



C E N T R A L Chronicle



BRIEF



A 54 feet tall statue of Lord Hanuman at Salangpur, which was unveiled by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on the occasion of 'Hanuman Jayanti', in Botad district, Thursday.

Arrest

■ Srinagar: Security forces have arrested a terrorist associate of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Thursday. On specific information regarding the movement of terrorists in Alosa area of Bandipora, in north Kashmir, a special checkpoint was established near Canal Road Alosa, by security forces, a police spokesperson said.

Death threat

■ Indore: Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Thursday met a Hindu spiritual leader and assured him of security after his ashram allegedly received a letter seeking extortion. Mishra met Aniruddhacharya Maharaj in Pardeshipura in Indore, where the latter has been giving sermons for the past week. Aniruddhacharya Maharaj had told reporters his ashram in Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh had received a letter two days ago seeking Rs 1 crore as extortion and a threat of blowing it up if the money is not paid.

Reservation

■ New Delhi: The Union Home Ministry has decided to reserve 10 per cent general duty constables posts, out of the 1,29,929 sanctioned posts, in the Central Reserve Police Force for ex-Agniveers. According to a notification issued by the ministry, out of the sanctioned posts, 4,667 are for women with a pay matrix of Rs 21,700 to Rs 69,100, and the retirement age will be 60 years.

Congratulate

■ Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday congratulated workers of the BJP on its foundation day and said it is the result of their hard work that the party, which started its journey from just two Lok Sabha seats, has made a place in the hearts of crores of people.

Arrest

■ Rourkela: Odisha Police busted an IPL betting racket in Rourkela steel city and arrested six persons in connection with it, a police official said on Thursday. The six were arrested in a police raid at a house in the city's civil township area on Wednesday night after receiving information about the racket, the official said.

Weather
High 36 Low 23

MARKET
NIFTY 17,599.15
SENSEX 59,832.97

BULLION
GOLD 60,512
SILVER 74,311

Govt seeks CBI probe into Oxfam India

New Delhi, Apr 06 (PTI):

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday recommended a CBI probe into the affairs of the Indian arm of the global NGO Oxfam for alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, sources said.

The home ministry found that Oxfam India continued to transfer foreign contributions to various entities, including other NGOs, even after registering under the FCRA, which prohibits such transfers after an amendment that came into force on September 29, 2020, sources said. Oxfam India is the second NGO against whom the home ministry has recommended a CBI probe within a month for alleged violation of the

FCRA. On March 20, the home ministry recommended a CBI inquiry against Aman Biradari, an NGO established by activist Harsh Mander. Aman Biradari was one of the NGOs to which Oxfam India transferred foreign contributions, violating the law, sources said.

There was no immediate reaction from Oxfam India. During a survey by the Income-Tax department, multiple emails were found which revealed that Oxfam India was allegedly planning to circumvent provisions of the FCRA by routing funds to other FCRA-registered associations or through the for-profit consultancy route, sources said. The survey also "exposed" Oxfam India as a probable instrument of the

Govt findings.....

The home ministry found that Oxfam India continued to transfer foreign contributions to various entities, including other NGOs, even after registering under the FCRA, which prohibits such transfers after an amendment that came into force on September 29, 2020, sources said. Oxfam India, which is registered to carry out social activities, allegedly routed funds to the Delhi-based think tank Centre for Policy Research (CPR) through its associates and employees in the form of a commission, sources said. The same is also reflected in the TDS data of Oxfam India, which shows a payment of Rs 12,71,188 to the CPR in 2019-20.

foreign policy of foreign organisations or entities, which have funded the NGO liberally over the years, they said. Oxfam India, which is registered to carry out social activities, allegedly routed funds to the Delhi-based think tank Centre for Policy Research (CPR) through its associates and employees in the form of a commission, sources said. The same is also reflected in the TDS data of Oxfam India, which shows a payment of Rs 12,71,188 to the CPR in 2019-20. Oxfam India received foreign contributions amounting to about Rs 1.50 crore directly into its foreign contribution utilisation account instead of receiving them in the designated FCRA account, they said.

UNEXPECTED DECISION

RBI keeps interest rate unchanged

Mumbai, Apr 06 (PTI):



After hiking interest rate by a cumulative 250 basis points in 11 months, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday unexpectedly kept benchmark rate unchanged as global banking woes added uncertainty to the economic outlook.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, however, pledged to hike the interest rate again if needed, saying the decision to pause was "for this meeting only".

RBI's six-member Monetary Policy Committee voted unanimously to keep the repurchase or repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent.

Most analysts had expected one final hike of 25 basis points in RBI's current tightening cycle before hitting a pause.

MPC also decided to retain a policy stance focused on "withdrawal of accommodation" to "ensure that

inflation progressively aligns with the target, while supporting growth." That had been its approach since it started tightening in May 2022. "MPC unanimously decided to keep rates unchanged in this meeting with readiness to act if the situation so warrants," Das said while announcing the decisions of the committee. "MPC will not hesitate to take further action as may be required in its future meetings."

He said that MPC is ready to act if necessary as the decision to keep the rate unchanged is "a pause, not a pivot." Reacting to the decision, Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman said, "RBI has taken a good call, I think." Interest rates have been effectively tightened by 290 basis points in the past year -- a 250 bps increase in the repo rate and a 40 bps increase when the SDF was introduced. RBI remained cautious about the inflation outlook and relatively upbeat on growth.

The central bank marginally upped its forecast of India's GDP growth in the current fiscal year starting April 1 to 6.5 per cent from 6.4 per cent projected earlier.

This compares with an expected 7 per cent growth in 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023) fiscal. The central bank lowered its inflation forecast to 5.2 per cent for 2023-24 from 5.3 pre cent, with Das saying "war against inflation has to continue". He said it was necessary to evaluate the cumulative impact of past interest rate hikes.

CENTRE TO SC

'Considering changes in IPC, CrPC'

New Delhi, Apr 06 (PTI):

The Centre told the Supreme Court on Thursday it is considering amendments to the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The submission was made by Attorney General R Venkataramani before a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala during the hearing of a PIL challenging a CrPC provision related to service of summons only to a family's male member if an accused in a criminal case is unavailable.

The central government is actively considering

amendments in criminal laws, the law officer said, adding, "Consultations have taken place. In fact, I have personally asked the government to take an active role in this. Some of this (amendments) has to do with the sedition laws."

When the bench asked the top most law officer about the relevance of the submission that the change in sedition law was also in the offing, he said the government was actively looking at amending the CrPC and the IPC.

The AG sought adjournment and requested that the matter be listed after the monsoon session of Parliament.

200 CR PMLA CASE

ED files charge sheet against three Tihar jail officials

New Delhi, Apr 06 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday filed a supplementary charge sheet before a Delhi court against three Tihar jail officials in a money laundering case against Suresh Chandrasekhar, Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez and others over alleged extortion of Rs 200 crore.

The agency filed the final report before Additional Sessions Judge Shailendra Malik against jail officials Mahender Prasad Sundriyal, Sunder Bora and Dharam Singh

Meena, who were arrested earlier this year and are currently in judicial custody. The judge has listed the matter for further hearing on April 18. The agency alleged the three accused were involved in the offence of money laundering. The ED had lodged the case based on an FIR filed by Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) against Suresh Chandrasekhar, who has been accused of cheating and extorting money from Aditi Singh, the wife of former promoter of Religare Enterprises Shivinder Mohan Singh. Singh was arrested in October 2019 in

a case related to alleged misappropriation of funds at Religare Finvest Ltd.

Chandrasekhar and his associates reportedly took money from Aditi after posing as government officials and promising to secure bail for her husband. Chandrasekhar reportedly persuaded Aditi to transfer money by impersonating a central government official over a spoof call while he was lodged in Rohini jail.

Both Chandrasekhar and his actor wife Leena Maria Paul were arrested by the Delhi Police in September last year for their alleged role in the case.

2024 LS POLLS

PM confident of BJP win

■ Cautions party workers against complacency
New Delhi, Apr 06 (PTI)



Setting his sights on BJP win in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asked party workers not to be complacent as there is a view that "no one can defeat" the party next year, and slammed the Opposition for a "badshahi" mindset and insulting poor and backward classes.

Addressing BJP members at the party's 44th foundation day, he said those fighting an "existential battle" have become desperate at the exposure of their corruption and are conspiring against his gov-

ernment, which is committed to taking tough steps to rid India of corruption, nepotism and law and order challenges. "Full of hate, these people are speaking one lie after another. They have become restless and desperate at the exposure of their corrupt deeds. They can see now only one way out. They are openly saying 'Modi teri kabar khudegi'. They are issuing threats to dig (my) grave," he said.

WARM WELCOME



President Droupadi Murmu receives warm welcome by people in Golaghat, Assam, Thursday.

Govt cautions against betting advertisements

■ In newspapers, media platforms

New Delhi, Apr 06 (PTI)

The government on Thursday cautioned media organisations against carrying advertisements of betting platforms, days after mainstream English and Hindi newspapers carried such promotional content.

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken strong exception to the recent instances of mainstream English and Hindi newspapers carrying advertisements and promotional content of betting websites. In an advisory,

the ministry advised media entities, media platforms and the online advertisement intermediaries to refrain from carrying advertisements or promotional content of betting platforms. An official statement said the advisory has been issued to all media formats, including newspapers, television channels, and online news publishers and showed specific examples where such advertisements have appeared in the media in recent times.

The ministry also objected to the promotion by a specific betting platform encouraging the audience to watch a sports league on its website that prima facie appears to be in violation of the Copyright Act, 1957.

SORRY STATE OF AFFAIRS

Lok Sabha functioned for 45 hours, Rajya Sabha 31 hours

New Delhi, Apr 06 (PTI)

The Lok Sabha this Budget Session could function for only 45 hours as against its scheduled 133.6 hours because of daily disruptions and frequent adjournments, a think tank data has shown.

The Rajya Sabha worked for over 31 hours out of 130 hours in the same session, the data said.

The second half of the Budget Session was hamstrung by frequent disruptions throughout before it was adjourned sine die on Thursday.

SHORTEST FULL TERM LS

Of all the Lok Sabhas that completed the full five-year term, the 16th Lok Sabha elected in 2014 recorded the lowest number of sitting days, having sat for 331 days in five years. With one more year remaining in the term, and 58 average sitting days a year, the 17th Lok Sabha is unlikely to sit for more than 331 days. This could make it the shortest full term Lok Sabha since 1952. This has been the sixth shortest budget session since 1952.

As the 17th Lok Sabha enters the final year of its term, the think tank said that the average number of sittings of this Lok Sabha, which is 58 days a year, could make it the shortest full term Lok Sabha since 1952.

The Budget session of Parliament was held from January 31, 2023 to April 6, 2023, with a recess from February 14 to March 12.

According to data compiled by PRS Legislative Research, the productivity, which is the percentage of time the House functioned, was 34.38 per cent for the Lower House in the Budget Session.

'Rs 503 cr to be recovered from 101 builders'

■ Crackdown from today: Noida DM

Noida, Apr 06 (PTI):

The Gautam Buddha Nagar district administration has said it will launch a crackdown on real estate defaulters from Friday, noting that over Rs 500 crore are to be recovered from developers against whom the Uttar Pradesh real estate authority has issued notices.

District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma, who took charge last month, said "munaadi" (beat of drum) will be carried out against the builders over the next two days for the recovery of

dues towards the Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP RERA).

After this, the defaulters would be further "named and shamed" and coercive action -- including attachment and auction of their properties -- will follow in accordance with the law, Verma told reporters.

According to officials, the total amount of dues for which recovery certificates (RCs) have been issued is over Rs 1,700 crore but the "recoverable" amount is Rs 503 crore since seven to eight builders have gone for insolvency through the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

Hanuman Janmotsava celebrated with religious fervour



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 06: On Thursday, Janmotsava of Lord Hanuman was celebrated with religious fervour across the twin-city.



Right from the early morning hours, the devotees queued up at Hanuman Temples to pay obeisance to Sankatmochan Hanuman.

Celebrations were held in a grand manner at Lord Hanuman Temple in Nehru Nagar Kalibari. A large number of devotees attended the Abhishek and Havan which began at 06:00

hrs in the morning.

Musical recitation of Sunderkand was held in the evening. A large number of elderly, youth and children recited Sunderkand and offered prayers to Lord Hanuman.

Maha Aarti was performed around 20:00 hrs after which a grand bhandara was served.

Lord Hanuman is worshipped as a deity with the ability to attain victory

against evil and provide protection. On this auspicious day, devotees of Lord Hanuman celebrated his Janmotsava and sought his protection and blessings.

