



BRIEF



Restoration work underway at the site of the accident involving three trains, near Bahanaga Bazar railway station in Balasore district, Sunday.

Convict

■ **Thane:** A court in Maharashtra's Thane district convicted a Nationalist Congress Party leader accused of ransacking an ashram and attacking its inmates in 2015. Sessions judge at Kalyan court Shaikat S Gorwade convicted Aashish Anand Damale (35), the president of the NCP's Badlapur city unit, of charges under section 147 (rioting), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

Suicide

■ **Mumbai:** A 23-year-old man has been arrested along with his sister for alleged abetment of suicide after his girlfriend ended her life in BKC area in Mumbai by consuming poison, a police official said on Sunday. The 19-year-old girl woman ended her life last month as the accused had refused to marry her, he said.

Spotted

■ **Nagpur:** At least 30 crocodiles and a Leith's soft-shell turtle were spotted during the first survey of these reptiles at Pencil Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra's Nagpur district, an official said on Sunday. The first crocodile and turtle survey at the reserve was held from June 2 to 4, the PTR's (Maharashtra) deputy director Prabhu Nath Shukla said in a release.

Watery grave

■ **Agra:** Four men drowned while bathing in the Yamuna River near Hathi Ghat here, police said on Sunday. On Saturday, Tushar, Sonu, Sachin and Ritik, all residents of Naulakha in Sadar Bazar, went to Tajganj crematorium to attend the last rite of a neighbour, Raj Kumar Singh incharge at Itmad-ud-daulah Police Station said.

Booked

■ **Palghar:** The police have registered offences against five persons for allegedly practicing medicine without valid registration in Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Sunday. Offences under relevant sections of the IPC, Medical Practitioners Act 1961 and Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 have been registered at Tulinj, Valiv and Pelhar police stations, following an inspection by a medical team from the Virar Vasai Municipal Corporation, the official said.

Security

■ **Chandigarh:** Security has been stepped up in Punjab's Amritsar ahead of the 39th anniversary of Operation Bluestar on June 6, said police on Sunday.

Weather High 41 Low 27

ODISHA TRAIN CRASH

Railways recommends CBI probe

Bhubaneswar Jun 04 (PTI):

The Railway Board has recommended a CBI probe into the triple train accident that claimed 275 lives and left over 1,000 injured," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters in Bhubaneswar on Sunday evening.

"We have recommended a CBI probe into the triple train accident that claimed 275 lives and left over 1,000 injured," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters in Bhubaneswar on Sunday evening. The Centre along with the support of the state government are giving all support to the injured patients who are admitted to various hospitals in Balasore, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

"Patients are being given all facilities in hospitals. There are teams of doctors who are taking care of patients round-the-clock," Vaishnaw said. He said the government was trying to get in touch with the families of the deceased.

"We are trying to get in touch with families of the dead," the Minister added. The Odisha government on Sunday revised the



Relatives identify photos of passengers displayed by the authorities following Friday's accident involving three trains, at NOCCI Business Park in Balasore district, Sunday.

triple train accident's death toll to 275 from 288, and put the number of injuries at 1,175.

Chief Secretary P K Jena said some bodies were counted twice. "After detailed verification and a report by Balasore District Collector, the final

toll has been fixed at 275," he said. Three trains Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express, Bengaluru-Howrah super fast and a goods train were involved in the pile-up on Friday, now being described as one of India's worst train accidents. The

Coromandel Express rammmed into a stationary goods train and many of its carriages overturned including some onto another train - the Bengaluru-Howrah super-fast express which was also passing by at the same time on Friday.

Virtual clean chit to Coromandel Express driver

Top officials say train received green signal, was not over-speeding. The railways on Sunday said the Coromandel Express was "not over-speeding" and received the green signal to enter a loop line on which a goods train was stationary, virtually clearing its driver of any role behind the accident that killed 288 people in Odisha's Balasore district.

Two key officials of the Railway Board -- Principal Executive Director of Signalling Sandeep Mathur and Member of Operation and Business Development Jaya Varma Sinha -- explained how the accident might have occurred. They described the functioning of the interlocking system which prima facie seemed to have been part of the problem which led to the accident, in which at least 288 people were killed. They said the direction, route and signal were set for the Coromandel Express.

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Balasore rail accident: main line tracks repaired

Bhubaneswar, Jun 04 (PTI):

Two days after one of India's worst train accidents at Bahanaga Bazar in Odisha's Balasore district, two railway tracks have been made fit to carry trains after bulldozers and cranes removed capsized coaches on the main trunk line connecting eastern and southern India.

The government on Sunday said both the Up and Down railway tracks at Balasore accident site have been repaired.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw tweeted that track linking Up-line has been restored and overhead electrification work has also started.

"Track linking of Up-line has been done at 16.45 hours. Overhead electrification work started," Vaishnaw tweeted on Sunday.

He had earlier tweeted that the down line which links Howrah has been restored.

Officials said this implies that at least one set of railway tracks were now fit for trains, but more time will be required to fix all tracks, which include loop lines, at the Balasore accident site.

The Odisha government on Sunday also revised the triple train accident's death toll to 275 from 288, and put the number of in-

juries at 1,175. Chief Secretary P K Jena told newsmen some bodies were counted twice.

"After detailed verification and a report by Balasore District Collector, the final toll has been fixed at 275," he said.

Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Dharmendra Pradhan who have camped here visited the railway accident site Sunday.

Pradhan added that "rescue work is over we are working with the local administration to send people affected back home."

"By Tuesday we should be able to do it," Pradhan said. Later, Vaishnaw said on Sunday that the root cause of the accident has been identified.

The change that was made to electronic interlocking which led to the accident has been identified, Vaishnaw said while denying that the incident had anything to do with the anti-collision system "Kavach".

"The inquiry into the accident has been completed and as soon as the commissioner of railway safety (CRS) provides his report all the details will be known.

"The root cause of the horrifying incident has been identified... I do not want to go into details. Let the report come out," the railway minister said.

Goddess Durga idol set ablaze near river

■ Police register FIR

Rajnandgaon, Jun 04:

A statue of Goddess Durga was set on fire by unidentified persons in a village in Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district, a police official said on Sunday.

The incident took place in Sarkheda village on Saturday after which a First Information Report was lodged against unidentified persons, the Aundhi police station official said. "As per preliminary information, some persons took out the idol from a temple and set it ablaze on the bank of a nearby river. After being

About the incident

As per preliminary information, some persons took out the idol from a temple and set it ablaze on the bank of a nearby river. After being alerted about the incident, a police team arrived and the burnt statue was recovered from the spot. Based on the complaint of some residents, a case was registered under Indian Penal Code sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship, with intent to insult the religion of any class).

alerted about the incident, a police team arrived and the burnt statue was recovered from the spot," he said. Based on the complaint of some residents, a case was registered under Indian Penal Code sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth,

residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship, with intent to insult the religion of any class), the official added. Sources said people in the vicinity plan to protest in Aundhi against the incident later in the day.

Excise Case

HC to pronounce order on Sisodia's interim bail plea today

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court will on Monday pronounce its order on AAP leader Manish Sisodia's plea seeking interim bail for six weeks in a money laundering case arising from the alleged excise policy scam.

The former Delhi deputy chief minister has sought release on a temporary basis on the ground of being the sole caretaker of his ailing wife. His plea for regular bail in the matter is pending before the high court. Sisodia, who was arrested on March 9, is currently

in judicial custody in the case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The verdict on the interim bail plea will be pronounced by Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma. It was reserved on Saturday when Sisodia's lawyer had claimed that pursuant to the court's directions passed on Friday, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader was taken in custody to meet his wife earlier in the day but the latter's health condition deteriorated and she was taken to be the LNJP Hospital before he could reach home.

Odisha train crash: Love poems found scattered on tracks

Kolkata, June 04:

Scattered sheets of paper, with poems in Bengali professing love, were strewn on the tracks beside a mangled coach of the Coromandel Express as rescuers rummaged through belongings of the victims at the rail mishap site in Odisha's Balasore district, less than 48 hours after the train crash, billed as one of the worst in Indian railway history. The jottings on torn pages of a diary with sketches of elephants, fish and sun on the other side, were probably written during the leisure time of a passenger whose identity is not known as yet.

Monsoon misses onset date in Kerala

■ IMD says conditions becoming favourable

New Delhi, June 04 (PTI)

The monsoon missed its onset date in Kerala on Sunday with the India Meteorological Department anticipating a further delay of three to four days.

The southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on June 1 with a standard deviation of about seven days. In mid May, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said it



might arrive in Kerala by June 4. In a statement on Sunday, the IMD said, "Conditions (are) becoming favourable with the increase in westerly winds over the south Arabian Sea. Also, the depth of westerly winds is gradually increasing and today, June 4, the depth of westerlies has reached up to 2.1 kilometres above the mean sea

level. "The cloud mass over the southeast Arabian sea is also increasing. We expect that these favourable conditions for monsoon onset over Kerala will further improve during the next three-four days. It is being monitored continuously and further updates will be provided tomorrow (Monday)." Scientists, however, said the delay is unlikely to impact kharif sowing and total rainfall over the country. The southeast monsoon arrived in the southern state on May 29 last year, June 3 in 2021, June 1 in 2020, June 8 in 2019 and May 29 in 2018.

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Govt sets up 3-member probe panel

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):

The Centre on Sunday set up a Commission of Inquiry, headed by former chief justice of the Gauhati High Court Ajai Lamba, to probe the recent series of violence in Manipur that claimed more than 80 lives.

According to a notification issued by the Union Home Ministry, the commission will make inquiry with respect of the causes and spread of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, which took place in Manipur on May 3 and thereafter.

It will probe the sequence of events leading to, and all the facts relat-

About the probe panel...

Commission of Inquiry is headed by former chief justice of the Gauhati High Court Ajai Lamba. The other members of the commission are retired IAS officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and retired IPS officer Alok Prabhakar. The commission will make inquiry with respect of the causes and spread of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, which took place in Manipur on May 3 and thereafter. It will probe the sequence of events leading to, and all the facts relating to such violence; whether there were any lapses or dereliction of duty in this regard on the part of any of the responsible authorities/individuals and adequacy of the administrative measures taken to prevent, and to deal with the violence and riots.

ing to such violence; whether there were any lapses or dereliction of duty in this regard on the part of any of the responsible authorities/individuals and adequacy of the administrative measures taken to prevent, and to deal with the violence and riots. The inquiry by the

commission shall look into the complaints or allegations that may be made before it by any individual or association.

The commission shall submit its report to the central government as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting.

Advertisement for Blue Lines Pipes & Tubes. Includes text: 'ग्लोबल वार्मिंग से खतरे हैं भरपूर पर्यावरण की रक्षा से कर सकते हैं इन्हें दूर', 'विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस की शुभकामनाएं', 'जिस पर देश करता है सबसे ज्यादा भरोसा', 'A Quality Product By NIROS ISPAT PVT. LTD. 14-A, Heavy Industrial Area, Hathkhaj, Bilhai Toll Free: 1800123660033, Call: 9109981001, 9109981021'

Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) established in Mohandi

- LED lights produced here will be available on different e-commerce websites
- Contract signed with Bhagwati Lights, Shubham K Mart, JR Infra companies for sales



Central Chronicle News
Bhilai, June 04: In Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) has been established on three acres of land at Gram Panchayat Mohandi of Dhamdha development block of the district with an investment of Rs 2 crores. Lights production unit has been established here.

Two dome-sheds, two toilets (female/male), approach road, boundary wall, enclosure have been constructed. An administrative area has been created inside RIPA with a kiosk for banking facility, WiFi connection for internet facility, etc. A helpdesk has been constructed for providing information about state government schemes. A statue of Mahatma

Gandhi has been installed in the center of RIPA campus. Manufacturing of tube lights, garden lights, zero bulbs, series lamps, solar dryer and LED bulbs will be manufactured here. This unit will have a production capacity of 10000 pieces of tube lights, garden lights, zero bulbs, series lamps and LED Bulbs as well as 30 nos solar dryers.

Machines are being used for manufacturing bulbs and lights under RIPA. A commercial market will be created for the products, in which sales will be done through dealers, wholesalers and retailers. Many youths will get employment through these livelihood activities and the service sector. About 34 youths will be given employment from this RIPA centre. For

sales, the administration has tied up with Bhagwati Lights, Shubham K Mart and JR Infra companies. For online marketing, tie-ups are being done with different e-commerce websites like Flipkart and Amazon.

Along with this, the products will also be sold through nearby shops. The products prepared at the RIPA Center will also be supplied to the government departments so that by ensuring the consumption of the product and providing employment guarantee to the labourers working, their future can be made prosperous from the economic point of view.

Godhan Nyay Yojna changes life of Chandrakant Yadav

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, June 04: Godhan Nyay Yojna has brought prosperity in the lives of cattle owners and shepherds. Chandrakant Yadav had never thought that Godhan Nyay Yojna would change his luck. He did not even dream that he would be able to earn lakhs of rupees by selling cow dung, but Chhattisgarh government's Godhan Nyay Yojna proved to be a boon for him.

Chandrakant Yadav, a shepherd of Gram Panchayat Bhanpuri of Durg district, said that before the launch of this scheme, he had to struggle a lot to meet his family's needs. Ever since the Government of

dung and take it to Gauthan for sale. Along with cow dung, they are also involved in the business of milk. Earlier he had a kutcha house, due to which he had to face a lot of difficulties during the rainy season. Now, with the amount received from the sale of cow dung, he has built his pucca house. Along with selling cow milk, he is making additional income by selling ghee and curd in nearby villages. By selling 17 liters of milk every morning and evening, he is getting an income of 10 to 15 thousand per month. Thanking the Chief Minister for this initiative, he appreciated the Godhan Nyay Yojna.

Chhattisgarh started purchasing cow dung at Rs 2 per kg, he is able to meet the needs of my family easily. He said that under the Godhan Nyay Yojna, he has sold cow dung worth Rs 2 lakh so far. Yadav and his family collect cow

Devasnan Purnima celebrated with joy in Shri Jagannath Temple Sector-4

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 04: Shri Jagannath Temple Sector-4 is going to celebrate the 54th Rath Yatra Festival 2023 of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swami ji as per every year. As the first episode of the Rath Yatra, the religious event of Devasnan Purnima concluded at Shri Jagannath Temple Sector-4 on Sunday.

As part of this event, Mahaprabhu was taken out of the temple and brought to the Dev Snan Mandap while performing Pahandi with musical in-

struments. Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swami, elder brother Lord Shri Balabhadra Dev, and sister Mata Subhadra were bathed with scented water in Dev Snan Mandap with all the rituals.

This religious worship of Dev Snan with all the rituals was completed by Purohit PitwasPadhi and Pandit Seemanchal Rath, Saroj Das, Prakash Das, Ranjan Mohapatra. After the bath, Mahaprabhu was decorated in the guise of a Gajraj.

Due to Mahaprabhu falling ill after Dev Snan, he was established in



Ansar Griha for rest. From this day till June 19, the doors of the temple of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath will remain

closed. Various herbs and divine medicines will be offered to Mahaprabhu during this period. Netro-Utsav festival

will be organized on June 19. After that the doors of Mahaprabhu's temple will be opened for darshan. After this, on June 20 at 13:00 hrs, a rath yatra will be taken out from Shri Jagannath Temple located in Sector-4.

Dr PK Biswal, Dr Jayshree Pradhan along with the General Secretary of Jagannath Samiti, Satyawan Nayak, Anam Nahak, D Trinath, Basant Pradhan, Trinath Sahu, Bhim Swain, Sushant Satpathy, BC Biswal, BrindabanSwani, Kalu Behera, Bis Keshan Sahu, Niranjana

Maharana, Prakash Swani, Kavi Biswal, Santosh Dalai, Sudarshan Shyanti, Shankar Dalai, ShatrughanDakua, Rabi Swain, Jagannath Patnaik, Shyam Dalai made special contributions in making this auspicious festival of Devasnan a success. A large number of devotees along with the office bearers of the committee were present on the occasion. Various worship rituals and Pahandi programs of Dev Snan were completed under the leadership of Pandit PitbasPadhi.

Series of programmes today to mark World Environment Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 04: Bhilai Steel Plant is organizing a series of programmes on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 05, 2023, to spread environ-

mental awareness and encourage Bhilai and Steel Community to participate in environment conservation. Along with steel production, Bhilai Steel Plant has always been on the forefront by taking several initiatives to protect the environment.

The "Mission LIFE- Lifestyle for Environment" is an India-led global mass movement to nudge individual and community action to protect and preserve the environment. At the onset of Environment Day, BSP Employees will participate in a Walkathon at 07.00 hrs, flagged-off by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP).

The walkathon will start from Ispat Bhawan and conclude at Equipment Square, spreading awareness for environment conservation. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of BSP, in association with the Village Panchayat, will undertake cleaning of village pond followed by plantations around the pond, at Village KonariBharda.

A one-day environmental awareness program will be organized by the Medical & Health Services Department at JLN Hospital & Research Center, Sector-09. Numerous saplings will be planted at the Hospital Sector area under the leadership of Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP). Plant's senior officers will also take part in the Plantation Drive, along with District Forest Officer and CISF Officers.

Plantation Drive and other activities will also be organized at other departments of the Plant on the occasion of World Environment Day. The ongoing activities on environmental conservation under Mission LIFE at various departments of the Plant will conclude at the Valedictory ceremony and the main function of World Environment Day at Bhilai Niwas on June 05, 2023.

OBITUARY

Ratna Murali

Bhilai: Ratna Murali, wife of PD Muralidharan, left for heavenly abode at the age of 63 years.

Funeral procession will be taken out from her residence Plot No 2B, Murali Villa, Om Parisar, Kailash Nagar on June 05 and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed around 16:00 hrs at Ramnagar Muktidham. She was the mother of Dhanish P Murali and Dhanya Vinesh.

विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं.. एक शुभचिंतक

विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस

की हार्दिक बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं

रतन दास गुप्ता
अध्यक्ष

B.S.P. Ancillary Industries Association

संदेश
5 जून, 2023

विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस

प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण को मिलकर समाप्त करें

“आप सभी को 05 जून विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं। प्रतिवर्ष 05 जून विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस के अवसर पर समाज में पर्यावरण के प्रति जागरूकता लाये जाने के उद्देश्य से अनेक कार्यक्रम आयोजित किये जाते हैं, जिससे कि समाज में जन-जागरूकता लाई जा सके। प्रतिवर्ष संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम द्वारा पर्यावरण दिवस की थीम निर्धारित की जाती है। इस वर्ष की थीम “प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण का समाधान” रखी गई है। हम सबकी एकजुटता और भागीदारी से ही यह संभव हो सकता है। आईये आप हम संकल्प ले कि हम पर्यावरण के समक्ष उपस्थित इस चुनौती का सामना करेंगे एवं प्रतिबंधित प्लास्टिक उत्पादों का उपयोग बंद कर देंगे।

हमारे समाधान प्रकृति में हैं।

मोहम्मद अकबर
मंत्री, आवास एवं पर्यावरण विभाग,
छत्तीसगढ़ शासन

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
(आवास एवं पर्यावरण विभाग, छत्तीसगढ़ शासन)
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.)

चल रहा है आपके शहर में बीटीआई मैदान शंकर नगर रायपुर में

फन वर्ल्ड फेयर

डिजनीलैंड मेला 2023

• खाना, खरीदी, मनोरंजन एक साथ
• हैडलूम हैंडीक्राफ्ट बाजार के साथ

समय- रोजाना शाम 5:00 बजे से रात्रि 10:00 बजे तक



Experts should promote education, research in the field of medicine: Guv

Inaugurates 1st annual conference of CODE Society

Raipur, Jun 04: Specialist doctors should have an ethical responsibility to encourage education and research among their fellow doctors, so that patients can get the right treatment, Governor Vishwabhusan Harichandan said while inaugurating the first annual convention of Chhattisgarh Obesity Diabetes and Endocrine (CODE) Society "CODECON-2023". Diabetes, thyroid, obesity, infertility, pituitary, adrenal etc. are hormone related disorders and due to the shortage of specialist doctors across the country, problems are faced in diagnosis and treatment, he said, adding that early diagnosis and treatment can prevent many of the complications associated with such diseases. There are about 70 million diabetic patients in our country and diabetes gives rise to many complications in the body, which not only worsens the quality of life of the patient but also imposes a huge economic burden on both the family and the society, said the Governor. The Governor stressed the need for early detection, prevention and



prompt treatment of diabetes to achieve the goal of diabetes free India and ensure healthy life of the patients. Similarly thyroid disorders, obesity are common but still remain undiagnosed and also not properly treated due to lack of updates in the field, said he. He said that public awareness programs should also be organized for the benefit of patients as well as doctors. The Governor said that the doctors should be alert towards their responsibility. Doctors work for the protection of humanity, world and society, he added. Appreciating the role of doctors, nurses, health workers during the Covid pandemic, he said that the way they worked to save lives without caring for their own lives, was praised outside the country as well. Endocrinologists from different

parts of our country have come together on a single platform to share their knowledge with the physicians of Chhattisgarh which will help them in their day to day practice, said the Governor. "CODECON-2023" president Dr Kalpana Das threw light on the objective of the conference. Other experts also shared their views. The Governor released a souvenir and felicitated eminent specialist doctors from different parts of the country by presenting them with shawls and insignia. The Governor was honored by the CODE Society. President of Chhattisgarh Obesity Diabetes and Endocrine Society, Dr Biplab Bandyopadhyay, HOD of PGI Chandigarh Dr Sanjay Bhadada, along with expert doctors from all over the country and office bearers of "CODE" were present.

