: PCC representative Sunil Maheshwari took part in the ongoing 'Navadha Ramayan' at Killapara here on Tuesday. First he performed prayers to Lord Shri Ram and said that wherever there is 'Katha' of Lord Shri Ram, that area is around with positive energy and it transmits positive energy as well.

Ramayan is an epic, which inspires one to follow on the path of ideals established by Lord Shri Ram. On this occasion 'Navadha Ramayan Samiti' felicitated Sunil Maheshwari with flower bouquet and 'Ramnavami' stole.

Speaking further Sunil Maheshwari said that Lord Shri Ram in his human life, fulfilled all the relations with that of his mother, father, brother and other family relations in a balanced manner and with decorum and presented a live example before others to follow upon life with ideals and good moral values. Therefore he is also known as 'Maryada Purushottam'.

He gave message to the youth to remain away from drugs, intoxication and try to under values of actual life and work to take their nation forward. Sunil said that Lord Shri Ram has deeper connection with the soil of Chhattisgarh and he is the 'isht' and 'aradhya' of ours.

He said that Shranghi Rishi, Matang Rishi, Agust Rishi, Kank Rishi,



Lord Rishabhdev, Mata Shabari, Giddha Raj Jatayu are also having deeper connection with Chhattisgarh. It is for this reason that on formation of Congress government in the state, CM

Bhupesh Baghel got the temple of Lord Shri Ram and Mata Kaushalya constructed in the region.

On this occasion Sunil Maheshwari also gave information about various

schemes run by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in the state and as per demand of local people, informed them that funds for the road and drainage construction has been

sanctioned. He said that at the venue of 'Navadha Ramayan' there is good population of persons from Sonkar Samaj and they are very hard working and live purely on their dedication and hard work and earn on daily basis. During this Nagar Panchayat Smiga President Bhagwat Sonkar, V-P Avinash Das, Rinku Bhatia, corporator Lakhman Dewangan, Yash Sharma, Bharat Sonkar, Raja Tiwari and others were present.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, PRAMOD JAIN S/o DHANRAJ JAIN resident of 188, Bus stand chowk, Ward 09 Semra(B), Dhamtari (C.G) have changed my old name PRAMOD JAIN S/o DHANRAJ JAIN so in future, I should be recognized by my new name that is PRAMOD KUMAR JAIN S/o DHANRAJ JAIN in all Government and other documents.

PRAMOD KUMAR JAIN
188, Bus stand chowk, ward 09, Semra(B), Dhamtari (C.G)

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I Kanhaiya Gupts S/o Nand Kishor Gupta Resident of C-4 Near Pandey Nursing Home, Samta Colony, Raipur (C.G.) have changed my old name Kanhaiya Gupts S/o Nand Kishor Gupta so in future, I should be recognized by my New Name that is Kanhaiya Lal Gupta S/o Nand Kishor Gupta in all Government and other Documents.

Kanhaiya Lal Gupta
C-4 Near Pandey Nursing Home, Samta Colony, Raipur (C.G.)

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 3, MACHADOLI, DISTT.-KORBA (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(FIRST CALL)

System Tender No. 129383 NIT No.: 16/SAC/2022-23
Dated: 03-04-2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 24-04-2023 at 17.30 Hour

Name of work : RENOVATION OF ELECTRIFICATION OF FOUNDATION GALLERY AND INSPECTION GALLERY OF MINIMATA (HASDEO) BANGO DAM MACHADOLI KORBA.

Probable Amount of Contract : - Rs. 322.58 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 10-04-2023, at 17.31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 3,
MACHADOLI (C.G.)

G-004421

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362266
Branch Office- G Corporation Tech Park, Kasarvadavali, Ghodbunder Road, Thane -400607 (MH)

DEMAND NOTICE
(under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s.13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), their loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules):

Sl. No.	Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No.	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice	Amount due as per Demand Notice / as on Date
1.	INDAL KUMAR SAHU Flat No B-4-310, 3rd Floor, Residential Apartment, D M Tower, Mauza Rawabhata Pandit Sunderlal Sharma, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 493221 2. TOMIN SAHU Flat No B-4-310, 3rd Floor, Residential Apartment, D M Tower, Mauza Rawabhata Pandit Sunderlal Sharma, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 493221 3. INDAL KUMAR SAHU Mungwa, Kurwa, Bemetara, Chhattisgarh 491337 4. TOMIN SAHU 17, Parkar Pura, Mungwa, Bemetara, Chhattisgarh 491337 5. INDAL KUMAR SAHU B-9, Sector 1, Gudhyari, Raipur Ekta Nagar, Near Ambe Kirana Stores, Raipur, C.G. 492001 6. TOMIN SAHU B-9, Sector 1, Gudhyari, Raipur Ekta Nagar, Near Ambe Kirana Stores, Raipur, C.G. 492001 7. INDAL KUMAR SAHU C/O Siddharth Engineering B Insurance Point, Bharat Mata Chowk, Gudhyari, Raipur, C.G. 492001	10.04.2023	17.04.2023	Rs. 16,35,468.62/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Eight and Sixty Two Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 11.04.2023

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED: All That Piece And Parcel Of Flat No. B-4-310, Third Floor, Admeasuring Super Built-Up Area 625 Sq. Ft. On 3rd Floor, Constructed On Khaska No. 65/3, 65/4, 65/5, Admeasuring 71,438 Sq. Ft., P.H. No. 101/29, Situated At D.M. Towers, Rawabhata, R.N.M. Dhariva-1, P.C. No. 100, Ward No. 20, Pt. Sundar Lal Sharma Ward (Old Ward No. 18), Raipur, Chhattisgarh 493221, And Bounded As: East: Flat No. 311 & 312, West: Flat No. 308 & 309, North: Others Plot, South: Flat No. 306 & 307.

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s) together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereon failing which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at your risk as to the cost and consequences.

Please note that as per section 13(1) of the SARFAESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard.

Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of ABHFL together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 21.04.2023
Place: RAIPUR

Sd/- Authorised Officer
(Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited)

BRIEF



NBA leader Medha Patkar addresses a press conference in connection with the rehabilitation and proper compensation for dam oustees of Sardar Sarovar Dam, in Bhopal, Thursday.

Outreach prog

Kolkata: The ruling Trinamool Congress on Thursday announced a new mass outreach programme with an eye on the upcoming panchayat elections in West Bengal. The programme, named "Trinamooly Nabajowar" (new wave in Trinamool), will begin on April 25 and would continue for two months, senior party leader Abhishek Banerjee said.

Resign

Imphal: Manipur BJP MLA Paonam Brojen on Thursday tendered his resignation from the chairmanship of Manipur Development Society on "personal grounds."

Lightning

Saharanpur: A 43-year-old farmer was killed in a lightning strike in the Titro area of this Uttar Pradesh district, officials said on Thursday. Mukesh, who was working in his field in Khadlana village, was struck by lightning on Wednesday evening. Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sagar Jain told PTI.

Bail

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has granted anticipatory bail to a man accused of raping a minor in Bihar, noting he was cooperating with the investigation. A bench of Justices AS Bopanna and Dipankar Dutta granted the relief. "Though at this stage it is submitted that investigation is not complete and the charge sheet is yet to be filed, there is no complaint against the petitioner that he has not participated in the investigation as and when called to do so."

Oppose

Pune: The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena has opposed the state government's decision to allow schools of non-state boards to give grades rather than marks to students of Class VIII to X for Marathi subject. MNS leader Anil Shidore said the decision is wrong as it has diluted the step taken by the state government on June 1, 2020 to make Marathi subject compulsory for all schools.

Warning

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority on Thursday issued avalanche warnings in eight districts of the Union Territory, officials said. Avalanche with 'low' danger level is likely to occur above 2,400-3,200 metres over Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts in the next 24 hours, the disaster management authority officials said.

Atiq killing: UP Police recreates crime scene

Prayagraj, Apr 20 (PTI):

UP Police on Thursday recreated the crime scene outside the hospital in Prayagraj where gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf were shot dead by three men on live television.

Members of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and the forensic team visited the area outside Colvin Hospital to understand the sequence of events leading to the killing of Ahmad and his brother on the night of April 15.

The policemen who were escorting Ahmad and Ashraf during the shootout were also called to the spot.

The three shooters were not brought to the crime scene.

A heavy police deployment was made as the officials recreated the sequence of events begin-



SIT and the forensic team recreate the crime scene, where three assailants shot dead gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf, in Prayagraj, Thursday.

ning from Ahmad and Ashraf getting down from the police jeep until the firing by the three men who posed as mediapersons.

ADG Bhanu Bhaskar, Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma and Joint Commissioner of Police

Akash Kulhari were present when the scene was being recreated.

Police said recreating the crime scene is likely to provide clues in the investigation and on the basis of them the accused can be interrogated.

STRAY DOG ATTACK

NHRC notice to UP govt, AMU VC, municipal commissioner over death of man

● On varsity campus

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

The NHRC has issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh government, vice chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University and the city's municipal commissioner over a man being mauled to death by stray dogs inside the varsity campus, officials said on Thursday. Safdar Ali (65), a resident of a locality adjoining the campus, was out on a morning walk in a garden at Sir Syed Museum when the dogs attacked him on Sunday.

The National Human Rights Commission, in a statement, observed that "painful incidents" such as the one reported by the media in the instant case

indicate that "there is a need to review the prevailing safeguards" as this is not a problem of any one state or Union Territory, and the "situation is grim and alarming".

A clip of the incident, which was captured on a CCTV camera, went viral on social media, it said. The NHRC has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report, carried on April 17 that in yet another incident of stray dog attack, a 65-year-old elderly man was killed in a park inside the AMU campus in Uttar Pradesh. Expressing serious concern over the incident, the Commission has issued notices to the chief secretary, the government of Uttar Pradesh, the vice chancellor, AMU, and the commissioner of the Aligarh Municipal Corporation, seeking

a detailed report within six weeks, the statement said. The state government is expected to inform whether any relief has been given to the next of kin of the deceased, it said. The Commission has also called for the comments of the secretary, Animal Welfare Board of India, Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying on the present status of the implementation of the provisions of law and their strategy, if any, to deal with the issue of the right to life of humans and protection from stray animals in the light of the recent increasing incidents of attack by stray animals on humans without any provocation. The response is expected within six weeks, the statement said. In the past too, the Commission had taken cog-

NSUI PROTEST



NSUI activists stage a protest in support of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in New Delhi, Thursday.

KHARGHAR SUNSTROKE DEATHS

Ajit Pawar demands judicial probe

Mumbai, Apr 20 (PTI):

NCP leader Ajit Pawar on Thursday demanded a judicial inquiry into the deaths of people due to sunstroke during or after the Maharashtra Bhushan award ceremony in Kharghar.

The demand by Pawar, Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, came even as Chief Minister Eknath Shinde appointed a one-member committee of Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Nitin Keer to probe the deaths of 14 persons.

Pawar also said that the state government's apathy was responsible for the deaths, and it should be booked for "culpable

homicide". In a letter to Governor Ramesh Bais, Pawar urged him to direct the government to initiate probe by a retired judge.

Initially it was reported that sunstroke caused the death of 14 persons, but some reports later suggested that the deaths occurred due to a stampede during the April 16 event, the Nationalist Congress Party leader said.

Social worker A p p a s a h e b Dharmadhikari was given the state's highest award, Maharashtra Bhushan, at the hands of Union minister Amit Shah during the event in Navi Mumbai's Kharghar area.

"People (who attended the event) had no access to water and food for seven

hours. As there was no planning for crowd control, ambulances could not reach the spot on time. Despite the harsh heat conditions, the function was organised in an open place. A company with no prior experience of organising such events was given the work, spending Rs 14 crore," he said. The toll might be bigger than 14 but the authorities are tight-lipped, Pawar said.

These were not natural deaths but caused by government apathy, therefore the government should be booked for culpable homicide, the Leader of Opposition said.

He also demanded a compensation of Rs 20 lakh for the kin of the deceased.

JNU students protest against water shortage on campus

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

Jawaharlal Nehru University students on Thursday staged a protest over water shortage in several hostels, alleging that they were being denied a basic necessity amid rising temperatures in Delhi.

The protesting students who gathered outside the Dean of Students' office claimed that irregular supply and small-capacity tanks installed in the hostels have worsened the water shortage on the campus.

There was, however, no immediate reaction available from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration.

"The persistent water shortage in this scorching

heat is affecting all of us. Many students are falling sick due to a continued lack of water in the hostels.

"We often have to go out in search of drinking water in the middle of the night. The administration needs to solve the problem as soon as possible," said Madhurima Kundu, who is pursuing her MPhil.

The agitating students also raised slogans and held up posters to press for their demands.

"All the hostel presidents, accompanied by the residents, protested against the water shortage on the campus. It is shameful that the JNU admin is least bothered about students being dehydrated and dealing with the water shortage.

Air-coolers, water mists, special diet, bamboo mats for inmates at Alipore Zoo

● To beat the heat

Kolkata, Apr 20 (PTI):

As Kolkata sizzled at 40-42 degrees Celsius, authorities at the more than 147-year-old Alipore zoo have come up with water sprinklers, special diets to beat dehydration, ice-blocks and bamboo sheds to keep the denizens of the zoological garden cool.

The Kolkata Corporation has been asked to pump more water to the zoo as temperatures soared and animals tended to wallow in the small pools and baths that dot the garden. "We are mixing oral rehydration solution (ORS) powder with the drinking water of animals and birds at the zoo.



A cooler placed near a Royal Bengal tiger by the zoo authority in protection against the heat wave in Kolkata.

Ice blocks or ice cubes are also being put in tubs of some animals where they bathe," West Bengal Forest Minister Jyotipriyo

Mullick told PTI over the phone. Besides, bamboo mats have been placed over some enclosures to keep the place dark and cool and water sprinklers have been deployed to keep the elephants in good humour.

Similar steps are being taken across all the zoos in the state, wherever necessary, the minister said.

He also said that the zoo will need more water and therefore he has written to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation asking them to pump more to the zoo which was inaugurated by the then prince of Wales who later became King Edward VII in 1876.

So far, none of the animals and birds has fallen ill due to the heat, the minister said.

Yediyurappa rides in his 'lucky' Ambassador car

For son's nomination filing

S h i v a m o g g a (Karnataka), Apr 20 (PTI): As B Y Vijayendra set out to file his nomination for the May 10 Assembly election from Shikaripura constituency in this district, his father and former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa chose his "lucky" Ambassador car to go along with him. According to sources close to Yediyurappa, the Karnataka BJP strongman who has announced his retirement from electoral politics, has a "deep affection" for the four-wheeler. It was this white vintage vehicle that Yediyurappa had used for filing papers for his maiden election decades ago, which he won. "Since then there was no looking

back. Despite several upheavals in his political career, Yediyurappa managed to become Chief Minister of Karnataka four times," a source noted. Before leaving for filing the papers on Wednesday, Vijayendra, the state BJP vice-president, touched his father's feet and sought his blessings. Yediyurappa followed him in his Ambassador car. Yediyurappa got elected from this seat in 1983 and continued to represent it till 1999. After his defeat in 1999, he was the Karnataka Legislative Council member till 2004. Again from 2004 to 2014 he was an MLA (in 2013 he won on the ticket of KJP that he floated, breaking away from the BJP).

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



Devotees take part in Gohain Uluwa Utasav at Bura Mayong in Morigaon district of Assam, Thursday.

'Foreign univs doubling as subversive centres'

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said "dangers are emanating from outfits", including some foreign universities doubling up as centres of subversive anti-India activities out to demolish the country's civilisation ethos and sully and muddy its growth.

He said disturbing insights in the hidden agenda of the so-called elites in India is alarming and unfortunately getting reflected in the working of our constitutional institution.

It is the responsibility of the Parliament to safeguard India's national sovereignty and cultural integrity from any kinds of threats internally or externally, the vice president said. "Our democracy, on path to unprecedented



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with Union Minister Jitendra Singh at the inauguration of the exhibition on 'Good Governance Practices in India - Awarded Initiatives' during the 16th Civil Services Day celebration, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Thursday.

growth and glory, needs that its wings - the legislature, the judiciary and the executive - act in tandem and togetherness for smooth upward flight journey. We all must en-

sure this," he said at the inauguration ceremony of two-day celebrations to mark the 16th Civil Services Day here.

These constitutional entities can ill afford to

weaponise authority by effecting incursions in the domain of the other, he said, adding that the legislature, judiciary and executive serve best while functioning in their respective domain.

"Dangers are emanating from outfits, within and without, including some foreign universities doubling up as centres of subversive anti-Bharat activities out to demolish our civilisation ethos and sully and muddy our growth," the vice president said.

He said Parliament alone is "incharge of legislation" and competent to enforce it.

Legislation is the exclusive preserve of the Parliament, the most authentic reflector of the will of the people at large, he said.

BRIEF



People use protective glasses to watch solar eclipse in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday.

Maine shootings

West Bath (US): A Maine man who police say confessed to shooting seven people killing four of them, including his parents after being released from prison was due to appear before a judge Thursday. Police have not discussed what might have been a motive behind the shootings on a rural property in Bowdoin and then along a busy interstate highway in Yarmouth, about 12 miles (19 kilometers) from Maine's largest city, Portland.

Union strike

Ottawa: Almost 100,000 federal workers, including 35,000 from Canada's tax agency, went on strike Wednesday as Canada's largest public service union and the federal government continued to negotiate amid warnings of major service disruptions. Federal workers were hitting the picket lines across Canada during the country's tax season after the union and the government failed to reach a deal by a Tuesday evening deadline. Federal ministers provided an update on the Public Service Alliance of Canada's strike action in a news conference on Wednesday afternoon, with Treasury Board President Mona Fortier confirming negotiations were continuing.

Protesters released

Taipei: Officials in Beijing have released four women on bail who were arrested for joining rare nationwide protests in late November against China's tough anti-coronavirus policies, an activist said. One of the women, former book editor Cao Zhixin, had recorded a video before her detention saying, "If you're watching this, it means that I have been taken away by the police." She and her friends Li Yuanjing, Zhai Dengrui and Li Siqi were detained in Beijing in December and accused of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble," a vague charge often used against dissidents, according to Human Rights Watch.

NATO visit

Kyiv: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg visited Ukraine on Thursday for the first time since Russia invaded more than a year ago, a highly symbolic trip that underscores the alliance's commitment to helping Kyiv defend itself. The Kremlin quickly warned that Ukraine must not be allowed to join NATO. Russia has given various and shifting justifications for going to war, but it has repeatedly pointed to the expansion of the military alliance toward its borders in recent years, including citing fears that Kyiv would be admitted.

Missing Indian climber Anurag Maloo found alive in critical condition on Mount Annapurna

Kathmandu, Apr 20 (PTI): Indian climber Anurag Maloo, who went missing on Monday after falling into a deep crevasse on Nepal's Mount Annapurna, has been found alive in critical condition by rescuers, his brother and organisers said on Thursday.



Hospital staff shift an injured Indian climber Anurag Maloo who was rescued from Annapurna region after he was airlifted to Medicity hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal, Thursday.

Anurag, 34, a resident of Kishangarh in Rajasthan, went missing on Monday after he fell from around 6,000 metres while descending from Camp III. Mount Annapurna is the 10th highest mountain in the world.

A team of rescuers located the Indian climber in a deep crevasse between Camp III and Camp II of the world's tenth highest peak, said Thaneshwor Guragain, information officer at Seven Summit Treks - the organiser of the expedition.

He has been airlifted to Kathmandu and admitted to Medicity Hospital at Bhaisepati area of Lalitpur district, Guragain said.

Anurag is still unconscious and his condition is very critical, Guragain told PTI over phone.

"He is found alive. He has been taken to the hospital in critical condition, but he is still alive," Sudhir Maloo, his brother, said.

"We will have to shift our focus towards the medical side now," Sudhir added.

The rescue team that went looking for him in the crevasse he had fallen into has found and rescued him, according to Sudhir.

A helicopter and a team of six Sherpa climbers led by Chhang Dawa Sherpa had been mobilized for the search and Anurag was found in a deep crevasse at some 5800 metre altitude on Thursday morning. He was first taken to the Manipal Hospital in Pokhara and then flown to Kathmandu for further treatment.

Court won't hear case against McCann suspect

Berlin, Apr 20 (AP):

A German court said on Thursday that it has decided not to hear a sex offences case against a man who also is a suspect in the disappearance of British toddler Madeleine McCann, arguing that the region where it is located isn't the last place he lived in Germany. Prosecutors in the northern city of Braunschweig in October charged the German suspect in his mid-40s in several separate cases involving sexual offences allegedly committed in Portugal between 2000 and 2017. The suspect hasn't been charged in the McCann case, in which he is under investigation on suspicion of murder. He spent many years in Portugal, including in the resort of Praia da Luz around the time of Madeleine's disappearance there in 2007. He has denied any involvement in her disappearance.

The suspect, who has been identified by media as Christian Brueckner, is currently serving a seven-year prison sentence in Germany for a rape he committed in Portugal in 2005. In the German legal system, a court must decide after it receives an indictment from prosecutors whether to take a case to trial.

The Braunschweig state court said its supposed responsibility for the case being in the area had been based on his last residence before going abroad and then to prison.

Pak gov't cites instability, terrorism and threat of 'all-out war' with India among hurdles in holding provincial polls

Islamabad, Apr 20 (PTI):

The political instability in Pakistan, a spike in terrorism and the threat of an "all-out war" with India were among the security-related hurdles cited by the defence ministry which prevented the government from holding the provincial election in Punjab now, according to a media report on Thursday.

The report, submitted to the Supreme Court by the defence ministry, noted that elections in the politically crucial Punjab province would fuel fault lines in Pakistan and might encourage India to take advantage of ethnic issues, water disputes, and other issues, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The ministry submitted its report along with an application to request the apex court withdraw its election-date order, fearing a spike in terrorism threats if elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies were held before polls in other provincial assemblies.

A three-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial on April 8 fixed May 14 as the new date for elections to the Punjab Assembly and quashed the Election Commission's decision to extend the date of the poll from April 10 to October 8.

The newspaper said that the report stated Pakistan

faced cross-border terrorism, instability in the country, threats from the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP), the Islamic State (IS) fighters returning to Pakistan from several countries, the "ill-designs of the Indian spy agency" and "even an all-out war" with the neighbouring country.

The report explained that the security situation over the last few years had necessitated the concurrent deployment of forces on the country's eastern and western borders.

The report also feared that Pakistan would continue to be a victim of the "global great game", where India enjoyed primacy.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto to attend SCO meeting in India on May 4-5

Islamabad, Apr 20 (PTI):

Pakistan on Thursday announced that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would travel to India next month to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting, a development that could provide an opportunity to break the ice between the two neighbours.

"Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will be leading the Pakistan delegation to the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) being held on May 4-5, 2023, in Goa, India," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahrah Baloch announced at a weekly media briefing here, ending weeks-long speculation if he would

attend the conference in person amidst major differences between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

She said the foreign minister would be attending the meeting as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had invited him to attend the SCO moot.

"Our participation in the meeting reflects Pakistan's commitment to the SCO Charter and processes and the importance that Pakistan accords to the region in its foreign policy priorities," Baloch said.

It would be the highest-level visit to India by any Pakistani leader in recent years and a possible opportunity to break the ice between the two nations.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Pakistan's Balakot in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack.

The relations further deteriorated after India announced the withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special powers and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union territories in August 2019.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such an engagement.

Danes, Dutch to donate Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine

Copenhagen, Apr 20 (AP):

Denmark and the Netherlands announced on Thursday that they plan to provide Ukraine with at least 14 refurbished German-made Leopard 2 battle tanks, to be supplied from early 2024. Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen called it "a significant donation" which came on top of a contribution by Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany, announced in February, to supply at least 100 older Leopard 1 A5 tanks.

In a joint statement, the Danish and Dutch defence ministers said the estimated cost of 165 million euros "to jointly acquire, refurbish and donate" will

be equally divided between the two NATO members.

"In this way, we will jointly take part in the Leopard 2 coalition", supported by many partners and allies," they said.

In January, Germany agreed to send 14 newer Leopard 2 A6 tanks from its military's current stocks, and raised the number to 18 in February.

Acting Danish Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen stressed that the tanks were not Danish but are "bought in collaboration with the Netherlands."

Denmark currently has Leopard 2 A7 tanks which are a "different and newer model than the one we are donating now," Lund Poulsen added.

Protesters angry at pension law stage actions across France

Ganges (France), Apr 20 (AP):

Hundreds of people opposed to the law raising the retirement age from 62 to 64 gathered on Thursday in a small town in southern France ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's planned visit, while some other scattered protest actions were staged across France.

Macron's trip to the town of Ganges comes amid a concerted new effort by him and his government to move on from the furore caused by the pension change.

People could be heard singing what has become the anthem of the retirement protests: "We are here, we are here, even if Macron doesn't want (us to be here), we are here."



Demonstrators holding flares invading the Euronext Paris building in protest to the pension reforms at La Defense business district in Paris, Thursday.

The French president was to meet teachers and students at a middle school, where he was scheduled to promote his education policies.

At his arrival, the site was affected by a power cut, which the local branch of the hard-left CGT union said was a protest action.

Dozens of police officers were deployed in the small town to prevent the crowd from getting close to the school. They briefly used tear gas to disperse people when some tried to storm the barriers.

On Wednesday, Macron went to eastern France, where he mingled among a crowd for the first time since he enacted the law last week. Many seized the occasion to voice their anger.

Raising the retirement age has ignited a months-long firestorm of protest in France. Opponents have been even more infuriated after Macron's government in March forced the legislation through parliament, using special government powers.

Jerusalem, Apr 20 (AP):

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has nominated a Cabinet minister known for inflammatory comments and for leading a grassroots campaign against African migrants to the post of consul general in New York, a high-profile job that deals with outreach to American Jews.

May Golan, currently a minister without portfolio in Netanyahu's government, built her political career on staunch opposition to African migrants in Israel.

She calls them "infiltrators" and has portrayed the estimated 40,000 migrants, mostly concentrated in poor neighbour-

hoods of the southern part of the city of Tel Aviv, as threats to security.

After a failed bid to enter parliament with the ultranationalist Jewish Power party in 2013, she joined Netanyahu's ruling Likud party and was first elected to parliament in 2019. Netanyahu recently promised Golan the role of the as yet uncreated Ministry for the Status of Women. His office confirmed media reports on Wednesday that he has offered her the consul general post, citing "her excellent explanatory abilities in English."

Golan, who is on a trip to the United States, did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Israel's previous consul

general, Assaf Zamir, resigned last month in protest over the Netanyahu government's controversial judicial overhaul plan. The U.S. is home to the largest Jewish community outside Israel, with the single largest community living in the greater New York metropolitan area. Netanyahu's government is the most ultranationalist and religious in Israel's 75-year history. Golan is part of the ultranationalist wing of Netanyahu's Likud and her political positions, including comments disparaging the liberal Reform Jewish movement, are likely to cause friction with American Jews, who are overwhelmingly liberal.

Yellen calls for better US-China relations as tensions rise

Washington, Apr 20 (AP):

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will strike a conciliatory tone when she talks about US-China relations on Thursday, calling for "cooperation on the urgent global challenges of our day" while supporting economic restrictions on China to advance U.S. national security interests.

"We seek a healthy economic relationship with China: one that fosters growth and innovation in both countries," Yellen says in prepared remarks to be delivered at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Washington.

Yellen plans to deliver a speech that calls for improved relations between the two countries, which have seen increasingly strained relations after the discovery of a Chinese surveillance balloon in U.S. air space and since the Communist nation has grown its ties

with Russia despite its continued invasion into Ukraine.

"A growing China that plays by international rules is good for the United States and the world," Yellen says. "Both countries can benefit from healthy competition in the economic sphere. But healthy economic competition - where both sides benefit - is only sustainable if that competition is fair."

The speech comes as tensions between the U.S. and China are at a fever pitch. The discovery of a surveillance balloon outfitted with high-tech equipment designed to gather sensitive information, making a pass over a sensitive U.S. military site, has drawn lawmakers' scrutiny.

And China's support of Russia as it continues to wage its war in Ukraine is causing concern among Western leaders. Though China has maintained that it is neutral in the conflict, stating that it

won't sell weapons to either side in the war, it recently held joint military drills with Russia.

Yellen, in her speech, says U.S. national security "is of paramount importance" in the relationship with the People's Republic of China. "For example, we have made clear that safeguarding certain technologies from the PRC's military and security apparatus is of vital national interest," she says.

The U.S. last year moved to block exports of advanced computer chips to China, an action meant to quell China's ability to create advanced military systems including weapons of mass destruction.

Commerce Department officials said last October.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
जल संसाधन संभाग बलरामपुर, जिला-बलरामपुर-रामानुजगंज (छ.ग.)

पत्र क्रमांक/773/व.ले.नि./2023 बलरामपुर, दिनांक 10/04/2023

निविदा निरस्तीकरण आदेश

निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 09/व.ले.नि./2022-23 दिनांक 06.03.2023 निविदा सिस्टम क्रमांक 126675 (द्वितीय आमंत्रण) सरई-डीह जलाशय योजना के नहर निर्माण कार्य राशि रुपये 353.20 लाख में निविदा के द्वितीय आमंत्रण में निविदाकारों की भागीदारी शून्य होने के कारण कोई निविदाकार प्राप्त नहीं होने के फलस्वरूप निविदा निरस्त किया जाता है।

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E-tenders are invited **experience & Eligible Contractors** for hiring of vehicle capacity 01 ton pick-up/utility vehicle for each FOC attending HT/LT maintenance, FOC work, D.O. TMC works & Revenue realization work i.e. RC/DC work for continues 24 Hrs. 03 shifts round the clock 8 hours to 16 hours, 16 hours to 24 hours and 0 hours to 8 hours along with **02 extra drivers**, as per terms & conditions enclosed. Each shift consisting of 01 driver, vehicle should be commercial tax paid vehicle capacity 01 ton pick-up/utility vehicle along with ladder not below than TATAACE. Reliever for driver in each shift will be provided by the contractor. All running expenditure of vehicle will be borne by contractor. Mobile charges will also be borne by the contractor. The contract work will be as per guidelines of CSPDCL. The ladder pick-up 01 ton vehicle is not older than 03 years having total run not exceeding 100000 km. will be hired for a period of 03 years. Normally the period of contract will be **3 Years** on the monthly rate basis. The CSPDCL reserves the right to extend the term of contract period for further **01 years** at the same rate, terms & condition on mutual understanding between CSPDCL & contractor.