The main event was held at Lord Hanuman temple located in JLN Hospital, Sector 9. About one lakh devotees reached here to pay obeisance to the deity. The preparations for bhandara had begun here on Wednesday itself.

The temples reverberated with slogans of Jai Shri Ram and Jai Hanuman. Celebrations were held at every temple across the city. Devotees had specially decorated the temples with flowers and lights.

After offering special prayers, they recited Hanuman Chalisa, Sunder Kand and performed yajna. Grand bhandaras were also organised at the Hanuman Temples.

CM's Bhet Mulakat programme in Durg today

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 06: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is going to visit Durg on April 07 for the Bhet Mulakat programme. Preparations are underway for his visit to Durg city.

Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena, Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas, CEO Ashwani Dewangan, Councillor Rishabh Jain and other officers inspected the program venue at Old Ganj Mandi, Swami Atmanand School Deepak Nagar and other places.

The Collector inspected the arrangements for the Chief Minister's program and directed the officers to ensure necessary arrangements. Collector gave necessary instructions regarding the pandal, stage, drinking water, parking place, security arrangements and other arrangements. Councillor Meena Singh, Executive Engineer Rajesh Pandey, SD Sharma, Javed Ali, Than Singh Yadav, Principal Shefali



Soni, and other officers were present. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will inaugurate Swami Atmanand English Medium School in Deepak Nagar. He will offer prayers at Satti Chaura temple and meet the common people in Purani Ganj Mandi.

Road safety awareness campaign organised

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 06: TPL Workshop, SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant organised a Road Safety Campaign under the leadership of Shailendra Kumar Agarwal, GM (TPL), on April 04, 2023. The Road Safety campaign was organised by the workshop from 08:45 hrs, in front of TPL Workshop Road, along Forest Avenue, near Fire Department Headquarter.

Presiding over the program, Shailendra Kumar Agarwal, GM (TPL), urged everyone to use Personal Protective Equipment while driving and drive safely under controlled speed. This campaign was



conducted by Anil Kumar Phule (Departmental Safety Officer, TPL Workshop). On this occasion Praveen Kumar Vyavhare, Assistant Manager, TPL Workshop along with all the personnel of the workshop stood with placards (boards) displaying traffic related precautions, facing the direction of the traffic on the road. The placards had road-safety awareness slogans such as, 'Wear Helmets', 'Use Seat Belts', 'Maintain Speed Limit', 'Do not Use Mobile While Driving' etc.

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Three arrested for theft at jewellery shop

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 06: With the arrest of three ruffians including a juvenile, police claimed to have solved the theft incident which occurred at Dhaniram Jewellers located in Kumhari. The accused had trespassed into the shop by breaking the shutter lock with crowbars. Police recovered 2.135 kgs of silver jewellery worth Rs 1.5 lakhs from their possession.

SP Dr Abhishek Pallav informed that on April 04, Kumhari Police Station received a complaint from Rupnarayan Soni of Durga Chowk Kumhari regarding theft at his shop. He owns a jewelry and utensils shop - Dhaniram Jewellers in Bazar Chowk Kumhari. On the intervening night of 03-04 April, some unknown people trespassed into the

shop by breaking the shutter lock and escaped with silver jewellery, silver utensils and artificial jewellery. Police lodged a complaint under section 380.457 of IPC.

A special police team was formed to investigate the matter. The team examined footage of more than 150 CCTV cameras and found three suspects moving with crowbars. The identity of suspects was confirmed within a few hours by the special sources.

The suspects were arrested from Durg Railway Station when they were trying to escape to Nagpur. The suspects Maharaja Dewar, Gabru Dewar and a juvenile were strictly inter-



rogated. They disclosed that while consuming liquor that night, they planned to commit theft.

They took the narrow streets instead of the Main Road to reach Dhaniram Jewellers. They broke the centre lock of the shutter with the help of 02 crowbars and burgled about 02 kg of silver jewellery, silver

utensils and artificial jewelry. Later, the accused Maharaja Dewar buried the stolen booty in the courtyard of the juvenile's house. Police recovered 2.135 kg of silver jewellery worth about Rs 1.50 lakh and 02 crowbars from the accused identified as Niket alias Gabru Dewar (19) son of Nagesh

Dewar a resident of Machli Market, Dewar Mohalla, Zone-2, Khursipar; Maharaja Dewar (18) son of Don Dewar a resident of Atal Awas, Shivaji Nagar, Khursipar and a juvenile. Further action is being taken against the accused from Police Station Kumhari.

Inspector Santosh Mishra (in-charge ACCU), Inspector Sudhanshu Baghel (SHO, Kumhari) ASI Shamit Mishra, Head Constable Satyendra M a d h a r i a , Chandrashekhar Banjir, Vijay Shukla, Constables Arvind Mishra, D Prakash, Rinku Soni, Nitin Thakur, Bhavesh Patel, Rakesh Kumar from ACCU and Constable Bunty Singh, Rajkumar Singh from Kumhari Police Station played a vital role in solving the case.

BSP United Front submits memorandum against illegal construction

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 06: The United Front of BSP Officers' Association and Trade Unions submitted a memorandum against the illegal construction in Sector-9 hospital premises which was allegedly being conducted by the contractors of Bhilai Municipal Corporation Bhilai. They met the Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas and handed over the memorandum.

It needs to be mentioned here that for conducting any kind of construction in Bhilai Township, the Municipal Corporation has to take No Objection Certificate from the BSP M a n a g e m e n t . Construction can be started only after getting NoC.

The Commissioner of Bhilai Municipal



Corporation informed the delegation that NoC has not been received for the place where the construction work is being done in Manav Seva Parisar and hence, BMC will not make any payment to the contractor for this construction.

The United Front appealed to the BMC Commissioner to ensure that any kind of construc-

tion work in the BSP area should be done by the Corporation only after taking NoC. They alleged that a new practice of misusing public money by uncontrolled constructions has commenced in the city. They said that on April 01, some anti-social elements forcibly occupied the land marked for the construction of an electrical substation and effluent treat-

ment plant for the hospital in Manav Seva Parisar located near JLN Hospital, Sector 9.

All the representatives of the United Front stated that the struggle will continue to save Bhilai from illegal encroachments and anarchy. The United Front will intensify its efforts to make Bhilai clean, safe and beautiful again.

OA President Narendra Kumar Banchole, OA General Secretary Parvinder Singh, INTUC Working President Puran Verma, INTUC General Secretary Vansh Bahadur Singh, AITUC General Secretary Vinod Soni, HMS General Secretary DK Singh, Ispat Shramik Manch leader Rajesh Agarwal, Nandkumar Gupta from BWU, KK Yadav (DGM Enforcement Department) and Milind Bansod were present.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 06: CSR Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant organised a Lok Kala Mahotsav on March 31, 2023 in village Karanja-Bhilai, to patronise the talent of budding local artists, and provide them a cultural platform. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has always been a step ahead in discharging its Corporate social responsibility by adding value to the community nearby.

Corporate Social Responsibility Department (CSR) of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant executes various public welfare activities aimed at professional development, self-reliance, women-empowerment, cultural unity, environment sustainability, education, health and well-being in adjoining rural areas of the plant and Mines. Awareness was also created among the people

Lok Kala Mahotsav promotes local artists in Karanja village

Central Chronicle News

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about art and culture through the Mahotsav. Shri. Shivrajan Nair, GM(CSR) was the Chief Guest of the inaugural function. Chhattisgarh is a land of rich cultural Heritage with the presence of unique and vibrant culture and art in the state. Cultural programmes like these are organised by the CSR Department, he said.

Sushil Kamde, SM(CSR) in his address said that Chhattisgarh has been a hub of performing arts and rich dance-forms like Raut Nacha, Pandvani, Panthi Dance, etc. We must ensure that these art forms get a distinguished place among the folk arts in the country, he said. Various artists of repute performed in the festival, including Chhattisgarhi Folk Artist Seema Kaushik, Pandwani and Kabirpanthi Folk artist, Tina Sahu, Danda Dancer, Thanu Ram Sahu, Tileshwar Verma of

Manmohan Nacha Party Rajnandgaon and Pushpa Sahu of Nava Kisan Group.

Ashok Kumar Sahu, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Karanja, Bhilai, Shri. Rohit Kumar Nishad, Deputy Sarpanch, and other public representatives of the village and nearby areas also attended the festival along with other dignitaries, women folk and thousands of audiences. The performances were enjoyed by the audience. The attendees appreciated the initiative by the CSR Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant.

The program was conducted by Rajni Rajak of CSR Department, BSP, who also proposed the Vote of Thanks during the Valediction. Ashutosh Soni, Sita Sinha, Budhelal, Anjani Kumar Dwivedi etc played a pivotal role in successfully conducting the Lok Kala Mahotsav.

Lecture held on Meditation & Mental Health under Har Ghar Dhyhan Campaign

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 06: The Women's Cell and National Service Scheme (NSS) of Christian College of Engineering and Technology (CCET) Bhilai organised a lecture on "Meditation and Mental Health" as part of their "Har Ghar Dhyhan" campaign. The campaign aims to promote the practice of meditation among individuals to reduce stress and improve mental well-being. The lecture was held on April 05, 2023 and was attended by more than 50 participants.

The session was initiated with an introduction to the importance of mental health and how meditation



can help in managing stress and anxiety. The speaker, Er Deepty Dubey (BE & MTech in Computer Science and Engineering), and pursuing PhD from UPES, an expert in meditation and mental health explained the benefits of practicing meditation in our daily lives. She emphasized how meditation can improve physical, mental, and emotional well-being by reducing stress

and anxiety, improving focus and concentration, and enhancing overall happiness. Further the speaker demonstrated various techniques of meditation, including mindfulness meditation, loving-kindness meditation, and guided meditation. She explained how these techniques work and how they can be practiced regularly to achieve maximum benefits. During

the session, the speaker also addressed various concerns related to the practice of meditation, including the misconception that meditation is associated with religion or spirituality. She clarified that meditation is secular and can be practiced by anyone, irrespective of their religious beliefs. The lecture was followed by a question-and-answer session, where the participants

had the opportunity to clarify their doubts and concerns related to meditation and mental health.

Overall, the lecture on "Meditation and Mental Health" was an informative and engaging session, providing valuable insights into meditation's benefits and its positive impact on mental health. The Har Ghar Dhyhan campaign is an excellent initiative under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Culture has collaborated with The Art of Living Foundation and has launched the 'Har Ghar Dhyhan' campaign, which promotes the practice of meditation and encourages individuals to prioritize their mental well-being.

GE Foundation donates exhaust fans to NRC Ahiwara

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, Apr 06: GE Foundation voluntarily donated 2 exhaust fans to the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center (NRC) Ahiwara to provide relief to the children

there from the heat. Along with this, kits of fruits and sprouts were given to the children and their mothers admitted there. In this initiative, the staff nurses working there Renuka Sahu and Bharti Banjare were also honored by giving them gifts. The exhaust fan was handed over to Dr Kavesh Sahu by K Vinod and Pradeep Pillai on behalf of the organization. Staff in-charge Dr Ravindra Verma was also present in the programme.

Healthcare facilities to increase in urban slum settlements: CS

CS reviews progress of schemes of Urban Administration Department

Raipur, Apr 06:

The underprivileged sections living in the urban settlements of Chhattisgarh will now get the facility of medical treatment more easily. The number of mobile medical units is being increased from 120 to 150 under the Chief Minister's Urban Slum Healthcare Scheme (Mukhyamantri Shehri Slum Swastha Yojna).

Chief Secretary (CS) Amitabh Jain, while reviewing the high-priority schemes of the state government, directed the officials of the Urban Administration Department to organize medical camps through mobile units at maximum number of places regularly for the treatment of the urban poor. He further said that the services of the Urban Administration Department should be made readily available to the people living in the urban areas. He said that the work of building per-



mission, tap collection, social security pension, gumasta, license etc. should be done within the time limit.

Chief Secretary Jain further said that the Krishna Kunj built in the cities should be continuously monitored. Saplings should be planted in Krishna Kunj before the rains to get desired yields. He also inquired about vermicompost manufacturing and natural cow dung based paint units and instructed the officials to conduct employment-oriented activities in Gothans systematically. Similarly, he said that the Chief Minister's Mitan scheme should also be monitored. Officials said that there is a plan to expand the Mitan scheme to provide necessary docu-

ments for government work to the urban people. Use of cow dung paint, regularization of illegal constructions, development of commercial plots, and other schemes were also reviewed in the meeting. On this occasion, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Mr. Subrata Sahu, Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dr. S. Bharathidasan, Special Secretary, Urban Administration, Mr. Ayaz Tamboli, Director, Urban Administration, Mr. R.Ekka and other senior officials of the Urban Administration Department were present in the meeting.

