



BRIEF



Devotees carry Lord Badrivishal decorated with flowers on the eve of the Badrinath Temple's doors opening, in Chamoli, Wednesday.

Fraud

■ **New Delhi:** Delhi Police said on Wednesday they have arrested four persons allegedly involved in online shopping fraud to the tune of Rs 8 lakh using an e-commerce platform. Police said the matter came to light after a Shahdara trader registered a complaint with them. The trader had placed an order for a photocopy machine on INDIA-MART portal and a person, who introduced himself as Anshul Aggarwal, a sales manager of a firm named Balaji Enterprises, reached out to him assuring he can deliver the machine, police said.

Technical fault

■ **Mumbai:** Mumbai Metro services on the Ghatkopar-Andheri-Versova corridor were disrupted for around 45 minutes on Wednesday evening due to a technical glitch in a train, said the operator of the rapid transit system. Commuters faced inconvenience due to the disruption of services during evening rush hours.

Guilty

■ **Thiruvananthapuram:** A special fast-track court here on Wednesday convicted a 59-year-old clinical psychologist for sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy when he was being treated for psychological issues. The Special Fast-track court judge Aaj Sudarsan found Dr K Gireesh guilty of sexually abusing the minor boy in a private clinic near his house here during the 2015-17 period, prosecutor R S Vijaya Mohan said.

Electioneering

■ **Bengaluru:** With less than a fortnight left for the May 10 Assembly polls in Karnataka, electioneering is in full swing as political leaders intensify their campaigning across the state to woo voters. While the ruling BJP fielded a battery of its leaders including chief ministers from other states and union ministers, along with state leaders, to campaign in various parts of the state by addressing public meetings, holding road shows and interactive meets, the Congress had its general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra touring for the second day.

Weather	
	High 36 Low 23
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,813.60 ▲
SENSEX	60,300.58 ▲
BULLION	
GOLD	60,348
SILVER	74,583

NAXAL BLOODBATH

10 cops, driver killed in blast

Dantewada, Apr 26 (PTI):

Ten police personnel and a driver were killed after Naxals blew up the vehicle in which they were traveling in Dantewada district on Wednesday, police said.

This was the biggest strike by the Maoists on the security forces in the state in the last two years.

The blast, carried out using an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), took place under Aranpur police station area around 1 pm when a team of the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said.

DRG personnel are mostly recruited from the local tribal population and trained to combat Maoists.

The area where the blast took place is around 450 km from state capital Raipur.

TV visuals from a local news channel showed a huge crater, almost 10-feet deep, splitting the road at the site. The vehicle was completely destroyed in the attack while bodies covered with plastic sheets were also seen in the video.

The security personnel had set out from Dantewada district headquarters after getting information about the presence of Maoists belonging to the Darbha division in the area, the IGP said.

When they were returning in a mini-goods van, Naxals blew it up between Aranpur and Sameli villages, he said. Ten DRG jawans and



Rescue team members carry the body of a security personnel who was killed in a blast carried out by Naxalites.



Security personnel at the site after at least ten police personnel and a driver were killed in a blast carried out by Naxalites.

Shah assures all possible help

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday spoke to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and took stock of the situation after 10 policemen were killed in a blast carried out by naxals in Dantewada, officials said. Shah also assured the chief minister of all possible help to deal with the situation. The home minister spoke to Baghel and took stock of the situation, the officials said. He also told the chief minister that the central government will give all possible help to the state government, they said.

'Naxals will not be spared'

Expressing grief over the incident, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said the fight against Naxalism was in its last phase, and the Naxals will not be spared under any circumstances. "We will work in a coordinated way and eliminate Naxalism," he added.

Cowardly act: Cong

The Congress on Wednesday condoled the killing of 10 police personnel and a driver in a Naxal attack in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada, with party president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi calling it a "cowardly act". Kharge also spoke to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and said the Congress governments in the state have been fighting against Naxalism and the party leaders have given the maximum sacrifices. He termed the attack "cowardly" and said the Congress government in the state is fighting Naxalism and will win this battle.

the civilian driver of the vehicle were killed on the spot, the official added. Reinforcement

50 kg bomb used in attack

The Maoist ambush that killed 10 policemen and a driver involved the use of a powerful 50-kg improvised explosive device (IED) that left a massive hole on the road and uprooted trees. The policemen of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) were travelling in a rented mini-van, sources said, adding the commuter vehicle that offers no ballistic protection may have been flung at least 20 feet by the force of the explosion. Sources said the debris of the destroyed van fell 150 metres from the blast site. Visuals of the ambush site in Dantewada district show a big crater - 10 feet deep and 20 feet wide - that covers the road's entire width, indicating the Maoists used a huge quantity of explosives to trigger the ambush. The Maoists may have used 10 times the quantity of explosives to target the van in which the policemen were travelling, Major General Ashwini Siwach, the former chief of the Territorial Army said.



Wrecked remains of a vehicle after a blast carried out by Naxalites.

PM pays tributes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday strongly condemned the Naxal attack on Chhattisgarh police personnel and paid tributes to those killed in the incident. "Strongly condemn the attack on the Chhattisgarh police in Dantewada. I pay my tributes to the brave personnel we lost in the attack. Their sacrifice will always be remembered. My condolences to the bereaved families," the prime minister tweeted.

Lakshadweep MP's LS reinstatement challenged

New Delhi: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the notification of the Lok Sabha Secretariat restoring the membership of Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal after being served a legal notice by Mondelez India, it had already raked up around 12 million views and was widely circulated.

The NCPCR said it has received a complaint alleging that Bournvita promotes itself as a health drink improving children's growth and development but it contains high percentage of sugar and other substances that might impact a child's health.

The notice came after a social media influencer sparked a row by posting a video alleging that Bournvita has high sugar content.

INTERESTING STUDY

'Rodents likely origin of the Omicron variant'

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus may have originated from rodents, according to scientists. The scientists are investigating the means through which SARS-CoV-2 contracted so many mutations in the pandemic's second year and suggest that reverse zoonosis, circulation in rodent population and subsequent spread as a zoonosis probably led to the evolution and emergence of the Omicron VOC. The researchers from Christian Medical College, Vellore, and other Indian institutes have proposed their theory in a paper published in the journal Current Science for

the likely origin of the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19. A previous study had suggested that the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus may have been transmitted from an animal species to humans.

In this paper, they began by putting forth two hypotheses for the likely origin of the Omicron variant - first, mutations accumulating in an immune-compromised individual with prolonged SARS-CoV-2 infection, and second, infection by reverse zoonosis in an animal species, enzootic transmission in that species with adaptive mutations, and eventual trans-

'Leave same sex marriage issue to Parl'

Centre to SC
New Delhi, Apr 26: The Centre on Wednesday requested the Supreme Court to consider leaving questions raised in the pleas seeking legal sanction for same sex marriages to Parliament. Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud that the apex court is dealing with a "very complex subject", which has a "profound social impact".

"The real question is who would take a call on what constitutes marriage and between whom," Mehta said on the fifth day of hearing. He told the bench, also comprising justices S K Kaul, S R Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha, that there would be ramifications on several other statutes which would need a debate in the society and also in various state legislatures.

On the first day of hearing in the matter on April 18, the Centre had told the apex court that its preliminary objection on whether the court can at all go into this question or



of hearing. He told the bench, also comprising justices S K Kaul, S R Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha, that there would be ramifications on several other statutes which would need a debate in the society and also in various state legislatures.

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NIA court issues warrants against 23 terrorists

Hiding in Pak

Jammu, Apr 26 (PTI):

A special NIA court has issued non-bailable warrants against 23 terrorists operating from across the border after exfiltrating from their home district of Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir; a senior police officer said on Wednesday. This was the second time that the special NIA Court, Jammu has issued non-bailable warrants against the terrorists hiding in Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on the request of the police since March. Earlier, non-bailable

warrants were issued against 13 terrorists.

"Thirty-six individuals from Kishtwar went to Pakistan after joining terrorism over a period of time. Subsequently, two FIRs were registered against them to bring them to book," Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said.

He said while a special NIA court issued non-bailable warrants against 13 of them on March 1, a fresh non-bailable warrant was issued against the rest of the 23 terrorists on Tuesday.



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AAP's Shelly Oberoi becomes mayor of Delhi

BJP's Shikha Rai withdraws nomination

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Aam Aadmi Party's Shelly Oberoi was elected mayor of Delhi on Wednesday without contest as her BJP rival Shikha Rai withdrew her nomination.

With this, Oberoi got another term as mayor of Delhi.

Rai told the House that she took the step because the election to the standing committee has not been conducted.

Incumbent Deputy Mayor Aaley Mohammad Iqbal also got another term at the post, as BJP candidate Soni Pal withdrew her nomination. Iqbal and Pal were the two rival candidates for the post of deputy mayor.

The mayoral election in Delhi was supposed to be a direct contest between incumbent Oberoi and Rai. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is the ruling party in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

Oberoi was elected Delhi mayor for the first time on February 22 in the fourth attempt since the earlier elections were stalled amid a ruckus over voting rights being given to nominated members. She had defeated BJP's Rekha Gupta by a mar-



AAP's Shelly Oberoi being presented a bouquet by party leader Sanjay Singh after being elected Mayor of Delhi, at Civic Center in New Delhi, Wednesday.

gin of 34 votes by polling 150 votes. Gupta got 116 of the total 266 votes polled.

The post of mayor in the national capital sees five single-year terms on a rotational basis with the first year reserved for women, the second for the open category, the third for the reserved category and the remaining two again for the open category.

The city gets a new mayor after the end of a financial year.

Segregation at source to be promoted for better rank in Swachh Survekshan

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: Swachh Survekshan 2023 survey is going to commence from the month of May. 4525 marks for service level progress, 2475 marks for citizen vice and 2500 marks for certification i.e. 9500 marks have been fixed. Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena asked all the officers to follow the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for better results in Swachh Survekshan 2023.

For this, the Collector ordered the concerned officers of the urban body areas to run a special awareness campaign, so that through public participation, a higher position can be achieved in the ranking. For the management of waste, the Collector asked the Commissioners of the urban body to separate dry and wet waste and collect it from the houses so that the disposal of waste could be done in a planned manner.

He spoke about running a



special campaign and asked the concerned officials to impose a spot fine of Rs 50 in the near future in case of violation of the rules. Along with this, he emphasised on motivating the citizens of the district for making compost pits at home so that wet wastes like fruit peels, spoiled vegetables, and left-over or spoiled food items could be converted into manure.

Positive steps will also be taken by the district administration to encourage the citizens in this regard and create public consciousness. Apart from this, regular cleaning of public toilets, roads, drains, gardens and other public places will be done in a planned manner.

Under the Godhan Nyaya Yojana, discussions were held with the concerned officers regarding the progress of cattle and paddy straw donation. The Collector sought information from the Veterinary Officer regarding the progress of urea treatment in the paddy straws collected through donation.

To speed up the progress of urea treatment, the Collector asked the veterinary officer to make a demo video on urea treatment, so that the staff of NRLM can give training to the women of self help groups with the help of demo videos. Along with this, he asked the concerned officials to provide insects related to urea treatment to the self-help groups

so that by conducting urea treatment, nutritious fodder can be made available to the animals. At present, in the absence of green fodder due to the summer, urea treated paddy straws will become a better option for livestock and this will also reduce the cost of milk production.

Along with this, the Collector asked the concerned officials for the figures of the number of cattle kept in Gauthan according to the capacity. The officials replied that 2388 livestock have been kept in Gauthans with arrangements of fodder-water and shed. According to the capacity, the percentage of cattle kept in Gauthans is about 71 percent. Collector asked the offi-

cers to achieve a cent percent target so that the livestock could get a better shelter in the scorching heat.

Apart from this, discussions were held in the meeting regarding implementation of schemes of revenue, jandarshan and governance. Additional Collector Padmani

Bhoi, Commissioner of Bhilai Municipal Corporation Rohit Vyas, Trainee IAS Laxman Tiwari, District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Dewangan, Joint Collector Praveen Verma, Joint Collector Yogita Dewangan, Joint Collector Vinay Soni, SDM Durg Mukesh Raote, SDM Dhamdha Brijesh Singh Kshatriya, Durg Municipal Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, Commissioner of Risali Municipal Corporation Ashish Dewangan, Commissioner of Bhilai Charoda Municipal Corporation Ajay Tripathi and other officers were present.

Awareness programmes organised on World Malaria Day



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: On the instructions of Collector Pushpendra Meena and guidance of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr JP Meshram, District Malaria Officer and District Surveillance Officer Dr CBS Banjare, World Malaria Day was celebrated on Tuesday under the Vector Borne Disease Control Program.

On the occasion of

World Malaria Day, with the aim of achieving a situation of zero malaria in the entire state by the year 2027 and eradicating malaria by 2030, publicity was done through posters, banners and handbills for prevention of malaria among the people at the district and block level.

Awareness was created by giving messages about mosquito borne diseases through Mitanin, Village Health Sanitation and

Nutrition Committee and Mahila Arogya Samiti. All Mitanins were instructed to write at least 03 slogans related to malaria awareness at the local level.

Awareness activities were done in malaria-affected and remote areas, migrant, border areas, areas susceptible to malaria. The health worker who performed well at the district and block level for the eradication of malaria was also honoured.

Tarring of dilapidated roads begins in Vaishalinagar zone

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: Asphalt work of many roads in Vaishali Nagar Zone area under Bhilai Municipal Corporation has been started, following the announcements made by the Chief Minister. In this sequel tarring work of the road from Indira Chowk to Gaurav Path in Vaishali Nagar area, the road around Vaishali Nagar zone office, the road from Bhagat Singh Chowk to Gaurav Path and the road from Bhagat Chowk to Hanuman Mandir has been taken up at a cost of about Rs one crore.

The first layer work of asphaltting of most of these roads has been completed. The work of second layer



will start soon. These roads of about 2 kilometers play a very important role for traffic. The condition of these roads had become extremely dilapidated and people faced difficulties while commuting, considering which Mayor Neeraj Pal decided to repair these roads and directed the officials to carry out the asphaltting work.

The work will be completed in a few days and people will get rid of the inconven-

ience in commuting. People will be able to move easily even during rain and night time. The Municipal Commissioner Rohit Vyas has also given instructions to the officials to complete the asphaltting work of the roads soon and with quality. Zone No 2 Vaishali Nagar officer Yesha Laharen and engineers Arvind Singh and Basant Sahu are continuously monitoring the asphaltting works.

Mahadev can change your fate: Pt Pradeep Mishra

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: On the first day of Shri Ekanteshwar Shiv Mahapuram Katha, renowned kathawachak Pandit Pradeep Mishra narrated the stories of great devotees of Lord Shiva. The entire venue reverberated with the slogans of Bol Bam ka nara hai Bholenath hamara hai. Pt Pradeep Mishra strongly attacked superstitions and said that you will get as much as you have got in your destiny.

However, only Bholenath Baba can change your destiny. There is no need to make great efforts to persuade him. Just offer a pot full of water on Baba's Shivling with devotion to solve your problems and get wishes fulfilled. Speaking about the Bholenath's form of



Ardhanarishwar, Pt Mishra urged people to care for their family properly.

At the outset, Pt Pradeep Mishra was given a grand welcome by Former Assembly Speaker Prem Prakash Pandey (Patron of Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti) and Vinod Singh (President of Jeevan Anand Foundation). Pt Mishra said that the holy land of Chhattisgarh has given a lot to the entire world.

Bhilai has given a strong

foundation to the big buildings of the country through the steel plant, as well as has made an incomparable contribution in the development and progress of the country. He further appreciated Prem Prakash Pandey for staying in the forefront to protect, preserve and spread Sanatan Dharma.

Describing the importance of worshipping Ekanteshwar Mahadev ji and listening to stories, he said that worship of Shivling kept in solitude



increases life, protects from disease, increases wealth and blessings of Mata Lakshmi and communicates happiness and prosperity in the family. Pt Pradeep Mishra further said that the deities write the fate, but Mahadev is the one who changes the fate.

Lakhs of devotees had gathered at the Katha Sthal to listen to Shiv Mahapuram Katha. Volunteers made remarkable efforts for the convenience of the devotees and made arrangements for

drinking water and vehicle parking. More than 100 CCTV cameras have been installed in the pandal from the point of view of security. A team of doctors was also available here to provide health facilities.

Lakhs of devotees have reached Bhilai from almost all the districts of the state and also from other states. The organizing committee has installed LED screens at various places, so that those who cannot enter the pandal can watch the live telecast.

Gardens & grounds of Balaji Nagar become illuminated

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: Devendra Yadav, MLA Bhilai Nagar is continuously meeting people under "Bhent Mulakat" programme. During the visits he interacts with people and tries to understand their problems and find solutions to them. In this sequel he reached Balaji Nagar the other day where he declared for park and community building.

Earlier he saw no illumination in two gardens in the ward, both of which get dark as soon as night falls. MLA got lights installed in both the gardens due to which even in the night, people will be able



to come to the garden and enjoy it.

The MLA during such visits meets the residents of the ward and inquires about their well-being. He gets details about the

progress of development in the ward and the city. Sitting with the citizens he drinks tea and holds meaningful discussions.

Here at Balaji Nagar along with the senior citi-

zens of the ward performed Bhoomi Pujan. During this, he said that last time on the demand of people he had assured that the demands would be fulfilled soon. According to the demand the construction work and development work is going on at top speed.

The senior citizens of the ward thanked MLA Yadav for understanding their needs. Earlier there were many problems in the ward. People used to yearn for water. But today, due to his initiative, the problem of water has been completely removed. Ration card has been made for every family. Everyone is getting ration.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: Durg (urban) MLA Arun Vora and Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal visited the DAY-NULM National Urban Livelihood Mission office located at the Data Center on Wednesday and distributed utensils to the women of self-help groups who had come from different wards of the city to establish Bartan Bank.

During this, MIC members Abdul Gani, Councilor Satish Dewangan, Kashiram Ratre, Alderman Rajesh Sharma, Muktesh Kanha, Manish and Sumit Vora, Roshni Hirwani were present.



While distributing utensils to 8 self-help groups to operate Bartan banks in their respective wards, MLA Arun Vora said that this will increase the contribution of women in making the wards plastic

free. Mayor Dhiraj Bakliwal while interacting with the women of the groups said that they should stop the use of plastic utensils, glasses etc in various events like birthdays, worship and

other community events in their respective wards and make people aware to use utensils from banks in community events.

While these Bartan banks will be helpful in freeing the city from more plastic, the women associated with the self-help groups running them will be able to get employment and their income will increase.

Self-help groups to whom utensils have been distributed to open banks were Om Sai Self Help Group, Jai Maa Safura Self Help Group, Navdurga Self Help Group, Geeta Mahila Self Help Group and others.

Astronomy Day: Denizens can witness celestial objects on telescope

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: To mark the occasion of International Astronomy Day, a special initiative is being taken by Bhilai Municipal Corporation. Under this, the denizens will get an opportunity to view the celestial and astronomical events through a telescope for free. The telescope will be placed at Shaheed Park in Sector 5 from 20:00 hrs on April 29. It needs a mention that the day is celebrated to help people interact and understand astronomy. People of all age can take benefit of this opportunity to see astronomical events from the Milky Way through stargazing.

This is the first innovative initiative of Mayor Neeraj Pal and Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas in which efforts are being made to make people aware of astronomical events. People will

also be informed about the planets through projectors and detailed information will be given. For the first time, people will get a chance to see the planets closely through the reflective telescope with a zooming capacity of about 110 times. Detailed information about planets like Sun, Moon, stars, Earth, Jupiter etc will also be told to the people. Every individual is curious about the activities in the universe, such as why the colour of the sky is blue, why the stars shine, where the moon and the sun hide, why the sky appears dark at night, what is the effect of gravity, how many types of planets are there, how the moon orbits, twinkling stars etc. and there is also an eagerness to see the planets closely in the distant sky. So this opportunity can definitely be used to get enlightened and develop a better understanding of astronomical events.

Installation of New Equipment & Upgradation of facilities done

- In JLN Hospital
- Aimed at Providing Best Health Care

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's commitment to provide the best health care to its employees, their dependants as well as private citizens seeking treatment at the Plant's JLN Hospital & Research Centre has been reiterated with restarting of Cardiac Cath Lab with software upgradation after COVID 19 pandemic, following which angiography procedures are being performed, and the acquisition and installation of new & modern diagnostic equipment in

JLN Hospital & RC during the last fiscal year 2022-23.

In a significant development, BSP's JLN Hospital & RC has been awarded with NABH entry level renewal certification by NABH- QCI India which is a mark of quality and safety practices with regard to patient-care.

Skin Banking has been added to the treatment facility of Burn Unit, for early recovery of severe and deep Burn patients. New equipment including Shaking Incubator, Ice Lined Refrigerator, Bio-safety Cabinet were procured for Skin Banking. Meantime, a team of Doctors from State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) Raipur inspected Skin Bank of JLNHRC and issued li-

cense with validity for five years.

While software of Single Photon Emission Tomography (SPECT) machine in Nuclear Medicine Department has been upgraded, several new equipment have been installed during fiscal year 22-23. Histopathology department has been equipped with Cryostat (SLEE) for frozen tissues preparation used in diagnostic histopathology, where surgical biopsies must be evaluated quickly in the operating room. Physiotherapy department has been equipped with new Micro Wave Diathermy Electro Magnetic Radiator large field radiator BTL 6000 MV.

Three portable ultrasound machines have been installed at Main ICU, NICU and Main OT.

Ceiling mounted double door LED OT Lights with inbuilt camera system have been installed in ENT and Labour Room OT. Besides, five numbers of Multi para Monitors, four new Delivery Tables and an OT Table have been installed in Labour room and Obstetrics & Gynaecology OT. Neonatal ICU (NICU) was renovated to provide care for sick newborns with special facility of rooming in for mother.

In the Mortuary unit, two Machines each having capacity to keep 6 bodies have been procured. The new machines are having Temperature display etc and data logger where by data and other parameters can be monitored remotely by the concerned officials.

BSP more than doubles procurement through GeM Portal in FY 22-23

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Materials Management (MM) Department has made substantial increase in procurement through GeM portal as also in procurement through E-route. Highest ever procurement through GeM of Rs 2842 Crore was recorded in FY 2022-23, surpassing the previous best of Rs 1103 Cr achieved in FY 2021-22.

As much as 99.8% of procurement has been processed through e-route against the target of 99%. Highest ever procurement through reverse auction at Rs 1943 Crore was also recorded in FY 22-23, surpassing the previous best of

Rs 978 Cr achieved in FY 2021-22. Highest ever cumulative saving from Reverse Auction of Rs 51 Crore was achieved in FY 22-23, surpassing the previous best of Rs 26 Crore achieved in FY 21-22. In another highlight achieved by MM Department, Bhilai Steel Plant has placed highest total purchase orders on Micro & Small-scale Enterprises valued at Rs 930 crore in FY 22-23, surpassing the previous best of Rs 641 Crore achieved in FY 21-22. Significantly, procurement through MSEs Vendors has been maintained at 33 per cent of total procurement value, surpassing the target of 25% as per Public Procurement Policy.

CM inaugurates Raipur's unique Heritage Walk

Raipur's historic buildings and religious legacy now easily accessible

Unique initiative of the govt to connect the ancient legacy of the city



Raipur, Apr 26: The exploration of one's own city's cultural, historical, and religious legacy will now be easily accessible to citizens, providing them with a beautiful and memorable experience. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel presented the citizens with an exceptional bequest, the Heritage Walk, in Raipur today. Starting from the historic Town Hall, a witness of the independence era citizens will enter the oldest settlement 'Purani Basti' area of the city, and witness its historic religious inheritance, taking a glimpse of the Mahakaushal Art Gallery showing the his-

torical legacy of the state. The entire route will pass by significant landmarks such as the Nagari Das Temple and Jaitusav Math. The Heritage Walk has been created at a cost of Rs 1.19 crores.

Chief Minister commenced his visit at Jaitusav Math, where he offered prayers to Lord Shri Ram, Mata Janaki, and Lakshman. Furthermore, he also garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and then proceeded to Hanuman Baoli where he worshipped Lord Hanuman. It is believed that this baoli is ancient, and about 500 years ago, people witnessed statues

of Lord Hanuman inside it. As per tradition, there were three statues, out of which one was installed in the baoli, and another in Mathpara, where the Mahant takes milk after worshipping Hanuman ji. Due to this, the place is known as 'Dudhadhari Math'. The third statue was installed in Machhli Talab located in Gudhiyari. It is worth mentioning that the baoli was recently cleaned, and a monkey-shaped figure was discovered on the inner walls of the baoli, which attracted a large number of people. It is noteworthy that along this route, several places have been included such as

Budha Talab, Kilewale Baba, Budheshwar Mahadev Temple, Sheetla Mata Temple, Mahamaya Temple, Nagari Das Temple, Mahavir Vyayam Shala, Jaitusav Math, Jagannath Temple, and Turi Hatri.

As part of the Heritage Walk Route project, the city's historic buildings such as the Town Hall and the Mahakoshal Art Gallery have undergone redevelopment. This project has included the construction of pathways from Budha Talab to Turi Hatri, the installation of electricity on the pathways, the installation of 40 attractive benches at 216 different locations for tourists, and the installation of 216 solar posts. The route has been beautified with attractive paintings over an area of 3,000 square meters. Road markings and attractive sign boards have also been installed for the Heritage Walk Route sites.

Governor condemns Naxalite bomb blast in Dantewada district

Raipur, Apr 26: Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan expressed deep sorrow over the death of police personnel killed in a Naxalite bomb blast that occurred today in the Arampur area of Dantewada district. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Paying homage to the martyred soldiers, the Governor strongly condemned the incident and firmly stated that the anti-national activities of the Naxalites would never succeed. He further emphasized that both the central and state governments are fully committed to ending Naxalism through coordinated efforts.

Dr Raman for inter-state joint operations against naxalites

● BJP holds State govt responsible for the incident

Raipur, Apr 26: Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh on Wednesday stressed on the need for Inter State Joint operations in Chhattisgarh to check the naxal activities on borders. In a statement issued here, the former CM and senior BJP Vice President Dr Singh said that formation of Inter State Joint operations would speed up the search operations which would check movement of the

naxalites. Taking a dig on the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the senior BJP leader Dr Singh said that tall claims are being made about control over the naxalism whereas regular naxal incidents are happening and added that the 4-5 BJP workers were also brutally killed by naxalites. He said that it is very difficult to have prior information about blast but search operations should be increased to check the IED installation in remote areas. He also advocated for the measures to improve security of the political leaders with the Legislative Assembly

polls approaching closer. Meanwhile, the State BJP President Arun Sao said that said that elimination of the naxalites would be the real condolence to the police personnel killed in the IED blast in Bastar. Senior BJP leader Dharmal Kaushik said that the Home Minister should review the situation to know the actual reason behind the naxal incident. Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Narayan Chandel said that decisive campaign should be launched against the naxalites to end the menace.

Seminar on 'Convert stress into smile' held

Raipur, Apr 26: National Institute of Technology Raipur organized a program on the topic "Convert stress into smile" on Wednesday. The program was conducted by National Service Scheme (NSS) which was aimed to assist all students in learning efficient stress management techniques, coping strategies, and methods for enhancing mental health. Ram Raghunath Das, Personal counselor and the organizer of Ugdosh, the



biggest youth festival in Chhattisgarh was the guest speaker for the event. Dr. Govardhan Bhatt addressed the students and expressed that there are many cases of depression, fear, anxiety in NIT

Raipur and thus this event was organized to help the students. Dr. AD Prasad, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering greeted the students and shared some tips on stress management with the students. Additionally, a theater performance was included to help the audience understand the subject better.

Ram Raghunath Das, explained multiple reasons of stress along with their practical solutions including urgency

addiction, interpersonal conflicts, Multi-tasking, Unrealistic targets, Irregular Lifestyle, inviting future problems while enjoying now, unhealthy competition. He emphasized on the fact that stress and problems will always be a part of our life but we must face those problems with a positive mindset and look out for solutions.

The program concluded with an interactive question and answer round.

PRI-CBO convergence project launched on Panchayati Raj Day



Raipur, Apr 26: The PRI-CBO Convergence (Panchayati Raj Institutions-Community based Organization Convergence) project was launched in Chhattisgarh on National Panchayati Raj Day. Under the project, self-help groups formed under the mission will be made entrepreneurs through convergence of community organizations and gram panchayats of the State Rural Livelihood Mission (Bihan) to increase livelihood opportunities and reduce poverty in villages. This project will be implemented in total 200 gram panchayats of four development blocks each of Bastar and Raipur districts.

On the occasion of the launch of the project, office bearers of community organizations of 'Bihan' of both the districts and women representatives of

Panchayati Raj institutions participated in the workshop organized at Thakur Pyarelal State Panchayat and Rural Development Institute (SIRD) Nimora, Raipur. Under the PRI-CBO Convergence Project, Gram Panchayats and federations of self-help groups will work in convergence by promoting sustainable community-based organizations such as cluster organizations, village organizations and self-help groups to reduce rural poverty and generate livelihood opportunities. Under this, better coordination will be established between the local government and line departments to enhance the service delivery mechanism within the community. CBO network will also be created with gram panchayats and line departments. This project will be

implemented in Bakavand, Bastanar, Lohandiguda and Tokapal development blocks of Bastar district and Abhanpur, Arang, Dharsiva and Tilda development blocks of Raipur district. In this, a total of 32 cluster organizations of 'Bihan' of 25-25 gram panchayats of all these development blocks and self-help groups including 640 village organizations will participate. Inaugurating the project, the Director of Thakur Pyarelal Rajya Panchayat and Rural Development Institute P.C. Mishra said in the workshop that in order to get better benefits, it is necessary to have awareness about your rights and make continuous efforts to achieve them.

This project will help the women of self help groups to achieve their goal. The Chief Operating Officer (CCO) of the State Rural Livelihood Mission, Mrs. Alice Lakra told in the workshop that better coordination between the three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions and the community organizations formed under 'Bihan' will lead to the development of villages on 17 indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). They have been regionalized and classified into nine themes.

Free health check-up camp for elderly citizens at 'Ashray'



Raipur, Apr 26: A free one-day health camp was organised at Ashray Lions Old Age Home, Shyam Nagar Raipur by District Legal Services Authority Raipur Chhattisgarh, District Court and Chief Medical and Health Officer District Raipur in association with Soubhagya Foundation Raipur Chhattisgarh.

Soubhagya Foundation President Mrs Pallavi Pandey said that total 50 elderly persons in Ashray Old Age Home underwent health check-up by the team of health department. The elderly persons underwent check up for BP, sugar, eye, tuberculosis, malaria

and other diseases. They were given medicines at free of cost after check-up.

District Legal Association Secretary Pravin Mishra, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Mithilesh Choudhary, District Media in-charge of CMHO office Gajendra Dongre, Nitin Pandey and Suraj Chandrakar were present. Rashmi Sharma, Vinod Singh, Gyanendra Dewangan, Soubhagya Pandey, Dinesh Kumar, Amit Sharma, Shanu Kumar Tandi, Ananya, Vandana Singh, Namrata Tiwari and Madhuri Nayak were present on behalf of Soubhagya Foundation.



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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

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CM inaugurates the restoration, beautification works of historic Kankali Talab

Raipur's historic Kankali Talab gets a majestic makeover with beautiful Dholpur Red Sandstone

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 26: The 650-year-old Kankali Talab, located amidst a densely populated area in Raipur city, will now captivate the city residents with its unique beauty.

The Raipur Municipal Corporation has renovated and beautified this pond in line with the policy of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to preserve and conserve the historic heritage of the state. Baghel inaugurated the beautification works of the pond worth Rs 1.34 cr during his 'Bhent-Mulaqat Abhiyan' today.

In Kankali Talab, 350 square meters have been beautified with Dholpur red stone. The beauty of



these stones, illuminated by facade and flood lights, is giving a new identity to the pond. Lightning has also been

done on 28 large pillars in the pond.

Maintenance work and painting of the ghats and stairs have also been car-

ried out. Additionally, stainless steel railings have been installed around the pond for approximately 400 meters

on all sides.

The Maa Kankali Temple is approximately 650 years old. In ancient times, the discovery of a male skeleton during the excavation of the pond led to it being named the Kankali Temple.

Mahant Kripal Giri Ji founded this temple according to the orders of Maa Kankali. The temple has served as a center for the meditation of ascetics, and it is believed that bathing in the pond can cure skin diseases, itching, and allergies.

The Kankali Math, where Naga ascetics used to worship Maa Kankali, is located near the temple and only opens once a year on the day of Dussehra.

CM Baghel unveils statue of Late Laxman Satpathy

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 26: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel unveiled the statue of former MLA Late Shri Laxman Satpathy at Katora Talab in Raipur today, to commemorate his inspiring personality. The Chief Minister stated that the Late Shri Satpathy's steadfast work ethic of working truthfully for the common people continues to inspire the younger generation.

His contributions to children's education are still relevant today. The Chief Minister garlanded the statue and paid a humble tribute to the Late Shri Satpathy. It is noteworthy that Late Laxman Satpathy was elected as Congress's MLA twice from the Basna region.

He was born in 1937 to Pt. Jaidev Satpathy and



Smt. Jashonti Devi. Late Laxman Satpathy served as a teacher in Kondagaon, Dhamtari, Bemetara, and Saraipali. He was also the national judge of Basketball alongside a qualified sports trainer. While he was a teacher in Raipur, he pursued his LL.B. and carved

an identity as a fierce advocate. Late Satpathy was elected to the Assembly of Basna region for the first time in 1972 and the second time in 1977-78. He took the charge of Fuljhar Service Committee in Saraipali to encourage education. He passed away on June 6, 2016.

BBPS celebrates 'In'tnl Year of Millets-2023

Central Chronicle News

Sipat, Apr 26: To bring together the important theme of the 'International Year of Millets', a fun-filled grand event was organized at Bal Bharati Public School (BBPS), NTPC Sipat on April 25. The programme was inaugurated by the lighting of the lamp by the President of the Sangwari Mahila Samiti, Vijaya Rao, Vice President, Smita Gokhe and the Principal of the school, Shalabh Nigam.

After the inauguration of the programme, the guests visited the attractive stalls put up by the students as well as the teachers. The guests and the parents, who tasted the nutritious and



scrumptious dishes, appreciated them a lot.

Various activities such as poster making, speech and food festival were organized under the theme 'THE MIGHTY MILLETS' and the students of Classes XI and above took the oath to include millets in their regular diet.

The atmosphere of the school campus during the programme was worth watching. There was a lot of enthusiasm among the students and parents. Sorghum (Jowar), Finger millet (Ragi), Pearl millet (Bajra), Kodo millet and Barley (Jau) were mainly included in the dishes.