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1.	TR-2023_09 RFX No. 8100030932	EE City Dn. East, CSPDCL Raipur for Kachna and Gaytri Nagar Avanti Vihar FOC Raipur	4937328/-	49400/-	11.05.2023, upto 1:30 PM	11.05.2023, upto 2:00 PM
3.	TR-2023_10 RFX No. 8100030933	EE City Dn. South, CSPDCL Raipur for Boriyakhurd FOC Raipur	2468664/-	24700/-	11.05.2023, upto 1:30 PM	11.05.2023, upto 2:00 PM
4.	TR-2023_11 RFX No. 8100030934	EE City Dn. Central, CSPDCL Raipur for IAS Colony Devendra Nagar Raipur	2468664/-	24700/-	11.05.2023, upto 1:30 PM	11.05.2023, upto 2:00 PM

Details of Tender, Technical Specifications, Terms and Conditions etc are available on our website www.cseb.gov.in, www.cspdcl.co.in and e-bidding <http://cjsr.cspdcl.co.in>. Last date and time of submission of bid is on **11.05.2023 up to 01:30 P.M.** and due date of opening is on **11.05.2023 at 02:00 P.M.** The Tender document can also be downloaded from CSPDCL's official website mentioned above. The cost of required Tender fee of **Rs. 2000/-** including GST for each tender may be deposited in this office through MICR Demand Draft drawn in favour of "The Sr.A.O.-I, C.S.P.D.C.L., Raipur" should be received in this office on or before **11.05.2023 up to 01:30 P.M.** which is not refundable. EMD has to be deposited by the Contractor in this office through MICR Demand Draft drawn in favour of "The Sr. A.O.-I, C.S.P.D.C.L., Raipur

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Superintending Engineer
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SAVE ELECTRICITY S-36698/2



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 195

Deadly Heat Impact

Neglecting Data Hinders Development

India is facing a serious threat to its development as repeated heatwaves continue to put nearly 90% of the population at risk of public health issues, food shortages, and increased risk of death, according to a study by academics at the University of Cambridge. The report highlights that India's heatwaves are holding back the development of Asia's third-largest economy. However, the Indian government is neglecting to measure the impact of heat stress on its citizens in its assessment of climate vulnerability. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has already issued a severe heatwave warning for parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal this April. These states have a high proportion of rural workers and laborers who are forced to work outside, even as temperatures and humidity soar. If heat stress is not measured and addressed effectively, the situation is expected to worsen. Last year's record-breaking 49 degrees Celsius heat physically impacted India's population, making it one of the most at-risk populations to the effects of high heat. Climate change is making the situation more severe, yet the government is not measuring heat stress as part of its planning for climate change. This makes it difficult to identify areas where people are most vulnerable. According to Ramit Debnath, one of the authors of the study, implementing a heat stress measure that identifies the areas in India where the population is most susceptible to the effects of recurring heatwaves could enhance the effectiveness of Heat Action Plans being developed across the country. Neglecting to measure the impact of heat stress is hindering India's development and making its population more vulnerable to public health crises, food shortages, and increased risk of death. India's population already surpassed China's, making it the world's most populous nation. Experts are warning of an even worse situation this year as India has become particularly vulnerable to extreme heat in recent years. Severe heatwaves have swept across much of Asia, causing deaths and school closures in India. The Indian government must take action to address the threat of heat stress on its citizens. It must measure the impact of heat stress as part of its planning for climate change and identify areas where the population is most vulnerable. It must also develop effective Heat Action Plans that take into account the specific needs of different regions and populations. India's development is at risk if it does not address the threat of heat stress effectively. Neglecting data on the impact of heat stress hinders development and puts its citizens at risk of public health crises, food shortages, and increased risk of death. The government must act now to protect its citizens and ensure that India's development is not held back by the threat of heat stress.

Ensuring Clemency Serves Public Interest

Lessons from the Bilkis Bano Case

The developments in the Bilkis Bano case have reignited the conversation around legal morality and adherence to the rule of law. The 11 men who were sentenced to life imprisonment for their role in the gangrape of Bano and the murder of her family members during the 2002 Gujarat riots were released prematurely last year, causing widespread outrage. The Supreme Court has now questioned the Gujarat government's decision to grant them remission, stating that for heinous crimes that affect society at large, the power of clemency must be exercised keeping in mind public interest and the gravity of the offense. The case of Bilkis Bano is a harrowing reminder of the atrocities committed during the 2002 Gujarat riots. Her case stands out not only because of the brutal nature of the crime but also because of the legal proceedings that followed. Despite the difficulties faced by Bano and her legal team, justice was eventually served, and the perpetrators were brought to book. However, the premature release of these men has raised serious concerns about the functioning of our justice system. The Supreme Court's observations on the matter have been reassuring. It has rightly pointed out that there must be objective standards for granting remission and that the government must show cause for its decision. The court has also stressed that the Bano case cannot be compared with a case of simple murder, and that the convicts' release sets a bad example of remission of a sentence. The case is not an isolated incident. There have been many instances in the past where convicts have been granted remission for political or personal reasons. In 2006, the Supreme Court had quashed the remission granted to a murder convict in Andhra Pradesh for being a 'good Congress worker'. The court had then held that the President or Governor cannot exercise their powers of granting clemency on the grounds of religion, caste, and political affiliation. The Bano case is a test case for the judiciary and the government. The government must ensure that justice is not only done but is also seen to be done. The release of the convicts has sent the wrong message to society and has weakened the trust people have in the justice system. The judiciary, on the other hand, must ensure that its orders are followed, and that justice is not subverted by the government. This case is also an opportunity for us as a society to reflect on the state of justice in our country. It is a reminder that justice is not just about punishing the guilty but also about providing closure to victims and their families. The restorative justice process allows perpetrators to seek amnesty after being made to understand the trauma of the victims or their families, and exhibiting remorse. However, in the Bano case, just the opposite could be true. The government must take a strong stance against crimes like the one committed against Bano and her family. The perpetrators must be held accountable, and justice must be served. The government must also ensure that such crimes do not recur in the future. It must take steps to promote communal harmony and prevent the kind of violence that we saw in Gujarat in 2002.

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

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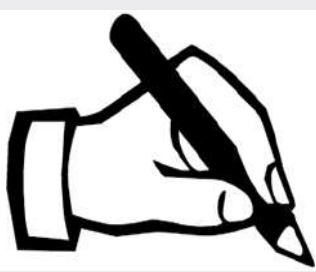


RAPIDIX trains of India's first Regional Rail service which is being constructed between Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut. The trains will have a Premium Class coach and a dedicated Train Attendant for the convenience of commuters.

Matters of Mind: PM Modi's Mann ki Baat



ANURAG SINGH THAKUR



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is universally acknowledged as an exceptionally gifted communicator who can establish instant rapport with the masses. His daunting oratorical skills are only one of the explanations for this unique ability. The sincerity with which he speaks, the integrity which he is known for, and the trust-based relationship he has struck with the people over the past eight years all contribute to his success as a mass communicator.

His inclusionary approach has found unprecedented acceptance across demographics. It's PM Modi's people-centric model of development that has endeared him to the vast multitudes. And it's his non-elitist idea of a continuous dialogue with the people that led to what we now know as 'Mann ki Baat', launched in October 2014. Over the years it has become a last-Sunday-of-the-month fixture. It began as a radio talk; it is now simultaneously broadcast from various platforms in multiple languages.

Mann Ki Baat shows there are two Modis - the strong, powerful, purposeful Prime Minister Modi; and the soft, kindly, gentle Paterfamilias Modi. If you were to shut your eyes and listen to 'Mann ki Baat', you would think that Modi Ji was sitting at a village chaupal, conversing with people - listening to them, speaking to them, and offering sage advice where needed, or complimenting someone for an exemplary deed. Recently he shared his conversation with families of accident victims who had bravely decided to donate organs of their loved ones. Modi Ji used that conversation to promote the noble idea of organ donation.

One could cite numerous such examples, ranging from coping with climate extremes to health and hygiene to complimenting ordinary people

with extraordinary hearts for their good deeds. PM Modi's 'Mann ki Baat' is essentially about real life stories and experiences, stories that reflect the real India that exists beyond the narrow confines of Lutyens's Delhi. Which explains why each episode of 'Mann ki Baat' is wildly popular and receives tens of thousands of responses. It resonates with the people as it is about their concerns.

The first episode of Mann Ki Baat was aired on 3 October 2014. It will complete 100 episodes on 30 April, 2023. Mann Ki Baat is a unique in terms of its subject matter, design, interaction, and innovative way of communicating with people and society as a whole. Through 'All India Radio', the largest radio network in the world with 262 radio stations, and over 375 private and community radio stations, the Prime Minister of India reaches a vast spectrum of the socio-economically and culturally diverse populace, inspires and energizes them not just on social, cultural, and economic issues but challenging problems that the world is facing today, such as climate change, waste management, energy crisis, etc.

Prasar Bharati, the Indian public service broadcaster undertakes the translation and broadcast of Mann Ki Baat in 52 languages/dialects including 11 foreign languages, catering to the remotest regions in the country while also taking it to the Indian diaspora. Mann Ki Baat is India's first virtually enriched radio program that is simultaneously broadcast by TV channels. 34 channels of the Doordarshan network and over 100 private satellite TV channels broadcast this innovative program across the lengths and breadths of the country, creating a renewed interest and awareness about this traditional medium of communication.

A smartly curated booklet, with articles of experts and changemakers from various walks of life, is also published each month since February 2022, reaching over 60 million people digitally.

With such a colossal impact, Mann Ki Baat has been termed widely (and rightfully so) as a social revolution and finds its solid base in Jan Bhagidari. The programme has been conceived and implemented around the idea of citizen engagement and participation right from the formulation of the name of the show to the choice of subjects and calls to action that Prime Minister includes in this programme. Every episode is a curation of a monthly reminder of the Prime Minister's unshaken faith in the transformative power of individuals and is instrumental in encouraging Jan Bhagidari in governance. Through Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister has been able to reach out to millions of people across the country. He uses the platform to share his vision for the country and seeks the participation of citizens in the nation-building process.

The primary objective of Mann Ki Baat is to build a direct connect between the Prime Minister of India and its citizens. Every month, the Prime Minister receives millions of letters from across the nation, which he sheds light upon during the programme. It is also not uncommon for the Hon'ble PM to have telephonic conversations with the people during the show. Such a mode of communication between the elected leader and the masses significantly strengthens people's belief in democracy and governance.

Throughout its successful course of 99 episodes spanning over 8 years, Mann Ki Baat has endeavoured to not only generate awareness in the masses about important issues but inspire them to take action on social and national causes. One of the key features of the programme is the inspiring stories of change-makers who are working relentlessly and selflessly on the ground which not only becomes a source of motivation for them to keep on working but also inspires millions of others.

Since its inception, Mann Ki Baat has emerged as an effective tool of Jan Andolan catalyzing social movements involving communities across the nation. The social messages delivered by the Prime Minister in the program become a social media

trend in a matter of few hours as well as a mass movement (janandolan) in a few weeks. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, COVID Vaccination and Har Ghar Tiranga are a few glorious examples of the same. Recently, in the 88th episode of Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of water conservation and urged the citizens to build Amrit Sarovars in their locality. Within a few months, the message was converted into a janandolan and numerous Amrit Sarovars emerged across the nation which were created by locals with the help of government bodies of the region. Subsequently, on the 92nd episode, Prime Minister lauded the prompt efforts of the citizens as he mentioned various Amrit Sarovars like Bhagat Singh Amrit Sarovar in Lalitpur of Uttar Pradesh and Amrit Sarovar in Bilkerur of Karnataka.

Furthering the vision of building a 'Sashakt Bharat', Mann Ki Baat is focused on highlighting the national and global successes of the nation urging people to participate in the nation's development while instilling a sense of pride, belonging and nationalism in the citizens. In the 89th episode, the Prime Minister highlighted the number of unicorns in India reaching the figure of 100; The 91st episode celebrated the mass participation and nationwide success of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, swelling the hearts of every Indian with pride, and many more such examples showcase how Mann Ki Baat is not just a radio programme, but a reflection of India's holistic development and an expression of public participation.

With Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister has successfully established a mechanism to take welfare schemes and policies to the people at every level and generate awareness about the same. Not only that, but the Prime Minister also shares success stories of how these schemes benefit people at the grass-root levels to motivate more and more people to become a beneficiary.

Even during times of crisis, the programme has played an important role in keeping people informed, as during the Covid pandemic, and motivating them to get vaccinated. India's vaccine story owes its success in great measure to Mann ki Baat. That alone is tribute enough to the relevance of Mann Ki Baat and its significance in our lives.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concerning turn of events

Relevant to Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf killing the shooters, two of whom are in their early twenties and the third who is only eighteen years old, have told police that they murdered the Ahmed siblings in order to 'make a name' for themselves in the criminal world. The ease with which they were able to murder the pair indicates serious lapses on the part of the escorting cops. The assailants had an easy time because of police laxity. The killings had an air of inevitability about them; it was just a question of how would they pull the trigger quicker than the UP cops. The state's recent spate of police encounters and extrajudicial killings must be investigated. Police, emboldened by an apparent trigger-happy government, have opened the floodgates to a vicious circle of killings. As a result, gangsters are fiercely competing for 'glory and fame'. This is a concerning turn of events. The judiciary and the Centre must strongly advise the UP & other state governments to change its ways and uphold the rule of law.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

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

The Impact of Food Wastage on Society, Economy, and Environment



Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Food wastage is a significant concern globally, with one-third of all food produced lost or wasted. Furthermore, as per the UN Hunger Report, the world produces sufficient food to feed the entire global population, but still, as many as 811 million remain hungry every day due to food wastage. According to a recent UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) report, roughly one-third of the food pro-

duced in the world for human consumption every year gets lost or wasted. That's around 1.3 billion tonnes. The UNEP's food wastage index report further reveals that India wastes approximately 68.76 million tonnes of food annually, with households wasting around 50 kilograms per person. Worldwide, one-third of food produced is either lost or wasted, contributing 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing food waste can also help conserve resources such as water, energy, and land. This issue not only affects the environment but also has social and economic impacts. Food wastage increases the burden on waste management systems and can lead to pollution of water bodies. The issue of food wastage is complex and multifaceted, and reducing it requires the involvement of different stakeholders, including farmers, food processors, retailers, consumers, and policymakers.

Food waste can be reduced through various strategies such as better storage and transportation practices, improving packaging and labeling, educating consumers about

food waste reduction, and encouraging the use of food donations and composting. Food waste reduction can also have positive economic impacts, such as reducing costs for food producers, retailers, and consumers, and creating new business opportunities in food waste management and recycling. Finally, reducing food waste can also help address the issue of food insecurity, where many people around the world lack access to nutritious and affordable food. By reducing food waste, more food can be made available for those in need.

The Indian government has been taking measures to reduce food waste, including launching programs such as 'Save Food Share Food' to encourage the donation of surplus food and educating students on preventing food waste through the school curriculum. At the same time, emerging technologies like app-based 'digital cafeterias' are being developed to help college campuses reduce food wastage by analyzing food consumption trends. These technologies can complement social initiatives like 'Save Food Share Food' by providing data-driven insights and enabling effective management of food re-

sources. Together, such efforts can contribute to reducing food waste and ensuring that surplus food reaches those in need.

There are many emerging technologies that are being developed to address the issue of food waste. Smart packaging, for example, is packaging that has sensors to monitor the condition of the food and provide real-time information on its freshness and quality. This technology can help reduce food waste by ensuring that food is consumed before it spoils. Blockchain technology can be used to track food from farm to table, ensuring that it is not wasted along the way. This technology can also help reduce food waste by providing better transparency and accountability in the food supply chain.

Artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to analyze data on food waste and help identify patterns and trends that can be used to prevent waste in the future. For example, AI can help retailers predict which products are likely to be wasted and adjust their inventory accordingly. Food sharing apps are also helpful in reducing food waste by allowing people to share surplus food with others who need it.

Additionally, there are many new technologies being developed to make composting more efficient and effective, such as aerobic composting, which uses oxygen to speed up the composting process.

Studies have shown that a significant portion of food waste occurs in restaurants and cafes, often due to factors such as portion sizes and customers' ordering habits. The UNEP highlights that food waste in the retail industry can also be attributed to factors such as inefficient inventory management and lack of food donation programs. To reduce food waste when dining out, it is essential to encourage responsible consumption practices, such as sharing meals and taking home leftovers, and to incentivize restaurants and retailers to implement sustainable practices. Addressing food wastage through awareness, education, and technology is a vital step in creating a more sustainable food system that benefits both society and the environment. By reducing food waste, we can conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and make a positive impact on food security and hunger alleviation.

BRIEF

Tech skilling



Bhubaneshwar: The brand Skilled in Odisha is ready to shine across the globe, Odisha Chief Minister Mr. Naveen Patnaik said today while inaugurating the Odisha Skill Conclave 2023. Mr. Patnaik called for enhanced cooperation between centre and states in new-age tech skilling in the country. "Odisha has kept a budgetary provision of Rs. 100 crores for this year for the new scheme Nua Odisha to train the youth in future technologies like cloud computing, artificial technology, data sciences, and other futuristic knowledge," said Mr. Patnaik.

Audit reports



New Delhi: Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu has said audit reports have assumed immense importance as they induced action from the executive by way of design improvements, mid-course corrections, strengthening systems and even review of certain policies. Murmu while delivering a keynote speech on 'Audit impact of the Indian perspective' at IMPACT 2023 in Canberra (Australia) shared a few experiences wherein audit findings had a distinctly visible impact on executive functioning.

Appointment



New Delhi: HDFC Bank on Thursday said it has appointed Kaizad Bharucha as deputy managing director and Bhavesh Zaveri as executive director for three years. These appointments have been made after clearance from the Reserve Bank of India, HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing. The RBI, in its communication dated April 19, 2023, has approved the appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Deputy Managing Director of the bank for three years with effect from April 19, it added. Besides, it also approved the appointment of Bhavesh Zaveri as executive director of the bank for a similar term with effect from April 19, 2023. Further, it said, a meeting of the Board of Directors will be convened in due course to give effect to the appointments.

Cumulative impact of monetary policy actions still unfolding: RBI Gov

Mumbai, Apr 20:

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, in the rate-setting panel meeting earlier this month, opined that the cumulative impact of the monetary policy actions over the last one year is still unfolding and needs to be monitored closely, as per the MPC minutes released on Thursday. Das, along with the five other members of the Monetary Policy Committee, voted for a pause in rate hike earlier this month. The central bank, which effected six back-to-back hikes in the key short-term lending rate (repo) since May 2022 to check high inflation, decided to take a pause early



this month. The cumulative rate hike since May 2022 is 250 basis points. "The cumulative impact of our monetary policy actions over the last one year is still unfolding and needs to be monitored closely," Das said during the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held during April 3-6.

Inflation for 2023-24 is projected to soften, but the disinflation towards the target is likely to be slow and protracted. The projected inflation in Q4:2023-24 at 5.2 per cent would still be well above the target, he noted. "Therefore, at this juncture, we have to persevere with our focus on bringing about a durable moderation in inflation and at the same time give ourselves some time to monitor the impact of our past actions. Das said, "I am, therefore, of the view that we do a tactical pause in this meeting of the MPC", as per the minutes of the MPC meeting released by the RBI. MPC member and RBI Deputy

Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said that an ongoing assessment of the macroeconomic outlook should inform a preparedness to re-calibrate monetary policy towards a more restrictive stance with consistent actions, should risks to the inflation trajectory materialise and impede its alignment with the target. The process of getting inflation back to target could turn out to be gradual and uneven but the mission of monetary policy is to shepherd this process through potential bumps while containing second-round effects and anchoring inflation expectations, he added.

Need to increase awareness about RERA law: Delhi-RERA Chairman

Adopt new tech in realty sector

New Delhi, Apr 20:

Delhi-RERA Chairman Anand Kumar on Thursday asserted the need to increase awareness about the realty law RERA for the growth of the real estate sector and also asked builders to adopt technologies to cut construction costs. Addressing a conference organised by industry body PHDCCI, Kumar emphasised that all stakeholders - government authorities, builders, property agents and consumers - need to work together for faster growth of the real estate sector. The Delhi-RERA Chairman pointed out that most of the builders and property bro-



kers are scared of Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, popularly known as RERA, and try to avoid complying with the provisions of this legislation. "RERA Act is not only regulation but it is for enhancing transparency and it is for active development of real estate sector," Kumar said, adding that the regulators under the Act are facilitators. He rued a lack of awareness about this Act among all

stakeholders and there is a need to create awareness. Kumar exhorted builders to adopt new technologies. "Adoption of technology is important. We have to reduce the cost. Unless we make flats at an affordable price, we cannot achieve Housing For All," he noted. Talking about the Delhi property market, Kumar said there are huge land parcels available in the national capital and those should be used for the development of projects. "Unless we facilitate the development of the land we have, there will be unauthorised development," he said. D Thara, additional secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, noted that the real estate sector is the biggest employer for both skilled and unskilled workers.

LPG Revolution: 17 cr new connections double customer base in 9 yrs

New Delhi, Apr 20:

A record 17 crore new LPG connections helped double the cooking gas consumer base to 31.26 crore in the last 9 years, ushering in clean fuel in millions of households across the country, official data showed on Thursday. The active domestic LPG consumers have increased from 14.52 crore in April 2014 to 31.36 crore as of March 2023. This significant increase was primarily due to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), which has led to an increase in LPG coverage from just 62 per cent in 2016 to a whopping 104.1 per cent in 2022.

From a period when there was a waiting period to get a new LPG connection, and it would take 7-10



days for delivery of an LPG refill cylinder, cooking gas connections are now available on demand, and refills can be availed partially within 24 hours at most places. Besides the 14.2-kg traditional cylinder, state-owned fuel retailers have introduced 5-kg cylinders for consumers with either lesser demand or lower purchasing power. PMUY was launched on May 01, 2016, with a target to provide

free cooking gas connections to every poor household. As of January 30, 2023, the total number of connections released under PMUY is 9.58 crore, the data showed. On March 24, 2023, the Union Cabinet approved a subsidy of Rs 200 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per year for the beneficiaries of PMUY. PMUY was launched with the objective to safeguard the health of women and chil-

dren by shifting kitchens from firewood and other smoky cooking mediums to clean fuel. The scheme provides for deposit-free LPG connection to the eligible household with the financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection. Free of cost first LPG refill and gas stove is provided for the first time by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs). The initial target was to provide LPG connections to 5 crore women members of BPL households. Subsequently, the scheme was expanded and the target was revised to 8 crore LPG connections. To cover the remaining households under PMUY, Ujjwala 2.0 was started on August 10, 2021, on a pan-India basis to provide an additional one crore LPG connections.

ICRA projects 20-25 pc growth for India's quick service restaurant industry in FY24

New Delhi, Apr 20:

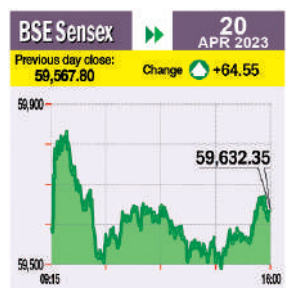
India's quick service restaurant industry is likely to witness 20-25 pc growth in the current financial year supported by demand uptick and increasing penetration driven by a rapid expansion of stores. Over the long-term, revenue growth shall be supported by factors like rising QSR penetration levels, a shift from the unorganised to the organised segment with a preference for branded quick service restaurant (QSR) players, given the hygiene and convenience factors (delivery over dine-in), etc, ICRA said. "On the back of a robust industry revenue expansion of around 30-35 per cent in YoY terms estimated for FY2023, ICRA projects growth to moderate somewhat while remaining strong at 20-25 per cent in FY2024 on account of the demand uptick and increasing penetration

driven by a rapid expansion of stores," the rating agency said. However, downside risks to the estimates remain from the emergence of any further Covid waves or any material weakening in purchasing power due to a high inflationary interest-rate regime, ICRA stated. ICRA estimates that the top five players in the domestic quick-service restaurant industry are likely to add approximately 2,300 stores between FY2023-FY2025 with an estimated capex at around Rs 5,800 crore (excluding refurbishment) for this period, twice that of the levels seen during the pre-Covid era. Majority of capex is expected to be funded through internal accruals and cash on the books, having raised money through the pre-IPO/IPO route in the last two fiscals to support the planned capex in the near- to medium-term, the report said.

Equity markets settle with marginal gains in highly volatile trade

Mumbai, Apr 20:

Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended with marginal gains on Thursday after falling in the past three days, helped by fag-end buying in energy, telecom and utility stocks. Investors remained cautious amid renewed foreign fund outflows and prevailing risk-off sentiments ahead of US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, traders said. In a highly volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 64.55 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 59,632.35. During the day, it hit a high of 59,836.79 and a low of 59,489.98. The broader NSE Nifty went up by 5.70 points or 0.03 per cent to finish at 17,624.45. "Markets ended the 3-day losing streak on selective buying in financials, tele-



com and utility stocks. The market had run up sharply over the past week or so, but with FIIs turning sellers in the last few sessions and global central banks signalling more hawkish bets going ahead, traders are maintaining a cautious stance," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. Among the Sensex firms, Asian Paints, NTPC, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, Wipro,

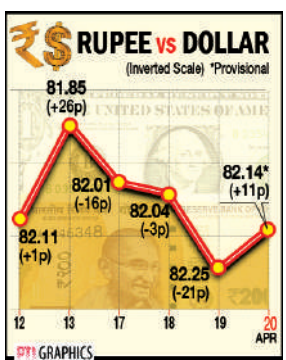
Tata Consultancy Services, ITC, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the biggest winners. Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Nestle, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries and HDFC were among the laggards. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge ended marginally lower by 0.03 per cent, while small-cap index climbed 0.10 per cent. Among indices, services jumped 0.89 per cent, utilities climbed 0.85 per cent, telecommunication (0.81 per cent), power (0.74 per cent), industrials (0.63 per cent), capital goods (0.58 per cent). Realty, FMCG, metal, commodities, energy, IT and oil & gas were the laggards. "Markets traded lackluster for yet another session and ended almost unchanged on the weekly expiry day.

Rupee gains 11 paise to close at 82.14 against US dollar

Mumbai, Apr 20:

The rupee appreciated 11 paise to close at 82.14 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as crude oil prices retreated from elevated levels. Forex traders said a positive trend in domestic equities also supported the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.21 against the US currency and finally closed at 82.14 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 11 paise over its previous close. During the session, the rupee touched a high of 82.12 and a low of 82.21 against the dollar. On Wednesday, the rupee closed at 82.25 against the US currency. According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities, the rupee traded positively on the back of the dollar index trading below USD



101.70 along with weakness in crude as WTI traded below USD 78, giving support to the rupee. "Rupee continues to be in the broad range between 81.80-82.25 pricing in the interest rate probability of a hike in May policy by 0.25bps. The rupee range can continue between 81.80-82.25," Trivedi added. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.08 per cent to 101.88.

Western Digital WD Green SSD to work four times faster

Mumbai, Apr 20:

Is your productivity getting hindered because of the slow performance of your devices? If you're looking to upgrade your old system to match to your current needs, then Western Digital's WD Green TM SN350 NVMe SSD could be the right storage solution for you. Whether you're in class, shopping, chatting or surfing, this drive can work up to four times faster than SATA drives. Because they have no moving parts, SSDs offer a shock-resistant design to help protect your important data against accidental bumps and drops. The slim M.2 2280 form factor allows for a quick and easy upgrade for any computer with an NVMe

slot. It comes with 5 capacity options: 240GB, 480GB, 960GB, 1TB and 2TB, all with a 3-year warranty. The price starts from Rs 1,839 for 240GB and goes up to Rs 12,069 for 2TB. The WD Green SN350 SSD drives come with a free, downloadable software that monitors the current performance, space availability, temperature and more to ensure peak performance. The budget-friendly, WD Green SN350 NVMe SSD offer great performance of 3200MB/s and write speeds1 of 3,200MB/s. It offers ultra-low power-draw, so your laptop runs longer. The WD Green SN350 NVMe SSD is super easy to install and can revitalize your old computer for your increasing daily needs.

Gold likely to lose sheen on high prices this Akshaya Tritiya; jewellers expect 20 pc dip in demand

Mumbai, Apr 20:

The recent surge in gold prices, which is hovering around Rs 60,000 per 10 grams, is likely to dampen consumer demand this Akshaya Tritiya, with jewellers expecting a 20 per cent decline in sales in volume terms. "With gold prices crossing Rs 60,000 per 10 grams recently has made consumers wary of buying the yellow metal. Even though the prices have come down a little bit since then, prices remain bullish. This will affect the sales during Akshaya Tritiya, considered auspicious to buy precious metals. We expect a 20 per cent dip in volume from last



year." All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) chairman Saiyam Mehra told PTI. During Akshaya Tritiya, 40 per cent of the business is done in the south, 25 per

cent in the west, 20 per cent in the east and the remaining 15 per cent in the north, he said. Currently, the gold price is ruling at Rs 60,280 per 10 grams level in the domestic market.