The officials of the Urban Administration Department informed

that the number of mobile medical unit vehicles will be increased from 120 to 150 under the 'Mukhyamantri Shehri Slum Swastha Yojana'. Under this scheme, so far more than 44 lakh 37 thousand patients have been treated, free medicines have been distributed to 38 lakh patients and various types of pathology tests have been done for 11 lakh patients. 68 thousand 723 official documents have been delivered to the citizens at their homes through the Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana. Under the Mitan Yojana, more than 78 thousand people have booked appointments to get government documents delivered at their home. There are 195 Dhanvantari Medical Stores operating in the state under the Shree Dhanvantari Medical Stores Scheme. High quality generic medicines are being made available to the people at low prices through these stores.

HUGE TABLEAU



A massive tableau of Lord Shri Hanuman was taken out on occasion of 'Hanuman Janmotsav' and it was participated by devotees in large number here on Thursday evening.

IAS Officer Churendra posted as Secretary Information Commission

Raipur, Apr 06:

In a significant administrative reshuffle, the 2003 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer GR Churendra has been transferred to State Information Commission as Secretary. The 2013

batch IAS Officer Anand Masih posted as Secretary at Information Commission, has been shifted to Police Accountability Tribunal amidst unfavourable reparation about him by the Information Commissioners. It is notable that both the IAS

Officers were in the news in the past for wrong reasons. While GR Churendra was shifted from the post of Sarguja Divisional Commissioner following his reported aspiration for a political innings, the Secretary of Information Commission Anand Masih had been

not in good terms with the Information Commissioners. Prevailing scenario resulted in change in posting of both the IAS Officers. Few senior IAS Officers might be given fresh posting orders in next few days by the state government.

Master plan for systematic development of cities discussed



Raipur, Apr 06: Master plan of cities of the state will be prepared for systematic and well-planned development of all urban bodies and newly formed districts of the state. State government has instructed the concerned departmental officials for preparation of master plan. To this end the master plan of the important cities of the state is being prepared through state-of-the-art techniques by the Directorate of Town and Country Planning, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, Indravati Bhawan. Importance has been given to systematic

development by making provisions in the master plan for the purpose of entertainment, road, parking, commercial activities, industrial, residential etc. Similarly, the master plan of about 56 important cities of the state has been prepared by the Town and Country Planning Department on the basis of GIS, which is also available on the basis of adoption in the website of the department for public viewing. The work of preparing the master plan is being done in a planned manner by setting the annual target by the depart-

ment. The master plan was discussed at a meeting of departmental officers organized under the chairmanship of Special Secretary, Housing and Environment Janak Prasad Pathak. Discussions were held for providing maximum benefits to the general public and ensuring well-planned development of the cities. The meeting was attended by joint director Jitendra Shukla, director JP Mourya, deputy secretaries Rahl Venkat and C Tirky and district officers from various districts of town and country planning.

Chhattisgarh reports 102 new COVID-19 cases

Raipur, Apr 06:

Chhattisgarh records 102 new cases of COVID-19 on April 6, taking the state's total tally to 95,403 since the beginning of the pandemic. Raipur reports the highest number of cases at 25, followed by Kondagaon with 17 cases, and Rajnandgaon with 12 cases. The remaining districts reported cases in single digits.

The state conducted 1,667 sample tests on April 6, with a positivity rate of 6.12%. Fortunately, there were no new COVID-19 related deaths reported today. The state health department has confirmed that there are no active patients of coronavirus in

the 10 districts where cases have been reported. The department is closely monitoring the situation and implementing necessary measures to curb the spread of the virus.

Contact tracing is being carried out, and citizens are being urged to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour, such as wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and washing hands regularly. Meanwhile, the Chhattisgarh government is ramping up its vaccination efforts and urging citizens to get vaccinated at the earliest. As of April 6, a total of 5,281,980 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the state.

Mathur to attend BJP Core Group meet on April 8

Central Chronicle News

● Central leader in-charge of party affairs to meet associate organizations during his visit

Raipur, Apr 06: Getting into election mode, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Core Group meeting would be held on April 8. BJP in-charge of party affairs in Chhattisgarh Om Prakash Mathur and National Organizational General Secretary BL Santosh would be present during the Core Group meeting to chalk out the strategy and future programme of the saffron brigade for the next six months. Meanwhile, the Raipur Parliamentarian Sunil Soni on Thursday paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Parliament Bhawan on the concluding day of the ongoing Budget session. It is understood that Lok Sabha member

from Raipur Soni shared his views on the working of the ruling Congress government in Chhattisgarh and also discussed the various activities of BJP Organization. It is notable that PM had recently cancelled his proposed meeting with BJP MLAs from Chhattisgarh but the Raipur Parliamentarian Soni, however, managed to get time from Prime Minister Modi to present his stand on key affairs of Chhattisgarh. According to the information received, the central leader in-charge of party affairs in

Chhattisgarh Om Prakash Mathur would be arriving here on three-day visit. After meeting with the various associate organizations and holding meeting with the senior leaders of the party at Raipur, he would leave for Bastar to attend the Divisional level meetings. Sources said that BJP is now focusing on the 12 Legislative Assembly seats from Bastar which is considered to be a key factor for securing majority in the Legislative Assembly polls. Presently BJP is blank in the tribal-dominated Bastar and is hopeful to regain the lost ground in the old bastion.

He has already taken feedbacks about the Organizational affairs in Chhattisgarh from the BJP MLAs who recently called him in New Delhi.

Raigarh, Mahasamund register win in Sr Cricket tournament

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 06: Raigarh and Mahasamund registered victories against their respective opponents in the Senior Plate Group Inter District Tournament being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) here on Thursday.

Raigarh defeated Janjgir-Champa District by 10 runs in a close encounter in which the senior bowler Sachin Chowhan claimed six wickets to ensure victory for the team.

Similarly, Mahasamund registered

win against Bastar by 26 runs to earn 6 points from the match and consolidated the position in the points table.

However, the Korba team avoided direct defeat against Koriya District after trailing behind in the first innings. Similarly, Narayanpur too held the batting fort to deny victory to Kanker which had taken a massive lead in the first innings. Jashpur too cannot register victory against Dhantari despite securing huge lead of 224 runs in first innings. Dhantari finished second innings at 59 for 7 to deny victory to the opposition.

Benefits of the schemes should reach the last person: Bhedia

Raipur, Apr 06:

State Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhedia on Thursday reviewed the implementation of departmental schemes in Bastar division in the Prerna meeting room of Jagdalpur district office and gave directions to the officers.

She said that the benefit of schemes of the state government should reach last person of the society. Industries Minister and Minister in-charge of Bastar district Mr. Kawasi Lakhma was also present on the occasion. Mrs Bhedia spoke about better operation of Anganwadis in the division, progress of Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyan, efforts to reduce malnutri-



tion level, entry on nutrition tracker app, real time data mapping, training system for operation of new mobile, recruitment of Anganwadi workers and assistants and discussed other topics. Appreciating the efforts being made in Bastar division under Poshan Abhiyan, Minister Mr. Lakhma congratulated her for reducing malnutrition. He said that Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh

Baghel has made a provision to increase the honorarium of Anganwadi workers and assistants in this year's budget, so that they are encouraged to provide better services with double enthusiasm. On this occasion, MLA Chitrakot Mr. Rajman Benjam, Chairman of Renewable Energy Development Authority Mr. Mithlesh Swarnakar, Vice Chairman of Indravati River Basin

Development Authority Mr. Rajeev Sharma, Member of Shramik Kalyan Karmakar Mandal Mr. Balram Maurya, Collector Mr. Chandan Kumar, Women and Child Development Department Officers of the Women and Child Development Department of all the districts of the division were present along with the director of the department Mrs. Divya Mishra.

Chairman's name announced for DCDRC of 8 districts

State govt issued an appointment order

Raipur, Apr 06:

On the recommendation of the selection committee constituted by the state government under sub-section 2 (a) of section 28 of the Consumer Protection Act 2019 and rule 6 (a) of the Consumer Protection Rules 2020, the names of the chairmen of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC) of 8 districts have been announced.

According to the issued order, Mr. Dakeshwar Prasad Sharma has been appointed as Chairman of

the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission Raipur, Mr. Gopal Ranjan Panigrahi in Dhamtari, Ms. Ranjana Dutta as Korba, Mr. Anand Kumar Singhal in Bilaspur, Mr. Santosh Kumar in Durg, Mr. Rakesh Pandey in Surguja, Mrs. Sujata Jaswal in Jagdalpur-Bastar and Mr. Prashant Kundu in Janjgir-Champa.

According to the order issued by the state government, their appointment has been made for four years from the date of taking charge or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Thief nabbed with stolen laptop and luggage by rly police

Raipur, Apr 06:

Railway Protection Force-Divisional Task Team and Government Railway Police are jointly running a drive against thieves and pickpockets. Under this drive a thief was arrested with stolen laptop. He was looking for buyer of stolen laptop near Railway Reservation Centre/Ticket Booking Office in Gudiyari side of Raipur Railway Station today. During interrogation he disclosed his name as 24-year old Rajesh Tiwari, resident

● Three pickpockets also caught roaming around in station

of Murrabhatthi, Gandhi Nagar Gudiyari Raipur. The railway police team also recovered stolen Byjus backpack, a laptop worth Rs 30000 and a black purse containing cash of Rs 850 from his possession. During interrogation he confessed of having stolen all such items from stair near enquiry counter in the station on April 5, 2023. Meanwhile

three pickpockets were also arrested while they were roaming around in Railway Station. During interrogation they disclosed their names as 20-year old Mukesh Shinde (son of Jai Narayan Shinde), resident of Seeta Nagar Gogaon Raipur, 35-year old Madan Verma (son of late Teeka Ram Verma) resident of Janta Colony Gudiyari Raipur and 28-year old Naveen Patel (son of Navedshi Patel), resident of Thanapara, Bagbera, Mahasamund.

'Health for all' celebrated in Ambedkar Hospital



Raipur, Apr 06:

An awareness programme was organised under the leadership of Prof Dr DP Lakra, HOD Medicine, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Raipur. Prof Dr SBS Netam graced the occasion. Consultants from Dept of medicine Prof Dr RL Khare, Dr Archana Toppo, Dr S Chandrawanshi, Dr Manish Patil, Dr

Hemeshwari Verma, Dr Nemesh Sahu were also the part of awareness programme

Faculty, residents Dr Ujma, Dr Nidhi, Dr bhupendra, Dr Sarthak and interns of medicine department educated the patients about need of maintaining a good health and all the health related queries of patients were answered during the awareness programme.

Non-govt college principals meet RSU V-C

Raipur, Apr 06:

A delegation of office bearers of Private College Association and Non Government College Principals' Association Chhattisgarh paid courtesy visit to Pt Ravshankar Shukla University Vice Chancellor Pt Satchidanand Shukla. The delegation discussed grievances of non government colleges.

The Vice Chancellor assured the office bearers of private college association and non government principals association of positive steps for redressal of grievances of students. The delegation comprised Private College Association pres-



ident Dr Suresh Shukla, vice president Pravin Chandrakar, secretary Siddharth Das, Non Government College Principals Association president Dr Meghesh

Tiwari, secretary Dr Devashish Mukherjee, Dr Yulendra Rajput, Dr Sangeet Ghai, Dr Sandhya Gupta, Dr MS Mishra and other office bearers.

Mahavir Jayanti celebrated with fervour State level Jail Lok Adalat organized

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Apr 06: Jaintirthankar Lord Mahavir Swami's birth anniversary festival was celebrated with unprecedented enthusiasm in the city here with a three-day program. On the third day of the festival, Prabhat Pheri and flag hoisting was done by the members of the community.



and chants of Lord Mahavira. Prayers were offered to the Lord by Chaityavandan Swadharmivatsalya pro-

gram and Mahavir Prasadi was distributed at Mahavir Swami Chowk by the members of Sumatinath Seva Samit, whose sponsor was

Uttamchand Vimladevi Chopra family. Various cultural activities also marked the day. Trustee Vinay Lunia did



the vote of thanks. The devotees of the entire Jain community enthusiastically participated in the entire programme.

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Apr 06: As per the instructions of the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur, under the guidance of District and Sessions Judge Arvind Kumar Sinha, a state-level large jail Lok Adalat was organized in the district jail on April 02.

In the Lok Adalat, on behalf of the District Legal Services Authority, two division benches have been constituted for disposal of pending cases in the court and one division bench for cases related to restrictive sections. Three cases were re-

solved in the division bench of Chief Judicial Magistrate and 01-01 in the division bench of Judicial Magistrate and Executive Magistrate. In this way, 05 cases were disposed of on the basis of confession in the State-level Large Jail Lok Adalat.