The chief guest inspired the students to include these dishes in their daily diet for physical and intellectual development. She also talked about how she relished this flavourful learning experience.

Praising the initiative of the Government of India, the Principal of the school, Mr. Shalabh Nigam said that the main objective of the food fest was to make the students aware of the taste of the millets and explain the importance of nutritious diet in our day to day life.

At the end, while praising the work of the teachers and the students, he also urged them to include all types of coarse cereals in their diet for a healthy body and mind.

63 mines of SECL get star rating from Ministry of Coal

- 51 mines including opencast and underground mines get a star rating of 3 or more

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Apr 26: Total 63 mines of SECL have got a place in the star rating list of coal and lignite mines issued by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India based on the performance in the financial year 2021-22.

Among underground mines, Bangwar mine has secured the maximum 5 star rating while in opencast category, mega project

Dipka and Gevra, Saraipali and Manikpur mines have got 4 star rating. A total of 51 mines of SECL, including opencast and underground mines, have got a star rating of 3 or more.

Star rating of coal mines has been launched by the Ministry of Coal to promote green, safe and sustainable mining practices with the help of technology. Coal Controller's Organisation, Ministry of Coal gives star ratings to coal and lignite mines across the country based on performance of mines in complying with different rules & regulations relating to mining opera-

tions as well as in areas relating to safety, environment, rehabilitation of project affected families, welfare of workers etc.

On the occasion of SECL mines getting star rating, CMD Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra said that for SECL we are not only focused on coal production, but quality of coal is equally important for us. So many of our mines achieving star rating is the result of our consistent efforts on important issues like environment, swift employment of project affected people, compliance of safety standards, labour welfare etc. All our officers and work

colleagues deserve congratulations for this, and I wish them all the best.

The 63 mines which have been awarded star rating in the released list include 21 opencast mines and 42 underground mines. Jagannathpur, Jampali, Sharda, Kanchar, Mahan-2, Dhanpuri and Bijari mines have got 3-star rating in opencast mines. On the other hand, in underground mines Khairha, NCPH R-6, Rani Atari, Vindhya, Kapildhara, Pali, Surakchhar, Bagdeva, Bhatgaon, Kurja, Rajgamar etc. mines have achieved 4 star rating.

Certificate given for computer training to 30 tribal students



- Of Naxal infested area
- Training organized by CRPF 74 V Battalion under CAP

Central Chronicle News

Konta/Sukma, Apr 26: A one-month computer training programme was organized for 30 students of Naxalite area of Sukma district under Civic Action programme (CAP). In this about 15 students each from Naxalite affected and highly sensitive Naxalite areas participated and received training.

During one month the

students learned about computers from the computer instructor. After which all the students were felicitated by Commandant D.N. Yadav, Second in Command Officer Sandeep Kumar Brijinia, Dr. B.C. Yadav Certificate was distributed by the hands.

CRPF 74th Battalion has deployed security in Naxal-affected areas of Sukma district, along with security, according to the development and need of the area. According to the Commandant of CRPF 74th Battalion D.N. Yadav, a computer training programme was organized for the tribal

students of the area. In this the students with great enthusiasm received the necessary basic computer education, a one-month course was conducted in this event. Education kits were also distributed, after which certificates were distributed to all the students by Battalion.

Certificate given after training

One month training was given in Universal IET Computer Education conducted in Dornapal, the expenses of which all 30 students were given by CRPF 74th Battalion. All the students received free training and total 30 students were given certificates by organizing a programme at the battalion headquarters. All the students thanked the officers of Battalion, along with this type of event, they got to learn a lot of basic information about computer course and for which they expressed a lot of happiness.

Tagore House walk away with top honours



Green House members with the coveted Ch'ship trophy.

- Declared best house

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 26: It was a day full of joy and satisfaction for the members of Rabindranath Tagore House as after a whole year of hectic competition among the four houses they finally have a last laugh of being the champion house of Shri Gujrati English

Medium School.

The occasion was prize distribution of OCA and sports competition winners and announcement of champion house. In the programme organised at Gyanoday Bhavan on Wednesday the winners were feted at the hands of Shri Gujrati Shikshan Sangh Executive Committee president Narayan Bhai Patel, Secretary duo Tulsi Das



Little winner receiving honours.

Patel, Ashok Bhai Patel, Joint Secretary Vithal Bhai Patel and Administrator V K Mishra.

The programme got off to a start with the worship of Goddess Saraswati, lighting of ceremonial lamp and a melodious saraswati vandana presentation by the faculty members under the watchful eyes of music teachers Vijay Shankar Jha and Rupendra Shrivastav. School Principal Dr

Shailesh Sharma gave his welcome speech and appealed the students for a more better performance while secretary Ashok Patel in his speech asked the students to be an all rounder in life and take part in sports and other activities apart from academics.

Thereafter national and state level sports achievers were honoured with track suits by the guests of the programme. The student

achievers from the nursery to the primary level who have excelled in different events received prizes and mementoes at the hands of guests.

The programme was organized in presence of Vice Principal S V Chandrasekhar, Academic Coordinator Bhaskar Sharma, House Coordinator Sanghamitra Dubey, Sports Officer Shrinivas Rao and other faculty members.

Raipur's Kamal Vihar renamed after Mata Kaushalya as 'Kaushalya Vihar'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 26: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced the slew of development works for the Raipur Rural Constituency Assembly as a part of his state-wide Bhent-Mulaqat Abhiyan at Boriyakhurd on Tuesday. He announced to rename the Raipur's Kamal Vihar Colony after Mata Kaushalya as 'Kaushalya Vihar'.

He dedicated the slew of developmental works worth Rs.167 crore which include the inauguration of various developmental works worth more than Rs 36 crore and the Bhoomipujan of works worth more than Rs 126 crore. He took feedback from the beneficiaries about the implementation of flagship schemes.

A beneficiary of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana Mr. Shyam Baghel said that he has received

all four installments of this scheme and this scheme is supporting them a lot.

Medicine of Rs.1700 is now available at Rs. 640

Chief Minister took feedback about the healthcare facilities and asked about the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) van. Tikeswari Dhiwar of Daldal Seoni said she found out that she had low hemoglobin levels. She received treatment for anemia from the MMU van and now she is living a healthy life. She also informed that the MMU van visits their area twice a month.

Rakhi Sahu stated that medicine worth Rs 1,700 is now available for Rs.640 at Shri Dhanwantari Generic Medical Store, which has helped her save a lot of money. The Chief Minister informed that this scheme has completed one year and has pro-



vided benefits of more than Rs.100 crore to the beneficiaries till now. A beneficiary of 'Mukhyamantri Vishesh Swasthya Sahayata Yojana' told that he had DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis) problem in his leg. He had received financial assistance of Rs.4.5 lakhs from the state government and received treatment at Nagpur.

Chief Minister Mr.Bahgel also interacted with the ration card holders and directed officials to

take action against the ration shop owner who hesitated to provide ration to the beneficiaries operator. He also announced the installation of sheds in front of the ration shops.

Mitan reaching home

The Chief Minister also received feedback about various schemes implemented in the urban areas. Virendra Joshi shared his experience of obtaining his son's residence certificate immediately through Mitan at his home. Manju Sahu of Mathpuraina shared that previously it was very difficult for them to get these certificates but now all certificates are available at their doorstep with just a phone call. Sushil Jangde of Dharsinwa stated that their electricity bill had significantly reduced due to the Half Electricity Bill Scheme.

Saving up to Rs.45000 from studying in Swami Atmanand School

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel interacted with three students of Swami Atmanand School named Shreya, Nidhi, and Goldie. Students told that they are getting a good education free of cost. All types of facilities like libraries and labs are also available in their school. Sandhya Yadav and Bhuvaneshwari Dhankar said that they have applied for Unemployment Allowance. This will be a great support for the youths who are facing financial problems. The Chief Minister also interacted with the participants of the Chhattisgarh Olympics. Jagat said he participated in so many games in the 'Chhattisgarhiya Olympics' and secured third position in the divisional level Gilli Danda competition.



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 26: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel met with representatives of various communities in Boriyakhurd, which falls under the Raipur Rural Assembly Constituency, as a part of his 'Bhent-Mulaqat Abhiyan' on Tuesday evening. He directed the officials concerned to install a statue of Dr. Khoochand Baghel and name the Transport Nagar after him. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced a grant of Rs 25 lakh for the construction of a community build-

ing in Birgaon for the Jhiriya Sahu community besides announcing the installation of a statue of Karma Mata in Birgaon. He also directed the authorities concerned to allocate land to the community for the project. Furthermore, he provided financial assistance of Rs 20 lakh each for the construction of community buildings for the Sindhi and Kshatriya communities in Bhanpuri. Upon the request of the Sahu community, he instructed the authorities to allocate land to them in Daldal Seoni. Chief Minister announced that in

response to the request made by the Muslim community, they will be allocated 7,000 square feet of land and a grant of Rs 25 lakh for the construction of a boundary wall of their community building. He also directed the authorities to allocate land and install a statue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar upon the requests of the Satnami community of Urala and Mowa. He announced a grant of Rs 15 lakh for the Sen community for the Dham shade construction work and instructed the authorities to allocate land to the Dewangan community.

Naxalism packing its bags in Kuanmari area

Asphalted roads reach the stronghold of Maoists

Central Chronicle News

Keshkal, Apr 26: Road construction is the most important link in delivering the schemes and development works of the government in the interior areas of Bastar and one such very sensitive village is Kuenmari in Keshkal development block of Kondagaon district which was called the stronghold of Naxalites till a few years ago.

For a long time, the residents of the area were demanding that a road should be made here and a CAF camp was established by the police in the well in the year 2022. As a result of the security of the CAF jawans, a 16 km paved road has been completed from Batrali to Kuemari under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, in spite of all efforts to stop the construction.



There are dozens of captivating waterfalls in Kuanmari region, and along with, this area is also considered full of mineral wealth, and though thousands of tourists come to enjoy the waterfalls every day during the rainy season, the Maoists of Kuen and

Kiskodo Area Committee used to register their presence in this area from time to time.

In such a situation, making a paved road from Batrali to Kummari was no less than a challenge for the police. In the month of March last year 2021, Maoists had set 17

vehicles engaged in road construction on fire. Passing the information, Collector Deepak Soni said that according to the intention of the state government, the district administration is continuously working to connect the roads of rural areas with the main roads with

the vision of development, trust and security and under this, the construction of asphalted road in Kuanmari is almost complete.

SP Kondagaon SP Divyang Patel talking on the subject said that there was a demand from the residents of the well area that a road should be constructed here and a mobile tower should also be set up here.

For this, first of all we established CAF camp and police post in Kummari and road construction work was started again under the security of CAF and DRG jawans. Presently the road construction work from Batrali to Kuen has been completed for 16 kms and along with this, mobile towers have also been installed in Bawanimari, Kuenmari and Mirde, he stated.

Four child marriages stopped by WCDD



Central Chronicle News

Korea, Apr 26: The District Program Officer of the Women and Child Development Department (WCDD) took action to stop child marriages in the region under the instructions of Collector Mr. Vinay Kumar Langeh. The Women and Child Development Department, Police de-

partment, District Child Protection Unit and Child Line team have succeeded in stopping 4 child marriages in the district, under which 3 child marriages were stopped in Sonhat and 1 child marriage in Baikunthpur; recently.

Local sarpanch, councillor and other public representatives, project officers, supervisors,

Anganwadi workers and panchayat and urban body level child protection committees also are playing an important role in preventing child marriage.

There is a provision of a fine of up to 1 lakh on the one who performs child marriage, and public representatives have been told to report the matter before the wedding date.

Rajput Kshatriya Mahadhavesan concludes



Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Apr 26: The two-day annual convention of Rajput Kshatriya Mahasabha Chhattisgarh concluded in Rajim. The meeting was presided over by Mahasabha

President Thakur Bajrang Singh Bains along with central office bearers. Ideal mass marriages, free health camp, blood donation camp were organized in the convention.

Addressing the program, Thakur Neeraj

Singh Kshatriya and General Secretary Thakur Vishnu Singh Baghel presented the annual report of the year's income and expenditure of the Mahasabha. A grand procession of the society was also taken out and despite

the inclement weather; people took part in the procession in large numbers. Cultural program was also organized for the children of the society, in which the participants were given prizes by the office bearers of the Mahasabha.

Thakur Rajesh Singh, co-convenor of the Mahasabha, Thakur Shrawan Singh and Piyush Singh. Senior Vice President of the society Thakur Ramesh Singh, Vice President Thakur Ashwani Singh, Co-Secretary Kamlesh Singh, Deputy Secretary Thakur Pravesh Singh, Bharat Singh, Shekhar Singh and many others from the organization were present.

Increase in number of stray dog bite

Central Chronicle News

Pandaria, Apr 26: The menace of stray dogs is increasing in the city and rural areas and they are making everyone, including passers-by and small children, their victims.

The number of dog bites has increased continuously in the last three months and from the month of January till now, 350 dog bites have been reported in Community Health Centers for treatment.

On an average, two cases of dog bite are reaching the Community Health Center of the city every day. Bike riders and pedestrians are becoming victims of these

stray dogs and in Tehsil Chowk Bairagpara, Padhi Road, Moderam, Gopiband Para, Gandhi Chowk to old bus stand, the pack of stray dogs are active particularly.

BMO Swapnil Tiwari said that more number of dog bite patients is arriving at the health centre. And sufficient quantity of anti rabies injection is available in the hospital.

"Talks will be held with the Veterinary Department regarding stray dogs. After identifying these dogs, they will be released in a distant forest." Lalji Chandrakar, CMO Nagar Panchayat Pandariya.

Mock-drill performed at Maa Baleshwari Temple



Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Apr 26: Keeping in mind the safety of pilgrims coming to pay obeisance at Maa Baleshwari temple, the technical team of NDRF Mundali, Cuttak and Damodar Ropeways co-ordinated mock-drill on April 25 at 3:30 pm till evening for safety and exercise to tackle any emergency situation. Prior to this mock-drill was

done at SDM (Revenue) office at 4:00 pm. In this exercise was done to bring down the devotees safely. In the mock-drill done on April 25, SDM Girish Ramteke, SDOP Prabhat Patel, CEO Nagar Palika Parishad Pramod Shukla, TI Aman Sahu, Mandir Samiti President Manoj Agrawal, V-P Anil Gattani, Secy Mahendra Parihar, Trustees- Bablu Shandilya, Prakash Bidal and others were present.

Panchayati Raj Act visible mask for women representatives

● 'Sarpanch Pati' playing pivotal role

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Apr 26: In the year 1992, when the Panchayati Raj Act came into force, under which reservation was arranged to increase the participation of women in district, district and village panchayats. Since then, the participation of women in Gram Panchayats has increased, but even after 30 years since the Act came into force, in most of the places, women representatives have remained just a mask. Women are on many big responsibilities of the society and the country, but behind the scenes of their responsibility, the talk of discharge by the male class often comes in the society.

For example, in the society, apart from the sarpanch's husband, councillor's husband, even the husband of the peo-

ple's representatives, and other relatives are seen playing a role more than that of the Sarpanch itself.

In Gaurela- Pendra Marwahi, there are total 166 panchayats in which there are 82 women sarpanchs, where in almost panchayats there is interference of sarpanch's husband. "Sarpanch Pati" here is synonym of power, where the entire administration of the Panchayat is done by the male members of the family. It is often seen in the society that the government runs schemes to bring women forward and brings reservation where seats are reserved for women, but after the elections, the women and her status remain the same and the responsibility of the women representatives is taken over by their husbands and relatives. Many women in frame have opted for working behind their male relative's shadow, carrying it as a norm further.

Special motor vehicle checking campaign conducted

Rs 16,600 fined against 49 negligent drivers



Central Chronicle News

Balod, Apr 26: On the direction of Superintendent of Police Balod Dr. Jitendra Kumar Yadav, under the guidance of Mr. Additional Superintendent of Police Mr. Harish Rathore, under the supervision of Mr.

Boniphos Ekka, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic, Balod, all police station/outpost in-charges of the district and under the leadership of Inspector Dileshwar Chandravanshi, in-charge of traffic, a special motor vehicle checking campaign was conducted

in Rajhara police station area.

The main objective of this motor vehicle checking is to reduce road accidents and to take strict action against negligent drivers, as well as to create a sense of awareness among the general public

about traffic rules. A sum of Rs.16,600 was fined against 49 negligent drivers under the Motor Vehicles Act on 23.04.2023.

By conducting motor vehicle checking campaign in police station Daundi and Rajhara area, vehicles were not presented on 21 occasions, 10 without number plate, 7 three rides, 3 without license, 6 not following traffic rules, 1 seat belt and 01 case pollution proof Driving a vehicle without a letter, a total of 49 negligent drivers have been fined under the above sections.

Balod police has appealed to common citizens to cooperate with police in vehicle checking, follow traffic rules and asked people to abstain from driving after consuming alcohol, and wear a seat belt and helmet while driving particularly.

DFO reviews departmental works

● In Arjuni forest circle

Central Chronicle News

Katagi, Apr 26: DFO Mayank Agrawal convened meeting with villagers at Mahkonai Beat coming under Arjuni forest circle and reviewed about the developmental and employment oriented works. Apart from this he also reviewed about the departmental works sitting with department's officers and employees.

As suggestions to the departmental employees, he asked them to maintain mutual co-ordination. Despite carrying out work for benefits of the villagers by the Forest department, there seems to be lack of



coordination between the employees and villagers, he said. Agrawal while reviewing about works, took information about horticulture for use in employment, 'jadi-booti' and collection of forest produce, making of 'dona-pattal', 'Badakh' and 'Chinni-murgi palan' and about the loss

and profit from various departmental schemes. At the same time he also reviewed about the construction work carried out by the Forest department, plantation, 'dabari' construction for fisheries, pond deepening, 'saluge gate', 'percolation tank' and other such schemes. In this review

meeting, Kejuram Paikra, Sarpanch Mahakoni and villager; from forest deptt-Ranger Krishanu Chandrakar, Dy. Ranger Laxmi Prasad Shrivastava, JR Sahu, Bhagirti Sonwani, Forest guard-Ravindra Pandey and Tripti Jaiswal and others were present.

न्यायालय कलेक्टर एवं जिला दंडाधिकारी नोटिस

क्रमांक/58/-4-121/2022-23/323 रायपुर, दिनांक 06 अप्रैल 2023

प्रति,

विनाय कृष्णा यादव पिता जगदीश प्रसाद निवासी 34/927 आर्मीर निवास पिपरमिट फील्डरी के पीछे राजेन्द्र नगर, रेलीखोला, रायपुर

आवेदनक प्रतिकूल अधिकारी बैंक आक इंडिया अन्तर्गत शाखा धमलरी रोड अन्तर्गत जिला रायपुर की ओर से अल्प उद्भाव शक्ति अधिका के आवेदन पत्र/आयुध मय दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत कर, आवेदन पत्र से आगेकी बैंक से 3,00,000.00 रुपये का जमा दिया था, और आपके स्वामित्व की अवधि समाप्त बैंक के पक्ष में बंधक रखी गयी है। आपके द्वारा जमा की जमादारी नहीं की जा रही है। जिसके कारण बैंक ने आपको अधिनियम की धारा 13 के तहत नोटिस जारी किया गया कि आप जमा की अवधि समाप्त के पक्ष में अन्य सुलभ सुझाव 2,73,968.09 अल्प कर, अथवा बंधक रखी गई संपत्ति बैंक अपने हक में जमा कर लेंगे कि वापस कर लेंगे। बैंक के पक्ष में आपके द्वारा किये गये जमा के पक्ष में बंधक रखी संपत्ति का कब्जा दिलाये जाने का निवेदन किया है।

2. आपने प्राप्तिगत अधिकारी बैंक आक इंडिया अन्तर्गत शाखा धमलरी रोड अन्तर्गत जिला रायपुर से 3,00,000.00 रुपये का जमा प्राप्त कर नीजा गाथायपर अन्तर्गत, जिला रायपुर में छ.ग. हाजीम बोर्ड द्वारा निर्मित अटल आवास म.नं. 165 लकम 560 अल्पक बैंक के पक्ष में बंधक रखी है।

3. जमा आपके द्वारा किये गये जमा के पक्ष में उल्लेख बंधक रखी गई अवधि समाप्ति की तिथि आरंभ की गई प्रतिकूल अधिकारी बैंक आक इंडिया अन्तर्गत शाखा धमलरी रोड अन्तर्गत जिला रायपुर से 3,00,000.00 रुपये का जमा प्राप्त कर नीजा गाथायपर अन्तर्गत, जिला रायपुर में छ.ग. हाजीम बोर्ड द्वारा निर्मित अटल आवास म.नं. 165 लकम 560 अल्पक बैंक के पक्ष में बंधक रखी है।

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51. आपने प्राप्तिगत अधिकारी

BRIEF



AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during an election campaign rally for the upcoming Karnataka Assembly polls, in Sringeri, Wednesday.

Arrested

■ **Jammu:** Three alleged drug suppliers were caught while selling heroin to youth in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, a police officer said. Deepak Kumar alias "Deepu Punjabi", Ashu Choudhary alias "Jatti" and Ajay Kumar were arrested from Gurha Morh, Vijaypur on a tip-off, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Benam Tosh said, adding that heroin, syringes and Rs 19,440 were recovered from their possession. He said the arrested persons are notorious heroin suppliers operating in Samba, adjoining Kathua and Jammu districts besides Himachal Pradesh.

Invite

■ **Chennai:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin would invite President Draupadi Murmu on April 28 to inaugurate the new 1,000-bed multi-specialty government hospital here, the government said. An official release here said Stalin would leave for Delhi on Thursday night and call on President Murmu on Friday. The 1,000-bed hospital was set up at an outlay of Rs 230 crore on the premises of King Institute of Preventive Medicine at Guindy here.

Yoga

■ **Jaipur:** Around 20,000 people are expected to practice yoga at an event here on May 2 to mark the 50 days countdown to the International Day of Yoga, Union Minister of State for Ayush Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai said on Wednesday. The United Nations General Assembly, heeding a call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, made a declaration in December 2014 to observe June 21 every year as the International Day of Yoga (IDY).

Observers

■ **New Delhi:** The Congress on Wednesday appointed five observers for the May 10 Karnataka assembly elections, each taking care of one region of the coastal southern state. While general secretary Avinash Pande will be the observer for the Central Karnataka region, a Chella Kumar will be for the Mysore region and Manickam Tagore for the Mumbai-Karnataka region. Party leader Ajoy Kumar has been appointed as regional observer for the coastal Karnataka region, while Mohan Prakash will take care of the Hyderabad-Karnataka region towards the north of the state.

'Cong used 'religion' to come to power'

Belagavi, Apr 26 (PTD):

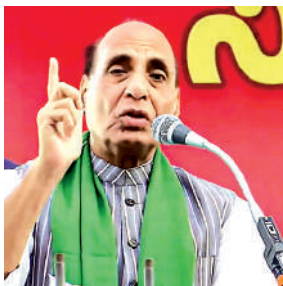
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday came down heavily on the Congress alleging that it used mazhab' (meaning religion in Urdu) to come to power.

Singh also slammed the party for having introduced four per cent reservation, in its earlier term, on religious lines in Karnataka, saying it had been done only to appease Muslims.

"If there is any political party in the history of India which took the support of dharma', or rather, 'mazhab' to come to power, then it is Congress," Singh said, addressing a public meeting at Kagwad in Belagavi district.

Karnataka votes on May 10, with the results slated to be declared on May 13.

The Congress does the



Defence Minister and senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh addresses a public meeting ahead of the Karnataka Assembly polls, in Jamkhandi, Wednesday.

"politics of Hindu, Muslim and Christians", Singh said. "Politics of this sort should never be done."

Only to appease Muslims, the four per cent reservation was given on religious lines, he alleged.

"We will welcome if an economically weaker Muslim or a Christian gets

reservation benefits but the Constitution of India does not permit religion-based reservation," the Defence Minister said.

Just days before the Model Code of Conduct came into force, the BJP government in Karnataka scrapped four per cent reservation for Muslims under 2B category of the Other Backward Castes.

After making 2B redundant, the Karnataka government split the four per cent reservation, giving two per cent each to the two dominant communities of the state, Vokkaligas in 2C and Lingayats in 2D category.

Muslims were then placed in the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category.

Various Muslim bodies have approached the Supreme Court, which has directed the Karnataka

government not to implement its decision until it hears the matter on May 9.

"What are you doing? You want to divide the country on the basis of caste, sect and religion? So far as the BJP is concerned, we will speak and do what is true," Singh said.

Singh alleged that the Congress had been working against the spirit of the Indian constitution. He also stated that politics was not merely about forming a government but about building a society and the nation.

He accused the Congress of having committed contempt against the Constitution "just as it had done in 1975 by amending the Constitution" and thrusting the Emergency upon the nation and imprisoned lakhs of people.

Police avert hostage crisis in Bengal school

● **Disarm gun-wielding man**

Malda (WB), Apr 26 (PTD):

A gun-wielding man barged into a packed classroom at a high school in West Bengal's Malda district Wednesday afternoon, but was overpowered by police and arrested, officials said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who was holding an administrative meeting in Kolkata at the time, came out to compliment the police for averting what is being seen as a potential school hostage crisis.

Panic gripped the students of Muchia Anchal Chandra Mohan High



A gun-wielding man barges into a classroom of a high school, in West Bengal's Malda district, Wednesday.

School at Old Malda, as the unidentified man brandished the gun and started yelling, a senior police officer said.

"The man managed to enter the school and barge into the room where Class-8 students were seated. He was holding a gun

and shouting at the students, allegedly threatening to kill them and the class teacher," the officer told PTI.

The man identified by bystanders as Vallabh kept shouting he "would shoot if someone shoots him".

BEATING THE HEAT



Boys play with a football in the River Hooghly on a hot summer day, in Nadia, Wednesday.

PETA demands rehabilitation of elephants used for rides

● **At Amber Fort**

Jaipur, Apr 26 (PTI):

Animal welfare group PETA has requested state authorities to send two ailing elephants used for tourist rides at the iconic Amber Fort here for rehabilitation, the organisation said on Wednesday.

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has submitted a plea to Rajasthan Chief Secretary Usha Sharma, demanding that the elephants named 'Gouri' and 'Malti' be sent to a rehabilitation centre on grounds of mental illness.

Amber resident and shopkeeper Roopnarayan Koolwla, who was attacked by Gouri, was also present in PETA's meeting

held with the chief secretary and forest department officials on Tuesday.

"These two elephants have attacked either humans or elephants due to frustration over being used for rides," Khushboo Gupta, director of Advocacy Projects, PETA India said.

Gupta added that Malti was used for tourist rides at the Amber Fort despite having a history of running amok repeatedly and fighting with another elephant.

"Tourists from all over the world are increasingly rejecting spectacles involving captive elephants. We have demanded from the authorities to look into the seriousness of the matter," she said, adding that using such elephants for rides is a risk to the lives of tourists.

Bhopal, Apr 26 (PTD):

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Adi Shankaracharya united India by establishing Mutths (monasteries) in four corners of the country.

Chouhan was speaking at the 'Acharya Shankar Prakatotsav, Ekam Parv' organized by the Acharya Shankaracharya Cultural Integration Trust and Culture Department of the Madhya Pradesh government at Kushabhau Thakre Auditorium on Tuesday evening.

"Acharya Shankar (better known as Adi Shankaracharya) connected India by establishing Mutths (monasteries) in all four directions of East, West, North and South," the chief minister was quoted as saying in an official release.

"Because of them, the identity of our culture en-



MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan with Avdhesanand Giri Maharaj, Acharya Mahamandaleswar of the Juna Akhara during Acharya Shankar Prakatotsav 'Ekam Parv', in Bhopal.

dured. His Advait Vedanta philosophy is giving the right direction to the people and his message will be conveyed to the masses," Chouhan added.

"Only one thing comes to mind after reading our



PM Narendra Modi pays his last respects to former Punjab chief minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patron Parkash Singh Badal, in Chandigarh, Wednesday.

Film pays homage to 'Thesaurus Man' Arvind Kumar

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

Arvind Kumar, the brain behind India's first thesaurus "Samantar Kosh" in Hindi, began life as a typesetter at a printing press when he was only 15.

His life and work as a writer-journalist-lexicographer for over seven decades is now the subject of a 48-minute documentary film, directed by Sanjay Sharma and produced by Meeta Lall for Arvind Linguistics LLP, which was released on Tuesday here.

Kumar later went on to lead several media publications, including Hindi film magazine "Madhuri" and Reader's Digest's Hindi edition, "Sarvottam".

But his true legacy rests in the compilation of over 1,60,000 Hindi expressions



Writer-journalist-lexicographer Arvind Kumar, known for having compiled and edited the first thesaurus in any modern Indian language, 'Samantar Kosh'.

after a painstaking research of 20 years. It was published by National Book Trust in 1996.

The bilingual documentary, "Shabd Sarthi Arvind Kumar / Thesaurus Man Arvind Kumar", traces his journey from the narrow lanes of Meerut where he was born in 1930 to his first job as a typesetter in a printing press and eventu-

ally becoming the youngest editor of Times of India's "Madhuri" magazine at the age of 33.

It was his long-cherished dream to compile a thesaurus in Hindi that inspired him to quit his profession in 1978 and dedicate his time to the arduous endeavour.

The film shows glimpses of his journey that was supported by his wife Kusum Kumar; daughter Meeta Lall and son Sumeet Kumar.

After publishing "Samantar Kosh", Kumar went on to link the Hindi database with the English language to create Arvind Lexicon Online, "the largest known repository of one million English and Hindi expressions".

"At an age when most of us begin planning retirement, he dared to dream, and dedicated himself to

his ambitious mission... The story of one man's diligence, dedication and devotion. An inspiration for All," the organisers said.

Kumar's other lexicographic works include "Arvind Sahaj Samantar Kosh", the first alphabetical Hindi thesaurus (2005); "Shabdeshwari", a unique thesaurus of Indian mythological names (1999); "The Penguin English-Hindi/Hindi-English Thesaurus and Dictionary" (2007); "Brihat Samantar Kosh", a revised and extended edition of Samantar Kosh (2013); "Arvind Word Power: English-Hindi", a ready reference alphabetical dictionary, thesaurus and mini-encyclopedia (2015) and "Arvind Tukant Kosh", a unique book of 57,000 rhyming words (2015).

Kerala to teach NCERT's deleted portions in state schools

Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 26 (PTD):

Students in Kerala are likely to be taught the portions that the NCERT had deleted from its class 11 and 12 textbooks, including those pertaining to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and the ban on RSS.

The NCERT recently had, in the name of rationalisation of the syllabus, dropped from its class 12 history textbook certain portions on Mahatma Gandhi and how his pursuit of Hindu-Muslim unity "provoked Hindu extremists". It also left out the portion where the government placed a ban on the RSS after Gandhi's assassination. The revision of textbooks by obfuscating facts has triggered a

row. The State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT), an autonomous body of the General Education Department, is considering a decision by its curriculum steering committee to include these deleted portions in the state syllabus. The committee, which met on Tuesday, has entrusted General Education Minister V Sivankutty with taking a final decision on the matter after consulting with the government and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Confirming the development, Sivankutty told reporters here that the SCERT and the Curriculum Committee take decisions on the academic affairs of the gener-

al education department of the state.

As per an MoU entered with the NCERT, Kerala has been using their 44 textbooks, and of them, there has been a significant change in the content of subjects including history, political science, economics, and sociology at the higher-secondary level, the minister explained.

"The curriculum committee unanimously decided to include all those portions omitted from these text books in the syllabus and teach the students in the state. I have been entrusted to inform the government and the CM about the decision and take a necessary decision in this regard," he said.

message of unity, he said.

Earlier, Swami Avdhesanand Giri and Chouhan inaugurated the program by lighting a lamp.

Swami Avdhesanand said Adi Shankaracharya had visited the length and breadth of India thrice by the time he was 32.

Hailing Chouhan, he said the work which was to be done by teachers and saints was being done by the chief minister.

Swamini Vimalananda Saraswati, another religious leader present on the occasion, commented the state government's decision to install a statue of Shankaracharya at Omkareshwar: Chouhan on this occasion also felicitated Swamini Vimalananda Saraswati for her contribution to spirituality and culture and Dr Kanshi Ram for contribution in the fields of culture, literature and grammar by presenting them citations.

Major UK faith review warns against 'aggressive' pro-Khalistan extremism

London, Apr 26 (PTD):

A major independent review commissioned by the British government into engagement with faith groups on Wednesday warned against the "subversive, aggressive and sectarian" actions of some pro-Khalistan activists and called for action to ensure such groups are not unwittingly allowed access to the UK's Parliament.

"Does Government 'do God'? An independent review into how government engages with faith' by Independent Faith Engagement Adviser Colin Bloom is dubbed one of the most comprehensive public consultations of its kind, involving over 21,000 people's responses.

In a section entitled 'Sikh Extremism' the review goes into detail of how members of the British Sikh community expressed their growing concern over a small but extremely vocal group "hijacking" the Sikh faith to push a subversive pro-Khalistan narrative.

"There is a small, extremely vocal and aggressive minority of British Sikhs who can be described as pro-Khalistan extremists, promoting an ethno-nationalist agenda," notes the review.

"Some of these extremists have been known to support and incite violence and intimidation in their ambition to establish an independent state called Khalistan, the physical borders of which are

largely shared with specific parts of the Punjab state in India. Interestingly, this territorial claim does not include the part of the Punjab located in Pakistan. It is not entirely clear if the motivation for these extremists is faith-based or not," it notes.

The review - which comes weeks after an attack by pro-Khalistan separatists at the Indian High Commission here - pointed to fears that proscribed terrorist groups were able to use aliases to continue their subversive agenda, referencing Babbar Khalsa International banned in 2001 under the UK's Terrorism Act and also the International Sikh Youth Federation banned in multiple coun-

tries but de-proscribed in the UK in 2006.

The review specifically called on the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Sikhs, which is chaired by Britain's first female Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill and has the first turbaned Sikh MP Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi as its vice-chair both from the Labour Party, to ensure such organisations are not able to exert influence in parliamentary affairs.

The British Sikhs APPG, an informal cross-party group of MPs, has the stated aim to "support and promote the interests of Sikhs in the UK, work with British Sikhs to celebrate Sikh culture in the UK, and ensure full equality for all British Sikhs".

OPERATION KAVERI



Indians evacuated from violence-hit Sudan under 'Operation Kaveri', aboard INS Sumedha reach Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

UN agency: Afghanistan needs \$4.62bn in aid for 2023

Islamabad, Apr 26 (AP):

Afghanistan needs USD 4.62 billion in humanitarian aid from the international community this year for nearly 24 million people in need, the UN's humanitarian affairs agency said.