Nearly 450 school, college students participate

In the elocution and poster competition Organised on topic "Reducing the use of single use plastic by bringing changes in personal habits and behaviours"

Raipur, Jun 04: On the occasion of World Environment Day, a speech and poster competition was organized by Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board on June 4 at New Circuit House, Civil Lines, Raipur. The theme of the competitions was "Reducing the use of single-use plastic by bringing changes in



personal habits and behaviours". Elocution competition was organized for two age groups- 13 to 17 years and 18 to 21 years and poster competition was organized for three age groups- up to 12 years, 13-17 years and 18 -21 years. About 450 school and college students participated in the competitions. In elocution competition

Gracy Kashyap of Radiant Way School Raipur and Divyanshi Panda of Delhi Public School bagged first prize whereas Chinmay Singh Chandel of Shahid Smarak English Medium School and Vidhi Deepa Malviya of Delhi University bagged second prize. Shreya Mishra of Swami Atmanand Shahid Smarak English Medium School



Raipur and Kanchal Adil of J Yoganandam Chhattisgarh Mahavidyalaya got third prize in elocution competition. In poster competition Neha Kosle of BP Pujari Utkrith Vidyalaya Raipur, Aditya Chourasia of Pt RD Tiwari School Raipur, Ritik Paharia of Government Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya PG College Mahasamund bagged

first prize whereas Dishita Nagrachi of KPS Dunda, Ujjwal Gupta of Adarsh Vidyalaya Raipur and Anchal Chourasia of Mahant Laxminarayan Das Mahavidyalaya got second prize. Third prize was won by Kirty Kumar of Primary School Kamardera, Sanjana Sahu of JB International School and Alok Patela of PGKCB College Bhilai.

Man sentenced to life imprisonment for killing girl friend

Raipur, Jun 04: Additional Sessions Judge Santosh Kumar Tiwari has sentenced life imprisonment to one Shivam Dhruv after convicting him for killing his lover in the capital. The incident of murder of the girl took place in the area falling under jurisdiction of Kharora police station. Shivam Dhruv attacked his lover with a sharp knife and killed her and then with the intention of committing suicide, attacked himself with the same knife. Giving information about the case, public prosecutor

Rajendra Jain said that the incident took place on September 01, 2021, when the corporator's husband Bhupendra Sen received a phone call that Shivam Dhruv, a resident of his ward, was seriously injured and had bruises on his neck. He went to the hospital to inquire about Shivam's condition and gathered information about the incident from him. Shivam told that he and the deceased Maheshwari alias Ranu were having a love affair. He also told that Maheshwari was talking to another boy for a few days. On

being unable to tolerate her talking to another boy he killed Maheshwari by stabbing her in the neck near Nayabandha pond. After this, with the intention of committing suicide, he stabbed himself in the neck with a knife. During the investigation of the case, the police arrested Shivam Dhruv and produced him in the court. While hearing the case on Saturday, Additional Sessions Judge Santosh Kumar Tiwari found Shivam Dhruv guilty of Maheshwari's murder and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Four fake sadhus arrested from Delhi

Raipur, Jun 04: Beware of fake sadhus who may come to your doorsteps to seek donations and escape after cheating you. One such case was seen in the area falling under jurisdiction of Kotwali Police Station where a person was cheated by two fake sadhus. Fake sadhus first performed stunts and then ran away with the goods. Police have arrested 4 inter-state fake sadhus. They belong to Punjab and they were roaming around the country to cheat people. Complainant Umesh Mathur, a resident of Budhpara Raipur,

told that on May 30, two persons dressed as sadhus came to his shop. Pretending as Naga Sadhus both started asking for donations, he said. The complainant said that he donated to them. After receiving donations they started telling about the future of the complainant, keeping him confused on things. One of them asked him for a currency note of Rs 20 and returned two notes of Rs 10. Another sadhu asked for a gold ring studded with 'Pukhraj' stone from the complainant saying that he would make it even more effective.



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Lord Shri Ram resides in our heart: CM Baghel

- National Ramayana Festival transforms Raigarh into 'Rammaygarh'
- Golden Book of World Records acknowledged two world records made during the festival
- World record acknowledged for holding the longest stage performances of Aranya Kand
- 375 artists from 17 groups perform for 756 minutes over three days
- Over 10,000 people chant Hanuman Chalisa for three consecutive days
- Karnataka team emerges as winner, followed by the Assam team in second place and the Jharkhand team in third place in the competition based on the theme of 'Aranya Kand'

Ram resides in everyone and is an integral part of everyone's lives.

"The word 'Ram' holds immense power, the more you listen to it, the more you meditate on it, the more deeper our thirst for its essence becomes. Our Ram is Kaushalya's Ram, Vanvasi's Ram, Shabri's Ram, our nephew Ram, and Ram is for all of us", he added. Throughout the festival, Raigarh transformed into 'Rammaygarh', with the enthusiastic participation of the devotees.

The pandal remained brimming with devotees for all three days, and guests from neighboring states also graced the event. Chief Minister Baghel expressed his joy in witnessing everyone reciting and humming verses from the Ramayana, fostering a sense of unity and devotion among all.

The Chief Minister highlighted the success of the National Ramayana Festival, which initially aimed to celebrate the Ramayana on a national level but eventually turned into an international event with the participation of groups from Cambodia and Indonesia.

He expressed his gratitude to the jury members for their valuable insights and said that the various previous festivals that were organised in differ-



ent parts of the country mainly focused on chapters depicting Lord Shri Ram's childhood and Ramlalela, this festival has showcased the Lord Shri Ram's stories belonging to Aranya Kand for the first time.

The Chief Minister commended the efforts of all those who played a direct or indirect role in making the festival a success and extended his gratitude to them. He further stated that the state government has organised the National Ramayana Festival for the first time in the state, which has achieved great success and proved to be a remarkable event.

State to establish separate 'Authority' for protection and conservation of all Rivers

At the closing ceremony, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel emphasised the significance of

Chhattisgarh's forests and their connection to Lord Shri Ram's exile. He highlighted that Lord Shri Ram traversed the forests, rivers, and mountains of Chhattisgarh during his journey. As a state abundant in forests and rivers, Chhattisgarh holds its cultural heritage along the riverbanks.

The conservation of rivers and nature is a priority of the state government, with dedicated 'Authorities' established for the preservation of the Indravati and Arpa rivers. A grand Maha-aarti was carried out for the Kelo, Mahanadi, and Shivnath rivers.

The Chief Minister urged everyone to cherish and protect nature, acknowledging its valuable blessings. Additionally, he announced plans to establish a separate 'Authority' for the conservation of all rivers in the state.



CM pays tribute to the people who lost their life in Odisha Train Accident

At the closing ceremony of the National Ramayana Festival, Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel expressed his condolences for the lives lost in the train accident in Balasore, Odisha.

He acknowledged the unpredictability of life and emphasised that outcomes that happened in anyone's life are ultimately in the hands of God. He prayed for the peace of the departed souls and to give strength to the families who have lost their family members in this accident.

Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, presiding over the program, said that people actively participated in the National Ramayana Festival. Raigarh remained immersed in the spirit of Rama, giving us the feel-

ing as if we had arrived in Ayodhya.

He mentioned that Chhattisgarh is not only the maternal home of Mata Kaushalya but also the cherished land of Lord Rama. He emphasized that the longest period of exile was spent in Chhattisgarh, establishing our timeless connection with Lord Rama throughout the ages. National Ramayana Festival sets two 'World Records'

The state's Culture Department achieved a significant milestone through the National Ramayana Festival by setting a new world record for holding the longest stage performances of Aranya Kand, lasting 765 minutes over three days. A total of 375 artists from 17 teams across 13 states, including Chhattisgarh, as well as two international teams, Cambodia and

Indonesia, participated in the festival.

The Culture Department received recognition for the 'Most Stage Artist Performing on Aranya Kand' record, marking the program with the highest number of artists and for the longest duration. Additionally, the Raigarh district administration was honored with a world record for the collective chanting of Hanuman Chalisa by over 10,000 people. The Chhattisgarh Culture Department and the Raigarh District Administration of Chhattisgarh have received the acclamation in the form of a certificate from the Golden Book of World Records for their achievements.

Karnataka team emerges as winner, followed by the Assam team in second place and the Jharkhand team in third place in the competition based on the theme of "Aranya Kand"

The Karnataka team emerged as the winner in the Aranya Kand competition held during the National Ramayana Festival. The team leader was felicitated with a memento, a state 'gamcha', a copy of Ramcharit Manas, and a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh. The second prize was awarded to the team from Assam, which received a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh,

along with a memento, state 'gamcha', and a copy of Ramcharit Manas.

The third prize was awarded to the team from Jharkhand, which received a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, along with a memento, state 'gamcha', and a copy of Ramcharit Manas. Raigarh Municipal Corporation Mayor, Janki Katju, presented a mace (gada) to the Chief Minister during the ceremony.

All the states and jury members including from Cambodia and Indonesia were honoured at the closing ceremony. School Education Minister Mr. Premsai Singh Tekam, Higher Education Minister Mr. Umesh Patel, Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Chandradev Rai, MLA Mr. Prakash Nayak, MLA Mr. Laljit Singh Rathia, MLA Mr. Ram Kumar Yadav, MLA Chakradhar Singh, MLA Mr. Laljit Singh Rathia, Chairman of Gau Seva Aayog Mahant Ramsunder Das, former MP Mr. Nandkumar Sai, former MLA Mr. Bodhran Kanwar, Raigarh Municipal Corporation Mayor Mrs. Janki Katju and District Panchayat President Mr. Nirakar Patel, Director of Culture Department Mr. Vivek Acharya, Raigarh Collector Mr. Taran Prakash Sinha were present in the closing ceremony.

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 04: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel delivered a heartfelt address at the closing ceremony of the Three-days 'National Ramayana Festival' held at Ramlalela Maidan in Raigarh. He emphasised that Lord Shri

Students to get books, uniforms and cycles in 'Shala Pravesh Utsav'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 04: For the first time in the election year, students will get the benefit of all the government schemes on the day of the 'Shala Pravesh Utsav'. Schools will open from June 16 and on the same day children will get books, uniforms and cycles.

As per the order of the School Education Department, on the day of 'Shala Pravesh Utsav', on June 16 itself, books, uniform cycles will be given to the children in the presence of Minister, MLA, MP, School Development Committee, School and



Management Committee, dignitaries and parents among the elected public representatives.

School Education Department Director, Sunil Kumar Jain has instructed all the Divisional Joint Directors, DEOs and District Mission Coordinators of the state to

make all the preparations by June 15. Regarding this, Principal Secretary of School Education Department, Dr. Alok Shukla said that preparations has been completed in this concern.

Last time the children got books till July-August. Similarly, uniforms and cy-

cles were also available till November-December. School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam said that we are constantly trying to ensure that children get the benefits of government schemes on time. This time it will be received on time. All preparations have been done for this. This time a target has been set to distribute books to

53.50 lakh children from class 1st to 10th. Similarly, 30 lakh two thousand children will get uniforms. Under the Saraswati Cycle Distribution Scheme, cycles will be distributed to one lakh 65 thousand girls. Cycle will be given only to the eligible girls of class IX.

Maha-aarti of Kelo Maiyya carried out with colorful lamps

- CM carries out 'deepdan' using diya(lamp) made from cow dung

Central Chronicle News

Raigarh, Jun 04: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel carried out the Maha-aarti of Kelo Maiyya in Raigarh and prayed for the happiness and prosperity of the state's people. He also symbolised the prosperity of 'Godhan' by feeding fodder to a cow.

Additionally, Chief Minister Baghel also carried out 'deepdan' using diya(lamp) made from cow dung. The Maha-aarti of Kelo Maiyya showcased a grandeur reminiscent of the Ganga Ghat in



Banaras. The chants of Kelo Maiyya echoed through the entire Ghat, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

Chief Minister Baghel received a warm welcome from the Kelo Udhar

Samiti and the members of Sarva Samaj at the Kelo Maha-aarti program. Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam, Higher Education Minister

Umesh Patel, MLA Chakradhar Singh, Rajeshree Mahant Dr. Ramsudar Das, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Gauseva Aayog, and various public representatives were also present.

Trader abducted in Raipur, found in Kawardha

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 04: The youth who was abducted on Friday from Raipur has been found in Kawardha district. On Friday night, 5 miscreants in a car had abducted a young man named Siddharth in Sunder Nagar. Abductors involved in this incident are absconding.

After escaping from the abductors, Siddharth, who runs his interior shop in Raipur told that abductors had come at 8 pm and assaulted him before taking him away in the car. In an attempt to evade police in the city they moved via Kamal Vihar area. Siddharth said that he was abducted

in a grey-coloured car.

He told that his father was staking claim for election in NTPC. Siddharth said that abductors told him to dissuade his father from contesting the NTPC elections, otherwise his family would be in trouble. Abductors told him that they had come from Haryana.

Nearly 8 police officers investigated the incident. The crime branch team was also making inquiries. The CCTV footage installed nearby was being searched. Blockade was also done at the toll plaza. Siddharth was finally found in Kawardha district. Police started searching for those involved in abduction.

- Courses will be designed in six months

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 04: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai is going to start an employment-oriented certificate course on the basis of need in industry and agriculture sectors in the state.

There is an exercise to design diploma and certificate courses, which are prepared for six months to two years, in such a way that skilled youth can be found in the fields of industry, agriculture and education at the local level.

Director of IIT Prof. Rajeev Prakash told that the state is rich in industry and agriculture. The youth also have a lot of employment opportunities. But these sectors are not getting that many skilled workers on the basis of need. Keeping this in mind, we are going to start such certificate and diploma courses, which can meet these needs.

Discussion is going on with experts related to industry, agriculture and education sectors to design the course. We are also appealing to the people asso-

Certificate courses in IITs on the basis of need in industry, agriculture



ciated with the industry to come forward and share the needs, so that skill development of the youth can be done by preparing courses on its basis.

Due to this, efficient human resources can be

made available at the local level. Course will be designed in six months, in which candidates will be able to register and take admission. Director Prof. Rajeev said that there is a plan to train teachers of

IIT, Polytechnic and Engineering colleges of the state.

For this, a proposal has been given to the Technical Education Department. A few days ago a meeting was also held with the principals of the polytechnic colleges. Soon we will start the training program.

So that this teacher can give better training to the youth and make them efficient. Director Prof. Rajeev said that the state is agriculturally prosperous, but it is seen that the farmers here are not ahead of them in

the use of techniques.

Useful and advanced machines are also introduced in agriculture sector and people are coming from outside to operate it. Keeping this in mind, we will train farmers and youth for developed and advanced agriculture. A course will also be started for this. IIT Bhilai Director Prof.

Rajeev Prakash said that according to the demand in the field of industry, agriculture and education, a certificate course will be started in the state to make the youth skilled for employment. The youth of the state will get its direct benefit.

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CM inaugurates Bade Tariya in Kumhari

- Laser with musical fountain show to be the center of attraction at Bade Tariya

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 04: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated Bade Tariya in Kumhari late on Friday. Sprawled over an area of 18 acres, the Tariya is built

at a cost of Rs 26 crore. He also inaugurated the 'laser with musical fountain show' here, which will provide daily entertainment to the residents.

Chief Minister described this place as a beautifully developed recreational area, comparable to that of a metropolitan city. He explored the food stalls, green walking tunnel, toy train, arch, and suspension bridge within the premises, emphasizing that



this place is a marvelous blend of natural heritage, culture, and modern infrastruc-

ture. He also enjoyed the laser with musical fountain show, which splendidly showcased

the rich culture of Chhattisgarh, along with displaying its mineral resources

and picturesque tourist destinations. Additionally, a presentation on the developmental journey of Kumhari Municipal Corporation over the past four years was also shown during the event.

Every evening at 7:30 PM, a mesmerizing laser with a musical fountain show will be showcased here, providing amusement for visitors. This captivating programme will last for 13 minutes, and an

entry fee of Rs 10 has been set, primarily to cover maintenance costs. The laser with musical fountain show will feature various themes, with the highlight being the synchronized display of laser lights and fountain jets accompanied by melodious music, creating a captivating experience for the audience. The opening and closing timings of the Bade Tariya have been set from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Cow-dung purchase bringing 'white-revolution': Baghel

- **CM Baghel, PCC state in-Charge Kumari Selja dedicate Rajiv Bhavan in Arang**
- **Large number of MLAs, Ministers, party leaders also took part**

Central Chronicle News

Arang, June 05: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel addressing at the dedication of Rajiv Bhavan and unveiling of statue in Arang said that Congress is in the heart of the people who get an opportunity and they always strengthen the organisation and contribute in nation's development.

Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia is one such personality, who facing all the challenges and worst of circumstances, gets big things

done and construction of massive Rajiv Bhavan in Arang stands testimony to it and for which he deserves lots of appreciation.

Speaking on the occasion CM Baghel said that with purchase of Cow-dung under the Rajiv Gandhi Godhan Nyaya Yojana, it has brought 'white-revolution'. During 4 yrs of Congress rule in the state has led to increase in milk production by 1.5 times and strength of cattle too has gone up.

The farmers who had left farming and agriculture over the last 15 years are now returning to farming. Last year 24 lakh farmers were given incentive under RGNV and in the coming season, around 26 lakh farmers would be benefited from it.

The per acre quantity of paddy purchase too has been hiked from 15 quintal to 20 quintal per acre and with this the poor and



farmers, both are happy. Through such works, the very dreams held by our ancestors to make Chhattisgarh prosperous is getting fulfilled.

Speaking further CM Baghel informed that the state government has made payment of Unemployment Allowance worth Rs 48 cr to unemployed youth in last two months, whereas the unemployed were not on priority of last BJP's government.

Now in entire country, instead of Gujarat model, it is

the Chhattisgarh model under discussion, as the people of Chhattisgarh have got justice and the poor, farmers and labourers have become prosperous and happy.

Baghel charged that during BJP's rule in the state, they were only interested in vote-bank politics, whereas the Congress government worked with simplicity and harmony and taking up the state's rich art & culture and heritage forward and which is not hidden from anyone.



CM said that during term of earlier government, there was massive promotion of Chit Fund companies and it is the hard earned money of labourers, farmers and others which was looted by them and invested outside. The Congress government refunded the money of the innocent people by nabbing all the Chit Fund company accused and selling their assets, he added.

PCC State in-Charge Kumari Selja said that it is an honour that one of the

party leader's Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia has got such a massive Rajiv Bhavan constructed in Arang and got the statue of former PM Late Rajiv Gandhi unveiled as well and she extended greetings to Daharia and all his party workers and leaders from the region.

She said that when Baghel was not CM, he had a dream to construct Rajiv Bhavan in all districts of the state and which has now got fulfilled. Selja said that Rahul Gandhi is work-

ing like an ambassador of peace and harmony and working for the upliftment of the poor and needy. Rahul's 'padyatra' has worked in many ways to unite people, whereas BJP works only to divide and rule.

On this occasion State Assembly speaker Dr Charandas Mahant, senior Telangana leader K Raju also addressed the gathering. Minister for Urban Development Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia said that Congress party worker is at par with quality of 24 Carat gold and it is with guns and bullets that the party leaders brought Independence to the nation, whereas the BJP and RSS acting as informers of Britishers, used to send the freedom fighters and others struggling for independence, to jail. The contribution by the former PM Late Rajiv Gandhi to development of the nation is un-

parallel and the life, his ideology would continue to act as source of inspiration for all.

Daharia charged that BJP do not believe in the constitution and have show disrespect to the Nation's flag and violate the India's constitution given by Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. CM Bhupesh Baghel following upon the footsteps of the ancestors is trying to fulfill their dreams of Chhattisgarh as held by them and preserving state's rich art & culture and protecting the environment as well.

On this occasion Minister for School Education Preamsa Singh Tekam, Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhedra and Revenue Minister Jaisingh Agrawal and Congress party workers and leaders from Arang and nearby villages and blocks were present in large number.

Kerosene lanterns still used as no electricity in villages

Central Chronicle News

Mainpur, June 04: Today, in the 21st century, as urban areas are developing very fast and big cities are dazzling with electric light, the same areas of tribal development block Mainpur of Gariaband people are using the light of extinct lanterns and gas lights to fight the darkness of the night, as electricity is yet to reach them.

Even after 75 years of independence, in more than 50 Paratola and villages of Mainpur block area till date there is no electricity, and the government has not made alternative arrangements for electricity in these villages, but solar energy is being operated by CREDA



department, but solar energy is also not available in many villages of remote Vananchal of Mainpur region. The people of the villages situated inside the hilly and remote forests of Mainpur region use kerosene-burning gas lights with lanterns to fight the darkness of the night and to light up the night.

Villagers Mansai Sori, Devki Bai Sori, Ramin Bai Netam, Surjo Bai Nagesh, Budhram Kamar, Palishram told that there is no electricity in their village Jangda, Bargaon, Payalikhand area even today and solar energy is only nominal, for a few hours in the evening.

The same situation remains in the Mainpur hill area, and in Aamamora,

Kukral, Amalor, Tarajhar, Kurwapani, Bhalu Digi, Badegobra, Kerosene burning gas lights are taken on rent for weddings and other functions.

There is a special demand for gas lights during the period, although its number is also decreasing rapidly in the area, the main reason behind which is said to be the increasing price of kerosene. Four months ago, kerosene was available around Rs 100 a liter, although now its price is somewhat decreased.

Director of Bukhari Hardware Sarfaraz Memon said that even today we sell 50 to 60 lanterns in a year, and the lanterns in his shop cost from Rs 250 to Rs 400.

BCC holds demonstration rally against BJP's protest

**Central Chronicle News**

Kharora, June 04: It was under leadership of Block Congress Committee (BCC) Kharora that a massive demonstration rally was organised against BJP protest to register protest against 'Gauthans' under one of its campaigns. This protest was held from MLA's office of Block Hq's Kharora to weekly market area.

In this PCC gen. Secy. and

Raipur District in-charge Rajendra Sahu (President Jila Sahakari Bank-Durg), MLA Anita Yogendra Sharma, DCC Raipur (rural) Udhoram Verma, District Panchayat Raipur President Domeshwari Verma, Kharora block in-charge Ghanshyam Verma, BCC President Saurabh Mishra, Mahila Block president Sarojini Verma, PCC gen. secy. OBC cell Bhavesh Baghel, YC VS President

Ankit Verma, Sewa Dal BCC President Shyam Lal Baghel, Pachari Society President Banjareji; Budeni Gauthan President Sanjay Sharma, Sector in-charge Suresh Verma, senior Congmen Bisohra Ram Yadav, Nagar Panchayat V-P Panna Dewangan, corporators Surendra Gilhare, Bablu Bhatia, Media in-charge Gageshwar Joshi, Shankar Ratre, Beldar Siwni and others were present.

Woman given pledge to protest use of tobacco in house

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, June 04: On occasion of World No-Tobacco Day, a camp was organised by Taluka Vidhik Sewa Samiti (TVSS) Khairgarh in Gram Reewagahan on Friday and in this villagers were given information about the harmful effects on health on consuming tobacco.