World Book Day's initiative to 'Make India read'

New Delhi, Apr 20:

With World Book Day being celebrated on Sunday April 23, Amazon.in announced its yearlong #GiftABook campaign. With the aim to inspire the culture of reading and gifting books in India, the campaign focuses on the significance of giving a gift that keeps on giving. Customers can discover books across genres and age groups with a host of exciting offers and deals on the specially curated gift a book store front. This initiative by Amazon.in is part of its ongoing effort to 'Make India read.' To kick off the campaign, a digital video was launched earlier this year that captures the journey of a young girl show-

casing the impact of books gifted to her at various stages in her life that help shape her story. The video emphasizes that books are gifts that never go out of fashion and highlights the many benefits of reading, such as enhancing curiosity, developing imagination, generating new ideas, and building character. Check out the campaign video here. Rajarshi Guin, Director, Media, Amazon India expressed his enthusiasm for the campaign stating, "We are committed to contribute in building a nation of readers. Reading helps in developing imagination, enhance curiosity, generate new ideas and build character. These are some of the many reasons why Books are great gifts.



Himanshi Khurana's love for styling made her design the outfits for 'Stars'

Former 'Bigg Boss 13' contestant and Punjabi actress Himanshi Khurana opened up about her love for fashion and how it led her to design the wardrobe for her co-actors in the newly released music video 'Stars'. She revealed that she styled not only her outfit but that of others as well. Himanshi is known for her work in Punjabi films like 'Sadda Haq' and she also entered the popular reality show 'Bigg Boss 13' as a wild card contestant. Apart from Punjabi films, she has also done several music videos. She mentioned that she loves to experiment and explore different aspects of fashion, which helps her feel more attached to what she wears and how she wants to represent herself. Speaking about her recent work, she said, "My fashion sense is majorly about comfort over anything, and this love for styling made me feel compelled to style the entire couture of my recently released music video 'Stars', in which all the outfits worn by the artists are exclusively done by me." Himanshi added that she had to think a lot before styling the outfit for everyone as it had to complement the lyrics of the song.

Imran Nazir Khan enters 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai'

Imran Nazir Khan, who has appeared in several television shows, OTT, commercials, and music albums, is set to appear in &TV's cult classic comedy show Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai. The actor will play the role of Timmy, the younger cousin brother of Vibhuti Narayan Mishra (Asif Sheikh) and the captain of the Indian national cricket team.

Talking about his character Timmy, Imran Nazir Khan shares, "My character Timmy is a sportsman and the captain of the Indian Cricket Team. He has high regard for him as he only trained him to play cricket in his initial days, and due to him, he has a successful career now. He comes to Kanpur for a match and stays with his cousin, Vibhuti Narayan Mishra. Everyone is in awe of his presence in Modern Colony. He sees Angoori (Shubhangi Atre), falls for her innocence, and starts flirting with her, which makes his brother jealous." About his joining the immensely popular show, Bhabiji Ghar



Par Hai, the actor shares, "It is a wonderful opportunity, and I am overjoyed to be part of Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai. I have been a regular show watcher, and Vibhuti has been my all-time favourite. In my wildest dream, I could not have imagined that someday I would be part of this amazing show and share screen space with Asif Sheikh Sir." Watch Imran Nazir Khan as Timmy in Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai every Monday to Friday at 10:30 pm only!

Twitter Blue Ticks removed from Trisha and Jayam Ravi's Handles: Here's Why

As the promotions for Mani Ratnam's upcoming historical drama, 'Ponniyin Selvan 2', are in full swing, the film's stars, Trisha and Jayam Ravi, have lost their blue tick verification badges on Twitter. The incident occurred after the actors changed their Twitter handles to their character's names in the movie. Jayam Ravi changed his name to Arunmozhi Varman, who played Rajaraja I, while Trisha changed hers to Kundavai, the elder sister of the future emperor. However, Twitter does not recognize these names, and hence the actors lost their blue ticks. Trisha stated that their team is working on getting the verification badges back as it might be a technical glitch. They even attempted to purchase the blue ticks, but it seems that suspicious activity was detected. The actors were present in the capital on Tuesday evening to interact with the media, where Trisha expressed her confusion about the situation. She mentioned that they were instructed to change their Twitter handles according to their character's names, but they never expected to lose their blue ticks. On a lighter note, Ravi stated that Twitter is currently verifying their characters before moving on to verifying their character names.



Kangana Ranaut's heartwarming message for parents on their anniversary



their younger days. She thanked her father for going against everyone's wishes, including their grandfather, to marry her mother. She further added, "Your love story is my most favorite."

In another post, Kangana shared a photograph of her parents and wrote, "If I have seven lives, I want your papa as my husband in every lifetime. The same way, if I have more lives, I want you both as my mummy and papa, always."

Kangana also posted a message for her uncle and aunt, who had an arranged marriage. She shared a photograph of the couple and revealed that their pet names were Babloo and Bhabli. Kangana humorously added that "marriages are truly made in heaven."

Kangana shared another photograph of her mother and wrote how she spent all her childhood days messing with her aunt's dresser, trying out different makeup products. She praised her chachi for being the most patient, kind, and gentle woman ever. Kangana's heartwarming messages for her parents and family members show how much she values and cherishes her loved ones.

&TV artists share best-kept summer fashion styles



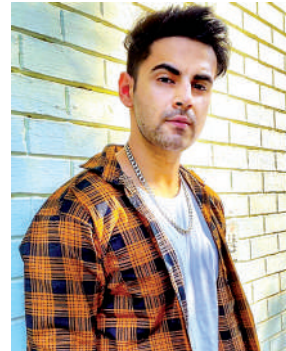
Changing seasons call for new styling in sync with the weather conditions. To embrace summer without compromising on the style quotient, &TV artists revamp their wardrobes and share their best-kept summer fashion styles. Artists include Neha Joshi (Yashoda, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh Singh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabhi, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Neha Joshi, aka Yashoda from Doosri Maa, shares, "Summer clothes aim to have as much airflow as

possible. My summer wardrobe contains clothes made of breathable fabrics like cotton and linen, which keep me cool in hot weather. Cotton suits, flowy sarees and Kurtis, classic linen or cotton trousers, and comfy maxi dresses keep me stylish in the summer. It applies whether the garment is plain, striped, sequined, or oversized. I always have these summer clothing options in my closet and pair them with accessories like scarves, dupattas, and lightweight jewellery to complete my look. Also, when I go shopping, I always choose

pastel colours. They reflect the sun and help me keep cool in the heat. It also looks great with my tan and lighter hair."

Kamna Pathak, aka, Rajesh Singh from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "For me, summer is about casualness and relaxation. During the day, I prefer light colours, while at night, I prefer dark colours. Baggy cotton shirts and loose cargo jeans are my go-to attire during the summer. It is also time to get loafers and slippers out of my closet. In summer, I step out of the house without a stole. They are trendy and convenient, making them an ideal summer companion. A colourful stole enhances the look of your outfit and helps you relieve the scorching sun's rays. Lastly, sunglasses are a must, not only for style but also to protect your eyes. Invest in a good pair and wear them with your outfits to look trendy while beating the summer heat with the utmost style." Vidisha Srivastava, aka Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Actor Pulkit Bangia shares his experience playing Abhishek in 'Sapno Ki Chhalaang'



Pulkit Bangia, who portrays Abhishek in the TV series "Sapno Ki Chhalaang," talked about his character and how much he relates to it. He also shared that he is his biggest critic and that he judges himself better than anyone else. According to Pulkit, Abhishek is Radhika's neighbor and has a very different personality from hers. He's a relaxed and liberal guy who can make anyone feel calm with his charm. Pulkit found it easy to blend into the character because he sees a lot of himself in Abhishek. Although the role was relatable, Pulkit worked on polishing his natural and realistic acting skills to play Abhishek convincingly. He said that the show is in the real zone, so he had to make sure his acting reflected that.

Ram Bisht shines on stage with his powerful dance act



After the power packed 'audition rounds' of Sony Entertainment Television's 'India's Best Dancer 3', the participants are all set to battle it out in the mega auditions to secure their place in the 'Best Barah'. This weekend, the judges and E.E.N.T specialists - judges Geeta Kapur, Sonali Bendre and Terence Lewis will be tasked with choosing the best out of the lot and give India its Best Barah dancers. Giving an electrifying performance, 24-year-old Ram Bisht from Ludhiana will pour out his heart and soul on the stage with his performance on 'Jo Bheji Thi Dua'. Beautifully performing the contemporary style, Ram will leave the judges awestruck. Showering praises on Ram, judge Terence Lewis will share, "There is no better performance than this! Especially the way you performed felt

like you were narrating a story, through your dance, without saying anything, you blew me away! Your choreography was outstanding, absolutely outstanding!" Even judge Sonali Bendre will mention how she is in shock after what she witnessed as she had tears in her eyes watching his moving performance. She said, "Your steps, your finishing, it suits the dance show and respects the platform. Even without moving, your posture spoke to me. This emotion that you showed, is what I keep repeating on the show that dance is a way to express emotions. It is such a fantastic thing as you were able to capture intimate moments i.e the ups and downs in your life, you turned them into your strength and positives. That emotion you have expressed on the stage, is dance! Ram, your performance was outstanding!"

Emotional journey of 'Shravani' from Apr 24

Shemaroo Umang is all set to tug at the heartstrings of its audience with the launch of its new show 'Shravani' from 24th April 2023. This touching drama revolves around the inspiring story of an 8-year-old girl named Shravani whose parents are visually impaired. Through its poignant narrative, 'Shravani' promises to take the viewers on an emotional rollercoaster as they witness the young girl's relentless pursuit of her aspirations.



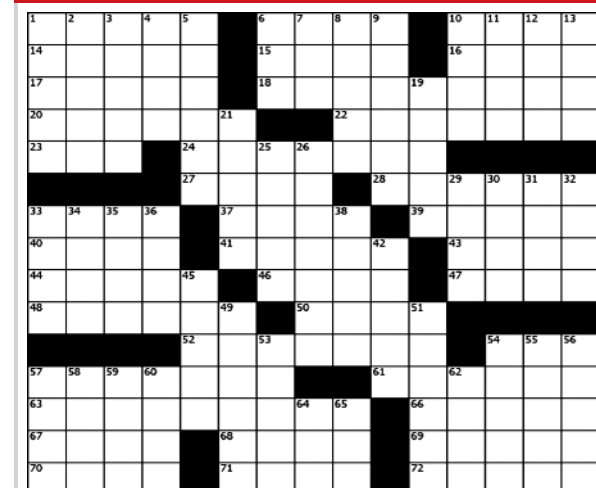
ly portrays how the little girl helps her parents in their day-to-day life and

strives to help her father regain his vision after a mishap. Her ultimate goal

is to become an eye specialist to cure people and help them. 8 year old Gaurika Sharma, who plays the lead role, is ecstatic about the opportunity. "I am super excited to be a part of 'Shravani'! The show has lots of emotion, drama and fun. I feel so lucky to be the lead in this show and I hope everyone loves it as much as I do!"

With its powerful message and talented cast, 'Shravani' is set to capture the hearts of viewers across the nation. The show will be aired on Shemaroo Umang from April 24th, 2023, every Monday to Saturday, at 8:30 PM. Don't miss out on this heartwarming family drama that promises to inspire and entertain audiences of all ages.

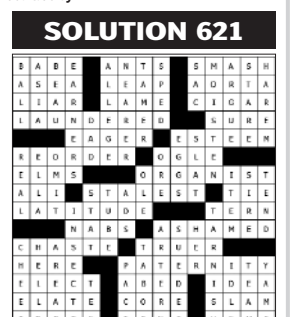
CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Plant anchors
 - Frog's kin
 - Purposes
 - First Greek letter
 - Positive
 - Passion
 - Perfect
 - Interest benchmark (2 wds.)
 - Continuing story
 - Tranquilized
 - Distinctive time
 - Deceive
 - Machu Picchu native
 - Most pleasing
 - Leftover dish
 - Damp
 - Gladden
 - Informed about
 - Female singers
 - Bakery hot spot
 - Witness box
 - Jaunty

- DOWN**
- Elevate
 - More ancient
 - Soap
 - Bangkok native
 - Deli offering
 - Recipe abbr.
 - Belonging to us
 - Ascend
 - Put down
 - Poet _____ Pound
 - Tidy
 - Escort
 - Winter toy
 - ____ Murphy of "Shrek"
 - Actress _____ Evans
 - Hair location
 - Portable lamp
 - Drain obstruction
 - Icicle's spot
 - Flower stalk
 - Perfect gymnastics scores
 - Nylons
 - Picnic pests
 - Right away!
 - Sharpen
 - Seoul's country
 - Solemn
 - Prevent
 - Group's mood
 - Peruvian animals
 - Receded
 - Indian boat
 - Nimble
 - Handed out cards
 - School orgs.
 - Bun
 - Toast topping
 - Sleeveless jacket
 - Trigonometry, e.g.
 - Dawdle
 - Get by

622



Du Plessis, Siraj script 24-run win for RCB

Mohali, Apr 20 (PTI):

Faf du Plessis played a special knock despite a rib injury before Mohammed Siraj produced his best figures in the IPL to set up a 24-run win for Royal Challengers Bangalore against Punjab Kings here on Thursday.

Playing as an 'Impact Player' due to his injury, Du Plessis plundered 84 off 56 balls and shared a 137-run opening wicket stand with stand-in captain Virat Kohli (59 off 47) to steer RCB to 174 for four after being put in to bat.

Though in-form skipper Shikhar Dhawan was unavailable for the second game in a row, Punjab had enough firepower to chase down 175 but lost too many wickets at the start of the chase.

Siraj delivered with wickets with the new ball as well as in the death overs to end up with 4/21 in four overs and secure a welcome victory for his team. Jitesh Sharma's



Faf du Plessis

Mohammed Siraj

counter-attacking 41 off 27 for Punjab went in vain.

It was RCB's third win in six games while Punjab suffered their third loss in six matches.

Siraj was too hot to handle in the powerplay as he removed left-hander Atharva Taide with a

run-outs of Sam Curran and Harpreet Bhatia made matters worse for the home team.

At 97 for six, the game looked done and dusted but Jitesh Sharma kept Punjab in the game with some clean hitting, especially down the ground. He ran out of partners eventually.

Earlier, at 91 for no loss in 10 overs, RCB were on course for 200 plus total but Punjab bowled well in the middle and death overs to restrict the opposition.

Du Plessis hammered five sixes and as many fours in his belligerent knock. Like he often does, the former South Africa skipper was not afraid to show his stumps to the spinners to free his arms for the big shots.

Kohli made 59 off 47 balls though the first half of his innings was more fluent.

It was the fourth fifty plus score for the RCB opens this season, highlighting their consistency.

RCB would be a tad disappointed with the total they ended up with after a flying start from Du Plessis and Kohli, who fired their team to 59 for no loss in the powerplay.

Arshdeep Singh and Curran employed the short-ball tactic against du Plessis and Kohli with the new ball but it did not work.

The Indian star began with his trademark cover drive off spinner Harpreet Brar before pulling a short ball from Arshdeep over short fine leg for another four in the third over.

Du Plessis got going with a couple of sixes off Brar, who opened the bowling alongside Arshdeep.

The South African made room for a massive straight six over Brar's head and followed it up with another one wide of long on. However, his best of the lot was the straight six off pacer Nathan Ellis as he stood still to slap it over the bowler's head.

CSK hope for Stokes boost ahead of SRH clash

Chennai, Apr 20 (PTI)

Four-time champions Chennai Super Kings will hope their star allrounder Ben Stokes finally takes the field after recovering from his injury when they go up against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their IPL match here on Friday.

In a relief to CSK, Stokes, who was suffering from a toe injury and missed three IPL matches, took part in the net practice on Wednesday after regaining fitness and is available for selection.

The England Test captain's return will be a big boost for CSK as they return to their fortress following a close win over Royal Challengers Bangalore. Their opponents Hyderabad, however, copped a defeat at the hands of Mumbai Indians. The Super Kings batters have been able to put up good scores, thanks to the starts provided by Devon Conway



and Ruturaj Gaikwad at the top while the big-hitting Shivam Dube has managed a few impactful knocks.

Ajinkya Rahane has been a revelation, batting with a lot of freedom and going after opposition bowlers, but in an orthodox manner and though

the rest of the batters have not done much, the crowd, especially in Chennai, will expect to see a vintage Dhoni uncorking some huge hits.

While the CSK batting unit has been finding the runs, the bowlers have been inconsistent and fielding below par.

'Punjab's dependency on Dhawan a major concern'

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

Punjab Kings' dependency on skipper Shikhar Dhawan is a major concern and rest of the players will have to take responsibility if they have to emerge as title contenders in the ongoing IPL, said former India spinner Harbhajan Singh.

Dhawan has scored bulk of the runs, amassing 233 in four innings with 99 not out being the highest as PBKS managed two wins and two losses under his captaincy so far.

Dhawan, however, missed their last game due to a shoulder injury, with stand-in skipper Sam Curran guiding the team to a win against Lucknow Super Giants.

"The Punjab side seems to be largely dependent on their captain Shikhar Dhawan in the batting department which is a concern," Harbhajan told Star Sports Cricket Live.



"While depending on one player, you can win two or three matches but you cannot win a tournament like IPL. The rest of Punjab players will have to support their captain and take responsibility if they wish to go forward."

Harbhajan also heaped praise on Kolkata Knight Riders batter Venkatesh Iyer, who slammed the first IPL century for his franchise in 15 years, after Brendon McCullum.

Indian men's recurve team storm into World Cup final

Antalya, Apr 20 (PTI):

India stormed into the final of the men's recurve team event for the first time in nine years after registering three wins in the ongoing Archery World Cup Stage 1, here on Thursday.

The trio of Atanu Das, B Dhiraj and Tarundeep Rai will face China in the gold medal clash on Sunday in pursuit of India's first World Cup gold medal in the men's recurve team event after 13 years.

The men's recurve team, which got a first-round bye after qualifying as the fourth seed, faced a stiff challenge to begin with as it defeated 13th seed Japan 5-4 with a 29-28 win in the shoot-off.

The Indians shot two perfect 10 from three attempts (10, 10, 9) to seal the issue in the tie-breaker after both the teams were locked 4-4 (49-52, 57-52, 54-51, 52-57) following four



sets of intense shooting. Thereafter, it was an easy sailing for the Indian trio that got past 12th seed Chinese Taipei and ninth seed Netherlands by identical 6-2 margins to set up a summit clash with second seed China. The Netherlands will take on

Netherlands who were on a high after eliminating top-seed and tournament hosts Turkey (6-0), a team that included the reigning Olympic champion Mete Gazoz. The Dutch raced to a 2-0 lead but the Indians came back strongly to win 6-2 (56-58, 57-53, 57-55, 56-54). Incidentally, it is at the same Mediterranean coastal resort of Antalya where the Indian men's recurve team had tasted its first success in a World Cup way back in 2008.

The team of Jayanta Talukdar, Rahul Banerjee and Mangal Singh Champia defeated their Malaysia rivals 218-215 en route to a maiden recurve men's team gold medal in the World Cup.

Since then, Indian men's recurve team have won five gold medals in the World Cup.

India had last won a World Cup gold medal in men's recurve team event in Shanghai in 2010.

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

The India U-17 team ran out comfortable winners against Atletico Madrid U-17 in a friendly game in Madrid on Wednesday.

Bibiano Fernandes' boys are on an exposure tour prior to the AFC U-17 Asian Championships in Thailand. They won the match 4-1.

The goals started coming in as early as the sixth minute, India starting the scoring having staved off a few Atletico attacks. Picking up a through ball on the right flank, Korou Singh Thingujam took a shot at goal to give India an early lead.

Forced on the back foot, Atletico started building up play and creating a few chances of their own only to be blocked by a stubborn Indian defence. Leading the pack was

India U-17 beat Atletico Madrid 4-1 in first friendly in Spain

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

captain Suraj Kumar Nangbam, who was always at the right place to head away or clear an in-bound cross.

Just after the half hour mark, India doubled their lead, Korou turning provider this time. The winger picked up Danny Meitei's throw-in, before crossing the ball into the box for Lalpekhlu, who slotted it in perfectly.

Atletico pulled one back in the 38th minute, Gabriel scoring from a rebound after Sahil's save off the initial attempt to keep the hosts in the game as they headed to the break. India were content to play on the counter in the second period, the team more focussed on maintaining shape, concentration and discipline off the ball. In the 59th minute, Shashwat played Korou through on goal. The latter's pass was well saved by the goalkeeper though.

Kirsten admits defending totals a worry

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

Defending champions Gujarat Titans have been struggling to defend totals this season and team's mentor Gary Kirsten has blamed it on an unsettled bowling line up.

In the five games played so far, GT won three and the two defeats have come while defending totals.

"In the last IPL we defended four and chased down six games. This year we haven't defended a total yet but it is early days in the tournament. Last year we had a settled bowling line up. This year due to injuries and guys who we bank on in crucial overs, aren't necessarily ready to



go," Kirsten said during a virtual press conference.

GT are probably missing New Zealand pacer Lockie Ferguson, who they have traded to Kolkata Knight Riders.

"Every team needs to

Nadal out of Madrid Open after slow recovery from hip injury

Madrid, Apr 20 (AP):

Rafael Nadal will miss the Madrid Open next week because his recovery from a hip injury is going much slower than expected. The 22-time Grand Slam winner has been sidelined since January by a left hip flexor injury he picked up at the Australian Open. The issue has kept him from the Indian Wells, Miami, Monte Carlo and Barcelona tournaments so far. The Madrid Open he's won five times starts on Monday.

Broadcaster paying commentator to express opinion must be accepted'

Mumbai, Apr 20 (PTI)

Rajasthan Royals and England wicketkeeper-batter Jos Buttler says if a commentator criticises a player, he is only doing his job, and that acceptance should be an integral part of any cricketer's career. "Acceptance is a big part of the job. Accepting that broadcaster pays someone to give their opinion; they are just doing their job. It is not a personal attack on me when they criticise me," Buttler told Humans of Bombay in an interview.

"And I watch other sports. I watch football and go 'oh how did he miss that?! It was so easy'. That is exactly what people are



doing when I drop a catch or go for a low score. I do exactly the same thing without realising when I watch other sports. Just acceptance," he said.

The England white-ball skipper says he always wanted to be an all-format cricketer, and not being able to perform in Test cricket is something that

still bothers him. "My strengths have always been being better ODI and T20 player. I was desperate to become an all-format player and a very successful Test cricketer. I played a lot of Test cricket in the end but never quite performed to a level quite consistently that I felt I could have achieved, and that will always be a frustration. I always want to be one of the best players in the world," he said.

Buttler, who captained England to their second ICC T20 World Cup win last year, named South African Jonty Rhodes and Australian legends Adam Gilchrist and Steve Waugh as being his inspiration in his early days.

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METRO TRIAL RUN



A Kolkata Metro train passes through a tunnel under the River Hooghly during a trial run from Howrah Maidan to Esplanade, in Kolkata, Thursday.

'India attaches special importance to SCO'

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

India attaches special importance to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in promoting dialogue on multi-dimensional political, security and economic subjects, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday.

He said this while chairing a meeting of Heads of Departments of SCO member states responsible for Prevention and Elimination of Emergency Situations in New Delhi.

He said India's priority as the chair of the SCO is to take forward the SECURE theme articulated by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi at the Qingdao Summit of the grouping in 2018.

SECURE stands S - Security, E - Economic Cooperation, C - Connectivity, U - Unity, R - Respect For Sovereignty and Integrity and E - Environment Protection.

Under the leadership of Modi, India attaches special importance to the SCO in promoting dialogue on the subject relating to multi-dimensional political, security and economic subjects, an official statement said.

Shah said India attaches special importance to disaster risk reduction and is ready to share its expertise and experience in this field for greater coopera-



Amit Shah

seen a sea change in the way its early warning systems (EWS) of drought, flood, lightning, heat wave, cold wave, cyclone, have improved.

He said the forecast not only warns India about the disaster but also predicts the potential impact it is likely to cause.

According to Shah, at the time of a natural disaster, it is of great importance how quickly the relief reaches the affected area and this speed reflects the preparedness of the team and the efficiency of their training.

He said India has been associated with the SCO since 2005 and playing an important role as an observer country, since then.

tion and mutual trust among SCO member states. He said India believes that no hazard is small or big and it does not leave anyone behind.

Shah said India now has more accurate and timely early warning system in place and the country has

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Inflow of cases too heavy: SC

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

The Supreme Court, which is hearing arguments on a batch of pleas seeking legal sanction for same-sex marriage, said on Thursday the inflow of cases in the apex court is so heavy that it is impossible to list constitution bench matters unless the time taken to argue is rationed.

Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, who is heading a five-judge constitution bench which is hearing the matter, said the chief justices before him

had not set up constitution benches because of the kind of pressure which is there in terms of the inflow of matters.

"If constitution benches really have to go on, you know, with five judges leaving their regular works.... That is why chief justices before me have not constituted constitution benches because you don't know the kind of pressure. Every evening I ask what is the filing and how much is the disposal," he said. "We don't want to add. That is the real problem in our court. The

inflow is so heavy, unless we start rationing time, you know, it is impossible to list constitution benches," said the CJI, who is heading the bench, which also comprises Justices S K Kaul, S R Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha.

At the beginning of the hearing on the same-sex marriage issue for the third successive day, a counsel handed over to the bench a list of lawyers who would argue on behalf of the petitioners along with the indicative time which they would take. The CJI said

the petitioners' side will have to conclude their submissions by the end of the day as the court has to give sufficient time to the other side as well.

"You know, if I am having a very long telephonic conversation, my better half only does this to me, which is, please now get on with your work and stop the conversation," Justice Chandrachud said in a lighter vein and asked senior advocate A M Singhvi, who was to argue for one of the petitioners, to continue with his submissions.

Prez Murmu visits Indian Institute of Advanced Study

Shimla, Apr 20 (PTI):

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday visited the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) here, an official statement said. Murmu arrived here on Tuesday on a four-day visit. She is staying at the 'Rashtrapati Niwas' in Mashobra. Murmu visited the picture gallery, library, protected offices and courtyard of the main building of the institute, the statement said. Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla accompanied the president, it said. Shashiprabha Kumar, chairperson of the institute, Nageswar Rao, vice chancellor of IGNOU, New Delhi and director of the institute, Shailendra Raj Mehta, vice chairman, and Subrat Kumar Pradhan, secretary welcomed the president on her arrival.

Amritpal Singh's wife prevented from going to UK

Amritsar, Apr 20 (PTI):

Fugitive radical preacher Amritpal Singh's wife Kirandeep Kaur was stopped from boarding a flight to London at the Sri Guru Ram Dass International Airport here, sources said on Thursday.

She was questioned by the immigration authorities and some other officials for more than three hours and thereafter, asked to return along with some relatives who had come to see her off at the airport.

Singh married Kaur, a UK-based Non-Resident Indian, on February 10. Kaur, who is a British citizen, reached the airport at around 12 noon to board the flight to London but was stopped by the immigration staff and later, the Punjab Police was informed.

According to reports, she was stopped at the airport as there was a lookout circular (LoC) issued against her; however, there was no official word on it. Punjab Police officials too refused

to share any information about the incident. The Air India flight for London took off at its scheduled time of 1.20 pm. Kaur was going to the UK for the first time after her marriage.

More than a month after a police crackdown against Singh and his aides, the radical preacher continues to remain elusive even as a manhunt to nab him is underway. Police launched the crackdown against Singh and members of his outfit 'Waris Punjab De' on March 18.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

'Climate change impede India's progress'

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

Heat waves made more likely by climate change may impede India's progress towards its sustainable development goals, according to a study. India has committed to achieving 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including no poverty, good health and well being, and decent work and economic growth.

However, researchers at the University of Cambridge, UK, and colleagues suggests that current climate vulnerability assessments may not fully capture how heat waves linked to climate change may impact SDG progress.

"This study shows that heat waves make more Indian states vulnerable to climate change than previously estimated with

the CVI," the authors of the study said.

"The heat waves in India and the Indian subcontinent become recurrent and long-lasting, it is high time that climate experts and policymakers reevaluate the metrics for assessing the country's climate vulnerability," they said.

The study, published in the journal PLOS Climate, evaluated India's heat index (HI) with its climate vulnerability index (CVI), a composite index using various indicators to account for socioeconomic, livelihood, and biophysical factors.

The team accessed a publicly available dataset on state-level climate vulnerability indicators from the Indian Government's National Data & Analytics Platform to classify severity categories.

They then compared India's progress in SDG over 20 years (2001-2021) with extreme weather-related mortality from 2001-2021.

The researchers found that heat waves have weakened SDG progress more than previously estimated and that current assessment metrics may not sufficiently capture the nuances of India's vulnerabilities to climate change impacts.

For instance, in estimating HI, the study shows that nearly 90 per cent of the country is in danger zone from heat wave impacts.

According to the CVI, about 20 per cent of the country is highly vulnerable to climate change.

Similar effects were observed for the national capital, where HI estimates show almost all of

Delhi is threatened by severe heat wave impacts, which is not reflected in its recent state action plan for climate change, the researchers said.

However, this study had several limitations, for example the incongruent timeframe for CVI data (2019-2020) and heat index data (2022).

Future studies should incorporate more recent data, the researchers said. The study offers a scope for developing a holistic vulnerability measure through international cooperation and partnership.

"Heat waves are getting more intense in India, putting 80 per cent of the country's people in danger, which remains unaccounted for in its current climate vulnerability assessment," the researchers said.

EXPERTS OPINE

India's large villages at risk of losing out on development

Due to 'rural' tag

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

India, the most populous country, will continue to live in its villages till the 2050s, even as a number of rural settlements now have more population than that required for them to be called a town, putting them at risk of missing out on growth opportunities, experts said on Thursday.