Afghanistan is facing its third consecutive year of drought, its second year of severe economic hardship and the continued consequences of decades of war and natural disasters, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Tuesday on Twitter.

"With Afghanistan, humanitarian aid remains the last lifeline for much of the population," the agency said.

Mohammad Shukran, 32, a Kabul resident and government employee, said life in Afghanistan is difficult: "Everyone is just trying to survive," he said.

The UN food agency said earlier this month it urgently needs USD 800 million for the next six months to help Afghanistan, which is at the highest risk of famine in a quarter of a century.

Aid agencies have been providing food, education and health care support to Afghans in the wake of the Taliban takeover of August 2021 and the economic collapse that followed it. But distribution has been severely impacted by a Taliban edict last December banning

women from working at national and international nongovernmental groups.

The UN was not part of this ban but earlier this month it said the Taliban-led government has stopped Afghan women from working at its agencies in the country. Authorities have yet to comment on the restriction.

Unemployment has increased like never before, said Shah Mir, 45, a father of four children. He works at a non-governmental organisation in the health sector in eastern Nangarhar province.

"We don't know when our office will be closed by the Taliban and we will also lose our jobs," he said.

Despite initial promises of a more moderate rule than during their previous stint in power in the 1990s, the Taliban have imposed harsh measures since taking over as US and NATO forces pulled out of Afghanistan after two decades of war.

A spokesman for the Afghan Economy Ministry, Abdul Rahman Habib, said the government's future plans include developing the agricultural and industrial sectors and mine extraction.

"Supporting domestic business and products, more focus on exports, attracting foreign investors, creating special economic zones in the country are important," he said.

Difficult to engage with terror-supporting neighbour: Jaishankar

Panama City, Apr 26 (PTD):

In a veiled attack on Pakistan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said it is "very difficult" for India to engage with a neighbour who practises cross-border terrorism against the country.

His blunt remarks came days after Pakistan confirmed that its Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will visit India for a key meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Goa early next month.

"We both are members of the SCO. So, we typically attend meetings. We are the chair of (the SCO) this year. So, the meeting is taking place in India. The bot-



tom line of this issue is that it is for us very difficult to engage with a neighbour who practises cross-border terrorism against us," Jaishankar said here at a joint press briefing on Monday with his counterpart from Panama Janaina Tewaney Mencom.

"We have always said that they have to deliver on the commitment not to en-

courage, sponsor and carry out cross-border terrorism. We continue to hope that one day we would reach that stage," Jaishankar added.

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.

Pakistan's foreign office announced on April 20 that Foreign Minister Bilawal would participate in the SCO meeting to be held in Goa on May 4-5. "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," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahrah Baloch said at a weekly media briefing in Islamabad.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Employment Notice No.745/2023, Dated 19.04.2023
Engagement of Honorary Visiting Specialists (Physician) on Two hours daily/ 06 days in a week for one year, purely on yearly contract basis, against 01 (One) vacancy in Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital, BMY.
Vacancies: Sr No. 1, Name of the Hospital: Sub-Divisional Hospital/BMY, No of post: 01, Hrs of duty: 02 Hrs per day /06 days a week. Speciality: 01 Physician.
For further details, please log on to this Railway's website at information for this notification <https://secr.indianrailways.gov.in/News/PressRelease/Recruitment> Recruitment
Raipur
Disional Railway Manager(P) South East Central Railway/Raipur
PRR/SR.DPO/AP/20
South East Central Railway @secrail

Man burns wife alive in Pakistan's Punjab province

Honour killing

Lahore, Apr 26 (PTD):

A husband allegedly burnt his estranged wife alive in a case of so-called "honour killing" while another woman came under acid attack after being raped in Punjab province of Pakistan, police said on Wednesday.

In the first incident, suspect Tariq allegedly burnt his 40-year-old wife Shazia for what he called "disgracing the family's honour" in Cheechawatni district, some 209 kms from Lahore, on Tuesday, police said.

Police official Ejaz Aslam said that Shazia had left Tariq a year ago after developing differences over domestic issues and started living with her parents' house. Aslam said Tariq sus-

pected that Shazia had relations with a man of his locality and on Tuesday he visited his in-laws and doused Shazia with petrol and set her ablaze and fled.

She was taken to a nearby hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival. She has left behind two daughters and four sons.

Police registered a case against Tariq and arrested him.

In a separate incident, two men threw acid on a married woman after raping her in Okara district, some 130kms from Lahore, on Tuesday.

Police officer Jahanzeb Wattoo said that main suspect Rizwan wanted to develop relations with Shahida Bibi, 30, but she refused.

On Tuesday, Rizwan along with his accomplice abducted her at gun

point on her way to home and raped her at a deserted place. The suspects later threw acid on her face.

The woman was taken to hospital where her condition is stated to be out of danger. Police have registered a case against the suspects.

Hundreds of women are killed every year in different parts of Pakistan in the name of honour.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has reported an average of 650 honour killings annually over the past decade. But since most go unreported, the real number is likely to be much higher.

Sri Lanka to discuss debt restructuring with India, China & Paris Club separately: Wickremesinghe

Colombo, Apr 26 (PTD):

Sri Lanka will negotiate debt restructuring with India, China and the Paris Club separately, as part of an IMF-backed plan to reduce and manage the island nation's debt, President Ranil Wickremesinghe told lawmakers on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka is considering restructuring its local debt parallelly with its external debt, Wickremesinghe told Parliament as the country grapples with its worst economic crisis.

Asserting that Sri Lanka needs to restructure its debt, Wickremesinghe, who is



also the finance minister, said, "Sri Lanka's total debt is USD 83.6 billion. Foreign debt amounts to USD 41.5 billion, domestic debt amounts to USD 42 billion."

Sri Lanka secured a USD 2.9 billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last month to tackle its

huge debt burden.

The Washington-based global lender had made Sri Lanka's debt restructuring a prerequisite for granting the USD 2.9 billion bailout.

Pointing that no firm decisions have been made on local debt restructuring, he said negotiations are continuing separately with India, Paris Club and China.

"China is expecting to work separately," Wickremesinghe said while launching a debate in Parliament on the IMF bailout programme.

"Then on one side we are discussing with

Paris Club and India on one side. On the other side will talk with China," he said.



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Fight for Justice

Wrestlers Protest Against Sexual Harassment Demand Justice

India's top wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik, and Bajrang Punia, have been protesting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi for demanding the justice for sexual harassment against women wreslers. They are demanding the arrest of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president, who is facing allegations of sexual harassment by seven women wrestlers. The protesters have alleged that the WFI chief is resorting to strong-arm tactics, threatening the families of the complainants, and offering bribes to break them. They have also accused the Delhi police of leaking the names of the victims to Brij Bhushan, making them vulnerable to further harassment. The wrestlers have found support from several politicians and farmer organizations, including former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and 'khap' leaders. However, they have expressed disappointment with the lack of action by the sports ministry and are now seeking justice from the judiciary. While the Delhi police have stated that a preliminary investigation is necessary before registering an FIR, the Supreme Court has issued notices to the police and others and called for the matter's serious consideration. It is disheartening to see such allegations of sexual harassment by someone in a position of power. The wrestlers' protests are a testament to their courage and determination to seek justice despite facing threats and intimidation. Judiciary will expedite the matter and deliver justice to the complainants. It is imperative that such cases are handled with sensitivity and care to ensure the safety and well-being of the victims. It is imperative that the authorities take swift action to address the allegations of sexual harassment levelled against the WFI chief. The delay in registering an FIR and conducting a preliminary investigation is causing further trauma to the victims and eroding their faith in the legal system. The Supreme Court must ensure that justice is delivered to the victims and that the accused is held accountable for his actions.

Changing Political Dynamics: 2024 Election

Yash pal Ralhan

As the 2024 parliament elections in India draw closer, political parties have started engaging in what is commonly referred to as "political tourism." An example of this is Nitish Kumar's recent tours to Kolkata and Lucknow, despite his party having no stake in these states. This behaviour is indicative of the importance of the upcoming elections, as parties attempt to gain an advantage in the race for power. The term "political tourism" has been used to describe this phenomenon because parties are engaging in political activities in states where they have no political presence, simply to gain political mileage. In the past, we have seen similar behavior from Chandrababu Naidu, who failed to gauge the nation's mood during the last elections. It is possible that Nitish Kumar may also find himself in a similar position after the 2024 election results are declared. It is important to note that Nitish Kumar's party has not had much success in previous elections. In 2014, the party won only two seats, and in 2019, the RJD failed to win even a single seat. Given this track record, it is likely that history will repeat itself in Bihar, with voters preferring national parties over regional ones. In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is expected to win the most seats based on the government's performance across various parameters, including law and order. Recently, three political parties lost their status as national parties, making it difficult for parties with no pan-India presence to garner support from the common voter. The political situation in Maharashtra remains unclear, and the fate of Rahul Gandhi's criminal defamation case will have a significant impact on the political landscape. Meanwhile, the Karnataka assembly elections will be a litmus test for both the Congress and BJP. The Congress has promised many freebies, and the results will show whether voters are swayed by these promises. On the other hand, the BJP abolished four percent reservation for minorities and divided it among other castes, and the election results will reveal the impact of these caste combinations. The by-elections in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh will also be crucial in understanding the mood of the states regarding the law and order situation. The recent Supreme Court decision to refuse to hear the appeal of 14 opposition parties to protect them from the ED and CBI was a significant blow, and it is advisable for opposition parties to face voters instead of repeatedly approaching the court. There is a growing perception that opposition parties are uniting to protect themselves from the CBI and ED, rather than for the good of the nation. Furthermore, if there is no unity among opposition parties, it is possible that the Lok Sabha will not have a leader of the opposition for the third time in a row. Following Karnataka, four assembly elections are scheduled for October 2023, and the results of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana will have a direct impact on the 2024 parliament elections. Indian democracy has matured significantly, and voters have different preferences for assembly and parliament elections. In the last assembly elections in these states, the BJP did not win in any state, but a few months later, the party won the maximum seats in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh during the parliament elections. Political tourism is likely to continue as parties gear up for the 2024 elections. However, it is crucial to recognize the need for collective efforts to forge a common front against the ruling party in the national interest. The upcoming elections are critical for India's political landscape, and parties must work hard to win the trust of the common voter.

(Writer is the Disability and Rights activists from Jalandhar. Views are personal)

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

CHAR DHAM YATRA



Devotees during their pilgrimage at the Kedarnath Temple, in Rudraprayag district, Wednesday, April 26.

Rebellion Never Succeeded in BJP

DR. DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



Karnataka election scene, where some of the top BJP leaders defecting to the Congress or JDS is much talked subject in politics. How far these rebellious defections will impact on the winning prospects of BJP is any ones guess. Congress believe that with the two prominent BJP leaders, one former CM and the other a former deputy CM, both belonging to a prominent community will boost the number of winning seats to near 150 in 224 Assembly strength. The pro-Congress media is already drafting the obituary for BJP in Karnataka, even before the first vote is caste. On the other hand, the union Home Minister and prime strategist of BJP, Amit Shah is talking of his party not only retaining the Karnataka but also capturing the Telangana, the state elections are due in next five months. Each party will run their own narratives to boost their cadre but the truth is somewhere between the parties narrative and the actual results.

The confidence of BJP stems from the failure of rebellion in their party. Rebellion is not new for any party and BJP is no exception. But the difference is that who defected to BJP from the Congress gained in position and stature where as those who left BJP and moved to Congress lost their sheen and faded away in politics. Starting from the Jan Sangh day, the rebellious leaders who defied the highly centralized party establishment lost their

cause as the disciplined party cadre never moved out of the party and supported them in their rebellious issue. Balraj Madhok, the tallest leader of Jan Sangh, under whose presidency the party won highest number of seats in 1967 elections became insignificant figure in politics on differing with Vajpayee and Advani combination. His attempt to revive the Jan Sangh also failed. Similr fate was met by many BJP rebel leaders in different states. In 1980s the Karnataka witnessed another rebellion in BJP through a highly vocal leader A.K. Subbaiah. His difference is similar to that of Balraj Madhok- the line party should take to grow and influence the voters. Here also Subbaiah's line of thought was rejected by Vajpayee and Subbaiah of Karnataka turned a bitter critic of BJP. His acerbic tongue came in handy to Congress party as he joined that party but not for his personal elevation in politics. Thus rebellious A.K. Subbaiah faded.

The rebellion in BJP by Sankarsingh Vaghela has changed the course of political history in the country. His rebellion was one of the factors which made the party to depute Narendra Modi, a RSS pracharak, to head Gujarat government. After that what Modi did to the party is now part of successful BJP growth story. Vaghela, a prominent RSS and BJP man in his desperation

joined the ideological enemy, Congress and became a union minister. But beyond that Vaghela never tasted success. He couldn't wean away the BJP workers to his rebellious cause.

Late nineties saw another failed rebellion in BJP camp in Karnataka where B.B. Shivappa, peeved over the denial of position of Leader of the opposition exhibited his dissatisfaction violently and moved into Congress. But he lost the next election on Congress ticket and then moved into political oblivion. B.S. Yediyurappa, the tallest leader of BJP in Karnataka, who is now striving hard for the victory of party in May election was also once a unsuccessful rebellion in BJP. Following the corruption charges, his arrest Yediyurappa was asked to step down from the CM chair. Yediyurappa turned rebellious, resigned from the BJP floated his own party, Karnataka Janata Paksha (KJP) but couldn't succeed in his rebellious effort and in two years' time re-joined BJP.

Same was the fate of Uma Bharati and other Madhya Pradesh leaders. During the Telangana statehood demand movement, A. Narendra, whom the BJP cadre adored as Tiger Nirendra, resigned from the party and joined the then TRS. Once he moved out the Tiger Narendra failed to roar and enthrone the supporters. Not many BJP cadre went away with him. There are some women leaders such as Uma Bharati of Madhya Pradesh, Vijaya Santi, national best actress award winner who rebelled against BJP and then returned to the party as they realized that without party backing they are no body in politics. In Delhi, UP, Rajasthan and in many states the fate of rebels is no different.

Thus the rebels were never considered by BJP as a threat and largely ignored the moves of such rebellious leaders after

failed placation. Despite knowing the failed rebellions in the party some of the BJP leaders chose to resign from the party and embrace the Congress. The problem with such leaders is their ignorance of the core structure and function of a cadre based party like BJP, despite their long association with the BJP. It is a party of ideologically indoctrinated workers. In the structural design of BJP the lowest level worker plays an important role in the spread of ideology, the party and government's new initiatives and the voter feedback provider. It is this worker on the polling day does the booth committees job.

This cadre based party structure build since beginning is strengthened after Narendra Modi took over the reins of the government in Delhi. He started directly addressing the party workers, which includes the latest interactive speech on the 44th foundation day of the party. Modi made every member of BJP a proud participant in the nation building. He called "every party worker as the representative of the dream of the country, the resolve of the country". It is this kind of young workers of BJP who immediately gets disassociated with the rebellious BJP leaders. Thus, those rebelled and defectors from BJP becomes loners in the political arena, as they lose the committed cadres support. Because of this, the rebellion in BJP was never successful and rebel leaders faded away soon after their rebellion. May be because of this past history of rebellions in BJP, the Home Minister Amit Shah is talking confidently of his party's victory in the coming elections.

(The opinions expressed in the Article are solely those of the author and not necessarily representative of the views or opinions of the Central Chronicle.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Justice delayed again

The allegations of sexual harassment against BJP MP and Wrestling Federation of India chief, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, have yet again highlighted the sorry state of affairs in India's sports authorities. Despite facing charges of sexual harassment, attempted murder, dacoity, and causing disappearance of evidence, Singh remains untouched and continues to hold a top position in sports authority. It is shameful that the so-called sports minister is just sleeping on his responsibilities and turning a blind eye to such serious allegations. It is also alarming that our top athletes have to resort to protesting on the streets to seek justice. However, there is a silver lining as the Supreme Court has issued notices to the Delhi government and sought a response from Delhi police over a plea filed by the wrestlers. The SC has rightly acknowledged the seriousness of the allegations and the matter requires consideration by the court. We hope that justice is served and such notorious figures are held accountable for their actions.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Great loss

The death of Shri. Parkash Singh Badal, former Punjab Chief Minister and veteran Akali Dal leader, is a great loss not only to Punjab but also to the nation. Shri Parkash Singh Badal was one of the most prominent political figures since the country's independence. Though his distinguished public service career was largely limited to Punjab, he was well-regarded throughout the country. His death has left a void. He was a towering figure in Indian politics and a remarkable statesman who made significant contributions to our country. He worked tirelessly for the advancement of Punjab and helped the state through difficult times. The central government's announcement of two days of state mourning across India to pay tribute to the veteran politician is a thoughtful gesture. Further he deserves Bharat Ratna posthumously.

Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Parkash Singh Badal: A Statesman's Legacy

Shiromani Akali Dal patriarch Parkash Singh Badal (95), a five-time chief minister (CM) of Punjab, is no more. He was a five-time chief minister of Punjab and the last surviving member of a political generation that witnessed Independence and survived the Emergency. Badal had dealt with every Indian prime minister from Nehru to Modi and had an impressive political career, holding the distinction of being the youngest and oldest CM of Punjab. He had an exceptional record as an 11-time MLA and had an unwavering love for farmers, evident from his government's decision to introduce free electricity for agriculture. Badal had also bitterly opposed the Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal and had been part of the movement for a separate Punjabi-speaking state. He was respected by both the UPA and NDA governments and was loved and revered by all. May his soul rest in peace.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Developing a strong personality by teaching children about 'Paucity'



Rajender Kumar Sharma

"Our child doesn't listen to anyone's words and has become very stubborn" or "my son is totally out of tune with what I say, don't know what the school teachers teach."? Parents may not see anything special in hearing this conversation, but psychologically, this conversation is enough to reveal the whole personality of the child. Ignoring it as mere

stubbornness of the child affects the general behavior of the child and the process of their entire personality development. Today, since the trend of nuclear families has increased, and according to the demand of the time, a rule has been made for only one or two children in each family. The young couple is leaving no stone unturned to give every happiness and comfort of life to their child. But parents forget that facilities do not mean happiness. Nor are they doing any good to the child by doing so. It is important that by doing this, they are contributing to constructing a weak personality for their child. Think... if any day all these facilities being made available to the children are curtailed, how will the child react? The child's response will be similar to that reflected in the conversation described above.

If we talk about the old times, there used to be not one or two, but three or four children in the family. When time was cheap, there was no problem in parenting. The parents

used to provide all the necessary things for the good future of the child. Yes, many times due to paucity of money, they had to tell the children that this time, they will not get this thing. That is, the child was made to realize the importance of money and its "paucity" from time to time. Due to this, the child's personality was easily accepted for not getting facilities, which not only encouraged the child to achieve their goals in the future but also helped lay the foundation of a strong personality.

Today the situation is completely different. Parents are ready to do anything to fulfill every facility of the child, whether they have to take a loan from the bank for this or withdraw their hard-earned provident fund money. Such parents do not want their children to feel any "paucity," and they are not serious about teaching the child how much hard work is needed to earn money honestly. The result of that is that as the child grows up, they do not see

the parents as anything more than a money-earning machine. For children, the image of a parent becomes like "Aladdin's lamp." The child's personality and its behavioral development also take place in a manner in which there is no acceptance in the child's mind for any "deficit" situation. It never occurs to them that the Genie of Aladdin's magic lamp can sometimes fail to give what they want, or that the genie may also fall ill or have a lack of money or lose their job, etc.

It is from here that the inclusion of stubbornness in the child's behavior begins. Excessive stubbornness of the child can take their behavior in any direction. We hear and read about heinous crimes committed by minor children in newspapers. Sometimes children from very elite families are also found involved in such crimes, or the children do not refrain from taking suicidal steps just because the parents say something to the child. The reason for all this is improper child parenting,

where the child is shown and told the meaning of happiness only in worldly and material comforts. The child was never told that the love of the parents and their attachment towards their child, the spirit of caring for their child and their feelings full of affection, are such precious gifts for the child.

Parent is not just a money making machine or Aladdin's magic lamp. Along with facilities for balanced and strong personality development of children, explain to the child the importance of "paucity" in life, generate a positive acceptance towards that "paucity". And this will happen when the parent shows a sense of "deprivation" of the child's non-essential comforts. Only then the child will become the owner of a strong personality, will be able to stand as a strong support for you and yourself in times of need.

(Writer is a Columnist & Sr. Educator, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Views are personal)

BRIEF

IPR process



New Delhi: The government has taken several steps for filing of applications and reducing the pendency related to intellectual property rights (IPRs), a senior official said on Wednesday. Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary in Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) also said innovation helps in promoting growth of a country.

Elected President



New Delhi: Stock brokers' association ANMI on Wednesday said it has elected Vijay Mehta, Chairman of Mefcom Capital Markets Ltd, as its President for the financial year 2023-24. He takes over from the outgoing President Kamlesh Shah, the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI) said in a statement. Mehta, who brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise, will focus on five areas including — ease of doing business reforms for the broking industry, especially in the areas of compliance, standardization of software, and leveraging technology to facilitate connectivity among stakeholders and members.

Property tax



Chandigarh: Haryana Urban Local Bodies Minister Kamal Gupta said people will get a 10 per cent rebate on property tax payments made in ULB units till July 31 this fiscal. "Citizens will get a rebate of 10 per cent on property tax payments....," Gupta said.

DAP fertiliser



New Delhi: Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launchedIFFCO's nano (liquid) DAP fertiliser for commercial sale at Rs 600 per 500 ml bottle, less than half of the current price of conventional DAP to help India cut its import dependence. One 50 kg bag of conventional DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) is currently being sold to farmers at Rs 1,350.

Govt releases Rs 2,874 cr to PLI beneficiaries so far: Thakur

New Delhi, Apr 26:

The government has released Rs 2,874.71 crore to the beneficiaries of the production-linked incentive scheme till March, with a majority of companies from eight sectors like electronics, telecom, pharma and food processing, a senior official said on Wednesday. Additional Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Rajeev Singh Thakur said these eight sectors are doing well, while few need to increase their pace. The scheme was announced in 2020 for 14 sectors with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore to enhance domestic manufacturing capabilities and boost exports. He said that incentive claims of over Rs 3,420.05 crore have been received under the scheme



for eight sectors - large-scale electronics manufacturing; electronics and technology products; bulk drugs; medical devices; pharmaceuticals; telecom and networking products; food items; and drones, of which "over Rs 2,800 crore have already been disbursed". "The next two-three years will be crucial and we hope that things will move with a fast pace," Singh told reporters here. Till December 2022, 717 applications have been

approved in 14 sectors with expected investments of Rs 2.74 lakh crore. Actual investment of Rs 53,500 crore has been realised, which has resulted in incremental production/sales of over Rs 5 lakh crore and employment generation of over 3 lakhs, he added. A maximum of Rs 1,649 was disbursed in the electronics sector. It was followed by pharma (Rs 652 crore), food products (Rs 486 crore), telecom (Rs 35 crore), drones (Rs 30 crore), medical devices (12.8 crore), and electronics (Rs 5.3 crore) and bulk drugs (Rs 4.34 crore). The other sectors where the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme has been extended include white goods, speciality steel, advanced chemistry cells, auto components and textiles.

India for greater cooperation among SCO members to deal with global challenges

Goa, Apr 26:

Amid fears of a global recession, India on Wednesday underlined the need for greater cooperation among Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members for combating challenges relating to food and energy security. Addressing the Council Meet of the SCO Inter-bank Consortium (IBC), Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi said as part of India's contribution to mitigating the above challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched global mission LIFE' which stands for Lifestyle for Environment. LIFE envisions replacing the prevalent 'use-and-dispose' economy governed by mindless and destructive consumption with a circular economy, which would be defined by mindful utilization of resources, he said in his inaugural address. "Today, when the world is facing challenges of a

looming economic recession, a closer cooperation among SCO member states shall play a pivotal role in combating global challenges such as food and energy security concerns," he said. Observing that India is inclined towards building a sustainable and resilient infrastructure, Joshi said, resilient infrastructure is not just about safe transfer of goods and services across roads, bridges or railways but it is also about the people, households and the communities that depend upon these systems as a lifeline to better health, education and secure livelihood. There is a felt need for SCO members to emphasize the need to integrate resilience into infrastructure, ensure access, delivery and continuity of essential services to people and communities facing increasing exposure and impact of disasters and extreme climatic events, he said.

MG Motor drives in Comet EV at starting price of Rs 7.98 lakh

New Delhi, Apr 26:

MG Motor India on Wednesday launched its latest model Comet at an introductory price of Rs 7.98 lakh (ex-showroom), making it the most affordable electric vehicle in the country.

Comet is the company's second electric vehicle model after ZS EV. "The Comet EV is more than just a car; it represents our determination to change the way we commute in our cities," MG Motor India President & Managing Director Rajeev Chaba said in a statement.

Comet EV is built on the pure electric GSEV platform, the fastest to hit the one million EV sales mark globally, he added. "At MG, we understand that the future of mobility is electric



and connected. With the Comet EV, we aim to empower our customers to make a smart choice without compromising on style or convenience," Chaba said.

MG Motor, a wholly-owned arm of China's SAIC Motor Corp, has invested around Rs 700 crore in the development of Comet, which would be rolled out from its Halol-

based plant in Gujarat. Comet comes with a driving range of around 230 km on a single charge. It comes with a 17.3 KWH lithium-ion battery and can be fully charged in around 7 hours.

The two-door hatch comes with an automatic transmission, two front airbags and a reverse parking camera, among various other features.

70 pc of businesses plan to integrate metaverse in co activities: PwC India

New Delhi, Apr 26:

Almost 70 per cent of business executives in India plan to integrate the metaverse into their organisational activities, said a report by PwC India. Though the term metaverse spans a wide spectrum of definitions, it mainly denotes a digital environment with a virtual world that mimics reality through the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), low/no-code platforms, and blockchain. Additionally, 63 per cent of companies that are actively engaged with the metaverse say they will fully embed the metaverse in their organisational activities with

in a year, said the report titled 'Our Take - Embracing the Metaverse'. More than 60 per cent of the business leaders surveyed affirmed that they have a detailed or good understanding of the metaverse. The survey conducted early this year asked respondents nearly 150 in number across different regions of India for their title/role, age group, their gender, the sector their company represented, and their company turnover; PwC India said. "The metaverse opportunity is enormous and we expect exponential growth because it is relevant across genders, geographies, and generations. Consumers are

open to adopting new technologies and companies are investing heavily in the required infrastructure to leverage the metaverse," said Ashootosh Chand, Partner - Digital and Emerging Technologies, PwC India. The report further said globally, businesses have started exploring partnerships with some of the leading players in the metaverse to explore business opportunities. However, the metaverse ecosystem in India is still at a nascent stage.

"25 per cent of India respondents say that their metaverse plans will be fully embedded in their activities within a year, while 47 per cent say that



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak delivers a speech on stage as he hosts a Business Connect event in north London.

Anant Maheshwari named Nasscom Chairperson for 2023-24

New Delhi, Apr 26:

IT Industry body Nasscom on Tuesday named Anant Maheshwari, President of Microsoft India, as its Chairperson for 2023-24. Maheshwari takes over the reins from Krishnan Ramanujam, President - Business and Technology Services at Tata Consultancy Services, who served as Chairperson for the year 2022-23. The apex association for software and IT services industry also announced the appointment of Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India, as its Vice Chairperson for 2023-24. In a statement, Nasscom announced the appointment of Anant Maheshwari, President, Microsoft India, as its chairperson for 2023-24.



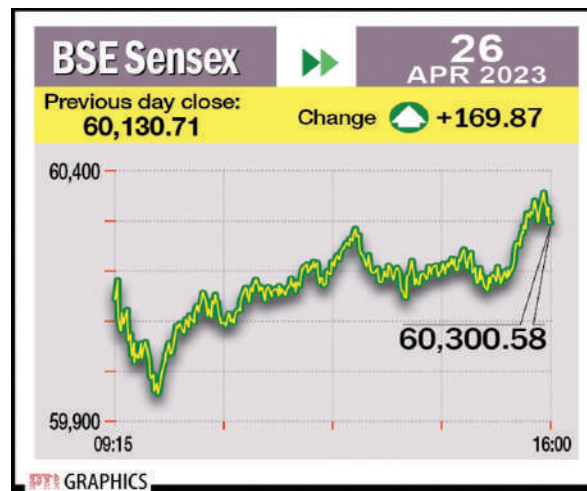
"Anant takes on the new role from his previous role as Vice Chairperson succeeding Krishnan Ramanujam, President, Business and Technology Services Tata Consultancy Services, who served as Chairperson for the year 2022-23," it said. In addition, Nasscom announced its new executive council for 2023-2025. The

new executive council, it said, will play a strategic role in enabling India's tech sector to lead on the global stage through focused initiatives and programmes. The list of executive council members includes one-third representation by women leaders. The newly appointed leadership along with President Debjani Ghosh will spearhead the industry to carry out its wide array of objectives to achieve the tech industry's vision of USD 500 billion by 2030. In order to make India a global technology hub and continuing business momentum in a volatile world, the leadership's key priorities will be to maximise the impact and innovation quotient of India's domestic sector to drive resilient growth.

Stock markets rise for 3rd session; Sensex gains 169 pts

Mumbai, Apr 26:

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty extended their rally for the third straight session on Wednesday amid buying in index majors IndusInd Bank, Nestle India and HCL Tech. However, continuous foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in global equities restricted gains in the market, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 169.87 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at 60,300.58. During the day, it jumped 232.08 points or 0.38 per cent to 60,362.79. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 44.35 points or 0.25 per cent to end at 17,813.60. "The domestic bourses mirrored the mood on Wall Street as soft economic data and underwhelming earnings dragged US equities to a weak close yesterday.



However, the market gradually recovered after an uptick in US futures, with the earnings of tech companies providing support. "Adding to investors' concerns about a possible recession, the US consumer confidence data for April hit a nine-month low

ahead of the upcoming Fed policy meeting," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

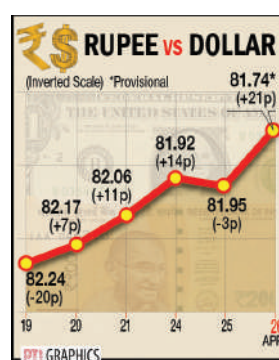
PowerGrid was the biggest gainer among the Sensex components, spurring 2.59 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Larsen

& Toubro, Nestle, HCL Tech, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC were the major winners. On the other hand, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, Reliance Industries and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the biggest laggards, dropping up to 0.84 per cent. "Investors are likely to have covered their positions ahead of the monthly F&O expiry on Thursday. Markets shrugging off global weakness is an indication that our fundamentals remain intact and investors are willing to stay risk-on in Indian equities. "But ahead of the US Federal Reserve policy next month, markets may take cues from global direction to exercise caution," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Rupee gains 21 paise to close at 81.74 against US dollar

Mumbai, Apr 26:

The rupee appreciated 21 paise to close at 81.74 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking the weakness of the American currency in the overseas market. 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 against the US currency and finally closed at 81.74 (provisional), registering a gain of 21 paise over its previous close. During the session, the rupee touched a high of 81.68 and a low of 82.01 against the dollar. On Tuesday, the rupee closed at 81.95 against the US currency. The dollar index,



which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.43 per cent to 101.42.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.12 per cent to USD 80.87 per barrel. The rupee appreciated on positive domestic equities and a weak US dollar. However, recovery

in crude oil prices and FII outflows capped sharp gains, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. The US Dollar declined on rising concerns over recession amid disappointing economic data from the US and renewed banking concerns. "We expect the rupee to appreciate on weakness in US Dollar as banking concerns raised expectations that Fed may go dovish in its upcoming Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC). "Concerns over the economic slowdown in the US may also put pressure on the greenback. However, selling pressure from foreign investors may cap a sharp upside.

Kruti Mahesh proves her mettle as finest choreographer

Choreography and music stand as seminal parts of a film given the high emotional quotient of the Indian audiences. And with back to back trending hits, Kruti Mahesh is taking the Indian entertainment industry by storm with her refreshing moves!

After getting the Indian audiences swaying on blockbuster hits like 'Dholida,' 'Ghoomar,' 'Boom Padi,' the ace choreographer has added three more viral songs to this list, 'Baharla Ha Madhumaas,' from the most anticipated Marathi film Maharashtra Shahir and 'Dariyacha Raja,' and 'Vo Tere Mere Ishq Ka,' from Amazon Prime's acclaim show 'Jubilee.' With a whopping number of reels on the enigmatic hook steps of all the three songs, Kruti has got everyone from toddlers to the adults swaying on her sensational steps!

Kruti added, "I am delighted over the response that 'Baharla Ha Madhumaas,' 'Dariyacha Raja,' 'Vo Tere Mere Ishq Ka,' are garnering. It's really heart-warming to see people relishing over the beauty of dance. I am grateful that I am able to spread some cheer in their lives."

The hook step of 'Baharla Ha Madhumaas' has already garnered 111K plus reels so far! Whereas 'Jubilee's' 'Vo Tere Mere Ishq Ka,' and 'Dariyacha Raja,' continue to win hearts! On the work front, Kruti is currently working on a few untitled projects.



Shweta Tiwari on 'Main Hoon Aparajita' completing 200 episodes



'Main Hoon Aparajita' actor Shweta Tiwari recalled her journey as Aparajita on the show, which has completed 200 episodes recently. She shared her experience of working with her co-actor Manav Gohil and the entire cast of the family drama. The show revolves around Shweta's character Aparajita, who is a mother of three daughters, played by Anushka Merchande, Dhvani Gori and Shruti Choudhary and her struggle of being a wife to a husband, played by Manav Gohil, who is in love with another woman, portrayed by Shweta Gulati. While expressing her gratitude, Shweta said: "In fact, while we all are happy on completing 200 episodes, we also feel there are many chapters yet to be written. Playing the role of Aparajita has been an incredible opportunity for me and I am grateful to have had the chance to work with such a talented and supportive team, who has helped me bring this complex character to life. The idea is to entertain and engage our viewers with a compelling storyline and characters that they have grown to love." nav also recalled how they started shooting for the show and said that because of the appreciation and love of the audience, the show has completed 200 episodes. "It feels like only yesterday when we began filming the show, and now we have already reached 200 episodes. I remain enthusiastic about portraying the role of Akshay and presenting fresh dimensions of my character in the times to come," he concluded. 'Main Hoon Aparajita' airs on Zee TV.

Radhika Apte on 'Mrs Undercover': It is about Durga's journey to find self worth

Known for her roles in 'Badlapur', 'Hunrrrr', 'Manjhi - The Mountain Man', 'Phobia', and 'Parched', among others, actress Radhika Apte talked about the USP of the spy comedy 'Mrs Undercover' in which she is seen playing the role of Durga, a housewife and an undercover agent.