Para-Legal volunteer Goludas informed that using tobacco can be harmful for health. On use of tobacco or smoking cigarettes, it has negative effect on the body and set aside this with use of 'bidi', 'gutka' and others by persons, it leads to serious diseases and problems in one's body.

The villagers were informed that lakhs of people die all over the world due to consumption of tobacco in



some or the other form and therefore the only objective of observing this day is to keep the people away from the harmful effect of tobacco. People generally starts use of Tobacco coming under influence of some or the other person and slowly it turns into a habit and which later causes lots of problems.

On this occasion, women

were administered pledge not to allow consumption of tobacco in their houses to any person. Every year there is special theme on World No-Tobacco Day and this year's theme is 'we need food-not tobacco'. The objective of this theme is to create awareness among tobacco producing farmers to take up other products and crops.

IK Alesela assumes office as SP Surajpur

Central Chronicle News

Surajpur, June 04: The newly appointed SP- I, Kalyan Alesela (IPS) assumed office in District Police office of Surajpur here on Wednesday. After the guard of honour, he assumed office.

Outgoing SP Ramkrishna Sahu (IPS) handed over the charge to him and gave information about the law & order situation in the district to IK Alesela. After assuming office, IK Alesela took stock of all the branches of SP's office in Surajpur and convened a meeting with branch in-charges and gave necessary instructions.

SP IK Alesela is an IPS officer of 2011 batch and prior to this he has served as SP in Bemetara,



Gourela-Pendra-Marwahi, Balodabazar, Sukma and Bijapur. Speaking to media persons after assuming office, IK Alesela said that due stress will be on better policing and check on the crime. During this Addl. SP Madhulika Singh and other district-level police officer and TIs were present.

Collector holds review meeting of agri and cadre departments

Central Chronicle News

Korea, June 04: Under the chairmanship of District Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh, a review meeting of agriculture and cadre departments was convened in the district collectorate here, in which the Collector reviewed the preparations for the upcoming Kharif season with the Deputy Director of the Agriculture Department.

He said that all the departments should cooperate with the farmers by staying in the field, and prepare an action plan for Rabi crops in advance and said that farmers should be encouraged for millets crops.

He said that efforts should be made to increase the bi-cropped area, for this he instructed the farmers to be iden-

tified. While reviewing the Godhan Nyaya Yojana the Collector said that Godhan Nyaya Yojana is a priority scheme of the government, negligence in its implementation will not be tolerated.

Instructing the work to be done seriously, he said that continuous procurement should be done in all the Gothans. He instructed the officers of the Horticulture Department to develop gardens in all Gothans and said that all central and state-funded schemes should be linked with Gothans, so that people would be benefited.

In the state-funded schemes related to agriculture he discussed about Kisan Samridhi Yojana, Organic Farming Mission, Crop

Demonstration Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana, Saur Sujala Yojana, Organic Farming Mission, Akti Seed Promotion Scheme, Pulses Promotion Scheme, Shakambhari under Krishak Samagra Vikas Yojana.

A detailed discussion was held about tube well mining under the scheme, Kisan Samridhi Yojana. Along with this, a detailed review was done regarding the information of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana and registration of farmers holding forest rights under the scheme, E-KYC, Rainfed Area Development Scheme, National Agriculture Development Scheme, Food and Nutrition Security Scheme, Extension Reforms Scheme.

River 'Haf' dries as heat wave intensifies

**Central Chronicle News**

Pandariya, June 04: Rive 'Haf' has dried this season, as heat waves continue to rise, subsequently effecting ground water level. The River has dried up in front of Bisheshara village, but in 2020 and 2021, the river had not dried, and as more than 200 villages are dependant on the river there has raised a challenge to handle water scarcity.

Originating from Maichal Ranges, the river joins Shinnath River near Nandghat passing

through Bemetara district. The length of this river is about 35 to 40 km and is the biggest and longest river of the district. About 10 years ago this river was in the form of Sadwahni River, in which water used to flow throughout the year. But for the last 7-8 years this river is drying up during the summer season. In the last two years, due to Corona, there was flow of water in the river throughout the year and the people of the village have called for its conservation. Due to increasing pollution

in the river and sand mining along with haphazard water exploitation, the river is becoming an obstacle. Also due to the presence of many stop dams in the river, water remains filled in many villages, while villages without stop dams, suffer of water scarcity. Many villages including Bisheshara, Rouha, Manjholi, Devpura, Dhobghatti, Navagaon Hatha, Domsara, Piparkhuti, Kharhatta have water problems and the villagers have demanded construction of stop dams near the river.

Central govt did not provide justice to wrestler daughters: Sahu

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, June 04: Mahila Congress leader and District President Fingeshwar Mrs. Pushpa Sahu has said that the Parliament is the voice of

the people but when new, grand Parliament building was inaugurated, women players who brought medals for the country were humiliated on the streets near the Parliament. Women wrestlers who are

fighting for their rights near the Parliament House were humiliated and women players were beaten on the streets with the force of dictatorship. Sahu further said that democracy does not run only on build-

ings, it runs on the voice of the people. She also condemned the action and said that this is absolutely wrong; today the whole country is sad of Central government's arrogance and injustice.



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E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagee(s) / Guarantor(s) / Secured Asset(s) / Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -							
Branch Name	Name & Address Of Borrower(S)/ Guarantor(S) / Mortgagee(S)	Short Description Of The Immovable Property With Known Encumbrances, If Any	Total Dues	Date & Time Of E-Auction	Reserve Price, End Amount, Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
Charama	Borrower : Smt Shyamabai Sahu W/o Shri Lalkamal Sahu	Commercial cum Residential Building at Khasara No 550/7, PH No. 16, RIC-Charama, Village- Kishnapuri, Tahsil- Charama Distt- Kanker(CG) admeasuring 1087.5 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 592216.60/- + Interest + Other Charges	27/06/2023 02:00 PM To 06:00 PM	₹ 18,00,000/- ₹ 180000/- ₹ 10,000/-	PHYSICAL	21/06/2023 11:00 AM To 04:00 PM
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in . Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile No. 7489924331							
Date : 05.06.2023. Place : BHILAI							
Authorized Officer Bank of Baroda							

BRIEF



A man shows his uncle photo on his mobile to the media, who is still missing, two days after the triple train mishap, at Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital in Balasore district, Odisha, Sunday.

Snakebite

Sonbhadra: Two minor girls were killed after being bitten by a snake in a village in Obrha area here, police said on Sunday. Rita (4) and Sita (7) were bitten by a snake while they were asleep on Saturday night in Bariipur village, SHO Avinash Kumar Singh said. They were rushed to the community health centre, where they died, he said.

Collision

Barabanki: Three people, including two motorcyclists, were killed in a collision between two trailer trucks on the Banda-Bahraich Highway near the Burhwal crossing here, police said on Sunday. The driver of a speeding truck lost control over his vehicle, which jumped the divider and collided with another truck on the other side of the highway, they said. Two motorcyclists — Raju (36) and Kalyan (30) — returning from a wedding were killed after getting trapped between the trucks following the accident, they added.

Mishap

Ballia: Two persons were killed and 11 others injured in separate road accidents in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia and Balrampur districts, police said on Sunday. A clerk of the commercial tax department was killed when his motorcycle was hit by a speeding tractor in Alavpur village in the Sukhpura area of Ballia Saturday night, they said. The deceased was identified as Mahesh Srivastava (47), police said, adding he was returning from duty when the incident occurred.

Fire

New Delhi: Fire broke out at a hostel of the Maulana Azad Medical College here on Sunday morning but there was no loss of life, officials said. According to them, the information about the blaze at the old boys hostel was received at 6.09 am. Seven fire tenders were rushed to the site. The fire had affected the AC, furniture and clothes in a room on the first floor of the building, a senior fire official said.

Shot dead

Prayagraj: A teenager was shot dead here by unidentified assailants, police said on Sunday. Adil Ali, who runs an e-rickshaw, was shot on Saturday night, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Deepak Bhuker said. An FIR against three persons has been registered on a complaint by the victim's father.

'Threat of pandemics far from over'

Need to strengthen health-based surveillance system

Hyderabad, Jun 04 (PTI)

The threat of pandemics is far from over and the current need is to integrate surveillance systems of countries under the "One Health" framework and strengthen it, Union Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar said on Sunday.

"The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted that partnerships are most fruitful only when developed during peacetime and not amidst an ongoing pandemic, and that we need to focus on creating resilient health systems, with primary health as its corner-



Bharati Pravin Pawar

stone," Pawar said in her address at the third G20 Health Working Group meeting here. G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Tourism, S P Singh Baghel, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, and Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, were present on the occasion. Pawar further stated that the "partnership

we share as G20 members is vital and facilitates in building trust, sharing knowledge, creating networks and working together to achieve meaningful impact and results."

Pawar also highlighted the need for availability of safe, effective and quality medical countermeasures.

Stating that India's G20 presidency is working towards building consensus for an end-to-end global medical countermeasure ecosystem, following a network of networks approach and leveraging existing global and regional initiatives, Pawar urged the leadership of G20 countries to create an interim platform which will be guided by the **I n t e r g o v e r n m e n t a l** Negotiating Body (INB) process and will feed into the

same. "Pandemics may not wait for the finalization of the Pandemic Treaty and hence, the time to act is now," she stated. Pawar also informed the delegates of India's proposal of a global initiative on digital health, a WHO-managed network to converge ongoing initiatives in use of technology in the global health arena. She stated that this initiative can enable bridging the digital divide amongst nations and ensure that the fruits of technology are made available to every citizen of the world. Underscoring the contribution of Indian traditional knowledge systems to health-care, G Kishan Reddy stated that "Indian traditional knowledge system propagated preventive and holistic wellbeing for all".

B'deshi diplomat visits Odisha hospitals

To look for injured train passengers

Balasore, Jun 04:

A senior Bangladeshi diplomat, Sheikh Marefat Ali Islam, on Sunday visited Soro Hospital in Odisha's Balasore district to provide consular assistance to Bangladeshi passengers injured in the triple train crash.

Islam told PTI that few Bangladeshi passengers were recuperating in different hospitals in Odisha but there was no news of death of any citizen of that country in the crash.

"One Bangladeshi passenger admitted at a Bhadrak hospital was discharged after treatment. Another has been referred to SCB Medical

College in Cuttack. On Saturday, I had visited a Balasore hospital," he said.

"If there's any information on injured Bangladeshi patients, please dial our deputy high commission at Kolkata - 9038353533," Marefat, second secretary in the Bangladesh deputy high commission which looks after eastern India, added.

"Several unclaimed bodies are lying in a few hospitals in Bhubaneswar. We will have to find out if there are any Bangladeshis among them," he added.

He thanked the Odisha government for providing support in tracing the injured and dead Bangladeshi citizens in various hospitals.

MP Congress to move court for judicial probe

Into collapse of idols at Mahakal Lok corridor

Bhopal, Jun 04 (PTI)

The Congress will approach the Madhya Pradesh High Court to seek a judicial probe into the collapse of six of seven 'Saptarishi' idols at the 'Mahakal Lok' corridor in Ujjain, a party leader said on Sunday.

The six idols collapsed at the corridor near the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain following gusty winds on May 28.

A technical team of the Madhya Pradesh Lokayukta on Saturday started a probe into the incident. "We are ready with

a petition to approach the high court. It has been sent to senior lawyers for their go ahead. In all likelihood, we are going to file the petition this coming week," a senior Madhya Pradesh Congress leader told PTI.

He said they will seek a judicial probe into the incident by a sitting judge, he said.

The Congress will take on the state Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government that "hasn't spared even gods," he claimed. The incident smacks of corruption in the installation of idols and development works carried out at the multi-crore corridor, the leader alleged. The first phase of the Mahakal Lok corridor was inaugurated by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi in October last year.

After the idols collapse incident on May 28, MP Congress chief Kamal Nath sought a probe into the "sub-standard construction", while senior party leader Arun Yadav slammed the BJP government, alleging its corruption was "not sparing even gods". The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has denied corruption charges levelled by the Congress and blamed gusty winds for the incident. The MP Lokayukta (anti-corruption ombudsman) has taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of the incident and asked its technical wing to investigate it, an official earlier said.

Radio jockeys to raise awareness about climate change

Kolkata, Jun 04 (PTI)

Radio Jockeys (RJs) will use their voice and fun-filled form of presentation from World Environment Day, June 5, to raise awareness on environmental protection.

Radio listeners in Kolkata will get to know about the actions that cause climate change, and its consequences through the programmes, a UNICEF release said.

The RJs and radio professionals of private FM channels, Akashvani, Community Radio and HAM Radio on Friday gathered at a programme for 'Sensitisation and Call to Action on Mission LIFE for Radio Professionals' organised by UNICEF and CASA and various creative methods were show-

cased for highlighting the issue of climate change and ways to mitigate them.

Any person can switch off the car engine at a traffic signal or put off the lights, AC or fans while leaving the room to lower pollution levels. Turning off the roadside water tap or repairing a dripping faucet at home can go a long way to stem the change in climate patterns. "We RJs will spread such messages in fun-filled, creative and non-directive methods to protect the environment," RJ Ginnie Mahajan from New Delhi and RJ Sumanta Banerjee of Kolkata said.

India has been promoting 'Mission LIFE' to urge an individual and the community to protect the environment.

PROTEST RALLY



Meitei community people of Manipur take part in a protest at Jantar-Mantar in New Delhi, Sunday.

'Our family is devastated': 3 brothers lose lives in Odisha train accident

Baruipur, Jun 04 (PTI)

Three brothers from West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, who were travelling to Tamil Nadu in search of work, lost their lives in the train accident in Odisha's Balasore, officials said.

Haran Gayen (40), Nishikant Gayen (35) and Dibakar Gayen (32), residents of Charanikhali village in Basanti Uttar, usually lived in the southern state most time of the year and did menial jobs there.

They came home a few days back, and were going back to Tamil Nadu this time in the Coromandel Express in search of work as farm labourers.

As the news of their deaths came, a pall of gloom descended on the

village. Their wives fell unconscious as neighbours continued consoling them.

Haran's wife Anajita is a neurological patient, locals said, adding that her treatment was now in question. He is survived by two married daughters and a son who has recently started working at a local eatery.

Besides his wife, Nishikant is survived by a daughter and a son, both minors. Dibakar is survived by two sons and his wife.

"My father and uncles are no more, our family is devastated," said an inconsolable Avijit, the son of Haran. Twelve people from the district have lost their lives in the crash, which happened on Friday evening, officials said.

Son reunites with father while serving food to poor

Ramgarh, Jun 04 (PTI)

A 13-year-old boy reunited with his father after a decade while serving food to the poor during a food distribution event organised by an organisation in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district.

The father, identified as Tinku Verma, was allegedly arrested by police following the mysterious death of his wife in 2013, was sitting in a queue to have free food on Friday afternoon. Incidentally, his son Shivam was serving food. The son saw him and found the bearded face resembled his father.

Meanwhile, the father also recognized his son, who had been handed over to Divine Omkar

Mission, a non-profit organisation for orphaned, abandoned and marginal poor children, by administration officials after his arrest. Then, Shivam was just three years old.

Both father and son hugged each other and they broke down into tears. The emotional scene drew the attention of the manager of the organisation Rajesh Negi.

Negi said that administrative officials had handed over Shivam to the organisation, as his father had been arrested by police following the death of his mother. "There was no one to take care of the little boy," he said. He added that Shivam is now a student of class-8, who studies in the school-run by the organisation.

Reviving Indian Culture and Rituals for Environmental Preservation



By Prof. Man Mohan Prakash

The condition of the environment and its components in India is not hidden from anyone. The figures of India's Environment Status Report 2022, published by Science and Environment and Down-to-Earth, are frightening. It cannot be said how much truth there is in this report, but it can definitely be said that if they are true, then the situation is alarming. According to this report, India ranks 120 out of 192

countries in terms of environmental status. It is a matter of concern that our country has slipped down three places compared to last year's data. We could not even achieve the targets set for housing and drinking water, pollution and waste management, forest cover, and renewable energy production, etc.

Moving away from the statistics, if we reflect on the environmental situation in India, it becomes evident that most of the country's rivers are struggling for their existence. Other underground and surface water sources seem to be dying, at least in summer. Atmospheric temperature is increasing due to various human factors such as increasing carbon dioxide, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and changing weather patterns. Pollution is spreading everywhere. Laws and regulations are proving to be ineffective, at least against those who

spread pollution, whether it is a matter of not burning "paradi," not mixing industrial effluents in water sources, or not burning garbage, etc.

Today, the land is fed up with the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, losing its fertility. Forests are troubled by encroachment, and wildlife is struggling for survival due to various man-made reasons. Conflicts and wars between different countries around the world contribute to all kinds of pollution, harming nature, and causing loss of life and wealth. The development, testing, trade, and use of destructive weapons make the possibility of a third world war imminent. There is no exaggeration if the war between Russia and Ukraine is stopped with the explosion of nuclear missiles and bombs, etc. Overall, human values are eroding, and human civilization groans while nature is

forced to shed tears over its condition. Even in such a situation, big influential and powerful countries are eager to take small countries under their control. All world-level institutions are proving ineffective in establishing peace and harmony.

Most countries in the world are more or less intent on the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources and are oblivious to the problems that harm the environment. Maintaining a natural balance in such a situation becomes a difficult and unsolvable question, not only for all countries but also for nature itself.

All the scientific inventions of humanity have proved helpless before nature. Yet, humans are not ready to understand that without adopting Sanatan Sanskar (eternal values) and a culture and nature-friendly lifestyle, they cannot remain happy and healthy. In fact, for the en-

joyment of both nature and human beings, cordial co-existence is necessary for them to flourish. How long will human beings continue to harm themselves and nature by dismissing Indian Sanatan culture and rituals as unscientific?

We are all well aware that in our scientific Sanatan culture, in the Vedas-Puranas, etc., it has always been emphasized to worship the five elements of nature, considering them equal to gods, and giving them respect and enrichment. The meaning of this is that we should understand the importance of the panch bhoot (five elements) and use them sparingly. We should neither contaminate them nor waste them in the name of religiosity, or by mixing them with pure natural substances after their use in worship. This is only possible when every human being takes a resolution to neither contaminate the god-like

five elements themselves nor allow others to contaminate them. We also have to educate our children about the protection and promotion of the environment and make them responsible.

What can we say about people who are irreligious and influenced by Western culture? They consider Indian culture and rituals unscientific and view the five elements as mere resources for consumption and contamination. Perhaps their actions alienate them from Indian culture and rituals, leading to various environmental problems. That's why respected Indian Prime Minister Modi Ji has emphasized discussing environmental issues at the dining table. The current environmental situation is the responsibility of everyone, from children to elders, and finding a solution requires collective effort. Therefore, there is no better place than the dinner

table to enlighten everyone on this subject.

Indians should understand that our eternal culture and rituals were never unscientific. They have always stood the test of scientificity. Perhaps that is why our Sanatan tradition includes provisions for worshipping plants, animals, rivers, seas, mountains, forests, fields, and barns to preserve and promote natural balance, especially during various Teej and festivals. These occasions serve as a reminder to salute the power and importance of nature. Let us all follow the environmentally friendly Indian culture and rituals, taking a pledge to make nature happy and free from environmental harm. By embracing the environment-friendly Indian culture and values ourselves and transferring them to the next generation, we can flourish with the essence of our traditions and culture.

India no longer lumbering around at relatively slow pace: EAM Jaishankar

Johannesburg, Jun 04 (PTI):

India is no longer "lumbering around at a relatively slow pace", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said and urged the diaspora to be part of the country's growth story.

Speaking at a reception hosted by the Indian diaspora and expatriate community in Cape Town in his honour Saturday evening, he also spoke about the special relationship between India and South Africa, which would celebrate 30 years of new diplomatic ties.



The minister was in the city with his counterparts from Brazil, Russia and China for the BRICS bloc's meeting hosted by South Africa.

"This is no longer the India that was lumbering around at a relatively slow

pace. When it comes to digital, I can assert with a great deal of confidence, that I see practices (and) efficiencies in India which I don't see even if I go to Europe and North America," Jaishankar said.

"This scale of change which is taking place in India, when we speak about the pace of transformation of these nine years, is really something that I think the Indian community abroad, the non-residents abroad and I would say even the friends and well-wishers of India abroad need to understand

is something very powerful and very big that is going on," he said.

The minister said it is important that the diaspora and the people of Indian origin who live abroad also participate and have that sense of involvement in the change in India.

Highlighting the achievements of the Modi government in its nine years in office through policy reforms and actions in various areas to raise the self-reliance of the Indian people, Jaishankar said this was not a protectionist effort.



BALTIC SEA SHOWDOWN
NATO warships are moored in Old Harbour in Tallinn, Estonia. This year's largest naval exercise in the Baltic Sea, Baltops 2023, started in Tallinn on Saturday and bring fifty NATO warships and close to six thousands personnel to the Estonian capital.

At least 500 children killed by war: Zelenskyy

Kyiv, Jun 04 (AP):

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday that Russia's war, now in its 16th month, has killed at least 500 Ukrainian children.

Zelenskyy provided the number hours after rescue workers found the body of a 2-year-old girl who died in one of the latest Russian strikes.

The president said in a statement that "Russian weapons and hatred, which continue to take and destroy the lives of Ukrainian children every day," killed the hundreds who had perished since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine started on Feb. 24, 2022.

"Many of them could



have become famous scholars, artists, sports champions, contributing to Ukraine's history," he said.

Zelenskyy said it was impossible to establish the exact number of children who were casualties due to the ongoing hostilities and because some areas are under Russian occupation.

"We must hold out and win this war!" the Ukrainian president said. "All of Ukraine, all our people, all our children, must be free from the Russian terror!"

Rescuers found the 2-year-old's body early Sunday while combing through the rubble of an apartment building in the suburbs of the central city of Dnipro.

The regional governor, Serhiy Lysak, said five children were among 22 people injured by Saturday's attack, which damaged two residential buildings.

The Russians launched more strikes with drones and cruise missiles Sunday, targeting multiple areas of the country, including the capital, Kyiv.

The Ukrainian air force said the country's air defenses downed three of the five Shahed self-exploding drones and four of the six cruise missiles fired.

Ukraine keeps up pressure following Russian declaration of victory in Bakhmut

Outside Bakhmut, (Ukraine), Jun 04 (AP): Watching imagery from a drone camera overhead, Ukrainian battalion commander Oleg Shiryayev warned his men in nearby trenches that Russian forces were advancing across a field toward a patch of trees outside the city of Bakhmut.