With the latest Census exercise being delayed due to the Covid pandemic, available data from the 2011 Census shows there are 23,335 villages with a population of over 5,000, but continue to be in the category of villages as they do not fulfill other criteria, standing at a risk of missing on programmes meant for

urban centres, they said. In India, a settlement is considered urban if it has a population of over 5,000, density of population is at least 400 people per sq km, and at least 75 per cent of the population must be involved in non-agricultural activities. The number of people living in centres with a population over 5,000 is over 23.5 per cent of the total rural population.

"India does still live in its villages demographically, even though we don't have definitive data because the 2021 Census has not been conducted. It is highly probable that India will still be living in its villages demographically till the 2050s, but it has been predominantly urban economically since the late 1990s," said Aromar Revi, Director, Indian Institute

for Human Settlements (IHS), an interdisciplinary national university focused on urbanisation.

"India uses a three-tier urban classification using density, population size and percentage of male non-agricultural workers. There are many issues with these criteria in the middle of a massive urban transition, which a number of researchers have identified, but even with changes in those definitions, India as an aggregate still lives in its villages," he told PTI.

According to the latest UN data, India has become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people. However, while more people live in villages, Indian cities already contribute to an estimated two-thirds of

India's GDP, and this number is expected to rise to 75 per cent by 2031. At the same time, around 70 per cent of all new jobs are expected to come from urban areas, shows data of the Urban Development Ministry.

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BRIEF



A labourer winnows wheat grain during the harvesting season at a grain market on the outskirts of Amritsar, Thursday.

Judgment

Mumbai: Almost ten years after she was found dead at her home, a special CBI court here is likely to pass its judgment on April 28 in the Bollywood actor Jiah Khan suicide case in which her boyfriend and film star Suraj Pancholi has been charged for abetment. Special CBI Judge AS Sayyad on Thursday heard the final arguments of both sides and reserved his judgment in the case.

Safety

New Delhi: India on Thursday said the ground situation in Sudan is very "tense" and it is in touch with various countries with a key focus on ensuring the safety of Indians in the violence-hit country. Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Arindam Bagchi said India is keeping a close watch on developments in Sudan. He said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is expected to meet the UN Secretary-General in New York on the situation in Sudan.

Mishap

Arvalli: At least four workers were charred to death after a blaze broke out in a firecracker godown near Modasa town in Gujarat's Aravalli district on Thursday evening, officials said. Charred bodies of four workers were recovered from the scene, Arvalli Superintendent of Police Sanjay Kharat said. A local fire department official said that efforts are underway to control the blaze.

Busted

Medinagar: The police have busted a gang of bike lifters in Palamu and Latehar districts with the arrest of six people and the recovery of over 24 stolen motorcycles. The arrest and recovery of the stolen bikes were made during a special drive launched in Latehar and Palamu districts on Wednesday, Additional Superintendent of Police Rishab Garg said.

Revive

New Delhi: The MCD has taken up the work to revive three small water bodies in east Delhi with large-scale landscaping and rejuvenation, officials said on Thursday. The three water bodies each cover an area of not more than an acre. There are around 20 water bodies in the national capital that will be restored under the first phase of the Mission Amrit Sarovar, they said.

Weather
High 39 Low 25

MARKET
NIFTY 17,624.45
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BULLION
GOLD 60,570
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TROUBLE FOR RAHUL

Court refuses to stay conviction

Surat, Apr 20 (PTI):

A court in Gujarat's Surat city on Thursday rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's application for a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

The court of additional sessions judge R P Mogera rejected Gandhi's plea for stay on conviction which, if allowed, could have paved the way for his reinstatement as the Member of Parliament (MP).

While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hailed the Surat court's decision as a "victory" of the judiciary and the people, the Congress said it will continue to avail all options still available under the law.

Gandhi's lawyer Kirit Panwala said the sessions court's order will be challenged in Gujarat High Court. He also said the sessions court has set May 20 as the date to begin hearing on his appeal against the lower court's March 23 order. On



BJP leader and plaintiff Purnesh Modi with lawyers at Surat District Court during hearing of a criminal defamation case filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his alleged 'Modi surname' remark, in Surat, Thursday.

Rahul to move HC

Congress senior spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said they would move the High Court "very shortly" as the judgement is "fallacious" and contrary to all basic principles of law. "A most unfortunate and unsustainable legal decision of the magistrate has been upheld in an even more unsustainable and erroneous judgement of the Sessions court given today. The conviction has been upheld contrary to all basic elementary principles of law," Singhvi told reporters at a press conference. "Let me assure you that the judgement will be challenged in accordance with law in the very near future," he said.

April 3, Gandhi's lawyer filed two applications along with his main ap-

Victory of people, judiciary: BJP

The BJP Thursday hailed the Surat court's decision to reject Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's plea for a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case as a "victory" of the judiciary and the people. Hitting out at the Congress, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "The court's decision is a blow to the arrogance of the Gandhi family, especially Rahul Gandhi." It also proves that the law is equal for everyone, he said at a press conference here. A court in Gujarat's Surat city on Thursday rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's application for a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

peal against the lower court's order sentencing him to two years in jail, one for bail and another for stay on conviction pending his appeal.

Three tribal girls gang-raped

Bhawanipatna, Apr 20 (PTI):

Three teenage tribal girls were allegedly gang-raped in Odisha's Kalahandi district when they were returning home after watching jatra, police said on Thursday. The incident happened on the night of April 16, but a complaint was filed at the Bijepur police station on Wednesday evening after tribal leaders decided to report the matter to the police as the accused are from a different community.

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5 soldiers killed as terrorists ambush army vehicle

Poonch, Apr 20 (PTI):

Five army personnel were killed after terrorists ambushed their vehicle in Poonch area of Jammu and Kashmir taking advantage of heavy rains and low visibility, officials said on Thursday. Another soldier was seriously injured in the incident and was evacuated immediately to the Army Hospital at Rajouri, they said. "On Thursday, at approximately 1500 hours, one Army vehicle, moving be-



tween Bhimber Gali and Poonch in the Rajouri sector was fired on by unidentified terrorists, taking advantage of heavy rains and low visibility in the area. The vehicle caught fire, due to likely use of grenades by terrorists," the Northern Command Headquarters

said in a statement. It said the five deceased personnel belonged to the Rashtriya Rifles Unit and were deployed for counterterrorist operations in the area. Operations are in progress to trace the perpetrators, the statement said, adding further details are being ascertained. Earlier, a Jammu-based defence spokesperson had said the soldiers were killed after their vehicle caught fire while moving from Bhimber Gali to Sangiot in Poonch.

Three children drown in pond



Jagdalpur, Apr 20:

Three children drowned in a pond in Bastar district on Thursday afternoon, a police official said.

The incident took place in Nagarnar, some 20 kilometres from here, and the deceased have been identified as Priyanshu Kashyap (8), Pramod Goel (9) and Vikki Besra (8). They are residents of Durga Chpwk area and it seems they went into Gondimuda pond to get relief from the scorching sun. They were taken to a hospital in Jagdalpur where doctors declared them dead on arrival.

About the mishap

The incident took place in Nagarnar, some 20 kilometres from here, and the deceased have been identified as Priyanshu Kashyap (8), Pramod Goel (9) and Vikki Besra (8). They are residents of Durga Chpwk area and it seems they went into Gondimuda pond to get relief from the scorching sun. They were taken to a hospital in Jagdalpur where doctors declared them dead on arrival.

hospital in Jagdalpur where doctors declared them dead on arrival," he said. A case has been registered and probe into the incident is underway, the official added.

Bride, groom and 10 kin suffer burn injuries in attack

With 'acid-like' substance

Jagdalpur, Apr 20 (PTI):

A bride, her groom and their 10 relatives suffered from burn injuries after an unidentified person allegedly threw an "acid-like" substance on them during the wedding function in a village in Bastar district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Wednesday evening in Chhote Amabal village under Bhanpur police station limits when the wedding ceremony was underway, an official said. Groom Damrudhar Baghel (25), bride Sunita Kahsyap (19) and 10 others received minor burns.

About the incident

As per preliminary information, during the marriage at the bride's house, the power supply went off and someone taking advantage of the darkness allegedly threw an "acid-like" substance on the bride and the groom who were sitting in the 'mandap', causing them a burning sensation, the official said. The family members who were sitting around them also came in contact with the liquid. The incident took place on Wednesday evening in Chhote Amabal village under Bhanpur police station limits when the wedding ceremony was underway. Groom Damrudhar Baghel (25), bride Sunita Kahsyap (19) and 10 others received minor burns.

Cop injured while trying to defuse IED

Bijapur, Apr 20:

A policeman was injured when an improvised explosive device (IED), suspected to have been planted by Maoists, exploded while he was trying to defuse it in Bijapur district on Thursday, police said.

This is the third such incident in Bijapur district in the last 22 days.

The latest incident took place near Bangapal village under Nelasnar police station limits when a police team was out on area domination operation, an official said.

During patrolling, the team detected an IED, suspected to have been planted by Maoists, three kilo-

meters ahead of Bangapal, he said. When the IED was being neutralised, it exploded, leaving jawan Sitaram Kudiya injured, he said. The injured jawan was shifted to a local hospital and after preliminary treatment, he was being shifted to the district hospital in neighbouring Dantewada for further medication, the official said.

Earlier on April 17, a District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawan received injuries in a similar incident near Bade Tungali village. On March 30, member of CRPF's Bomb Disposal Squad suffered injuries while trying to defuse an IED in Nelasnar area in Bijapur district.

HOLY DIP



Devotees take holy dip in Ganga river on the occasion of Amavasya at Har ki Pouri in Haridwar, Thursday.

Excise Policy case: Sisodia kingpin of conspiracy

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

The CBI Thursday claimed before the Delhi High Court that former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, arrested in connection with the excise policy scam case, is involved in commission of grave economic offences and is key to unravelling the modus operandi of the crime.

The submissions were made by the CBI in a short written reply while opposing the senior AAP leader's bail plea, which it said was devoid of any

merit and was an attempt to misuse the intricacies of law to thwart the progress of investigation in the case. While the CBI contended that Sisodia is the "kingpin and architect of the conspiracy" and his influence and clout disentitle him to any parity with the co-accused enlarged on bail, the AAP leader urged the high court to grant him bail claiming no money trail linking him to the proceeds of alleged crime has been found. His lawyers had sought parity for him with other accused who have got the

relief and said Sisodia is not in a position to influence the witnesses in the case or tamper with evidence.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma, after hearing the arguments of Sisodia's lawyers, fixed April 26 for submissions by CBI counsel. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had arrested Sisodia for alleged corruption in formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 on February 26 following several rounds of questioning.

Assam, Arunachal sign border pact to end disputes

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

The Assam and the Arunachal Pradesh governments on Thursday signed an agreement in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah here to resolve their decades old border disputes.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu signed the agreement. Assam and Arunachal Pradesh share an 804.1-km-long border. The two states have been in discussions to resolve the border dispute with Sarma and Khandu signing the Namsai Declaration on July 15 last year wherein they had pledged to find a solution



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma (L) and Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu during signing of the boundary agreement between the two states, in New Delhi, Thursday.

soon. Officials said the two states decided to resolve the dispute in 123 villages. Shah termed the border agreement as a "historic" event and said it ended decades long disputes. Sarma said the deal is a "big and successful" mo-

NARODA GAM RIOTS CASE Gujarat court acquits all 67 accused

Including ex-BJP minister Kodnani

Ahmedabad, Apr 20 (PTI):

A special court in Gujarat on Thursday acquitted all the 67 accused, including former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) minister Maya Kodnani, in the 2002 Naroda Gam riots case in which 11 people were killed.

The Ahmedabad-based court of S K Baxi, special judge for SIT cases, acquitted all the accused in one of the major post-Godhra riots cases which was probed by a Supreme-Court appointed Special Investigation Team.

21 yrs, 6 trial judges.....

More than two decades after 11 Muslim community members were killed in the post-Godhra riots in Ahmedabad's Naroda Gam, a special court here on Thursday acquitted all the 67 accused in the case, including former Gujarat minister Maya Kodnani and ex-Bajrang Dal leader Babu Bajrangji. The Ahmedabad-based court of S K Baxi, special judge for Special Investigation Team (SIT) cases, acquitted all the accused in one of the worst massacres witnessed during the state-wide riots triggered by the Sabarmati train carnage on February 27, 2002. The Naroda Gam case was probed by a Supreme Court-appointed SIT. A detailed court order was awaited. Soon after the brief verdict was announced, some of the accused raised slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' outside the court. Those acquitted include former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) minister in the Gujarat government Kodnani (67), former VHP leader Jaydeep Patel and ex-Bajrang Dal leader Babu Bajrangji. There were a total of 86 accused in the case, of which 18 died during the pendency of the trial, while one was discharged by the court earlier under section 169 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) due to insufficient evidence against him.

Those acquitted include Kodnani, former VHP leader Jaydeep Patel and ex-Bajrang Dal leader Babu Bajrangji. There were a total of 86 accused in the case, of which 18 died during pen-

dency of the trial, while one was discharged earlier by the court.

The accused were facing charges under Indian Penal Code Sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting armed with deadly weapons), 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy), and 153 (provocation for riots), among others.

Eleven persons were killed in communal violence in Naroda Gam area of Ahmedabad city on February 28, 2002, during a bandh called to protest the Godhra train burning a day before in which 58 passengers, mostly kar sevaks returning from Ayodhya, were killed.

One day training workshop on Annual Industry Survey organised

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: National Statistical Office (Field Operations Division), Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Government of India, Sub Regional Office, Durg organised Camp for the purpose of training and cooperation for self-filling of annual industry survey returns on the web portal for the units selected in the annual industry survey, on April 19 at the Conference Hall of a hotel in Durg.

The program was inaugurated and lamp was lit by the Chief Guest, National Statistics Office, Deputy Director General of Western Zone, Nagpur, RC Gautam. The program was presided over by Roshan Lal Sahu, Deputy Director General, National Statistical Office, Raipur.

Representatives of various industrial associations and industrial units of Durg, Rajnandgaon, Balod, Bemetara and Kabirdham districts participated in the camp. While presiding over the programme, Roshan Lal Sahu, Deputy Director General, highlighting the purpose of organising this camp, said that according to the Statistics Collection Act 2008 and the rules made under it in 2011, the annual industry survey is conducted every year by the National Statistics Office. From which the data obtained is used for estimation of national income, study of industrial structure, plan formulation and policy - making for industrial development.

Along with this, data related to capital, employment and unemployment,



value added, labour, turnover, fuel and raw material, input - output etc are collected. This information is used to assess the contribution of the industrial sector to the GDP and for policy - making for industrial development. Sahu urged the representatives of the present industrial units to submit (self-compile) all the information in the return on

the web portal. The chief guest of the program RC Gautam, Deputy Director General, Zonal Office, Nagpur, gave information about the Annual Industry Survey as well as various other surveys being conducted by the National Statistics Office. He asked the representatives of the present units to make efforts to e-compile, and also in-

formed about the provisions of the Statistics Collection Act. He gave information regarding Definition, concept and procedure for filing Annual Industry Survey return.

Along with this, he guided the units to complete the return by contacting the senior statistics officers of the local office in case of any difficul-

ties in self-compiling the return. Ravi Gupta, President of Borai Industrial Association, present in the program, said that he will encourage more and more units to submit self-compile returns in future and will make all possible efforts for this important work. On this occasion, President of Durg Industrial Area Sushil

Bakliwal also expressed his views. Durg Industrial State Association Durg, Chhattisgarh Devbhog Milk Federation, Urla, Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited Bhilai Unit, Vishnu Chemicals Limited Bhilai, JK Laxmi Cement (II), Essel Projects, Simplex Engineering & Foundry Works Private Limited, Danteshwari Maiya Sahakari Sugar Factory Mahayadi Balod, ACC Ltd, A k s h a y a p a t r a Foundation, VNR Seeds, Abis Export Pvt Ltd, Uniwebs Sleepers Pvt Ltd Dongargarh, Sunshine Rubber Products & Conveyors Pvt Ltd, Yugbodh Digital Prints, Rajendra Traders, Kamal Solvent Rajnandgaon units also participated. At the end of the inaugural session, RK Srivastava, Senior

Statistics Officer expressed his gratitude to the representatives and officers of all industrial organizations present in the programme. George Minz, Assistant Director, National Statistical Office, Raipur and Officers-in-Charge PL Sonwani, RK Srivastava

and OP Sahu, Senior Statistics Officer along with Sub Regional Office, Durg Senior Statistics Officer and In-charge A Malik, CPS Markam, Yasin Ali, Vijay Kumar Rakhonde, Senior Statistics Officer attended the Camp.

In the second session of the programme, OP Sahu, Roshan Kumar Vijay Kumar Rakhonde, Senior Statistics Officer, trained the representatives of industrial organizations to Self-Compile the returns on the web portal.

Collector asks officials to inspect polling booths

- More officials to be deployed for socio-economic survey
- Strict action to be taken against illegal mining and plotting

Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena spoke about resolution of pending applications in ERONET, physical verification of polling stations, information about minimum as-

sured facilities in polling stations, names of polling stations, building or site changes, location of polling stations and critical and sensitive voter centers. The Collector ordered the officials to visit the spot for physical verification of the polling station. He asked the officials to clearly follow the guidelines given by the Election Commission and in case of change of venue of the polling station, the newly selected venue should be kept within a radius of 2 kilometers according to voter access facility.

He also asked to improve basic facilities like electricity, drinking water, toilet, ramp etc in the booths. The Collector sought information from the Municipal Commissioners regarding the vending zone to be



built in the urban body areas. He discussed with the concerned officials the figures of carts, street vendors and kiosks in the city. He asked the concerned officials of the urban bodies to cross-check the figures of the vendors.

The Collector also discussed with the concerned officials about the socio-economic survey which started from 1st April. He asked to add more people to the teams

to complete the work in the stipulated time. Along with this, in the villages where the cluster teams are in their final stage i.e. those which have completed more than 90 percent survey work; will be linked with other teams so that the target could be achieved before the deadline.

At present, 75 percent of the survey work has been completed in District Panchayat Durg, Patan and Dhamdha. Apart from

this, revenue matters were discussed in the meeting, in which mainly the ownership plan was discussed. The Collector asked for information regarding survey and mapping.

Apart from this, the Collector said that in order to curb the cases related to illegal mining, the complaint related to the excavation of sand and mud will be registered by Kotwar in the concerned revenue officer and the nearest police station. He

also asked the revenue officials to take a tough stand against illegal plotting.

Additional Collector Arvind Ekka, Additional Collector Padmani Bhoi, Commissioner of Bhilai Municipal Corporation Rohit Vyas, District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Dewangan, Joint Collector Praveen Verma, Joint Collector Yogita Dewangan, Joint Collector Vinay Soni, SDM Durg Mukesh Rawte, SDM Dhamdha Brijesh Singh Kshatriya, Durg Municipal Corporation Commissioner Lokesh Chandra Kar, Commissioner of Risali Municipal Corporation Ashish Dewangan, Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Bhilai Charoda Ajay Tripathi and other officers were present.

BTITA provides monetary assistance for marriage of girls



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: Basant Kumar Gendre, a member of Bhilai Truck Trailer Transport Association, is a driver by profession. The office bearers of the organization provided monetary assistance of Rs 25000 for his daughter's marriage. Basant Kumar thanked BTITA Patron Achal Bhatia and President Inderjeet Singh Chhotu for helping his family. Another member Pappu Prasad is also a driver by profession.

He is working in Bhilai as a driver for the last 30 years. BTITA provided monetary assistance of Rs 25000 for the marriage of his daughter.

Pappu Prasad said that this initiative is very good. He added that such noble work should be done in other organisations also.

Patron of Bhilai Truck Trailer Transport Association, Achal Bhatia, President Inderjeet Singh Chhotu, General Secretary Malkit Singh, media in-charge Gokul Sharma, Nirmla Singh, Executive President Anil Chaudhary, Joga Rao, Sandeep Singh, Dilip Khatwani, Sudhir Singh, Mahendra Singh, Pappi, Shah Nawaz Sanu, Rijju Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Anand Singh, Amit Singh, Sonu, Moni, Baljinder Singh (Billa), Raman and other members were present.

Durg stands second in disposal of revenue case

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: Prior to the weekly TL meeting, Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena takes a review meeting of revenue officers whereby he orders the concerned officers to follow the revenue process and take action according to the rules for disposal of the cases. As a result of this constant monitoring, the number of pending revenue cases in the district has decreased rapidly.

In the last 03 months, 15300 cases of undisputed name transfer cases, 705 cases of undisputed account division, 1761 cases of disputed nomination, 337 cases of disputed

account division, 1669 cases of diversion and 2307 cases of demarcation have been resolved in the revenue courts of the district.

As on April 19, 2023, a total of 9646 cases are pending in the above mentioned areas within the time limit, for which instructions have been given to resolve the same within the time limit. Along with this, all the cases have been compulsorily registered in the e-court and instructions have been given to settle them and update the hearing dates. The online update of all the cases registered in the e-court of Durg district is 86 percent, which is second in the state.

The Collector has directed the officers to resolve the number of remaining pending cases including the newly registered cases as soon as possible. He has given the officials a target of 100 percent disposal of new and pending revenue cases.

For the convenience of the applicants and the general public, information about the date of demarcation for disposal of demarcation cases registered in the revenue courts under the district is being uploaded on the website of the district for the convenience of the applicants and the general public, which the general public can observe from time to time.

Bhilai should be declared Steel City, demands HMS

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: National Vice President of Steel Metal and Engineering Workers Federation of India and President of Bhilai Shramik Sabha (HMS) HS Mishra informed that Bhilai Shramik Sabha (HMS) has sent a letter to the SAIL Chairman through the IR department of Bhilai Steel Plant.

The letter was handed over to Rohit Harit, Senior Manager (IR). Several significant demands of the employees of Bhilai Steel Plant were prominently raised

through this letter.

The union demanded that Bhilai should be declared as Steel City to get rid of increasing political interference and encroachment in Bhilai Steel Plant and its township.

To improve the medical standard in the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Center, specialist doctors should be recruited so that all medical equipment and resources available in the hospital can be fully utilized.

The union also demanded to recruit paramedical staff and nursing staff. In view of the

retirement of a large number of workers from 2024 to 2027, new recruitment should be done for sufficient posts. Free education should be provided to the children of regular and retired employees of the Plant in the school and college running on the land and buildings of Bhilai Steel Plant.

The union further demanded that 39 months arrears (From 01 January 2017 till date) of wage revision should be provided to the regular employees of SAIL and full arrears till the date of retirement should be provided to the employ-

ees who have retired after 01/01/2017. Similar to the Steel Club and Bhilai Club in Bhilai Township, at least two clubs, with facilities of swimming pool and trainer, should be constructed for the entertainment of the non-executive workers.

HS Mishra further informed that a copy of this letter has been sent to the Director Incharge of Bhilai Steel Plant - Anirban Dasgupta, National President of Steel Metal and Engineering Workers Federation of India - SD Tyagi and National General Secretary -

Sanjay S Wadhavkar. Along with this, they requested the Federation leaders to meet the SAIL President during their stay in Delhi and try to get the above demands fulfilled as soon as possible.

Prem Singh Chandel (National Organization Secretary of Steel Metal and Engineering Workers Federation of India and Acting President (Bhilai Shramik Sabha), Devendra Kumar Singh (National Executive Member, SMEFI), G Jogendra Rao (senior leader, HMS) and Prakash were present.

TBSI celebrates Ambedkar Jayanti with zeal

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: The Buddhist Society of India (TBSI), Budh Vihar Sector 6, Bhilai, celebrated the 132nd birth anniversary of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar with great enthusiasm. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel graced the function as Chief Guest. He lighted lamps and offered floral tributes at the portrait of Dr Ambedkar.

Members of the committee accorded a grand welcome to the Chief Minister. In his address, CM expressed his gratitude to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. He added that the country would run only with the Constitution made by Babasaheb. Baghel said that he became the Chief Minister only after taking a pledge to protect the constitution for democracy

and social harmony. He announced Rs 25 lakhs for the construction of the huge Budh Vihar and also assured cooperation in the future.

In her welcome speech, President Varsha Bagde spoke about the objectives of The Buddhist Society of India and detailed about the estimated cost of Buddha Vihar construction work and programme being conducted by Vihar for Dharma and social work.

She demanded Rs 1 crore from the government for construction of Vihar. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, MLA Devendra Yadav and Mayor Neeraj Pal also addressed the gathering. Trustee of the Buddhist



Society of India - SR Kande, Central Organizer CL Maheshwari, State President of Women Empowerment Association - Pragya Kande, State Vice President - Meena Nanavare, Divisional Commissioner Mahadev

Kawre, Apex Bank MD - KN Kande, Bright Association President - Baleshwar Choure, Additional Collector - Surendra Vaidya, Dr JP Meshram, Dr Uday Dhabarde, Umakant Sukhdeve, Sushil Gajbhiye, FC Borkar, Narendra Khobragade,

Anand Nikose, Asha Julme, Senior Vice President - Jeevan Suryavanshi, Treasurer - Narendra Shende, Accountant - Ajay Ramteke, Vice President - KK Chauhan, Nirmala Gajbhiye, Secretary - Amit Gajbhiye, Lata Meshram, Danshila Ramteke, Usha Meshram, Sangeeta Dhabarede, Sujata Chauhan, Nilima Ramteke, Kavita Rangari, Kavita Wankhede, Savita Wasnik, Subhash Gajbhiye,

Yashwant Ramteke, Raman Gajbhiye, Dinesh Kapade, Rajkumar Gadpayle, Kapil Tabhane, Satyam Gajbhiye, Rahul Chaurse, Shweta Tirpude and others were present. Rajni Rajak cooped the programme. Office Secretary

Arun Vaidya, General Secretary Sudesh Kumar Ramteke and Vice President Deepak Wasnik assisted in conducting the programme, Trustee SR Kande proposed the vote of thanks and demanded to establish Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Auditorium in all the districts of Chhattisgarh.

Professor Laxman Yadav, who came from Delhi, delivered the keynote address. Bhim Jwala Musical Nights of Rahat Olekar from Maharashtra staged musical programmes which continued till the night. Baleshwar Chaurse had made the arrangements of food while Rekha Nandeshwar had made arrangements of water. TBSI expressed gratitude towards all those who directly or indirectly supported in organising the programme.

Team constituted to prevent child marriage on Akshya Tritiya

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 20: On the upcoming auspicious occasion of Akshya Tritiya the district administration is all set to prevent child marriages that are usually conducted in both urban and rural area often due to ignorance, illiteracy and misconceptions. To curb this social ill a joint team that includes members from Women and Child Development Department, Police Department, Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee, Child Line - has been constituted.

Here it needs a mention that the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 prohibits the marriage of a boy below the age of 21 years and a girl below the age of 18 years. If a man below the age of 21 years marries a girl below the age of 18 years, he shall be punished with rigorous im-

prisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both. Any person who causes, performs or aids child marriage shall be punished and any person who promotes or knowingly permits child marriage, participates in child marriage shall also be punished. No woman can be punished with imprisonment.

Child marriage is a social evil and a legal crime and to make the general public aware of the consequences of child marriage and if any person is aware of child marriage, the Women and Child Development Department (Phone No. - 0788-2213363, 23237047) Child Line (1098), Project Office, Police Department (112,100), Women Helpline (181) Ward level and Panchayat level Child Protection Committee can be contacted.

Negligence in street light maintenance work comes to fore

Show-cause notice to commissioner of Chirmiri Municipal Corporation



Raipur, Apr 20:

Taking note of gross negligence on part of vendor EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) in street light maintenance in urban bodies of the state the Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr Shivkumar Daharia instructed the concerned departmental officers to drop EESL with immediate effect. In a review meeting of the departmental work here today he also directed to issue a show-cause notice

to the Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Chirmiri and suspend the Chief Municipal Officer of Bade Bachel for negligence in the implementation of government schemes. In view of the onset of summer season focus should be laid on providing basic facilities to the citizens, Daharia said, adding that all necessary arrangements should be strengthened to provide pure drinking water to the people and the use of tankers should be reduced and water should be supplied

through tankers only when required. During review of the implementation of state government's ambitious scheme 'Shi Dhanwantari Medical Store', the Minister said that the scheme was launched on the initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel with the objective of providing medicines to the people of the state at cheap prices. He called for promotion of Dhanwantari Medical Store in a bid to provide its benefits to maximum people. He also inquired about works of medical

mobile unit and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, works under Amrit Mission Yojana. The meeting was attended by Dr Ayyaz Tamboli, Special Secretary, Urban Administration and Development Department, Director Urban Administration, Remigius Ekka, State Urban Development Agency CEO Saumil Ranjan Choubey, Commissioners of all Municipal Corporations and Chief Municipal Officers of the Municipal Council.

CM extends greeting on National Public Relations Day

Raipur, Apr 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel extended greetings to the people involved in public relations on National Public Relations Day which falls on April 21.

He said that Public Relations is an effective medium to convey information to the public in both government and private sectors. Public Relations is an important tool that makes the administration more reliable, and transparent, thereby empowering good governance.

Public relations plays an important role in strengthening democracy by providing correct information to the people and making them aware of misleading or fake news.

Cooled Radiofrequency for Pain Management in AIIMS-R

● State-of-the-art machine will ease life for osteoarthritis of knee, hip and frozen shoulder Patients

Raipur, Apr 20:

A state-of-the-art machine equipped with cooled radiofrequency has started functioning in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur. The new machine will ease those suffering from common ailments including osteoarthritis of knee, hip, frozen shoulder, slipped disc & low backache, and facial pain.