She also shared how not only men but housewives also need to understand their worth and men should equally participate in household chores.

Radhika said: "The film's USP is I think the genre that it's a very different genre than what we normally see. It is about this character's journey to find self worth and saying no to people treating her badly, setting her boundaries. I think, we all struggle with self confidence, self worth, love. And I think that's our perpetual journey. So that's how I relate to the character as well."

She added that men also need to change their thinking as many of them think they don't need to do household work.

"I think, men still feel that they don't have to work. They don't even know how to do a lot of jobs, I think in day to day life, especially definitely here in India. And I think that that needs to



change not just for women, but I think even for men, it's good for men to become independent and know how to clean your clothes and how to cook for yourself," she added.

"I do think that people think housewives are just housewives and I also think that housewives themselves think of themselves as just a housewife. But it will change, it is changing, the more women work and more women put their foot down for their own dreams and their own. Whatever they want to do. It is changing," shared Radhika.

Radhika has been quite vocal about sexual harassment and she said that things are changing and with movements like the MeToo movement, there is a lot of awareness.

Talking about her future project, she added: "I've just finished a British project. I have another American film and then Hindi film coming up, I'll announce that soon." Directed and written by debutant director, Anushree Mehta, 'Mrs Undercover' features Radhika Apte in the lead role. It also stars Sumeet Vyas, Rajesh Sharma and Saheb Chatterjee. 'Mrs Undercover' streams on ZEE5.

Remo D'Souza reveals his special connection with 'Best 13' contestant Ram Bisht



Week-after-week on Sony Entertainment Television, the contestants of India's Best Dancer Season 3 have been enthralled audiences with their superlative dancing talent. Having made their way into the 'Best 13' under the tutelage of their choreographers, the contestants are honing their skills and the result is for all to see this weekend in the 'Grand Premier' episode. Making the best ka biggest celebration a grand affair will be the special guest, ace director and choreographer - Remo D'Souza. Ram Bisht (from Ludhiana) is one of the Best 13 who will be seen giving a spectacular performance on the song 'Bandeya Re Bandeya' along with his choreographer Pankaj. Dancing on an ice slab, their performance is sure to leave the viewers speechless just as it did to the judges - Sonali Bendre, Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapur. Highly impressed by the act, Remo D'Souza will go in front of the judges' table, to kneel and salute Ram and Pankaj as a compliment. Talking about the performance, Remo will commend the duo saying, "There are two types of performances, one in which the audience claps for you and then there's the one which leaves the crowd in silence and makes them think. Everyone in the audience today has been left awestruck by your performance." Talking about his special connection with Ram Bisht, Remo D'Souza will further say, "I have known Ram for a long time. He was a background dancer in one of my films and as a background dancer myself, I relate to his journey. Ram and I share a connection. He also did not want to go home till he did not become successful, I too did not want to go home till the time I became successful."

Tune in this weekend at 8pm to watch "Baazigar Ram" on the stage of India's Best Dancer 3, only on Sony Entertainment Television!

Dimple Kapadia: High time that women got a chance to showcase their strength

Veteran Bollywood actress Dimple Kapadia, who will be seen playing the role of a matriarch Savitri in the web series 'Saas Bahu Aur Flamingo', has spoken about how the portrayal of women is changing with time and they are shown to be more bold.

She is playing the role of a woman, Savitri, who runs a company and uses it as a cover for her drug business. She is the most important female person of the family which consists of four women including her two daughters-in-law and a daughter.

The 65-year-old actress has given a number of hits such as 'Saagar', 'Rudaali', 'Gardish', 'Lekin..', 'Kaash', 'Prahaar', 'Narsimha' and 'Hum Kaun Hai' among others.

Talking about her role, Dimple said: "It feels absolutely exhilarating, we have always seen men taking on



these powerful roles, and it's high time that women got a chance to showcase their strength and determination in such roles and playing a Queenpin certainly fits the bill."

On sharing about the portrayal of women on

screen and how it is changing, she added: "I strongly stand for embracing who you are as a person and showcasing that out there. There are a lot of films that showcase women as strong characters - one with multiple layers and emotional complexities." "So yes, we are evolving and so are our content consumption choices, we just need the right creators to tell the story and with the advent of streaming services, now these stories can travel across the globe," she concluded.

Produced by Maddock Films, the series is directed by Homi Adajania and stars Dimple Kapadia, Radhika Madan, Angira Dhar, and Isha Talwar in pivotal roles along with Ashish Verma, Varun Mitra, Udit Arora, Deepak Dobriyal and Monica Dogra. 'Saas Bahu aur Flamingo' releases on May 5 on Disney+ Hotstar.



TV Actors' favourite Bollywood dancing divas

Dance is a form of expression that allows us to convey emotions and tell stories. On International Dance Day, &TV actors discuss their favourite Bollywood celebrity dancers and their aspiration to perform with them on stage someday. These actors include Anita Pradhan (Malti Devi, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh Singh, Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Shubhangi Atre (Angoori, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, Shubhangi Atre, aka Angoori, from Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, shares, "Madhuri Dixit is the epitome of dance in Bollywood, and I enjoy watching her dance with so much grace and style on screen. No one can match her perfection. The title 'Dancing Diva' is genuinely hers. As a dance enthusiast, I could watch her perform for hours, and her expressions and smiles were captivating. She

inspired me to pursue my passion for dancing. Besides Bollywood, I appreciate Indian classical dance forms. Even if my work schedule is hectic, I take some time out to dance every day. I remember the day when Jackie Shroff Dada was shooting with us, and he compared me to the iconic Madhuri Ji. I was on cloud nine that day, and it was one of the most fulfilling compliments I had ever received. Madhuri Ji and I are trained Kathak dancers, and it is one of my dreams to perform with her. Fingers crossed, I hope everyone can use dancing as a medium to express themselves and stay fit. I wish everyone a spirited International Dance Day."

Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan stuns in anarkali dress at 'PS: 2' event

Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who is gearing up for the second part of Mani Ratnam's magnum opus 'Ponniyin Selvan', was spotted arriving for a media event in the city on Tuesday.

The actress chose a traditional Indian attire for the event. She wore an ivory coloured anarkali suit with shimmering embellishments and a matching dupatta. She kept her long tresses open and rounded off her look with a statement emerald necklace.

In the film, Aishwarya plays dual roles of Nandini - the Queen of Pazhuvoor and Mandakini - the aunt of Poonguzhali. The film is based on author Kalki's eponymous novel. The



first part of the film dramatises the early life of Chola prince Arunmozhi Varman, who would become the renowned emperor Rajaraja I.

Ever since its publication in 1955, a film adaptation of the novel 'Ponniyin Selvan' had been explored by several Tamil filmmakers. However, it never materialised due to financial constraints. Even Mani Ratnam attempted to adapt the novel in the late-1980s and early-2010s but was unsuccessful.

Calling it his dream project, Mani Ratnam revived the effort in January 2019. While the first part was released back in September 2022, the second part will land in theatres on April 28.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Dancer ____ Astaire
- Understands
- Passover feast
- Roof part
- Ark patriarch
- Treasure ____
- Periods in history
- Available to anyone
- Jeans fabric
- Room

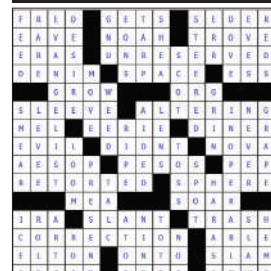
DOWN

- Nourish
- Barely cooked
- Billy Graham, e.g.
- Want
- Large antelope
- Ages and ages
- Canvas cover
- Mets' old stadium
- Guided
- Do the wrong thing
- Peace symbol
- Nights before holidays
- Lipstick shades
- Kilt wearer
- Relocate
- Dandelion, for one
- Wide smile
- Greasy streak
- Embankment

- Coins from Mexico
- Liveliness
- Made a witty reply
- Orb
- ____ culpa
- Fly
- Fin. fund
- Slope
- Rubbish
- Fix
- Talented
- Rock star ____ John
- Aware of
- Bridge coup
- Bowler's button
- Look closely
- Bastes

- Assisted
- Telescope glass
- Broken
- No way!
- Vine fruit
- Mellow
- Hover
- Pitch
- In attendance
- Dog's name
- Bath powder
- Pester
- Bakery worker
- Function
- ____ and crafts
- On
- On cloud ____
- Lug
- Shredded cabbage
- Skirt bottoms
- Fish eggs
- Neither's companion

SOLUTION 627



Rajasthan Royals have task cut out against rampaging CSK

Jaipur, Apr 26 (PTD):

Smarting from back-to-back defeats, Rajasthan Royals would hope to bounce back with a win against Chennai Super Kings in their IPL match at home on Thursday, but it will be easier said than done as the MS Dhoni-led team has been on a rampage with three victories on the trot.

With their top-order comprising Ruturaj Gaikwad, Devon Conway, Ajinkya Rahane and Shivam Dube firing together most of the time, CSK have notched up three easy wins while the Royals have lost their last two matches.

Thursday's match could turn out to be a battle between CSK's top-order batters and the world class spinners of the Royals.

Conway is the second most prolific batter so far this season with 314 runs from seven matches while a "transformed" Rahane, who hit a 71 not out off just 29 balls against Kolkata Knight Riders on



Chennai Super Kings players Ravindra Jadeja and Moeen Ali during a practice session.

Sunday, has been in devastating form with 209 runs from five games, at a stupendous strike rate of 199.04, the highest among the batters.

The Royals can take a bit of solace from the fact they emerged victorious

in their first meeting of this season against CSK. However, even then CSK nearly pulled off a win as their talisman Dhoni turned the clock back with his batting, before going down by three runs in front of their home crowd.

However, things are different at the moment with Chennai registering their fifth win of the season, against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens on Sunday, to grab the top position in he standings with 10 points.

Archer undergoes minor elbow surgery in middle of IPL

Fit to play vs RR on weekend

London, Apr 26 (PTD):

England pace spearhead Jofra Archer underwent a minor elbow surgery during his 19-day break earlier this month after an old injury resurfaced after playing one IPL game for the Mumbai Indians.

According to British newspaper 'Daily Telegraph', "Jofra Archer travelled to Belgium for minor surgery on the troublesome right elbow during a short recent spell on the sidelines at the Indian Premier League."

He is now expected to play against Rajasthan Royals on Sunday.

The surgery was per-



formed by renowned Antwerp-based surgeon Roger van Riet, who is an elbow specialist.

Archer played MI's opening game against RCB where he went wick-

etless for 33 runs in four overs and then had a 19-day break after which he was smashed for 42 in four overs with a solitary wicket in the game against Punjab Kings. Mumbai Indians lost both games.

Archer, who was bought for Rs 8 crore by MI hasn't yet been able to delivery because of his elbow issue for which he missed the entire last season having undergone a major surgery.

The 'Telegraph Sport' claimed in its report that England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) had confirmed that "Archer visited a specialist in Belgium."

We will work on increasing Arjun Tendulkar's pace: Shane Bond



Ahmedabad, Apr 26 (PTD):

Mumbai Indians' bowling coach Shane Bond has said he will be working on increasing the pace of Arjun Tendulkar, whose speeds currently hover around 130 kph.

Four days after being smashed for 48 runs, including 31 in one over against Punjab Kings, Tendulkar junior made a fine comeback against Gujarat Titans and ended the game with figures of 1/9 in two overs here on Tuesday.

"He did well today, obviously after what happened in the last game. It's never easy to step out onto the ground that is a Colosseum with a big crowd. We will work on increasing his pace, but he did all that was asked of him today," Bond said at the media conference after

the match which MI lost by 55 runs.

Left-arm seamer Arjun, who ended his long wait for an IPL debut on April 16 at the very venue where his father played his last international match, has managed to impress with his bowling, save the outing against Punjab Kings.

In the first game of his career, against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium, Arjun bowled the first and the third over. He returned with figures of 2-0-17-0. Then, with Sunrisers Hyderabad requiring 20 to win, he bowled the last over and gave away just four runs for one wicket.

"It's a combination of things. We're not executing what we need to. We've got pretty simple plans. Watch how we bowled in an area. We got hit and immediately resorted to some changes."

"It's disappointing when we can't distinguish plans when we are on the back foot during difficult run chases," Bond said.

"Like in the last game, I think it was 100/4, and then we just dished up freebies. We gave (David) Miller and (Abhinav) Manohar free hits, and once we gave players to get in runs, they took the game away from us."

"And that's the disappointing thing from our point of view. So we just have to be better in our decision-making and our execution. In short, it was a tough day for us," he added.

GT has the longest practice hours: Abhinav Manohar



Ahmedabad, Apr 26 (PTD):

Extensive training sessions comprising plenty of batting at the nets and taking countless throw downs have led to improvements in Gujarat Titans batter Abhinav Manohar's ability to strike the ball.

The 28-year-old, who represents Karnataka in the domestic circuit, on Tuesday impressed everyone with his scintillating knock of 42 off 21 balls in GT's Indian Premier League match against Mumbai Indians.

Thanks to Manohar's knock, an equally beligerent innings by David Miller (46 off 22 balls), and a cameo by Rahul Tewatia (20 not out off 5 balls), GT posted an imposing 207 for six after being asked to bat first at the Narendra Modi Stadium. The bowlers then

stopped Mumbai Indians at 152 for nine to help GT win by a huge margin of 55 runs.

"I think our team trains the most, it has the longest practice hours so we get to bat a lot as batsmen so that really helps us out there in the middle. We have done it so many times, it just becomes a muscle memory to do it while we play a game," said Manohar at the post-match press conference.

"Our practice sessions, we had two camps prior to the IPL for a week each which really helped us. I know my role in the team. It is made very clear by the franchise and that helps as well," he added.

During his stay in the middle, Manohar struck the ball cleanly, which fetched him three sixes and as many fours.

"Compared to last year I was a bit slow on the field, that's something that I've worked on throughout the year and my striking ability has improved since last year... that's due to a lot of throw downs," he said.

The GT batter opened up on his conversation with Miller and said the experienced South African helped him in the middle. "We were talking out there in the middle. Whatever ball is in our zone, we shall go for it and not give any half-hearted effort at the shot. Plus, I felt Miller being out there in the middle, talking to me, helps me calm down when I'm batting over there," said Manohar.

A win for CSK, at the Sai Man Singh Stadium on Thursday, will brighten their playoffs prospects further. The Super Kings, a four-time winners, have the personnel to humble the Royals in their own backyard.

Having suffered two consecutive losses, the Royals will be desperate to get their campaign back on track with a clinical performance against the visitors from Chennai.

For the Royals to do well, it is imperative that the likes of Jos Buttler, Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Sanju Samson deliver with the bat and then, on a pitch that has help for the slower bowlers, hope that the seasoned spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal fire. They may be playing at their base, but the Royals can expect plenty of home team fans at the stands rooting for CSK skipper Dhoni, who is probably appearing in his last IPL season, just like it happened in Kolkata a few days back.

Sen knocked out; Treesa-Gayatri in pre-quarters

Dubai, Apr 26 (PTD):

On a day star shutter Lakshya Sen made a first-round exit, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand kept the Indian flag high by advancing into the pre-quarterfinals of the Asia B a d m i n t o n Championship here on Wednesday.

The Commonwealth Games bronze medal-winning women's doubles pair roared back from behind to defeat Indonesia's Lanny Tria Mayasari and Ribka Sugiarto 17-21, 21-17, 21-18 in a battle lasting more than an hour.

After losing the first game tamely, the Indian duo put up a dominant display in the second and began with a 5-0 lead. They maintained their lead through out to force a decider.

The third game turned out to be an intense battle with Treesa and Gayatri trailing 15-16 against the Indonesian pair.

They were then locked at 18-all when an aggressive Treesa came up with a powerful cross-court smash before the Indian



duo sealed the issue in 64 minutes. Mixed pair duo of Rohan Kapoor and Sikki Reddy also won their opening round match when they defeated Chan Peng Soon and Cheah Yee See of Malaysia 21-12, 21-16.

Commonwealth Games gold medalist Sen, who took a short break to focus on his mental and physical health, was eliminated by world number 7 Loh Kean Yew in a 7-21, 21-23 loss.

Having plummeted to 24th spot in the BWF rankings, Sen got a tough draw as he was pitted against former world champion and world No 7.

The Singaporean, who

had lost to Sen in their last exchange in the Indian Open final last year, showed swift court movements to race to a 21-7 lead.

But Sen returned stronger in the second game and was two points behind at the break.

From thereon the duo exchanged some rallies and Sen had a chance to level when he got a game point at 20-19 but Loh closed out the match in 45 minutes.

Up against world number one Akane Yamaguchi, promising Malavika Bansod stretched the star player before going down 23-25, 19-21 in a 46-minute battle.

Indian women's hockey team to tour Australia

■ As part of Asian Games preparations

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

The Indian women's hockey team will tour Australia for a five-match series as part of preparations for the upcoming Hangzhou Asian Games. The tour will commence on May 18 and conclude on May 27.

India will play the Australian national team in the first three games of the series, followed by two matches against Australia A. All the matches will be played at MATE Stadium in Adelaide. India will play their opening match of

the tour on the May 18 before playing back-to-back games on the May 20 and 21. The visitors will then compete against Australia A on May 25 and 27.

The Australian women's hockey team is currently ranked third in the world, while the Indian team is at eighth.

The tour will serve as a warm-up event for the Asian Games, which will take place in September-October this year.

Talking about the same, Indian team chief coach Janneke Schopman said, "Playing Australia in Australia will help us assess where we are compared to the top of women's hockey."

Galle, Apr 26 (AP):

Openers Dimuth Karunaratne and Nishan Madushka hit centuries in a record opening stand as Sri Lanka amassed 357-1 on a rain-affected Day 3 of the second test against Ireland on Wednesday.

Karunaratne fell on the stroke of lunch after missing a pull shot for 115 off seamer Curtis Campher, but Madushka and Kusal Mendis continued the onslaught as Sri Lanka replied soundly to Ireland's 492 before a heavy downpour halted play shortly before the tea break.

Madushka, who made just 29 in Sri Lanka's big win in the first test last



Sri Lanka's Nishan Madushka celebrates after scoring a century.

week, looked immovable alongside Kusal Mendis, who was unbeaten on 83. The 24-year-old

Madushka waved his bat and enjoyed a hug from the skipper after bringing up his maiden test century by hitting Harry Tector over the deep midwicket boundary.

Madushka, who survived on 131 when Irish skipper Andy Balbirnie dropped a sitter at first slip off off-spinner Andy McBurnie, hit 18 boundaries and a six in his masterful 149.

Karunaratne cracked his 16th career ton and second in the series following his 179 in the first match. Karunaratne reached his century off just 116 balls the fastest in his career before making his way to the dressing room with lunch within sight.

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WRESTLERS TO PM

Please listen to our 'Mann Ki Baat'

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

"Why are you not listening to our 'Mann Ki Baat'," the protesting wrestlers asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and sought his time to discuss the sexual harassment allegations against his party's MP and WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Country's top wrestlers resumed their agitation against the wrestling federation's chief on Sunday, three months after they ended their sit-in protest following the formation of an oversight committee to probe into the serious allegations.

The Sports Ministry has not yet made public the findings of six-member oversight panel that submitted its report on April



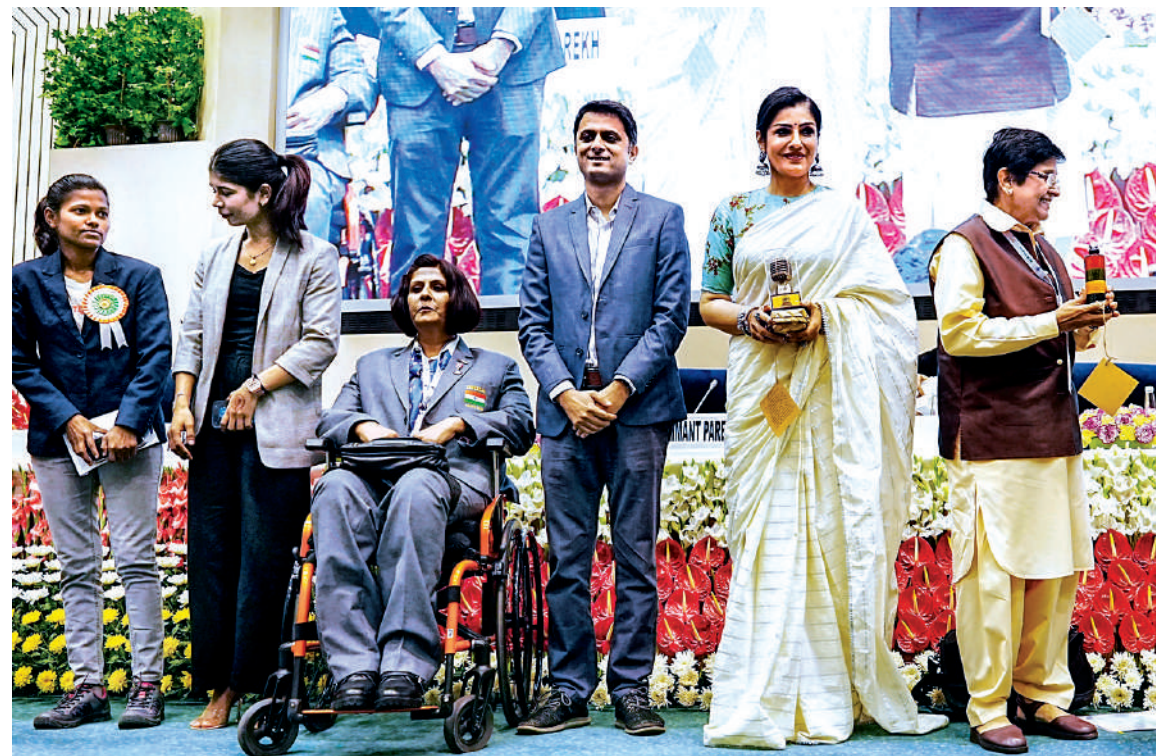
Different moments of wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat (top) were captured during their protest at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

5. The wrestlers on Wednesday said they are surprised that PM Modi felicitates them and clicks pictures with them when they win medals but now he has turned a blind eye to their plight when they are on road, seeking justice.

"PM Modi sir talks about 'Beti Bachao' and 'Beti Padhao', and listens to everyone's 'Mann Ki Baat'."

Can't he listen to our 'mann ki baat'? He invites us to his home when we win medals and gives us a lot of respect and calls us his daughters. Today, we appeal to him that he listens to our 'Mann Ki Baat'," Rio Games bronze medallist Sakshi Malik said during a media interaction.

NATIONAL CONCLAVE



Para-athlete Deepa Malik, Boxer Nikhat Zareen, Actor Raveena Tandon, Kiran Bedi and others after a session on Nari Shakti during the National Conclave on 'Mann Ki Baat @100', in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Dalai Lama gets 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award in person

After 64 years

Dharamsala, Apr 26 (PTI):

The 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award was presented to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama at his residence here by members of the award foundation personally after 64 years on Wednesday, his office said.

It was the first international award given to "His Holiness for Community Leadership in recognition of his leadership of the Tibetan community's gallant struggle in defense of the sacred reli-



1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award, being presented Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama by members of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation at his residence in Dharamsala, Wednesday.

gion that is the inspiration of their life and culture" by the Ramon Magsaysay Award

Foundation in the Philippines in August 1959, the Dalai Lama's office said.

Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation president Susanna B Afan and Foundation Trustee Emily A Abrera met with the Dalai Lama, the Nobel Peace laureate, to personally present the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award after 64 years.

According to the Tibetan spiritual leader's office, his elder brother Gyalpo Thonden had received the Magsaysay Award on his behalf in Manila, the Philippines in August 1959.

The Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959 and has

lived in India in exile since then.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award, often called the "Nobel Prize of Asia", is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society, the Dalai Lama's office said.

The prize was established in April 1957 by the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund based in New York City with the concurrence of the Philippine government.

Spurned lover shoots woman dead outside her house

● Ahead of court hearing in Dhar city

Dhar, Apr 26 (PTI):

A 22-year-old woman was allegedly shot dead by her spurned lover outside her house in Dhar city of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday when she was preparing to leave for the court in connection with an old case involving the attacker's mother, police said.

A police officer said the illegal portion of the house of the accused will be demolished.

The incident occurred at around 11:30 AM in Basant Vihar Colony when the woman, accompanied by her sister, was starting her scooter.

"Initially, we received the information that a woman was shot at by an unidentified person. She was declared brought dead at a hospital by doctors. The accused was later identified as Deepak Rathore," said Dhar Superintendent of Police Manoj Kumar Singh.

He said police have declared a reward of Rs 10,000 on Rathore who is on the run. Singh said

Rathore was in love with the woman and pressuring her to marry him but she rejected him. "In 2020, the woman submitted a complaint under section 354 (assault or use of criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage her modesty) of IPC against Rathore. In 2021, she lodged another complaint against him for attacking her," the SP said.

Rathore lodged a complaint of abetment of suicide against the woman and her family members after his mother committed suicide by consuming poison.

Neeti Goel champions the cause of 'tiger widows' of Sundarbans!

Kolkata, Apr 26:

After working tirelessly for mankind during Covid pandemic and lockdown, Neeti Goel - restaurateur and philanthropist, has touched the lives of many by co-founding initiatives like 'Khaana Chahiye' and 'Ghar Bhejo' (along with Sonu Sood) serving free meals to the needy and homeless people and helping 1.5 lakhs migrants reach home.

Continuing with her philanthropic work, the successful entrepreneur has taken upon a new challenge of working tirelessly and selflessly for the plight of tiger widows in Sundarbans (West Bengal). With the aim to empower the livelihood of tiger widows through her latest project Nari Niti, Neeti recently visited Sundarbans for the distribution drive providing them with earning options



including fish farming, poultry farms, educational needs like books, pencils, among others things.

With both his sons jobless, Biswajit Mistry ventured deep into the dense jungles of the Sundarbans in search of raw honey that would fetch a better price. His body was recovered two days later, mauled and bearing unmistakable signs of a tiger attack. There are in total 54 islands on the Indian side of Sunderbans which

are inhabited by almost 3000 plus tiger widows.

"It is believed the deeper you go into the jungle, the purer is the honey you get", informs Neeti, adding, "The family has received no compensation because Biswajit was killed in a restricted jungle and is struggling for survival. They can barely manage two meals a day, one of the many who lost their husbands to tiger attacks in the last few years."

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Naxal ambush on Wednesday has highlighted what is seen as the last major challenge - foiling Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) attacks in the forested tri-junction of the Bastar region in south Chhattisgarh - faced by security forces to completely stamp out LWE violence in the state.

Security officials cite the lack of foolproof technology to detect IEDs and the increasing desperation of Naxals who are avoiding direct combat with forces for such incidents.

A total of 11 persons, including ten district reserve guard (DRG) personnel, were killed after suspected Naxals blew up their vehicle using IEDs in the Aranpur area of Dantewada district.

The Union government has maintained that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) has almost been wiped out in Jharkhand and Bihar due to sustained operations by se-

curity forces, noting that Naxal violence incidents have come down by 77 per cent in just over a decade.

However, security officials say the menace of stealthily placed IEDs, especially in the border areas of south Chhattisgarh, "continues to pose a challenge" to them.

"A general alert was issued to the security agencies stating that the Naxal-sponsored TCOC period is on and hence they should be alert while conducting operational and administrative tasks.

"Unfortunately, the Naxals were successful in trapping the DRG vehicle in Dantewada. The exact reasons behind this incident are being investigated," a senior security officer in Delhi told PTI.

The TCOC is an armed operation undertaken by the Maoists in March-June to strengthen their cadres and launch major attacks on security forces as forests are devoid of green cover, thereby increasing visibili-

ty and line of sight to ambush.

The geographical tri-junction of Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Odisha located right at the southern tip of Sukma district in the south Bastar region is an area that witnesses the maximum number of such incidents including the deadly 2010 Maoist ambush in Dantewada district where 75 CRPF and one Chhattisgarh police personnel were killed.

These areas are controlled by the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee of the Maoists and led by the 'elusive' Hidma, stated to be the commander of the PLGA battalion no. 1 which is accused by police agencies of planning and executing hundreds of ambushes against the forces over the last two decades.

The forces are trying to "capture, dominate and hold" these areas by constructing remote bases and roads.

The Central Reserve

Police Force (CRPF) has set up as many as 15 forward operating bases in Chhattisgarh over the last three years and some more are in the offing, a security officer based in Bastar said.

These bases are being created so that small units of commandos based here can effectively hit the Naxals in their core areas and secure these locations for government agencies to launch development works, the officer said.

The remote locations, dense forests and weak mobile phone connectivity are other major hurdles for the forces and government agencies that are operating in these areas.

"However, continued efforts are on and we hope to achieve good results including ruling out the possibility of deadly attacks and ambushes on police patrol parties," the second officer quoted above said.

The IEDs continue to be a cause of big trouble because of two factors, a CRPF officer said.

The first is that as Maoists have run out of sophisticated guns, rifles and ammunition. They choose to not fight a one-on-one battle but launch surprise attacks, the officer said.

They are not always successful as the forces have learnt their lessons of not taking the 'beaten track' now, but whenever they are successful, a number of security personnel are either killed or maimed, the officer said.

"The second issue is that we still do not have foolproof technology to detect the IEDs. They are placed under blacktop roads, or hidden beneath culverts or bridges and are triggered by a person sitting far away as soon as a security vehicle or patrol is detected," he said.

Many IEDs explode even when the troops are on foot and their trigger mechanism gets activated just due to the pressure of the feet. These incidents have injured more than 100 personnel over the last two years, the officer said.

'Withdrawing summons issued to Kejriwal'

● In property defacement case

Panaji, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Goa police on Wednesday told the Bombay High Court that they are withdrawing the summons issued to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in which he was asked to appear before them on April 27 in a case related to the illegal sticking of posters on public properties during the 2022 Assembly elections campaign. The police had issued the notice suo motu to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener on April 13 under section 41 (A) of the Code of Criminal Procedure

(CrPC). But Kejriwal challenged the summons issued to him by the Pernem police, asking him to appear before the investigating officer on April 27 in connection with the case.

The case was heard by a division bench comprising Justices Mahesh Sonak and Valmiki Menezes of the Goa bench of the Bombay High Court on Wednesday, during which the police submitted that they are going to withdraw the summons issued to Kejriwal.

Talking to PTI, advocate Subodh Kantak, who represented Kejriwal, said the petition was disposed of by the bench after the police submitted that they are going to withdraw the summons.

MOCK DRILL



State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel during a mock drill, at a school, in Prayagraj, Wednesday.

DU to launch Panchang for propagation of India's intellectual heritage

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

In a first, Delhi University has prepared a Panchang - ancient Indian knowledge system-based almanac - for the revival and propagation of India's intellectual heritage, a varsity official said on Wednesday. The official said the Panchang is more advanced than the Western calendar and will help in the "dissemination of ancient Indian knowledge".

Panchang is the annual compilation of planetary moments. In simple terms, "Panchanga" means the day, nakshatra (star), tithi, yoga and karana every day, the official said.

The Panchang will be launched on April 28. Chairman of the Value Addition Courses Committee

of DU, Niranjan Kumar said, "DU is releasing a Panchang for the dissemination of ancient Indian knowledge. Much more detailed and informative than the Western calendar, the Panchang contains all festivals and other important dates as well as tithi, vaar, karan, nakshatra and yoga."

He noted the Panchang will be a useful first step in introducing students to the rich corpus of Indian knowledge tradition.

"Unfortunately, it is disappearing from our homes and the minds of the youth. In such a situation, The historic centenary almanac will be provided free of cost to every person coming to the programme," he added.

The Value Addition Courses Committee of the

DU, in the centenary year of the university, is organising a programme on 'Panchang and Indian Knowledge Tradition' at 3 pm on April 28 at the Convention Hall of the varsity.

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BRIEF



Devotees carry Lord Badrividyal decorated with flowers on the eve of the Badrinath Temple's doors opening, in Chamoli, Wednesday.

Fraud

■ **New Delhi:** Delhi Police said on Wednesday they have arrested four persons allegedly involved in online shopping fraud to the tune of Rs 8 lakh using an e-commerce platform. Police said the matter came to light after a Shahdara trader registered a complaint with them. The trader had placed an order for a photocopy machine on INDIA-MART portal and a person, who introduced himself as Anshul Aggarwal, a sales manager of a firm named Balaji Enterprises, reached out to him assuring he can deliver the machine, police said.

Technical fault

■ **Mumbai:** Mumbai Metro services on the Ghatkopar-Andheri-Versova corridor were disrupted for around 45 minutes on Wednesday evening due to a technical glitch in a train, said the operator of the rapid transit system. Commuters faced inconvenience due to the disruption of services during evening rush hours.

Guilty

■ **Thiruvananthapuram:** A special fast-track court here on Wednesday convicted a 59-year-old clinical psychologist for sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy when he was being treated for psychological issues. The Special Fast-track court judge Aaj Sudarsan found Dr K Gireesh guilty of sexually abusing the minor boy in a private clinic near his house here during the 2015-17 period, prosecutor R S Vijaya Mohan said.

Electioneering

■ **Bengaluru:** With less than a fortnight left for the May 10 Assembly polls in Karnataka, electioneering is in full swing as political leaders intensify their campaigning across the state to woo voters. While the ruling BJP fielded a battery of its leaders including chief ministers from other states and union ministers, along with state leaders, to campaign in various parts of the state by addressing public meetings, holding road shows and interactive meets, the Congress had its general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra touring for the second day.

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SENSEX	60,300.58 ▲
BULLION	
GOLD	60,348
SILVER	74,583

NAXAL BLOODBATH

10 cops, driver killed in blast

Dantewada, Apr 26 (PTI):

Ten police personnel and a driver were killed after Naxals blew up the vehicle in which they were traveling in Dantewada district on Wednesday, police said. This was the biggest strike by the Maoists on the security forces in the state in the last two years.

The blast, carried out using an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), took place under Aranpur police station area around 1 pm when a team of the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said.

DRG personnel are mostly recruited from the local tribal population and trained to combat Maoists.

The area where the blast took place is around 450 km from state capital Raipur.

TV visuals from a local news channel showed a huge crater, almost 10-feet deep, splitting the road at the site. The vehicle was completely destroyed in the attack while bodies covered with plastic sheets were also seen in the video.

The security personnel had set out from Dantewada district headquarters after getting information about the presence of Maoists belonging to the Darbha division in the area, the IGP said.

When they were returning in a mini-goods van, Naxals blew it up between Aranpur and Sameli villages, he said. Ten DRG jawans and



Rescue team members carry the body of a security personnel who was killed in a blast carried out by Naxalites.