The leader of the 127th Kharkiv Territorial Defence Brigade then ordered a mortar team to get ready. A target was locked. A mortar tube popped out a loud orange blast, and an explosion cut a new crater in an already pockmarked hillside.

"We are moving forward," Shiryayev said after at least one drone image showed a

Russian fighter struck down. "We fight for every tree, every trench, every dugout."

Russian forces declared victory in the eastern city last month after the longest, deadliest battle since their full-scale invasion of Ukraine began 15 months ago. But Ukrainian defenders like Shiryayev aren't retreating. Instead, they are keeping up the pressure and continuing the fight from positions on the western fringes of Bakhmut.

The pushback gives commanders in Moscow another thing to think about ahead of a much-anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive that appears to be taking shape.

Imran Khan likely to be tried in military court: Khawaja Asif

Islamabad, Jun 04 (PTI):

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said the chances were that former prime minister Imran Khan could be tried in a military court for his alleged involvement in the May 9 incidents in which military and state installations were attacked by his party workers, according to a media report on Sunday.

Khan, 70, could stand trial in a military court if evidence of his involvement in the May 9 violence surfaced in the coming days, Asif was quoted as saying by The Express



Tribune newspaper.

He also confirmed that no case had been registered against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief so far in connection with the May 9 attacks.

"Definitely there are chances that Imran Khan

can be tried in a military court," the minister said while responding to a question if the deposed premier could be prosecuted under the Army Act.

His remarks came days after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that Khan will be tried in a military court as the former prime minister was the "architect" of the May 9 incidents. Khan's party found itself in hot waters when protesters allegedly belonging to the party attacked civil and military properties on May 9 following the arrest of Khan in the Al-Qadir corruption case.

People of India are going to defeat BJP: Rahul Gandhi

New York, Jun 04 (PTI):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said after the Karnataka election victory his party will "decimate" the BJP in Telangana and other state polls, emphasising that it is not just the Congress party but the people of India who are going to defeat its hate-filled ideology.

"We have shown in Karnataka that we can decimate the BJP. We did not defeat them, we decimated them. We smashed them in Karnataka," Gandhi said at a dinner event organised here Saturday by the Indian Overseas Congress-USA.

Gandhi arrived in New York after visiting Washington and San Francisco and will address a community rally at the Javits Centre in Manhattan on Sunday.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during an event at the Roosevelt House, home of former US president Franklin D. Roosevelt, in New York, USA.

He said in the Karnataka elections, the BJP "tried everything in the book, they had the entire media, they had 10 times the amount of money we had, they had the government, they had the agency. They had everything and then we decimated

ed them," Gandhi said. "And I want you to know that we are going to decimate them in Telangana next," he said to loud cheers and applause from the gathering. "It will be hard to find the BJP in Telangana after this election." Election in

the southern Indian state is scheduled to be held later this year.

Congress supporters, officials, party members and members of the diaspora gathered in large numbers at the community event that was also attended by New York City Mayor Eric Adams. Apart from the Telangana election, there are elections scheduled for Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh where we will do the same we did to them in Karnataka," Gandhi said to cheers and applause from the supporters. "It is not just the Congress party that is going to defeat the BJP. It is the people of India, the people of Madhya Pradesh, the people of Telangana, the people of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh who are going to defeat the BJP," Gandhi said.

China defends buzzing American warship in Taiwan Strait

Singapore, Jun 04 (AP):

China's defence minister defended sailing a warship across the path of an American destroyer and Canadian frigate transiting the Taiwan Strait, telling a gathering of some of the world's top defence officials in Singapore on Sunday that such so-called "freedom of navigation" patrols are a provocation to China.

In his first international public address since becoming defence minister in March, Gen. Li Shangfu told the Shangri-La Dialogue that China doesn't have any problems with "innocent passage" but that "we must prevent attempts that try to use

those freedom of navigation (patrols), that innocent passage, to exercise hegemony of navigation."

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told the same forum Saturday that Washington would not "flinch in the face of bullying or coercion" from China and would continue regularly sailing through and flying over the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea to emphasise they are international waters, countering Beijing's sweeping territorial claims.

That same day, as a US guided-missile destroyer and a Canadian frigate were intercepted by a Chinese warship as they transited the strait be-

tween the self-governed island of Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, and mainland China.

The Chinese vessel overtook the American ship and then veered across its bow at a distance of 150 yards (about 140 metres) in an "unsafe manner," according to the US Indo-Pacific Command.

Additionally, the US has said a Chinese J-16 fighter late last month "performed an unnecessarily aggressive maneuver" while intercepting a US Air Force reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea, flying directly in front of the plane's nose.

Those and previous inci-

dents have raised concerns of a possible accident occurring that could lead to an escalation between the two nations at a time when tensions are already high.

Li suggested the US and its allies had created the danger, and should instead should focus on taking "good care of your own territorial airspace and waters."

"The best way is for the countries, especially the naval vessels and fighter jets of countries, not to do closing actions around other countries' territories," he said through an interpreter. "What's the point of going there? In China we always say, Mind your own business."

Indian-origin man jailed for defrauding property buyers in UK

London, Jun 04 (PTI):

An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment for fraud offences after he admitted to fleecing potential property buyers, many of them also of Indian origin, out of nearly 16,000 pounds, Scotland Yard said.

Jaspal Singh Juttla, 64, was sentenced at Isleworth Crown Court in London on Thursday on four counts of fraud by false representation and one count of carrying on a regulated activity when not authorised to do so.

The offences occurred between May 2019 and January 2021 and Juttla pleaded guilty to the offences at an earlier hearing in August last year at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. The offences relate to four victims, where property buyers were conned into handing over approximately 15,790 pounds to Juttla impersonating as a

mortgage adviser.

"Jaspal Singh Juttla is a persistent fraud who has exploited people in his own community, using their hard-earned money to fund his lifestyle," said Detective Constable Anita Sharma, Financial Investigator in the Central Specialist Crime Unit of the Met Police.

"We are grateful to those victims who have been brave enough to come forward in this case but there may be other people conned by Juttla who have not spoken to police. I urge anyone who suspects they may be a victim of Juttla to come forward and report it by calling Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or contacting them online," she said. The financial investigators from the Met's Economic Crime team believe that there are other victims that have been scammed by the ruse and are yet to come forward. Juttla claimed to be a mortgage adviser and offered to assist victims with property purchases.

PROTESTS IN SERBIA



People march during a protest against violence in Belgrade, Serbia. Tens of thousands of people rallied in Serbia's capital on Saturday in protest of the government's handling of a crisis after two mass shootings in the Balkan country.

3 Chinese astronauts return home safely after a six-month stint in space station

Beijing/Jiuquan, Jun 04 (PTI):

Three Chinese astronauts on Sunday returned safely to Earth on board the Shenzhou-15 manned spaceship after completing their six-month mission to build China's space station.

Shenzhou-15's return capsule carrying astronauts Fei Junlong, Deng Qingming and Zhang Lu, touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 6:33 am (Beijing Time), China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said here.

The three completed their six-month space station mission, it announced.

The astronauts were in good shape, and the Shenzhou-15 manned mission was a success, the agency announced.

The three were replaced by three other astronauts, including China's first civilian who successfully flew to the space station on May 30.

The new set of astro-

nauts will stay in the space station for five months.

Once ready, China will be the only country to own a space station as the International Space Station (ISS) of Russia is a collaborative project of several countries. The ISS station is also set to be decommissioned by 2030.

The significant feature of China's space station is its two robotic arms, especially the long one which can grab objects, including satellites from space.

"We have completed all the scheduled tasks and felt good after returning to the motherland," Fei, the mission commander, said.

Fei had also participated in the country's second crewed space mission, Shenzhou-6, in October 2005.

Deng, who finally got the chance to fly to space after 25 years of preparation, said: "I always believe in the power of dreams and persistence. No matter how old I am, I feel so happy to be needed by the nation."



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 239

Preserving Sedition Law

Balancing Security and Civil Liberties

In a report submitted to the government, the Law Commission has recommended the retention of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), commonly known as the sedition law. While acknowledging concerns over its misuse, the panel suggests implementing procedural safeguards and guidelines to curb any potential abuse. The report highlights the need for clarity in the usage of Section 124A and emphasizes that sedition should not be repealed solely based on its colonial origins. The Law Commission argues that the law plays a crucial role in safeguarding the security and integrity of the country, making its retention essential. The report addresses the criticism that other laws, such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Security Act, cover elements of sedition, but not comprehensively. Without the provision of sedition, expressions inciting violence against the government would fall under more stringent counter-terrorism legislations, lacking the necessary balance in handling such cases. The report dismisses the argument that sedition should be repealed based on the practices of other countries, emphasizing the importance of considering India's ground realities. While recognizing the historical context of sedition as a tool used against India's freedom fighters, the report stresses that its colonial origins alone do not justify its repeal. Instead, the Law Commission suggests introducing legal mechanisms to prevent misuse and protect genuine victims. Repealing the provision entirely, according to the report, would grant subversive forces the freedom to further their agenda, posing significant risks to the nation's security and integrity. However, critics argue that the Law Commission's stand on this issue contradicts the spirit of the Supreme Court's rulings and observations. The higher judiciary has repeatedly emphasized civil liberties in its judgments on sedition cases. The Supreme Court has questioned why a colonial-era law, previously employed by the British to silence leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak, has not been repealed. In recent years, Section 124A has been misused to suppress voices of dissent, targeting journalists and activists. The retention of Section 124A, in the presence of other stringent laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Security Act, raises concerns about the erosion of India's democratic credentials and unreasonable restrictions on freedom of speech and expression. It is argued that the sedition law, often used as a tool by the State to commit excesses, undermines the nation's constitutional framework. Repealing Section 124A becomes crucial to restore balance and protect civil liberties. While the Law Commission's recommendations shed light on the complexities surrounding the sedition law, a balanced approach is necessary. Striking a delicate balance between individual rights and national security is the key to any potential amendments. The government must carefully consider the Law Commission's insights while addressing the concerns raised by critics. The preservation of the sedition law should be accompanied by stringent safeguards to prevent abuse and ensure the protection of both individuals and the nation.

Digital Sovereignty in India

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

The rapid pace of technological advancements, including AI, social media, and other technological innovations, is leading to transformative changes in societies worldwide. In this context, the concept of digital sovereignty has gained significant importance. Digital sovereignty refers to a nation's capacity to exert control and assert independence over digital technologies, data, and information within its jurisdiction. It encompasses the ability of a country to govern its digital infrastructure, establish policies and regulations, and manage the flow of data in accordance with its unique values, interests, and legal frameworks. The concept of digital sovereignty has gained prominence as technology and digital services have become pervasive in various aspects of society and the economy. It encompasses concerns about data privacy, cybersecurity, national security, economic competitiveness, and the protection of cultural values and norms. Digital sovereignty includes measures taken by countries to safeguard their digital ecosystem, such as establishing data protection laws, implementing cybersecurity measures, promoting the use of domestically developed technologies, and regulating the flow of data across borders. These measures are often aimed at reducing dependence on foreign technologies and services, protecting national interests, and ensuring that digital activities align with the country's laws and policies. Some examples of digital sovereignty initiatives include data localization requirements, where countries mandate that certain types of data must be stored within their borders, and the development of domestic digital infrastructure, such as national internet networks or cloud services. However, digital sovereignty is a complex and evolving concept, and its implementation can vary across countries. Balancing the benefits of global digital connectivity with the need to protect national interests and values is an ongoing challenge for policymakers in the digital age. In India, the concept of digital sovereignty has gained increasing attention in recent years. In India, the government has implemented various measures to assert control over digital technologies, data, and information in the country. Key aspects of digital sovereignty in India include data localization, cybersecurity initiatives, development of domestic digital infrastructure, promotion of digital payments, and internet governance and content regulation. The government has established cybersecurity initiatives, such as the National Cyber Security Policy and the Cyber Swachhta Kendra, to protect critical infrastructure and data. Emphasis has been placed on developing domestic digital infrastructure through initiatives like the National Knowledge Network and National Data Centers. Digital payments and financial technology have been promoted to reduce cash dependence and strengthen financial sovereignty. The government has also introduced regulations to govern digital content and platforms, ensuring compliance with laws and cultural values. While asserting digital sovereignty, the Indian government recognizes the importance of balancing it with global connectivity, innovation, and economic growth. Efforts to achieve digital sovereignty in India are ongoing, with a focus on aligning the digital ecosystem with national interests, security, and values.

(Writer is Professor & Principal Retd.)

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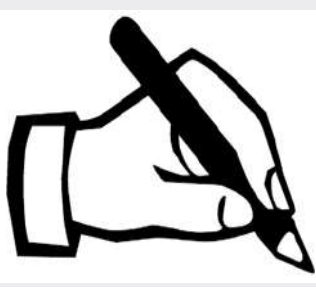
SNAN RITUALS OF LORD JAGANNATH



Priests perform 'Snan' (holy bath) rituals of Lord Jagannath, Bhalbhadra and Subhadra on 'Purnima' ahead of the Rath Yatra festival, in Ranchi, Sunday, June 4.

Forests are the lifeline of our world

ER PRABHAT KISHORE



Life and pure environment on earth are complement each other and trees play the role of catalyst in this work. But unfortunately under the guise of so-called development, natural resources are being exploited and trees are being cut indiscriminately by humans, which has adversely affected the environmental balance.

Presently the whole world is suffering from Pandemic Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), one of the major cause of which is the disturbance of nature and ecological imbalance. Currently the main thrust to combat the pandemic is the production of artificial oxygen in laboratories, which is nothing but result of neglecting natural source of this life supporting gas, i.e. trees. Ideally a country must have at least 33% of its areas covered with forest, but currently it is just 20% in India. The Central as well as State governments have separate jumbo-sized ministries and departments for this purpose; but despite huge expenditure of public money, even after 73 years of independence all have failed to achieve this goal.

Trees & plants are the major components of the environment. They balance the proportion of

Carbon Di-oxide in the atmosphere. Gradual rise of temperature on earth is not a natural disaster, but a scientific and environmental problem. There is a certain proportion of oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and other gases in the air. Steep growth of factories & motor vehicles, rapid pace of urbanization, population rise and indiscriminate reaping of forests have led to unexpected increase in the proportion of Carbon di-oxide in the atmosphere. With the rise in population, the consumption of oxygen and the production of carbon di-oxide have also increased. There has been gradual rise in carbon di-oxide gas due to conventional source of energy such as burning of coal, wood, petroleum, cowdung etc. This gas has a tendency to pass sunlight through it, increasing the temperature of the atmosphere and resulting in unwanted geographic & seasonal changes.

The emitting smoke from factories & vehicles not only contains carbon di-oxide but also harmful carbon mono-oxide, nitrogen oxide, lead oxide, carbon particles, heavy hydro-carbon, formaldehyde, benzene, which pollutes the atmosphere and affects the cells in

the human's lungs to become cancerous. The Ozone-layer protects us from the harmful ultra-violet rays of the Sun. Industrial chemicals, particularly chloro-carbon and nitrogen oxides from nuclear and atomic explosions, damage the Ozone-layer. If these chemicals are not controlled, then the Ozone-layer of the earth will be damaged upto 25 to 30% in the coming 50 years, resulting in rapid increase in atmospheric temperature and danger of cancer to human and animal bodies. A report reveals that at present, pollution from municipality is 45.62%, Bio-medical/chemical - 20%, Various mode of transport - 14%, Industry - 6.4%, Thermal power station - 6.4% and from other sources is 6.7%.

In various religious literatures, the importance of trees has been highlighted. In Sanskrit literature, trees like Peepal, Neem, Tulsi, Bargad/Vat, Anwala have been worshiped and cutting of green trees have been prohibited. Obviously, the Holy literatures have glorified the trees due to its life-supporting quality. In the Matasya Puran, a tree has been mentioned as equivalent to ten sons (Dash Koop Samavapi Dashvapi Samohridah. Dash Hridsamah Putron Dash Putra Samo Drumah). In the Bhagwad Gita (10.26), Bhagwan Krishna have glorified the Vat/Bargad tree as "Ashvatthah Sarva Vrikshanam". In Yajurved, the tree has been said to be the reflection of Bhagwan Shiva. As Shiva ingested the poison and released the Amrit, in the same way trees desiccate the poison (poisonous gases like Carbon di-oxide) and pump out Amrit in the form of oxygen.

Gautam Buddha has attained enlightenment under the Peepal

tree called Bodhi Vriksh in Bodhi Gaya. As per Buddhist scriptures, nature creates as well as preserves life and it is the duty of the people to preserve the plant considering it as living being. All the 24 Jain Tirthankars meditated under the tree to attain enlightenment. Islamic literature mentions that "whoever plants a tree and diligently looks after it until it matures and bears fruit, will be rewarded by Allah as charity". Holy Bible says "God made trees with seed bearing fruits. He gave us the possibility to increase their numbers by planting seeds." Actually all these aspects have been emphasised keeping in mind the social concern regarding the importance of trees & plants for the conservation of the environment.

Forests are not just densely covered areas of trees & plants, but are the source of livelihood of human as well as other biological creatures. It is responsible for rain, reduces the effects of natural calamities like tsunami, prevents soil erosion, minimizes air pollution, produce shelter for birds and wild animals, availability of food etc. It is the source of numerous herbal plants for the manufacture of medicines. In other words, it is the lifeline for millions of people and other living creatures.

Conservation of the environment is not possible only through some government initiatives; civil societies too have to come forward. Otherwise, in coming days, due to the unexpected rise of carbon di-oxide and damage to Ozone-layer, the earth would be so much heated that existence of life on the earth will be in danger mode.

(The author is an engineer and educationist, Patna, Bihar)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tragic Rail Catastrophe

In a devastating incident near Balasore district in Odisha, a triple train collision has claimed the lives of nearly 300 individuals and left over 900 injured. This harrowing event stands as one of the worst accidents of the century. My deepest condolences and prayers go out to the grieving and affected families. However, amidst the sorrow, we are compelled to question the reasons behind such occurrences and seek accountability. The truth must be unveiled. Are there no signaling and safety systems in place within the Indian railways? Will these horrific accidents become the norm for India's railway system? It appears that the government's focus lies solely on launching luxury trains, disregarding the need for crucial improvements to the overall railway infrastructure. This tragic incident is an outcome of that negligence. In the past, railway ministers would resign in the wake of train accidents. Will the current railway minister follow suit?

MK Nair, Raipur

Devastating Train Disaster

The news of the train collision tragedy in Odisha, claiming the lives of over 200 individuals and leaving close to 1000 injured, sent shivers down the spine. This incident is widely regarded as one of the most tragic accidents in the country, prompting serious concerns about the negligence of railway department officials. It is crucial for the government to contemplate the implementation of anti-collision devices to minimize the occurrence of such incidents. Instead of merely declaring a state mourning, a thorough investigation must be conducted to uncover the truth and ensure that such a tragedy is never repeated. Let us learn from this heartbreaking event and take the necessary measures to prevent future calamities.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Train accident can't be tolerated

According to report the collision of three trains which ended up in over 288 people deaths and over 1200 were injuries no human being will ever digest this sorrow. Signal failure is a clear case of railway officials' negligence, which can't be tolerated under any circumstances. According to an initial investigation, Coromandel Express received a signal to enter the main line, but it was disregarded, causing it to enter the loop line instead, where it collided with a goods train that was waiting there. Another thing there was no Kavach system implemented on this route. In order to fulfil the goal of zero train accidents, railway board across length and breadth of the country should implement the Automatic Train Protection system, aka Kavach as soon as possible at least now onwards.

Dr. Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Overcoming Projections: India's Remarkable GDP Growth



Yash Pal Raihan

India's GDP growth of 7.2 percent, despite lower projections from international rating agencies, is a testament to the nation's determination and perseverance. Despite facing numerous obstacles and adversities, the Indian economy has achieved a remarkable feat, establishing itself as the fastest-growing economy in the world. This exceptional performance is a clear indicator that India is heading in the right direction.

Highlighting Resilience: A Closer Look at Growth Indicators
The growth figures for 2022-23 underscore the resilience of the

Indian economy in the face of global challenges, as pointed out by the Prime Minister. However, it is crucial to recognize that this growth indicator is not a singular measure, but rather a compilation of various components that demonstrate the nation's positive trajectory. Notably, the agricultural sector experienced accelerated growth, expanding by 5.5 percent compared to 4.1 percent in the previous period. Additionally, the electricity, gas, water supply, and utility services segment demonstrated robust growth of 6.9 percent, further reinforcing the positive momentum.

The services sector, encompassing trade, hotel, transport, communication, and related services, witnessed a substantial GVA growth of 9.1 percent during the fourth quarter. This impressive performance stands in stark contrast to a mere five percent growth reported a year ago, as per the data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Such resilience and optimism, accompanied by compelling macroeconomic indicators, exemplify the promising trajectory of the Indian economy and the unwavering spirit of its people.

Sustaining Momentum: Challenges on the Horizon
While celebrating India's economic achievements, it is vital to remain cognizant of the various fac-

tors that could influence sustained growth. Factors such as the rise in home loan EMIs and their impact on household budgets, contraction in exports leading to potential employment issues, and the consequences of climate change on crop production demand our attention. Furthermore, concerns have surfaced regarding subdued demand for passenger vehicles, especially small cars, and the declining sales of medium and heavy commercial vehicles. The FMCG sector also faces pressure from weaker rural demand caused by inflation, while IT companies have adjusted their revenue and hiring guidance for FY24 due to global developments. These challenges underscore the need for cautious optimism as we progress.

Morgan Stanley's Positive Outlook India's Transformation and Reforms

Recent reports by Morgan Stanley, the global financial firm, shed light on India's remarkable progress on the economic front. The report underscores India's transformation over the past decade, positioning itself favorably in the world order with significant positive implications for the macroeconomic and market outlook. The present government's policies have played a pivotal role in this transformation. The report specifically identifies ten

significant changes since 2014, including the reduction of corporate tax rates to align with other major economies and substantial investments in infrastructure. Other noteworthy achievements highlighted by Morgan Stanley include the surging collection of goods and services tax (GST) and the increasing share of digital transactions as a percentage of GDP, signifying the formalization of the economy. Direct transfers and other initiatives also contribute positively to India's overall economic progress.