Director Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar said that this innovative approach to pain management offers a non-surgical option for patients suffering from chronic and cancer pain. Radiofrequency ablation uses heat by radio waves to destroy nerve fibers that transmit pain signals.

According to Prof. Nandkishore Agrawal,



particularly helpful to those who are aged, have health related issues or pain location and could not get surgery, he said.

The introduction of radiofrequency ablation at AIIMS Raipur demonstrates the department's commitment to providing patients with the latest and most effective treatments for chronic pain. Patients interested in learning more about this innovative procedure are encouraged to contact the department to schedule a consultation with one of the pain management specialists.

Cong to hold interviews for selection of Speaker

From April 20-30; through 'Cong-ki-Awaz' in districts



Raipur, Apr 20:

Meeting of members of 'Vakta Chayan Samiti' (Speaker Selection Committee) of PCC was held at Rajiv Bhavan head office here on Thursday. In the meeting it was decided that from April 22 to 30, it is by inviting people associated with party ideology and those from DCC, YC, Mahila Congress and NSUI, Sewa Dal, and other cells of PCC will be invited and would be interviewed for the said post.

In every district there will be minimum of 10 speakers of the party and maximum there is no limit and this list would be submitted to the party hq's. Among the party's speakers selected, opinion will be taken from them about the schemes of the Chhattisgarh state government; breaking of promises by the Modi government; unemployment in Chhattisgarh compared to unemployment rate of the Centre; corruption in Modi's govt; Misutilisation of central agencies; inflation; Congress contribution in

India's re-development; party's contribution in Independence struggle, conspiracy to stop existence of constitutional firms in the Modi-led government at the Centre; condition of farmers in the state V/s those in Chhattisgarh.

Meeting was attended by Sushil Anand Shukla, member Dhananjay Singh Thakur, Ghanshyam Raju, Vikas Tiwari, Abhaynarayan Rai, Subodh Haritwal, Ajay Sahu, Sandeep Sahu, Surendra Verma, Sharik Raees Khan, Shashi Bhagat, Vibhor Singh, Nitin Bhansali, Gitesh Gandhi, Amit Shrivastava, Prakashmani Vaishnav, Satyaprakash Singh, Vijay Baghel, Vandana Rajput, Ajay Gangwani and others.

Extend the benefit of NPCDCS progr to maximum number of people: Sandipan

Raipur, Apr 20: Director of National Health Mission Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan reviewed the NPCDCS program (National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke). In the review meeting held at Swasthya Bhawan, Nava Raipur he instructed the officials of the health department to take the benefits of the NPCDCS programme to maximum number of people at the district and development block level. Sandipan motivated them to continue the good work by awarding the districts which have done excellent work in screening, re-screening, diagnosis of diabetes and diagnosis of high blood pressure at the district and block level. He presented insignia and certificates to the officers. Dr Netram Navratana, Deputy Director, NPCDCS, Dr Sumi Jain, NCD State Programme Coordinator, Nodal Officers and Assistant District Nodal Officers of all the districts were present in the review meeting.

Maximum number of free-hold cases resolved in Raipur district

Raipur, Apr 20:

Raipur has become the only district in the state in sorting out highest number of free-hold cases under the guidance of Collector Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and implementing the order of Revenue and Disaster Management Department.

According to the information received from Mrs. Shimmi Nahid, Officer-in-Charge of Nazool branch of Raipur district, Raipur district has been performing excellently in the entire state in the ambitious plan of the government to settle the encroached land in urban areas and provide land ownership rights to permanent tenants. The government has received revenue of crores of rupees.

A total of 1863 cases were disposed of by providing land

ownership rights to government patta holders (lessees) in the form of free-hold as per the plan of the government. Government received Rs 38 crore 31 lakh 33 thousand 242 as free-hold amount at the rate of 2 percent of the prevailing guide line rate on these cases.

Similarly, an amount of Rs 5 crore 92 lakh 33 thousand 5 was received by the government in the form of Nazool land rent and other cess. A total of Rs 8 crore 15 lakh 38 thousand 849 has been received by the government in this form of 152 percent of the collector guide line rate with resolution of 45 cases of rehabilitation of encroachers.

This way Raipur district has deposited Rs 52 crore 39 lakh 5 thousand 96 in treasury by sorting out highest number of cases.

Three nabbed in illegal sale of liquor

● From shops and restaurant illegally

Raipur, Apr 20:



In case of illegal sale of liquor from shops and restaurants, three owners of the shop have been taken into arrest. As per information in this regard, anti-crime and cyber crime unit of police got tip from an informer that liquor is being illegally sold by the shop owner in Gram Gatapar under Abhanpur thana area. On this Addl SP Crime Abhishekh Maheshwari directed Anti-Crime and Cyber Crime to nab the ac-



cused red-handed. So combined team of anti-crime, cyber crime and Thana Abhanpur was formed and they raided the shops in Gatapar as per information. During the raid the shop owner was present and on interrogation he disclosed his name as Kailash Dhritlahare and

Bhanwarlal Dhritlahare. When the police conducted search in their shops, they found total 106 quarter bottles of liquor worth Rs 12,100 and sold income of Rs 3400, totaling 15,500 and nabbed both the accused. A case under section 34 (2) of Excise Act was filed against the two.


In the same way in action taken against Kiran Restaurant owner Ajay Singh in Gram Dulna of Gobaranavapara, 51 quarter bottles of liquor worth Rs 5610 were seized and a case under section 34 (2) of Excise Act was filed against him and liquor was seized from his restaurant.

Quarterly Return Monthly Payment (QRMP)

A step towards ease of doing business for small taxpayers
having Aggregate Annual Turnover upto ₹ 5 Crore during the F.Y. 2022-23


The eligible taxpayers who wish to avail the QRMP scheme may opt in by performing the following steps on the GST portal (www.gst.gov.in):



Log in to the Taxpayers' Interface

Go to Services > Returns > Opt-in for quarterly return option


Taxpayers already availing QRMP Scheme are not required to reapply for the Scheme



Benefits

- ✓ File GST statements>Returns in FORM GSTR-1 & GSTR-3B just once in a Quarter
- ✓ Pay monthly Tax conveniently using Fixed Sum Method (Pre-filled Challan) or Self-Assessment Method (actual tax due after adjusting ITC) in first two month of a Quarter
- ✓ Easily opt in and opt out of the Scheme
- ✓ Enjoy the convenience of a Flexible Invoice Filing Facility (IFF)
- ✓ Self Assessment of ITC & Tax once every Quarter

Please scan for more details on QRMP scheme









For more details, please refer to the Notification No. 81 to 85/2020-Central Tax & Circular No. 143/13/2020-GST all dated 10.11.2020

Last date to opt for QRMP Scheme from Q1 of F.Y. 2023-24 is 30th April, 2023
Eligible registered person can opt in for any quarter from first day of second month of preceding quarter to the last day of the first month of the quarter

GST Return Filing: Its Fast, Easy and Simplified

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CM Baghel launches 'MCPSNY' for the non-scheduled areas

Raipur, Apr 20:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel participated in the launch of the "Mukhyamantri Chhattisgarhi Parv Samman Nidhi Yojana" (MCPSNY) for non-scheduled areas of the state, on the lines of Mukhyamantri Adivasi Parv Samman Nidhi Yojana in a virtual program organized at his residence office today.

The scheme will be carried out in 61 development block community areas and 6 thousand 111 gram panchayats. Gram Panchayats will be the primary unit of this scheme.

To commemorate local festivals, each gram panchayat will receive Rs.10,000 in two installments under this scheme.

Chief Minister,

Bhupesh Baghel, released a total of 3 crore 5 lakh, with 55 thousand to 6 thousand 111-gram panchayats covered by this plan receiving a sum of 5 thousand each.

Along with this, Chief Minister Baghel released a total of Rs. 1 crore, 89 lakh, 65 thousand to 3 thousand for 793-gram panchayats of 14 districts of the Scheduled Area under Mukhyamantri Adivasi Parv Samman Nidhi.

It is worth noting that Chief Minister Baghel, while launching the 'Mukhyamantri Adivasi Parv Samman Nidhi Yojana' at the Bharose ka Sammelan in Bastar on April 13, distributed Rs. 5,000 grants to each of the division's 1840 gram panchayats.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister stated that

the work of maintaining Chhattisgarh's culture and traditions is important to the state's development.

Teeja, Hareli, Bhaktin Maa Karma Jayanti, Maa Shakambhari Jayanti (Chherchera), Chhath, and World Tribal Day are all public holidays in the state.

The state administration believes that through Teej festivals, the youth of today should be imbued with traditional values and feel proud of their culture. This is why we organize activities such as the National Tribal Dance Festival, Youth Festival, Chhattisgarhi Olympics, and Basi-Tihar.

Devgudi and Ghotul development work is also being done for the purpose of preserving and promoting folk culture.

Online Round-Table by CIIL, SLT of HNLU on April 23

On the topic ChatGPT- Beginning of the End of Juris Copyright?

Raipur, Apr 20: On the occasion of World Copyright Day, the Centre for Innovation and IP Laws (CIIL) of the School of Law & Technology (SLT) of HNLU will be hosting an online Round table on 23rd April 2023 (Sunday) between 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM on the topic ChatGPT- Beginning of the End of Juris Copyright?". Prof. (Dr.) Shubha Ghosh, Crandall Melvin Professor of Law and Director, Technology Commercialization Law Program, Syracuse University College of Law and Dr. Vikas Kathuria, Associate Professor BML Munjal Law School will be the panelist. The rise of

ChatGPT, a large language model trained by OpenAI, has sparked debates and discussions about the future of copyright law. ChatGPT is capable of generating human-like original work and has a potential to significantly impact the protection of intellectual property laws.

Thus, this round table conference aims to discuss the capabilities of ChatGPT and its potential impact on copyright law. It will also provide a platform wherein the experts and stakeholders will share their perspectives on this emerging issue and engage in constructive dialogue. It will essentially explore the AI as authors and the technology impact on copyright jurisprudence. The panel is open for students, faculties, IP enthusiasts and policy wonks.

Int'l Booker Prize winner Geetanjali Shree arrives for 'Kalam Session'

To be organised by PKF today



Raipur, Apr 20:

International Booker Prize winner Geetanjali Shree has arrived in Raipur for the Kalam session organised by the Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF) to be held on the April 21.

Prabha Khaitan Foundation through its various verticals has been

successfully and consistently promoting the works of deserving writers, artists and musicians of Indian origin.

Geetanjali Shree is a celebrated Hindi writer, who was awarded the prestigious International Booker Prize for her best seller "Ret Samadhi" on the 27th of May, 2022.

She made history when

her novel, "Tomb Of Sand" went on to become the first ever Hindi novel to win the prestigious International Booker Prize Award.

Shree has written five novels, a biography of Munshi Premchand, two short stories and is a distinguished name not just in the Hindi literary world but also in the literary sector globally.

Geetanjali Shree's debut novel "Mai" has been translated into many other languages namely English, French, German, Serbian and Korean. The English translation by Nitu Kumar won the Sahitya Academy Translation prize. Some of Shree's other acclaimed works include "Khaali Jagah", "Tirohit" and "Hamara Shahar Us Baras" to name just a few.

Tourism Minister Sahu lays stone of a hostel building

- With 50 seat capacity in IHM
- Annual magazine "Sukwa" released on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Institute of Hotel Management

Raipur, Apr 20:

A total of 138 students are pursuing the degree and diploma courses at Nava Raipur-based Institute of Hotel Management. This institute is operated under the Department of Tourism, Government of Chhattisgarh. To further enhance the education facilities at the institute, B.Sc. HHA (Hospitality and Hotel Administration) course has been started and degree for this course



will be obtained from the prestigious University of Delhi, JNU. There is no compulsion of age limit for taking admission in any of the degree and diploma courses in IHM.

As Chief Guest of the second annual function of the institute, Tourism Minister Mr. Tamradhwaj Sahu laid the foundation of a hostel building with 50 seat capacity to provide accommodation facility to the students of the institute. On the occasion, MLA Dhanendra Sahu,

Chairman of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Atal Srivastava, Vice President of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Chitrarekha Sahu, Secretary of Tourism Department Ambalagan P, and Principal Rekha Shukla were present. At the function, the annual magazine "Sukwa" of the institute was also released by Chief Guest Tourism Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu. In his address, Tourism Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu wished



a bright future to the students of the Institute of Hotel Management Raipur. He said that this institute will achieve a new milestone in the field of hospitality. He said that it is a matter of joy and pride that the students of the institute have been placed in prestigious hotels of the country. As per the vision of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, facilities at the institute are being improved and upgraded with the goal of making it the best hotel

management institute of the country. It is noteworthy that in the academic session 2022-23, the first batch of 06 students in the three-year B.Sc degree program are about to graduate. Four of these students have been selected in various prestigious hotels of the country. In the academic session 2021-22, 63 students studying in diploma courses have been placed in various prestigious hotels. In the last 03 years, modern infrastructure has been developed

and existing infrastructure here has been expanded with the aim of making the Institute of Hotel Management Raipur the leading institute of the country. Chhattisgarh State Skill Development Council is conducting 18 skill development programs under hospitality and tourism, and preparations are in progress to commence 08 of these programs in the institute.

During the second anniversary celebration at the institute, students staged various mesmerizing performances including a skit on Hotel Management Awareness, dance performances on Chhattisgarhi Sua Dance, Confluence of Cultures, My India. On this occasion, the chief guest gave away the awards to the students for their excellent performances in the field of sports, debate, essay writing etc.

IIT Bhilai and IIT Guwahati signed a MoU



Raipur, Apr 20:

Prof. Rajiv Prakash, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to initiate academic and research collaborations and to promote faculty and student mobility, in the presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Directors of all IITs represented their respective institutes. During this meet-

ing, Prof. Rajiv Prakash and Prof. P. K. Iyer, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to initiate academic and research collaborations and to promote faculty and student mobility, in the presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Directors of all IITs represented their respective institutes. During this meet-

E-Summit, 2023: 3-day entrepreneurship event underway

At IIIT Naya Raipur

Raipur, Apr 20:

E-Cell IIIT-NR started its annual event E-Summit, 2023, on 20th April. The program will take a run over three days. E-Summit '23 aims to provide a platform for discussion on innovative ideas that have the potential to transform current challenges into opportunities for positive change. The goal of the event is to inspire and offer rays of hope to attendees. It has many exciting business challenges and competitions such as IPL Auction, Invade the Mint (E-Sports), Rio's Advent (Buildathon), An Ode to



Nairobi (UI/UX contest), Trade Rampage (Stock Battle), Trade Rampage (Crypto Wars), Be the Professor (What If), Berlin's Battlefield (Simulation Game), Sharks' Heist (Treasure Hunt), Stockholm's Dilemma (Capture the Flag), FIFA and Treasure Hunt. The attraction of

the event was the keynote session by many phenomenal personalities. The event began with a warm, welcoming speech by the director and vice-chancellor of the institute Dr. Pradeep K. Sinha, following these young entrepreneurs brimming with talent. The first speaker was Radhika Bojoria, the

founder of Radically Yours. She spoke about the power of storytelling in branding and marketing for women entrepreneurs.

Following her was Ankit Prasad, the co-founder, and CEO of Bobble.ai. He shed light on his journey from being a college dropout to establishing a company. Both speakers interacted with the students to motivate them. E-Sports and IPL auction engrossed a massive audience in the following session. These competitions had an enormous turnout, and the overall event had massive participation. Dr. Abhishek Sharma and Prof. K. G. Srinivasa co-ordinated the program.

Handicrafts exhibition and sale inaugurated

By Handicrafts Board Chairman Chandan Kashyap



Kondagaon, Apr 20:

The sale and exhibition of handicrafts and handloom items in Shilpnagari located at the district headquarters was inaugurated by

Handicrafts Board Chairman and MLA Narayanpur Chandan Kashyap. District Panchayat President Devchand Matlam along with District Panchayat Kondagaon President

Shivlal Mandavi and other public representatives participated on this occasion. It is notable here that the Handicraft Development Board is organizing a grand handicraft exhibition and sale

programme from April 18-27. More than 60 sculptors from different districts of the state have participated in it. In which 24 sculptors of the district have exhibited their works. It exhibits sculptors made out of iron, 'para', bamboo, bel-metal, wood, 'chind', Stone, Terracotta, 'Koudi', 'kasidakari shilp', 'Aari-work', tattoo painting along with Khadi and Kosa textiles.

On this occasion, after the launch and lighting of the lamp by the Chairman Handicrafts Development Board, he visited all the stalls and observed the sculptures produced by all the craftsmen and welcomed them all the best.

OBITUARY

Kenwara Bai Diwan



Raipur: Kenwara Bai Diwan, R/o Brahminpara, Raipur, breathed her last here on Thursday. She was 100. She was W/o Late Dashrath Dhar Diwan (Tumgaon-wale). She was elder mother of Chandrashekhar Diwan and Sanjay Diwan. The final rites were held in Raipur on Thursday.

Emphasis should be given on socio-economic devp thru schemes: Nayak

Jagdalpur, Apr 19: The schemes being run for the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes in the district were reviewed by Anant Nayak, member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at the Astha meeting hall of the district office here on Wednesday. Nayak said on the occasion that the tribal community needs to make necessary efforts regarding their development while maintaining their traditional cultural practices and basic nature. Their socio-economic development has to be done through the schemes of governance. At the same time, their interests have to be protected while promoting community spirit. On this occasion, Collector Chandan Kumar, CEO District Panchayat Prakash Sarve, Tribal Welfare Department RK Dubey, PK Das, Additional Director Jitendra Gupta and other district level



officers were present. Nayak, a member of the Tribal Commission, reviewed about the works being done for the welfare of tribals in the district, social status certificate, forest rights recognition certificate, representation of tribals in Panchayati Raj institutions, inclusion of tribal groups in various businesses and tribal women self-help. Work done by groups, housing given to families under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, literacy of tribals, status of ashram hostel run by Department of Education, Social Welfare and Tribal Development Department-scholarship scheme, farming done by tribal

class. Discussion was held regarding the crops and the schemes provided by the government. Apart from this, under economic resources, collection of minor forest produce by tribal community, educated unemployed, schemes run by Tribal Financial Development Corporation, infrastructure development in tribal dominated areas, drinking water, electricity system, status of distribution of ration cards and ration materials, Prevention of Atrocities Act. Case under Tribal Area Scheme and Special Central Assistance Scheme, efforts to stop child labour, schemes run in Anganwadi centers as well as

mobile connectivity were discussed. Along with this, discussion was also held by Mr. Nayak in relation to the Badal Academy run by the district administration for the protection and promotion of tribal culture. In the meeting, Commission member Nayak said that there is a need to reduce the difference between male and female literacy in the district. He also instructed to inform about the demand for tribal hostel, post matriculation hostel. He instructed the landless farmers to prepare an action plan for self-employment under the project head.

Instructions to provide financial assistance to scheduled tribe women through self-help groups and to give wide publicity to increase the sale of the products prepared by the groups was also given. He discussed about the activities of Van Dhan Kendra.

CM sanctions Rs 25 lakh to GBS

Raipur, Apr 20:

A delegation of 16 social organizations from Raipur (North) VS constituency met Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel with their problems and for economic assistance. In this connection a 10 member delegation of Shri Gujrati Brahma Samaj (GBS) also met the Chief Minister.

They expressed gratitude towards naming of Telghani Naka to Station Chowk road in memory of Late Pranlal Pandya and Rs 5 lakh assistance to the family members of freedom fighter Late Pranlal Pandya.

The delegation invited the CM to be present at a felicitation programme to be hosted in his honour. Neeraj Purohit expressed gratitude to-



wards CM and Mayor for their cooperation in organising the discourse of Ramesh Bhai Ojha. At the end GBS President Kirti Bhai Vyas requested the Chief Minister to sanction an amount of Rs 40 lakh for the completion of first floor work of Daya Bhavan.

It was informed that 235 families which consist of 1100 members of Gujarati Brahmin fami-

lies reside in Raipur and Daya Bhavan is available for the people of all caste and creed at a discounted price on first come first serve basis. CM immediately sanctioned Rs 25 lakh to GBS. Vyas also informed that GBS offered 20-25 scholarships to meritorious students every year. He mentioned in detailed about other social service work done by GBS.

Panchayat Sachiv take out bike rally, submit memo

● To local MLA in the name of CM
● Demands regularisation as govt employee



affected and the condition is such that with absence of Sachiv in Panchayats, no work is getting done at Panchayat-level.

On top of it, most surprising thing here is that with strike for last one month by Panchayat Sachiv for last one month, no one has even taken initiative to hold talks with them and sort out their problems.

Due to strike by Sachiv in Gram Panchayats, the villagers are facing scores of problems in getting their works done in the Panchayat.

Works like demarcation, division, mutation etc getting affected:

Due to strike by Panchayat Sachivs, the works like that of death-birth certificates, ration card, mutation, division,

demarcation, 'bazar auction', payment under 15th Finance, payment for the construction works done; pension case and other types of certificates are being badly affected.

The villagers informed that with Panchayat Sachivs on strike, the work that of birth certificate of children; BPL certificate for admission in schools and other types of

certificates are not being made.

Panchayat Sachivs says it is do-or-die battle this time:

Annoyed over not being regularised as part of the government services, Panchayat Sachiv say that this time they are not going to call off their strike even after assurances, but this time it is going to be a do-or-die battle. Panchayat Sachivs say that being regularised as government employee is their right.

For last 27 years they are rendering services and not getting regularised even after 27 yrs of service is highly unfortunate for all of them. At Janpad Panchayat Tilda, all the Panchayat Sachivs were present at the dharna venue.

Panchayat, villagers object to construction of Central Jail



● In Gram Godhi, Minister assured not to disturb the pasture and commercial land of Gram Godhi

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Apr 20: Discussions were held with Cabinet Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia on his recent visit to Gram

Panchayat Godhi over likely affect on basic facilities to the villagers on construction of 'Special Central Jail' here. On this Minister Daharia laying emphasis on conservation of water, jungle and land and other natural resources, gave assurance to provide all necessary assistance to the villagers as per their requirement. On this CG Sarpanch Sangh

President Gopal Dheewar and other senior citizens of the village expressed satisfaction and it was after assurance by the Minister, the 'pasture' and commercial area of the land in the village will not be disturbed and the special Central Jail will be constructed at other place in the Raipur district or at an appropriate place in Naya Raipur.

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Apr 20: Members of Panchayat Sachiv Sangh (PSS) Tilda-Newara Janpad Panchayat is on strike for last 34 days and as per regional call, they took out a bike rally and submitted a memorandum in the name of CM to local MLA Pramod Sharma at his local residence in support of their one-point demand.

Due to indefinite strike by Panchayat Sachiv, the day-to-day work of Gram Panchayats have got badly

Massive Shobha Yatra in Rajim on Apr 23

On occasion of Lord Shri Parshuram 'Prakaty Utsav'

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Apr 20: The members of Brahmin Samaj have started the preparations to observed Lord Shri Parshuram 'Prakaty Utsav' and taking out a massive 'Shobha Yatra' on this occasion.

Giving information in this regard, President Rajim Brahmin Samaj (RBS) Devendra Sharma informed that on April 22 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, 'puja-archana' will be performed with great enthusiasm at Vipra Samajik Bhavan, in Rajim, Patharra Marg.

On this occasion all the



persons from Brahmin Samaj have been asked to take part in large number along with their family

members. Sharma informed that on April 23, massive 'Shobha Yatra' will be taken out from Lord Shri Ram's temple at 3:00 pm and in this all the members of Brahmin Samaj will be taking part.

This Shobha Yatra will pass through Rajiv Lochan Mandir, Shri Gyatri Mandir, Pt. Shyama Charan Shukla Chowk, Pt. Sunderlal Sharma Chowk, Maa Mahamaya Mandir and return back to Shri Ram Mandir and conclude.

President Sharma has urged all Brahmin families in Rajim and nearby areas to be present in large number for this programme.

Justice Bhaduri took delay in pension and other payments

● To retired officers and employees

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, apr 20: News of this nature is frequently published in various newspapers, that the salaries and post-retirement benefits of officers and employees retiring from different departments of the government are unnecessarily delayed. Many times, senior citizens have to go through the hassle of dealing with their department and treasury for small reasons related to the payment of these benefits.

Recently, His lordship became aware through a news article that a principal had

been wandering for 13 months after retirement for the payment of her dues.

Justice Goutam Bhaduri, Judge, High Court of Chhattisgarh and Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur directed Anand Prakash Wariyal, Secretary, State Legal Services Authority, to send a letter to the Secretary, School Education, along with a detailed report on how many pension cases related to employees of the education department are pending and for what reasons.

He also instructed the accountant general to send a letter in this regard to retired individuals. As per His lordship's direction SLSA

has instructed the office of accountant general to send a letter on this matter as well, emphasizing that prompt action be taken with special attention to cases of retired individuals.

Justice Goutam Bhaduri has also directed District Judges to coordinate with the relevant department to expedite the resolution of cases of pensioners in established pension lok adalats in the districts of the regions. Pension lok adalats are operational in Raipur, Bilaspur, Jagdalpur, Ambikapur, and Durg for the resolution of cases of retired officials and employees. Employees from various departments visit them for the prompt resolution of cases.

Justice Bhaduri took notice the case of Principal Manjula Shukla

The case of Principal Manjula Shukla, who has been struggling for her pension for the last 13 months, has been brought to the attention of Hon'ble Justice Goutam Bhaduri. As per the news published in the media on 17.04.2023, Justice Bhaduri has directed the Education Secretary to expedite the resolution of her case, submit a report on the delay, and instructed Mr. Anand Prakash Wariyal, the Secretary Member, to provide information on how many officials and employees in the Education Department across the state are pending pension cases. He also directed that report be called in this regard from accountant general. In compliance of his lordship's direction it has also been directed to District Judge to provide immediate relief to such applicant in their respective districts by means of Pension Lok Adalat established in the district court and to actively provide relief to those who are struggling for their pensions after retirement.

Singh Deo conducts inspection of GST Bhavan

Holds talks with officers, employees



Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Apr 20: Minister for Health and Commercial Tax TS Singh Deo conducted inspection of GST office under-construction at 'Tifara Chowk' during his tour to Bilaspur on Wednesday. During the inspection, he took information about the works and activities of different officers and employees visiting each cabin and office and gave them necessary instructions. On this occasion

Health Minister said that with construction of new office here, the staff has got good working atmosphere and facilities as well. With this the officers and employees would be able to carry out their work in better way and with more of efficiency. On this occasion TS Singh Deo took information in detail from Special Commissioner GST Bilaspur TL Dhruv about the expansion in works of GST office and their working.

Ram Katha spread positive energy: Sunil Maheshwari

● Attends 'Navadha Ramayan' at Killapara

Central Chronicle News

Simga, Apr 20: PCC representative Sunil Maheshwari took part in the ongoing 'Navadha Ramayan' at Killapara here on Tuesday. First he performed prayers to Lord Shri Ram and said that wherever there is 'Katha' of Lord Shri Ram, that area is abound with positive energy and it transmits positive energy as well.

Ramayan is an epic, which inspires one to follow on the path of ideals established by Lord Shri Ram. On this occasion 'Navadha Ramayan Samiti' felicitated Sunil Maheshwari with flower bouquet and 'Ramnavami' stole.

Speaking further Sunil Maheshwari said that Lord Shri Ram in his human life, fulfilled all the relations with that of his mother, father, brother and other family relations in a balanced manner and with decorum and presented a live example before others to follow upon life with ideals and good moral values. Therefore he is also known as 'Maryada Purushottam'.

He gave message to the youth to remain away from drugs, intoxication and try to under values of actual life and work to take their nation forward. Sunil said that Lord Shri Ram has deeper connection with the soil of Chhattisgarh and he is



the 'isht' and 'aradhya' of ours.

He said that Shranghi Rishi, Matang Rishi, Agust Rishi, Kank Rishi, Lord Rishabhdev, Mata Shabari, Giddha Raj Jatayu are also having deeper connection with Chhattisgarh. It is for this reason that on formation of Congress government in the state, CM Bhupesh Baghel got the temple of Lord Shri Ram and Mata Kaushalya constructed in the region.

On this occasion Sunil Maheshwari also gave information about various schemes run by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in the state and as per de-

mand of local people, informed them that funds for the road and drainage construction has been sanctioned.

He said that at the venue of 'Navadha Ramayan' there is good population of persons from Sonkar Samaj and they are very hard working and live purely on their dedication and hard work and earn on daily basis.

During this Nagar Panchayat Smiga President Bhagwat Sonkar, V-P Avinash Das, Rinku Bhatia, corporator Lakhn Dewangan, Yash Sharma, Bharat Sonkar,

Raja Tiwari and others were present.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, KISHAN CHAND VERMA S/O KASHIRAM VERMA resident of WARD NO.08, RAJU MILL GALI, CHAKARBHATHA, CHAKARBHATA CAMP, BILHA, BILASPUR (C.G.) 495220 have changed my old name KISHAN CHAND VERMA S/O KASHIRAM VERMA so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is KRISHNA KUMAR VERMA S/O KASHIRAM VERMA in all Government and other documents.