Security personnel at the site after at least ten police personnel and a driver were killed in a blast carried out by Naxalites.

Shah assures all possible help

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday spoke to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and took stock of the situation after 10 policemen were killed in a blast carried out by naxals in Dantewada, officials said. Shah also assured the chief minister of all possible help to deal with the situation. The home minister spoke to Baghel and took stock of the situation, the officials said. He also told the chief minister that the central government will give all possible help to the state government, they said.

'Naxals will not be spared'

Expressing grief over the incident, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said the fight against Naxalism was in its last phase, and the Naxals will not be spared under any circumstances. "We will work in a coordinated way and eliminate Naxalism," he added.

Cowardly act: Cong

The Congress on Wednesday condoled the killing of 10 police personnel and a driver in a Naxal attack in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada, with party president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi calling it a "cowardly act". Kharge also spoke to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and said the Congress governments in the state have been fighting against Naxalism and the party leaders have given the maximum sacrifices. He termed the attack "cowardly" and said the Congress government in the state is fighting Naxalism and will win this battle.

the civilian driver of the vehicle were killed on the spot, the official added. Reinforcement

50 kg bomb used in attack

The Maoist ambush that killed 10 policemen and a driver involved the use of a powerful 50-kg improvised explosive device (IED) that left a massive hole on the road and uprooted trees. The policemen of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) were travelling in a rented mini-van, sources said, adding the commuter vehicle that offers no ballistic protection may have been flung at least 20 feet by the force of the explosion. Sources said the debris of the destroyed van fell 150 metres from the blast site. Visuals of the ambush site in Dantewada district show a big crater - 10 feet deep and 20 feet wide - that covers the road's entire width, indicating the Maoists used a huge quantity of explosives to trigger the ambush. The Maoists may have used 10 times the quantity of explosives to target the van in which the policemen were travelling, Major General Ashwini Siwach, the former chief of the Territorial Army said.



Wrecked remains of a vehicle after a blast carried out by Naxalites.

PM pays tributes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday strongly condemned the Naxal attack on Chhattisgarh police personnel and paid tributes to those killed in the incident. "Strongly condemn the attack on the Chhattisgarh police in Dantewada. I pay my tributes to the brave personnel we lost in the attack. Their sacrifice will always be remembered. My condolences to the bereaved families," the prime minister tweeted.

was rushed to the spot and the bodies of the deceased were being evacuated, he said.

Security personnel have launched a search operation in the area, he said.

Lakshadweep MP's LS reinstatement challenged

New Delhi: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the notification of the Lok Sabha Secretariat restoring the membership of Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal after being served a legal notice by Mondelez India, it had already raked up around 12 million views and was widely circulated.

The NCPCR said it has received a complaint alleging that Bournvita promotes itself as a health drink improving children's growth and development but it contains high percentage of sugar and other substances that might impact a child's health.

The plea filed by advocate Ashok Pandey asked whether the conviction of an accused can be stayed by the court of appeal and if, based on it, a Lok Sabha member's disqualification can be revoked.

INTERESTING STUDY

'Rodents likely origin of the Omicron variant'

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus may have originated from rodents, according to scientists. The scientists are investigating the means through which SARS-CoV-2 contracted so many mutations in the pandemic's second year and suggest that reverse zoonosis, circulation in rodent population and subsequent spread as a zoonosis probably led to the evolution and emergence of the Omicron VOC. The researchers from Christian Medical College, Vellore, and other Indian institutes have proposed their theory in a paper published in the journal Current Science for

the likely origin of the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19. A previous study had suggested that the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus may have been transmitted from an animal species to humans.

In this paper, they began by putting forth two hypotheses for the likely origin of the Omicron variant - first, mutations accumulating in an immune-compromised individual with prolonged SARS-CoV-2 infection, and second, infection by reverse zoonosis in an animal species, enzootic transmission in that species with adaptive mutations, and eventual trans-

mission as zoonosis, back to human subjects. The researchers said that while both are possible, the latter seemed to be more likely. They ruled out the first hypothesis on the basis of a UK report according to which over the duration of 7-9 months when the infection persisted in three HIV-positive persons, only 2-3 new mutations were detected in the RBD region of the spike protein of the Alpha variant.

They said that, therefore, it was unlikely for the RBD region to have acquired close to 15 mutations in less than two years in a single immune-compromised human host with chronic SARS-CoV-2 infection.



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AAP's Shelly Oberoi becomes mayor of Delhi

BJP's Shikha Rai withdraws nomination

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Aam Aadmi Party's Shelly Oberoi was elected mayor of Delhi on Wednesday without contest as her BJP rival Shikha Rai withdrew her nomination.

With this, Oberoi got another term as mayor of Delhi.

Rai told the House that she took the step because the election to the standing committee has not been conducted.

Incumbent Deputy Mayor Aaley Mohammad Iqbal also got another term at the post, as BJP candidate Soni Pal withdrew her nomination. Iqbal and Pal were the two rival candidates for the post of deputy mayor.

The mayoral election in Delhi was supposed to be a direct contest between incumbent Oberoi and Rai. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is the ruling party in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

Oberoi was elected Delhi mayor for the first time on February 22 in the fourth attempt since the earlier elections were stalled amid a ruckus over voting rights being given to nominated members. She had defeated BJP's Rekha Gupta by a mar-



AAP's Shelly Oberoi being presented a bouquet by party leader Sanjay Singh after being elected Mayor of Delhi, at Civic Center in New Delhi, Wednesday.

gin of 34 votes by polling 150 votes. Gupta got 116 of the total 266 votes polled.

The post of mayor in the national capital sees five single-year terms on a rotational basis with the first year reserved for women, the second for the open category, the third for the reserved category and the remaining two again for the open category.

The city gets a new mayor after the end of a financial year.

'Leave same sex marriage issue to Parl'



of hearing. He told the bench, also comprising justices S K Kaul, S R Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha, that there would be ramifications on several other statutes which would need a debate in the society and also in various state legislatures.

On the first day of hearing in the matter on April 18, the Centre had told the apex court that its preliminary objection on whether the court can at all go into this question or

it would be essentially for the parliament to go into it be heard first. The bench had told Mehta that the nature and tenability of preliminary objection will depend on the canvas the petitioners open up and the court wanted to have a view of their argument.

Mehta had said the subject with which the top court is dealing is virtually the creation of a socio-legal relationship of marriage which would be the domain of the competent legislature. "When the subject is in the Concurrent List, we cannot rule out the possibility of one state agreeing to it, another state legislating in favour of it, another state legislating against it.

NIA court issues warrants against 23 terrorists

Hiding in Pak

Jammu, Apr 26 (PTI):

A special NIA court has issued non-bailable warrants against 23 terrorists operating from across the border after exfiltrating from their home district of Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said on Wednesday.

This was the second time that the special NIA Court, Jammu has issued non-bailable warrants against the terrorists hiding in Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on the request of the police since March. Earlier, non-bailable

warrants were issued against 13 terrorists.

"Thirty-six individuals from Kishtwar went to Pakistan after joining terrorism over a period of time. Subsequently, two FIRs were registered against them to bring them to book," Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said.

He said while a special NIA court issued non-bailable warrants against 13 of them on March 1, a fresh non-bailable warrant was issued against the rest of the 23 terrorists on Tuesday.

Segregation at source to be promoted for better rank in Swachh Survekshan

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: Swachh Survekshan 2023 survey is going to commence from the month of May. 4525 marks for service level progress, 2475 marks for citizen vice and 2500 marks for certification i.e. 9500 marks have been fixed. Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena asked all the officers to follow the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for better results in Swachh Survekshan 2023.

For this, the Collector ordered the concerned officers of the urban body areas to run a special awareness campaign, so that through public participation, a higher position can be achieved in the ranking. For the management of waste, the Collector asked the Commissioners of the urban body to separate dry and wet waste and collect it from the houses so that the disposal of waste could be done in a planned manner.

He spoke about running a



special campaign and asked the concerned officials to impose a spot fine of Rs 50 in the near future in case of violation of the rules. Along with this, he emphasised on motivating the citizens of the district for making compost pits at home so that wet wastes like fruit peels, spoiled vegetables, and left-over or spoiled food items could be converted into manure.

Positive steps will also be taken by the district administration to encourage the citizens in this regard and create public consciousness. Apart from this, regular cleaning of public toilets, roads, drains, gardens and other public places will be done in a planned manner.

Under the Godhan Nyaya Yojana, discussions were held with the concerned officers regarding the progress of cattle and paddy straw donation. The Collector sought information from the Veterinary Officer regarding the progress of urea treatment in the paddy straws collected through donation.

To speed up the progress of urea treatment, the Collector asked the veterinary officer to make a demo video on urea treatment, so that the staff of NRLM can give training to the women of self help groups with the help of demo videos. Along with this, he asked the concerned officials to provide insects related to urea treatment to the self-help groups

so that by conducting urea treatment, nutritious fodder can be made available to the animals. At present, in the absence of green fodder due to the summer, urea treated paddy straws will become a better option for livestock and this will also reduce the cost of milk production.

Along with this, the Collector asked the concerned officials for the figures of the number of cattle kept in Gauthan according to the capacity. The officials replied that 2388 livestock have been kept in Gauthans with arrangements of fodder-water and shed. According to the capacity, the percentage of cattle kept in Gauthans is about 71 percent. Collector asked the offi-

cers to achieve a cent percent target so that the livestock could get a better shelter in the scorching heat.

Apart from this, discussions were held in the meeting regarding implementation of schemes of revenue, jandarshan and governance. Additional Collector Padmani Bhoi, Commissioner of Bhilai Municipal Corporation Rohit Vyas, Trainee IAS Laxman Tiwari, District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Dewangan, Joint Collector Praveen Verma, Joint Collector Yogita Dewangan, Joint Collector Vinay Soni, SDM Durg Mukesh Raote, SDM Dhamdha Brijesh Singh Kshatriya, Durg Municipal Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, Commissioner of Risali Municipal Corporation Ashish Dewangan, Commissioner of Bhilai Charoda Municipal Corporation Ajay Tripathi and other officers were present.

Awareness programmes organised on World Malaria Day



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: On the instructions of Collector Pushpendra Meena and guidance of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr JP Meshram, District Malaria Officer and District Surveillance Officer Dr CBS Banjare, World Malaria Day was celebrated on Tuesday under the Vector Borne Disease Control Program.

On the occasion of

World Malaria Day, with the aim of achieving a situation of zero malaria in the entire state by the year 2027 and eradicating malaria by 2030, publicity was done through posters, banners and handbills for prevention of malaria among the people at the district and block level.

Awareness was created by giving messages about mosquito borne diseases through Mitanin, Village Health Sanitation and

Nutrition Committee and Mahila Arogya Samiti. All Mitanins were instructed to write at least 03 slogans related to malaria awareness at the local level.

Awareness activities were done in malaria-affected and remote areas, migrant, border areas, areas susceptible to malaria. The health worker who performed well at the district and block level for the eradication of malaria was also honoured.

Tarring of dilapidated roads begins in Vaishalinagar zone

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: Asphalt work of many roads in Vaishali Nagar Zone area under Bhilai Municipal Corporation has been started, following the announcements made by the Chief Minister. In this sequel tarring work of the road from Indira Chowk to Gaurav Path in Vaishali Nagar area, the road around Vaishali Nagar zone office, the road from Bhagat Singh Chowk to Gaurav Path and the road from Bhagat Chowk to Hanuman Mandir has been taken up at a cost of about Rs one crore.

The first layer work of asphaltting of most of these roads has been completed. The work of second layer



will start soon. These roads of about 2 kilometers play a very important role for traffic. The condition of these roads had become extremely dilapidated and people faced difficulties while commuting, considering which Mayor Neeraj Pal decided to repair these roads and directed the officials to carry out the asphaltting work.

The work will be completed in a few days and people will get rid of the inconven-

ience in commuting. People will be able to move easily even during rain and night time. The Municipal Commissioner Rohit Vyas has also given instructions to the officials to complete the asphaltting work of the roads soon and with quality. Zone No 2 Vaishali Nagar officer Yeshu Laharen and engineers Arvind Singh and Basant Sahu are continuously monitoring the asphaltting works.

Mahadev can change your fate: Pt Pradeep Mishra

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: On the first day of Shri Ekanteshwar Shiv Mahapuram Katha, renowned kathawachak Pandit Pradeep Mishra narrated the stories of great devotees of Lord Shiva. The entire venue reverberated with the slogans of Bol Bam ka nara hai Bholenath hamara hai. Pt Pradeep Mishra strongly attacked superstitions and said that you will get as much as you have got in your destiny.

However, only Bholenath Baba can change your destiny. There is no need to make great efforts to persuade him. Just offer a pot full of water on Baba's Shivaling with devotion to solve your problems and get wishes fulfilled. Speaking about the Bholenath's form of



Ardhanarishwar, Pt Mishra urged people to care for their family properly.

At the outset, Pt Pradeep Mishra was given a grand welcome by Former Assembly Speaker Prem Prakash Pandey (Patron of Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti) and Vinod Singh (President of Jeevan Anand Foundation). Pt Mishra said that the holy land of Chhattisgarh has given a lot to the entire world.

Bhilai has given a strong

foundation to the big buildings of the country through the steel plant, as well as has made an incomparable contribution in the development and progress of the country. He further appreciated Prem Prakash Pandey for staying in the forefront to protect, preserve and spread Sanatan Dharma.

Describing the importance of worshipping Ekanteshwar Mahadev ji and listening to stories, he said that worship of Shivling kept in solitude



increases life, protects from disease, increases wealth and blessings of Mata Lakshmi and communicates happiness and prosperity in the family. Pt Pradeep Mishra further said that the deities write the fate, but Mahadev is the one who changes the fate.

Lakhs of devotees had gathered at the Katha Sthal to listen to Shiv Mahapuram Katha. Volunteers made remarkable efforts for the convenience of the devotees and made arrangements for

drinking water and vehicle parking. More than 100 CCTV cameras have been installed in the pandal from the point of view of security. A team of doctors was also available here to provide health facilities.

Lakhs of devotees have reached Bhilai from almost all the districts of the state and also from other states. The organizing committee has installed LED screens at various places, so that those who cannot enter the pandal can watch the live telecast.

Gardens & grounds of Balaji Nagar become illuminated

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: Devendra Yadav, MLA Bhilai Nagar is continuously meeting people under "Bhent Mulakat" programme. During the visits he interacts with people and tries to understand their problems and find solutions to them. In this sequel he reached Balaji Nagar the other day where he declared for park and community building.

Earlier he saw no illumination in two gardens in the ward, both of which get dark as soon as night falls. MLA got lights installed in both the gardens due to which even in the night, people will be able



to come to the garden and enjoy it.

The MLA during such visits meets the residents of the ward and inquires about their well-being. He gets details about the

progress of development in the ward and the city. Sitting with the citizens he drinks tea and holds meaningful discussions.

Here at Balaji Nagar along with the senior citi-

zens of the ward performed Bhoomi Pujan. During this, he said that last time on the demand of people he had assured that the demands would be fulfilled soon. According to the demand the construction work and development work is going on at top speed.

The senior citizens of the ward thanked MLA Yadav for understanding their needs. Earlier there were many problems in the ward. People used to yearn for water. But today, due to his initiative, the problem of water has been completely removed. Ration card has been made for every family. Everyone is getting ration.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: Durg (urban) MLA Arun Vora and Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal visited the DAY-NULM National Urban Livelihood Mission office located at the Data Center on Wednesday and distributed utensils to the women of self-help groups who had come from different wards of the city to establish Bartan Bank.

During this, MIC members Abdul Gani, Councilor Satish Dewangan, Kashiram Ratre, Alderman Rajesh Sharma, Muktesh Kanha, Manish and Sumit Vora, Roshni Hirwani were present.



While distributing utensils to 8 self-help groups to operate Bartan banks in their respective wards, MLA Arun Vora said that this will increase the contribution of women in making the wards plastic

free. Mayor Dhiraj Bakliwal while interacting with the women of the groups said that they should stop the use of plastic utensils, glasses etc in various events like birthdays, worship and

other community events in their respective wards and make people aware to use utensils from banks in community events.

While these Bartan banks will be helpful in freeing the city from more plastic, the women associated with the self-help groups running them will be able to get employment and their income will increase.

Self-help groups to whom utensils have been distributed to open banks were Om Sai Self Help Group, Jai Maa Safura Self Help Group, Navdurga Self Help Group, Geeta Mahila Self Help Group and others.

Astronomy Day: Denizens can witness celestial objects on telescope

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: To mark the occasion of International Astronomy Day, a special initiative is being taken by Bhilai Municipal Corporation. Under this, the denizens will get an opportunity to view the celestial and astronomical events through a telescope for free. The telescope will be placed at Shaheed Park in Sector 5 from 20:00 hrs on April 29. It needs a mention that the day is celebrated to help people interact and understand astronomy. People of all age can take benefit of this opportunity to see astronomical events from the Milky Way through stargazing.

This is the first innovative initiative of Mayor Neeraj Pal and Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas in which efforts are being made to make people aware of astronomical events. People will

also be informed about the planets through projectors and detailed information will be given. For the first time, people will get a chance to see the planets closely through the reflective telescope with a zooming capacity of about 110 times. Detailed information about planets like Sun, Moon, stars, Earth, Jupiter etc will also be told to the people. Every individual is curious about the activities in the universe, such as why the colour of the sky is blue, why the stars shine, where the moon and the sun hide, why the sky appears dark at night, what is the effect of gravity, how many types of planets are there, how the moon orbits, twinkling stars etc. and there is also an eagerness to see the planets closely in the distant sky. So this opportunity can definitely be used to get enlightened and develop a better understanding of astronomical events.

Installation of New Equipment & Upgradation of facilities done

- In JLN Hospital
- Aimed at Providing Best Health Care

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's commitment to provide the best health care to its employees, their dependants as well as private citizens seeking treatment at the Plant's JLN Hospital & Research Centre has been reiterated with restarting of Cardiac Cath Lab with software upgradation after COVID 19 pandemic, following which angiography procedures are being performed, and the acquisition and installation of new & modern diagnostic equipment in

JLN Hospital & RC during the last fiscal year 2022-23.

In a significant development, BSP's JLN Hospital & RC has been awarded with NABH entry level renewal certification by NABH- QCI India which is a mark of quality and safety practices with regard to patient-care.

Skin Banking has been added to the treatment facility of Burn Unit, for early recovery of severe and deep Burn patients. New equipment including Shaking Incubator, Ice Lined Refrigerator, Bio-safety Cabinet were procured for Skin Banking. Meantime, a team of Doctors from State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) Raipur inspected Skin Bank of JLNHRC and issued li-

cense with validity for five years.

While software of Single Photon Emission Tomography (SPECT) machine in Nuclear Medicine Department has been upgraded, several new equipment have been installed during fiscal year 22-23. Histopathology department has been equipped with Cryostat (SLEE) for frozen tissues preparation used in diagnostic histopathology, where surgical biopsies must be evaluated quickly in the operating room. Physiotherapy department has been equipped with new Micro Wave Diathermy Electro Magnetic Radiator large field radiator BTL 6000 MV.

Three portable ultrasound machines have been installed at Main ICU, NICU and Main OT.

Ceiling mounted double door LED OT Lights with inbuilt camera system have been installed in ENT and Labour Room OT. Besides, five numbers of Multi para Monitors, four new Delivery Tables and an OT Table have been installed in Labour room and Obstetrics & Gynaecology OT. Neonatal ICU (NICU) was renovated to provide care for sick newborns with special facility of rooming in for mother.

In the Mortuary unit, two Machines each having capacity to keep 6 bodies have been procured. The new machines are having Temperature display etc and data logger where by data and other parameters can be monitored remotely by the concerned officials.

BSP more than doubles procurement through GeM Portal in FY 22-23

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 26: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Materials Management (MM) Department has made substantial increase in procurement through GeM portal as also in procurement through E-route. Highest ever procurement through GeM of Rs 2842 Crore was recorded in FY 2022-23, surpassing the previous best of Rs 1103 Cr achieved in FY 2021-22.

As much as 99.8% of procurement has been processed through e-route against the target of 99%. Highest ever procurement through reverse auction at Rs 1943 Crore was also recorded in FY 22-23, surpassing the previous best of

Rs 978 Cr achieved in FY 2021-22. Highest ever cumulative saving from Reverse Auction of Rs 51 Crore was achieved in FY 22-23, surpassing the previous best of Rs 26 Crore achieved in FY 21-22. In another highlight achieved by MM Department, Bhilai Steel Plant has placed highest total purchase orders on Micro & Small-scale Enterprises valued at Rs 930 crore in FY 22-23, surpassing the previous best of Rs 641 Crore achieved in FY 21-22. Significantly, procurement through MSEs Vendors has been maintained at 33 per cent of total procurement value, surpassing the target of 25% as per Public Procurement Policy.

CM inaugurates Raipur's unique Heritage Walk

Raipur's historic buildings and religious legacy now easily accessible

Unique initiative of the govt to connect the ancient legacy of the city



Budha Talab, Kilewale Baba, Budheshwar Mahadev Temple, Sheela Mata Temple, Mahamaya Temple, Nagari Das Temple, Mahavir Vyayam Shala, Jaitusav Math, Jagannath Temple, and Turi Hatri.

As part of the Heritage Walk Route project, the city's historic buildings such as the Town Hall and the Mahakoshal Art Gallery have undergone redevelopment. This project has included the construction of pathways from Budha Talab to Turi Hatri, the installation of electricity on the pathways, the installation of 40 attractive benches at 216 different locations for tourists, and the installation of 216 solar posts. The route has been beautified with attractive paintings over an area of 3,000 square meters. Road markings and attractive sign boards have also been installed for the Heritage Walk Route sites.

torical legacy of the state. The entire route will pass by significant landmarks such as the Nagari Das Temple and Jaitusav Math. The Heritage Walk has been created at a cost of Rs 1.19 crores.

Chief Minister commenced his visit at Jaitusav Math, where he offered prayers to Lord Shri Ram, Mata Janaki, and Lakshman. Furthermore, he also garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and then proceeded to Hanuman Baoli where he worshipped Lord Hanuman. It is believed that this baoli is ancient, and about 500 years ago, people witnessed statues

of Lord Hanuman inside it. As per tradition, there were three statues, out of which one was installed in the baoli, and another in Mathpara, where the Mahant takes milk after worshipping Hanuman ji. Due to this, the place is known as 'Dudhadhari Math'. The third statue was installed in Machhli Talab located in Gudhiyari. It is worth mentioning that the baoli was recently cleaned, and a monkey-shaped figure was discovered on the inner walls of the baoli, which attracted a large number of people. It is noteworthy that along this route, several places have been included such as

Governor condemns Naxalite bomb blast in Dantewada district

Raipur, Apr 26: Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan expressed deep sorrow over the death of police personnel killed in a Naxalite bomb blast that occurred today in the Arampur area of Dantewada district. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Paying homage to the martyred soldiers, the Governor strongly condemned the incident and firmly stated that the anti-national activities of the Naxalites would never succeed. He further emphasized that both the central and state governments are fully committed to ending Naxalism through coordinated efforts.

Dr Raman for inter-state joint operations against naxalites

● **BJP holds State govt responsible for the incident**

Raipur, Apr 26: Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh on Wednesday stressed on the need for Inter State Joint operations in Chhattisgarh to check the naxal activities on borders. In a statement issued here, the former CM and senior BJP Vice President Dr Singh said that formation of Inter State Joint operations would speed up the search operations which would check movement of the

naxalites. Taking a dig on the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the senior BJP leader Dr Singh said that tall claims are being made about control over the naxalism whereas regular naxal incidents are happening and added that the 4-5 BJP workers were also brutally killed by naxalites. He said that it is very difficult to have prior information about blast but search operations should be increased to check the IED installation in remote areas. He also advocated for the measures to improve security of the political leaders with the Legislative Assembly

polls approaching closer. Meanwhile, the State BJP President Arun Sao said that said that elimination of the naxalites would be the real condole to the police personnel killed in the IED blast in Bastar. Senior BJP leader Dharmil Kaushik said that the Home Minister should review the situation to know the actual reason behind the naxal incident. Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Narayan Chandel said that decisive campaign should be launched against the naxalites to end the menace.

Seminar on 'Convert stress into smile' held

Raipur, Apr 26: National Institute of Technology Raipur organized a program on the topic "Convert stress into smile" on Wednesday. The program was conducted by National Service Scheme (NSS) which was aimed to assist all students in learning efficient stress management techniques, coping strategies, and methods for enhancing mental health. Ram Raghunath Das, Personal counselor and the organizer of Ugdosh, the



biggest youth festival in Chhattisgarh was the guest speaker for the event. Dr. Govardhan Bhatt addressed the students and expressed that there are many cases of depression, fear, anxiety in NIT

Raipur and thus this event was organized to help the students. Dr. AD Prasad, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering greeted the students and shared some tips on stress management with the students. Additionally, a theater performance was included to help the audience understand the subject better.

Ram Raghunath Das, explained multiple reasons of stress along with their practical solutions including urgency

addiction, interpersonal conflicts, Multi-tasking, Unrealistic targets, Irregular Lifestyle, inviting future problems while enjoying now, unhealthy competition. He emphasized on the fact that stress and problems will always be a part of our life but we must face those problems with a positive mindset and look out for solutions.

The program concluded with an interactive question and answer round.

PRI-CBO convergence project launched on Panchayati Raj Day



Raipur, Apr 26: The PRI-CBO Convergence (Panchayati Raj Institutions-Community based Organization Convergence) project was launched in Chhattisgarh on National Panchayati Raj Day. Under the project, self-help groups formed under the mission will be made entrepreneurs through convergence of community organizations and gram panchayats of the State Rural Livelihood Mission (Bihan) to increase livelihood opportunities and reduce poverty in villages. This project will be implemented in total 200 gram panchayats of four development blocks each of Bastar and Raipur districts.

On the occasion of the launch of the project, office bearers of community organizations of 'Bihan' of both the districts and women representatives of

Panchayati Raj institutions participated in the workshop organized at Thakur Pyarelal State Panchayat and Rural Development Institute (SIRD) Nimora, Raipur. Under the PRI-CBO Convergence Project, Gram Panchayats and federations of self-help groups will work in convergence by promoting sustainable community-based organizations such as cluster organizations, village organizations and self-help groups to reduce rural poverty and generate livelihood opportunities. Under this, better coordination will be established between the local government and line departments to enhance the service delivery mechanism within the community. CBO network will also be created with gram panchayats and line departments. This project will be

implemented in Bakavand, Bastanar, Lohandiguda and Tokapal development blocks of Bastar district and Abhanpur, Arang, Dharsiva and Tilda development blocks of Raipur district. In this, a total of 32 cluster organizations of 'Bihan' of 25-25 gram panchayats of all these development blocks and self-help groups including 640 village organizations will participate. Inaugurating the project, the Director of Thakur Pyarelal Rajya Panchayat and Rural Development Institute P.C. Mishra said in the workshop that in order to get better benefits, it is necessary to have awareness about your rights and make continuous efforts to achieve them.

This project will help the women of self help groups to achieve their goal. The Chief Operating Officer (CCO) of the State Rural Livelihood Mission, Mrs. Alice Lakra told in the workshop that better coordination between the three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions and the community organizations formed under 'Bihan' will lead to the development of villages on 17 indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). They have been regionalized and classified into nine themes.

Free health check-up camp for elderly citizens at 'Ashray'



Raipur, Apr 26: A free one-day health camp was organised at Ashray Lions Old Age Home, Shyam Nagar Raipur by District Legal Services Authority Raipur Chhattisgarh, District Court and Chief Medical and Health Officer District Raipur in association with Soubhagya Foundation Raipur Chhattisgarh.

Soubhagya Foundation President Mrs Pallavi Pandey said that total 50 elderly persons in Ashray Old Age Home underwent health check-up by the team of health department. The elderly persons underwent check up for BP, sugar, eye, tuberculosis, malaria

and other diseases. They were given medicines at free of cost after check-up.

District Legal Association Secretary Pravin Mishra, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Mithilesh Choudhary, District Media in-charge of CMHO office Gajendra Dongre, Nitin Pandey and Suraj Chandrakar were present. Rashmi Sharma, Vinod Singh, Gyanendra Dewangan, Soubhagya Pandey, Dinesh Kumar, Amit Sharma, Shanu Kumar Tandi, Ananya, Vandana Singh, Namrata Tiwari and Madhuri Nayak were present on behalf of Soubhagya Foundation.

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CM inaugurates the restoration, beautification works of historic Kankali Talab

Raipur's historic Kankali Talab gets a majestic makeover with beautiful Dholpur Red Sandstone

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 26: The 650-year-old Kankali Talab, located amidst a densely populated area in Raipur city, will now captivate the city residents with its unique beauty.

The Raipur Municipal Corporation has renovated and beautified this pond in line with the policy of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to preserve and conserve the historic heritage of the state. Baghel inaugurated the beautification works of the pond worth Rs 1.34 cr during his 'Bhent-Mulaqat Abhiyan' today.

In Kankali Talab, 350 square meters have been beautified with Dholpur red stone. The beauty of



these stones, illuminated by facade and flood lights, is giving a new identity to the pond. Lightning has also been

done on 28 large pillars in the pond.

Maintenance work and painting of the ghats and stairs have also been car-

ried out. Additionally, stainless steel railings have been installed around the pond for approximately 400 meters

on all sides.

The Maa Kankali Temple is approximately 650 years old. In ancient times, the discovery of a male skeleton during the excavation of the pond led to it being named the Kankali Temple.

Mahant Kripal Giri Ji founded this temple according to the orders of Maa Kankali. The temple has served as a center for the meditation of ascetics, and it is believed that bathing in the pond can cure skin diseases, itching, and allergies.

The Kankali Math, where Naga ascetics used to worship Maa Kankali, is located near the temple and only opens once a year on the day of Dussehra.

CM Baghel unveils statue of Late Laxman Satpathy

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 26: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel unveiled the statue of former MLA Late Shri Laxman Satpathy at Katora Talab in Raipur today, to commemorate his inspiring personality. The Chief Minister stated that the Late Shri Satpathy's steadfast work ethic of working truthfully for the common people continues to inspire the younger generation.

His contributions to children's education are still relevant today. The Chief Minister garlanded the statue and paid a humble tribute to the Late Shri Satpathy. It is noteworthy that Late Laxman Satpathy was elected as Congress's MLA twice from the Basna region.

He was born in 1937 to Pt. Jaidev Satpathy and



Smt. Jashonti Devi. Late Laxman Satpathy served as a teacher in Kondagaon, Dhamtari, Bemetara, and Saraipali. He was also the national judge of Basketball alongside a qualified sports trainer. While he was a teacher in Raipur, he pursued his LL.B. and carved

an identity as a fierce advocate. Late Satpathy was elected to the Assembly of Basna region for the first time in 1972 and the second time in 1977-78. He took the charge of Fuljhar Service Committee in Saraipali to encourage education. He passed away on June 6, 2016.

BBPS celebrates 'In'tnl Year of Millets-2023

Central Chronicle News

Sipat, Apr 26: To bring together the important theme of the 'International Year of Millets', a fun-filled grand event was organized at Bal Bharati Public School (BBPS), NTPC Sipat on April 25. The programme was inaugurated by the lighting of the lamp by the President of the Sangwari Mahila Samiti, Vijaya Rao, Vice President, Smita Gokhe and the Principal of the school, Shalabh Nigam.

After the inauguration of the programme, the guests visited the attractive stalls put up by the students as well as the teachers. The guests and the parents, who tasted the nutritious and



scrumptious dishes, appreciated them a lot.

Various activities such as poster making, speech and food festival were organized under the theme 'THE MIGHTY MILLETS' and the students of Classes XI and above took the oath to include millets in their regular diet.

The atmosphere of the school campus during the programme was worth watching. There was a lot of enthusiasm among the students and parents. Sorghum (Jowar), Finger millet (Ragi), Pearl millet (Bajra), Kodo millet and Barley (Jau) were mainly included in the dishes.

The chief guest inspired the students to include these dishes in their daily diet for physical and intellectual development. She also talked about how she relished this flavourful learning experience.

Praising the initiative of the Government of India, the Principal of the school, Mr. Shalabh Nigam said that the main objective of the food fest was to make the students aware of the taste of the millets and explain the importance of nutritious diet in our day to day life.

At the end, while praising the work of the teachers and the students, he also urged them to include all types of coarse cereals in their diet for a healthy body and mind.

63 mines of SECL get star rating from Ministry of Coal

- 51 mines including opencast and underground mines get a star rating of 3 or more

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Apr 26: Total 63 mines of SECL have got a place in the star rating list of coal and lignite mines issued by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India based on the performance in the financial year 2021-22.

Among underground mines, Bangwar mine has secured the maximum 5 star rating while in opencast category, mega project

Dipka and Gevra, Saraipali and Manikpur mines have got 4 star rating. A total of 51 mines of SECL, including opencast and underground mines, have got a star rating of 3 or more.

Star rating of coal mines has been launched by the Ministry of Coal to promote green, safe and sustainable mining practices with the help of technology. Coal Controller's Organisation, Ministry of Coal gives star ratings to coal and lignite mines across the country based on performance of mines in complying with different rules & regulations relating to mining opera-

tions as well as in areas relating to safety, environment, rehabilitation of project affected families, welfare of workers etc.

On the occasion of SECL mines getting star rating, CMD Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra said that for SECL we are not only focused on coal production, but quality of coal is equally important for us. So many of our mines achieving star rating is the result of our consistent efforts on important issues like environment, swift employment of project affected people, compliance of safety standards, labour welfare etc. All our officers and work

colleagues deserve congratulations for this, and I wish them all the best.

The 63 mines which have been awarded star rating in the released list include 21 opencast mines and 42 underground mines. Jagannathpur, Jampali, Sharda, Kanchar, Mahan-2, Dhanpuri and Bijari mines have got 3-star rating in opencast mines. On the other hand, in underground mines Khairha, NCPH R-6, Rani Atari, Vindhya, Kapildhara, Pali, Surakchhar, Bagdeva, Bhatgaon, Kurja, Rajgamar etc. mines have achieved 4 star rating.

Certificate given for computer training to 30 tribal students



- Of Naxal infested area
- Training organized by CRPF 74 V Battalion under CAP

Central Chronicle News

Konta/Sukma, Apr 26: A one-month computer training programme was organized for 30 students of Naxalite area of Sukma district under Civic Action programme (CAP). In this about 15 students each from Naxalite affected and highly sensitive Naxalite areas participated and received training.

During one month the

students learned about computers from the computer instructor. After which all the students were felicitated by Commandant D.N. Yadav, Second in Command Officer Sandeep Kumar Brijinia, Dr. B.C. Yadav Certificate was distributed by the hands.