On this occasion, Chief Judicial Magistrate Balram Kumar Devagann explained the benefits of Jail Lok Adalat to the inmates and gave legal information.

On the other hand, Judicial Magistrate Mrs. Shrutu Dubey informed the prisoners about plea-bargaining and asked them to take advantage of

the provision.

District Legal Services Authority Secretary Mayank Soni said that 'hated should be done with crime and not with the criminal' as well as the Defense Council free legal aid NALSAP helpline no. 15100, was informed about the arrest pre-arrest remand scheme.

At the same time, the prisoners were told to stay away from crime in future and take support of Pranayama and spirituality to lead a stress-free life. SDM Akanksha Shiksha Khalkho, Defense Council Tikam Chandrakar and Suresh Khurose were present in the program.

Modi govt at the Center has come down to dictatorship: Baghel

Central Chronicle News

Bhand, Apr 06: In protest against the termination of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's membership of the Lok Sabha, under the leadership of regional MLA Lakheshwar Baghel, a huge torch rally was taken out and a protest was held at the subdivision headquarters Bastar. This demonstration was done on the instructions of the All India Congress Committee and the State Congress Committee.



hands of the BJP. He said that by rejecting the membership of Rahul Gandhi, BJP has shown its real face. This step has been taken due to the fear of the public's response to Mr. Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, he said.

Rama Ram Maurya during the torch rally. Ganesh Ram Baghel, Fatesingh Parihar, Gopal Tiwari, Prem Shankar Shukla, Gopal Tiwari, Janakram Sethia, Dilip Singh Sengar, Balesh Dubey, Shobharam Markande, Bhriugu Tiwari, Uttam Naik, Sukhdeh Baghel, Vijay Chandrakar, Nitya Chandrakar, Ishwar Panigrahi, and workers of Bastar assembly constituency were present in large numbers.

MLA Baghel also celebrated the birthday of Block Congress Committee Bastar President Ganesh Ram Baghel and Gram Panchayat Dubeumargaon

Working hard for Indian Idol: Khileshwari

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Apr 06: On hearing the presentation of Maa Ambe Manas Parivar Mahamaya Dham Buchipur Bemetara's Manas Mandali at the ongoing state level Ramayana conference in Chaubebandha, the audience have become a fan of the art. The singers Khileshwari Verma and Dr. Ramsnehi Verma both brother and sister have spread the wonderful magic of their voice and the duet pair of both have made a great presentation through

their singing. During discussions, Khileshwari Verma said that I am working very hard for Indian Idol, if I get a chance, I will not miss to bring laurels to Chhattisgarh. I still practice for 2 to 3 hours everyday. I have come into the world of music since class VI, at present have completed BA and am taking music education from Khairagarh University and I aspire to become a professional singer one day, she said.



Ramsnehi Verma has been singing since the age of 8

Rajim: Ramsnehi Verma told that he has been playing since the age of 8, learned to play harmonium and sing songs from his fa-

ther. Earlier I used to go to Pandwani, now I only do Ramayana Manch, due to Ramayana being held in every village, he said. The hymns he presented were written by Ashok Verma Guruji of his team and he says that he has acted in Ramliha Mandali and he inspired me to move for-

ward. He also says that it takes a lot of hard work to build a troupe because learning musical instruments is not a joke, one has to work day and night for them, only then they can learn something. His team is accompanied by interpreter Umashankar Verma, Narayan Nishad on Naal, Ashok Verma on Tabla, Ravi Shankar Lohar on Organ, Manoj Sahu on Pad, and colleague Surendra Sahu. The program was conducted by writers Santosh Kumar Sonkar Mandali, Ganesh Sahu and Mandal.

Tourism has high potential in CG - Shreyas Talpade

Central Chronicle News

Gourella-Pendra-Marwahi, Apr 06: A car rally was organized here in the region to promote tourism and it saw participation from Bollywood actor Shreyas Talpade among others. All the participants of the car rally, including Bollywood actor Shreyas Talpade, appreciated the tourist places of GPM district and described the environment here as pleasant and talked about coming to Chhattisgarh again if he gets a chance.



He has highly appreciated the works of Chhattisgarh government and also appreciated the film policy of the state government. As per information, tourism promotion "Chalo Chale Prakriti

Ki Ore" was done on April 1st and 2nd under the joint aegis of Public Relations (PR) Department, Chhattisgarh Tourism Board, 'Trips n Trippers' and Chhattisgarhi Creation under the Drive for Tourism. The rally was organized from Raipur's Grand Imperia Hotel VIP Road Raipur to Eco Hill Resort Kabir Chabutra.

BJYM District President accorded warm welcome On his maiden arrival in Dhamdha Mandal

Central Chronicle News

Dhamdha, Apr 06: BJYM District President Hemchand Yadav was accorded warm welcome on his maiden arrival in Dhamdha Mandal here on Wednesday amidst busting of fire-crackers and garlanding him.



every works. They continue to get various programmes and

they also have the responsibility of its execution. He said that they (BJYM)

are all energetic workers and should put in their level best for the next VS and LS polls and ensure party's victory.

On this occasion, former Mandal President Naresh Chandra sahu, Mandal in-Charge Pawan Sharma, Jai Singh Rajput, Raman Lal Yadav, general secy. Montu Gupta, Dilip Gupta, Bhushan Dheemar, Preetam Yadav, Raja Swarnakar, Dishan Sinha, Sonu Chandel, Tukesht Sonwani, Jaggu Sonwani, Arpan Tamrakar, Jitendra Sahu, Adarsh Sharma, Tushar Rajput, Akshat Rajput, Purnendra Sonkar, Tejeshwar Janghel and others were present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my client Jagdishwar Prasad Tiwari s/o Karak Tiwari, Rio Ward no 51, Ravindra Nath Tagor Ward, Tikrapara Krishna Nagar, Raipur, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur (C.G.) has purchased all that piece and parcel of land bearing khasra no. 53129 area 0.14 hectare = 1505 sq. ft. situated at Maaja Tikrapara, P.H.N. 114/70, R.N.M. Raipur-11, Tikrapara, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur (C.G.), from Sushila Yadav vide registered sale deed dated 15.09.2008 bearing ST. NO. 2863 (Mha). The said Sushila Yadav had purchased the said property from Shri Mansrakhn & ors Self and through power of attorney holder Chaitabai vide registered sale deed dated 21.12.2000 bearing ST. No. 3798 (Ga). The said registered sale deed dated 21.12.2000 was in the custody of my client and the same has been lost / misplaced by my client. A police report was lodged on dated 30.03.2023.

Subhro Chakravorty Advocate For Ashwini Singh & Associates 207, Orange Hive, Mowa, Raipur (C.G.).

SB State Bank of India tender invitation notice for vehicle sales. Includes details of vehicles for sale and contact information for the bank.

न्यायालय कलेक्टर, एवं जिला दण्डाधिकारी रायपुर नोटिस. न्यायालय कलेक्टर, एवं जिला दण्डाधिकारी रायपुर नोटिस. न्यायालय कलेक्टर, एवं जिला दण्डाधिकारी रायपुर नोटिस.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. Includes details of property sale and contact information.

Bank of Baroda Regional Office, First Floor, Zonal Market, Sector-10 Bhilai (C.G.). Includes information for customers having lockers and contact details.

Bank of Baroda Regional Office: First Floor, Zonal Market, Sector-10, Bhilai- (Chhattisgarh) - 490006. Includes E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable/movable assets.

BRIEF



UP CM Yogi Adityanath with Deputy CMs Brijesh Pathak and Keshav Maurya, UP BJP President Bhupendra Singh and others attend the party's foundation day function, in Lucknow, Thursday.

Acquitted

Thane: A senior citizen, her two sons and one more person were acquitted in a murder-dacoity case by a court in Thane in Maharashtra. On January 10, 2015, the 68-year-old woman, her 41-year-old and 45-year-old sons, all residents of Nashik, and one more person allegedly entered a house in Vashi to carry out an armed dacoity, as per the prosecution.

Awareness

Berhampur: Ahead of the third G20 Education Working Group Meeting at Bhubaneswar from April 27 to 29, students of Industrial Training Institute (ITI) here formed a human-chain in the form of the acronym of the Group of Twenty. Wearing blue and saffron uniforms, 1,500 students, including 400 girls, on Wednesday sat in the playground of the institute as part of the Jan Bhagidari event for the ensuing G20 Education Working Group Meeting in the state capital.

Passport

Srinagar: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltiza has been issued a passport for two years, officials said on Thursday. She had approached the Jammu and Kashmir High Court after the travel document was denied by the passport office citing no clearance from the CID department of police.

Fire

Siliguri: A fire broke out in a plastic bottle manufacturing unit located in a congested area of Siliguri city in Darjeeling district on Thursday evening, a fire brigade official said here. No casualty has been reported.

Rescue

Thane: A 100-year-old woman was rescued after the slab of a ground-plus-one residential structure in Mumbai in Maharashtra's Thane district collapsed on Thursday afternoon, a civic official said. The incident took place at 1:10pm in Rana Nivas in Padlekar Wadi, Thane Municipal Corporation regional disaster management cell chief Avinash Sawant told PTI.

Transfer

Lucknow: Meerut's Assistant Superintendent of Police, who triggered a controversy in the wake of a viral video showing him allegedly demanding money from a businessman, was among three IPS officers transferred by the Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday.

'Anil Antony betrayed his father by joining BJP'

Thrissur (Kerala), Apr 06 (PTI): The Congress here came down heavily on Anil K Antony for joining the BJP, accusing him of "betraying his father and veteran party leader A K Antony on 'Maundy Thursday'". KPCC chief K Sudhakaran said Anil had not been given any party responsibilities and that his joining the BJP was not a matter of concern for the Congress.



K Sudhakaran

"Today (Maundy Thursday) is the day of Judas (Iscairiot) who betrayed Jesus Christ for a payment of 30 silver coins. Many such things will happen on that day. This (Anil joining BJP) should

also be seen as such an incident," Sudhakaran told reporters here.

Reacting sharply, the KPCC chief said it was Anil's "present to his father" on Maundy Thursday. According to

the Bible, one of Christ's twelve disciples, Judas Iscairiot, made an agreement with the authorities to betray Jesus in exchange for 30 pieces of silver, on a Wednesday, which came to be known as Holy Wednesday. On the next day, which came to be known as Maundy Thursday, signifying the Last Supper of Christ, when Jesus joined his disciples after a prayer, Judas kissed him on the cheek to help authorities identify him. Following Judas's betrayal, they took Jesus away and later crucified him on a Friday, which came to be known as Good Friday among Christians.

Viraag Desai wins 'Julius Baer Next Generation Art Prize for Asia'

New Delhi, Apr 06 (PTI):

Viraag Desai from India and five other artists from Hong Kong and Singapore have won the second edition of 'Julius Baer Next Generation Art Prize for Asia'. The other five winners, chosen by a jury of industry experts, are Andre Wee (Singapore), Carla Chan (Hong Kong), Pamela Law (Hong Kong), Natalie Wong (Hong Kong) and Wan Kyn Chan (Singapore). As part of the prize, each of the winners will receive USD 10,000 and embark on a three-month 'Art and Technology Accelerator Programme' to develop their proposed concepts into digital artwork that will be exhibited at a virtual showcase later this year. Touted to be first of its kind in Asia, the pro-

gramme aims to provide access to resources and mentorship from industry experts to help artists develop their ideas and push the boundaries of digital art. "Art converging with technology is still in its early stages, and the prize is an incredible opportunity for me to work with other artists and institutes in South Asia. It's a great honour to be one of the winners — I look forward to digging deep and producing something really exciting for my work," said multimedia artist Desai in a statement. For the award, digital Asian artists aged 21 to 40 were invited to submit artwork concept proposals that address the theme of sustainability or any of the Julius Baer Next Generation investment themes.

Tipra Motha moves HC for immediate poll in TTAADC

Court asks govt to give status

Agartala, Apr 06 (PTI): Tipra Motha filed a writ petition in Tripura High Court for holding the long pending TTAADC village committees poll at the earliest and the court has asked the state government to inform the status of it.

The writ petition was filed in the HC by Tipra Motha spokesperson Anthony Debbarma and party MLA Brishaketu Debbarma on Wednesday and it was heard the same day.

The division bench headed by Chief Justice T Amarchand Goud sought a reply from the state advocate general, who represented the state as well as the State Election

Commission (SEC). The advocate general assured the bench that he would submit the report any day after April 13.

The election to 587 village committees in Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District was due on March 7, 2021, but it is yet to be held.

Tipra Motha, the party which is the second largest in the House, had filed a writ petition in the HC on the issue earlier too and the court had directed the government to take steps for conducting the poll by March this year.