Moving Forward: Cautious Optimism and Continued Vigilance

While the Indian economy continues to move in the right direction, it is imperative to exercise caution and remain vigilant. The road ahead may not be entirely smooth, as challenges persist in various sectors. However, by recognizing these challenges and adopting appropriate measures, India can overcome obstacles and further strengthen its economic foundation. The combination of resilience, positive growth indicators, and strategic reforms sets the stage for a prosperous future. With careful and measured steps, India can ensure that its journey toward sustained economic growth remains on track.

To sustain the positive momentum, policymakers must remain vigilant and responsive to changing

economic dynamics. Continuous monitoring of high-frequency indicators by the Reserve Bank of India and timely policy interventions can mitigate potential risks and bolster economic stability. This proactive approach will enable the government to navigate challenges effectively and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

It is noteworthy that India's journey toward economic growth has been driven by a combination of prudent policy decisions, structural reforms, and the resilience of its people. However, it is crucial to ensure that the benefits of growth are inclusive and reach all sections of society. Efforts to address income inequality, enhance social welfare programs, and prioritize sustainable development should remain at the forefront of the government's agenda.

By adopting a careful balance of optimism and prudence, India can sustain its economic momentum and build a brighter future for all its citizens. The nation's journey toward sustained economic growth and prosperity requires continuous vigilance, strategic reforms, and an unwavering commitment to inclusivity. With these principles guiding our actions, India can navigate the road ahead with confidence and pave the way for a prosperous future.

BRIEF

OMRON Healthcare

Chennai: OMRON Healthcare, manufacturers of blood pressure monitors and cardiovascular disease prevention and management service provider expects to commence operations at its Tamil Nadu plant by March 2025, the company said. OMRON Healthcare would be setting up a facility to manufacture blood pressure monitors in Origins by Mahindra, Chennai.

Sterling Holidays Resorts

New Delhi: Sterling Holidays Resorts Ltd, a part of Thomas Cook India group, plans to add a new hotel every month in the second half of this year to cash in on the robust growth witnessed in domestic tourism, according to a top group official. The company expects the number of properties to increase to 55 during the course of next year, Thomas Cook (India) Chairman and Managing Director Madhavan Menon told PTI.

NCLT

New Delhi: Insolvency tribunal NCLT approved 180 resolution plans in FY23, the highest-ever number so far, resulting in a total realisation of Rs 51,424 crore from stressed assets. While, in terms of realisation of the amount for creditors, this is the second highest after FY19, when the total realisation was Rs 1.11 lakh crore after completing 77 insolvency proceedings including some big-ticket matters such as Essar Steel and Monnet Ispat. This has helped creditors of debt-ridden firms in FY23 to realise 36 per cent of their total admitted claims of Rs 1,42,543 crore for the year ended March 31, 2023.

Minus Zero

Mumbai: Marquee angel investors-backed self-driving startup Minus Zero on Sunday unveiled an autonomous vehicle based on a camera-sensor suite. With the ability to scale up to Level 5 autonomy capabilities, the vehicle named zPod, can drive itself in all environmental and geographical constraints, company's co-founder Gagandeep Reehal announced. Co-founded in 2021 by Reehal and Gursimran Kalra, the Bangalore-based tech platform plans to produce fully-autonomous vehicles on the lines of the ones by global tech giants such as Tesla and Google.

Brigade Enterprises

New Delhi: Realty firm Brigade Enterprises will launch 10 housing projects this fiscal across Bengaluru and Chennai with an estimated construction cost of Rs 3,000 crore as it looks to encash rising demand for residential properties, its MD Pavitra Shankar said. In an interview with PTI, she sounded extremely bullish on India's residential market and said the company would like to grow housing sales by 15-20 per cent during the current 2023-24 fiscal.

'India deserves to have non-stop flights to more overseas destinations'

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):



Air India chief Campbell Wilson

Asserting that India deserves to have international non-stop connectivity to more destinations, Air India chief Campbell Wilson has said the country has in some respect not been able to control its own destiny as a consequence of not having a healthy domestic airline industry.

Wilson, who is piloting Air India's massive expansion plans in terms of fleet as well as routes, also said that IndiGo succeeding well and Tata airlines coming together provides a good competitor to the strength of IndiGo.

"It should hopefully allow for a market that is more sustainable, ideally profitable that will allow airlines to invest in new

products, expand network and also lead India to assume its place on the world aviation stage..." he told PTI in a recent interview.

Tata Group took over Air India and Air India Express from the government in January last year.

Currently, the group has four carriers under its fold -- Air India, Air India Express, AIX Connect (earlier known as AirAsia India) and Vistara, a joint

venture with Singapore Airlines.

The group is also in the process of merging Air India Express and AIX Connect, and Vistara with Air India.

Responding to a query about the crisis at Go First, Wilson said it is very unfortunate.

Cash-strapped budget carrier Go First stopped flying from May 3 and is undergoing voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings.

This is not the first time that an airline has failed in the country and "it does I think underscore the industry structure that has prevailed has not been conducive for a healthy, vibrant, profitable industry", the Air India CEO and Managing Director said.

"As a consequence of not having a healthy domestic airline industry, India has in some respects its own destiny. Some foreign airlines coming into India have been the ones that have reaped the benefits of the growing Indian market as opposed to the Indian airlines.

"We continue to make sure that we put in the investments in aircraft, products, people and systems. We will have a significantly sized, professionally run, expansion-oriented high quality airline," Wilson said.

He also said that Air India is investing USD 70 billion at list price for 470 new aircraft and that is with the explicit purpose of providing more services, especially international connectivity.

Renault Nissan Automotive progresses towards Carbon Neutrality vision

Chennai, June 04 (PTI):



Automobile manufacturer Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd was progressing towards its Carbon Neutrality goal which was launched in February this year.

The Chennai plant of the company already initiated a campaign to replace single use plastic items with eco-friendly alternatives.

Renault Nissan Automotive Pvt Ltd (RNAIPL) in a statement on Sunday said it was making strong progress towards achieving its 2045 Carbon Neutrality goal and it would cross several important milestones by 2030. According to the statement coinciding with the World Environment Day observed on June 5, every year, the roadmap to attain the carbon neutrality encompasses three

areas -- increasing of share of green energy, aggressively improving efficiencies in energy usage, and continuous adoption of energy efficient technology at its Oragadam plant.

As of FY 2022-23, the company's strategy has already allowed the automaker to cut down the equivalent of 87,500 tonnes of CO2 emissions every year.

"At RNAIPL, our unwavering commitment to environmental responsibility is imprinted in everything we do. We have set ourselves on an ambitious roadmap to Carbon Neutrality by 2045 and this

goal underlies our drive towards utilization of more green energy, optimization of energy consumption," company managing director Keerthi Prakash said.

"...we aim to further consolidate this position not only within the Alliance, but also within the industry." The Chennai plant currently sources close to 60 per cent of the electricity from renewable sources. The plant would expand its in-house solar plant capacity from 2.2MW to 14 MW through additional installation of rooftop solar panels and floating solar panels on the plant's pond by 2026.

Gaming emerges as top violative sector as digital scrutiny intensifies

Mumbai, Jun 04:

The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) released its annual complaints report for 2022-23 which contains several startling observations, especially those pertaining to advertising in the digital space. During the period, ASCI reviewed 7,928 advertisements across different media, including print, digital and television. ASCI has stepped up its scrutiny of ads nearly 2 folds over the last 2 years. TV and print advertisers continued to be highly compliant at 94%, however the overall compliance is lower at 81% due to digital. Hence, digital ads emerged not just as a leading violator, but also as the least compliant. This raises serious concerns about the safety of consumers in the

online space. As per the report, the real-money gaming industry surpassed the education sector to emerge as the most violative sector, moving from fifth to first place. An astounding number (92%) of gaming advertisements reviewed by ASCI for FY 2022-23 did not adhere to the guidelines for real money gaming and failed to inform consumers about the risks of financial loss and addiction. The sector also gained the dubious distinction of being the least complaint, with only 50% of ads being modified voluntarily after they have been called out. It may be remembered that ASCI had released its guidelines for the Real-Money gaming sector in December 2020, and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had thereafter released an advisory asking all parties to comply with the guidelines.

Private sector investment set to witness significant increase: R Dinesh

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):



Private sector investment is set to witness a significant increase, as capacity utilisation in several key sectors has already crossed 80 per cent and economic growth is estimated to be 6.7 per cent in the current financial year, newly elected CII President R Dinesh said on Sunday.

He also exuded confidence that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will maintain status quo on interest rate in the next bi-monthly monetary policy to be announced later this week.

On why the government unsuccessfully keeps nudging private companies to increase investment, the CII president

told PTI that the period between 2016 to 2019, was not good for growth and in 2020 there was COVID. "We have circumstances beyond our control which hampered demand We did come out of the COVID much faster," he said, adding there are signs of improvement.

Citing the CII's annual CEOs survey, he said all sectors have crossed 75 per cent capacity utilisation and the figure was 80 per cent in key sectors like cement, steel, chemicals and machinery. "We are at the cusp of where private sector capex will see a significant increase happening," he said, adding that as per the CMIE data investment commitment of Rs 25.7 lakh crore was made last year, as compared to Rs 14.3 lakh crore a year ago.

Last year in September, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman sought to know from the industry what is holding it back from investing in manufacturing, even though foreign investors show confidence in India. Drawing a parallel between India Inc and the mythological character, 'Hanuman', Nirmala Sitharaman said the government is willing to engage with the industry and take policy action.

FPIs investment hit 9-month high at Rs 43,838 cr in May

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) pumped in Rs 43,838 crore in Indian equities in May, the highest level in nine months, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, and reasonable valuations.

FPIs continued the buying stance in June too, and invested Rs 6,490 crore in just two trading sessions of the month, data with the repositories showed.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said that inflow by FPIs will continue in the current month since the latest GDP data and high-frequency indicators reflect a robust economy gaining further strength.

According to the data,

FPIs invested a net sum of Rs 43,838 crore in the Indian equities in the entire month of May.

This is the highest level of investment by FPIs in the last nine months. Before this, they put in a net sum of Rs 51,204 crore in equities in August 2022, data showed.

This came following a net infusion of Rs 11,630 crore in equities in April and Rs 7,936 crore in March.

The March investment was mainly driven by bulk investment in the Adani Group companies by US-based GQG Partners. However, if one adjusts for the investments of GQG in Adani Group, the net flow was negative.

Moreover, in the first two months of the year, FPIs had pulled out over Rs 34,000 crore.

OPEC+ producers weigh more production cuts

Frankfurt, Jun 04 (AP):



The major oil-producing countries led by Saudi Arabia and Russia are wrestling with whether to make another cut in supply to the global economy as the OPEC+ alliance struggles to prop up sagging oil prices that have been a boon to US drivers and helped ease inflation worldwide.

The 23-member group is meeting on Sunday at OPEC headquarters in Vienna after sending mixed signals about possible moves.

Saudi Arabia, dominant among the oil cartel's members, has warned speculators that they might get burned by betting on lower prices. Russia, the leader of the non-OPEC allies, has indicated no change to output is expected.

The decision comes amid uncertainty about when the slow-growing global economy will regain its thirst for fuel for travel and industry, and with producers counting on oil profits to bolster their coffers.

Oil prices have fallen even after OPEC+ slashed 2 million barrels per day in October, an-

gering US President Joe Biden by threatening higher gasoline prices a month before the midterm elections. Then, several OPEC members led by the Saudis made a surprise cut of 1.16 million barrels a day in April.

International benchmark Brent crude climbed as high as USD 87 per barrel but has given up its post-cut gains and been loitering below USD 75 per barrel in recent days. US crude has dipped below USD 70.

Those lower prices have helped US drivers as the summer travel season kicks off, with prices at the pump averaging USD 3.55, down USD 1.02 from a year ago, according to auto club AAA.

Falling energy prices also helped inflation in the 20 European countries that use the euro drop to the lowest level since before Russia invaded Ukraine.

UAE's Minister of Energy and Industry Suhail al-Mazrouei arrives for the 35th OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) and non-OPEC ministerial meeting in Vienna, Austria, on June 4.

State-owned coal firms taking various measures to make mining sustainable: Pralhad Joshi

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):



From planting saplings to development of eco-parks, state-owned coal companies are taking various measures to reclaim abandoned mines, infusing multi-core investments, coal and mines minister Pralhad Joshi said.

Other initiatives of the ministry include adoption of modern technologies like gasification of coal, installation of renewable energy projects, conservation of water bodies etc, the minister told PTI in an interview.

"Our Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) has set a vision to make India net zero by 2070. In line with his vision, our PSUs are taking various efforts to make the coal mining a sustainable exercise. We are doing our bit for climate change issue. They are spending thousands of crores to meet this goal," he said ahead of the World Environment Day on June 5. Coal India Ltd (CIL) along with its eight subsidiary companies and NLC India Ltd function under the administrative control of the coal min-

istry. Joshi, who is also the minister for parliamentary affairs, added that "from 2014-15 to 2022-23, we have increased the green cover over 16,262 hectares of land, planting about 37.03 million saplings".

Public sector units have drawn a plan to develop a green cover area of 2,500 hectares (ha) planting 50 lakh saplings in the ongoing 2023-24 fiscal, taking the total count to over 42 million trees.

He further said that around 30 eco-parks have been developed on barren lands near mineral-less mines across the country and another 30 new eco-parks will be developed in next 3-4 years in the coal bearing states like West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha with the total estimated cost of around Rs 200 crore.

RBI interest rate decision, global trends to drive markets this week: Analysts

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):

The Reserve Bank of India's interest rate decision, domestic macroeconomic data and global trends will dictate terms in the equity markets this week, analysts said.

Trading activity of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) will also influence markets, they added. "The Indian market will be closely monitoring the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting scheduled for June 6-8, 2023. Aside from that, market participants will be keeping an eye on the progress of monsoon," said Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

Gour further said that the movement of the rupee against the dollar and crude oil prices will remain in focus.

"These factors will be closely monitored, as they have the potential to influence market sentiment. Additionally, macroeconomic indicators will play a significant role in shaping the market mood in the near-term," Gour said.

Aiming to maintain leadership position in SUV segment this fiscal: CFO Manoj Bhat

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):



Mahindra & Mahindra is looking at maintaining leadership position in the fast growing sports utility vehicle segment in the current fiscal with demand remaining robust for its model range, according to the group CFO Manoj Bhat.

The company, which is sitting on an order backlog

of 2.92 lakh units for sports utility vehicles (SUV), also plans to ramp-up production capacity by the end of this year, as it looks to cut waiting periods on various models. In an interaction with PTI, Bhat said there is a huge demand for company products which is evident with the number of open bookings generated by the auto major.

Expect PV segment growth to moderate to 5-7 pc this fiscal: Shailesh Chandra

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):



Tata Motors expects the passenger vehicle industry growth to moderate to 5-7 per cent in the current financial year as compared with 27 per cent sales growth in the last financial year with dip in pent-up demand, according to a top company executive. In order to sustain

growth, the auto major is looking to introduce new products including CNG and electric models, while bolstering its existing range with new interventions. In an analyst call, Tata Motors Managing Director, Passenger Vehicle and Electric Vehicles, Shailesh Chandra noted that pent-up demand in the passen-

ger vehicle segment has now clearly gone down, barring certain new launches in a few popular sports utility vehicle segments.

He noted that due to pent-up demand and low inventory levels last fiscal, the industry reported a steep growth of 27 per cent year on year as compared with FY22.



Varun Dhawan is all geared up for the last schedule of spyverse 'Citadel'

Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan is all prepped for the last schedule of his upcoming Indian adaptation of the series 'Citadel'. Varun took to Instagram, where he shared a picture from the airport. He is seen wearing a light brown T-shirt paired with a hat. For the caption he wrote: "Last sched spyverse."

It isn't clear where the actor is travelling for the shoot. However, if reports are to be believed the 'Bhediya' star is on his way to Serbia. The series also stars Samantha Ruth Prabhu. Helmed by 'The Family Man' creators Raj and DK, 'Citadel' is the Indian counterpart of the larger international series of the same name which has been originally created by the director duo, Russo Brothers. The global version of the series stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Richard Madden.

Vicky, Sara-starrer 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke' rakes in Rs 5.49 cr on Day 1

Filmmaker Laxman Utekar's latest directorial 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke', which hit the screens on June 2, has minted Rs 5.49 crore on its first day of release.

Starring Sara Ali Khan and Vicky Kaushal, the film revolves around Kapil and Somya, a happily married couple from Indore who live in a joint family and decide to get a divorce one fine day. Things don't go as planned as their family gets to know of it, and thus begins a comedy of errors.

Film trade analyst Taran Adarsh took to Twitter and wrote:

"#ZaraHatkeZaraBachke takes off on Day 1. Silences naysayers and pessimists, who had predicted [below] 2 cr start. Got a boost due to Buy-1-Get-1 free ticket offer + affordable ticket pricing, which has given its biz the required push. Fri - 5.49 cr #India biz."

"The *national chains* contributed a healthy 3.35 cr on Day 1. #PVR: 1.54 cr #INOX: 1.11 cr #Cinepolis: 70 lacs ZaraHatkeZaraBachke is expected to maintain the momentum on Sat and Suna The Buy-1-Get-1 free ticket offer continues till Sun night, which should help the film post a strong total in its opening weekend. #ZHQB."



Stebin Ben lends voice to campaign against plastic pollution



crooned the theme song for the campaign. Titled Tik Tik Plastic, the music video will be unveiled at the special event which will be held in Mumbai on the World Environment Day, i.e. 5th of June, 2023.

Starring prominent personalities from the entertainment industry, the music video also stars Vidya Balan, Alia Bhatt, Rajkumar Rao, Neeti Mohan amongst others, sung by Stebin Ben.

Talking about the collaboration, Stebin Ben says, "Despite several measures over the years to minimise the use of plastic, the rampant usage of it has been a primary factor in contributing to the pollution of environment. As a responsible citizen, it is our collective duty to not only ensure minimal use of plastic and opt for alternatives, but also create awareness to promote others to avoid using plastic."

One of the most popular and loved singers of the nation currently, Stebin Ben has joined hands with Bhamla Foundation for their campaign against single use of plastic under the cause to create awareness against plastic pollution. The singing sensation will not only extend his support to the cause banking upon his huge fan-base but also has

Rajnesh Duggall talks about his international debut with 'Postcards'



Actor Rajnesh Duggall is back with a new series titled Postcards, which marks his international debut. The film is helmed by the makers of 'Namaste Wahala' Hamisha Daryani Ahuja. Actors Sola Sobowale, Richard Mofe, Rahama Sadau and Tobi Bakre also play pivotal characters in it. Rajnesh said: "Postcards is a very special project. It's all about dealing with different emotions that people go through in their life. "I play the role of a doctor in an Indian hospital, as the trailer suggests. The Postcards series is a story that everyone can relate to in some way or the other. Set in Cosmopolitan Mumbai and Lagos, it is about a bunch of people whose lives intersect in a series of life-changing events," he shared.



'Kaal Bhairav Rahasya' Season 1 to return on Star Bharat again

Kaal Bhairav Rahasya season 1, which premiered in 2017, was one of the best running show on Star Bharat, which got the viewers hooked to their television screens. The show started Rahul Sharma in the lead role. Iqbal Khan, Sargun Kaur Luthra, and Chavi Pandey were also seen in pivotal roles on the show. The show, which grew to become one of viewer's favourite, is all set to have a rerun on Star Bharat again from 5th June 2023. The show's lead Rahul Sharma and Iqbal Khan speak about their excitement upon learning about their show 'Kaal Bhairav

Rahasya' season 1 rerun. Rahul Sharma, who played the lead role of Rahul in the show, says, "I am filled with absolute joy upon receiving the news of Kaal Bhairav Rahasya's Season One re-run on Star Bharat. As the lead actor of this remarkable show, it holds a special place in my heart. It has brought about a profound transformation in my life, as I had been devotedly worshipping 'Kaal Bhairav' for seven years. The show itself, named 'Kaal Bhairav Rahasya', was a divine gift and blessing that felt like a dream come true, especially considering my name is Rahul, aligning perfectly with the show's."

Sana Amin Sheikh spills bean on her 'Tum Bin Jaun Kahan' character

Actress Sana Amin Sheikh, who has been roped in for the upcoming romantic drama titled 'Tum Bin Jaun Kahan', has shared the details of her role. In the show, Sana plays the lead character of Zaara who is a female servant.

The show follows the story of a family of Kaneez (female servants) based in Lucknow and takes a dramatic turn when one of the Kaneez falls in love with a guy from upper caste who is engaged to her best friend.

Talking about her role, Sana shared: "I am thrilled to be playing Zaara. As I am a Muslim, I have always wanted to play a Muslim character on screen and this will be my very first time. The highlight of the series is that it's structured and well written script. Zaara is a Kaneez, who falls in love with a guy from the upper caste creating quite a stir and havoc."

"We have started shooting and I am thoroughly enjoying it, while I am giving 100 per cent to my character Zaara. I am really excited for the audiences to witness it," she added. The show has gone on floors and will be out on Atrangi TV and OTT this year.



Become guardians of our mother nature!

Environmental conservation has become vital in today's rapidly changing world, demanding our unwavering focus and responsible action. Now, more than ever, it is crucial for each of us to channel our efforts toward protecting and preserving our planet. On World Environment Day, &TV artists embrace and urge everyone to be guardians of our nature and advocate for environmental protection, revealing their diverse initiatives towards nurturing mother nature. These include Mohit Dagga (Ashok, Doosri Maa), Himani Shivpuri (Katori Amma, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Rohitashv Gour (Manmohan Tiwari, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai).