CRPF 74th Battalion has deployed security in Naxal-affected areas of Sukma district, along with security, according to the development and need of the area. According to the Commandant of CRPF 74th Battalion D.N. Yadav, a computer training programme was organized for the tribal

students of the area. In this the students with great enthusiasm received the necessary basic computer education, a one-month course was conducted in this event. Education kits were also distributed, after which certificates were distributed to all the students by Battalion.

Certificate given after training

One month training was given in Universal IET Computer Education conducted in Dornapal, the expenses of which all 30 students were given by CRPF 74th Battalion. All the students received free training and total 30 students were given certificates by organizing a programme at the battalion headquarters. All the students thanked the officers of Battalion, along with this type of event, they got to learn a lot of basic information about computer course and for which they expressed a lot of happiness.

Tagore House walk away with top honours



Green House members with the coveted Ch'Ship trophy.

- Declared best house

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 26: It was a day full of joy and satisfaction for the members of Rabindranath Tagore House as after a whole year of hectic competition among the four houses they finally have a last laugh of being the champion house of Shri Gujrati English

Medium School.

The occasion was prize distribution of OCA and sports competition winners and announcement of champion house. In the programme organised at Gyanoday Bhavan on Wednesday the winners were feted at the hands of Shri Gujrati Shikshan Sangh Executive Committee president Narayan Bhai Patel, Secretary duo Tulsi Das



Little winner receiving honours.

Patel, Ashok Bhai Patel, Joint Secretary Vithal Bhai Patel and Administrator V K Mishra.

The programme got off to a start with the worship of Goddess Saraswati, lighting of ceremonial lamp and a melodious saraswati vandana presentation by the faculty members under the watchful eyes of music teachers Vijay Shankar Jha and Rupendra Shrivastav. School Principal Dr

Shailesh Sharma gave his welcome speech and appealed the students for a more better performance while secretary Ashok Patel in his speech asked the students to be an all rounder in life and take part in sports and other activities apart from academics.

Thereafter national and state level sports achievers were honoured with track suits by the guests of the programme. The student

achievers from the nursery to the primary level who have excelled in different events received prizes and mementoes at the hands of guests.

The programme was organized in presence of Vice Principal S V Chandrasekhar, Academic Coordinator Bhaskar Sharma, House Coordinator Sanghamitra Dubey, Sports Officer Shrinivas Rao and other faculty members.

Raipur's Kamal Vihar renamed after Mata Kaushalya as 'Kaushalya Vihar'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 26: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced the slew of development works for the Raipur Rural Constituency Assembly as a part of his state-wide Bhent-Mulaqat Abhiyan at Boriyakhurd on Tuesday. He announced to rename the Raipur's Kamal Vihar Colony after Mata Kaushalya as 'Kaushalya Vihar'.

He dedicated the slew of developmental works worth Rs.167 crore which include the inauguration of various developmental works worth more than Rs 36 crore and the Bhoomipujan of works worth more than Rs 126 crore. He took feedback from the beneficiaries about the implementation of flagship schemes.

A beneficiary of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana Mr. Shyam Baghel said that he has received

all four installments of this scheme and this scheme is supporting them a lot.

Medicine of Rs.1700 is now available at Rs. 640

Chief Minister took feedback about the healthcare facilities and asked about the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) van. Tikeswari Dhiwar of Daldal Seoni said she found out that she had low hemoglobin levels. She received treatment for anemia from the MMU van and now she is living a healthy life. She also informed that the MMU van visits their area twice a month.

Rakhi Sahu stated that medicine worth Rs 1,700 is now available for Rs.640 at Shri Dhanwantari Generic Medical Store, which has helped her save a lot of money. The Chief Minister informed that this scheme has completed one year and has pro-



vided benefits of more than Rs.100 crore to the beneficiaries till now. A beneficiary of 'Mukhyamantri Vishesh Swasthya Sahayata Yojana' told that he had DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis) problem in his leg. He had received financial assistance of Rs.4.5 lakhs from the state government and received treatment at Nagpur.

Chief Minister Mr.Bahgel also interacted with the ration card holders and directed officials to

take action against the ration shop owner who hesitated to provide ration to the beneficiaries operator. He also announced the installation of sheds in front of the ration shops.

Mitan reaching home

The Chief Minister also received feedback about various schemes implemented in the urban areas. Virendra Joshi shared his experience of obtaining his son's residence certificate immediately through Mitani at his home. Manju Sahu of Mathpuraina shared that previously it was very difficult for them to get these certificates but now all certificates are available at their doorstep with just a phone call. Sushil Jangde of Dharsinwa stated that their electricity bill had significantly reduced due to the Half Electricity Bill Scheme.

Saving up to Rs.45000 from studying in Swami Atmanand School

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel interacted with three students of Swami Atmanand School named Shreya, Nidhi, and Goldie. Students told that they are getting a good education free of cost. All types of facilities like libraries and labs are also available in their school. Sandhya Yadav and Bhuvaneshwari Dhankar said that they have applied for Unemployment Allowance. This will be a great support for the youths who are facing financial problems. The Chief Minister also interacted with the participants of the Chhattisgarh Olympics. Jagat said he participated in so many games in the 'Chhattisgarhiya Olympics' and secured third position in the divisional level Gilli Danda competition.



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 26: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel met with representatives of various communities in Boriyakhurd, which falls under the Raipur Rural Assembly Constituency, as a part of his 'Bhent-Mulaqat Abhiyan' on Tuesday evening. He directed the officials concerned to install a statue of Dr. Khoobchand Baghel and name the Transport Nagar after him. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced a grant of Rs 25 lakh for the construction of a community build-

ing in Birgaon for the Jhiriya Sahu community besides announcing the installation of a statue of Karma Mata in Birgaon. He also directed the authorities concerned to allocate land to the community for the project. Furthermore, he provided financial assistance of Rs 20 lakh each for the construction of community buildings for the Sindhi and Kshatriya communities in Bhanpuri. Upon the request of the Sahu community, he instructed the authorities to allocate land to them in Daldal Seoni. Chief Minister announced that in

response to the request made by the Muslim community, they will be allocated 7,000 square feet of land and a grant of Rs 25 lakh for the construction of a boundary wall of their community building. He also directed the authorities to allocate land and install a statue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar upon the requests of the Satnami community of Urala and Mowa. He announced a grant of Rs 15 lakh for the Sen community for the Dham shade construction work and instructed the authorities to allocate land to the Dewangan community.

Naxalism packing its bags in Kuanmari area

Asphalted roads reach the stronghold of Maoists

Central Chronicle News

Keshkal, Apr 26: Road construction is the most important link in delivering the schemes and development works of the government in the interior areas of Bastar and one such very sensitive village is Kuenmari in Keshkal development block of Kondagaon district which was called the stronghold of Naxalites till a few years ago.

For a long time, the residents of the area were demanding that a road should be made here and a CAF camp was established by the police in the well in the year 2022. As a result of the security of the CAF jawans, a 16 km paved road has been completed from Batrali to Kuenmari under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, in spite of all efforts to stop the construction.



There are dozens of captivating waterfalls in Kuanmari region, and along with this area is also considered full of mineral wealth, and though thousands of tourists come to enjoy the waterfalls every day during the rainy season, the Maoists of Kuen and

Kiskodo Area Committee used to register their presence in this area from time to time.

In such a situation, making a paved road from Batrali to Kuenmari was no less than a challenge for the police. In the month of March last year 2021, Maoists had set 17

vehicles engaged in road construction on fire. Passing the information, Collector Deepak Soni said that according to the intention of the state government, the district administration is continuously working to connect the roads of rural areas with the main roads with

the vision of development, trust and security and under this, the construction of asphalted road in Kuanmari is almost complete.

SP Kondagaon SP Divyang Patel talking on the subject said that there was a demand from the residents of the well area that a road should be constructed here and a mobile tower should also be set up here.

For this, first of all we established CAF camp and police post in Kuenmari and road construction work was started again under the security of CAF and DRG jawans. Presently the road construction work from Batrali to Kuen has been completed for 16 kms and along with this, mobile towers have also been installed in Bawanimari, Kuenmari and Mirde, he stated.

Four child marriages stopped by WCDD



Central Chronicle News

Korea, Apr 26: The District Program Officer of the Women and Child Development Department (WCDD) took action to stop child marriages in the region under the instructions of Collector Mr. Vinay Kumar Langeh.

The Women and Child Development Department, Police de-

partment, District Child Protection Unit and Child Line team have succeeded in stopping 4 child marriages in the district, under which 3 child marriages were stopped in Sonhat and 1 child marriage in Baikunthpur; recently.

Local sarpanch, councillor and other public representatives, project officers, supervisors,

Anganwadi workers and panchayat and urban body level child protection committees also are playing an important role in preventing child marriage.

There is a provision of a fine of up to 1 lakh on the one who performs child marriage, and public representatives have been told to report the matter before the wedding date.

Rajput Kshatriya Mahadhavesan concludes

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Apr 26: The two-day annual convention of Rajput Kshatriya Mahasabha Chhattisgarh concluded in Rajim. The meeting was presided over by Mahasabha President Thakur Bajrang Singh Bains along with central office bearers. Ideal mass marriages, free health camp, blood donation camp were organized in the convention.

Addressing the program, Thakur Neeraj Singh Kshatriya and General Secretary Thakur Vishnu Singh Baghel presented the annual report of the year's income and expenditure of the Mahasabha. A grand pro-



cession of the society was also taken out and despite the inclement weather; people took part in the procession in large numbers. Cultural program was also organized for the children of the society, in which the participants

were given prizes by the office bearers of the Mahasabha.

Thakur Rajesh Singh, co-convenor of the Mahasabha, Thakur Shrawan Singh and Piyush Singh, Senior Vice President of the society

Thakur Ramesh Singh, Vice President Thakur Ashwani Singh, Co-Secretary Kamlesh Singh, Deputy Secretary Thakur Praveesh Singh, Bharat Singh, Shekhar Singh and many others from the organization were present.

Increase in number of stray dog bite

Central Chronicle News

Pandaria, Apr 26: The menace of stray dogs is increasing in the city and rural areas and they are making everyone, including passers-by and small children, their victims.

The number of dog bites has increased continuously in the last three months and from the month of January till now, 350 dog bites have been reported in Community Health Centers for treatment.

On an average, two cases of dog bite are reaching the Community Health Center of the city every day. Bike riders and pedestrians are becoming victims of these

stray dogs and in Tehsil Chowk Bairagpara, Padhi Road, Moderam, Gopiband Para, Gandhi Chowk to old bus stand, the pack of stray dogs are active particularly.

BMO Swapnil Tiwari said that more number of dog bite patients is arriving at the health centre. And sufficient quantity of anti rabies injection is available in the hospital.

"Talks will be held with the Veterinary Department regarding stray dogs. After identifying these dogs, they will be released in a distant forest." Lalji Chandrakar, CMO Nagar Panchayat Pandariya.

Mock-drill performed at Maa Baleshwari Temple



Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Apr 26: Keeping in mind the safety of pilgrims coming to pay obeisance at Maa Baleshwari temple, the technical team of NDRF Mundali, Cuttak and Damodar Ropeways conducted mock-drill on April 25 at 3:30 pm till evening for safety and exercise to tackle any emergency situation.

Prior to this mock-drill was done at SDM (Revenue) office

Kondagaon becomes first district in Bastar division

Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, Apr 26: The Chhattisgarh Socio-Economic Survey 2023 is being conducted at a fast pace across the state. The survey is being conducted in Kondagaon district under the leadership of Collector Shri Deepak Soni in a well-planned manner. As a result, Kondagaon has become the first district of the Bastar division to complete the survey of more families than the target set by the state government within 22 days.

The state government

at 4:00 pm. In this exercise was done to bring down the devotees safely. In the mock-drill done on April 25, SDM Girish Ramteke, SDOP Prabhat Patel, CEO Nagar Palika Parishad Pramod Shukla, TI Aman Sahu, Mandir Samiti President Manoj Agrawal, V-P Anil Gattani, Secy Mahendra Parihar, Trustees- Bablu Shandilya, Prakash Bidal and others were present.

Panchayati Raj Act visible mask for women representatives

● 'Sarpanch Pati' playing pivotal role

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Apr 26: In the year 1992, when the Panchayati Raj Act came into force, under which reservation was arranged to increase the participation of women in district, district and village panchayats. Since then, the participation of women in Gram Panchayats has increased, but even after 30 years since the Act came into force, in most of the places, women representatives have remained just a mask.

Women are on many big responsibilities of the society and the country, but behind the scenes of their responsibility, the talk of discharge by the male class often comes in the society. For example, in the society, apart from the sarpanch's husband, councillor's husband, even the husband of

the people's representatives, and other relatives are seen playing a role more than that of the Sarpanch itself.

In Gaurela- Pendra-Marwahi, there are total 166 panchayats in which there are 82 women sarpanchs, where in almost panchayats there is interference of sarpanch's husband. "Sarpanch Pati" here is synonym of power, where the entire administration of the Panchayat is done by the male members of the family.

It is often seen in the society that the government runs schemes to bring women forward and brings reservation where seats are reserved for women, but after the elections, the women and her status remain the same and the responsibility of the women representatives is taken over by their husbands and relatives. Many women in frame have opted for working behind their male relative's shadow, carrying it as a norm further.

Special motor vehicle checking campaign conducted

Rs 16,600 fined against 49 negligent drivers

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Apr 26: On the direction of Superintendent of Police Balod Dr. Jitendra Kumar Yadav, under the guidance of Mr. Additional Superintendent of Police Mr. Harish Rathore, under the supervision of Mr. Boniphos Ekka, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic, Balod, all police station/outpost in-charges of the district and under the leadership of Inspector Dileshwar Chandravanshi, in-charge of traffic, a special motor vehicle checking campaign was conducted in Rajhara police station area.

The main objective of this motor vehicle checking is to reduce road accidents and to take strict action against negligent drivers, as well as to create a sense of awareness among the general public



about traffic rules. A sum of Rs.16,600 was fined against 49 negligent drivers under the Motor Vehicles Act on 23.04.2023.

By conducting motor vehicle checking campaign in police station Daundi and Rajhara area, vehicles were not presented on 21

occasions, 10 without number plate, 7 three rides, 3 without license, 6 not following traffic rules, 1 seat belt and 01 case pollution proof. Driving a vehicle without a letter, a total of 49 negligent drivers have been fined under the above sections.

Balod police has appealed to common citizens to cooperate with police in vehicle checking, follow traffic rules and asked people to abstain from driving after consuming alcohol, and wear a seat belt and helmet while driving particularly.

DFO reviews departmental works

● In Arjuni forest circle

Central Chronicle News

Katagi, Apr 26: DFO Mayank Agrawal convened meeting with villagers at Mahkonni Beat coming under Arjuni forest circle and reviewed about the developmental and employment oriented works. Apart from this he also reviewed about the departmental works sitting with department's officers and employees.

As suggestions to the departmental employees, he asked them to maintain mutual co-ordination. Despite carrying out work for benefits of the villagers by the Forest department, there seems to be lack of



coordination between the employees and villagers, he said. Agrawal while reviewing about works, took information about horticulture for use in employment, 'jadi-booti' and collection of forest produce, making of 'dona-pattal', 'Badakh' and 'Chinni-murgi palan' and about the loss

and profit from various departmental schemes. At the same time he also reviewed about the construction work carried out by the Forest department, plantation, 'dabari' construction for fisheries, pond deepening, 'saluge gate', 'percolation tank' and other such schemes. In this review

meeting, Kejuram Paikra, Sarpanch Mahakoni and villager; from forest deptt-Ranger Krishanu Chandrakar, Dy. Ranger Laxmi Prasad Shrivastava, JR Sahu, Bhagirti Sonwani, Forest guard-Ravindra Pandey and Tripti Jaiswal and others were present.

Rajnandgaon ranks first among other districts

- In terms of MNREGA employment
- Over 59009 laborers were given employment
- Women have the highest rate of participation in MNREGA

Central Chronicle News

Rajnandgaon, Apr 26: In the direction to provide employment to laborers in the district, effective measures are being taken under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Continuous effort is being made in the district to provide employment to workers under the supervision of Collector Mr. Doman Singh



and District Panchayat CEO Mr. Amit Kumar. As a result, Rajnandgaon district tops the list for providing employment to the laborers. Over 59000 workers have been employed in 1,934 proposed works by the District Panchayat. Workers are working under MNREGA in various works that include pond deepening, dabri construction, well construction, stream embankment, and shed construction.

It is worth mentioning that employment was provided to 16 thousand 408 workers for 583 works of the Chhura development block, 7 thousand 597 workers for 272 works of the Dongargarh development block, 16 thousand 279 work-

ers for 580 works of the Dongargarh development block, and 18 thousand 725 workers for 499 works of the Rajnandgaon development block, which includes approval of more than 4500 works. The participation of maximum laborers in the district can be seen as they are being paid at the new wage rate of Rs. 221. Women have been the most active participants in MNREGA projects, accounting for 60% of all participants. Work is being done with a strong emphasis on water conservation and promotion, which includes the construction of 2500 percolation tanks to increase groundwater levels. Simultaneously, training is being provided to promote Mahila Mate engagement.

BRIEF



AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during an election campaign rally for the upcoming Karnataka Assembly polls, in Sringeri, Wednesday.

Arrested

■ **Jammu:** Three alleged drug suppliers were caught while selling heroin to youth in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, a police officer said. Deepak Kumar alias "Deepu Punjabi", Ashu Choudhary alias "Jatti" and Ajay Kumar were arrested from Gurha Morh, Vijaypur on a tip-off, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Benam Tosh said, adding that heroin, syringes and Rs 19,440 were recovered from their possession. He said the arrested persons are notorious heroin suppliers operating in Samba, adjoining Kathua and Jammu districts besides Himachal Pradesh.

Invite

■ **Chennai:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin would invite President Draupadi Murmu on April 28 to inaugurate the new 1,000-bed multi-speciality government hospital here, the government said. An official release here said Stalin would leave for Delhi on Thursday night and call on President Murmu on Friday. The 1,000-bed hospital was set up at an outlay of Rs 230 crore on the premises of King Institute of Preventive Medicine at Guindy here.

Yoga

■ **Jaipur:** Around 20,000 people are expected to practice yoga at an event here on May 2 to mark the 50 days countdown to the International Day of Yoga, Union Minister of State for Ayush Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai said on Wednesday. The United Nations General Assembly, heeding a call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, made a declaration in December 2014 to observe June 21 every year as the International Day of Yoga (IDY).

Observers

■ **New Delhi:** The Congress on Wednesday appointed five observers for the May 10 Karnataka assembly elections, each taking care of one region of the coastal southern state. While general secretary Avinash Pande will be the observer for the Central Karnataka region, a Chella Kumar will be for the Mysore region and Manickam Tagore for the Mumbai-Karnataka region. Party leader Ajoy Kumar has been appointed as regional observer for the coastal Karnataka region, while Mohan Prakash will take care of the Hyderabad-Karnataka region towards the north of the state.

'Cong used 'religion' to come to power'

Belagavi, Apr 26 (PTD):

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday came down heavily on the Congress alleging that it used mazhab' (meaning religion in Urdu) to come to power.

Singh also slammed the party for having introduced four per cent reservation, in its earlier term, on religious lines in Karnataka, saying it had been done only to appease Muslims.

"If there is any political party in the history of India which took the support of dharma', or rather, 'mazhab' to come to power, then it is Congress," Singh said, addressing a public meeting at Kagwad in Belagavi district.

Karnataka votes on May 10, with the results slated to be declared on May 13.

The Congress does the



Defence Minister and senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh addresses a public meeting ahead of the Karnataka Assembly polls, in Jamkhandi, Wednesday.

"politics of Hindu, Muslim and Christians", Singh said. "Politics of this sort should never be done."

Only to appease Muslims, the four per cent reservation was given on religious lines, he alleged.

"We will welcome if an economically weaker Muslim or a Christian gets

reservation benefits but the Constitution of India does not permit religion-based reservation," the Defence Minister said.

Just days before the Model Code of Conduct came into force, the BJP government in Karnataka scrapped four per cent reservation for Muslims under 2B category of the Other Backward Castes.

After making 2B redundant, the Karnataka government split the four per cent reservation, giving two per cent each to the two dominant communities of the state, Vokkaligas in 2C and Lingayats in 2D category.

Muslims were then placed in the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category.

Various Muslim bodies have approached the Supreme Court, which has directed the Karnataka

government not to implement its decision until it hears the matter on May 9.

"What are you doing? You want to divide the country on the basis of caste, sect and religion? So far as the BJP is concerned, we will speak and do what is true," Singh said.

Singh alleged that the Congress had been working against the spirit of the Indian constitution. He also stated that politics was not merely about forming a government but about building a society and the nation.

He accused the Congress of having committed contempt against the Constitution "just as it had done in 1975 by amending the Constitution" and thrusting the Emergency upon the nation and imprisoned lakhs of people.

Police avert hostage crisis in Bengal school

● **Disarm gun-wielding man**

Malda (WB), Apr 26 (PTD):

A gun-wielding man barged into a packed classroom at a high school in West Bengal's Malda district Wednesday afternoon, but was overpowered by police and arrested, officials said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who was holding an administrative meeting in Kolkata at the time, came out to compliment the police for averting what is being seen as a potential school hostage crisis.

Panic gripped the students of Muchia Anchal Chandra Mohan High



A gun-wielding man barges into a classroom of a high school, in West Bengal's Malda district, Wednesday.

School at Old Malda, as the unidentified man brandished the gun and started yelling, a senior police officer said.

"The man managed to enter the school and barge into the room where Class-8 students were seated. He was holding a gun

and shouting at the students, allegedly threatening to kill them and the class teacher," the officer told PTI.

The man identified by bystanders as Vallabh kept shouting he "would shoot if someone shoots him".

BEATING THE HEAT



Boys play with a football in the River Hooghly on a hot summer day, in Nadia, Wednesday.

PETA demands rehabilitation of elephants used for rides

● **At Amber Fort**

Jaipur, Apr 26 (PTI):

Animal welfare group PETA has requested state authorities to send two ailing elephants used for tourist rides at the iconic Amber Fort here for rehabilitation, the organisation said on Wednesday.

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has submitted a plea to Rajasthan Chief Secretary Usha Sharma, demanding that the elephants named 'Gouri' and 'Malti' be sent to a rehabilitation centre on grounds of mental illness.

Amber resident and shopkeeper Roopnarayan Koolwla, who was attacked by Gouri, was also present in PETA's meeting

held with the chief secretary and forest department officials on Tuesday.

"These two elephants have attacked either humans or elephants due to frustration over being used for rides," Khushboo Gupta, director of Advocacy Projects, PETA India said.

Gupta added that Malti was used for tourist rides at the Amber Fort despite having a history of running amok repeatedly and fighting with another elephant.

"Tourists from all over the world are increasingly rejecting spectacles involving captive elephants. We have demanded from the authorities to look into the seriousness of the matter," she said, adding that using such elephants for rides is a risk to the lives of tourists.

Bhopal, Apr 26 (PTD):

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Adi Shankaracharya united India by establishing Mutths (monasteries) in four corners of the country.

Chouhan was speaking at the 'Acharya Shankar Prakatotsav, Ekam Parv' organized by the Acharya Shankaracharya Cultural Integration Trust and Culture Department of the Madhya Pradesh government at Kushabhau Thakre Auditorium on Tuesday evening.

"Acharya Shankar (better known as Adi Shankaracharya) connected India by establishing Mutths (monasteries) in all four directions of East, West, North and South," the chief minister was quoted as saying in an official release.

"Because of them, the identity of our culture en-



MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan with Avdhesanand Giri Maharaj, Acharya Mahamandaleswar of the Juna Akhara during Acharya Shankar Prakatotsav 'Ekam Parv', in Bhopal.

dured. His Advait Vedanta philosophy is giving the right direction to the people and his message will be conveyed to the masses," Chouhan added.

"Only one thing comes to mind after reading our

TRIBUTE TO BADAL



PM Narendra Modi pays his last respects to former Punjab chief minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patron Parkash Singh Badal, in Chandigarh, Wednesday.

Film pays homage to 'Thesaurus Man' Arvind Kumar

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

Arvind Kumar, the brain behind India's first thesaurus "Samantar Kosh" in Hindi, began life as a typesetter at a printing press when he was only 15.

His life and work as a writer-journalist-lexicographer for over seven decades is now the subject of a 48-minute documentary film, directed by Sanjay Sharma and produced by Meeta Lall for Arvind Linguistics LLP, which was released on Tuesday here.

Kumar later went on to lead several media publications, including Hindi film magazine "Madhuri" and Reader's Digest's Hindi edition, "Sarvottam".

But his true legacy rests in the compilation of over 1,60,000 Hindi expressions



Writer-journalist-lexicographer Arvind Kumar, known for having compiled and edited the first thesaurus in any modern Indian language, 'Samantar Kosh'.

after a painstaking research of 20 years. It was published by National Book Trust in 1996.

The bilingual documentary, "Shabd Sarthi Arvind Kumar / Thesaurus Man Arvind Kumar", traces his journey from the narrow lanes of Meerut where he was born in 1930 to his first job as a typesetter in a printing press and eventu-

ally becoming the youngest editor of Times of India's "Madhuri" magazine at the age of 33.

It was his long-cherished dream to compile a thesaurus in Hindi that inspired him to quit his profession in 1978 and dedicate his time to the arduous endeavour.

The film shows glimpses of his journey that was supported by his wife Kusum Kumar; daughter Meeta Lall and son Sumeet Kumar.

After publishing "Samantar Kosh", Kumar went on to link the Hindi database with the English language to create Arvind Lexicon Online, "the largest known repository of one million English and Hindi expressions".

"At an age when most of us begin planning retirement, he dared to dream, and dedicated himself to

his ambitious mission... The story of one man's diligence, dedication and devotion. An inspiration for All," the organisers said.

Kumar's other lexicographic works include "Arvind Sahaj Samantar Kosh", the first alphabetical Hindi thesaurus (2005); "Shabdeshwari", a unique thesaurus of Indian mythological names (1999); "The Penguin English-Hindi/Hindi-English Thesaurus and Dictionary" (2007); "Brihat Samantar Kosh", a revised and extended edition of Samantar Kosh (2013); "Arvind Word Power: English-Hindi", a ready reference alphabetical dictionary, thesaurus and mini-encyclopedia (2015) and "Arvind Tukant Kosh", a unique book of 57,000 rhyming words (2015).

Kerala to teach NCERT's deleted portions in state schools

Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 26 (PTD):

Students in Kerala are likely to be taught the portions that the NCERT had deleted from its class 11 and 12 textbooks, including those pertaining to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and the ban on RSS.

The NCERT recently had, in the name of rationalisation of the syllabus, dropped from its class 12 history textbook certain portions on Mahatma Gandhi and how his pursuit of Hindu-Muslim unity "provoked Hindu extremists". It also left out the portion where the government placed a ban on the RSS after Gandhi's assassination. The revision of textbooks by obfuscating facts has triggered a

row. The State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT), an autonomous body of the General Education Department, is considering a decision by its curriculum steering committee to include these deleted portions in the state syllabus. The committee, which met on Tuesday, has entrusted General Education Minister V Sivankutty with taking a final decision on the matter after consulting with the government and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Confirming the development, Sivankutty told reporters here that the SCERT and the Curriculum Committee take decisions on the academic affairs of the gener-

al education department of the state.

As per an MoU entered with the NCERT, Kerala has been using their 44 textbooks, and of them, there has been a significant change in the content of subjects including history, political science, economics, and sociology at the higher-secondary level, the minister explained.

"The curriculum committee unanimously decided to include all those portions omitted from these text books in the syllabus and teach the students in the state. I have been entrusted to inform the government and the CM about the decision and take a necessary decision in this regard," he said.

message of unity, he said.

Earlier, Swami Avdhesanand Giri and Chouhan inaugurated the program by lighting a lamp.

Swami Avdhesanand said Adi Shankaracharya had visited the length and breadth of India thrice by the time he was 32.

Hailing Chouhan, he said the work which was to be done by teachers and saints was being done by the chief minister.

Swamini Vimalananda Saraswati, another religious leader present on the occasion, commented the state government's decision to install a statue of Shankaracharya at Omkareshwar: Chouhan on this occasion also felicitated Swamini Vimalananda Saraswati for her contribution to spirituality and culture and Dr Kanshi Ram for contribution in the fields of culture, literature and grammar by presenting them citations.

Major UK faith review warns against 'aggressive' pro-Khalistan extremism

London, Apr 26 (PTD):

A major independent review commissioned by the British government into engagement with faith groups on Wednesday warned against the "subversive, aggressive and sectarian" actions of some pro-Khalistan activists and called for action to ensure such groups are not unwittingly allowed access to the UK's Parliament.

"Does Government 'do God'? An independent review into how government engages with faith' by Independent Faith Engagement Adviser Colin Bloom is dubbed one of the most comprehensive public consultations of its kind, involving over 21,000 people's responses.

In a section entitled 'Sikh Extremism' the review goes into detail of how members of the British Sikh community expressed their growing concern over a small but extremely vocal group "hijacking" the Sikh faith to push a subversive pro-Khalistan narrative.

"There is a small, extremely vocal and aggressive minority of British Sikhs who can be described as pro-Khalistan extremists, promoting an ethno-nationalist agenda," notes the review.

"Some of these extremists have been known to support and incite violence and intimidation in their ambition to establish an independent state called Khalistan, the physical borders of which are

largely shared with specific parts of the Punjab state in India. Interestingly, this territorial claim does not include the part of the Punjab located in Pakistan. It is not entirely clear if the motivation for these extremists is faith-based or not," it notes.

The review - which comes weeks after an attack by pro-Khalistan separatists at the Indian High Commission here - pointed to fears that proscribed terrorist groups were able to use aliases to continue their subversive agenda, referencing Babbar Khalsa International banned in 2001 under the UK's Terrorism Act and also the International Sikh Youth Federation banned in multiple coun-

tries but de-proscribed in the UK in 2006.

The review specifically called on the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Sikhs, which is chaired by Britain's first female Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill and has the first turbaned Sikh MP Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi as its vice-chair both from the Labour Party, to ensure such organisations are not able to exert influence in parliamentary affairs.

The British Sikhs APPG, an informal cross-party group of MPs, has the stated aim to "support and promote the interests of Sikhs in the UK, work with British Sikhs to celebrate Sikh culture in the UK, and ensure full equality for all British Sikhs".

UN agency: Afghanistan needs \$4.62bn in aid for 2023

Islamabad, Apr 26 (AP):

Afghanistan needs USD 4.62 billion in humanitarian aid from the international community this year for nearly 24 million people in need, the UN's humanitarian affairs agency said.

Afghanistan is facing its third consecutive year of drought, its second year of severe economic hardship and the continued consequences of decades of war and natural disasters, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Tuesday on Twitter.

"With Afghanistan, humanitarian aid remains the last lifeline for much of the population," the agency said.

Mohammad Shukran, 32, a Kabul resident and government employee, said life in Afghanistan is difficult: "Everyone is just trying to survive," he said.

The UN food agency said earlier this month it urgently needs USD 800 million for the next six months to help Afghanistan, which is at the highest risk of famine in a quarter of a century.

Aid agencies have been providing food, education and health care support to Afghans in the wake of the Taliban takeover of August 2021 and the economic collapse that followed it. But distribution has been severely impacted by a Taliban edict last December banning

women from working at national and international nongovernmental groups.

The UN was not part of this ban but earlier this month it said the Taliban-led government has stopped Afghan women from working at its agencies in the country. Authorities have yet to comment on the restriction.

Unemployment has increased like never before, said Shah Mir, 45, a father of four children. He works at a non-governmental organisation in the health sector in eastern Nangarhar province.

"We don't know when our office will be closed by the Taliban and we will also lose our jobs," he said.

Despite initial promises of a more moderate rule than during their previous stint in power in the 1990s, the Taliban have imposed harsh measures since taking over as US and NATO forces pulled out of Afghanistan after two decades of war.

A spokesman for the Afghan Economy Ministry, Abdul Rahman Habib, said the government's future plans include developing the agricultural and industrial sectors and mine extraction.

"Supporting domestic business and products, more focus on exports, attracting foreign investors, creating special economic zones in the country are important," he said.

Man burns wife alive in Pakistan's Punjab province

● Honour killing

Lahore, Apr 26 (PTD):

A husband allegedly burnt his estranged wife alive in a case of so-called "honour killing" while another woman came under acid attack after being raped in Punjab province of Pakistan, police said on Wednesday.

In the first incident, suspect Tariq allegedly burnt his 40-year-old wife Shazia for what he called "disgracing the family's honour" in Cheechawatni district, some 209 kms from Lahore, on Tuesday, police said.

Police official Ejaz Aslam said that Shazia had left Tariq a year ago after developing differences over domestic issues and started living with her parents' house. Aslam said Tariq sus-

pected that Shazia had relations with a man of his locality and on Tuesday he visited his in-laws and doused Shazia with petrol and set her ablaze and fled.

She was taken to a nearby hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival. She has left behind two daughters and four sons.

Police registered a case against Tariq and arrested him.

In a separate incident, two men threw acid on a married woman after raping her in Okara district, some 130kms from Lahore, on Tuesday.

Police officer Jahanzeb Wattoo said that main suspect Rizwan wanted to develop relations with Shahida Bibi, 30, but she refused.

On Tuesday, Rizwan along with his accomplice abducted her at gun

point on her way to home and raped her at a deserted place. The suspects later threw acid on her face.

The woman was taken to hospital where her condition is stated to be out of danger. Police have registered a case against the suspects.

Hundreds of women are killed every year in different parts of Pakistan in the name of honour.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has reported an average of 650 honour killings annually over the past decade. But since most go unreported, the real number is likely to be much higher.

Sri Lanka to discuss debt restructuring with India, China & Paris Club separately: Wickremesinghe

Colombo, Apr 26 (PTD):

Sri Lanka will negotiate debt restructuring with India, China and the Paris Club separately, as part of an IMF-backed plan to reduce and manage the island nation's debt, President Ranil Wickremesinghe told lawmakers on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka is considering restructuring its local debt parallelly with its external debt, Wickremesinghe told Parliament as the country grapples with its worst economic crisis.

Asserting that Sri Lanka needs to restructure its debt, Wickremesinghe, who is

OPERATION KAVERI



Indians evacuated from violence-hit Sudan under 'Operation Kaveri', aboard INS Sumedha reach Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Difficult to engage with terror-supporting neighbour: Jaishankar

Panama City, Apr 26 (PTD):

In a veiled attack on Pakistan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said it is "very difficult" for India to engage with a neighbour who practises cross-border terrorism against the country.