"We filed a fresh writ petition before the High Court on Wednesday seeking early election to the village committees and

the court heard our submission the same day," Anthony Debbarma said.

Alleging that the state government appeared to be reluctant to hold the election in the past two years, Brishaketu Debbarma said polls to Tripura Assembly, civic bodies and urban bodies, however, took place during the period.

Due to the absence of elected bodies, development works have virtually halted in the village committees. The committees have tribal-dominated areas under them, he added. Tipra Motha has 18 members in the 30-seat autonomous council, and the ruling BJP is in the opposition.

'I faced torture in jail, but it couldn't break my belief'

Amravati, Apr 06 (PTI):

Lok Sabha member Navneet Rana on Thursday claimed she had faced "torture" in jail, but it did not break her belief, as she got emotional recalling her imprisonment last year after she gave a call to recite Hanuman Chalisa outside the residence of then Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Addressing a gathering here on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti and her birthday on Thursday, Rana also said Thackeray's pride won't last.

The Independent MP from Amravati and her husband and MLA Ravi Rana were arrested in April last year after they



Navneet Rana

gave a call to recite Hanuman Chalisa hymns outside Thackeray's private residence 'Matoshree' in Mumbai.

They couple later got bail.

Recalling that time, Navneet Rana got emotional and said her children used to ask what she had done and why she was jailed.

"Despite the torture that I had to face in the jail, they could not break my belief," she said.

The parliamentarian said fingers were pointed at her when her husband had come to meet her while she was hospitalised (after imprisonment) and cried on meeting him.

She hit out at Thackeray, saying his "pride and attitude" would not last.

"Lord Ram has vanquished the attitude of many heavyweights," she added.

The MP further targeted Thackeray saying he could not keep his party and its ideology intact, a reference to the vertical split in the Shiv Sena following a rebellion last year which led to the collapse of the Thackeray-led state government.

KARAGA FEST



Devotees attempt to douse the burning camphor at Dharmaraya Swamy temple, lit on fire as part of a ritual during the celebration of the 'Karaga' festival, in Bengaluru, Thursday.

Health For All: W.H.O's commitment in platinum jubilee year

Special on W.H.O. Day April 7



Dr. ARVIND NERAL

The WHO has placed 'health for all' high on the agenda, hoping to drive political and financial commitments from governments. Perhaps mindful of the vagueness that doomed past efforts, W.H.O. has created a new council of economists, health and development experts to advise on the economics of providing everyone with basic healthcare, including

ways to quantify its value. This Year W.H.O. is emphasizing on "Health For All" to commemorate its Platinum Year (1948-2023).

Despite the urgency of the current crisis, the provision of universal health care remains a priority for Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO). It is also enshrined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on the basis that health is a prerequisite for economic growth. Governments, scientists and the public should support this goal, because it's in everyone's best interests. A Focus on specific diseases has derailed efforts to achieve health care for all before. The world must not repeat that mistake in post-covid-19 period. Health strategies to tackle post-pandemic scenario is of paramount importance, but it is vital that these do not overshadow the need to ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to basic health care.

It has been almost a century of calls to provide all people with health care,

democratic scenario is of paramount importance, but it is vital that these do not overshadow the need to ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to basic health care.

The pandemic has amply demonstrated how a lack of reliable health care can render communities vulnerable. Although access to health care isn't the sole factor that determined how well countries fared, its absence clearly fuelled the flames. Many lives have been lost worldwide because hospitals have been overwhelmed. In the United States, COVID-19 deaths have been higher among people on low incomes, who are less likely to have health insurance and therefore less likely to seek medical care promptly.

It has been almost a century of calls to provide all people with health care,

attempts have been stymied by crises and disease-specific interventions. After the economic depression of the 1930s, international health officials working for the League of Nations touted the need for the provision of basic health services by country-wide networks of clinics. This vision was interrupted by the Second World War, but was revived in 1946, when the newly formed United Nations met to write a constitution for the WHO. The constitution stated that health is a human right, and that governments are responsible for the health of their people.

According to Tedros and health-policy experts, the Alma-Ata declaration was undermined by factors including inadequate political leadership, economic crises, political instability and an over-in-

vestment in treating individual diseases. Others have suggested that the movement lacked defined steps backed by evidence, as well as cost-effectiveness assessments. Compare this with the UN children's charity, UNICEF, which in the 1980s vowed to save the lives of four million to five million children a year through well-defined and budgeted programmes to deliver vaccines for diseases including measles, tetanus and polio. Government and philanthropic donors grasped the concept immediately, and UNICEF quickly became one of the larger UN agencies. In 2019, its budget was nearly three times that of the WHO. Childhood immunization programmes save lives, but the lack of investment in strengthening countries' health systems has

led to untold deaths. The answer isn't to stop vaccinations, of course, but to take cues from the success of UNICEF's campaign and the failure of Alma-Ata.

In 2019, the WHO once again turned the focus on health care for all, this time at the first UN high-level meeting on universal health care. A corresponding report stated that to provide all people with primary health care, countries, on average, must increase their spending in this area by 1% of their gross domestic product. And world leaders signed a declaration promising to pursue universal health care in their national context - and provide basic, affordable health services to everyone in the country. To hold them accountable, global health researchers have created an online portal to

track progress towards the attainment of this goal by 2030. Universal health care might seem a lofty goal amid a crisis, but if we do not push for change now, we will regret it. The pandemic has increased the number of people living in extreme poverty, making them more vulnerable to disease. It's infected, killed and traumatized health-care workers everywhere, most devastatingly in places that had too few already. "Our failure to invest in health systems doesn't only leave individuals, families and communities at risk, it also leaves the world vulnerable to outbreaks and other health emergencies."

(Writer is Professor & H.O.D. Department of Pathology, Pt. J.N.M. Medical College, Raipur (C.G.). Views are personal).



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Gold Rally

Good News or Cause for Concern?

The price of gold hit a record high, with experts predicting that it could climb even higher in the global market. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the price of gold rose to an all-time high of Rs 61,145 per 10 gm, while in the international market, the yellow metal hit a 13-month high. Meanwhile, silver rates are also on an upward trend, reaching a 12-month high in the international market and a 22-month high on MCX. The surge in gold and silver rates in the commodity market can be attributed to a number of factors, including weakness in the US dollar, poor US data, the peaking of US Fed interest rates, economic uncertainty, and rising crude oil prices. Experts predict that gold and silver prices will continue to climb, with gold having strong support placed at Rs 59,500 levels in India and \$2,010 levels in the international market, and silver rates having strong support placed at \$23 per ounce in the international market and Rs 70,000 per kg levels in the domestic market. While the current rally in gold prices may be good news for investors, there are concerns that it may not be sustainable. The primary reason for the rise in the precious metals market is the weakening of the US dollar index, which has fallen to a two-month low. However, there is a widening belief that the Fed may not only pause but start slashing rates by the end of 2023. This could lead to a strengthening of the US dollar and a decline in gold prices. In addition to the weakening US dollar, there are other factors that could negatively impact the precious metals market. Weak economic data, such as declining manufacturing activity and job market cooling, could indicate an impending risk of a slowdown in the US economy, which would restrict the Fed's ability to tighten rates and liquidity. Furthermore, the fear of economic uncertainty could lead investors to pull out of the precious metals market and seek safer investments elsewhere. Investors in gold and silver should be cautious and monitor the market closely. While the short-term outlook may be positive, there are potential risks that could cause prices to decline. Investors should consider diversifying their portfolios and investing in a variety of assets to mitigate the risks associated with the precious metals market. While the record-breaking rally in gold and silver prices may be good news for investors in the short term, it is important to exercise caution and consider the potential risks associated with the market. The precious metals market is volatile and subject to a variety of factors that could cause prices to fluctuate. Investors should stay informed, monitor the market closely, and consider diversifying their portfolios to mitigate risk.

Focus on Financial Literacy in India

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

It is widely acknowledged that financial literacy is a critical aspect of achieving financial inclusion in India, as a large segment of the population lacks basic financial knowledge. Poor financial education leads to inadequate financial decision-making and a lack of trust in financial institutions, hindering financial inclusion. India's financial literacy rate is only 24%, compared to the global average of 35%, while developed countries like the US and Canada have rates of 57% and 68%, respectively. To bridge the gap in financial literacy between India and other countries, financial education needs to be integrated into India's education system, providing young people with the knowledge and skills to develop good money habits early in life. Although India is home to 20% of the world's population, only 76% of its adult population is familiar with basic financial concepts. Shockingly, only 5.5% of schools in India offer financial education courses. The government has established the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) to promote financial literacy and create awareness of financial products and services. Private sector companies, including banks and financial institutions, have also launched financial literacy programs that provide workshops, seminars, and online courses to educate people about budgeting, saving, investing, and credit management. With the rise of digital entrepreneurship and cryptocurrency, financial literacy in school students has become increasingly important. The pandemic further highlighted the significance of financial literacy as people were forced to manage their finances. Regulatory bodies in India, such as RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, and PFRDA, prioritize improving financial literacy among small businesses. This is particularly important as small businesses form the backbone of the Indian economy. Financially literate small business owners can make informed decisions about financing, investing, and managing cash flow, leading to better financial outcomes. While these initiatives are commendable, improving financial literacy levels in India requires a long-term effort. Raising financial literacy levels can reduce poverty and boost economic growth, which is essential for the country's development. However, achieving this goal requires individuals to take the initiative to educate themselves about financial management and make informed financial decisions that can help them achieve their financial goals. Incorporating financial education into the education system and making it available to adults in India is crucial to ensure the long-term success of financial literacy initiatives. With sustained efforts from both the government and the private sector, the financial literacy rate in India can be improved, leading to greater financial inclusion and economic growth.

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

PADMA AWARDEES



Padma awardees visit to pay their respects to martyrs at the National War Memorial, in New Delhi, Thursday, April 6.

The Looming Healthcare Crisis in India

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH



India is facing a critical healthcare crisis with a severe shortage of doctors and medicines. The ratio of allopathic doctors to people stands at an alarming one for every 10,000 individuals, while there is only one government hospital for 90,000 people. The lack of access to skilled medical professionals has left innocent and illiterate patients vulnerable to exploitation by untrained or semi-skilled paramedics. In many rural setups, doctors are seldom available, leaving patients to fend for themselves during emergencies. These patients are then referred to tertiary care hospitals, where they often fall prey to fraudulent middlemen and health workers. Moreover, the non-availability of basic medicines continues to be a persistent problem, further exacerbating the situation. Many rural hospitals also suffer from a significant shortage of nurses, which makes it difficult to provide adequate care to patients. The dire state of rural healthcare in India is a ticking time bomb, and urgent measures need to be taken to address this crisis before it's too late.

World Health Day, April 7, provides an opportunity to focus the world's attention on a health problem or issue that deserves special attention. There is an acute shortage of medical staff, infrastructure, and last-mile connectivity in rural areas in the country. 78% of doctors serve urban India (30% of the population), made worse by severe shortfalls in the supply of services (human resources, hospitals, and diagnostic centers in the private/public sector) and grossly unequal availability between and within states. For example, even a well-positioned state like Tamil Nadu has a more than 30% shortage of medical and non-medical professionals in government facilities. 61% PHCs have only one doctor;

while about 7% are functioning without any, 33% PHCs do not have a lab technician, and 20% do not have a pharmacist.

Nearly 50% of all government doctors' posts are lying vacant in many states. India's expenditure on the health sector has increased from 1.2 percent of GDP in 2013-14 to 4 percent in 2017-18. The National Health Policy 2017 had targeted this to be 2.5% of GDP. There is neither a real increase in the health budget nor a policy to strengthen the public/private sector in deficit areas. While Ayushman Bharat provides portability, one should not forget that it will take time to set up hospitals in areas with shortages. This in turn may attract patients to the southern states, which have a compara-

World Health Day, April 7

tively better healthcare infrastructure than the rest of India. As seen recently, there are doubts about the capacity of India's infrastructure to handle the additional load of patients during a pandemic like COVID-19. Medical tourism (foreign tourists/patients) is on the rise as a policy promoted by the government, and so are domestic patients, both insured and uninsured.

Only 11% of sub-centers, 13% of primary health centers, and 16% of community health centers in rural India meet Indian public health standards. There is only one allopathic doctor available for every 10,000 people and one government hospital for 90,000 people. Innocent and illiterate patients or their relatives are exploited. Most centers are run by unskilled or semi-skilled paramedics and doctors are rarely available in rural setups. Patients when in an emergency are referred to tertiary care hospitals where they become more confused and easily duped by a bunch of health workers and middlemen. Non-availability of basic medicines is a persistent problem in India's rural healthcare. In many rural hospitals, the number of nurses is much less than required.