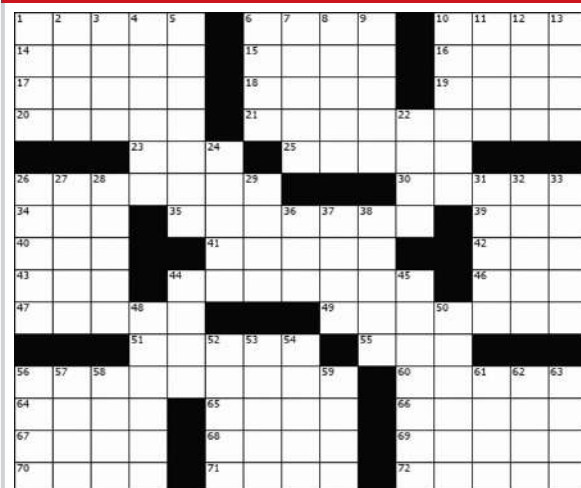
Himani Shivpuri, aka Katori Amma from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "Embracing eco-friendly practices is our strongest ally in safeguarding our planet. In my commitment to this cause, I have made conscious choices to

duce single-use plastic, opting for plastic-free alternatives during grocery shopping and daily needs. Carrying cotton or jute bags has become a habit. Moreover, I prioritise energy conservation by utilising LED or CFL bulbs instead of incandescent lighting, benefiting from their longer lifespan and energy efficiency. Natural lighting is also preferred, enabling energy preservation and the joy of basking in the sunlight. Recognising the impact of our daily habits and making small improvements can heighten our environmental awareness and pave the way for transformative changes."

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

CROSSWORD

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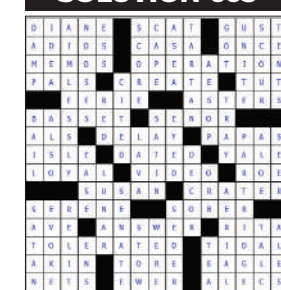
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- Genesis woman
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WOMEN'S JR ASIA CUP

India look to continue winning run against Malaysia

Kakamigahara, Jun 04 (PTI):

A resounding start to its campaign, notwithstanding, the Indian women's hockey team will look to guard against complacency when it takes on Malaysia in its second Pool A match of the Junior Asia Cup here on Monday.

The Indian women started their Junior Asia Cup sojourn with a morale-boosting 22-0 crushing of a lowly Uzbekistan.

As many as eight players -- Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Mumtaz Khan, Annu, Sunelita Toppo, Manju Chorsiya, Deepika Soreng, Deepika and Neelam, registered their names on the scoresheet as India ticked all the boxes against Uzbekistan.

Annu slammed a double hat-trick, while Mumtaz Khan and Deepika fired in four goals each. Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sunelita Toppo and Deepika Soreng found the net twice in India's tournament opener. And come Monday, India will look to carry on their superlative form against Malaysia. India



captain Preeti said they would look to carry on their form in the remaining matches of the tournament. "We've had a fantastic start to the tournament, establishing a strong foundation, and our aim is to maintain that same level of determination as we face Malaysia," she said in a release.

"The solid victory in our opening match has bolstered our confidence, pro-

viding the impetus required to carry us forward in the tournament. It's worth noting that Malaysia boasts a formidable team, and thus we anticipate a closely fought contest." Malaysia, on the other hand, too have started the tournament on a promising note, registering a comfortable 7-0 win over Chinese Taipei. And they would be eager to test their mettle against the

Indians. Notably, both the teams last locked horns in 2015 during the women's Junior Asia Cup and it was India that emerged victorious with a 9-1 win.

Looking at the strength of both the teams, the Indians definitely will start as favourites.

After Malaysia, India will face Korea on Tuesday, followed by their final pool game against Chinese Taipei on June 8.

Sri Lanka bounces back to beat Afghanistan in second ODI

Hambantota, Jun 04 (AP):

Sri Lanka bounced back to beat Afghanistan by 132 runs on Sunday to square the three-match one-day series.

It was Sri Lanka's biggest win over Afghanistan in ODIs and makes amends for its disappointing performance in the first ODI on Friday, which they lost by six wickets.

Having set Afghanistan a stiff 324-run target, fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera dismissed the dangerous Rahmanullah Gurbaz cheaply for two runs to give his side an early advantage.

Although Afghanistan put together two strong partnerships after that, the required run rate kept climbing and the Afghans lost their way trying to keep pace.

Opening batsman Ibrahim Zadran continued his good form, posting 54 runs while captain Hashmatullah Shahidi

top scored with 57 runs, but once Sri Lanka dismissed the top order there was not much resistance from the rest of the batters.

From 146-2, Afghanistan collapsed to be bowled out for 191 runs in 42.1 overs, losing their last eight wickets for just 45 runs.

Spinners Wanindu Hasaranga and Dhananjaya de Silva shared six wickets between them to seal a comprehensive win for the home side.

Sri Lanka's batting put on a show giving the team confidence ahead of the World Cup qualifiers in Zimbabwe this month.

Afghanistan have already qualified for the World Cup and despite the heavy defeat on Sunday, will feel positive with star Rashid Khan expected to feature in the final game on Wednesday. The leg-spinner was ruled out of the first two with a back injury.



Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga (L), Dasun Shanaka (C) and Dhananjaya de Silva celebrates after taking the wicket of Afghanistan's Fareed Malik (not pictured).

Rahane's do-or-die showdown in WTC Final



London, Jun 04 (PTI):

Ajinkya Rahane is set to play his first red-ball game for India in 18 months and potentially faces a do-or-die situation in the World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval beginning June 7.

Making a quick switch from T20 to the five-day format, Rahane plans to "keep it simple" and will

be hoping that the impeccable timing he displayed through the IPL travels with him to London.

The tough call of dropping both Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara from the Test team after the series loss in South Africa was taken in early 2022 but the latter made his way back into the side after a bumper run in county cricket in the same year.

Rahane, a veteran of 82 Tests, had to wait a year longer for his comeback. He earned his national recall up after getting the runs in the Ranji Trophy and more recently following his reinvention in the IPL that left everyone impressed.

In all probability, he might not have got the recall if Shreyas Iyer was fit but both form and luck played a part in his return. With the much younger Iyer having already proved himself in the middle-order, the clock will be ticking for Rahane when he goes out to bat at The Oval.

Abhinav, Gautami combine to win India's second gold at Suhl Junior World Cup

Suhl (Germany), Jun 04 (PTI):

Indian shooters Gautami Bhanot and Abhinav Shaw combined well to claim the gold medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the ISSF Junior World Cup here on Sunday. The Indians shot a total of 17 in the gold medal contest.

Oceanne Muller and Romaine Aufrere of France settled for the silver medal in the event with an aggregate score of 7 in the final.

Norway's Pernille Nor-Woll and Jens Olsrud Oestli finished third on the podium after scoring 17 in the bronze medal match against Italians Anna Schiavon and Luca Sbarbati, who shot 13.

The other Indian pair in the mixed rifle event, Swati Chowdhury and Saalim finished seventh in the qualification with a total score of 624.3.

The duo of Gautami Bhanot and Abhinav Choudhary to win silver



tion, with a total score of 628.3.

Meanwhile, in the 10m air pistol mixed team competition, Sainyam, fresh from her gold medal-winning feat in the individual air pistol final on Saturday, paired up with

Abhinav Choudhary to win silver after shooting 12, finishing behind gold medallists Juri Kim and Kanghyn Kim, who shot 16.

Suruchi Inder Singh and Shubham Bisla bagged the bronze medal with a score 16, finishing ahead of fourth-placed Nigina Saidkulova and Mukhammad Kamalov

(14) of Uzbekistan. Sainyam, who won the individual women's air pistol gold on Saturday, and Abhinav had topped the qualification with a combined effort of 578, while Suruchi and Inder had finished fourth with a score of 571, to make it to the medal rounds.

after shooting 12, finishing behind gold medallists Juri Kim and Kanghyn Kim, who shot 16.

Suruchi Inder Singh and Shubham Bisla bagged the bronze medal with a score 16, finishing ahead of fourth-placed Nigina Saidkulova and Mukhammad Kamalov

Nkunku shines as Leipzig beats Frankfurt to retain German Cup

Berlin, Jun 04 (AP):

Leipzig retained the German Cup with a 2-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt in the final thanks to a deflected goal and an assist from Christopher Nkunku.

There were few clear chances for either team as they seemed wary of allowing their opponents space to counter.

It took a stroke of fortune for Nkunku to score in the 71st minute as the French forward's shot from the edge of the penalty area bounced off two different Frankfurt defenders, leaving goalkeeper Kevin Trapp with no chance.

Nkunku, who marked the goal with is expected to leave Leipzig for Chelsea at the end of the season.

Dominik Szoboszlai made sure of the win in the 85th when the Frankfurt defense crowded Nkunku, who passed for the unmarked Szoboszlai to fire a shot past Trapp.

Leipzig's second cup title came after beating



RB Leipzig players celebrate after winning the trophy in the German soccer cup, DFB Pokal, final match between RB Leipzig and Eintracht Frankfurt at Olympiastadion in Berlin, Germany.

Freiburg on penalties last year, and the fourth time in five years that the club backed by drinks giant Red Bull was in the cup final. Frankfurt last won the cup in 2018.

Frankfurt fans heavily outnumbered Leipzig supporters at the Olympiastadion and jeered as Leipzig received the trophy from German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Leipzig's win means

Bayer Leverkusen, which placed sixth in the league, qualifies for the Europa League again after reaching the semifinals this season.

Frankfurt, which won the Europa League last season, would have qualified with a cup final win but has to settle for the third-tier Europa Conference League instead. Leipzig was already assured of a Champions League spot.

Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood ruled out of WTC final

■ Nesar gets call-up

London, Jun 04 (PTI):

Australia suffered a big setback after senior fast bowler Josh Hazlewood was ruled out of the upcoming World Test Championship final against India, having failed to recover from a side strain picked up during his IPL stint in India.

The WTC final is scheduled at the Oval from June 7-11.

Australia included fast bowler Michael Nesar in the squad with Hazlewood reportedly being given further more time to recover and prepare for the Ashes in England.

Nesar has been playing in the County Championship for Glamorgan this season and has been in fine rhythm, having taken 14 wickets in his last three games which includes 7/32 against Yorkshire. He has played two Tests for Australia and has got seven wickets.

However, it is fast medium bowler Scott Boland, who looks a more likely first XI starter in Hazlewood's absence, in



conditions which suits seam-up, hit-the-deck the type of deliveries.

The five-Test Ashes series in England will start on June 16, and Hazlewood, who has already missed a plenty of Test cricket action for Australia, will get more time to be ready for the all-important series.

Hazlewood sustained the side strain during his injury-marred stint with Royal Challengers Bangalore in the recently-concluded IPL in which he played only three games without much success before flying back home.

Lionel Messi bids farewell to Paris amid boos

Paris, Jun 04 (AP):

Lionel Messi didn't care about the boos in his final game for Paris Saint-Germain as the French league champion lost to Clermont 3-2.

Disrespectful PSG supporters booed Messi when the Parc des Princes announcer read his name on a warm evening.

A few minutes later, Messi walked onto the field with a smile on his face, holding his three children's hands before the team photo and kissing them on their foreheads before kickoff. "I would like to thank the club, the city of Paris and its people for these two years. I wish you all the best for the future," Messi told the club website. In two seasons at PSG, Messi won two French leagues and the French Champions Trophy and notched 32 goals and 35 assists in all competitions.

Messi scored in a 1-1 draw at Strasbourg a week ago to help PSG clinch a record-extending 11th French league title. By notching a 496th career league goal, the



PSG players celebrate their title after the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Clermont at the Parc des Princes in Paris, France.

Argentine genius also broke Cristiano Ronaldo's scoring record for Europe's top five leagues. The World Cup winner didn't sign the contract extension that Qatar-backed PSG offered him and has been strongly linked with a move to a Saudi club where he could earn more money than Ronaldo. Inter Miami is another possible option but wouldn't be able to match the Saudi offer of hundreds of millions of dollars. Messi tried hard to get on the scoresheet on the

final day of the French league. He had a shot parried by Clermont goalkeeper Mory Diaw in the 14th minute, hit a snapshot wide in the 31st and curled a free kick over the bar in the 42nd. A selfless Kylian Mbappe made a solo run in the 54th to tee up Messi, who blazed over the bar. Messi nearly found the net in the 59th but Diaw turned his low drive around the post. Diaw denied Messi again in stoppage time, palming away a free kick.

ODISHA TRAIN CRASH**TRIBUTES TO VICTIMS****'Change in electronic interlocking system led to accident'****Congress supporters take part in the Shanti Path organised for the peace of those souls that killed in the Balasore's train accident, at Pishachmochan Kund in Varanasi, Sunday.****Rescue work over****Balasure, Jun 04 (PTI)**

The root cause of the three-train crash in Odisha's Balasore district and the people responsible for it have been identified, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Sunday as rescue work at the site of the accident ended with the Railways aiming to restore normal services on the affected tracks in the next few days.

As the tragedy triggered a debate over the Kavach anti-collision system, the Congress demanded the resignation of the railway minister and asked when will the Modi government implement the much-hyped system nationwide, after testing.

Vaishnaw maintained that the train crash had nothing to do with the Kavach system.

The change that was done to electronic interlocking which led to the accident has been identified, Vaishnaw, who has been camping at the site of the train accident along with Union Minister Dharmendar Pradhan, said.

He said the issue is of electric point machine, a vital device for railway signalling, and electronic interlocking.

"The setting of the point machine was changed. How and why it

**Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw with Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan oversees restoration work at the site of the accident involving three trains, near Bahanga Bazar railway station in Balasore district, Sunday.**

was done will be revealed in the probe report," he told PTI.

"The root cause of the horrifying incident has been identified... I do not want to go into details. Let the report come out. I will just say that the root cause and the people responsible have been identified," the railway minister said.

An electric point machine is a vital device for railway signalling for quick operation and locking of point switches and plays an important role in the safe running of trains. Failure of these machines severely affects train movement and deficiencies at the time of installation can result in unsafe conditions.

The crash involving Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel

Express, which were carrying around 2,500 passengers, and a goods train occurred around 7 pm on Friday near the Bahanga Bazar station in Balasore. At least 288 people were dead and over 1,100 injured in the accident, the worst rail accident in India in nearly three decades.

Railway sources said the number of deaths in the triple train crash has increased from 288 to 295 but this could not be confirmed as yet.

With hospitals around the accident site trying to deal with the enormity of the tragedy, a team of doctors and experts from the AIIMS Delhi and other central hospitals of the national capital were rushed to Bhubaneswar through a special IAF flight. The team is carrying medicines and heavy

critical care equipment, official sources said.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the phone and briefed him about the latest situation.

Noting that doctors, medical students and other health care service providers are doing their best, Patnaik told the prime minister that all possible steps have been taken to save the lives of injured passengers in different hospitals of Odisha.

The prime minister thanked the chief minister, the Odisha government for the prompt and efficient action during the crisis. The Centre is ready to provide any kind of assistance if required, a release issued by CMO said quoting the prime minister.

The prime minister also praised the people of Odisha for the kind of support and timely help in this hour of crisis.

Both the PM and Patnaik visited the train accident site at Bahanga Bazar in Balasore district on Saturday. Patnaik also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the family members of the people from the state killed in the triple train accident.

Giving details of the rescue operation, Pradhan said the rescue work is over and we are working with the local administration to send peo-

ple affected back home.

He also said that the big challenge is to restore tracks so that the railway link between two important wings of the country can start functioning.

"By Tuesday we should be able to do it," the minister said.

A senior railway official at the site said, "We have teams working round-the-clock. Restoring at least two lines-up and down - is absolutely essential as quickly as possible."

"Restoration work on tracks is on. We are also working on overhead cables and masts which were uprooted soon the down line will be restored and then the up line," the official said.

Railway officials said that all 21 coaches which capsized due to the derailment of trains at Bahanga Bazar station have been grounded. Now the site is being cleared.

"Further three wagons and the locomotive upper part will be grounded," the official said, adding that a special train will start from Bhadrak at 1 pm on Sunday and will run up to Chennai in the path of 12841 Coromandel Express. It will have stoppages at Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and all other stoppages of 12841 Coromandel Express. Stranded passengers of the train accident and their relatives can avail of the train service, he said.

Governor Bais performs Bhumi Pujan**For Ashwamedh Maha Yagya****Mumbai, Jun 04:**

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais attended the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for the hosting of the 48th

Ashwamedh Mahayagya at Central ground, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai on Sunday (4 June).

The Maha Yagya is being organised by the Gayatri Parivar, Shanti Kunj Haridwar from 23 to 28 January 2024.

Minister of Culture

Sudhir Mungantiwar, Pro Vice Chancellor of Dev Sanskriti Vishwa Vidyalaya Chinmay Pandya, Director of the Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Parivar Manubhai Patel, business leader Dr Niranjan Hiranandani, Radhika Marchant and others were present.

Bhaderwah's Purple Revolution stirs interest from Himachal to Meghalaya**Bhaderwah, Jun 04 (PTI)**

Once known as a terror hotspot, Bhaderwah, a quaint town has emerged as Jammu and Kashmir's 'Lavender Valley' and inspiring states as far as Meghalaya and Gujarat to embrace the Purple Revolution.

Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh, a local Lok Sabha member, said neighbouring states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand too have evinced interest in growing the lavender crop, which has helped farmers earn a quick buck.

"Chief Ministers of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand reached out to us to know how to grow lavender as the states have similar climatic conditions," Singh told PTI here. Singh inaugurated the second edition of the Lavender Festival here

which helps farmers link up with businesses and explore markets for their produce.

About 2,500 farmers in this hilly town have given up their age-old tradition of growing maize to embrace the profitable lavender farming.

"We have planted lavender in six villages of Meghalaya and plan to expand it to 20 other villages soon."

Augustus Suting, Deputy Project Director, Meghalaya Basin Management Agency told PTI. Singh said states such as Gujarat were also keen to explore whether lavender can be grown in some parts of the state. Lavender was introduced to the temperate regions of the Jammu division by the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) under the CSIR-Aroma Mission in 2018.

Travellers choosing camp sites, caravan parks in deserts, villages**To experience rural Rajasthan****Jaipur, Jun 04 (PTI)**

Sprawling stud farms, camping sites and caravan parks in Rajasthan's deserts and villages have become the go to destinations for tourists looking to explore the state's rich rural culture and lifestyle.

There are 35 such sites across Rajasthan and these offer a more traditional experience to people, tourism officials said.

Rajasthan is not only about forts, palaces and wildlife reserves, but there is a lot to see in its desert and villages, they said.

The initiative is getting a good response from domestic visitors as well as foreigners since it started

in November last year, Director Tourism Rashmi Sharma said.

The official said within a short period, 35 rural tourism units — guest-houses, caravan parks, stud farms and camping sites — have been registered and they have started functioning.

"Due to these rural tourism units, foreign guests are not only able to see and understand the rural life of Rajasthan closely, but also imbibe the rural lifestyle," she said.

The initiative was started under the Rajasthan Rural Tourism Scheme that was implemented last year with the objective of increasing tourism prospects in rural areas and creating employment opportunities, Sharma said. She added that the

scheme will also promote local artistes as well as folk art and culture.

"This scheme is providing strength to farmers as well, and will prove to be very effective in preventing migration from villages to cities," the tourism director said.

Sharma said a piece of land can be used to develop tourism units without land conversion under the scheme which is directly benefiting villagers.

Devipl Singh, who opened Dera Ashwa Farm near Nevtia in Jaipur sometime back, said that various activities like horse riding and polo matches are being offered on the farm which also has lodging facilities. Guests are provided traditional food made with vegetables grown organically

on the farm, he said.

Through these, tourists will get an opportunity to experience rural life, culture and traditions of the state, said Devipl Singh, who has 30 horses of different breeds on the farm. Rooms at the lodging facilities there are named after famous heroic horses like Chetak of Maharana Pratap and Krishna of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

Another rural tourism unit is a heritage farm in Bagwada village in Amber tehsil of Jaipur. Yogendra Singh Bagwada, who runs the Bagwada Heritage Resort, said a family from New Zealand stayed in the resort a few days back and experienced Rajasthan's local culture. He said food is cooked in front of guests to give a rural touch.

'Not prudent to allow more than two persons on two-wheelers'**Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 04 (PTI)**

The Centre has made it clear that it was "not prudent" to allow a third person to travel on a two-wheeler as the same was prohibited under the law and motorcycles or scooters were universally designed to carry only two people.

This was Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari's response to a plea by CPI(M) MP Elamaram Kareem requesting that children upto to the age of 10 years be allowed to travel as a third person on two-wheelers on following necessary safety measures, like wearing helmets.

Denying the request, Gadkari in a letter dated May 31 has said, "...under the Central Motor

Vehicles Act 1988, no driver of a two-wheeler can carry more than one person.

"Therefore, from the safety angle of riders, it would not be prudent to allow more than one person in addition to the driver to be carried thereon."

The Union Minister also said that every two-wheeler "is universally designed and constructed to carry one person in addition to the driver."

This response comes even as the ruling LDF government in Kerala was mulling whether to approach the Centre to amend the Motor Vehicles Act to a limited extent for permitting one child to travel with parents on a two-wheeler as being demanded by many in the southern state.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**A special tram runs on its tracks on the eve of World Environment Day, in Kolkata, Sunday.****'Withdrawing from Gyanvapi cases'****Varanasi (UP), Jun 04 (PTI)**

One of the main litigants from the Hindu side Jitendra Singh Visen has announced that he and his family are withdrawing from all cases related Gyanvapi issue due to alleged "harassment".

His lawyer Shivam Gaur had earlier also withdrawn from the cases.

"I and my family (wife Kiran Singh and niece Rakhi Singh) are withdrawing from all Gyanvapi-related cases that we had filed in the interest of the country and religion in various courts," Visen, who heads the Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh, said in a statement issued here on Saturday.

He alleged that they were facing harassment from various quarters including from the Hindu side and felt humiliated.

"In such a situation, due to limited strength and resources, I cannot fight this

**Jitendra Singh Visen**

battle for 'dharma' anymore and that's why I am leaving this.

"Perhaps the biggest mistake I made in my life was by starting this 'dharma-yudh'. This society is only with those who mislead by playing gimmicks in the name of religion," he said.

Visen's lawyer Gaur, who had left the case earlier, in a separate statement said that due to a communication gap with plaintiffs, he was withdrawing from the Gyanvapi case, which he is contesting from 2021, and Krishna Janmabhoomi case, which he took up in 2022. He said that he did

not get any fee after May 2022 for contesting these cases. Five women plaintiffs, including Visen's niece Rakhi Singh, had filed the original Shringar Gauri suit in August 2021 seeking permission for daily worship of Goddess Shringar Gauri and other deities in the Gyanvapi mosque compound.

However, Rakhi parted ways with the other women and differences appeared between Visen and the lawyers of the four other plaintiffs, including Hari Shankar Jain and Vishnu Shankar Jain, in May 2022. Visen had then announced his resignation as the national convener and national general secretary in the Hind Samrajya Party run by the Jain duo. He is involved in litigation related to various high-profile matters like Gyanvapi mosque, Idgah mosque in Mathura and the Taj Mahal.