His blunt remarks came days after Pakistan confirmed that its Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will visit India for a key meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Goa early next month.

"We both are members of the SCO. So, we typically attend meetings. We are the chair of (the SCO) this year. So, the meeting is taking place in India. The bot-



tom line of this issue is that it is for us very difficult to engage with a neighbour who practises cross-border terrorism against us," Jaishankar said here at a joint press briefing on Monday with his counterpart from Panama Janaina Tewaney Mencom.

"We have always said that they have to deliver on the commitment not to en-

courage, sponsor and carry out cross-border terrorism. We continue to hope that one day we would reach that stage," Jaishankar added.

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.

Pakistan's foreign office announced on April 20 that Foreign Minister Bilawal would participate in the SCO meeting to be held in Goa on May 4-5. "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," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahrah Baloch said at a weekly media briefing in Islamabad.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
Employment Notice No.745/2023,
Dated 19.04.2023
Engagement of Honorary Visiting Specialists (Physician) on Two hours daily/ 06 days in a week for one year, purely on yearly contract basis, against 01 (One) vacancy in Sub- Divisional Railway Hospital, BMY.
Vacancies: Sr No. 1, Name of the Hospital: Sub-Divisional Hospital/BMY, No of post: 01, Hrs of duty: 02 Hrs per day /06 days a week. Speciality: 01 Physician.
For further details, please log on to this Railway's website at information for this notification <https://secr.indianrailways.gov.in/News/PressRelease/Recruitment> Recruitment
Raipur
Divisional Railway Manager(P) South East Central Railway/Raipur
PRR/SR.DPO/AP/20
South East Central Railway @secrail

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम हिलासपुर (छ.ग.)
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना
क्र. 01/न.पा.नि./स्थापना शाखा/2023-24 दिनांक 24/04/2023
नगर पालिक निगम हिलासपुर के विभिन्न विभाग अंतर्गत कर्मचारी उपलब्ध कराए जा रहे हेतु ऑनलाइन(Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

सिस्टम टेंडर नं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	निविदा डाउनलोड/सबमिट करने की अंतिम तिथि
131963	Supply of Skilled, Unskilled and Semi Skilled Man Power for Municipal Corporation Bilaspur	75.72	15-05-2023

उपरोक्त प्रदाय कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, घरोंह राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
कार्यालय न.पा.नि., हिलासपुर (छ.ग.)
Green City, Clean City, Dream City.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, KOTA DISTT. - BILASPUR (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(SECOND-CALL)
SYSTEM TENDER NO. 131675 / NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 01 /SAC/2023-24 DATED: 24.04.2023
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 22-05-2023 (17.30 hours IST).

Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract
Construction of Pressurized pipe system to supply water for Solar micro irrigation to deliver at farmers field up to 1 ha with a duty of 0.84 lit/sec/ha and maintained up to 4 ha chak, keeping the discharge of minimum 3 times the duty at one hectare and at least 20 Meter Residual Head at 1 Ha for Micro Pressurized Irrigation (Drip/Sprinkler) by rotation in Distt. Bilaspur in 50 Ha. in kharif and 50 Ha. in Rabi (Right side of Kekrakholi Anicut) as indicated in Index Map), out of total gross command area 100 hectare fully covering the entire compact, contiguous possible arable area beyond 500m from submergence line (FTL line) of Kekrakholi Anicut as indicated in the index map for Micro Irrigation System without exceeding total power requirement for Solar pumps with solar panel of 250X150. It includes all activities starting from survey, investigation, designing, estimating costing, procurement, construction, laying, installing, energizing, etc. of pumping system, rising and gravity mains, main line, branch lines, distribution network, controlling and regulation system etc. for supply of filtered water for irrigation under pressure. The work also includes formation of FPO as per company act/rule, Management, Operation and Maintenance (MOM) and defect liability (DL) for the period of 10 years after completion and MOM and DL period run simultaneously and work also including foundation stone laying ceremony and inauguration ceremony and as directed by Engineer-in-Charge as per details given in scope of work. MOU between agency and FPO to operate scheme after 05 years of MOM and DL period and to arrange linkage facility to the FPO.	Rs. 372.05 Lakhs

The details can be viewed & downloaded online directly from the Govt. of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from 17.31 hours (IST) onwards.
Note: All eligible/interested 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.
(Probable Amount of Contract based on SOR 22.08.2022)

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
KOTA (C.G.)

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. POLYTECHNIC KORBA (C.G.)
Village : Rumgara , P.O.- Balco Nagar , Korba (C.G.) -495684
e-mail : poly_korba@yahoo.co.in
Tendar No. : /GPK/Tender-SG/2023/410 Korba Dated: 24/04/2023
Notice Inviting Tender
For providing
"Round The Clock Contractual Security Services"
Sealed tenders are invited in two covers (Technical bid & Financial bid) from reputed firms for security services. The terms & conditions are available on the website : www.gpkorba.in Interested parties may download the tender form (along with terms & conditions) from the website or obtain the same from Government Polytechnic Korba by paying Rs/- 500 either in cash or by Demand Draft in favor of "Principal, Government Polytechnic, Korba". The Demand Draft shall be prepared from a nationalized bank and shall be payable at Korba.
IMPORTANT DATES
Starting Date for sale of Tender Document : 26/04/2023 10:30 AM
Last Date for sale of Tender Document : 25/05/2023 02:00 PM
Last date for submission of Sealed Tender : 25/05/2023 03:00 PM
Date of opening of received Tenders : 25/05/2023 04:00 PM
Principal
Government Polytechnic
Korba (C.G.)
G-00608/1

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. (B&R) AMBIKUPUR CIRCLE AMBIKUPUR
Invitation Date :- 21.04.2023
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
01. For tender detail please visit <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
02. Concern Division - S.No. 01 to 02 Ramanujanj S.No. 3 Ambikapur Division

S. No.	N.I.T.No./Online System Number	Name of work	P.A.C. in lakhs
1	11 2nd Call D Class and Above Bid Submission Due Date 08.05.2023	BT Patch Repair of Ambikapur Dhanwar Varanashi Road (SH 2A) in Km. 57 to 66, 70 to 72, 78, 88/6-10 and 89 = 15.60 Km. Block Wadrafanagar Distt Balrampur Ramanujanj.	79.60
2	12 1st Call D Class and Above Bid Submission Due Date 15.05.2023	Road Furniture and Road Marking Work in Upgradation of Ambikapur Dhanwar Varanashi Road (SH2A) Length 40.40 Km. Under Sub Division Wadrafanagar Distt Balrampur Ramanujanj (C.G.)	99.66
3	13 1st Call D Class and Above Bid Submission Due Date 15.05.2023	Construction of High Level Bridge Across Kachhua Nalla on Taplapara to Khadgawapara Road at Village Argoti.	196.70

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. Ambikapur Circle Ambikapur
G-00566/2

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER SHIVNATH CIRCLE DURG (CHHATTISGARH)
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(1st CALL)
System Tender No. : 01/SAC/2023-24, Balod, Dated : 24.04.2023
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 22.05.2023 at 17:30 Hour
Name of Work : CONSTRUCTION OF JACK WELL SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF 4 NOS. 100 H.P. V.T. MOTOR PUMP SET INCLUDING VALVE ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRUCTION OF 400KVA, 11/0.415 KV SUBSTATION AT BHEDI LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME (MAIN CANAL OF KHARKHARA MOHANDIPAT AT R.D. 12.50 KM) IN BLOCK DONDILOHARA DISTRICT BALOD.
Probable Amount of Contract :- Rs. 184.46 Lakhs
(As per S.O.R. Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 22.08.2022))
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 08.05.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.
NOTE :- All eligible/interested 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
Water Resources Division, Balod (C.G.)
For, Superintending Engineer Shivanth Circle, Durg (C.G.)
G-00597/1



CENTRAL
Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 27

Fight for Justice

Wrestlers Protest Against Sexual Harassment Demand Justice

India's top wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik, and Bajrang Punia, have been protesting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi for demanding the justice for sexual harassment against women wreslers. They are demanding the arrest of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president, who is facing allegations of sexual harassment by seven women wrestlers. The protesters have alleged that the WFI chief is resorting to strong-arm tactics, threatening the families of the complainants, and offering bribes to break them. They have also accused the Delhi police of leaking the names of the victims to Brij Bhushan, making them vulnerable to further harassment. The wrestlers have found support from several politicians and farmer organizations, including former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and 'khap' leaders. However, they have expressed disappointment with the lack of action by the sports ministry and are now seeking justice from the judiciary. While the Delhi police have stated that a preliminary investigation is necessary before registering an FIR, the Supreme Court has issued notices to the police and others and called for the matter's serious consideration. It is disheartening to see such allegations of sexual harassment by someone in a position of power. The wrestlers' protests are a testament to their courage and determination to seek justice despite facing threats and intimidation. Judiciary will expedite the matter and deliver justice to the complainants. It is imperative that such cases are handled with sensitivity and care to ensure the safety and well-being of the victims. It is imperative that the authorities take swift action to address the allegations of sexual harassment levelled against the WFI chief. The delay in registering an FIR and conducting a preliminary investigation is causing further trauma to the victims and eroding their faith in the legal system. The Supreme Court must ensure that justice is delivered to the victims and that the accused is held accountable for his actions.

Changing Political Dynamics: 2024 Election

Yash pal Ralhan

As the 2024 parliament elections in India draw closer, political parties have started engaging in what is commonly referred to as "political tourism." An example of this is Nitish Kumar's recent tours to Kolkata and Lucknow, despite his party having no stake in these states. This behaviour is indicative of the importance of the upcoming elections, as parties attempt to gain an advantage in the race for power. The term "political tourism" has been used to describe this phenomenon because parties are engaging in political activities in states where they have no political presence, simply to gain political mileage. In the past, we have seen similar behavior from Chandrababu Naidu, who failed to gauge the nation's mood during the last elections. It is possible that Nitish Kumar may also find himself in a similar position after the 2024 election results are declared. It is important to note that Nitish Kumar's party has not had much success in previous elections. In 2014, the party won only two seats, and in 2019, the RJD failed to win even a single seat. Given this track record, it is likely that history will repeat itself in Bihar, with voters preferring national parties over regional ones. In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is expected to win the most seats based on the government's performance across various parameters, including law and order. Recently, three political parties lost their status as national parties, making it difficult for parties with no pan-India presence to garner support from the common voter. The political situation in Maharashtra remains unclear, and the fate of Rahul Gandhi's criminal defamation case will have a significant impact on the political landscape. Meanwhile, the Karnataka assembly elections will be a litmus test for both the Congress and BJP. The Congress has promised many freebies, and the results will show whether voters are swayed by these promises. On the other hand, the BJP abolished four percent reservation for minorities and divided it among other castes, and the election results will reveal the impact of these caste combinations. The by-elections in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh will also be crucial in understanding the mood of the states regarding the law and order situation. The recent Supreme Court decision to refuse to hear the appeal of 14 opposition parties to protect them from the ED and CBI was a significant blow, and it is advisable for opposition parties to face voters instead of repeatedly approaching the court. There is a growing perception that opposition parties are uniting to protect themselves from the CBI and ED, rather than for the good of the nation. Furthermore, if there is no unity among opposition parties, it is possible that the Lok Sabha will not have a leader of the opposition for the third time in a row. Following Karnataka, four assembly elections are scheduled for October 2023, and the results of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana will have a direct impact on the 2024 parliament elections. Indian democracy has matured significantly, and voters have different preferences for assembly and parliament elections. In the last assembly elections in these states, the BJP did not win in any state, but a few months later, the party won the maximum seats in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh during the parliament elections. Political tourism is likely to continue as parties gear up for the 2024 elections. However, it is crucial to recognize the need for collective efforts to forge a common front against the ruling party in the national interest. The upcoming elections are critical for India's political landscape, and parties must work hard to win the trust of the common voter.

(Writer is the Disability and Rights activists from Jalandhar. Views are personal)

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

CHAR DHAM YATRA



Devotees during their pilgrimage at the Kedarnath Temple, in Rudraprayag district, Wednesday, April 26.

Rebellion Never Succeeded in BJP

DR. DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



Karnataka election scene, where some of the top BJP leaders defecting to the Congress or JDS is much talked subject in politics. How far these rebellious defections will impact on the winning prospects of BJP is any ones guess. Congress believe that with the two prominent BJP leaders, one former CM and the other a former deputy CM, both belonging to a prominent community will boost the number of winning seats to near 150 in 224 Assembly strength. The pro-Congress media is already drafting the obituary for BJP in Karnataka, even before the first vote is caste. On the other hand, the union Home Minister and prime strategist of BJP, Amit Shah is talking of his party not only retaining the Karnataka but also capturing the Telangana, the state elections are due in next five months. Each party will run their own narratives to boost their cadre but the truth is somewhere between the parties narrative and the actual results. The confidence of BJP stems from the failure of rebellion in their party. Rebellion is not new for any party and BJP is no exception. But the difference is that who defected to BJP from the Congress gained in position and stature where as those who left BJP and moved to Congress lost their sheen and faded away in politics. Starting from the Jan Sangh day, the rebellious leaders who defied the highly centralized party establishment lost their

cause as the disciplined party cadre never moved out of the party and supported them in their rebellious issue. Balraj Madhok, the tallest leader of Jan Sangh, under whose presidency the party won highest number of seats in 1967 elections became insignificant figure in politics on differing with Vajpayee and Advani combination. His attempt to revive the Jan Sangh also failed. Similr fate was met by many BJP rebel leaders in different states. In 1980s the Karnataka witnessed another rebellion in BJP through a highly vocal leader A.K. Subbaiah. His difference is similar to that of Balraj Madhok the line party should take to grow and influence the voters. Here also Subbaiah's line of thought was rejected by Vajpayee and Subbaiah of Karnataka turned a bitter critic of BJP. His acerbic tongue came in handy to Congress party as he joined that party but not for his personal elevation in politics. Thus rebellious A.K. Subbaiah faded. The rebellion in BJP by Sankarsingh Vaghela has changed the course of political history in the country. His rebellion was one of the factors which made the party to depute Narendra Modi, a RSS pracharak, to head Gujarat government. After that what Modi did to the party is now part of successful BJP growth story. Vaghela, a prominent RSS and BJP man in his desperation

joined the ideological enemy, Congress and became a union minister. But beyond that Vaghela never tasted success. He couldn't wean away the BJP workers to his rebellious cause. Late nineties saw another failed rebellion in BJP camp in Karnataka where B.B. Shivappa, peeved over the denial of position of Leader of the opposition exhibited his dissatisfaction violently and moved into Congress. But he lost the next election on Congress ticket and then moved into political oblivion. B.S. Yediyurappa, the tallest leader of BJP in Karnataka, who is now striving hard for the victory of party in May election was also once a unsuccessful rebellion in BJP. Following the corruption charges, his arrest Yediyurappa was asked to step down from the CM chair. Yediyurappa turned rebellious, resigned from the BJP floated his own party, Karnataka Janata Paksha (KJP) but couldn't succeed in his rebellious effort and in two years' time re-joined BJP. Same was the fate of Uma Bharati and other Madhya Pradesh leaders. During the Telangana statehood demand movement, A. Narendra, whom the BJP cadre adored as Tiger Nirendra, resigned from the party and joined the then TRS. Once he moved out the Tiger Narendra failed to roar and enthruse the supporters. Not many BJP cadre went away with him. There are some women leaders such as Uma Bharati of Madhya Pradesh, Vijaya Santi, national best actress award winner who rebelled against BJP and then returned to the party as they realized that without party backing they are no body in politics. In Delhi, UP, Rajasthan and in many states the fate of rebels is no different. Thus the rebels were never considered by BJP as a threat and largely ignored the moves of such rebellious leaders after

failed placation. Despite knowing the failed rebellions in the party some of the BJP leaders chose to resign from the party and embrace the Congress. The problem with such leaders is their ignorance of the core structure and function of a cadre based party like BJP, despite their long association with the BJP. It is a party of ideologically indoctrinated workers. In the structural design of BJP the lowest level worker plays an important role in the spread of ideology, the party and government's new initiatives and the voter feedback provider. It is this worker on the polling day does the booth committees job. This cadre based party structure build since beginning is strengthened after Narendra Modi took over the reins of the government in Delhi. He started directly addressing the party workers, which includes the latest interactive speech on the 44th foundation day of the party. Modi made every member of BJP a proud participant in the nation building. He called "every party worker as the representative of the dream of the country, the resolve of the country". It is this kind of young workers of BJP who immediately gets disassociated with the rebellious BJP leaders. Thus, those rebelled and defectors from BJP becomes loners in the political arena, as they lose the committed cadres support. Because of this, the rebellion in BJP was never successful and rebel leaders faded away soon after their rebellion. May be because of this past history of rebellions in BJP, the Home Minister Amit Shah is talking confidently of his party's victory in the coming elections.

(The opinions expressed in the Article are solely those of the author and not necessarily representative of the views or opinions of the Central Chronicle.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Justice delayed again

The allegations of sexual harassment against BJP MP and Wrestling Federation of India chief, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, have yet again highlighted the sorry state of affairs in India's sports authorities. Despite facing charges of sexual harassment, attempted murder, dacoity, and causing disappearance of evidence, Singh remains untouched and continues to hold a top position in sports authority. It is shameful that the so-called sports minister is just sleeping on his responsibilities and turning a blind eye to such serious allegations. It is also alarming that our top athletes have to resort to protesting on the streets to seek justice. However, there is a silver lining as the Supreme Court has issued notices to the Delhi government and sought a response from Delhi police over a plea filed by the wrestlers. The SC has rightly acknowledged the seriousness of the allegations and the matter requires consideration by the court. We hope that justice is served and such notorious figures are held accountable for their actions.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Great loss

The death of Shri. Parkash Singh Badal, former Punjab Chief Minister and veteran Akali Dal leader, is a great loss not only to Punjab but also to the nation. Shri Parkash Singh Badal was one of the most prominent political figures since the country's independence. Though his distinguished public service career was largely limited to Punjab, he was well-regarded throughout the country. His death has left a void. He was a towering figure in Indian politics and a remarkable statesman who made significant contributions to our country. He worked tirelessly for the advancement of Punjab and helped the state through difficult times. The central government's announcement of two days of state mourning across India to pay tribute to the veteran politician is a thoughtful gesture. Further he deserves Bharat Ratna posthumously.

Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Parkash Singh Badal: A Statesman's Legacy

Shiromani Akali Dal patriarch Parkash Singh Badal (95), a five-time chief minister (CM) of Punjab, is no more. He was a five-time chief minister of Punjab and the last surviving member of a political generation that witnessed Independence and survived the Emergency. Badal had dealt with every Indian prime minister from Nehru to Modi and had an impressive political career, holding the distinction of being the youngest and oldest CM of Punjab. He had an exceptional record as an 11-time MLA and had an unwavering love for farmers, evident from his government's decision to introduce free electricity for agriculture. Badal had also bitterly opposed the Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal and had been part of the movement for a separate Punjabi-speaking state. He was respected by both the UPA and NDA governments and was loved and revered by all. May his soul rest in peace.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Developing a strong personality by teaching children about 'Paucity'



Rajender Kumar Sharma

"Our child doesn't listen to anyone's words and has become very stubborn" or "my son is totally out of tune with what I say, don't know what the school teachers teach."? Parents may not see anything special in hearing this conversation, but psychologically, this conversation is enough to reveal the whole personality of the child. Ignoring it as mere

stubbornness of the child affects the general behavior of the child and the process of their entire personality development. Today, since the trend of nuclear families has increased, and according to the demand of the time, a rule has been made for only one or two children in each family. The young couple is leaving no stone unturned to give every happiness and comfort of life to their child. But parents forget that facilities do not mean happiness. Nor are they doing any good to the child by doing so. It is important that by doing this, they are contributing to constructing a weak personality for their child. Think... if any day all these facilities being made available to the children are curtailed, how will the child react? The child's response will be similar to that reflected in the conversation described above. If we talk about the old times, there used to be not one or two, but three or four children in the family. When time was cheap, there was no problem in parenting. The parents

used to provide all the necessary things for the good future of the child. Yes, many times due to paucity of money, they had to tell the children that this time, they will not get this thing. That is, the child was made to realize the importance of money and its "paucity" from time to time. Due to this, the child's personality was easily accepted for not getting facilities, which not only encouraged the child to achieve their goals in the future but also helped lay the foundation of a strong personality. Today the situation is completely different. Parents are ready to do anything to fulfill every facility of the child, whether they have to take a loan from the bank for this or withdraw their hard-earned provident fund money. Such parents do not want their children to feel any "paucity," and they are not serious about teaching the child how much hard work is needed to earn money honestly. The result of that is that as the child grows up, they do not see

the parents as anything more than a money-earning machine. For children, the image of a parent becomes like "Aladdin's lamp." The child's personality and its behavioral development also take place in a manner in which there is no acceptance in the child's mind for any "deficit" situation. It never occurs to them that the Genie of Aladdin's magic lamp can sometimes fail to give what they want, or that the genie may also fall ill or have a lack of money or lose their job, etc. It is from here that the inclusion of stubbornness in the child's behavior begins. Excessive stubbornness of the child can take their behavior in any direction. We hear and read about heinous crimes committed by minor children in newspapers. Sometimes children from very elite families are also found involved in such crimes, or the children do not refrain from taking suicidal steps just because the parents say something to the child. The reason for all this is improper child parenting,

where the child is shown and told the meaning of happiness only in worldly and material comforts. The child was never told that the love of the parents and their attachment towards their child, the spirit of caring for their child and their feelings full of affection, are such precious gifts for the child. Parent is not just a money making machine or Aladdin's magic lamp. Along with facilities for balanced and strong personality development of children, explain to the child the importance of "paucity" in life, generate a positive acceptance towards that "paucity". And this will happen when the parent shows a sense of "deprivation" of the child's non-essential comforts. Only then the child will become the owner of a strong personality, will be able to stand as a strong support for you and yourself in times of need.

(Writer is a Columnist & Sr. Educator, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Views are personal)

BRIEF

IPR process



New Delhi: The government has taken several steps for filing of applications and reducing the pendency related to intellectual property rights (IPRs), a senior official said on Wednesday. Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary in Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) also said innovation helps in promoting growth of a country.

Elected President



New Delhi: Stock brokers' association ANMI on Wednesday said it has elected Vijay Mehta, Chairman of Mefcom Capital Markets Ltd, as its President for the financial year 2023-24. He takes over from the outgoing President Kamlesh Shah, the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI) said in a statement. Mehta, who brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise, will focus on five areas including — ease of doing business reforms for the broking industry, especially in the areas of compliance, standardization of software, and leveraging technology to facilitate connectivity among stakeholders and members.

Property tax



Chandigarh: Haryana Urban Local Bodies Minister Kamal Gupta said people will get a 10 per cent rebate on property tax payments made in ULB units till July 31 this fiscal. "Citizens will get a rebate of 10 per cent on property tax payments....," Gupta said.

DAP fertiliser



New Delhi: Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launchedIFFCO's nano (liquid) DAP fertiliser for commercial sale at Rs 600 per 500 ml bottle, less than half of the current price of conventional DAP to help India cut its import dependence. One 50 kg bag of conventional DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) is currently being sold to farmers at Rs 1,350.

Govt releases Rs 2,874 cr to PLI beneficiaries so far: Thakur

New Delhi, Apr 26:

The government has released Rs 2,874.71 crore to the beneficiaries of the production-linked incentive scheme till March, with a majority of companies from eight sectors like electronics, telecom, pharma and food processing, a senior official said on Wednesday. Additional Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Rajeev Singh Thakur said these eight sectors are doing well, while few need to increase their pace. The scheme was announced in 2020 for 14 sectors with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore to enhance domestic manufacturing capabilities and boost exports. He said that incentive claims of over Rs 3,420.05 crore have been received under the scheme



for eight sectors - large-scale electronics manufacturing; electronics and technology products; bulk drugs; medical devices; pharmaceuticals; telecom and networking products; food items; and drones, of which "over Rs 2,800 crore have already been disbursed". "The next two-three years will be crucial and we hope that things will move with a fast pace," Singh told reporters here. Till December 2022, 717 applications have been

approved in 14 sectors with expected investments of Rs 2.74 lakh crore. Actual investment of Rs 53,500 crore has been realised, which has resulted in incremental production/sales of over Rs 5 lakh crore and employment generation of over 3 lakhs, he added. A maximum of Rs 1,649 was disbursed in the electronics sector. It was followed by pharma (Rs 652 crore), food products (Rs 486 crore), telecom (Rs 35 crore), drones (Rs 30 crore), medical devices (12.8 crore), and electronics (Rs 5.3 crore) and bulk drugs (Rs 4.34 crore). The other sectors where the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme has been extended include white goods, speciality steel, advanced chemistry cells, auto components and textiles.

India for greater cooperation among SCO members to deal with global challenges

Goa, Apr 26:

Amid fears of a global recession, India on Wednesday underlined the need for greater cooperation among Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members for combating challenges relating to food and energy security. Addressing the Council Meet of the SCO Inter-bank Consortium (IBC), Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi said as part of India's contribution to mitigating the above challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched global mission LIFE' which stands for Lifestyle for Environment. LIFE envisions replacing the prevalent 'use-and-dispose' economy governed by mindless and destructive consumption with a circular economy, which would be defined by mindful utilization of resources, he said in his inaugural address. "Today, when the world is facing challenges of a

looming economic recession, a closer cooperation among SCO member states shall play a pivotal role in combating global challenges such as food and energy security concerns," he said. Observing that India is inclined towards building a sustainable and resilient infrastructure, Joshi said, resilient infrastructure is not just about safe transfer of goods and services across roads, bridges or railways but it is also about the people, households and the communities that depend upon these systems as a lifeline to better health, education and secure livelihood. There is a felt need for SCO members to emphasize the need to integrate resilience into infrastructure, ensure access, delivery and continuity of essential services to people and communities facing increasing exposure and impact of disasters and extreme climatic events, he said.

MG Motor drives in Comet EV at starting price of Rs 7.98 lakh

New Delhi, Apr 26:

MG Motor India on Wednesday launched its latest model Comet at an introductory price of Rs 7.98 lakh (ex-showroom), making it the most affordable electric vehicle in the country.

Comet is the company's second electric vehicle model after ZS EV. "The Comet EV is more than just a car; it represents our determination to change the way we commute in our cities," MG Motor India President & Managing Director Rajeev Chaba said in a statement.

Comet EV is built on the pure electric GSEV platform, the fastest to hit the one million EV sales mark globally, he added. "At MG, we understand that the future of mobility is electric



and connected. With the Comet EV, we aim to empower our customers to make a smart choice without compromising on style or convenience," Chaba said.

MG Motor, a wholly-owned arm of China's SAIC Motor Corp, has invested around Rs 700 crore in the development of Comet, which would be rolled out from its Halol-

based plant in Gujarat. Comet comes with a driving range of around 230 km on a single charge. It comes with a 17.3 KWH lithium-ion battery and can be fully charged in around 7 hours.

The two-door hatch comes with an automatic transmission, two front airbags and a reverse parking camera, among various other features.

70 pc of businesses plan to integrate metaverse in co activities: PwC India

New Delhi, Apr 26:

Almost 70 per cent of business executives in India plan to integrate the metaverse into their organisational activities, said a report by PwC India. Though the term metaverse spans a wide spectrum of definitions, it mainly denotes a digital environment with a virtual world that mimics reality through the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), low/no-code platforms, and blockchain. Additionally, 63 per cent of companies that are actively engaged with the metaverse say they will fully embed the metaverse in their organisational activities with

in a year, said the report titled 'Our Take - Embracing the Metaverse'. More than 60 per cent of the business leaders surveyed affirmed that they have a detailed or good understanding of the metaverse. The survey conducted early this year asked respondents nearly 150 in number across different regions of India for their title/role, age group, their gender, the sector their company represented, and their company turnover; PwC India said. "The metaverse opportunity is enormous and we expect exponential growth because it is relevant across genders, geographies, and generations. Consumers are

open to adopting new technologies and companies are investing heavily in the required infrastructure to leverage the metaverse," said Ashootosh Chand, Partner - Digital and Emerging Technologies, PwC India. The report further said globally, businesses have started exploring partnerships with some of the leading players in the metaverse to explore business opportunities. However, the metaverse ecosystem in India is still at a nascent stage.

"25 per cent of India respondents say that their metaverse plans will be fully embedded in their activities within a year, while 47 per cent say that



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak delivers a speech on stage as he hosts a Business Connect event in north London.

Anant Maheshwari named Nasscom Chairperson for 2023-24

New Delhi, Apr 26:

IT Industry body Nasscom on Tuesday named Anant Maheshwari, President of Microsoft India, as its Chairperson for 2023-24. Maheshwari takes over the reins from Krishnan Ramanujam, President - Business and Technology Services at Tata Consultancy Services, who served as Chairperson for the year 2022-23. The apex association for software and IT services industry also announced the appointment of Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India, as its Vice Chairperson for 2023-24. In a statement, Nasscom announced the appointment of Anant Maheshwari, President, Microsoft India, as its chairperson for 2023-24.



"Anant takes on the new role from his previous role as Vice Chairperson succeeding Krishnan Ramanujam, President, Business and Technology Services Tata Consultancy Services, who served as Chairperson for the year 2022-23," it said. In addition, Nasscom announced its new executive council for 2023-2025. The

new executive council, it said, will play a strategic role in enabling India's tech sector to lead on the global stage through focused initiatives and programmes. The list of executive council members includes one-third representation by women leaders. The newly appointed leadership along with President Debjani Ghosh will spearhead the industry to carry out its wide array of objectives to achieve the tech industry's vision of USD 500 billion by 2030. In order to make India a global technology hub and continuing business momentum in a volatile world, the leadership's key priorities will be to maximise the impact and innovation quotient of India's domestic sector to drive resilient growth.

Mumbai, Apr 26:

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty extended their rally for the third straight session on Wednesday amid buying in index majors IndusInd Bank, Nestle India and HCL Tech. However, continuous foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in global equities restricted gains in the market, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 169.87 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at 60,300.58. During the day, it jumped 232.08 points or 0.38 per cent to 60,362.79. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 44.35 points or 0.25 per cent to end at 17,813.60. "The domestic bourses mirrored the mood on Wall Street as soft economic data and underwhelming earnings dragged US equities to a weak close yesterday.



However, the market gradually recovered after an uptick in US futures, with the earnings of tech companies providing support. "Adding to investors' concerns about a possible recession, the US consumer confidence data for April hit a nine-month low

Uber expands 'Reserve' option to 6 more cities in India

New Delhi, Apr 26:

Ride-hailing app Uber on Wednesday announced the expansion of 'Reserve' facility across six more cities in India, giving riders an option to pre-book their rides 30 minutes to 90 days ahead of their travel. Uber Reserve will now be available for cash payments offering riders access to pre-booked rides, it said in a statement. The six new cities added are Kochi, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow and Guwahati. "Reserve now appears as a new option in the latest version of the Uber app and is available on Uber Premier, Uber Intercity, Uber Rentals and Uber XL," an Uber release said. With this, the service is

now live across 13 cities — Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, Kolkata, Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad, Kochi, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow and Guwahati — in India. The new product is developed keeping in mind pre-planned travel needs, including work trips, airport drops, visits to the doctor, and other scheduled appointments, according to Uber. "With Reserve, riders can pre-book their rides ensuring peace of mind, certainty and added control over their trip. Reserve also opens up even more options for drivers to choose from between on-demand and pre-booked trips," Prabhjeet Singh, President at Uber India and South Asia, said.

Stock markets rise for 3rd session; Sensex gains 169 pts



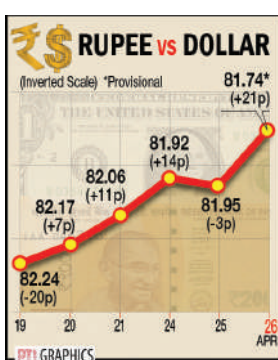
ahead of the upcoming Fed policy meeting," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. PowerGrid was the biggest gainer among the Sensex components, spurring 2.59 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Larsen

& Toubro, Nestle, HCL Tech, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC were the major winners. On the other hand, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, Reliance Industries and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the biggest laggards, dropping up to 0.84 per cent. "Investors are likely to have covered their positions ahead of the monthly F&O expiry on Thursday. Markets shrugging off global weakness is an indication that our fundamentals remain intact and investors are willing to stay risk-on in Indian equities. "But ahead of the US Federal Reserve policy next month, markets may take cues from global direction to exercise caution," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Rupee gains 21 paise to close at 81.74 against US dollar

Mumbai, Apr 26:

The rupee appreciated 21 paise to close at 81.74 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking the weakness of the American currency in the overseas market. 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 against the US currency and finally closed at 81.74 (provisional), registering a gain of 21 paise over its previous close. During the session, the rupee touched a high of 81.68 and a low of 82.01 against the dollar. On Tuesday, the rupee closed at 81.95 against the US currency. The dollar index,



which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.43 per cent to 101.42. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.12 per cent to USD 80.87 per barrel. The rupee appreciated on positive domestic equities and a weak US dollar. However, recovery

in crude oil prices and FII outflows capped sharp gains, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. The US Dollar declined on rising concerns over recession amid disappointing economic data from the US and renewed banking concerns. "We expect the rupee to appreciate on weakness in US Dollar as banking concerns raised expectations that Fed may go dovish in its upcoming Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC). "Concerns over the economic slowdown in the US may also put pressure on the greenback. However, selling pressure from foreign investors may cap a sharp upside.

Kruti Mahesh proves her mettle as finest choreographer

Choreography and music stand as seminal parts of a film given the high emotional quotient of the Indian audiences. And with back to back trending hits, Kruti Mahesh is taking the Indian entertainment industry by storm with her refreshing moves!

After getting the Indian audiences swaying on blockbuster hits like 'Dholida,' 'Ghoomar,' 'Boom Padi,' the ace choreographer has added three more viral songs to this list, 'Baharla Ha Madhumaas,' from the most anticipated Marathi film Maharashtra Shahir and 'Dariyacha Raja,' and 'Vo Tere Mere Ishq Ka,' from Amazon Prime's acclaim show 'Jubilee.' With a whopping number of reels on the enigmatic hook steps of all the three songs, Kruti has got everyone from toddlers to the adults swaying on her sensational steps!

Kruti added, "I am delighted over the response that 'Baharla Ha Madhumaas,' 'Dariyacha Raja,' 'Vo Tere Mere Ishq Ka,' are garnering. It's really heart-warming to see people relishing over the beauty of dance. I am grateful that I am able to spread some cheer in their lives."