Given the country's crumbling public health infrastructure, most patients are forced to go to private clinics and hospitals. There is a shortage of PHCs (22%) and sub-health centers (20%), while only 7% of sub-health centers and 12% of primary health centers meet the criteria of the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). The northern states hardly have any sub-centers and primary health centers are practically non-existent. The connectivity of the first mile from the primary health center has been

broken. For example, in Uttar Pradesh, there is one PHC for every 28 villages. About 70 percent of health services in India are provided by the private sector. If private healthcare collapses due to economic constraints or other factors, India's entire healthcare system could collapse. More than 70 percent of the total health expenditure is done by the private sector. However, there is not enough presence of private hospitals in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and there is a trend towards super specialization in Tier-1 cities.

The government has launched several policies and health programs but the success has been only partial. The National Health Policy 2002 proposed to increase government spending on health to two to three percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2010, which has not happened yet. Now, the National Health Policy 2017 proposes to take it to 2.5 percent of GDP by 2025. The overall situation with India's flagship program in primary health care, the National Health Mission, remains dismal. The share of NHM in the health budget fell from 73% in 2006 to 50% in 2019, as there was no uniform and substantial increase in health spending by states. There are many determinants for better health such as better drinking water supply and sanitation; improved nutrition outcomes, health, and education for women and girls; Better air quality, and safer roads that are outside the purview of the Ministry of Health.

(Writer is Research scholar, poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Overwhelming victory

India has been overwhelmingly elected to the United Nations Statistical Commission for a four-year term in a competitive election in which China and South Korea are still vying for the remaining Asia Pacific seat. India's expertise in statistics, diversity, and demography has earned it a seat on the United Nations Statistical Commission. The United Nations Statistical Commission, is the highest body of the global statistical system. It is the highest decision making body for international statistical activities, responsible for setting of statistical standards and the development of concepts and methods including their implementation at the national and international levels.

Vijaykumar H K, aichur, Karnataka

Revamp Policing Mechanism

The recent incidents of violence in Bihar and Bengal during Ram Navami celebrations are a clear indication of the failure of the police and civil administration. It's high time that the age-old policing mechanism is done away with. The use of laathi-wielding cops to control mobs with arms is ineffective. The deployment of drones, riot control units, preventive arrests, and adequate deployment could have prevented the plans of anti-social elements to disturb peace. Unfortunately, the cops look to their political masters, leaving law and order at the mercy of criminals. It's time to revamp the policing mechanism and ensure the safety of citizens.

Anil Vinayak, mail

PM's Fight Against Corruption

The recent controversy over the number of convictions of corrupt officials during the NDA rule versus the UPA regime is unnecessary. It was the responsibility of the government at that time to act against corruption. The Prime Minister has every right to give a free hand to the CBI to investigate and prosecute those involved in corruption, no matter how powerful they may be. However, it is important to note that it is ultimately up to the courts to convict or acquit an accused based on the evidence presented by the CBI. We must acknowledge the efforts made by the current government to tackle corruption. It's high time we all work together to fight against corruption and support the PM's efforts to make India a corruption-free nation.

Kumar Gupta, by mail

Digitalization: A sui generis catalyst of Indian economy

Dr. Saurabh Garg

Indispensability of digitalization as a foundational rail to almost every activity in an economy is well acknowledged. Growing internet penetration, affordable data, technological innovations, and above all, the government's thrust on building digital infrastructure is ensuring faster delivery, better targeting, and improved accountability.

The Digital Impact

During the period 2014-2019, India's core digital economy increased from 5.4% to 8.5% of GVA. The digital economy grew 2.4 times faster than the overall economy during the same period. The digitally dependent economy accounted for around 22% of the total economy in 2019, as per an RBI bulletin recently published.

The government's emphasis has been on developing Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) which,

- * ensures public availability of digital components for more participative service delivery systems,
- * triggers market-led innovations,
- * facilitate more affordable & faster on-boarding of services, and

* ensures development of more transparent systems and thus increased user trust.

The cascading effect of Digital India geared towards improving accessibility, affordability, connectivity, and inclusivity is now visible across India. Aadhaar, a key component of digital infrastructure, through its inherent virtue of uniqueness has become an important tool of digital governance in the country. Nearly 1700 welfare and good-governance schemes of the central and state governments using Aadhaar is a testimony to that. Use of Aadhaar has ensured benefits reaching the intended beneficiaries without leakages. For example in PDS, significant reduction in diversion of grains owing to computerized supply chain management, removal of nearly 47 mn fake/duplicate ration cards after Aadhaar seeding of 750 mn PDS beneficiary data and automation of fair price shops resulted into savings worth USD 12 bn. Similarly, in cooking gas subsidy scheme (PAHAL), savings worth USD 8.5 bn and under farmer support scheme, a reduction of 12 mn metric tons of fertilizer sale to retailers resulting into a saving of

USD 1.2 bn have been recorded.

Increasing Digital Penetration

The country currently having more than 1.17 bn mobile telecom subscribers, over 600 mn smartphone users and 840 mn internet connections, a 200 percent increase in rural internet subscriptions between 2015 and 2021 as against 158% increase in urban areas, covering all villages with at least 4G mobile services is set to further reduce the rural-urban digital divide. Efforts are also underway to make the low-cost feature mobile phones even more powerful capability-wise; thus, making the digital economy more inclusive. The recently launched 'Digital India BHASHINI' project seeks to enable easy access to the internet and digital services in regional languages, including voice-based access, is poised to take care of the diversity of languages with aim to provide for solutions in a medium that people can intuitively relate to.

Digital Inclusion driving Formalization

Digitalization accelerates economic growth through higher financial inclusion, greater formalization, increased efficiencies and enhanced

opportunities. Some of the successful digital public infrastructure supporting this endeavour include Aadhaar, UPI, Co-Win, DigiLocker, Diksha etc. In terms of the scale achieved, more than 94.5% of country's population now have Aadhaar; and more than 2.2 bn Aadhaar authentications is happening per month. Similarly 5.5 bn UPI-based payment transactions with a 75-fold increase in last 5 years are made every month; 1.1 bn CoWin registrations; 140 mn users with a DigiLocker account and 5.6 bn official digital documents available in the DigiLocker repository; registration of 286.5 mn unorganized workers on e-shram portal, 4.4 mn street vendors on PM-SVANidhi and 12.7 mn enterprises on Udyam portal; increase in GST payers base from 7 mn to 14 mn during 2017 to 2022 etc. are indicative of how things are shaping up.

Open and Participative Digital Innovations

In India, the supportive environment for innovation by both, government and private players is driving innovations in the digital space. In the domain of new-age technologies such as AI/ML, India is a top contrib-

utor to open-source AI projects. For instance, AI publications from India are growing at 18%, faster than the US, China, EU and the UK. A higher percentage of IT workers in India possess AI skills than any other G20 country.

The government, on its part, is also actively collaborating with industry for designing and testing newer applications/use-cases through a stream of their own captive sandboxes and test-beds. The role of iSpirt for IndiaStack open public platforms, NPCI for fast digital payments, ONDC for open digital commerce, the user entities in the UIDAI ecosystem are some of the examples of the PPP model is speeding up digitalization. India has realized the imperative of using, to the extent possible, standards, technologies and tools that are essentially open-source thus avoiding vendor lock-in and high costs associated with use of proprietary technologies. At the same time, this strategy is also encouraging interoperability among and scalability of, various solutions built on top of open tools, while enabling affordability.

(Writer is CEO, UIDAI)



Aditya Roy Kapur makes a surprising revelation and it includes ice cream!

This Saturday, the entertainment quotient on Sony Entertainment Television's 'The Kapil Sharma Show' will be a notch higher in the presence of the stellar cast of 'Gumraah' - Aditya Roy Kapur, Mrunal Thakur, Deepak Kalra followed by the musicians Mithoon and Vishal Mishra. In conversation with host Kapil Sharma, Aditya Roy Kapur who is known to strictly follow a fitness regime, will reveal what his favourite cheat meal snack is. Elaborating further, Aditya Roy Kapur will explain how he used to eat a half kg ice-cream tub in one go on his cheat day without any guilt. He shares, "Most of the time, I follow a diet so when it comes to enjoying food, one should make use of the cheat meal. There is no use enjoying one or two scoops of ice cream. And ice cream is literally like air. (laughs)." Aditya will also go on to share some fitness tips on how to have a perfect jawline just like his. Tune into The Kapil Sharma Show, airing every Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m. on Sony Entertainment Television!

Vedvika Soni gears up for her Telugu debut in Vikranth-starrer 'Spark'

Model and actress Vedvika Soni who hails from Ahmedabad and did a small cameo in Ravi Teja's film 'Dhamaka', is set to make her Telugu debut alongside Mehreen Pirzada and Vikranth in the psychological action thriller 'Spark', helmed by director Aravind Kumar. Vedvika said: "I started my career back in 2019 when I was in college as a model from Gujarat. Then I tried to come in Mumbai but covid happened so during lockdown I researched a lot about the Telugu industry to find good contacts of filmmakers from there and fortunately one of my favourite and best director Mr Aravind Kumar sir helped me to navigate my career with whom I am working in 2 projects currently out of which one is spark. So post pandemic, I came to Hyderabad and shifted my base here and completed my shoot." Sharing about her role, she said: "I feel very grateful to the universe for lending me an opportunity of doing a lead role. I am essaying a decent working girl who is a software engineer. I didn't prepare anything particularly for the character but my main challenge was to



learn the language. Makers and production team really helped me in picking up the language as they used to translate in hindi and English for me to understand and portray with the right emotions. I took it as a challenge and learned all the dialogues and that's how I portrayed it." Describing her experience working in Telugu industry with her co actors she added: "It was a phenomenal experience as they were very punctual and treated everyone equally. I never felt like having any language barrier as my director and co actors were so supportive and patient towards me understanding and learning Telugu." This action thriller features Nazzar, Suhasini Maniratnam, Shayaji Shinde, Vennela Kishore, Satya, Srikanth, Kiran Ayyangar, Annapurna, and many other well-known actors.

Bipasha Basu, Karan Singh Grover finally share a picture of daughter Devi



Filmmaker-actress Bipasha Basu and her husband Karan Singh Grover became proud parents to a baby girl last November. They have been very private and protective about their daughter's pictures being out in the public domain. But now, the pair has let the guard down and shared her first picture by themselves on social media. The 'Race' actress took to her Instagram recently to share 2 images of Devi. The adorable

hearts of the acting couple's fans. Bipasha wrote in the caption: "Hello world a I am Devi #devibusingsinghgrover." The couple's industry friends reacted to the picture and took to the comments section to share their blessings. Dia Mirza blessed Devi in the comments section, and wrote: "God bless you Devi. I love you! And can't wait to hold you." Vivan Bhatena called her "sunshine" and Kajal Aggarwal called her the "cutest little munchkin."

Sonali Kukreja is on cloud nine working with Gautam Rode for 'Mujhse Pehle'

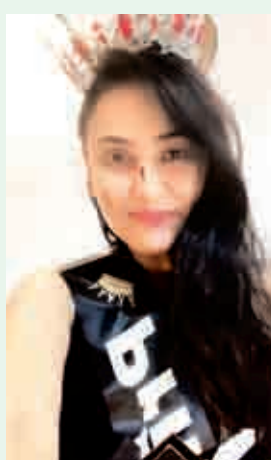
Sonali Kukreja is on cloud nine after working alongside popular actor Gautam Rode in the latest music video, 'Mujhse Pehle', been sung by Saaj Bhatt. This is Sonali's second music video after her debut was 'Banna Re'. The model-actor shared how much she is enjoying facing the camera and is keen on taking up more work. She begins by talking about her background. Talking about her journey in the entertainment industry, she shared: "I was born and raised in Delhi, in a Punjabi family. Since childhood I was always inclined towards acting and was active in the drama community in school and college. While in college, I started teaching students but somewhere my passion was towards something else, which I realised later when I got my first modeling assignment in Delhi." "From there I started my career as a fashion model and soon many new



opportunities came my way. That's when I shifted to Mumbai. Since then I have been a part of a lot of fashion shoots, ads and lately, explored my interest in acting which is my new love now. After attending formal workshops, I loved the whole process and started getting opportunities," she added.

A birthday to remember!