Brothers relate 'near death' experience from train accident**Kolkata, Jun 04 (PTI)**

Unemployed brothers Monotosh and Santosh Mondal who escaped with injuries from the triple train accident in Balasore, believe they have been given a second life.

The duo now recuperating at a state-run hospital here, had boarded the ill-fated Coromandel-Express from Shalimar to travel to Kerala after being offered a job there, on Friday evening.

"We were supposed to board the train on Thursday, but we finally managed to get tickets for Friday. 'Bhai' (brother) and I were sitting on a side berth when there was a huge sound followed by a massive jerk and everything went dark and I lost

consciousness," Monotosh told this reporter at the Trauma care centre at the city's SSKM Hospital. "When I opened my eyes I found myself hanging out of the windows of the bogey, but could not see Santosh," he said.

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BRIEF



Restoration work underway at the site of the accident involving three trains, near Bahanaga Bazar railway station in Balasore district, Sunday.

Convict

Thane: A court in Maharashtra's Thane district convicted a Nationalist Congress Party leader accused of ransacking an ashram and attacking its inmates in 2015. Sessions judge at Kalyan court Shaukat S Gorwade convicted Aashish Anand Damale (35), the president of the NCP's Badlapur city unit, of charges under section 147 (rioting), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

Suicide

Mumbai: A 23-year-old man has been arrested along with his sister for alleged abetment of suicide after his girlfriend ended her life in BKC area in Mumbai by consuming poison, a police official said on Sunday. The 19-year-old girl woman ended her life last month as the accused had refused to marry her, he said.

Spotted

Nagpur: At least 30 crocodiles and a Leith's soft-shell turtle were spotted during the first survey of these reptiles at Panch Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra's Nagpur district, an official said on Sunday. The first crocodile and turtle survey at the reserve was held from June 2 to 4, the PTR's (Maharashtra) deputy director Prabhu Nath Shukla said in a release.

Watery grave

Agra: Four men drowned while bathing in the Yamuna River near Hathi Ghat here, police said on Sunday. On Saturday, Tushar, Sonu, Sachin and Ritik, all residents of Naulakha in Sadar Bazar, went to Tajganj crematorium to attend the last rite of a neighbour, Raj Kumar Singh incharge at Itmad-ud-daulah Police Station said.

Booked

Palghar: The police have registered offences against five persons for allegedly practicing medicine without valid registration in Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Sunday. Offences under relevant sections of the IPC, Medical Practitioners Act 1961 and Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 have been registered at Tulinj, Valiv and Pelhar police stations, following an inspection by a medical team from the Virar Vasai Municipal Corporation, the official said.

Security

Chandigarh: Security has been stepped up in Punjab's Amritsar ahead of the 39th anniversary of Operation Bluestar on June 6, said police on Sunday.

Weather High 41 Low 27

ODISHA TRAIN CRASH

Railways recommends CBI probe

Bhubaneswar Jun 04 (PTI):

The Railway Board has recommended a CBI probe into the triple train accident that claimed 275 lives and left over 1,000 injured," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters in Bhubaneswar on Sunday evening.

"We have recommended a CBI probe into the triple train accident that claimed 275 lives and left over 1,000 injured," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters in Bhubaneswar on Sunday evening. The Centre along with the support of the state government are giving all support to the injured patients who are admitted to various hospitals in Balasore, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

"Patients are being given all facilities in hospitals. There are teams of doctors who are taking care of patients round-the-clock," Vaishnaw said. He said the government was trying to get in touch with the families of the deceased.

"We are trying to get in touch with families of the dead," the Minister added. The Odisha government on Sunday revised the



Relatives identify photos of passengers displayed by the authorities following Friday's accident involving three trains, at NOCCI Business Park in Balasore district, Sunday.

triple train accident's death toll to 275 from 288, and put the number of injuries at 1,175.

Chief Secretary P K Jena said some bodies were counted twice. "After detailed verification and a report by Balasore District Collector, the final

toll has been fixed at 275," he said. Three trains Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express, Bengaluru-Howrah super fast and a goods train were involved in the pile-up on Friday, now being described as one of India's worst train accidents. The

Coromandel Express rammmed into a stationary goods train and many of its carriages overturned including some onto another train - the Bengaluru-Howrah super-fast express which was also passing by at the same time on Friday.

Virtual clean chit to Coromandel Express driver

Top officials say train received green signal, was not over-speeding. The railways on Sunday said the Coromandel Express was "not over-speeding" and received the green signal to enter a loop line on which a goods train was stationary, virtually clearing its driver of any role behind the accident that killed 288 people in Odisha's Balasore district.

Two key officials of the Railway Board -- Principal Executive Director of Signalling Sandeep Mathur and Member of Operation and Business Development Jaya Varma Sinha -- explained how the accident might have occurred. They described the functioning of the interlocking system which prima facie seemed to have been part of the problem which led to the accident, in which at least 288 people were killed. Sinha said the direction, route and signal were set for the Coromandel Express.

Goddess Durga idol set ablaze near river

Police register FIR

Rajnandgaon, Jun 04:

A statue of Goddess Durga was set on fire by unidentified persons in a village in Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district, a police official said on Sunday.

The incident took place in Sarkheda village on Saturday after which a First Information Report was lodged against unidentified persons, the Aundhi police station official said. "As per preliminary information, some persons took out the idol from a temple and set it ablaze on the bank of a nearby river. After being

About the incident

As per preliminary information, some persons took out the idol from a temple and set it ablaze on the bank of a nearby river. After being alerted about the incident, a police team arrived and the burnt statue was recovered from the spot. Based on the complaint of some residents, a case was registered under Indian Penal Code sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship, with intent to insult the religion of any class).

alerted about the incident, a police team arrived and the burnt statue was recovered from the spot," he said. Based on the complaint of some residents, a case was registered under Indian Penal Code sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth,

residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship, with intent to insult the religion of any class), the official added. Sources said people in the vicinity plan to protest in Aundhi against the incident later in the day.

Excise Case

HC to pronounce order on Sisodia's interim bail plea today

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court will on Monday pronounce its order on AAP leader Manish Sisodia's plea seeking interim bail for six weeks in a money laundering case arising from the alleged excise policy scam. The former Delhi deputy chief minister has sought release on a temporary basis on the ground of being the sole caretaker of his ailing wife. His plea for regular bail in the matter is pending before the high court. Sisodia, who was arrested on March 9, is currently

in judicial custody in the case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The verdict on the interim bail plea will be pronounced by Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma. It was reserved on Saturday when Sisodia's lawyer had claimed that pursuant to the court's directions passed on Friday, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader was taken in custody to meet his wife earlier in the day but the latter's health condition deteriorated and she was taken to be the LNJP Hospital before he could reach home.

Monsoon misses onset date in Kerala

IMD says conditions becoming favourable

New Delhi, June 04 (PTI)

The monsoon missed its onset date in Kerala on Sunday with the India Meteorological Department anticipating a further delay of three to four days.

The southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on June 1 with a standard deviation of about seven days. In mid May, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said it



might arrive in Kerala by June 4. In a statement on Sunday, the IMD said, "Conditions (are) becoming favourable with the increase in westerly winds over the south Arabian Sea. Also, the depth of westerly winds is gradually increasing and today, June 4, the depth of westerlies has reached up to 2.1 kilometres above the mean sea

level. "The cloud mass over the southeast Arabian sea is also increasing. We expect that these favourable conditions for monsoon onset over Kerala will further improve during the next three-four days. It is being monitored continuously and further updates will be provided tomorrow (Monday)." Scientists, however, said the delay is unlikely to impact kharif sowing and total rainfall over the country. The southeast monsoon arrived in the southern state on May 29 last year, June 3 in 2021, June 1 in 2020, June 8 in 2019 and May 29 in 2018.

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Govt sets up 3-member probe panel

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):

The Centre on Sunday set up a Commission of Inquiry, headed by former chief justice of the Gauhati High Court Ajai Lamba, to probe the recent series of violence in Manipur that claimed more than 80 lives.

According to a notification issued by the Union Home Ministry, the commission will make inquiry with respect of the causes and spread of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, which took place in Manipur on May 3 and thereafter.

It will probe the sequence of events leading to, and all the facts relat-

About the probe panel...

Commission of Inquiry is headed by former chief justice of the Gauhati High Court Ajai Lamba. The other members of the commission are retired IAS officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and retired IPS officer Aloka Prabhakar. The commission will make inquiry with respect of the causes and spread of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, which took place in Manipur on May 3 and thereafter. It will probe the sequence of events leading to, and all the facts relating to such violence; whether there were any lapses or dereliction of duty in this regard on the part of any of the responsible authorities/individuals and adequacy of the administrative measures taken to prevent, and to deal with the violence and riots.

ing to such violence; whether there were any lapses or dereliction of duty in this regard on the part of any of the responsible authorities/individuals and adequacy of the administrative measures taken to prevent, and to deal with the violence and riots. The inquiry by the

commission shall look into the complaints or allegations that may be made before it by any individual or association.

The commission shall submit its report to the central government as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting.

The commission, however, if it deems fit, can make interim reports to the central government before the said date.

The other members of the commission are retired IAS officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and retired IPS officer Aloka Prabhakar.

The home ministry notification said large-scale violence broke out in Manipur on May 3 and as a result of the violence, many residents of the state lost their lives and several others got seriously injured.

Their houses and properties were burnt down as a result of arson and many of them were rendered homeless, it said.

Advertisement for NH Narayana Health. Text: No time to think? Make the right call. 24x7 FREE* AMBULANCE 75090-61830. NH MMI Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Lalpur, Raipur.

Balasore rail accident: main line tracks repaired

Bhubaneswar, Jun 04 (PTI):

Two days after one of India's worst train accidents at Bahanaga Bazar in Odisha's Balasore district, two railway tracks have been made fit to carry trains after bulldozers and cranes removed capsized coaches on the main trunk line connecting eastern and southern India.

The government on Sunday said both the Up and Down railway tracks at Balasore accident site have been repaired.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw tweeted that track linking Up-line has been restored and overhead electrification work has also started.

"Track linking of Up-line has been done at 16.45 hours. Overhead electrification work started," Vaishnaw tweeted on Sunday.

He had earlier tweeted that the down line which links Howrah has been restored.

Officials said this implies that at least one set of railway tracks were now fit for trains, but more time will be required to fix all tracks, which include loop lines, at the Balasore accident site.

The Odisha government on Sunday also revised the triple train accident's death toll to 275 from 288, and put the number of in-

juries at 1,175. Chief Secretary P K Jena told newsmen some bodies were counted twice.

"After detailed verification and a report by Balasore District Collector, the final toll has been fixed at 275," he said.

Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Dharmendra Pradhan who have camped here visited the railway accident site Sunday.

Pradhan added that "rescue work is over we are working with the local administration to send people affected back home."

"By Tuesday we should be able to do it," Pradhan said. Later, Vaishnaw said on Sunday that the root cause of the accident has been identified.

The change that was made to electronic interlocking which led to the accident has been identified, Vaishnaw said while denying that the incident had anything to do with the anti-collision system "Kavach".

"The inquiry into the accident has been completed and as soon as the commissioner of railway safety (CRS) provides his report all the details will be known.

"The root cause of the horrifying incident has been identified... I do not want to go into details. Let the report come out," the railway minister said.

Advertisement for Blue Lines Pipes & Tubes. Text: ग्लोबल वार्मिंग से खतरे हैं भरपूर पर्यावरण की रक्षा से कर सकते हैं इन्हें दूर. विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस की शुभकामनाएं. जिस पर देश करता है सबसे ज्यादा भरोसा. A Quality Product By NIROS ISPAT PVT. LTD. 14-A, Heavy Industrial Area, Hathkhaj, Bhilai. Toll Free: 1800123660033, Call: 9109981001, 9109981021.

Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) established in Mohandi

- LED lights produced here will be available on different e-commerce websites
- Contract signed with Bhagwati Lights, Shubham K Mart, JR Infra companies for sales



Two dome-sheds, two toilets (female/male), approach road, boundary wall, enclosure have been constructed. An administrative area has been created inside RIPA with a kiosk for banking facility, WiFi connection for internet facility, etc. A helpdesk has been constructed for providing information about state government schemes. A statue of Mahatma

Gandhi has been installed in the center of RIPA campus. Manufacturing of tube lights, garden lights, zero bulbs, series lamps, solar dryer and LED bulbs will be manufactured here. This unit will have a production capacity of 10000 pieces of tube lights, garden lights, zero bulbs, series lamps and LED Bulbs as well as 30 nos solar dryers.

Machines are being used for manufacturing bulbs and lights under RIPA. A commercial market will be created for the products, in which sales will be done through dealers, wholesalers and retailers. Many youths will get employment through these livelihood activities and the service sector. About 34 youths will be given employment from this RIPA centre. For

sales, the administration has tied up with Bhagwati Lights, Shubham K Mart and JR Infra companies. For online marketing, tie-ups are being done with different e-commerce websites like Flipkart and Amazon.

Along with this, the products will also be sold through nearby shops. The products prepared at the RIPA Center will also be supplied to the government departments so that by ensuring the consumption of the product and providing employment guarantee to the labourers working, their future can be made prosperous from the economic point of view.

Godhan Nyay Yojna changes life of Chandrakant Yadav

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 04: Godhan Nyay Yojna has brought prosperity in the lives of cattle owners and shepherds. Chandrakant Yadav had never thought that Godhan Nyay Yojna would change his luck. He did not even dream that he would be able to earn lakhs of rupees by selling cow dung, but Chhattisgarh government's Godhan Nyay Yojna proved to be a boon for him.

Chandrakant Yadav, a shepherd of Gram Panchayat Bhanpuri of Durg district, said that before the launch of this scheme, he had to struggle a lot to meet his family's needs. Ever since the Government of



Chhattisgarh started purchasing cow dung at Rs 2 per kg, he is able to meet the needs of my family easily.

He said that under the Godhan Nyay Yojna, he has sold cow dung worth Rs 2 lakh so far. Yadav and his family collect cow

dung and take it to Gauthan for sale. Along with cow dung, they are also involved in the business of milk. Earlier he had a kutcha house, due to which he had to face a lot of difficulties during the rainy season. Now, with the amount received from the sale of cow dung, he has built his pucca house. Along with selling cow milk, he is making additional income by selling ghee and curd in nearby villages. By selling 17 liters of milk every morning and evening, he is getting an income of 10 to 15 thousand per month. Thanking the Chief Minister for this initiative, he appreciated the Godhan Nyay Yojna.

Devasnan Purnima celebrated with joy in Shri Jagannath Temple Sector-4

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 04: Shri Jagannath Temple Sector-4 is going to celebrate the 54th Rath Yatra Festival 2023 of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swami ji as per every year. As the first episode of the Rath Yatra, the religious event of Devasnan Purnima concluded at Shri Jagannath Temple Sector-4 on Sunday.

As part of this event, Mahaprabhu was taken out of the temple and brought to the Dev Snan Mandap while performing Pahandi with musical in-

struments. Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swami, elder brother Lord Shri Balabhadra Dev, and sister Mata Subhadra were bathed with scented water in Dev Snan Mandap with all the rituals.

This religious worship of Dev Snan with all the rituals was completed by Purohit PitwasPadhi and Pandit Seemanchal Rath, Saroj Das, Prakash Das, Ranjan Mohapatra. After the bath, Mahaprabhu was decorated in the guise of a Gajraj.

Due to Mahaprabhu falling ill after Dev Snan, he was established in



Ansar Griha for rest. From this day till June 19, the doors of the temple of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath will remain

closed. Various herbs and divine medicines will be offered to Mahaprabhu during this period. Netro-Utsav festival

will be organized on June 19. After that the doors of Mahaprabhu's temple will be opened for darshan. After this, on June 20 at 13:00 hrs, a rath yatra will be taken out from Shri Jagannath Temple located in Sector-4.

Dr PK Biswal, Dr Jayshree Pradhan along with the General Secretary of Jagannath Samiti, Satyawan Nayak, Anam Nahak, D Trinath, Basant Pradhan, Trinath Sahu, Bhim Swain, Sushant Satpathy, BC Biswal, BrindabanSwani, Kalu Behera, Bis Keshan Sahu, Niranjana

Maharana, Prakash Swani, Kavi Biswal, Santosh Dalai, Sudarshan Shyanti, Shankar Dalai, ShatrughanDakua, Rabi Swain, Jagannath Patnaik, Shyam Dalai made special contributions in making this auspicious festival of Devasnan a success. A large number of devotees along with the office bearers of the committee were present on the occasion. Various worship rituals and Pahandi programs of Dev Snan were completed under the leadership of Pandit PitbasPadhi.

Series of programmes today to mark World Environment Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 04: Bhilai Steel Plant is organizing a series of programmes on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 05, 2023, to spread environ-

mental awareness and encourage Bhilai and Steel Community to participate in environment conservation. Along with steel production, Bhilai Steel Plant has always been on the forefront by taking several initiatives to protect the environment.

The "Mission LIFE- Lifestyle for Environment" is an India-led global mass movement to nudge individual and community action to protect and preserve the environment. At the onset of Environment Day, BSP Employees will participate in a Walkathon at 07.00 hrs, flagged-off by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP).

The walkathon will start from Ispat Bhawan and conclude at Equipment Square, spreading awareness for environment conservation. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of BSP, in association with the Village Panchayat, will undertake cleaning of village pond followed by plantations around the pond, at Village KonariBharda.

A one-day environmental awareness program will be organized by the Medical & Health Services Department at JLN Hospital & Research Center, Sector-09. Numerous saplings will be planted at the Hospital Sector area under the leadership of Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP). Plant's senior officers will also take part in the Plantation Drive, along with District Forest Officer and CISF Officers.

Plantation Drive and other activities will also be organized at other departments of the Plant on the occasion of World Environment Day. The ongoing activities on environmental conservation under Mission LIFE at various departments of the Plant will conclude at the Valedictory ceremony and the main function of World Environment Day at Bhilai Niwas on June 05, 2023.

OBITUARY

Ratna Murali

Bhilai: Ratna Murali, wife of PD Muralidharan, left for heavenly abode at the age of 63 years.

Funeral procession will be taken out from her residence Plot No 2B, Murali Villa, Om Parisar, Kailash Nagar on June 05 and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed around 16:00 hrs at Ramnagar Muktidham. She was the mother of Dhanish P Murali and Dhanya Vineesh.

विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं.. एक शुभचिंतक

विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस

की हार्दिक बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं

रतन दास गुप्ता
अध्यक्ष

B.S.P. Ancillary Industries Association

संदेश
5 जून, 2023

विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस

प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण को मिलकर समाप्त करें

“आप सभी को 05 जून विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं। प्रतिवर्ष 05 जून विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस के अवसर पर समाज में पर्यावरण के प्रति जागरूकता लाये जाने के उद्देश्य से अनेक कार्यक्रम आयोजित किये जाते हैं, जिससे कि समाज में जन-जागरूकता लाई जा सके। प्रतिवर्ष संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम द्वारा पर्यावरण दिवस की थीम निर्धारित की जाती है। इस वर्ष की थीम “प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण का समाधान” रखी गई है। हम सबकी एकजुटता और भागीदारी से ही यह संभव हो सकता है। आईये आप हम संकल्प ले कि हम पर्यावरण के समक्ष उपस्थित इस चुनौती का सामना करेंगे एवं प्रतिबंधित प्लास्टिक उत्पादों का उपयोग बंद कर देंगे।

हमारे समाधान प्रकृति में हैं।

मोहम्मद अकबर
मंत्री, आवास एवं पर्यावरण विभाग,
छत्तीसगढ़ शासन

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
(आवास एवं पर्यावरण विभाग, छत्तीसगढ़ शासन)
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.)

चल रहा है आपके शहर में बीटीआई मैदान शंकर नगर रायपुर में

फन वर्ल्ड फेयर

डिजनीलैंड मेला 2023

• खाना, खरीदी, मनोरंजन एक साथ
• हैंडलूम हैंडीक्राफ्ट बाजार के साथ

समय- रोजाना शाम 5:00 बजे से रात्रि 10:00 बजे तक



Experts should promote education, research in the field of medicine: Guv



Inaugurates 1st annual conference of CODE Society

Raipur, Jun 04: Specialist doctors should have an ethical responsibility to encourage education and research among their fellow doctors, so that patients can get the right treatment, Governor Vishwabhusan Harichandan said while inaugurating the first annual convention of Chhattisgarh Obesity Diabetes and Endocrine (CODE) Society "CODECON-2023". Diabetes, thyroid, obesity, infertility, pituitary, adrenal etc. are hormone related disorders and due to the shortage of specialist doctors across the country, problems are faced in diagnosis and treatment, he said, adding that early diagnosis and treatment can prevent

many of the complications associated with such diseases. There are about 70 million diabetic patients in our country and diabetes gives rise to many complications in the body, which not only worsens the quality of life of the patient but also imposes a huge economic burden on both the family and the society, said the Governor. The Governor stressed the need for early detection, prevention and prompt treatment of diabetes to achieve the goal of diabetes free India and ensure healthy life of the patients. Similarly thyroid disorders, obesity are common but still remain undiagnosed and also not properly treated due to lack of updates in the field, said he. He said that public awareness programs should also be organized for the benefit of patients as well as doctors.

The Governor said that the doctors should be alert towards their responsibility. Doctors work for the protection of humanity, world and society, he added. Appreciating the role of doctors, nurses, health workers during the Covid pandemic, he said that the way they worked to save lives without caring for their own lives, was praised outside the country as well. Endocrinologists from different parts of our country have come together on a single platform to share their knowledge with the physicians of Chhattisgarh which will help them in their day to day practice, said the Governor. "CODECON-2023" president Dr Kalpana Das threw light on the objective of the conference. Other experts also shared their views. The Governor released a souvenir and felicitated eminent specialist doctors from different parts of the country by presenting them with shawls and insignia. The Governor was honored by the CODE Society. President of Chhattisgarh Obesity Diabetes and Endocrine Society, Dr Biplab Bandyopadhyay, HOD of PGI Chandigarh Dr Sanjay Bhadada, along with expert doctors from all over the country and office bearers of "CODE" were present.