KRISHNA KUMAR VERMA
WARD NO.08, RAJU MILL GALI, CHAKARBHATHA, CHAKARBHATA CAMP, BILHA, BILASPUR (C.G.) 495220

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India

RAIPUR ZONAL OFFICE, G.D. SHESH NILAYAM, TATYAPARA CHOWK, KANKALIPARA ROAD, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH

NOTICE

E-auction information was published by our office on 16.04.2023 in Haribhoomi and Central Chronicle, in which the following points need improvement: (A) Property No. 01, 02, & 03 Kawardha Branch - Borrower - (1) M/s. America Agro Industries (2) M/s. Ayush Gud Udyog (3) M/s. Maa Sharda Gud Udyog the title of Property Land and Building has been wrongly published. By rectifying which the type of Property should be read as Open Land. (B) Property No. (3) Kawardha Branch - EMD of M/s. Maa Sharda Gud Udyog 1.80 Lakh in place of Amount 0.18 Lakh, Property No. (6) Raigarh Branch - E.M.D. of Shri Balmukund Nayak. The amount should be read as 2.15 Lakh instead of 1.15 Lakh, and Property No. (21) Raipur Branch - M/s. Delcorp Trade & Services (2) No. EMD in the Property of The amount should be read as 9.19 lakh instead of 9.12 lakh. (C) Property No. (16) Bhalai Branch - M/s. Himani Tyres Demand Notice Dated 05.03.2022 should be read as 29.08.2022. Possession Notice Dated 27.05.2023 as 31.10.2022 and the outstanding amount as 47.74 Lakh as 44.66 Lakh, and Property No. (17) Demand Notice Dated 29.08.2022 of M/s. Ansh Steel Industries should be read as 05.03.2022, instead of Possession Notice Dated 31.10.2022 as 27.05.2022 and the outstanding amount should be read as 47.74 Lakhs instead of 44.66 Lakhs.

Authorized Officer & Chief Manager, BANK OF INDIA

कार्यालय नगरपालिका परिषद् सुरजपुर जिला - सुरजपुर (छ.ग.)

Phone :- 07775-266355/Fax :- 07775-266956/ Email Id :- nagarpalikasurajpur@gmail.com

क्रमांक 845/न.पा.प./ 2023-24 सुरजपुर, दिनांक 19/4 / 2023

मैनुअल पद्धति निविदा सूचना :-

प्लट द्वारा नगर पालिका परिषद् सुरजपुर में वाई क्रमांक 11 में 02 स्थानों में रिटर्निंग वॉल निर्माण कार्य कराया जाना है। भूजोक्त डेक्रेटर से निविदा आमंत्रित है। निविदा फॉर्म हेतु प्रमाणित प्रतिके साथ आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 01/05/2023, सायं 5.00 बजे तक

- 1. निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 03/05/2023 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक
- 2. निविदा प्रपत्र प्रदान की अंतिम तिथि 08/05/2023 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक
- 3. निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 15/05/2023 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक
- 4. निविदा खोलने की अंतिम तिथि 15/05/2023 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनु. लागत (वार्षिक)	अमानत राशि (रुपये)	निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य (रुपये)
1	वाई क्र.-11 में राधामुनि घर से पुलिया तक रिटर्निंग वॉल निर्माण कार्य	15,015	12000.00	750.00
2	वाई क्र.-11 में आर.सी.सी नाली से पुलिया तक रिटर्निंग वॉल निर्माण कार्य	15,015	12000.00	750.00

उपरोक्तानुसार कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी कार्यालयीन अवधि में कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु विभागीय वेबसाईट www.uad.cg.gov.in का अवलोकन करें।

मुख्य नगरपालिका अधिकारी नगरपालिका परिषद् सुरजपुर जिला - सुरजपुर (छ.ग.)

JK GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS FACULTY REQUIREMENT

REQUIRED PROFESSOR, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

JK INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING FOR MECHANICAL, CIVIL, ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.

REQUIREMENT (ENGINEERING)

S.NO.	POST	REQUIREMENT
1.	PROFESSOR	05
2.	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	12
3.	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	15

JK INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, JK INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY, BILASPUR All Specialization:

REQUIREMENT (PHARMACY)

S.NO.	POST	REQUIREMENT
1.	PROFESSOR	04
2.	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	08
3.	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	12

ELIGIBILITY : AS PER UGC, PCI, AICTE NORMS SALARY: AS PER NORMS

ADDRESS : NEAR GATORA RAILWAY STATION BILASPUR MAIL ID : JKEDUGROUP21@GMAIL.COM, CONTACT : 9039969828 7869990297

कार्यालय नगरपालिका परिषद् सुरजपुर जिला - सुरजपुर (छ.ग.)

Phone :- 07775-266355/ Fax :- 07775-266956/ Email Id :- nagarpalikasurajpur@gmail.com

क्रमांक 843/न.पा.प./ 2023-24 सुरजपुर, दिनांक 19/4/2023

रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति :-

इस निकाय द्वारा निम्नानुसार राजमोहनी देवी जी की चौक एवं प्रतिमा स्थापना हेतु नॉन एस.ओ.आर. आयटम मुक्ति क्रय विद्युतीकरण एवं फाईबर ग्लास पैनलिंग फॉर वॉल आर्ट कार्य पंजीकृत फॉर्म से दिनांक 09/05 / 2023 को समय अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक बंद लिफाफे में ई. ओ. आई आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। दर लिफाफे दिनांक 10/05 / 2023 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे खोलने जायेंगे।

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनु. लागत (वार्षिक)	अमानत राशि (रुपये)	निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य (रुपये)
1	राज मोहनी चौक में नॉन एस. ओ. आर. आयटम मुक्ति क्रय विद्युतीकरण एवं फाईबर ग्लास पैनलिंग फॉर वॉल आर्ट कार्य	18.89 लाख	15000.00	750.00

उपरोक्तानुसार कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी कार्यालयीन अवधि में कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु विभागीय वेबसाईट www.uad.cg.gov.in का अवलोकन करें।

मुख्य नगरपालिका अधिकारी नगरपालिका परिषद् सुरजपुर जिला - सुरजपुर (छ.ग.)

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Branch: Champa (C.G.)

POSSESSION NOTICE [Appendix IV under the Act-Rule-8(1)]

Whereas, The under signed being the Authorised officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice was issued on the dated in the given following table calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days of receipt of said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property, described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against the account. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the CANARA BANK (Below mentioned Branches) for the amount and interest mentioned thereon.

The Borrower's / Guarantors' / Mortgager's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Borrower/Guarantor Branch Name	Detail of Possessed Property	Demand Notice Amount	Demand Notice Date
1.	Mr. Santosh Kumar Yadav S/O Veer Singh Yadav And Mrs. Lalita Yadav W/O Mr. Santosh Kumar Yadav Branch: Champa (CG)	EMT of Residential House situated at Khakra No 3950/11/Ka/51, Ward No 17, Patilpur Ward, Old Chandaniya Para, PH No 47, Tehsil - Janjgir, Dist. - Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh. Owner: Mr. Santosh Kumar Yadav S/O Mr. Veer Singh Yadav. Area: 0.0140 Hect (141.83 Sq Mt). Boundaries of the property are: North: House of Babulal, South: House of Kesharwani & Soni, East: House of Rathore, West: Gov. Land and Road.	₹ 13,46,869.16 with interest and applicable charges thereon.	13.01.2023 Possession Notice Date 17.04.2023

Date: 20.04.2023 Place: Champa (CG) Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

BRIEF



NBA leader Medha Patkar addresses a press conference in connection with the rehabilitation and proper compensation for dam oustees of Sardar Sarovar Dam, in Bhopal, Thursday.

Outreach prog

Kolkata: The ruling Trinamool Congress on Thursday announced a new mass outreach programme with an eye on the upcoming panchayat elections in West Bengal. The programme, named "Trinamooly Nabajowar" (new wave in Trinamool), will begin on April 25 and would continue for two months, senior party leader Abhishek Banerjee said.

Resign

Imphal: Manipur BJP MLA Paonam Brojen on Thursday tendered his resignation from the chairmanship of Manipur Development Society on "personal grounds."

Lightning

Saharanpur: A 43-year-old farmer was killed in a lightning strike in the Titro area of this Uttar Pradesh district, officials said on Thursday. Mukesh, who was working in his field in Khadlana village, was struck by lightning on Wednesday evening. Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sagar Jain told PTI.

Bail

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has granted anticipatory bail to a man accused of raping a minor in Bihar, noting he was cooperating with the investigation. A bench of Justices AS Bopanna and Dipankar Dutta granted the relief. "Though at this stage it is submitted that investigation is not complete and the charge sheet is yet to be filed, there is no complaint against the petitioner that he has not participated in the investigation as and when called to do so."

Oppose

Pune: The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena has opposed the state government's decision to allow schools of non-state boards to give grades rather than marks to students of Class VIII to X for Marathi subject. MNS leader Anil Shidore said the decision is wrong as it has diluted the step taken by the state government on June 1, 2020 to make Marathi subject compulsory for all schools.

Warning

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority on Thursday issued avalanche warnings in eight districts of the Union Territory, officials said. Avalanche with 'low' danger level is likely to occur above 2,400-3,200 metres over Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts in the next 24 hours, the disaster management authority officials said.

Atiq killing: UP Police recreates crime scene

Prayagraj, Apr 20 (PTI):

UP Police on Thursday recreated the crime scene outside the hospital in Prayagraj where gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf were shot dead by three men on live television.

Members of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and the forensic team visited the area outside Colvin Hospital to understand the sequence of events leading to the killing of Ahmad and his brother on the night of April 15.

The policemen who were escorting Ahmad and Ashraf during the shootout were also called to the spot.

The three shooters were not brought to the crime scene.

A heavy police deployment was made as the officials recreated the sequence of events begin-



SIT and the forensic team recreate the crime scene, where three assailants shot dead gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf, in Prayagraj, Thursday.

ning from Ahmad and Ashraf getting down from the police jeep until the firing by the three men who posed as mediapersons.

ADG Bhanu Bhaskar, Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma and Joint Commissioner of Police

Akash Kulhari were present when the scene was being recreated.

Police said recreating the crime scene is likely to provide clues in the investigation and on the basis of them the accused can be interrogated.

STRAY DOG ATTACK

NHRC notice to UP govt, AMU VC, municipal commissioner over death of man

● On varsity campus

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

The NHRC has issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh government, vice chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University and the city's municipal commissioner over a man being mauled to death by stray dogs inside the varsity campus, officials said on Thursday. Safdar Ali (65), a resident of a locality adjoining the campus, was out on a morning walk in a garden at Sir Syed Museum when the dogs attacked him on Sunday.

The National Human Rights Commission, in a statement, observed that "painful incidents" such as the one reported by the media in the instant case

indicate that "there is a need to review the prevailing safeguards" as this is not a problem of any one state or Union Territory, and the "situation is grim and alarming".

A clip of the incident, which was captured on a CCTV camera, went viral on social media, it said. The NHRC has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report, carried on April 17 that in yet another incident of stray dog attack, a 65-year-old elderly man was killed in a park inside the AMU campus in Uttar Pradesh. Expressing serious concern over the incident, the Commission has issued notices to the chief secretary, the government of Uttar Pradesh, the vice chancellor, AMU, and the commissioner of the Aligarh Municipal Corporation, seeking

a detailed report within six weeks, the statement said. The state government is expected to inform whether any relief has been given to the next of kin of the deceased, it said. The Commission has also called for the comments of the secretary, Animal Welfare Board of India, Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying on the present status of the implementation of the provisions of law and their strategy, if any, to deal with the issue of the right to life of humans and protection from stray animals in the light of the recent increasing incidents of attack by stray animals on humans without any provocation. The response is expected within six weeks, the statement said. In the past too, the Commission had taken cog-

NSUI PROTEST



NSUI activists stage a protest in support of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in New Delhi, Thursday.

KHARGHAR SUNSTROKE DEATHS

Ajit Pawar demands judicial probe

Mumbai, Apr 20 (PTI):

NCP leader Ajit Pawar on Thursday demanded a judicial inquiry into the deaths of people due to sunstroke during or after the Maharashtra Bhushan award ceremony in Kharghar.

The demand by Pawar, Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, came even as Chief Minister Eknath Shinde appointed a one-member committee of Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Nitin Keer to probe the deaths of 14 persons.

Pawar also said that the state government's apathy was responsible for the deaths, and it should be booked for "culpable

homicide". In a letter to Governor Ramesh Bais, Pawar urged him to direct the government to initiate probe by a retired judge.

Initially it was reported that sunstroke caused the death of 14 persons, but some reports later suggested that the deaths occurred due to a stampede during the April 16 event, the Nationalist Congress Party leader said.

Social worker A p p a s a h e b Dharmadhikari was given the state's highest award, Maharashtra Bhushan, at the hands of Union minister Amit Shah during the event in Navi Mumbai's Kharghar area.

"People (who attended the event) had no access to water and food for seven

hours. As there was no planning for crowd control, ambulances could not reach the spot on time. Despite the harsh heat conditions, the function was organised in an open place. A company with no prior experience of organising such events was given the work, spending Rs 14 crore," he said. The toll might be bigger than 14 but the authorities are tight-lipped, Pawar said.

These were not natural deaths but caused by government apathy, therefore the government should be booked for culpable homicide, the Leader of Opposition said.

He also demanded a compensation of Rs 20 lakh for the kin of the deceased.

JNU students protest against water shortage on campus

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

Jawaharlal Nehru University students on Thursday staged a protest over water shortage in several hostels, alleging that they were being denied a basic necessity amid rising temperatures in Delhi.

The protesting students who gathered outside the Dean of Students' office claimed that irregular supply and small-capacity tanks installed in the hostels have worsened the water shortage on the campus.

There was, however, no immediate reaction available from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration.

"The persistent water shortage in this scorching

heat is affecting all of us. Many students are falling sick due to a continued lack of water in the hostels.

"We often have to go out in search of drinking water in the middle of the night. The administration needs to solve the problem as soon as possible," said Madhurima Kundu, who is pursuing her MPhil.

The agitating students also raised slogans and held up posters to press for their demands.

"All the hostel presidents, accompanied by the residents, protested against the water shortage on the campus. It is shameful that the JNU admin is least bothered about students being dehydrated and dealing with the water shortage.

Air-coolers, water mists, special diet, bamboo mats for inmates at Alipore Zoo

● To beat the heat

Kolkata, Apr 20 (PTI):

As Kolkata sizzled at 40-42 degrees Celsius, authorities at the more than 147-year-old Alipore zoo have come up with water sprinklers, special diets to beat dehydration, ice-blocks and bamboo sheds to keep the denizens of the zoological garden cool.

The Kolkata Corporation has been asked to pump more water to the zoo as temperatures soared and animals tended to wallow in the small pools and baths that dot the garden. "We are mixing oral rehydration solution (ORS) powder with the drinking water of animals and birds at the zoo.



A cooler placed near a Royal Bengal tiger by the zoo authority in protection against the heat wave in Kolkata.

Ice blocks or ice cubes are also being put in tubs of some animals where they bathe," West Bengal Forest Minister Jyotipriyo

Mullick told PTI over the phone. Besides, bamboo mats have been placed over some enclosures to keep the place dark and cool and water sprinklers have been deployed to keep the elephants in good humour.

Similar steps are being taken across all the zoos in the state, wherever necessary, the minister said.

He also said that the zoo will need more water and therefore he has written to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation asking them to pump more to the zoo which was inaugurated by the then prince of Wales who later became King Edward VII in 1876.

So far, none of the animals and birds has fallen ill due to the heat, the minister said.

Yediyurappa rides in his 'lucky' Ambassador car

For son's nomination filing

S h i v a m o g g a (Karnataka), Apr 20 (PTI): As B Y Vijayendra set out to file his nomination for the May 10 Assembly election from Shikaripura constituency in this district, his father and former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa chose his "lucky" Ambassador car to go along with him. According to sources close to Yediyurappa, the Karnataka BJP strongman who has announced his retirement from electoral politics, has a "deep affection" for the four-wheeler. It was this white vintage vehicle that Yediyurappa had used for filing papers for his maiden election decades ago, which he won. "Since then there was no looking

back. Despite several upheavals in his political career, Yediyurappa managed to become Chief Minister of Karnataka four times," a source noted. Before leaving for filing the papers on Wednesday, Vijayendra, the state BJP vice-president, touched his father's feet and sought his blessings. Yediyurappa followed him in his Ambassador car. Yediyurappa got elected from this seat in 1983 and continued to represent it till 1999. After his defeat in 1999, he was the Karnataka Legislative Council member till 2004. Again from 2004 to 2014 he was an MLA (in 2013 he won on the ticket of KJP that he floated, breaking away from the BJP).

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



Devotees take part in Gohain Uluwa Utasav at Bura Mayong in Morigaon district of Assam, Thursday.

'Foreign univs doubling as subversive centres'

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said "dangers are emanating from outfits", including some foreign universities doubling up as centres of subversive anti-India activities out to demolish the country's civilisation ethos and sully and muddy its growth.

He said disturbing insights in the hidden agenda of the so-called elites in India is alarming and unfortunately getting reflected in the working of our constitutional institution.

It is the responsibility of the Parliament to safeguard India's national sovereignty and cultural integrity from any kinds of threats internally or externally, the vice president said. "Our democracy, on path to unprecedented



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with Union Minister Jitendra Singh at the inauguration of the exhibition on 'Good Governance Practices in India - Awarded Initiatives' during the 16th Civil Services Day celebration, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Thursday.

growth and glory, needs that its wings - the legislature, the judiciary and the executive - act in tandem and togetherness for smooth upward flight journey. We all must en-

sure this," he said at the inauguration ceremony of two-day celebrations to mark the 16th Civil Services Day here.

These constitutional entities can ill afford to

weaponise authority by effecting incursions in the domain of the other, he said, adding that the legislature, judiciary and executive serve best while functioning in their respective domain.

"Dangers are emanating from outfits, within and without, including some foreign universities doubling up as centres of subversive anti-Bharat activities out to demolish our civilisation ethos and sully and muddy our growth," the vice president said.

He said Parliament alone is "incharge of legislation" and competent to enforce it.

Legislation is the exclusive preserve of the Parliament, the most authentic reflector of the will of the people at large, he said.

BRIEF



People use protective glasses to watch solar eclipse in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday.

Maine shootings

West Bath (US): A Maine man who police say confessed to shooting seven people killing four of them, including his parents after being released from prison was due to appear before a judge Thursday. Police have not discussed what might have been a motive behind the shootings on a rural property in Bowdoin and then along a busy interstate highway in Yarmouth, about 12 miles (19 kilometers) from Maine's largest city, Portland.

Union strike

Ottawa: Almost 100,000 federal workers, including 35,000 from Canada's tax agency, went on strike Wednesday as Canada's largest public service union and the federal government continued to negotiate amid warnings of major service disruptions. Federal workers were hitting the picket lines across Canada during the country's tax season after the union and the government failed to reach a deal by a Tuesday evening deadline. Federal ministers provided an update on the Public Service Alliance of Canada's strike action in a news conference on Wednesday afternoon, with Treasury Board President Mona Fortier confirming negotiations were continuing.

Protesters released

Taipei: Officials in Beijing have released four women on bail who were arrested for joining rare nationwide protests in late November against China's tough anti-coronavirus policies, an activist said. One of the women, former book editor Cao Zhixin, had recorded a video before her detention saying, "If you're watching this, it means that I have been taken away by the police." She and her friends Li Yuanjing, Zhai Dengrui and Li Siqi were detained in Beijing in December and accused of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble," a vague charge often used against dissidents, according to Human Rights Watch.

NATO visit

Kyiv: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg visited Ukraine on Thursday for the first time since Russia invaded more than a year ago, a highly symbolic trip that underscores the alliance's commitment to helping Kyiv defend itself. The Kremlin quickly warned that Ukraine must not be allowed to join NATO. Russia has given various and shifting justifications for going to war, but it has repeatedly pointed to the expansion of the military alliance toward its borders in recent years, including citing fears that Kyiv would be admitted.

Missing Indian climber Anurag Maloo found alive in critical condition on Mount Annapurna

Kathmandu, Apr 20 (PTI): Indian climber Anurag Maloo, who went missing on Monday after falling into a deep crevasse on Nepal's Mount Annapurna, has been found alive in critical condition by rescuers, his brother and organisers said on Thursday. Anurag, 34, a resident of Kishangarh in Rajasthan, went missing on Monday after he fell from around 6,000 metres while descending from Camp III. Mount Annapurna is the 10th highest mountain in the world. A team of rescuers located the Indian climber in a deep crevasse between Camp III and Camp II of the world's tenth highest peak, said Thaneshwor Guragain, information officer at Seven Summit Treks - the organiser of the expedition. He has been airlifted to Kathmandu and admitted to Medicity Hospital at Bhaisepati area of Lalitpur district, Guragain said. Anurag is still unconscious and his condition is very critical, Guragain told PTI over phone. "He is found alive. He has been taken to the hospital in critical condition, but he is still alive," Sudhir Maloo, his brother, said. "We will have to shift our focus towards the medical side now," Sudhir added. The rescue team that went looking for him in the crevasse he had fallen into has found and rescued him, according to Sudhir. A helicopter and a team of six Sherpa climbers led by Chhang Dawa Sherpa had been mobilized for the search and Anurag was found in a deep crevasse at some 5800 metre altitude on Thursday morning. He was first taken to the Manipal Hospital in Pokhara and then flown to Kathmandu for further treatment.



Hospital staff shift an injured Indian climber Anurag Maloo who was rescued from Annapurna region after he was airlifted to Medicity hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal, Thursday.

Guragain, information officer at Seven Summit Treks - the organiser of the expedition. He has been airlifted to Kathmandu and admitted to Medicity Hospital at Bhaisepati area of Lalitpur district, Guragain said. Anurag is still unconscious and his condition is very critical, Guragain told PTI over phone. "He is found alive. He has been taken to the hospital in critical condition, but he is still alive," Sudhir Maloo, his brother, said. "We will have to shift our focus towards the medical side now," Sudhir added. The rescue team that went looking for him in the crevasse he had fallen into has found and rescued him, according to Sudhir. A helicopter and a team of six Sherpa climbers led by Chhang Dawa Sherpa had been mobilized for the search and Anurag was found in a deep crevasse at some 5800 metre altitude on Thursday morning. He was first taken to the Manipal Hospital in Pokhara and then flown to Kathmandu for further treatment.

Court won't hear case against McCann suspect

Berlin, Apr 20 (AP): A German court said on Thursday that it has decided not to hear a sex offences case against a man who also is a suspect in the disappearance of British toddler Madeleine McCann, arguing that the region where it is located isn't the last place he lived in Germany. Prosecutors in the northern city of Braunschweig in October charged the German suspect in his mid-40s in several separate cases involving sexual offences allegedly committed in Portugal between 2000 and 2017. The suspect hasn't been charged in the McCann case, in which he is under investigation on suspicion of murder. He spent many years in Portugal, including in the resort of Praia da Luz around the time of Madeleine's disappearance there in 2007. He has denied any involvement in her disappearance. The suspect, who has been identified by media as Christian Brueckner, is currently serving a seven-year prison sentence in Germany for a rape he committed in Portugal in 2005. In the German legal system, a court must decide after it receives an indictment from prosecutors whether to take a case to trial. The Braunschweig state court said its supposed responsibility for the case being in the area had been based on his last residence before going abroad and then to prison.

Pak gov't cites instability, terrorism and threat of 'all-out war' with India among hurdles in holding provincial polls

Islamabad, Apr 20 (PTI): The political instability in Pakistan, a spike in terrorism and the threat of an "all-out war" with India were among the security-related hurdles cited by the defence ministry which prevented the government from holding the provincial election in Punjab now, according to a media report on Thursday. The report, submitted to the Supreme Court by the defence ministry, noted that elections in the politically crucial Punjab province would fuel fault lines in Pakistan and might encourage India to take advantage of ethnic issues, water disputes, and other issues, the Dawn newspaper reported. The ministry submitted its report along with an application to request the apex court withdraw its election-date order, fearing a spike in terrorism threats if elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies were held before polls in other provincial assemblies. A three-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial on April 8 fixed May 14 as the new date for elections to the Punjab Assembly and quashed the Election Commission's decision to extend the date of the poll from April 10 to October 8. The newspaper said that the report stated Pakistan

attended the conference in person amidst major differences between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. She said the foreign minister would be attending the meeting as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had invited him to attend the SCO moot. "Our participation in the meeting reflects Pakistan's commitment to the SCO Charter and processes and the importance that Pakistan accords to the region in its foreign policy priorities," Baloch said. It would be the highest-level visit to India by any Pakistani leader in recent years and a possible opportunity to break the ice between the two nations. The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Pakistan's Balakot in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack. The relations further deteriorated after India announced the withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special powers and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union territories in August 2019. India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such an engagement.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto to attend SCO meeting in India on May 4-5

Islamabad, Apr 20 (PTI): Pakistan on Thursday announced that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would travel to India next month to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting, a development that could provide an opportunity to break the ice between the two neighbours. "Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will be leading the Pakistan delegation to the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) being held on May 4-5, 2023, in Goa, India," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahrah Baloch announced at a weekly media briefing here, ending weeks-long speculation if he would

attend the conference in person amidst major differences between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. She said the foreign minister would be attending the meeting as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had invited him to attend the SCO moot. "Our participation in the meeting reflects Pakistan's commitment to the SCO Charter and processes and the importance that Pakistan accords to the region in its foreign policy priorities," Baloch said. It would be the highest-level visit to India by any Pakistani leader in recent years and a possible opportunity to break the ice between the two nations. The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Pakistan's Balakot in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack. The relations further deteriorated after India announced the withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special powers and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union territories in August 2019. India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such an engagement.

be equally divided between the two NATO members. "In this way, we will jointly take part in the Leopard 2 coalition", supported by many partners and allies," they said. In January, Germany agreed to send 14 newer Leopard 2 A6 tanks from its military's current stocks, and raised the number to 18 in February. Acting Danish Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen stressed that the tanks were not Danish but are "bought in collaboration with the Netherlands." Denmark currently has Leopard 2 A7 tanks which are a "different and newer model than the one we are donating now," Lund Poulsen added.

Protesters angry at pension law stage actions across France

Ganges (France), Apr 20 (AP): Hundreds of people opposed to the law raising the retirement age from 62 to 64 gathered on Thursday in a small town in southern France ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's planned visit, while some other scattered protest actions were staged across France. Macron's trip to the town of Ganges comes amid a concerted new effort by him and his government to move on from the furore caused by the pension change. People could be heard singing what has become the anthem of the retirement protests: "We are here, we are here, even if Macron doesn't want (us to be here), we are here."



Demonstrators holding flares invading the Euronext Paris building in protest to the pension reforms at La Defense business district in Paris, Thursday.

The French president was to meet teachers and students at a middle school, where he was scheduled to promote his education policies. At his arrival, the site was affected by a power cut, which the local branch of the hard-left CGT union said was a protest action.

Dozens of police officers were deployed in the small town to prevent the crowd from getting close to the school. They briefly used tear gas to disperse people when some tried to storm the barriers. On Wednesday, Macron went to eastern France, where he mingled among a crowd for the first time since he enacted the law last week. Many seized the occasion to voice their anger. Raising the retirement age has ignited a months-long firestorm of protest in France. Opponents have been even more infuriated after Macron's government in March forced the legislation through parliament, using special government powers.

Netanyahu taps far-right minister for New York consul post

Jerusalem, Apr 20 (AP): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has nominated a Cabinet minister known for inflammatory comments and for leading a grassroots campaign against African migrants to the post of consul general in New York, a high-profile job that deals with outreach to American Jews. May Golan, currently a minister without portfolio in Netanyahu's government, built her political career on staunch opposition to African migrants in Israel. She calls them "infiltrators" and has portrayed the estimated 40,000 migrants, mostly concentrated in poor neighbourhoods of the southern part of the city of Tel Aviv, as threats to security. After a failed bid to enter parliament with the ultranationalist Jewish Power party in 2013, she joined Netanyahu's ruling Likud party and was first elected to parliament in 2019. Netanyahu recently promised Golan the role of the as yet uncreated Ministry for the Status of Women. His office confirmed media reports on Wednesday that he has offered her the consul general post, citing "her excellent explanatory abilities in English." Golan, who is on a trip to the United States, did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Israel's previous consul

general, Assaf Zamir, resigned last month in protest over the Netanyahu government's controversial judicial overhaul plan. The U.S. is home to the largest Jewish community outside Israel, with the single largest community living in the greater New York metropolitan area. Netanyahu's government is the most ultranationalist and religious in Israel's 75-year history. Golan is part of the ultranationalist wing of Netanyahu's Likud and her political positions, including comments disparaging the liberal Reform Jewish movement, are likely to cause friction with American Jews, who are overwhelmingly liberal.

Yellen calls for better US-China relations as tensions rise

Washington, Apr 20 (AP): Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will strike a conciliatory tone when she talks about US-China relations on Thursday, calling for "cooperation on the urgent global challenges of our day" while supporting economic restrictions on China to advance U.S. national security interests. "We seek a healthy economic relationship with China: one that fosters growth and innovation in both countries," Yellen says in prepared remarks to be delivered at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Washington. Yellen plans to deliver a speech that calls for improved relations between the two countries, which have seen increasingly strained relations after the discovery of a Chinese surveillance balloon in U.S. air space and since the Communist nation has grown its ties

with Russia despite its continued invasion into Ukraine. "A growing China that plays by international rules is good for the United States and the world," Yellen says. "Both countries can benefit from healthy competition in the economic sphere. But healthy economic competition - where both sides benefit - is only sustainable if that competition is fair." The speech comes as tensions between the U.S. and China are at a fever pitch. The discovery of a surveillance balloon outfitted with high-tech equipment designed to gather sensitive information, making a pass over a sensitive U.S. military site, has drawn lawmakers' scrutiny. And China's support of Russia as it continues to wage its war in Ukraine is causing concern among Western leaders. Though China has maintained that it is neutral in the conflict, stating that it

won't sell weapons to either side in the war, it recently held joint military drills with Russia. Yellen, in her speech, says U.S. national security "is of paramount importance" in the relationship with the People's Republic of China. "For example, we have made clear that safeguarding certain technologies from the PRC's military and security apparatus is of vital national interest," she says. The U.S. last year moved to block exports of advanced computer chips to China, an action meant to quell China's ability to create advanced military systems including weapons of mass destruction. Commerce Department officials said last October.