Sapna Sikarwar, who plays Bimlesh in &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, will turn a year old on April 8. The actress is excited to celebrate her birthday with her husband and darling daughter this year. Sharing birthday plans, Sapna Sikarwar says, "My life revolves around my husband, Trilok Singh, and daughter, Maanya. And I am planning to celebrate my birthday with my live wires. We will go to a nearby temple to seek God's blessing before distributing homemade food to those in need. It's like a yearly ritual for me. It gives me a sense of accomplishment and makes my day extra special. After that, we will drive near the beach, as my daughter and I enjoy spending time in the sand and water. But the most exciting part of the day would be having dinner with them and a few of our close friends, who I hardly meet due to my hectic shooting schedule." Recalling her most memorable birthday Sapna reveals, "My birthdays have always been special, and I like celebrating them with my loved ones. But one birthday I will never forget was the day I burst into tears of joy. Trilok was my sup-



port system during my struggle days. We were in a relationship at the time. On one of my birthdays at the time, he did not wish me all day. Initially, I assumed he avoided wishing me on purpose and would do so later. But as the day progressed, he did not call or message me, which upset me. Finally, I decided to meet him in the evening. But when I arrived at his house, his door was locked. He was not picking up my calls or replying to my messages. I began to feel restless and was about to burst into tears. But finally, he opened the door, and to my surprise, he had decorated the entire house with roses, my favourite flowers, and our mutual friends were also present to surprise me."

Audience loves woman-oriented stories, says Radhika Apte

'Vaaah! Life Ho Toh Aisi!' actress Radhika Apte, who is seen playing Durga, a housewife and an undercover agent in the spy comedy 'Mrs Undercover', said she fell in love with her character the minute she heard the script. Radhika said that now-a-days, women-led films are getting more eyeballs from the viewers. She said: "I think the premise of the film was really exciting for me. We live in a country where there is a lot of patriarchy and so many women slog days and nights to keep their families happy, and yet go unnoticed so I think it did resonate with me and what I like about Durga is her innocence, her naivety, her clumsiness and even her journey of discovering herself. I think that was really good." Radhika, who is known for 'Raati Akeeli Hai', 'Monica, O My Darling', and an American film, 'A Call To Spy', said women-oriented subjects are liked by the audience. "I mean it's high time that we have equality, the world is changing and now everyone is fighting for equal rights, equal pay, equal job opportunities and equal



recognition. Film industry is just a reflection of what is going around in society and the world is changing very slowly and yet some parts of the world aren't and I think that's just why we are getting some better parts," she added.

Gaurika to mesmerize audiences in 'Shravani'

Get ready to embark on an adventure filled with love, devotion, and sacrifice with Shemaroo Umang's latest offering, 'Shravani'! This highly anticipated daily soap is inspired by the legendary character of Shrivani from mythology and promises to be a thrilling ride with unexpected twists and turns at every corner. Adding to the excitement is the talented child actress Gaurika Sharma who will be playing the lead role of Shrivani. With her incredible talent and energy, Gaurika is sure to bring the character to life in unforgettable ways. Sharma's incredible talent and dedication, she is all set to bring the character to life and make you fall in love with her.



Speaking about her role, Gaurika Sharma said, "I am so happy to be a part of Shrivani! Playing the role of Shrivani is amazing. She is such a kind and happy person, and I am trying my best to be like her. Everyone on the team is really nice, and I am having so much fun on set. I hope people like watching me on the show and give me lots of love!"

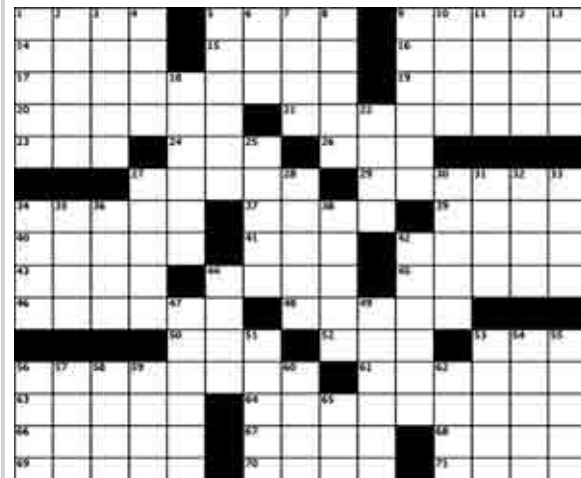
While the plot details are still under wraps, we can guarantee that "Shravani" will be a unique and engaging show that will tug at your heartstrings. Stay tuned with Shemaroo Umang for the latest updates on this enchanting tale. Get ready for a journey you won't forget!

Alibaba - Ek Andaz Andekha: Chapter 2 to witness SimSim emerge once again



Alibaba - Ek Andaz Andekha: Chapter 2 is Sony SAB's full family entertainer that follows Ali (Abhishek Nigam) on his many adventures. The show has captured the hearts of its audience through its gripping narrative and lovable characters. Recently, the viewers witnessed Marjeena (Manul Chudasama) yielding a sword to rescue Ali from the clutches of the Headless Woman.

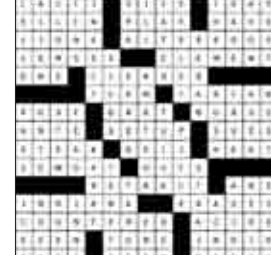
CROSSWORD



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 - Portland's state
 - Article
 - Embellishes
 - Simpler
 - Short skirts
 - Lustrous fabric
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 - _____ culpa

SOLUTION 609



SRH look for inspiration from new skipper Markram against LSG



Lucknow, Apr 06 (PTI):

Jolted by a crushing defeat in their campaign opener, Sunrisers Hyderabad will be bolstered by the return of their South African recruits, including new skipper Aiden Markram, when they play Lucknow Super Giants in an away IPL match here on Friday.

In the absence of Markram, Bhuvneshwar Kumar led SRH in their opening game, which they lost by a huge 72-run margin against Rajasthan Royals.

But in a big boost to the team, Markram and two fellow South Africans -- Marco Jansen and Heinrich Klaassen -- have

joined the side after completing their national duty.

SRH finished last in 2021 and eighth among 10 teams last year and they will bank on Markram's leadership skills to deliver results this season.

However, if the opening game is anything to go by, SRH cut a sorry figure as they struggled against RR, who dominated both the powerplays -- racking up 85 for 1 first and then conceding just 30 for 2 in the first six overs while defending 203 for 5.

Coached by the legendary Brain Lara, SRH will look to put up a much better show, especially in the powerplay on Friday.

The arrival of the South African players came as a

big relief for SRH as Markram, apart from his tactical acumen, can provide solidity to the batting line-up and Jansen can add teeth to their pace department.

Save T Natarajan (2/23), none of the seamers could put up a fight against RR. While Afghanistan's Fazalhaq Farooqi claimed two wickets, he ended up conceding 41 runs in four overs, while Bhuvneshwar, despite all his experience, was not good enough.

Umaran Malik claimed a wicket but he too was expensive, bleeding 32 in 3 overs.

In the spin department, Washington Sundar and Adil Rashid had an ordi-

nary day and they will have to buck up if SRH want to put the opponent batters under pressure.

In the batting department, Mayank Agarwal looked good but other Indians -- Abhishek Sharma and Rahul Tripathi -- failed to open their accounts, making the top-order an area of concern.

While wicketkeeper-batter Glenn Phillips and Harry Brooks are exciting players, they will have to get into the groove quickly.

For LSG, skipper KL Rahul's form is cause of concern as he failed to capitalise on his starts but Kyle Mayers produced some extraordinary hitting during his two blistering fifties in the last two matches.

Even though the batters failed to take LSG home against Chennai Super Kings, overall they have chipped in when required.

Among bowlers, Ravi Bishnoi has been impressive with five wickets so far, while England pacer Mark Wood blew away Delhi Capitals with a five-wicket haul in their opening match and also accounted for three scalps in their last game.

However, LSG bowlers have erred in their lengths at times and they would be looking to keep a check on the runs as it is a game of small margins.

India hope for another good show

■ AFC Olympic Qualifiers Round 1

Bishkek, Apr 06 (PTI):

Buoyed by their comprehensive 5-0 victory against Kyrgyz Republic in the first game of the AFC Olympic Qualifiers Round 1, the Indian women's team will hope to build on the momentum when they take on the hosts in the second leg here on Friday.

The Thomas Dennerby-coached Indian side had returned to winning ways after five disappointing results in the first three months of the year, defeating Kyrgyz Republic at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium on Tuesday in the first of the two-legged Group G tie.

With four different players finding the back of the net, there's renewed enthusiasm in the side that they can come up with another commanding performance when the two teams meet in the second leg. A double strike from Anju Tamang, a clinical volley from Soumya Guguloth in the first half and two more goals from Shikly Devi and Renu in the second half were enough for India to secure an emphatic win.

"In the first game, we were desperate for goals, because we had gone in without many of our big goal scorers," Dennerby said.

"Tomorrow, I want the team to keep another clean sheet. We will get chances, I have no doubt, but I want the players to repeat their defensive solidity from the first game," said the Swedish tactician.

Argentina moves top of FIFA rankings



Zurich, Apr 06 (AP):

World Cup winner Argentina topped the FIFA rankings on Thursday for the first time in six years. Argentina's two wins in friendlies last month ended the one-year run at the top for Brazil, which lost to Morocco 2-1 and fell to No. 3. France, the World Cup beaten finalist, followed Argentina in rising one place, to No. 2. France won back-to-back European Championship qualifiers against No. 6 the Netherlands and Ireland.

Belgium stayed at No. 4, with England next after two wins including beating No. 8 Italy. Europe completed the top 10 with No. 7 Croatia followed by Italy, Portugal and Spain.

India rises five places to 101

New Delhi: The Indian men's football team on Thursday moved up five places to be at 101st spot in the FIFA rankings, riding on the wins over Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan in the recent Tri-nation tournament. The 1-0 and 2-0 wins over Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan respectively in Imphal last month ensured that India gained 8.57 rating points and five spots, up from the previous 106th spot, to be just one place away from top-100. This was the first ranking chart of the year -- the previous one was on December 22 last. India is now one place below New Zealand and one place above Kenya. With 1200.66 total points, the Igor Stimac-coached team is, however, at 19th place among 46 Asian nations. India's best ranking was 94th, attained in 1996. The country had rarely breached the top-100. World champions Argentina rose one place to be on top of the list, followed by France, Brazil, Belgium, England, Netherlands, Croatia, Italy, Portugal and Spain in the top 10. Japan is the top-ranked side among the Asian countries.

Morocco, which has joined the Spanish and Portuguese in a 2030 World Cup bidding plan, stayed at No. 11 to lead African teams. The United States was still No. 13, two ahead of regional rival Mexico. Canada, the other North American co-host of the 2026 World Cup, rose six to No. 47. Japan at No. 20 was the best of the Asian teams, and 2022 World Cup host Qatar fell to No. 61.

Williamson to undergo surgery



Wellington, Apr 06 (PTI):

Kane Williamson is likely to miss the ODI World Cup in India later this year as the New Zealand skipper is set to undergo a surgery for the treatment of his right knee which he injured while playing for Gujarat Giants in the ongoing IPL. Following the injury,

■ Likely to miss ODI World Cup

Williamson returned to New Zealand and the scans have confirmed that he has ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) of his right knee. Williamson suffered the injury while fielding for the holders against Chennai Super Kings in Ahmedabad.

According to New Zealand Cricket statement, the right-handed batter will go under the knife within the next three weeks. On receiving the news, Williamson acknowledged the support he had received from his franchise and NZC following the injury. "I've received great support over the past few days and want to thank both the Gujarat Titans and New Zealand Cricket for that," he said.

Madrid tops Barcelona 4-0 at Camp Nou with Benzema hat trick

Barcelona, Apr 06 (AP):

Barcelona entered the final "clasico" of the season with a chance of earning a fourth straight win against Real Madrid in the same season for the first time. But when it was all over, it had endured one of its worst ever home losses to its archrival. With another hat trick by Karim Benzema, Madrid overturned Barcelona's advantage in the Copa del Rey semifinals with a resounding 4-0 win at Camp Nou Stadium to reach the final for the first time in nearly a decade.

Madrid hadn't beaten Barcelona by four goals at Camp Nou since a 5-1 win



in 1963. Vinacius Junior also scored as Madrid advanced 4-1 on aggregate after having lost the first leg 1-0 at home. Benzema also had a hat trick in Madrid's 6-0 rout of Valladolid in the Spanish league on Sunday.

Madrid will face Osasuna in the May 6 final in Seville. Osasuna eliminated Athletic Bilbao 2-1 on aggregate after a 1-1 draw in extra time on Tuesday in Bilbao, reaching the final for the first time since losing the title match against Real Betis in 2005.

Madrid hadn't made it to the final since 2014, when it beat Barcelona to win the last of its 19 Copa titles.

We're just one hit away from win: Samson after loss to PBKS



Guwahati, Apr 06 (PTI):

Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson has blamed the dip in momentum in the middle overs during their stiff chase as the reason behind the five-run loss against Punjab Kings in the IPL here.