The hook step of 'Baharla Ha Madhumaas' has already garnered 111K plus reels so far! Whereas 'Jubilee's' 'Vo Tere Mere Ishq Ka,' and 'Dariyacha Raja,' continue to win hearts! On the work front, Kruti is currently working on a few untitled projects.



Shweta Tiwari on 'Main Hoon Aparajita' completing 200 episodes



'Main Hoon Aparajita' actor Shweta Tiwari recalled her journey as Aparajita on the show, which has completed 200 episodes recently. She shared her experience of working with her co-actor Manav Gohil and the entire cast of the family drama. The show revolves around Shweta's character Aparajita, who is a mother of three daughters, played by Anushka Merchande, Dhvani Gori and Shruti Choudhary and her struggle of being a wife to a husband, played by Manav Gohil, who is in love with another woman, portrayed by Shweta Gulati. While expressing her gratitude, Shweta said: "In fact, while we all are happy on completing 200 episodes, we also feel there are many chapters yet to be written. Playing the role of Aparajita has been an incredible opportunity for me and I am grateful to have had the chance to work with such a talented and supportive team, who has helped me bring this complex character to life. The idea is to entertain and engage our viewers with a compelling storyline and characters that they have grown to love." nav also recalled how they started shooting for the show and said that because of the appreciation and love of the audience, the show has completed 200 episodes. "It feels like only yesterday when we began filming the show, and now we have already reached 200 episodes. I remain enthusiastic about portraying the role of Akshay and presenting fresh dimensions of my character in the times to come," he concluded. 'Main Hoon Aparajita' airs on Zee TV.

Radhika Apte on 'Mrs Undercover': It is about Durga's journey to find self worth

Known for her roles in 'Badlapur', 'Hunrrrr', 'Manjhi - The Mountain Man', 'Phobia', and 'Parched', among others, actress Radhika Apte talked about the USP of the spy comedy 'Mrs Undercover' in which she is seen playing the role of Durga, a housewife and an undercover agent.

She also shared how not only men but housewives also need to understand their worth and men should equally participate in household chores.

Radhika said: "The film's USP is I think the genre that it's a very different genre than what we normally see. It is about this character's journey to find self worth and saying no to people treating her badly, setting her boundaries. I think, we all struggle with self confidence, self worth, love. And I think that's our perpetual journey. So that's how I relate to the character as well."

She added that men also need to change their thinking as many of them think they don't need to do household work.

"I think, men still feel that they don't have to work. They don't even know how to do a lot of jobs, I think in day to day life, especially definitely here in India. And I think that that needs to



change not just for women, but I think even for men, it's good for men to become independent and know how to clean your clothes and how to cook for yourself," she added.

"I do think that people think housewives are just housewives and I also think that housewives themselves think of themselves as just a housewife. But it will change, it is changing, the more women work and more women put their foot down for their own dreams and their own. Whatever they want to do. It is changing," shared Radhika.

Radhika has been quite vocal about sexual harassment and she said that things are changing and with movements like the MeToo movement, there is a lot of awareness.

Talking about her future project, she added: "I've just finished a British project. I have another American film and then Hindi film coming up, I'll announce that soon." Directed and written by debutant director, Anushree Mehta, 'Mrs Undercover' features Radhika Apte in the lead role. It also stars Sumeet Vyas, Rajesh Sharma and Saheb Chatterjee. 'Mrs Undercover' streams on ZEE5.

Remo D'Souza reveals his special connection with 'Best 13' contestant Ram Bisht



Week-after-week on Sony Entertainment Television, the contestants of India's Best Dancer Season 3 have been enthralled audiences with their superlative dancing talent. Having made their way into the 'Best 13' under the tutelage of their choreographers, the contestants are honing their skills and the result is for all to see this weekend in the 'Grand Premier' episode. Making the best ka biggest celebration a grand affair will be the special guest, ace director and choreographer - Remo D'Souza. Ram Bisht (from Ludhiana) is one of the Best 13 who will be seen giving a spectacular performance on the song 'Bandeya Re Bandeya' along with his choreographer Pankaj. Dancing on an ice slab, their performance is sure to leave the viewers speechless just as it did to the judges - Sonali Bendre, Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapur. Highly impressed by the act, Remo D'Souza will go in front of the judges' table, to kneel and salute Ram and Pankaj as a compliment. Talking about the performance, Remo will commend the duo saying, "There are two types of performances, one in which the audience claps for you and then there's the one which leaves the crowd in silence and makes them think. Everyone in the audience today has been left awestruck by your performance." Talking about his special connection with Ram Bisht, Remo D'Souza will further say, "I have known Ram for a long time. He was a background dancer in one of my films and as a background dancer myself, I relate to his journey. Ram and I share a connection. He also did not want to go home till he did not become successful, I too did not want to go home till the time I became successful."

Tune in this weekend at 8pm to watch "Baazigar Ram" on the stage of India's Best Dancer 3, only on Sony Entertainment Television!

Dimple Kapadia: High time that women got a chance to showcase their strength

Veteran Bollywood actress Dimple Kapadia, who will be seen playing the role of a matriarch Savitri in the web series 'Saas Bahu Aur Flamingo', has spoken about how the portrayal of women is changing with time and they are shown to be more bold.

She is playing the role of a woman, Savitri, who runs a company and uses it as a cover for her drug business. She is the most important female person of the family which consists of four women including her two daughters-in-law and a daughter.

The 65-year-old actress has given a number of hits such as 'Saagar', 'Rudaali', 'Gardish', 'Lekin..', 'Kaash', 'Prahaar', 'Narsimha' and 'Hum Kaun Hai' among others.

Talking about her role, Dimple said: "It feels absolutely exhilarating, we have always seen men taking on



these powerful roles, and it's high time that women got a chance to showcase their strength and determination in such roles and playing a Queenpin certainly fits the bill."

On sharing about the portrayal of women on

screen and how it is changing, she added: "I strongly stand for embracing who you are as a person and showcasing that out there. There are a lot of films that showcase women as strong characters - one with multiple layers and emotional complexities." "So yes, we are evolving and so are our content consumption choices, we just need the right creators to tell the story and with the advent of streaming services, now these stories can travel across the globe," she concluded.

Produced by Maddock Films, the series is directed by Homi Adajania and stars Dimple Kapadia, Radhika Madan, Angira Dhar, and Isha Talwar in pivotal roles along with Ashish Verma, Varun Mitra, Udit Arora, Deepak Dobriyal and Monica Dogra. 'Saas Bahu aur Flamingo' releases on May 5 on Disney+ Hotstar.



TV Actors' favourite Bollywood dancing divas

Dance is a form of expression that allows us to convey emotions and tell stories. On International Dance Day, &TV actors discuss their favourite Bollywood celebrity dancers and their aspiration to perform with them on stage someday. These actors include Anita Pradhan (Malti Devi, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh Singh, Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Shubhangi Atre (Angoori, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, Shubhangi Atre, aka Angoori, from Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, shares, "Madhuri Dixit is the epitome of dance in Bollywood, and I enjoy watching her dance with so much grace and style on screen. No one can match her perfection. The title 'Dancing Diva' is genuinely hers. As a dance enthusiast, I could watch her perform for hours, and her expressions and smiles were captivating. She

inspired me to pursue my passion for dancing. Besides Bollywood, I appreciate Indian classical dance forms. Even if my work schedule is hectic, I take some time out to dance every day. I remember the day when Jackie Shroff Dada was shooting with us, and he compared me to the iconic Madhuri Ji. I was on cloud nine that day, and it was one of the most fulfilling compliments I had ever received. Madhuri Ji and I are trained Kathak dancers, and it is one of my dreams to perform with her. Fingers crossed, I hope everyone can use dancing as a medium to express themselves and stay fit. I wish everyone a spirited International Dance Day."

Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan stuns in anarkali dress at 'PS: 2' event

Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who is gearing up for the second part of Mani Ratnam's magnum opus 'Ponniyin Selvan', was spotted arriving for a media event in the city on Tuesday.

The actress chose a traditional Indian attire for the event. She wore an ivory coloured anarkali suit with shimmering embellishments and a matching dupatta. She kept her long tresses open and rounded off her look with a statement emerald necklace.

In the film, Aishwarya plays dual roles of Nandini - the Queen of Pazhuvoor and Mandakini - the aunt of Poonguzhali. The film is based on author Kalki's eponymous novel. The

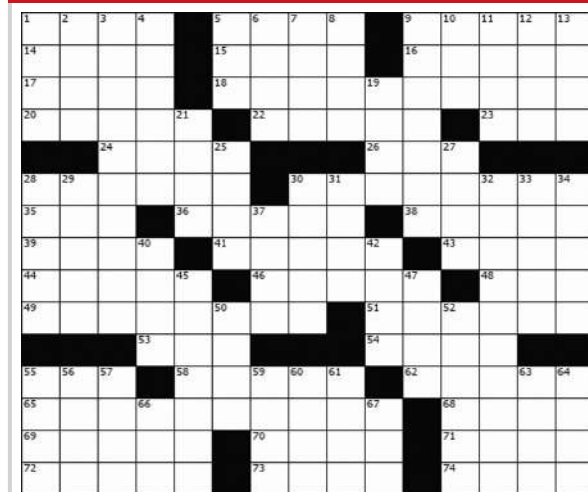


first part of the film dramatises the early life of Chola prince Arunmozhi Varman, who would become the renowned emperor Rajaraja I.

Ever since its publication in 1955, a film adaptation of the novel 'Ponniyin Selvan' had been explored by several Tamil filmmakers. However, it never materialised due to financial constraints. Even Mani Ratnam attempted to adapt the novel in the late-1980s and early-2010s but was unsuccessful.

Calling it his dream project, Mani Ratnam revived the effort in January 2019. While the first part was released back in September 2022, the second part will land in theatres on April 28.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Dancer _____ Astaire
- Understands
- Passover feast
- Roof part
- Treasure _____
- Periods in history
- Available to anyone
- Jeans fabric
- Room

DOWN

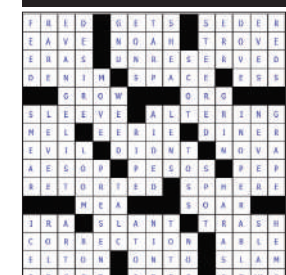
- Nourish
- Barely cooked
- Billy Graham, e.g.
- Want
- Large antelope
- Ages and ages
- Canvas cover
- Mets' old stadium
- Guided
- Do the wrong thing
- Peace symbol
- Nights before holidays
- Lipstick shades
- Kilt wearer
- Relocate
- Dandelion, for one
- Wide smile
- Greasy streak
- Embankment

628

- Coins from Mexico
- Liveliness
- Made a witty reply
- Orb
- _____ culpa
- Fly
- Fin. fund
- Slope
- Rubbish
- Fix
- Talented
- Rock star _____ John
- Aware of
- Bridge coup
- Bowler's button
- Look closely
- Bastes

- Assisted
- Telescope glass
- Broken
- No way!
- Vine fruit
- Mellow
- Hover
- Pitch
- In attendance
- Dog's name
- Bath powder
- Pester
- Bakery worker
- Function
- _____ and crafts
- On
- On cloud _____
- Lug
- Shredded cabbage
- Skirt bottoms
- Fish eggs
- Neither's companion

SOLUTION 627



Rajasthan Royals have task cut out against rampaging CSK

Jaipur, Apr 26 (PTD):

Smarting from back-to-back defeats, Rajasthan Royals would hope to bounce back with a win against Chennai Super Kings in their IPL match at home on Thursday, but it will be easier said than done as the MS Dhoni-led team has been on a rampage with three victories on the trot.

With their top-order comprising Ruturaj Gaikwad, Devon Conway, Ajinkya Rahane and Shivam Dube firing together most of the time, CSK have notched up three easy wins while the Royals have lost their last two matches.

Thursday's match could turn out to be a battle between CSK's top-order batters and the world class spinners of the Royals.

Conway is the second most prolific batter so far this season with 314 runs from seven matches while a "transformed" Rahane, who hit a 71 not out off just 29 balls against Kolkata Knight Riders on



Chennai Super Kings players Ravindra Jadeja and Moeen Ali during a practice session.

Sunday, has been in devastating form with 209 runs from five games, at a stupendous strike rate of 199.04, the highest among the batters.

The Royals can take a bit of solace from the fact they emerged victorious

in their first meeting of this season against CSK. However, even then CSK nearly pulled off a win as their talisman Dhoni turned the clock back with his batting, before going down by three runs in front of their home crowd.

However, things are different at the moment with Chennai registering their fifth win of the season, against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens on Sunday, to grab the top position in he standings with 10 points.

Archer undergoes minor elbow surgery in middle of IPL

Fit to play vs RR on weekend

London, Apr 26 (PTD):

England pace spearhead Jofra Archer underwent a minor elbow surgery during his 19-day break earlier this month after an old injury resurfaced after playing one IPL game for the Mumbai Indians.

According to British newspaper 'Daily Telegraph', "Jofra Archer travelled to Belgium for minor surgery on the troublesome right elbow during a short recent spell on the sidelines at the Indian Premier League."

He is now expected to play against Rajasthan Royals on Sunday.

The surgery was per-



formed by renowned Antwerp-based surgeon Roger van Riet, who is an elbow specialist.

Archer played MI's opening game against RCB where he went wick-

etless for 33 runs in four overs and then had a 19-day break after which he was smashed for 42 in four overs with a solitary wicket in the game against Punjab Kings. Mumbai Indians lost both games.

Archer, who was bought for Rs 8 crore by MI hasn't yet been able to delivery because of his elbow issue for which he missed the entire last season having undergone a major surgery.

The 'Telegraph Sport' claimed in its report that England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) had confirmed that "Archer visited a specialist in Belgium."

We will work on increasing Arjun Tendulkar's pace: Shane Bond



Ahmedabad, Apr 26 (PTD):

Mumbai Indians' bowling coach Shane Bond has said he will be working on increasing the pace of Arjun Tendulkar, whose speeds currently hover around 130 kph.

Four days after being smashed for 48 runs, including 31 in one over against Punjab Kings, Tendulkar junior made a fine comeback against Gujarat Titans and ended the game with figures of 1/9 in two overs here on Tuesday.

"He did well today, obviously after what happened in the last game. It's never easy to step out onto the ground that is a Colosseum with a big crowd. We will work on increasing his pace, but he did all that was asked of him today," Bond said at the media conference after

the match which MI lost by 55 runs.

Left-arm seamer Arjun, who ended his long wait for an IPL debut on April 16 at the very venue where his father played his last international match, has managed to impress with his bowling, save the outing against Punjab Kings.

In the first game of his career, against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium, Arjun bowled the first and the third over. He returned with figures of 2-0-17-0. Then, with Sunrisers Hyderabad requiring 20 to win, he bowled the last over and gave away just four runs for one wicket.

"It's a combination of things. We're not executing what we need to. We've got pretty simple plans. Watch how we bowled in an area. We got hit and immediately resorted to some changes."

"It's disappointing when we can't distinguish plans when we are on the back foot during difficult run chases," Bond said.

"Like in the last game, I think it was 100/4, and then we just dished up freebies. We gave (David) Miller and (Abhinav) Manohar free hits, and once we gave players to get in runs, they took the game away from us."

"And that's the disappointing thing from our point of view. So we just have to be better in our decision-making and our execution. In short, it was a tough day for us," he added.

GT has the longest practice hours: Abhinav Manohar



Ahmedabad, Apr 26 (PTD):

Extensive training sessions comprising plenty of batting at the nets and taking countless throw downs have led to improvements in Gujarat Titans batter Abhinav Manohar's ability to strike the ball.

The 28-year-old, who represents Karnataka in the domestic circuit, on Tuesday impressed everyone with his scintillating knock of 42 off 21 balls in GT's Indian Premier League match against Mumbai Indians.

Thanks to Manohar's knock, an equally beligerent innings by David Miller (46 off 22 balls), and a cameo by Rahul Tewatia (20 not out off 5 balls), GT posted an imposing 207 for six after being asked to bat first at the Narendra Modi Stadium. The bowlers then

stopped Mumbai Indians at 152 for nine to help GT win by a huge margin of 55 runs.

"I think our team trains the most, it has the longest practice hours so we get to bat a lot as batsmen so that really helps us out there in the middle. We have done it so many times, it just becomes a muscle memory to do it while we play a game," said Manohar at the post-match press conference.

"Our practice sessions, we had two camps prior to the IPL for a week each which really helped us. I know my role in the team. It is made very clear by the franchise and that helps as well," he added.

During his stay in the middle, Manohar struck the ball cleanly, which fetched him three sixes and as many fours.

"Compared to last year I was a bit slow on the field, that's something that I've worked on throughout the year and my striking ability has improved since last year... that's due to a lot of throw downs," he said.

The GT batter opened up on his conversation with Miller and said the experienced South African helped him in the middle. "We were talking out there in the middle. Whatever ball is in our zone, we shall go for it and not give any half-hearted effort at the shot. Plus, I felt Miller being out there in the middle, talking to me, helps me calm down when I'm batting over there," said Manohar.

A win for CSK, at the Sai Man Singh Stadium on Thursday, will brighten their playoffs prospects further. The Super Kings, a four-time winners, have the personnel to humble the Royals in their own backyard.

Having suffered two consecutive losses, the Royals will be desperate to get their campaign back on track with a clinical performance against the visitors from Chennai.

For the Royals to do well, it is imperative that the likes of Jos Buttler, Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Sanju Samson deliver with the bat and then, on a pitch that has help for the slower bowlers, hope that the seasoned spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal fire. They may be playing at their base, but the Royals can expect plenty of home team fans at the stands rooting for CSK skipper Dhoni, who is probably appearing in his last IPL season, just like it happened in Kolkata a few days back.

Sen knocked out; Treesa-Gayatri in pre-quarters

Dubai, Apr 26 (PTD):

On a day star shutter Lakshya Sen made a first-round exit, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand kept the Indian flag high by advancing into the pre-quarterfinals of the Asia Badminton Championship here on Wednesday.

The Commonwealth Games bronze medal-winning women's doubles pair roared back from behind to defeat Indonesia's Lanny Tria Mayasari and Ribka Sugiarto 17-21, 21-17, 21-18 in a battle lasting more than an hour.

After losing the first game tamely, the Indian duo put up a dominant display in the second and began with a 5-0 lead. They maintained their lead through out to force a decider.

The third game turned out to be an intense battle with Treesa and Gayatri trailing 15-16 against the Indonesian pair.

They were then locked at 18-all when an aggressive Treesa came up with a powerful cross-court smash before the Indian



duo sealed the issue in 64 minutes. Mixed pair duo of Rohan Kapoor and Sikki Reddy also won their opening round match when they defeated Chan Peng Soon and Cheah Yee See of Malaysia 21-12, 21-16.

Commonwealth Games gold medalist Sen, who took a short break to focus on his mental and physical health, was eliminated by world number 7 Loh Kean Yew in a 7-21, 21-23 loss.

Having plummeted to 24th spot in the BWF rankings, Sen got a tough draw as he was pitted against former world champion and world No 7.

The Singaporean, who

had lost to Sen in their last exchange in the Indian Open final last year, showed swift court movements to race to a 21-7 lead.

But Sen returned stronger in the second game and was two points behind at the break.

From thereon the duo exchanged some rallies and Sen had a chance to level when he got a game point at 20-19 but Loh closed out the match in 45 minutes.

Up against world number one Akane Yamaguchi, promising Malavika Bansod stretched the star player before going down 23-25, 19-21 in a 46-minute battle.

Indian women's hockey team to tour Australia

■ As part of Asian Games preparations

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

The Indian women's hockey team will tour Australia for a five-match series as part of preparations for the upcoming Hangzhou Asian Games. The tour will commence on May 18 and conclude on May 27.

India will play the Australian national team in the first three games of the series, followed by two matches against Australia A. All the matches will be played at MATE Stadium in Adelaide. India will play their opening match of

the tour on the May 18 before playing back-to-back games on the May 20 and 21. The visitors will then compete against Australia A on May 25 and 27.

The Australian women's hockey team is currently ranked third in the world, while the Indian team is at eighth.

The tour will serve as a warm-up event for the Asian Games, which will take place in September-October this year.

Talking about the same, Indian team chief coach Janneke Schopman said, "Playing Australia in Australia will help us assess where we are compared to the top of women's hockey."

Galle, Apr 26 (AP):

Openers Dimuth Karunaratne and Nishan Madushka hit centuries in a record opening stand as Sri Lanka amassed 357-1 on a rain-affected Day 3 of the second test against Ireland on Wednesday.

Karunaratne fell on the stroke of lunch after miscuing a pull shot for 115 off seamer Curtis Campher, but Madushka and Kusal Mendis continued the onslaught as Sri Lanka replied soundly to Ireland's 492 before a heavy downpour halted play shortly before the tea break.

Madushka, who made just 29 in Sri Lanka's big win in the first test last



Sri Lanka's Nishan Madushka celebrates after scoring a century.

week, looked immovable alongside Kusal Mendis, who was unbeaten on 83. The 24-year-old

Madushka waved his bat and enjoyed a hug from the skipper after bringing up his maiden test century by hitting Harry Tector over the deep midwicket boundary.

Madushka, who survived on 131 when Irish skipper Andy Balbirnie dropped a sitter at first slip off off-spinner Andy McBurnie, hit 18 boundaries and a six in his masterful 149.

Karunaratne cracked his 16th career ton and second in the series following his 179 in the first match. Karunaratne reached his century off just 116 balls the fastest in his career before making his way to the dressing room with lunch within sight.

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WRESTLERS TO PM

Please listen to our 'Mann Ki Baat'

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

"Why are you not listening to our 'Mann Ki Baat'," the protesting wrestlers asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and sought his time to discuss the sexual harassment allegations against his party's MP and WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Country's top wrestlers resumed their agitation against the wrestling federation's chief on Sunday, three months after they ended their sit-in protest following the formation of an oversight committee to probe into the serious allegations.

The Sports Ministry has not yet made public the findings of six-member oversight panel that submitted its report on April



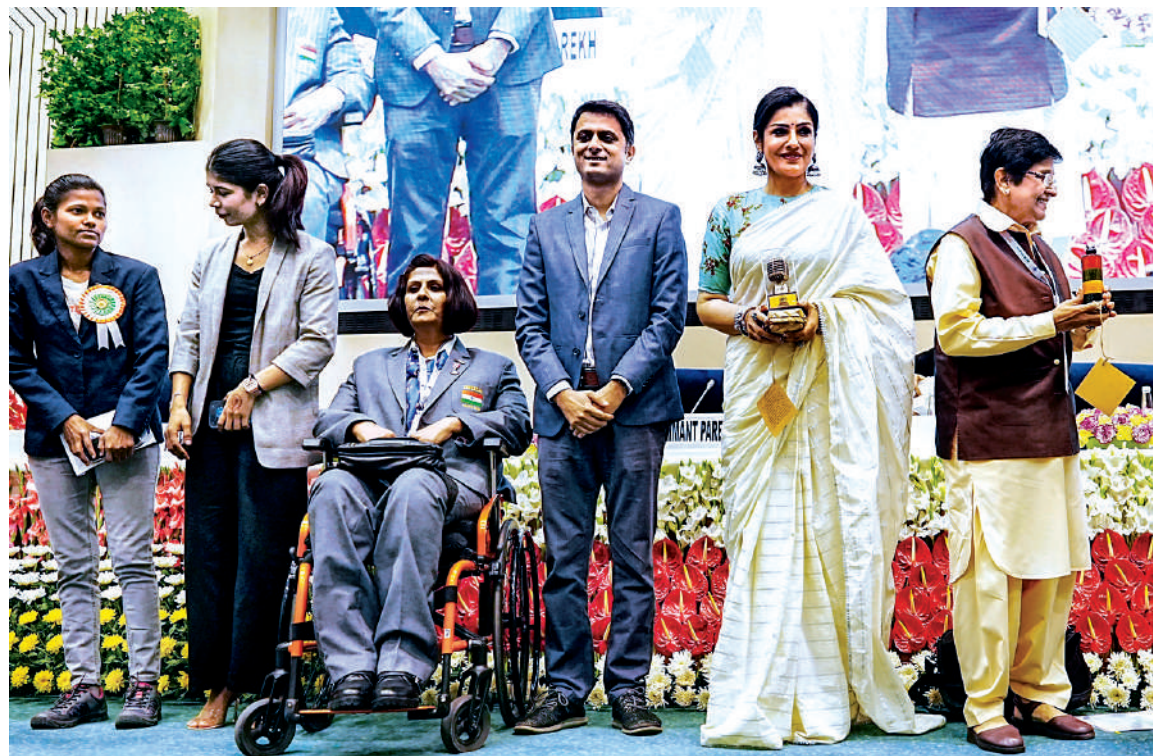
Different moments of wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat (top) were captured during their protest at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

5. The wrestlers on Wednesday said they are surprised that PM Modi felicitates them and clicks pictures with them when they win medals but now he has turned a blind eye to their plight when they are on road, seeking justice.

"PM Modi sir talks about 'Beti Bachao' and 'Beti Padhao', and listens to everyone's 'Mann Ki Baat'."

Can't he listen to our 'mann ki baat'? He invites us to his home when we win medals and gives us a lot of respect and calls us his daughters. Today, we appeal to him that he listens to our 'Mann Ki Baat'," Rio Games bronze medallist Sakshi Malik said during a media interaction.

NATIONAL CONCLAVE



Para-athlete Deepa Malik, Boxer Nikhat Zareen, Actor Raveena Tandon, Kiran Bedi and others after a session on Nari Shakti during the National Conclave on 'Mann Ki Baat @100', in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Dalai Lama gets 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award in person

● After 64 years

Dharamsala, Apr 26 (PTI):

The 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award was presented to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama at his residence here by members of the award foundation personally after 64 years on Wednesday, his office said.

It was the first international award given to "His Holiness for Community Leadership in recognition of his leadership of the Tibetan community's gallant struggle in defense of the sacred reli-



1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award, being presented Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama by members of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation at his residence in Dharamsala, Wednesday.

gion that is the inspiration of their life and culture" by the Ramon Magsaysay Award

Foundation in the Philippines in August 1959, the Dalai Lama's office said.

Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation president Susanna B Afan and Foundation Trustee Emily A Abrera met with the Dalai Lama, the Nobel Peace laureate, to personally present the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award after 64 years.

According to the Tibetan spiritual leader's office, his elder brother Gyalpo Thonden had received the Magsaysay Award on his behalf in Manila, the Philippines in August 1959.

The Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959 and has

lived in India in exile since then.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award, often called the "Nobel Prize of Asia", is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society, the Dalai Lama's office said.

The prize was established in April 1957 by the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund based in New York City with the concurrence of the Philippine government.

Spurned lover shoots woman dead outside her house

● Ahead of court hearing in Dhar city

Dhar, Apr 26 (PTI):

A 22-year-old woman was allegedly shot dead by her spurned lover outside her house in Dhar city of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday when she was preparing to leave for the court in connection with an old case involving the attacker's mother, police said.

A police officer said the illegal portion of the house of the accused will be demolished.

The incident occurred at around 11:30 AM in Basant Vihar Colony when the woman, accompanied by her sister, was starting her scooter.

"Initially, we received the information that a woman was shot at by an unidentified person. She was declared brought dead at a hospital by doctors. The accused was later identified as Deepak Rathore," said Dhar Superintendent of Police Manoj Kumar Singh.

He said police have declared a reward of Rs 10,000 on Rathore who is on the run. Singh said

Rathore was in love with the woman and pressuring her to marry him but she rejected him. "In 2020, the woman submitted a complaint under section 354 (assault or use of criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage her modesty) of IPC against Rathore. In 2021, she lodged another complaint against him for attacking her," the SP said.

Rathore lodged a complaint of abetment of suicide against the woman and her family members after his mother committed suicide by consuming poison.

Neeti Goel champions the cause of 'tiger widows' of Sundarbans!

Kolkata, Apr 26:

After working tirelessly for mankind during Covid pandemic and lockdown, Neeti Goel - restaurateur and philanthropist, has touched the lives of many by co-founding initiatives like 'Khaana Chahiye' and 'Ghar Bhejo' (along with Sonu Sood) serving free meals to the needy and homeless people and helping 1.5 lakhs migrants reach home.

Continuing with her philanthropic work, the successful entrepreneur has taken upon a new challenge of working tirelessly and selflessly for the plight of tiger widows in Sundarbans (West Bengal). With the aim to empower the livelihood of tiger widows through her latest project Nari Niti, Neeti recently visited Sundarbans for the distribution drive providing them with earning options



including fish farming, poultry farms, educational needs like books, pencils, among others things.

With both his sons jobless, Biswajit Mistry ventured deep into the dense jungles of the Sundarbans in search of raw honey that would fetch a better price. His body was recovered two days later, mauled and bearing unmistakable signs of a tiger attack. There are in total 54 islands on the Indian side of Sunderbans which

are inhabited by almost 3000 plus tiger widows.

"It is believed the deeper you go into the jungle, the purer is the honey you get", informs Neeti, adding, "The family has received no compensation because Biswajit was killed in a restricted jungle and is struggling for survival. They can barely manage two meals a day, one of the many who lost their husbands to tiger attacks in the last few years."

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Naxal ambush on Wednesday has highlighted what is seen as the last major challenge - foiling Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) attacks in the forested tri-junction of the Bastar region in south Chhattisgarh - faced by security forces to completely stamp out LWE violence in the state.

Security officials cite the lack of foolproof technology to detect IEDs and the increasing desperation of Naxals who are avoiding direct combat with forces for such incidents.

A total of 11 persons, including ten district reserve guard (DRG) personnel, were killed after suspected Naxals blew up their vehicle using IEDs in the Aranpur area of Dantewada district.

The Union government has maintained that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) has almost been wiped out in Jharkhand and Bihar due to sustained operations by se-

curity forces, noting that Naxal violence incidents have come down by 77 per cent in just over a decade.

However, security officials say the menace of stealthily placed IEDs, especially in the border areas of south Chhattisgarh, "continues to pose a challenge" to them.

"A general alert was issued to the security agencies stating that the Naxal-sponsored TCOC period is on and hence they should be alert while conducting operational and administrative tasks.

"Unfortunately, the Naxals were successful in trapping the DRG vehicle in Dantewada. The exact reasons behind this incident are being investigated," a senior security officer in Delhi told PTI.

The TCOC is an armed operation undertaken by the Maoists in March-June to strengthen their cadres and launch major attacks on security forces as forests are devoid of green cover, thereby increasing visibili-

ty and line of sight to ambush.

The geographical tri-junction of Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Odisha located right at the southern tip of Sukma district in the south Bastar region is an area that witnesses the maximum number of such incidents including the deadly 2010 Maoist ambush in Dantewada district where 75 CRPF and one Chhattisgarh police personnel were killed.

These areas are controlled by the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee of the Maoists and led by the 'elusive' Hidma, stated to be the commander of the PLGA battalion no. 1 which is accused by police agencies of planning and executing hundreds of ambushes against the forces over the last two decades.

The forces are trying to "capture, dominate and hold" these areas by constructing remote bases and roads.

The Central Reserve

Police Force (CRPF) has set up as many as 15 forward operating bases in Chhattisgarh over the last three years and some more are in the offing, a security officer based in Bastar said.

These bases are being created so that small units of commandos based here can effectively hit the Naxals in their core areas and secure these locations for government agencies to launch development works, the officer said.

The remote locations, dense forests and weak mobile phone connectivity are other major hurdles for the forces and government agencies that are operating in these areas.

"However, continued efforts are on and we hope to achieve good results including ruling out the possibility of deadly attacks and ambushes on police patrol parties," the second officer quoted above said.

The IEDs continue to be a cause of big trouble because of two factors, a CRPF officer said.

The first is that as Maoists have run out of sophisticated guns, rifles and ammunition. They choose to not fight a one-on-one battle but launch surprise attacks, the officer said.

They are not always successful as the forces have learnt their lessons of not taking the 'beaten track' now, but whenever they are successful, a number of security personnel are either killed or maimed, the officer said.

"The second issue is that we still do not have foolproof technology to detect the IEDs. They are placed under blacktop roads, or hidden beneath culverts or bridges and are triggered by a person sitting far away as soon as a security vehicle or patrol is detected," he said.

Many IEDs explode even when the troops are on foot and their trigger mechanism gets activated just due to the pressure of the feet. These incidents have injured more than 100 personnel over the last two years, the officer said.

DU to launch Panchang for propagation of India's intellectual heritage

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

In a first, Delhi University has prepared a Panchang - ancient Indian knowledge system-based almanac - for the revival and propagation of India's intellectual heritage, a varsity official said on Wednesday. The official said the Panchang is more advanced than the Western calendar and will help in the "dissemination of ancient Indian knowledge".

Panchang is the annual compilation of planetary moments. In simple terms, "Panchanga" means the day, nakshatra (star), tithi, yoga and karana every day, the official said.

The Panchang will be launched on April 28. Chairman of the Value Addition Courses Committee

of DU, Niranjan Kumar said, "DU is releasing a Panchang for the dissemination of ancient Indian knowledge. Much more detailed and informative than the Western calendar, the Panchang contains all festivals and other important dates as well as tithi, vaar, karan, nakshatra and yoga."

He noted the Panchang will be a useful first step in introducing students to the rich corpus of Indian knowledge tradition.

"Unfortunately, it is disappearing from our homes and the minds of the youth. In such a situation, The historic centenary almanac will be provided free of cost to every person coming to the programme," he added.

The Value Addition Courses Committee of the

DU, in the centenary year of the university, is organising a programme on 'Panchang and Indian Knowledge Tradition' at 3 pm on April 28 at the Convention Hall of the varsity.

सर्वप्रथम अत्याधुनिक
(अल्ट्रामॉडर्न) बर्न यूनिट
10 इंटेसिव
आइसोलेशन केयर
ब्लॉस केबिन,
हेपा फिल्टर/लेमिनर
फ्लो 100% जीवाणु
रहित ब्लॉस केबिन.
छ.ग. शासन से मान्यता प्राप्त
कालड़ा बर्न एवं
प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर
आर.के.सी.के. सामने, चौबे कालोनी एवं चपेटी
नाका, धमतरी रोड, कलसर्न मॉल के पास, रायपुर
कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060
Ajay Advt.

MOCK DRILL



State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel during a mock drill, at a school, in Prayagraj, Wednesday.

(CrPC). But Kejriwal challenged the summons issued to him by the Pernem police, asking him to appear before the investigating officer on April 27 in connection with the case.

The case was heard by a division bench comprising Justices Mahesh Sonak and Valmiki Menezes of the Goa bench of the Bombay High Court on Wednesday, during which the police submitted that they are going to withdraw the summons issued to Kejriwal.

Talking to PTI, advocate Subodh Kantak, who represented Kejriwal, said the petition was disposed of by the bench after the police submitted that they are going to withdraw the summons.