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1.	TR-2023_09 RFX No. 8100030932	EE City Dn. East, CSPDCL Raipur for Kachna and Gaytri Nagar Avanti Vihar FOC Raipur	4937328/-	49400/-	11.05.2023, upto 1:30 PM	11.05.2023, upto 2:00 PM
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SAVE ELECTRICITY S-36698/2

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जल संसाधन संभाग बलरामपुर, जिला-बलरामपुर-रामानुजगंज (छ.ग.)
पत्र क्रमांक/773/व.ले.नि./2023 बलरामपुर, दिनांक 10/04/2023

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निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 09/व.ले.नि./2022-23 दिनांक 06.03.2023 निविदा सिस्टम क्रमांक 126675 (द्वितीय आमंत्रण) सरई-डीह जलाशय योजना के नहर निर्माण कार्य राशि रुपये 353.20 लाख में निविदा के द्वितीय आमंत्रण में निविदाकारों की भागीदारी शून्य होने के कारण कोई निविदाकार प्राप्त नहीं होने के फलस्वरूप निविदा निरस्त किया जाता है।
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CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 21

Deadly Heat Impact

Neglecting Data Hinders Development

India is facing a serious threat to its development as repeated heatwaves continue to put nearly 90% of the population at risk of public health issues, food shortages, and increased risk of death, according to a study by academics at the University of Cambridge. The report highlights that India's heatwaves are holding back the development of Asia's third-largest economy. However, the Indian government is neglecting to measure the impact of heat stress on its citizens in its assessment of climate vulnerability. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has already issued a severe heatwave warning for parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal this April. These states have a high proportion of rural workers and laborers who are forced to work outside, even as temperatures and humidity soar. If heat stress is not measured and addressed effectively, the situation is expected to worsen. Last year's record-breaking 49 degrees Celsius heat physically impacted India's population, making it one of the most at-risk populations to the effects of high heat. Climate change is making the situation more severe, yet the government is not measuring heat stress as part of its planning for climate change. This makes it difficult to identify areas where people are most vulnerable. According to Ramit Debnath, one of the authors of the study, implementing a heat stress measure that identifies the areas in India where the population is most susceptible to the effects of recurring heatwaves could enhance the effectiveness of Heat Action Plans being developed across the country. Neglecting to measure the impact of heat stress is hindering India's development and making its population more vulnerable to public health crises, food shortages, and increased risk of death. India's population already surpassed China's, making it the world's most populous nation. Experts are warning of an even worse situation this year as India has become particularly vulnerable to extreme heat in recent years. Severe heatwaves have swept across much of Asia, causing deaths and school closures in India. The Indian government must take action to address the threat of heat stress on its citizens. It must measure the impact of heat stress as part of its planning for climate change and identify areas where the population is most vulnerable. It must also develop effective Heat Action Plans that take into account the specific needs of different regions and populations. India's development is at risk if it does not address the threat of heat stress effectively. Neglecting data on the impact of heat stress hinders development and puts its citizens at risk of public health crises, food shortages, and increased risk of death. The government must act now to protect its citizens and ensure that India's development is not held back by the threat of heat stress.

Ensuring Clemency Serves Public Interest

Lessons from the Bilkis Bano Case

The developments in the Bilkis Bano case have reignited the conversation around legal morality and adherence to the rule of law. The 11 men who were sentenced to life imprisonment for their role in the gangrape of Bano and the murder of her family members during the 2002 Gujarat riots were released prematurely last year, causing widespread outrage. The Supreme Court has now questioned the Gujarat government's decision to grant them remission, stating that for heinous crimes that affect society at large, the power of clemency must be exercised keeping in mind public interest and the gravity of the offense. The case of Bilkis Bano is a harrowing reminder of the atrocities committed during the 2002 Gujarat riots. Her case stands out not only because of the brutal nature of the crime but also because of the legal proceedings that followed. Despite the difficulties faced by Bano and her legal team, justice was eventually served, and the perpetrators were brought to book. However, the premature release of these men has raised serious concerns about the functioning of our justice system. The Supreme Court's observations on the matter have been reassuring. It has rightly pointed out that there must be objective standards for granting remission and that the government must show cause for its decision. The court has also stressed that the Bano case cannot be compared with a case of simple murder, and that the convicts' release sets a bad example of remission of a sentence. The case is not an isolated incident. There have been many instances in the past where convicts have been granted remission for political or personal reasons. In 2006, the Supreme Court had quashed the remission granted to a murder convict in Andhra Pradesh for being a 'good Congress worker'. The court had then held that the President or Governor cannot exercise their powers of granting clemency on the grounds of religion, caste, and political affiliation. The Bano case is a test case for the judiciary and the government. The government must ensure that justice is not only done but is also seen to be done. The release of the convicts has sent the wrong message to society and has weakened the trust people have in the justice system. The judiciary, on the other hand, must ensure that its orders are followed, and that justice is not subverted by the government. This case is also an opportunity for us as a society to reflect on the state of justice in our country. It is a reminder that justice is not just about punishing the guilty but also about providing closure to victims and their families. The restorative justice process allows perpetrators to seek amnesty after being made to understand the trauma of the victims or their families, and exhibiting remorse. However, in the Bano case, just the opposite could be true. The government must take a strong stance against crimes like the one committed against Bano and her family. The perpetrators must be held accountable, and justice must be served. The government must also ensure that such crimes do not recur in the future. It must take steps to promote communal harmony and prevent the kind of violence that we saw in Gujarat in 2002.

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

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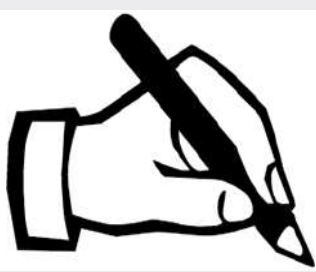


RAPIDIX trains of India's first Regional Rail service which is being constructed between Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut. The trains will have a Premium Class coach and a dedicated Train Attendant for the convenience of commuters.

Matters of Mind: PM Modi's Mann ki Baat



ANURAG SINGH THAKUR



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is universally acknowledged as an exceptionally gifted communicator who can establish instant rapport with the masses. His daunting oratorical skills are only one of the explanations for this unique ability. The sincerity with which he speaks, the integrity which he is known for, and the trust-based relationship he has struck with the people over the past eight years all contribute to his success as a mass communicator.

His inclusionary approach has found unprecedented acceptance across demographics. It's PM Modi's people-centric model of development that has endeared him to the vast multitudes. And it's his non-elitist idea of a continuous dialogue with the people that led to what we now know as 'Mann ki Baat', launched in October 2014. Over the years it has become a last-Sunday-of-the-month fixture. It began as a radio talk; it is now simultaneously broadcast from various platforms in multiple languages.

Mann Ki Baat shows there are two Modis - the strong, powerful, purposeful Prime Minister Modi; and the soft, kindly, gentle Paterfamilias Modi. If you were to shut your eyes and listen to 'Mann ki Baat', you would think that Modi Ji was sitting at a village chaupal, conversing with people - listening to them, speaking to them, and offering sage advice where needed, or complimenting someone for an exemplary deed. Recently he shared his conversation with families of accident victims who had bravely decided to donate organs of their loved ones. Modi Ji used that conversation to promote the noble idea of organ donation.

One could cite numerous such examples, ranging from coping with climate extremes to health and hygiene to complimenting ordinary people

with extraordinary hearts for their good deeds. PM Modi's 'Mann ki Baat' is essentially about real life stories and experiences, stories that reflect the real India that exists beyond the narrow confines of Lutyens's Delhi. Which explains why each episode of 'Mann ki Baat' is wildly popular and receives tens of thousands of responses. It resonates with the people as it is about their concerns.

The first episode of Mann Ki Baat was aired on 3 October 2014. It will complete 100 episodes on 30 April, 2023. Mann Ki Baat is a unique in terms of its subject matter, design, interaction, and innovative way of communicating with people and society as a whole. Through 'All India Radio', the largest radio network in the world with 262 radio stations, and over 375 private and community radio stations, the Prime Minister of India reaches a vast spectrum of the socio-economically and culturally diverse populace, inspires and energizes them not just on social, cultural, and economic issues but challenging problems that the world is facing today, such as climate change, waste management, energy crisis, etc.

Prasar Bharati, the Indian public service broadcaster undertakes the translation and broadcast of Mann Ki Baat in 52 languages/dialects including 11 foreign languages, catering to the remotest regions in the country while also taking it to the Indian diaspora. Mann Ki Baat is India's first virtually enriched radio program that is simultaneously broadcast by TV channels. 34 channels of the Doordarshan network and over 100 private satellite TV channels broadcast this innovative program across the lengths and breadths of the country, creating a renewed interest and awareness about this traditional medium of communication.

A smartly curated booklet, with articles of experts and changemakers from various walks of life, is also published each month since February 2022, reaching over 60 million people digitally.

With such a colossal impact, Mann Ki Baat has been termed widely (and rightfully so) as a social revolution and finds its solid base in Jan Bhagidari. The programme has been conceived and implemented around the idea of citizen engagement and participation right from the formulation of the name of the show to the choice of subjects and calls to action that Prime Minister includes in this programme. Every episode is a curation of a monthly reminder of the Prime Minister's unshaken faith in the transformative power of individuals and is instrumental in encouraging Jan Bhagidari in governance. Through Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister has been able to reach out to millions of people across the country. He uses the platform to share his vision for the country and seeks the participation of citizens in the nation-building process.

The primary objective of Mann Ki Baat is to build a direct connect between the Prime Minister of India and its citizens. Every month, the Prime Minister receives millions of letters from across the nation, which he sheds light upon during the programme. It is also not uncommon for the Hon'ble PM to have telephonic conversations with the people during the show. Such a mode of communication between the elected leader and the masses significantly strengthens people's belief in democracy and governance.

Throughout its successful course of 99 episodes spanning over 8 years, Mann Ki Baat has endeavoured to not only generate awareness in the masses about important issues but inspire them to take action on social and national causes. One of the key features of the programme is the inspiring stories of change-makers who are working relentlessly and selflessly on the ground which not only becomes a source of motivation for them to keep on working but also inspires millions of others.

Since its inception, Mann Ki Baat has emerged as an effective tool of Jan Andolan catalyzing social movements involving communities across the nation. The social messages delivered by the Prime Minister in the program become a social media

trend in a matter of few hours as well as a mass movement (janandolan) in a few weeks. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, COVID Vaccination and Har Ghar Tiranga are a few glorious examples of the same. Recently, in the 88th episode of Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of water conservation and urged the citizens to build Amrit Sarovars in their locality. Within a few months, the message was converted into a janandolan and numerous Amrit Sarovars emerged across the nation which were created by locals with the help of government bodies of the region. Subsequently, on the 92nd episode, Prime Minister lauded the prompt efforts of the citizens as he mentioned various Amrit Sarovars like Bhagat Singh Amrit Sarovar in Lalitpur of Uttar Pradesh and Amrit Sarovar in Bilkerur of Karnataka.

Furthering the vision of building a 'Sashakt Bharat', Mann Ki Baat is focused on highlighting the national and global successes of the nation urging people to participate in the nation's development while instilling a sense of pride, belonging and nationalism in the citizens. In the 89th episode, the Prime Minister highlighted the number of unicorns in India reaching the figure of 100; The 91st episode celebrated the mass participation and nationwide success of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, swelling the hearts of every Indian with pride, and many more such examples showcase how Mann Ki Baat is not just a radio programme, but a reflection of India's holistic development and an expression of public participation.

With Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister has successfully established a mechanism to take welfare schemes and policies to the people at every level and generate awareness about the same. Not only that, but the Prime Minister also shares success stories of how these schemes benefit people at the grass-root levels to motivate more and more people to become a beneficiary.

Even during times of crisis, the programme has played an important role in keeping people informed, as during the Covid pandemic, and motivating them to get vaccinated. India's vaccine story owes its success in great measure to Mann ki Baat. That alone is tribute enough to the relevance of Mann Ki Baat and its significance in our lives.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concerning turn of events

Relevant to Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf killing the shooters, two of whom are in their early twenties and the third who is only eighteen years old, have told police that they murdered the Ahmed siblings in order to 'make a name' for themselves in the criminal world. The ease with which they were able to murder the pair indicates serious lapses on the part of the escorting cops. The assailants had an easy time because of police laxity. The killings had an air of inevitability about them; it was just a question of how would they pull the trigger quicker than the UP cops. The state's recent spate of police encounters and extrajudicial killings must be investigated. Police, emboldened by an apparent trigger-happy government, have opened the floodgates to a vicious circle of killings. As a result, gangsters are fiercely competing for 'glory and fame'. This is a concerning turn of events. The judiciary and the Centre must strongly advise the UP & other state governments to change its ways and uphold the rule of law.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

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

The Impact of Food Wastage on Society, Economy, and Environment



Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Food wastage is a significant concern globally, with one-third of all food produced lost or wasted. Furthermore, as per the UN Hunger Report, the world produces sufficient food to feed the entire global population, but still, as many as 811 million remain hungry every day due to food wastage. According to a recent UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) report, roughly one-third of the food pro-

duced in the world for human consumption every year gets lost or wasted. That's around 1.3 billion tonnes. The UNEP's food wastage index report further reveals that India wastes approximately 68.76 million tonnes of food annually, with households wasting around 50 kilograms per person. Worldwide, one-third of food produced is either lost or wasted, contributing 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing food waste can also help conserve resources such as water, energy, and land. This issue not only affects the environment but also has social and economic impacts. Food wastage increases the burden on waste management systems and can lead to pollution of water bodies. The issue of food wastage is complex and multifaceted, and reducing it requires the involvement of different stakeholders, including farmers, food processors, retailers, consumers, and policymakers.

Food waste can be reduced through various strategies such as better storage and transportation practices, improving packaging and labeling, educating consumers about

food waste reduction, and encouraging the use of food donations and composting. Food waste reduction can also have positive economic impacts, such as reducing costs for food producers, retailers, and consumers, and creating new business opportunities in food waste management and recycling. Finally, reducing food waste can also help address the issue of food insecurity, where many people around the world lack access to nutritious and affordable food. By reducing food waste, more food can be made available for those in need.

The Indian government has been taking measures to reduce food waste, including launching programs such as 'Save Food Share Food' to encourage the donation of surplus food and educating students on preventing food waste through the school curriculum. At the same time, emerging technologies like app-based 'digital cafeterias' are being developed to help college campuses reduce food wastage by analyzing food consumption trends. These technologies can complement social initiatives like 'Save Food Share Food' by providing data-driven insights and enabling effective management of food re-

sources. Together, such efforts can contribute to reducing food waste and ensuring that surplus food reaches those in need.

There are many emerging technologies that are being developed to address the issue of food waste. Smart packaging, for example, is packaging that has sensors to monitor the condition of the food and provide real-time information on its freshness and quality. This technology can help reduce food waste by ensuring that food is consumed before it spoils. Blockchain technology can be used to track food from farm to table, ensuring that it is not wasted along the way. This technology can also help reduce food waste by providing better transparency and accountability in the food supply chain.

Artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to analyze data on food waste and help identify patterns and trends that can be used to prevent waste in the future. For example, AI can help retailers predict which products are likely to be wasted and adjust their inventory accordingly. Food sharing apps are also helpful in reducing food waste by allowing people to share surplus food with others who need it.

Additionally, there are many new technologies being developed to make composting more efficient and effective, such as aerobic composting, which uses oxygen to speed up the composting process.

Studies have shown that a significant portion of food waste occurs in restaurants and cafes, often due to factors such as portion sizes and customers' ordering habits. The UNEP highlights that food waste in the retail industry can also be attributed to factors such as inefficient inventory management and lack of food donation programs. To reduce food waste when dining out, it is essential to encourage responsible consumption practices, such as sharing meals and taking home leftovers, and to incentivize restaurants and retailers to implement sustainable practices. Addressing food wastage through awareness, education, and technology is a vital step in creating a more sustainable food system that benefits both society and the environment. By reducing food waste, we can conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and make a positive impact on food security and hunger alleviation.

BRIEF

Tech skilling



Bhubaneshwar: The brand Skilled in Odisha is ready to shine across the globe, Odisha Chief Minister Mr. Naveen Patnaik said today while inaugurating the Odisha Skill Conclave 2023. Mr. Patnaik called for enhanced cooperation between centre and states in new-age tech skilling in the country. "Odisha has kept a budgetary provision of Rs. 100 crores for this year for the new scheme Nua Odisha to train the youth in future technologies like cloud computing, artificial technology, data sciences, and other futuristic knowledge," said Mr. Patnaik.

Audit reports



New Delhi: Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu has said audit reports have assumed immense importance as they induced action from the executive by way of design improvements, mid-course corrections, strengthening systems and even review of certain policies. Murmu while delivering a keynote speech on 'Audit impact of the Indian perspective' at IMPACT 2023 in Canberra (Australia) shared a few experiences wherein audit findings had a distinctly visible impact on executive functioning.

Appointment



New Delhi: HDFC Bank on Thursday said it has appointed Kaizad Bharucha as deputy managing director and Bhavesh Zaveri as executive director for three years. These appointments have been made after clearance from the Reserve Bank of India, HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing. The RBI, in its communication dated April 19, 2023, has approved the appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Deputy Managing Director of the bank for three years with effect from April 19, it added. Besides, it also approved the appointment of Bhavesh Zaveri as executive director of the bank for a similar term with effect from April 19, 2023. Further, it said, a meeting of the Board of Directors will be convened in due course to give effect to the appointments.

Cumulative impact of monetary policy actions still unfolding: RBI Gov

Mumbai, Apr 20:

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, in the rate-setting panel meeting earlier this month, opined that the cumulative impact of the monetary policy actions over the last one year is still unfolding and needs to be monitored closely, as per the MPC minutes released on Thursday. Das, along with the five other members of the Monetary Policy Committee, voted for a pause in rate hike earlier this month. The central bank, which effected six back-to-back hikes in the key short-term lending rate (repo) since May 2022 to check high inflation, decided to take a pause early



this month. The cumulative rate hike since May 2022 is 250 basis points. "The cumulative impact of our monetary policy actions over the last one year is still unfolding and needs to be monitored closely," Das said during the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held during April 3-6.

Inflation for 2023-24 is projected to soften, but the disinflation towards the target is likely to be slow and protracted. The projected inflation in Q4:2023-24 at 5.2 per cent would still be well above the target, he noted. "Therefore, at this juncture, we have to persevere with our focus on bringing about a durable moderation in inflation and at the same time give ourselves some time to monitor the impact of our past actions. Das said, "I am, therefore, of the view that we do a tactical pause in this meeting of the MPC", as per the minutes of the MPC meeting released by the RBI. MPC member and RBI Deputy

Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said that an ongoing assessment of the macroeconomic outlook should inform a preparedness to re-calibrate monetary policy towards a more restrictive stance with consistent actions, should risks to the inflation trajectory materialise and impede its alignment with the target. The process of getting inflation back to target could turn out to be gradual and uneven but the mission of monetary policy is to shepherd this process through potential bumps while containing second-round effects and anchoring inflation expectations, he added.

Need to increase awareness about RERA law: Delhi-RERA Chairman

Adopt new tech in realty sector

New Delhi, Apr 20:

Delhi-RERA Chairman Anand Kumar on Thursday asserted the need to increase awareness about the realty law RERA for the growth of the real estate sector and also asked builders to adopt technologies to cut construction costs. Addressing a conference organised by industry body PHDCCI, Kumar emphasised that all stakeholders - government authorities, builders, property agents and consumers - need to work together for faster growth of the real estate sector. The Delhi-RERA Chairman pointed out that most of the builders and property bro-



kers are scared of Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, popularly known as RERA, and try to avoid complying with the provisions of this legislation. "RERA Act is not only regulation but it is for enhancing transparency and it is for active development of real estate sector," Kumar said, adding that the regulators under the Act are facilitators. He rued a lack of awareness about this Act among all

stakeholders and there is a need to create awareness. Kumar exhorted builders to adopt new technologies. "Adoption of technology is important. We have to reduce the cost. Unless we make flats at an affordable price, we cannot achieve Housing For All," he noted. Talking about the Delhi property market, Kumar said there are huge land parcels available in the national capital and those should be used for the development of projects. "Unless we facilitate the development of the land we have, there will be unauthorised development," he said. D Thara, additional secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, noted that the real estate sector is the biggest employer for both skilled and unskilled workers.

LPG Revolution: 17 cr new connections double customer base in 9 yrs

New Delhi, Apr 20:

A record 17 crore new LPG connections helped double the cooking gas consumer base to 31.26 crore in the last 9 years, ushering in clean fuel in millions of households across the country, official data showed on Thursday. The active domestic LPG consumers have increased from 14.52 crore in April 2014 to 31.36 crore as of March 2023. This significant increase was primarily due to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), which has led to an increase in LPG coverage from just 62 per cent in 2016 to a whopping 104.1 per cent in 2022.

From a period when there was a waiting period to get a new LPG connection, and it would take 7-10



days for delivery of an LPG refill cylinder, cooking gas connections are now available on demand, and refills can be availed partially within 24 hours at most places. Besides the 14.2-kg traditional cylinder, state-owned fuel retailers have introduced 5-kg cylinders for consumers with either lesser demand or lower purchasing power. PMUY was launched on May 01, 2016, with a target to provide

free cooking gas connections to every poor household. As of January 30, 2023, the total number of connections released under PMUY is 9.58 crore, the data showed. On March 24, 2023, the Union Cabinet approved a subsidy of Rs 200 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per year for the beneficiaries of PMUY. PMUY was launched with the objective to safeguard the health of women and chil-

dren by shifting kitchens from firewood and other smoky cooking mediums to clean fuel. The scheme provides for deposit-free LPG connection to the eligible household with the financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection. Free of cost first LPG refill and gas stove is provided for the first time by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs). The initial target was to provide LPG connections to 5 crore women members of BPL households. Subsequently, the scheme was expanded and the target was revised to 8 crore LPG connections. To cover the remaining households under PMUY, Ujjwala 2.0 was started on August 10, 2021, on a pan-India basis to provide an additional one crore LPG connections.

ICRA projects 20-25 pc growth for India's quick service restaurant industry in FY24

New Delhi, Apr 20:

India's quick service restaurant industry is likely to witness 20-25 pc growth in the current financial year supported by demand uptick and increasing penetration driven by a rapid expansion of stores. Over the long-term, revenue growth shall be supported by factors like rising QSR penetration levels, a shift from the unorganised to the organised segment with a preference for branded quick service restaurant (QSR) players, given the hygiene and convenience factors (delivery over dine-in), etc, ICRA said. "On the back of a robust industry revenue expansion of around 30-35 per cent in YoY terms estimated for FY2023, ICRA projects growth to moderate somewhat while remaining strong at 20-25 per cent in FY2024 on account of the demand uptick and increasing penetration

driven by a rapid expansion of stores," the rating agency said. However, downside risks to the estimates remain from the emergence of any further Covid waves or any material weakening in purchasing power due to a high inflationary interest-rate regime, ICRA stated. ICRA estimates that the top five players in the domestic quick-service restaurant industry are likely to add approximately 2,300 stores between FY2023-FY2025 with an estimated capex at around Rs 5,800 crore (excluding refurbishment) for this period, twice that of the levels seen during the pre-Covid era. Majority of capex is expected to be funded through internal accruals and cash on the books, having raised money through the pre-IPO/IPO route in the last two fiscals to support the planned capex in the near- to medium-term, the report said.

Equity markets settle with marginal gains in highly volatile trade

Mumbai, Apr 20:

Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended with marginal gains on Thursday after falling in the past three days, helped by fag-end buying in energy, telecom and utility stocks. Investors remained cautious amid renewed foreign fund outflows and prevailing risk-off sentiments ahead of US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, traders said. In a highly volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 64.55 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 59,632.35. During the day, it hit a high of 59,836.79 and a low of 59,489.98. The broader NSE Nifty went up by 5.70 points or 0.03 per cent to finish at 17,624.45. "Markets ended the 3-day losing streak on selective buying in financials, tele-



com and utility stocks. The market had run up sharply over the past week or so, but with FIIs turning sellers in the last few sessions and global central banks signalling more hawkish bets going ahead, traders are maintaining a cautious stance," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. Among the Sensex firms, Asian Paints, NTPC, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, Wipro,

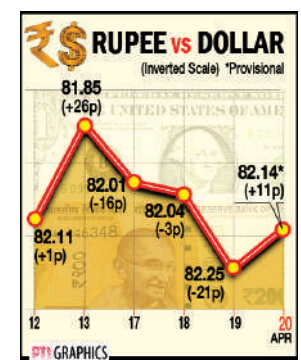
Tata Consultancy Services, ITC, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the biggest winners. Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Nestle, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries and HDFC were among the laggards. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge ended marginally lower by 0.03 per cent, while small-cap index climbed 0.10 per cent. Among indices, services jumped 0.89 per cent, utilities climbed 0.85 per cent, telecommunication (0.81 per cent), power (0.74 per cent), industrials (0.63 per cent), capital goods (0.58 per cent). Realty, FMCG, metal, commodities, energy, IT and oil & gas were the laggards. "Markets traded lackluster for yet another session and ended almost unchanged on the weekly expiry day.

Rupee gains 11 paise to close at 82.14 against US dollar

Mumbai, Apr 20:

The rupee appreciated 11 paise to close at 82.14 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as crude oil prices retreated from elevated levels. Forex traders said a positive trend in domestic equities also supported the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.21 against the US currency and finally closed at 82.14 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 11 paise over its previous close. During the session, the rupee touched a high of 82.12 and a low of 82.21 against the dollar. On Wednesday, the rupee closed at 82.25 against the US currency. According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities, the rupee traded positively on the back of the dollar index trading below USD



101.70 along with weakness in crude as WTI traded below USD 78, giving support to the rupee. "Rupee continues to be in the broad range between 81.80-82.25 pricing in the interest rate probability of a hike in May policy by 0.25bps. The rupee range can continue between 81.80-82.25," Trivedi added. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.08 per cent to 101.88.

Western Digital WD Green SSD to work four times faster

Mumbai, Apr 20:

Is your productivity getting hindered because of the slow performance of your devices? If you're looking to upgrade your old system to match to your current needs, then Western Digital's WD Green TM SN350 NVMe SSD could be the right storage solution for you. Whether you're in class, shopping, chatting or surfing, this drive can work up to four times faster than SATA drives. Because they have no moving parts, SSDs offer a shock-resistant design to help protect your important data against accidental bumps and drops. The slim M.2 2280 form factor allows for a quick and easy upgrade for any computer with an NVMe

slot. It comes with 5 capacity options: 240GB, 480GB, 960GB, 1TB and 2TB, all with a 3-year warranty. The price starts from Rs 1,839 for 240GB and goes up to Rs 12,069 for 2TB. The WD Green SN350 SSD drives come with a free, downloadable software that monitors the current performance, space availability, temperature and more to ensure peak performance. The budget-friendly, WD Green SN350 NVMe SSD offer great performance of 3200MB/s and write speeds1 of 3,200MB/s. It offers ultra-low power-draw, so your laptop runs longer. The WD Green SN350 NVMe SSD is super easy to install and can revitalize your old computer for your increasing daily needs.

Gold likely to lose sheen on high prices this Akshaya Tritiya; jewellers expect 20 pc dip in demand

Mumbai, Apr 20:

The recent surge in gold prices, which is hovering around Rs 60,000 per 10 grams, is likely to dampen consumer demand this Akshaya Tritiya, with jewellers expecting a 20 per cent decline in sales in volume terms. "With gold prices crossing Rs 60,000 per 10 grams recently has made consumers wary of buying the yellow metal. Even though the prices have come down a little bit since then, prices remain bullish. This will affect the sales during Akshaya Tritiya, considered auspicious to buy precious metals. We expect a 20 per cent dip in volume from last



year." All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) chairman Saiyam Mehra told PTI. During Akshaya Tritiya, 40 per cent of the business is done in the south, 25 per

cent in the west, 20 per cent in the east and the remaining 15 per cent in the north, he said. Currently, the gold price is ruling at Rs 60,280 per 10 grams level in the domestic market.

World Book Day's initiative to 'Make India read'

New Delhi, Apr 20:

With World Book Day being celebrated on Sunday April 23, Amazon.in announced its yearlong #GiftABook campaign. With the aim to inspire the culture of reading and gifting books in India, the campaign focuses on the significance of giving a gift that keeps on giving. Customers can discover books across genres and age groups with a host of exciting offers and deals on the specially curated gift a book store front. This initiative by Amazon.in is part of its ongoing effort to 'Make India read.' To kick off the campaign, a digital video was launched earlier this year that captures the journey of a young girl show-

casing the impact of books gifted to her at various stages in her life that help shape her story. The video emphasizes that books are gifts that never go out of fashion and highlights the many benefits of reading, such as enhancing curiosity, developing imagination, generating new ideas, and building character. Check out the campaign video here. Rajarshi Guin, Director, Media, Amazon India expressed his enthusiasm for the campaign stating, "We are committed to contribute in building a nation of readers. Reading helps in developing imagination, enhance curiosity, generate new ideas and build character. These are some of the many reasons why Books are great gifts.



Himanshi Khurana's love for styling made her design the outfits for 'Stars'

Former 'Bigg Boss 13' contestant and Punjabi actress Himanshi Khurana opened up about her love for fashion and how it led her to design the wardrobe for her co-actors in the newly released music video 'Stars'. She revealed that she styled not only her outfit but that of others as well. Himanshi is known for her work in Punjabi films like 'Sadda Haq' and she also entered the popular reality show 'Bigg Boss 13' as a wild card contestant. Apart from Punjabi films, she has also done several music videos. She mentioned that she loves to experiment and explore different aspects of fashion, which helps her feel more attached to what she wears and how she wants to represent herself. Speaking about her recent work, she said, "My fashion sense is majorly about comfort over anything, and this love for styling made me feel compelled to style the entire couture of my recently released music video 'Stars', in which all the outfits worn by the artists are exclusively done by me." Himanshi added that she had to think a lot before styling the outfit for everyone as it had to complement the lyrics of the song.