Chasing a tricky 198-run target on Wednesday, RR could manage 192 for 7 in the end. "We started off really well, we finished the powerplay really well. In the middle overs, we were expecting to get the boundaries here and there but they bowled really well. That's where I think the momentum went a bit down," Samson said at the post-match press conference. "We did well to get so close also after the fall in our run rate. We just fell short of a six, just one ball hit away." While chasing the target, Ravichandran Ashwin accompanied Yashasvi Jaiswal at the top for RR instead of Jos Buttler. And Samson revealed the reason behind the move. "Jos (Buttler) had a small injury. He was doing his stitches as while fielding he got injured. So the physio wanted some time, time was not there to get the stitches and go to open. The move was to send Ashwin bhai and then holding everyone back. "He (Buttler) seems fine, I think he should be fine," Samson said.

Mark Wood wants to prove he's among best in business in IPL



Lucknow, Apr 06 (PTI):

England and Lucknow Super Giants pacer Mark Wood wants to prove that he is among the best in the business in the IPL after his disappointing debut in the cash-rich T20 league five years ago.

Wood bowled four wicketless overs for Chennai Super Kings, conceding 49 runs, back in 2018 in his

only IPL match before this season. He is now looking for redemption, having taken eight wickets in LSG's first two matches so far. "I felt like I had a bit of unfinished business, in terms of trying to come here and prove myself on a big stage," Wood said ahead of LSG's match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Friday. "I've played for England in World Cup finals (50-over and T20 both) but I hadn't cracked in IPL. So this time, I'm trying my best to prove that I can be in the mix in IPL, with the best players. (I will) try to prove a point, that I'm up to this standard."

Wood took 5 for 14 against Delhi Capitals and then 3 for 49 in Monday night's defeat to Chennai Super Kings. "I don't think I was really prepared for CSK at that time. I played one match and I got smashed," Wood said about his first IPL experience in 2018. "I had just come off the back of a Test match tour (in New Zealand) and I hadn't prepared well. That was my own fault, I went into that game a bit under-prepared and didn't do myself justice."

Top-seed Pegula, past champ Keys advance in Charleston Open



Jessica Pegula

Charleston (US), Apr 06 (AP):

Top-seeded Jessica Pegula and past champion Madison Keys easily won second-round matches at the Charleston Open. Pegula, the American ranked third in the world, needed less than 65 minutes to beat Anna Blinkova of Russia 6-2 6-0. Keys, an American who took this title in 2019, worked a couple of minutes more (69) to oust countrywoman Hailey Baptiste 6-1 6-2 in the season's opening clay-court tournament.

Pegula said the tournament at the Credit One Tennis Center feels familiar to her since she used to train at the facility when

she grew up on Hilton Head Island, about two hours south of Charleston.

"It was a fun kind of period of my life, like maturing and growing into my career, and, yeah, figuring things out," she said. "So it was a great time, and I loved everyone here."

Pegula used a strong service game and steady groundstrokes to win the first four games of the match. She finished winning more than 71 per cent of her first serves and did not have a double fault.

"I guess that's how you want to play first match on clay and with a quick turnaround coming off the hard court," Pegula said. "So just glad I got a good win."

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RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



A devotee dressed as Lord Hanuman takes part in a religious procession on the occasion of 'Hanuman Jayanti', in Varanasi, Thursday.

Oppn parties slam Modi govt, vow to strengthen unity in ranks

New Delhi, Apr 06 (PTI):

Opposition parties, including the Congress, TMC, BRS and Samajwadi Party, came together in a show of unity on Thursday and accused the Modi government of getting the second half of the budget session washed out, while asserting that if this attitude continues, the country will move towards a "dictatorship".

With tricolour in hand, several Opposition MPs marched from Parliament to Vijay Chowk and then representatives of 19 parties held a press conference at the Constitution Club where Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge



Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge with BRS MP K. Keshava Rao, DMK MP TR Baalu and fellow opposition MPs addresses a joint press conference following their 'Tiranga March', in New Delhi, Thursday.

and other leaders resolved to take the Opposition unity further. Kharge accused the Narendra Modi government of not walking the talk on democratic principles and causing disruptions in Parliament to

divert attention from the Opposition's demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the Adani issue. In a boost to Opposition unity, the Trinamool Congress, Bharat Rashtra Samithi,

the Aam Aadmi Party and the Samajwadi Party, which had been blowing hot and cold on sharing stage with the Congress on earlier occasions, participated in the march and the presser to give a joint call

against the government on issues such as the Adani matter, price rise and alleged attack on democracy.

In his remarks at the press conference, Kharge said, "The budget of Rs 50-lakh crore was passed in just 12 minutes, but they (BJP) always alleged that the opposition parties have no interest and they kept disturbing the House."

"The disturbance was created by the ruling party. Whenever we made a demand or gave a notice, we were not allowed to speak. This has happened for the first time in my public life of 52 years and never has such a thing happened earlier," he said.

Focus on MCQs, weightage for short and long answer questions reduced

New Delhi, Apr 06 (PTI):

The CBSE has revamped its assessment scheme for class 10 and 12 board exams to be conducted in 2024 by introducing more Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and reducing the weightage for questions requiring short or long answers, according to officials.

The move is aimed at progressively aligning assessment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recommendations,

they said. The change, however, might be limited to 2023-24 academic session only as the board exams are likely to be reformed next year with the introduction of new National Curriculum Framework (NCF). "The National Education Policy, 2020, has affirmed the need to move from rote learning to learning more focused on developing the creative and critical thinking capacities of students to meet the challenges of the 21st century proactively. The board is initiating changes in the examination and assessment

CBSE clarifications...

In class 10, 50 per cent questions will be competency-based in the form of MCQs, case-based questions, source-based integrated questions or any other type. The weightage for such questions in the last academic session was 40 per cent. The objective questions will now necessarily be MCQs with 20 per cent weightage. The weightage for short answer and long answer type questions has been reduced to 30 per cent from 40 per cent last year. Similarly, in class 12, 40 per cent of the questions will be competency focused in the form of MCQs, case-based questions, source-based integrated questions or any other type. The weightage for such questions in the last academic session was 30 per cent. In class 12 too, the objective questions will now necessarily be MCQs with 20 per cent weightage. The weightage for short answer and long answer type questions has been reduced to 40 per cent from 50 per cent last year.

practices for the academic session 2023-24 to align assessment to Competency Focused Education," said Joseph Emanuel, Director, CBSE (Academics). "Therefore, in the forthcom-

ing session a greater number of Competency Based Questions or questions that assess application of concepts in real-life situations will be part of the question paper," he added.

Jairam, Scindia trade barbs over role of Scindias in 1857

New Delhi, Apr 06 (PTI):

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday engaged in a war of words over the historical role of the Scindias in 1857 and took swipes at each other over their politics and ideology. It all started with Scindia's scathing criticism of Rahul Gandhi and the Congress at a BJP press conference on Wednesday.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh hit back at Scindia and former party colleague Gulam Nabi Azad on Twitter, saying both have been huge beneficiaries of the

Congress system and its leadership.

"With every passing day, they give powerful evidence that this generosity to them was undeserved. They reveal their true character which they kept hidden for so long," he said, slamming Scindia and Azad. Hitting out at Ramesh, Scindia said such statements clearly show how much dignity and ideology is left in the Congress.

"You are devoted to yourself anyway; your politics is alive on this. Me and my family have always been answerable to the public," the Union civil aviation minister said in a

tweet in Hindi. Reacting to Scindia's traitor barb at the Congress, Ramesh in a tweet asked has he forgotten Subhadra Kumari Chauhan's immortal poem on the Rani of Jhansi.

In the poem, the Scindias are referred to as the friends of the British. Hitting back at Ramesh, Scindia said, "Read history more rather than poetry".

Scindia also posted excerpts from Jawaharlal Nehru's 'Glimpses of World History' -- "Thus they (Marathas) had practically inherited the Delhi Empire. The Marathas remained to challenge British supremacy. But the Maratha power went

to pieces after the death of Mahadji Scindia."

"The Marathas defeated the British in the South in 1782. In the north, Scindia of Gwalior was dominant and controlled the poor hapless Emperor of Delhi," another excerpt cited by Scindia read.

Tagging his tweets, Ramesh said, pick up any history book and all historians are unanimous on the issue of betrayal with Rani Jhansi in 1857. "Your new God Savarkar has also mentioned Scindia's betrayal of Rani Laxmibai, Taty Tope and others in his book," he said, asking Scindia to "read history".

EYE ON 2024 LS POLLS

BJP launches 'Ek Baar Phir Se Bhajpa Sarkar' campaign

New Delhi, April 06 (PTI):

On the occasion of the BJP's 44th foundation day on Thursday, party chief JP Nadda launched the "Ek Baar Phir Se Bhajpa Sarkar" wall painting campaign here with an eye on next year's Lok Sabha elections.

Launching the campaign at the Bengali Market area, Nadda said the BJP's graph increased rapidly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his mantra of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" will be taken to everyone through the campaign.

Nadda also unfurled the party flag at the BJP headquarters where he addressed leaders and workers. "Under Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the BJP has left its imprint from Kutch to the northeast and from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Modi is ensuring last-mile delivery on the basis of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas,' the BJP president said.

Urging the party workers not to rest on their laurels, Nadda said, "Under the prime minister's leadership, the BJP has established globally that a political party also has its work in service." Nadda also paid tribute to senior leaders for nurturing the party.

Lauding Modi, Nadda said, "Under his leadership, the all-time high record was broken and the BJP registered the biggest victory in history. Governments were

formed for the second time with a record mandate in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland. In Goa, the BJP formed the government for a third time."

The way the BJP has won the hearts of the people in the northeast under the leadership of the prime minister is unprecedented, he added.

BJP leaders in Delhi, including state unit chief Virendra Sachdeva, also took part in the wall painting campaign at different locations.

Party leaders and workers celebrated the BJP's foundation day at 14,000 places, including over 13,000 polling booths, and also listened to addresses by Modi and Nadda.

It's raining cash, liquor, gold and freebies

In poll-bound K'taka

Bengaluru, Apr 06 (PTI): It's raining cash, gold, liquor and freebies in poll-bound Karnataka ever since the election dates were announced. On Thursday, various teams seized cash of Rs 4.45 crore in Nippani, Bhadravathi, Gadag and Nargund, an election commission bulletin said. Apart from this, 62,826 litres of liquor worth nearly Rs 1.89 crore was confiscated by the Excise Department.

The Static Surveillance Team seized 725 grams of gold worth nearly Rs 45 lakh in Dharwad constituency of Dharwad district while the Flying Squad Team seized freebies worth more than Rs 34 lakh in Byatarayanapura Constituency in Bengaluru city, the bulletin said. On Thursday, cash of Rs 4.61 crore, 395 grams of gold worth Rs 21.25 lakh and 28 kg gold worth Rs 19 lakh were seized in Belagavi's Khanapur Taluk.

Contaminated sewage could have furthered SARS-CoV-2 transmission

At Huanan Seafood Market

New Delhi, Apr 6 (PTI):

Scientists say that the contaminated sewage flowing through the sewerage system of the Huanan Seafood Market (HSM) could have played a role in advancing the high environmental presence of SARS-CoV-2 virus, leading its extensive distribution.

The scientists from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), China, along with those from other institutes, say that one of the possibilities included infected people and/or animals in the market contaminating the sewage.

They are part of a team investigating the potential introduction of SARS-

CoV-2 to the market and have published their findings in the journal Nature.

They also found that none of the animal samples, including those from stray animals at the market, tested positive for the virus. Human cases with COVID-19 were first reported in late December 2019, in Wuhan, China, as pneumonia of unknown etiology (PUE).

While there have been multiple research papers published on the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the origins and the role of the Huanan Seafood Market (HSM) in the origins and spread of SARS-CoV-2 remain unclear. The current research on the data from the HSM could provide important information, the scientists said in the study.

Located in the Jiangnan District in the downtown

area of Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province, China, and occupying an area of more than 50,000 square metres (sqm), the HSM has 678 stalls located close to each other under extremely crowded conditions.

10 of these 678 stalls, identified as per sale records to have sold domesticated wildlife, were located in the south-western corner of West Zone (8 out of 10) and north-western corner of East Zone (2 out of 10), which are zones into which the HSM is divided. Seafood and animals mainly were sold in the West Zone and livestock meat in the East Zone.

Analysing sale records of late December 2019, it was found that a range of animals including snakes, avian species (chickens, ducks, geese,

pheasants and doves), rabbits, giant salamanders were sold in these 10 stalls, among which snakes, salamanders and crocodiles were traded as live animals. The market was closed on the morning of January 1, 2020, shortly after the identification of the PUE.

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