Imran Nazir Khan enters 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai'

Imran Nazir Khan, who has appeared in several television shows, OTT, commercials, and music albums, is set to appear in &TV's cult classic comedy show Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai. The actor will play the role of Timmy, the younger cousin brother of Vibhuti Narayan Mishra (Aasif Sheikh) and the captain of the Indian national cricket team.

Talking about his character Timmy, Imran Nazir Khan shares, "My character Timmy is a sportsman and the captain of the Indian Cricket Team. He has high regard for him as he only trained him to play cricket in his initial days, and due to him, he has a successful career now. He comes to Kanpur for a match and stays with his cousin, Vibhuti Narayan Mishra. Everyone is in awe of his presence in Modern Colony. He sees Angoori (Shubhangi Atre), falls for her innocence, and starts flirting with her, which makes his brother jealous." About his joining the immensely popular show, Bhabiji Ghar



Par Hai, the actor shares, "It is a wonderful opportunity, and I am overjoyed to be part of Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai. I have been a regular show watcher, and Vibhuti has been my all-time favourite. In my wildest dream, I could not have imagined that someday I would be part of this amazing show and share screen space with Aasif Sheikh Sir." Watch Imran Nazir Khan as Timmy in Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai every Monday to Friday at 10:30 pm only!

Twitter Blue Ticks removed from Trisha and Jayam Ravi's Handles: Here's Why

As the promotions for Mani Ratnam's upcoming historical drama, 'Ponniyin Selvan 2', are in full swing, the film's stars, Trisha and Jayam Ravi, have lost their blue tick verification badges on Twitter. The incident occurred after the actors changed their Twitter handles to their character's names in the movie. Jayam Ravi changed his name to Arunmozhi Varman, who played Rajaraja I, while Trisha changed hers to Kundavai, the elder sister of the future emperor. However, Twitter does not recognize these names, and hence the actors lost their blue ticks. Trisha stated that their team is working on getting the verification badges back as it might be a technical glitch. They even attempted to purchase the blue ticks, but it seems that suspicious activity was detected. The actors were present in the capital on Tuesday evening to interact with the media, where Trisha expressed her confusion about the situation. She mentioned that they were instructed to change their Twitter handles according to their character's names, but they never expected to lose their blue ticks. On a lighter note, Ravi stated that Twitter is currently verifying their characters before moving on to verifying their character names.



Kangana Ranaut's heartwarming message for parents on their anniversary



their younger days. She thanked her father for going against everyone's wishes, including their grandfather, to marry her mother. She further added, "Your love story is my most favorite."

In another post, Kangana shared a photograph of her parents and wrote, "If I have seven lives, I want your papa as my husband in every lifetime. The same way, if I have more lives, I want you both as my mummy and papa, always."

Kangana also posted a message for her uncle and aunt, who had an arranged marriage. She shared a photograph of the couple and revealed that their pet names were Babloo and Bhabli. Kangana humorously added that "marriages are truly made in heaven."

Kangana shared another photograph of her mother and wrote how she spent all her childhood days messing with her aunt's dresser, trying out different makeup products. She praised her chachi for being the most patient, kind, and gentle woman ever. Kangana's heartwarming messages for her parents and family members show how much she values and cherishes her loved ones.

&TV artists share best-kept summer fashion styles



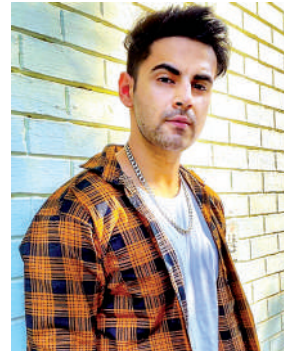
Changing seasons call for new styling in sync with the weather conditions. To embrace summer without compromising on the style quotient, &TV artists revamp their wardrobes and share their best-kept summer fashion styles. Artists include Neha Joshi (Yashoda, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh Singh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabhi, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Neha Joshi, aka Yashoda from Doosri Maa, shares, "Summer clothes aim to have as much airflow as

possible. My summer wardrobe contains clothes made of breathable fabrics like cotton and linen, which keep me cool in hot weather. Cotton suits, flowy sarees and Kurtis, classic linen or cotton trousers, and comfy maxi dresses keep me stylish in the summer. It applies whether the garment is plain, striped, sequined, or oversized. I always have these summer clothing options in my closet and pair them with accessories like scarves, dupattas, and lightweight jewellery to complete my look. Also, when I go shopping, I always choose

pastel colours. They reflect the sun and help me keep cool in the heat. It also looks great with my tan and lighter hair."

Kamna Pathak, aka, Rajesh Singh from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "For me, summer is about casualness and relaxation. During the day, I prefer light colours, while at night, I prefer dark colours. Baggy cotton shirts and loose cargo jeans are my go-to attire during the summer. It is also time to get loafers and slippers out of my closet. In summer, I step out of the house without a stole. They are trendy and convenient, making them an ideal summer companion. A colourful stole enhances the look of your outfit and helps you relieve the scorching sun's rays. Lastly, sunglasses are a must, not only for style but also to protect your eyes. Invest in a good pair and wear them with your outfits to look trendy while beating the summer heat with the utmost style." Vidisha Srivastava, aka Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Actor Pulkit Bangia shares his experience playing Abhishek in 'Sapno Ki Chhalaang'



Pulkit Bangia, who portrays Abhishek in the TV series "Sapno Ki Chhalaang," talked about his character and how much he relates to it. He also shared that he is his biggest critic and that he judges himself better than anyone else. According to Pulkit, Abhishek is Radhika's neighbor and has a very different personality from hers. He's a relaxed and liberal guy who can make anyone feel calm with his charm. Pulkit found it easy to blend into the character because he sees a lot of himself in Abhishek. Although the role was relatable, Pulkit worked on polishing his natural and realistic acting skills to play Abhishek convincingly. He said that the show is in the real zone, so he had to make sure his acting reflected that.

Ram Bisht shines on stage with his powerful dance act



After the power packed 'audition rounds' of Sony Entertainment Television's 'India's Best Dancer 3', the participants are all set to battle it out in the mega auditions to secure their place in the 'Best Barah'. This weekend, the judges and E.E.N.T specialists - judges Geeta Kapur, Sonali Bendre and Terence Lewis will be tasked with choosing the best out of the lot and give India its Best Barah dancers. Giving an electrifying performance, 24-year-old Ram Bisht from Ludhiana will pour out his heart and soul on the stage with his performance on 'Jo Bheji Thi Dua'. Beautifully performing the contemporary style, Ram will leave the judges awestruck. Showering praises on Ram, judge Terence Lewis will share, "There is no better performance than this! Especially the way you performed felt

like you were narrating a story, through your dance, without saying anything, you blew me away! Your choreography was outstanding, absolutely outstanding!" Even judge Sonali Bendre will mention how she is in shock after what she witnessed as she had tears in her eyes watching his moving performance. She said, "Your steps, your finishing, it suits the dance show and respects the platform. Even without moving, your posture spoke to me. This emotion that you showed, is what I keep repeating on the show that dance is a way to express emotions. It is such a fantastic thing as you were able to capture intimate moments i.e the ups and downs in your life, you turned them into your strength and positives. That emotion you have expressed on the stage, is dance! Ram, your performance was outstanding!"

Emotional journey of 'Shravani' from Apr 24

Shemaroo Umang is all set to tug at the heartstrings of its audience with the launch of its new show 'Shravani' from 24th April 2023. This touching drama revolves around the inspiring story of an 8-year-old girl named Shravani whose parents are visually impaired. Through its poignant narrative, 'Shravani' promises to take the viewers on an emotional rollercoaster as they witness the young girl's relentless pursuit of her aspirations.

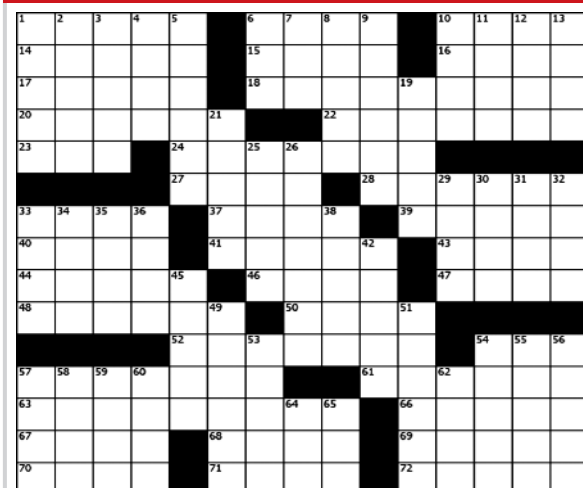


ly portrays how the little girl helps her parents in their day-to-day life and strives to help her father regain his vision after a mishap. Her ultimate goal

is to become an eye specialist to cure people and help them. 8 year old Gaurika Sharma, who plays the lead role, is ecstatic about the opportunity. "I am super excited to be a part of 'Shravani'! The show has lots of emotion, drama and fun. I feel so lucky to be the lead in this show and I hope everyone loves it as much as I do!"

With its powerful message and talented cast, 'Shravani' is set to capture the hearts of viewers across the nation. The show will be aired on Shemaroo Umang from April 24th, 2023, every Monday to Saturday, at 8:30 PM. Don't miss out on this heartwarming family drama that promises to inspire and entertain audiences of all ages.

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Plant anchors
 - Frog's kin
 - Purposes
 - First Greek letter
 - Positive
 - Passion
 - Perfect
 - Interest benchmark (2 wds.)
 - Continuing story
 - Tranquilized
 - Distinctive time
 - Deceive
 - Machu Picchu native
 - Most pleasing
 - Leftover dish
 - Damp
 - Gladden
 - Informed about
 - Female singers
 - Bakery hot spot
 - Witness box
 - Jaunty
- DOWN**
- Elevate
 - More ancient
 - Soap
 - Bangkok native
 - Deli offering
 - Recipe abbr.
 - Belonging to us
 - Ascend
 - Put down
 - Poet Pound
 - Tidy
 - Escort
 - Winter toy
 - Murphy of "Shrek"
 - Actress Evans
 - Hair location
 - Portable lamp
 - Drain obstruction
 - Icicle's spot
 - Flower stalk
 - Perfect gymnastics scores
 - Nylons
 - Picnic pests
 - Right away!
 - Sharpen
 - Seoul's country
 - Solemn
 - Prevent
 - Group's mood
 - Peruvian animals
 - Receded
 - Indian boat
 - Nimble
 - Handed out cards
 - School orgs.
 - Bun
 - Toast topping
 - Sleeveless jacket
 - Trigonometry, e.g.
 - Dawdle
 - Get by

622

SOLUTION 621

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Du Plessis, Siraj script 24-run win for RCB

Mohali, Apr 20 (PTI):

Faf du Plessis played a special knock despite a rib injury before Mohammed Siraj produced his best figures in the IPL to set up a 24-run win for Royal Challengers Bangalore against Punjab Kings here on Thursday.

Playing as an 'Impact Player' due to his injury, Du Plessis plundered 84 off 56 balls and shared a 137-run opening wicket stand with stand-in captain Virat Kohli (59 off 47) to steer RCB to 174 for four after being put in to bat.

Though in-form skipper Shikhar Dhawan was unavailable for the second game in a row, Punjab had enough firepower to chase down 175 but lost too many wickets at the start of the chase.

Siraj delivered with wickets with the new ball as well as in the death overs to end up with 4/21 in four overs and secure a welcome victory for his team. Jitesh Sharma's



Faf du Plessis

Mohammed Siraj

counter-attacking 41 off 27 for Punjab went in vain.

It was RCB's third win in six games while Punjab suffered their third loss in six matches.

Siraj was too hot to handle in the powerplay as he removed left-hander Atharva Taide with a

run-outs of Sam Curran and Harpreet Bhatia made matters worse for the home team.

At 97 for six, the game looked done and dusted but Jitesh Sharma kept Punjab in the game with some clean hitting, especially down the ground. He ran out of partners eventually.

Earlier, at 91 for no loss in 10 overs, RCB were on course for 200 plus total but Punjab bowled well in the middle and death overs to restrict the opposition.

Du Plessis hammered five sixes and as many fours in his belligerent knock. Like he often does, the former South Africa skipper was not afraid to show his stumps to the spinners to free his arms for the big shots.

Kohli made 59 off 47 balls though the first half of his innings was more fluent.

It was the fourth fifty plus score for the RCB opens this season, highlighting their consistency.

RCB would be a tad disappointed with the total they ended up with after a flying start from Du Plessis and Kohli, who fired their team to 59 for no loss in the powerplay.

Arshdeep Singh and Curran employed the short-ball tactic against du Plessis and Kohli with the new ball but it did not work.

The Indian star began with his trademark cover drive off spinner Harpreet Brar before pulling a short ball from Arshdeep over short fine leg for another four in the third over.

Du Plessis got going with a couple of sixes off Brar, who opened the bowling alongside Arshdeep.

The South African made room for a massive straight six over Brar's head and followed it up with another one wide of long on. However, his best of the lot was the straight six off pacer Nathan Ellis as he stood still to slap it over the bowler's head.

CSK hope for Stokes boost ahead of SRH clash

Chennai, Apr 20 (PTI)

Four-time champions Chennai Super Kings will hope their star allrounder Ben Stokes finally takes the field after recovering from his injury when they go up against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their IPL match here on Friday.

In a relief to CSK, Stokes, who was suffering from a toe injury and missed three IPL matches, took part in the net practice on Wednesday after regaining fitness and is available for selection.

The England Test captain's return will be a big boost for CSK as they return to their fortress following a close win over Royal Challengers Bangalore. Their opponents Hyderabad, however, copped a defeat at the hands of Mumbai Indians. The Super Kings batters have been able to put up good scores, thanks to the starts provided by Devon Conway



and Ruturaj Gaikwad at the top while the big-hitting Shivam Dube has managed a few impactful knocks.

Ajinkya Rahane has been a revelation, batting with a lot of freedom and going after opposition bowlers, but in an orthodox manner and though

the rest of the batters have not done much, the crowd, especially in Chennai, will expect to see a vintage Dhoni uncorking some huge hits.

While the CSK batting unit has been finding the runs, the bowlers have been inconsistent and fielding below par.

'Punjab's dependency on Dhawan a major concern'

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

Punjab Kings' dependency on skipper Shikhar Dhawan is a major concern and rest of the players will have to take responsibility if they have to emerge as title contenders in the ongoing IPL, said former India spinner Harbhajan Singh.

Dhawan has scored bulk of the runs, amassing 233 in four innings with 99 not out being the highest as PBKS managed two wins and two losses under his captaincy so far.

Dhawan, however, missed their last game due to a shoulder injury, with stand-in skipper Sam Curran guiding the team to a win against Lucknow Super Giants.

"The Punjab side seems to be largely dependent on their captain Shikhar Dhawan in the batting department which is a con-



cern," Harbhajan told Star Sports Cricket Live.

"While depending on one player, you can win two or three matches but you cannot win a tournament like IPL. The rest of Punjab players will have to support their captain and take responsibility if they wish to go forward."

Harbhajan also heaped praise on Kolkata Knight Riders batter Venkatesh Iyer, who slammed the first IPL century for his franchise in 15 years, after Brendon McCullum.

Indian men's recurve team storm into World Cup final

Antalya, Apr 20 (PTI):

India stormed into the final of the men's recurve team event for the first time in nine years after registering three wins in the ongoing Archery World Cup Stage 1, here on Thursday.

The trio of Atanu Das, B Dhiraj and Tarundeep Rai will face China in the gold medal clash on Sunday in pursuit of India's first World Cup gold medal in the men's recurve team event after 13 years.

The men's recurve team, which got a first-round bye after qualifying as the fourth seed, faced a stiff challenge to begin with as it defeated 13th seed Japan 5-4 with a 29-28 win in the shoot-off.

The Indians shot two perfect 10 from three attempts (10, 10, 9) to seal the issue in the tie-breaker after both the teams were locked 4-4 (49-52, 57-52, 54-51, 52-57) following four



sets of intense shooting. Thereafter, it was an easy sailing for the Indian trio that got past 12th seed Chinese Taipei and ninth seed Netherlands by identical 6-2 margins to set up a summit clash with second seed China. The Netherlands will take on

Netherlands who were on a high after eliminating top-seed and tournament hosts Turkey (6-0), a team that included the reigning Olympic champion Mete Gazoz. The Dutch raced to a 2-0 lead but the Indians came back strongly to win 6-2 (56-58, 57-53, 57-55, 56-54). Incidentally, it is at the same Mediterranean coastal resort of Antalya where the Indian men's recurve team had tasted its first success in a World Cup way back in 2008.

The team of Jayanta Talukdar, Rahul Banerjee and Mangal Singh Champia defeated their Malaysia rivals 218-215 en route to a maiden recurve men's team gold medal in the World Cup.

Since then, Indian men's recurve team have won five gold medals in the World Cup. India had last won a World Cup gold medal in men's recurve team event in Shanghai in 2010.

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

The India U-17 team ran out comfortable winners against Atletico Madrid U-17 in a friendly game in Madrid on Wednesday.

Bibiano Fernandes' boys are on an exposure tour prior to the AFC U-17 Asian Championships in Thailand. They won the match 4-1.

The goals started coming in as early as the sixth minute, India starting the scoring having staved off a few Atletico attacks. Picking up a through ball on the right flank, Korou Singh Thingujam took a shot at goal to give India an early lead.

Forced on the back foot, Atletico started building up play and creating a few chances of their own only to be blocked by a stubborn Indian defence. Leading the pack was

India U-17 beat Atletico Madrid 4-1 in first friendly in Spain

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

captain Surajkumar Nangbam, who was always at the right place to head away or clear an in-bound cross.

Just after the half hour mark, India doubled their lead, Korou turning provider this time. The winger picked up Danny Meitei's throw-in, before crossing the ball into the box for Lalpekhlu, who slotted it in perfectly.

Atletico pulled one back in the 38th minute, Gabriel scoring from a rebound after Sahil's save off the initial attempt to keep the hosts in the game as they headed to the break. India were content to play on the counter in the second period, the team more focussed on maintaining shape, concentration and discipline off the ball. In the 59th minute, Shashwat played Korou through on goal. The latter's pass was well saved by the goalkeeper though.

Kirsten admits defending totals a worry

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

Defending champions Gujarat Titans have been struggling to defend totals this season and team's mentor Gary Kirsten has blamed it on an unsettled bowling line up.

In the five games played so far, GT won three and the two defeats have come while defending totals.

"In the last IPL we defended four and chased down six games. This year we haven't defended a total yet but it is early days in the tournament. Last year we had a settled bowling line up. This year due to injuries and guys who we bank on in crucial overs, aren't necessarily ready to



go," Kirsten said during a virtual press conference.

GT are probably missing New Zealand pacer Lockie Ferguson, who they have traded to Kolkata Knight Riders.

"Every team needs to

Nadal out of Madrid Open after slow recovery from hip injury

Madrid, Apr 20 (AP):

Rafael Nadal will miss the Madrid Open next week because his recovery from a hip injury is going much slower than expected. The 22-time Grand Slam winner has been sidelined since January by a left hip flexor injury he picked up at the Australian Open. The issue has kept him from the Indian Wells, Miami, Monte Carlo and Barcelona tournaments so far. The Madrid Open he's won five times starts on Monday.

Broadcaster paying commentator to express opinion must be accepted'

Mumbai, Apr 20 (PTI)

Rajasthan Royals and England wicketkeeper-batter Jos Buttler says if a commentator criticises a player, he is only doing his job, and that acceptance should be an integral part of any cricketer's career. "Acceptance is a big part of the job. Accepting that broadcaster pays someone to give their opinion; they are just doing their job. It is not a personal attack on me when they criticise me," Buttler told Humans of Bombay in an interview.

"And I watch other sports. I watch football and go 'oh how did he miss that?! It was so easy'. That is exactly what people are



doing when I drop a catch or go for a low score. I do exactly the same thing without realising when I watch other sports. Just acceptance," he said.

The England white-ball skipper says he always wanted to be an all-format cricketer, and not being able to perform in Test cricket is something that

still bothers him. "My strengths have always been being better ODI and T20 player. I was desperate to become an all-format player and a very successful Test cricketer. I played a lot of Test cricket in the end but never quite performed to a level quite consistently that I felt I could have achieved, and that will always be a frustration. I always want to be one of the best players in the world," he said.

Buttler, who captained England to their second ICC T20 World Cup win last year, named South African Jonty Rhodes and Australian legends Adam Gilchrist and Steve Waugh as being his inspiration in his early days.

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METRO TRIAL RUN



A Kolkata Metro train passes through a tunnel under the River Hooghly during a trial run from Howrah Maidan to Esplanade, in Kolkata, Thursday.

'India attaches special importance to SCO'

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

India attaches special importance to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in promoting dialogue on multi-dimensional political, security and economic subjects, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday.

He said this while chairing a meeting of Heads of Departments of SCO member states responsible for Prevention and Elimination of Emergency Situations in New Delhi.

He said India's priority as the chair of the SCO is to take forward the SECURE theme articulated by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi at the Qingdao Summit of the grouping in 2018.

SECURE stands S - Security, E - Economic Cooperation, C - Connectivity, U - Unity, R - Respect For Sovereignty and Integrity and E - Environment Protection.

Under the leadership of Modi, India attaches special importance to the SCO in promoting dialogue on the subject relating to multi-dimensional political, security and economic subjects, an official statement said.

Shah said India attaches special importance to disaster risk reduction and is ready to share its expertise and experience in this field for greater coopera-



Amit Shah

seen a sea change in the way its early warning systems (EWS) of drought, flood, lightning, heat wave, cold wave, cyclone, have improved.

He said the forecast not only warns India about the disaster but also predicts the potential impact it is likely to cause.

According to Shah, at the time of a natural disaster, it is of great importance how quickly the relief reaches the affected area and this speed reflects the preparedness of the team and the efficiency of their training.

He said India has been associated with the SCO since 2005 and playing an important role as an observer country, since then.

tion and mutual trust among SCO member states. He said India believes that no hazard is small or big and it does not leave anyone behind.

Shah said India now has more accurate and timely early warning system in place and the country has

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Inflow of cases too heavy: SC

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

The Supreme Court, which is hearing arguments on a batch of pleas seeking legal sanction for same-sex marriage, said on Thursday the inflow of cases in the apex court is so heavy that it is impossible to list constitution bench matters unless the time taken to argue is rationed.

Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, who is heading a five-judge constitution bench which is hearing the matter, said the chief justices before him

had not set up constitution benches because of the kind of pressure which is there in terms of the inflow of matters.

"If constitution benches really have to go on, you know, with five judges leaving their regular works.... That is why chief justices before me have not constituted constitution benches because you don't know the kind of pressure. Every evening I ask what is the filing and how much is the disposal," he said. "We don't want to add. That is the real problem in our court. The

inflow is so heavy, unless we start rationing time, you know, it is impossible to list constitution benches," said the CJI, who is heading the bench, which also comprises Justices S K Kaul, S R Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha.

At the beginning of the hearing on the same-sex marriage issue for the third successive day, a counsel handed over to the bench a list of lawyers who would argue on behalf of the petitioners along with the indicative time which they would take. The CJI said

the petitioners' side will have to conclude their submissions by the end of the day as the court has to give sufficient time to the other side as well.

"You know, if I am having a very long telephonic conversation, my better half only does this to me, which is, please now get on with your work and stop the conversation," Justice Chandrachud said in a lighter vein and asked senior advocate A M Singhvi, who was to argue for one of the petitioners, to continue with his submissions.

Prez Murmu visits Indian Institute of Advanced Study

Shimla, Apr 20 (PTI): President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday visited the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) here, an official statement said. Murmu arrived here on Tuesday on a four-day visit. She is staying at the 'Rashtrapati Niwas' in Mashobra. Murmu visited the picture gallery, library, protected offices and courtyard of the main building of the institute, the statement said. Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla accompanied the president, it said. Shashiprabha Kumar, chairperson of the institute, Nageswar Rao, vice chancellor of IGNOU, New Delhi and director of the institute, Shailendra Raj Mehta, vice chairman, and Subrat Kumar Pradhan, secretary welcomed the president on her arrival.

Amritpal Singh's wife prevented from going to UK

Amritsar, Apr 20 (PTI):

Fugitive radical preacher Amritpal Singh's wife Kirandeep Kaur was stopped from boarding a flight to London at the Sri Guru Ram Dass International Airport here, sources said on Thursday.

She was questioned by the immigration authorities and some other officials for more than three hours and thereafter, asked to return along with some relatives who had come to see her off at the airport.

Singh married Kaur, a UK-based Non-Resident Indian, on February 10. Kaur, who is a British citizen, reached the airport at around 12 noon to board the flight to London but was stopped by the immigration staff and later, the Punjab Police was informed.

According to reports, she was stopped at the airport as there was a lookout circular (LoC) issued against her; however, there was no official word on it. Punjab Police officials too refused

to share any information about the incident. The Air India flight for London took off at its scheduled time of 1.20 pm. Kaur was going to the UK for the first time after her marriage.

More than a month after a police crackdown against Singh and his aides, the radical preacher continues to remain elusive even as a manhunt to nab him is underway. Police launched the crackdown against Singh and members of his outfit 'Waris Punjab De' on March 18.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

'Climate change impede India's progress'

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

Heat waves made more likely by climate change may impede India's progress towards its sustainable development goals, according to a study. India has committed to achieving 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including no poverty, good health and well being, and decent work and economic growth.

However, researchers at the University of Cambridge, UK, and colleagues suggests that current climate vulnerability assessments may not fully capture how heat waves linked to climate change may impact SDG progress.

"This study shows that heat waves make more Indian states vulnerable to climate change than previously estimated with

the CVI," the authors of the study said.

"The heat waves in India and the Indian sub-continent become recurrent and long-lasting, it is high time that climate experts and policymakers reevaluate the metrics for assessing the country's climate vulnerability," they said.

The study, published in the journal PLOS Climate, evaluated India's heat index (HI) with its climate vulnerability index (CVI), a composite index using various indicators to account for socioeconomic, livelihood, and biophysical factors.

The team accessed a publicly available dataset on state-level climate vulnerability indicators from the Indian Government's National Data & Analytics Platform to classify severity categories.

They then compared India's progress in SDG over 20 years (2001-2021) with extreme weather-related mortality from 2001-2021.

The researchers found that heat waves have weakened SDG progress more than previously estimated and that current assessment metrics may not sufficiently capture the nuances of India's vulnerabilities to climate change impacts.

For instance, in estimating HI, the study shows that nearly 90 per cent of the country is in danger zone from heat wave impacts.

According to the CVI, about 20 per cent of the country is highly vulnerable to climate change.

Similar effects were observed for the national capital, where HI estimates show almost all of

Delhi is threatened by severe heat wave impacts, which is not reflected in its recent state action plan for climate change, the researchers said.

However, this study had several limitations, for example the incongruent timeframe for CVI data (2019-2020) and heat index data (2022).

Future studies should incorporate more recent data, the researchers said. The study offers a scope for developing a holistic vulnerability measure through international co-operation and partnership.

"Heat waves are getting more intense in India, putting 80 per cent of the country's people in danger, which remains unaccounted for in its current climate vulnerability assessment," the researchers said.

EXPERTS OPINE

India's large villages at risk of losing out on development

Due to 'rural' tag

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI):

India, the most populous country, will continue to live in its villages till the 2050s, even as a number of rural settlements now have more population than that required for them to be called a town, putting them at risk of missing out on growth opportunities, experts said on Thursday.

With the latest Census exercise being delayed due to the Covid pandemic, available data from the 2011 Census shows there are 23,335 villages with a population of over 5,000, but continue to be in the category of villages as they do not fulfill other criteria, standing at a risk of missing on programmes meant for

urban centres, they said. In India, a settlement is considered urban if it has a population of over 5,000, density of population is at least 400 people per sq km, and at least 75 per cent of the population must be involved in non-agricultural activities. The number of people living in centres with a population over 5,000 is over 23.5 per cent of the total rural population.

"India does still live in its villages demographically, even though we don't have definitive data because the 2021 Census has not been conducted. It is highly probable that India will still be living in its villages demographically till the 2050s, but it has been predominantly urban economically since the late 1990s," said Aromar Revi, Director, Indian Institute

for Human Settlements (IHS), an interdisciplinary national university focused on urbanisation.

"India uses a three-tier urban classification using density, population size and percentage of male non-agricultural workers. There are many issues with these criteria in the middle of a massive urban transition, which a number of researchers have identified, but even with changes in those definitions, India as an aggregate still lives in its villages," he told PTI.

According to the latest UN data, India has become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people. However, while more people live in villages, Indian cities already contribute to an estimated two-thirds of

India's GDP, and this number is expected to rise to 75 per cent by 2031. At the same time, around 70 per cent of all new jobs are expected to come from urban areas, shows data of the Urban Development Ministry.

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Printed by Sameer Maheshwari on behalf of Ramgopal Investments Pvt. Ltd. at Navbharat Press, G.E. Road, Press Complex, Raipur and Published at Navbharat Bhawan, Near Bus Stand, Bilaspur, Editor in Chief - Sameer Maheshwari. Editor: Sameer Shukla (Responsible for selection of news under PRB Act.) Phone: (07752) 224563, 230591 Fax: (07752) 405338, Raipur: (0771) 4911922 Fax: (0771) 4257703, Regd. No. CHHENG/2012/44065