Nearly 450 school, college students participate



Raipur, Jun 04: On the occasion of World Environment Day, a speech and poster competition was organized by Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board on June 4 at New Circuit House, Civil Lines, Raipur. The theme of the competitions was "Reducing the use of single-use plastic by bringing changes in personal habits and behaviours". Elocution competition was organized for two age groups- 13 to 17 years and 18 to 21 years and poster competition was organized for three age groups- up to 12 years, 13-17 years and 18-21 years. About 450 school and college students participated in the competitions. In elocution competition Gracy Kashyap of Radiant Way School Raipur and Divyanshi Panda of Delhi Public School bagged first prize whereas Chinmay Singh Chandel of Shahid Smarak English Medium School and Vidhi

Deepa Malviya of Delhi University bagged second prize. Shreya Mishra of Swami Atmanand Shahid Smarak English Medium School Raipur and Kanchal Adil of J Yogandam Chhattisgarh Mahavidyalaya got third prize in elocution competition. In poster competition Neha Kosle of BP Pujari Utkrishi Vidyalaya Raipur, Aditya Chourasia of Pt RD Tiwari School Raipur, Ritik Paharia of Government Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya PG College Mahasamund bagged first prize whereas Dishita Nagrachi of KPS Dunda, Ujjwal Gupta of Adarsh Vidyalaya Raipur and Anchal Chourasia of Mahant Laxminarayan Das Mahavidyalaya got second prize. Third prize was won by Kirty Kumar of Primary School Kamardera, Sanjana Sahu of JB International School and Alok Patela of PGKCB College Bhalai.

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Lord Shri Ram resides in our heart: CM Baghel

- National Ramayana Festival transforms Raigarh into 'Rammaygarh'
- Golden Book of World Records acknowledged two world records made during the festival
- World record acknowledged for holding the longest stage performances of Aranya Kand
- 375 artists from 17 groups perform for 756 minutes over three days
- Over 10,000 people chant Hanuman Chalisa for three consecutive days
- Karnataka team emerges as winner, followed by the Assam team in second place and the Jharkhand team in third place in the competition based on the theme of 'Aranya Kand'

Ram resides in everyone and is an integral part of everyone's lives.

"The word 'Ram' holds immense power, the more you listen to it, the more you meditate on it, the more deeper our thirst for its essence becomes. Our Ram is Kaushalya's Ram, Vanvasi's Ram, Shabri's Ram, our nephew Ram, and Ram is for all of us", he added. Throughout the festival, Raigarh transformed into 'Rammaygarh', with the enthusiastic participation of the devotees.

The pandal remained brimming with devotees for all three days, and guests from neighboring states also graced the event. Chief Minister Baghel expressed his joy in witnessing everyone reciting and humming verses from the Ramayana, fostering a sense of unity and devotion among all.

The Chief Minister highlighted the success of the National Ramayana Festival, which initially aimed to celebrate the Ramayana on a national level but eventually turned into an international event with the participation of groups from Cambodia and Indonesia.

He expressed his gratitude to the jury members for their valuable insights and said that the various previous festivals that were organised in differ-



ent parts of the country mainly focused on chapters depicting Lord Shri Ram's childhood and Ramleela, this festival has showcased the Lord Shri Ram's stories belonging to Aranya Kand for the first time.

The Chief Minister commended the efforts of all those who played a direct or indirect role in making the festival a success and extended his gratitude to them. He further stated that the state government has organised the National Ramayana Festival for the first time in the state, which has achieved great success and proved to be a remarkable event.

State to establish separate 'Authority' for protection and conservation of all Rivers

At the closing ceremony, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel emphasised the significance of

Chhattisgarh's forests and their connection to Lord Shri Ram's exile. He highlighted that Lord Shri Ram traversed the forests, rivers, and mountains of Chhattisgarh during his journey. As a state abundant in forests and rivers, Chhattisgarh holds its cultural heritage along the riverbanks.

The conservation of rivers and nature is a priority of the state government, with dedicated 'Authorities' established for the preservation of the Indravati and Arpa rivers. A grand Maha-aarti was carried out for the Kelo, Mahanadi, and Shivnath rivers.

The Chief Minister urged everyone to cherish and protect nature, acknowledging its valuable blessings. Additionally, he announced plans to establish a separate 'Authority' for the conservation of all rivers in the state.



CM pays tribute to the people who lost their life in Odisha Train Accident

At the closing ceremony of the National Ramayana Festival, Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel expressed his condolences for the lives lost in the train accident in Balasore, Odisha.

He acknowledged the unpredictability of life and emphasised that outcomes that happened in anyone's life are ultimately in the hands of God. He prayed for the peace of the departed souls and to give strength to the families who have lost their family members in this accident.

Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, presiding over the program, said that people actively participated in the National Ramayana Festival. Raigarh remained immersed in the spirit of Rama, giving us the feel-

ing as if we had arrived in Ayodhya.

He mentioned that Chhattisgarh is not only the maternal home of Mata Kaushalya but also the cherished land of Lord Rama. He emphasized that the longest period of exile was spent in Chhattisgarh, establishing our timeless connection with Lord Rama throughout the ages. National Ramayana Festival sets two 'World Records'

The state's Culture Department achieved a significant milestone through the National Ramayana Festival by setting a new world record for holding the longest stage performances of Aranya Kand, lasting 765 minutes over three days. A total of 375 artists from 17 teams across 13 states, including Chhattisgarh, as well as two international teams, Cambodia and

Indonesia, participated in the festival.

The Culture Department received recognition for the 'Most Stage Artist Performing on Aranya Kand' record, marking the program with the highest number of artists and for the longest duration. Additionally, the Raigarh district administration was honored with a world record for the collective chanting of Hanuman Chalisa by over 10,000 people. The Chhattisgarh Culture Department and the Raigarh District Administration of Chhattisgarh have received the acclamation in the form of a certificate from the Golden Book of World Records for their achievements.

Karnataka team emerges as winner, followed by the Assam team in second place and the Jharkhand team in third place in the competition based on the theme of "Aranya Kand"

The Karnataka team emerged as the winner in the Aranya Kand competition held during the National Ramayana Festival. The team leader was felicitated with a memento, a state 'gamcha', a copy of Ramcharit Manas, and a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh. The second prize was awarded to the team from Assam, which received a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh,

along with a memento, state 'gamcha', and a copy of Ramcharit Manas.

The third prize was awarded to the team from Jharkhand, which received a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, along with a memento, state 'gamcha', and a copy of Ramcharit Manas. Raigarh Municipal Corporation Mayor, Janki Katju, presented a mace (gada) to the Chief Minister during the ceremony.

All the states and jury members including from Cambodia and Indonesia were honoured at the closing ceremony. School Education Minister Mr. Premsai Singh Tekam, Higher Education Minister Mr. Umesh Patel, Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Chandradev Rai, MLA Mr. Prakash Nayak, MLA Mr. Laljit Singh Rathia, MLA Mr. Ram Kumar Yadav, MLA Chakradhar Singh, MLA Mr. Laljit Singh Rathia, Chairman of Gau Seva Aayog Mahant Ramsunder Das, former MP Mr. Nandkumar Sai, former MLA Mr. Bodhran Kanwar, Raigarh Municipal Corporation Mayor Mrs. Janki Katju and District Panchayat President Mr. Nirakar Patel, Director of Culture Department Mr. Vivek Acharya, Raigarh Collector Mr. Taran Prakash Sinha were present in the closing ceremony.

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 04: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel delivered a heartfelt address at the closing ceremony of the Three-days 'National Ramayana Festival' held at Ramleela Maidan in Raigarh. He emphasised that Lord Shri

Students to get books, uniforms and cycles in 'Shala Pravesh Utsav'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 04: For the first time in the election year, students will get the benefit of all the government schemes on the day of the 'Shala Pravesh Utsav'. Schools will open from June 16 and on the same day children will get books, uniforms and cycles.

As per the order of the School Education Department, on the day of 'Shala Pravesh Utsav', on June 16 itself, books, uniform cycles will be given to the children in the presence of Minister, MLA, MP, School Development Committee, School and



Management Committee, dignitaries and parents among the elected public representatives.

School Education Department Director, Sunil Kumar Jain has instructed all the Divisional Joint Directors, DEOs and District Mission Coordinators of the state to

make all the preparations by June 15. Regarding this, Principal Secretary of School Education Department, Dr. Alok Shukla said that preparations has been completed in this concern.

Last time the children got books till July-August. Similarly, uniforms and cy-

cles were also available till November-December. School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam said that we are constantly trying to ensure that children get the benefits of government schemes on time. This time it will be received on time. All preparations have been done for this. This time a target has been set to distribute books to

53.50 lakh children from class 1st to 10th. Similarly, 30 lakh two thousand children will get uniforms. Under the Saraswati Cycle Distribution Scheme, cycles will be distributed to one lakh 65 thousand girls. Cycle will be given only to the eligible girls of class IX.

Maha-aarti of Kelo Maiyya carried out with colorful lamps

- CM carries out 'deepdan' using diya(lamp) made from cow dung

Central Chronicle News

Raigarh, Jun 04: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel carried out the Maha-aarti of Kelo Maiyya in Raigarh and prayed for the happiness and prosperity of the state's people. He also symbolised the prosperity of 'Godhan' by feeding fodder to a cow.

Additionally, Chief Minister Baghel also carried out 'deepdan' using diya(lamp) made from cow dung. The Maha-aarti of Kelo Maiyya showcased a grandeur reminiscent of the Ganga Ghat in



Banaras. The chants of Kelo Maiyya echoed through the entire Ghat, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

Chief Minister Baghel received a warm welcome from the Kelo Udhar

Samiti and the members of Sarva Samaj at the Kelo Maha-aarti program. Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam, Higher Education Minister

Umesh Patel, MLA Chakradhar Singh, Rajeshree Mahant Dr. Ramsudar Das, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Gauseva Aayog, and various public representatives were also present.

Trader abducted in Raipur, found in Kawardha

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 04: The youth who was abducted on Friday from Raipur has been found in Kawardha district. On Friday night, 5 miscreants in a car had abducted a young man named Siddharth in Sunder Nagar. Abductors involved in this incident are absconding.

After escaping from the abductors, Siddharth, who runs his interior shop in Raipur told that abductors had come at 8 pm and assaulted him before taking him away in the car. In an attempt to evade police in the city they moved via Kamal Vihar area. Siddharth said that he was abducted

in a grey-coloured car.

He told that his father was staking claim for election in NTPC. Siddharth said that abductors told him to dissuade his father from contesting the NTPC elections, otherwise his family would be in trouble. Abductors told him that they had come from Haryana.

Nearly 8 police officers investigated the incident. The crime branch team was also making inquiries. The CCTV footage installed nearby was being searched. Blockade was also done at the toll plaza. Siddharth was finally found in Kawardha district. Police started searching for those involved in abduction.

- Courses will be designed in six months

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 04: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai is going to start an employment-oriented certificate course on the basis of need in industry and agriculture sectors in the state.

There is an exercise to design diploma and certificate courses, which are prepared for six months to two years, in such a way that skilled youth can be found in the fields of industry, agriculture and education at the local level.

Director of IIT Prof. Rajeev Prakash told that the state is rich in industry and agriculture. The youth also have a lot of employment opportunities. But these sectors are not getting that many skilled workers on the basis of need. Keeping this in mind, we are going to start such certificate and diploma courses, which can meet these needs.

Discussion is going on with experts related to industry, agriculture and education sectors to design the course. We are also appealing to the people asso-

Certificate courses in IITs on the basis of need in industry, agriculture



ciated with the industry to come forward and share the needs, so that skill development of the youth can be done by preparing courses on its basis.

Due to this, efficient human resources can be

made available at the local level. Course will be designed in six months, in which candidates will be able to register and take admission. Director Prof. Rajeev said that there is a plan to train teachers of

IIT, Polytechnic and Engineering colleges of the state.

For this, a proposal has been given to the Technical Education Department. A few days ago a meeting was also held with the principals of the polytechnic colleges. Soon we will start the training program.

So that this teacher can give better training to the youth and make them efficient. Director Prof. Rajeev said that the state is agriculturally prosperous, but it is seen that the farmers here are not ahead of them in

the use of techniques.

Useful and advanced machines are also introduced in agriculture sector and people are coming from outside to operate it. Keeping this in mind, we will train farmers and youth for developed and advanced agriculture. A course will also be started for this. IIT Bhilai Director Prof.

Rajeev Prakash said that according to the demand in the field of industry, agriculture and education, a certificate course will be started in the state to make the youth skilled for employment. The youth of the state will get its direct benefit.

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Chronicle

CM inaugurates Bade Tariya in Kumhari

- Laser with musical fountain show to be the center of attraction at Bade Tariya

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 04: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated Bade Tariya in Kumhari late on Friday. Sprawled over an area of 18 acres, the Tariya is built

at a cost of Rs 26 crore. He also inaugurated the 'laser with musical fountain show' here, which will provide daily entertainment to the residents.

Chief Minister described this place as a beautifully developed recreational area, comparable to that of a metropolitan city. He explored the food stalls, green walking tunnel, toy train, arch, and suspension bridge within the premises, emphasizing that



this place is a marvelous blend of natural heritage, culture, and modern infrastruc-

ture. He also enjoyed the laser with musical fountain show, which splendidly showcased

the rich culture of Chhattisgarh, along with displaying its mineral resources

and picturesque tourist destinations. Additionally, a presentation on the developmental journey of Kumhari Municipal Corporation over the past four years was also shown during the event.

Every evening at 7:30 PM, a mesmerizing laser with a musical fountain show will be showcased here, providing amusement for visitors. This captivating programme will last for 13 minutes, and an

entry fee of Rs 10 has been set, primarily to cover maintenance costs. The laser with musical fountain show will feature various themes, with the highlight being the synchronized display of laser lights and fountain jets accompanied by melodious music, creating a captivating experience for the audience. The opening and closing timings of the Bade Tariya have been set from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Cow-dung purchase bringing 'white-revolution': Baghel

● **CM Baghel, PCC state in-Charge Kumari Selja dedicate Rajiv Bhavan in Arang**

● **Large number of MLAs, Ministers, party leaders also took part**

Central Chronicle News

Arang, June 05: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel addressing at the dedication of Rajiv Bhavan and unveiling of statue in Arang said that Congress is in the heart of the people who get an opportunity and they always strengthen the organisation and contribute in nation's development.

Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia is one such personality, who facing all the challenges and worst of circumstances, gets big things

done and construction of massive Rajiv Bhavan in Arang stands testimony to it and for which he deserves lots of appreciation.

Speaking on the occasion CM Baghel said that with purchase of Cow-dung under the Rajiv Gandhi Godhan Nyay Yojana, it has brought 'white-revolution'. During 4 yrs of Congress rule in the state has led to increase in milk production by 1.5 times and strength of cattle too has gone up.

The farmers who had left farming and agriculture over the last 15 years are now returning to farming. Last year 24 lakh farmers were given incentive under RGNV and in the coming season, around 26 lakh farmers would be benefited from it.

The per acre quantity of paddy purchase too has been hiked from 15 quintal to 20 quintal per acre and with this the poor and



farmers, both are happy. Through such works, the very dreams held by our ancestors to make Chhattisgarh prosperous is getting fulfilled.

Speaking further CM Baghel informed that the state government has made payment of Unemployment Allowance worth Rs 48 cr to unemployed youth in last two months, whereas the unemployed were not on priority of last BJP's government.

Now in entire country, instead of Gujarat model, it is

the Chhattisgarh model under discussion, as the people of Chhattisgarh have got justice and the poor, farmers and labourers have become prosperous and happy.

Baghel charged that during BJP's rule in the state, they were only interested in vote-bank politics, whereas the Congress government worked with simplicity and harmony and taking up the state's rich art & culture and heritage forward and which is not hidden from anyone.



CM said that during term of earlier government, there was massive promotion of Chit Fund companies and it is the hard earned money of labourers, farmers and others which was looted by them and invested outside. The Congress government refunded the money of the innocent people by nabbing all the Chit Fund company accused and selling their assets, he added.

PCC State in-Charge Kumari Selja said that it is an honour that one of the

party leader's Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia has got such a massive Rajiv Bhavan constructed in Arang and got the statue of former PM Late Rajiv Gandhi unveiled as well and she extended greetings to Daharia and all his party workers and leaders from the region.

She said that when Baghel was not CM, he had a dream to construct Rajiv Bhavan in all districts of the state and which has now got fulfilled. Selja said that Rahul Gandhi is work-

ing like an ambassador of peace and harmony and working for the upliftment of the poor and needy. Rahul's 'padyatra' has worked in many ways to unite people, whereas BJP works only to divide and rule.

On this occasion State Assembly speaker Dr Charandas Mahant, senior Telangana leader K Raju also addressed the gathering. Minister for Urban Development Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia said that Congress party worker is at par with quality of 24 Carat gold and it is with guns and bullets that the party leaders brought Independence to the nation, whereas the BJP and RSS acting as informers of Britishers, used to send the freedom fighters and others struggling for independence, to jail. The contribution by the former PM Late Rajiv Gandhi to development of the nation is un-

parallel and the life, his ideology would continue to act as source of inspiration for all.

Daharia charged that BJP do not believe in the constitution and have show disrespect to the Nation's flag and violate the India's constitution given by Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. CM Bhupesh Baghel following upon the footsteps of the ancestors is trying to fulfill their dreams of Chhattisgarh as held by them and preserving state's rich art & culture and protecting the environment as well.

On this occasion Minister for School Education Premejai Singh Tekam, Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhedia and Revenue Minister Jaisingh Agrawal and Congress party workers and leaders from Arang and nearby villages and blocks were present in large number.

Kerosene lanterns still used as no electricity in villages

Central Chronicle News

Mainpur, June 04: Today, in the 21st century, as urban areas are developing very fast and big cities are dazzling with electric light, the same areas of tribal development block Mainpur of Gariaband people are using the light of extinct lanterns and gas lights to fight the darkness of the night, as electricity is yet to reach them.

Even after 75 years of independence, in more than 50 Paratola and villages of Mainpur block area till date there is no electricity, and the government has not made alternative arrangements for electricity in these villages, but solar energy is being operated by CREDA



department, but solar energy is also not available in many villages of remote Vananchal of Mainpur region. The people of the villages situated inside the hilly and remote forests of Mainpur region use kerosene-burning gas lights with lanterns to fight the darkness of the night and to light up the night.

Villagers Mansai Sori, Devki Bai Sori, Ramin Bai Netam, Surjo Bai Nagesh, Budhran Kamar, Palishram told that there is no electricity in their village Jangda, Bargaon, Payalikhand area even today and solar energy is only nominal, for a few hours in the evening.

The same situation remains in the Mainpur hill area, and in Aamamora,

Kukral, Amalor, Tarajhar, Kurwapani, Bhalu Diggi, Badegobra, Kerosene burning gas lights are taken on rent for weddings and other functions.

There is a special demand for gas lights during the period, although its number is also decreasing rapidly in the area, the main reason behind which is said to be the increasing price of kerosene. Four months ago, kerosene was available around Rs 100 a liter, although now its price is somewhat decreased.

Director of Bukhari Hardware Sarfaraz Memon said that even today we sell 50 to 60 lanterns in a year, and the lanterns in his shop cost from Rs 250 to Rs 400.

BCC holds demonstration rally against BJP's protest

**Central Chronicle News**

Kharora, June 04: It was under leadership of Block Congress Committee (BCC) Kharora that a massive demonstration rally was organised against BJP trying to register protest against 'Gauthans' under one of its campaigns. This protest was held from MLA's office of Block Hq's Kharora to weekly market area.

In this PCC gen. Secy. and

Raipur District in-charge Rajendra Sahu (President Jila Sahakari Bank-Durg), MLA Anita Yogendra Sharma, DCC Raipur (rural) Udhoram Verma, District Panchayat Raipur President Domeswari Verma, Kharora block in-charge Ghanshyam Verma, BCC President Saurabh Mishra, Mahila Block president Sarojini Verma, PCC gen. secy. OBC cell Bhavesh Baghel, YC VS President

Ankit Verma, Sewa Dal BCC President Shyam Lal Baghel, Pachari Society President Banjareji; Budeni Gauthan President Sanjay Sharma, Sector in-charge Suresh Verma, senior Congmen Bisohra Ram Yadav, Nagar Panchayat V-P Panna Dewangan, corporators Surendra Gilhare, Bablu Bhatia, Media in-charge Gageshwar Joshi, Shankar Ratre, Beldar Siwni and others were present.

Woman given pledge to protest use of tobacco in house

On occasion of 'World No-Tobacco Day'**Central Chronicle News**

Khairagarh, June 04: On occasion of World No-Tobacco Day, a camp was organised by Taluka Vidhik Sewa Samiti (TVSS) Khairagarh in Gram Reewagahan on Friday and in this villagers were given information about the harmful effects on health on consuming tobacco.

Para-Legal volunteer Goludas informed that using tobacco can be harmful for health. On use of tobacco or smoking cigarettes, it has negative effect on the body and set aside this with use of 'bidi', 'gutka' and others by persons, it leads to serious diseases and problems in one's body.

The villagers were informed that lakhs of people die all over the world due to consumption of tobacco in



some or the other form and therefore the only objective of observing this day is to keep the people away from the harmful effect of tobacco. People generally starts use of Tobacco coming under influence of some or the other person and slowly it turns into a habit and which later causes lots of problems.

On this occasion, women

were administered pledge not to allow consumption of tobacco in their houses to any person. Every year there is special theme on World No-Tobacco Day and this year's theme is 'we need food-not tobacco'. The objective of this theme is to create awareness among tobacco producing farmers to take up other products and crops.

IK Alesela assumes office as SP Surajpur

Central Chronicle News

Surajpur, June 04: The newly appointed SP- I. Kalyan Alesela (IPS) assumed office in District Police office of Surajpur here on Wednesday. After the guard of honour, he assumed office.

Outgoing SP Ramkrishna Sahu (IPS) handed over the charge to him and gave information about the law & order situation in the district to IK Alesela. After assuming office, IK Alesela took stock of all the branches of SP's office in Surajpur and convened a meeting with branch in-charges and gave necessary instructions.

SP IK Alesela is an IPS officer of 2011 batch and prior to this he has served as SP in Bemetara,



Gourela-Pendra-Marwahi, Balodabazar, Sukma and Bijapur. Speaking to media persons after assuming office, IK Alesela said that due stress will be on better policing and check on the crime. During this Addl. SP Madhulika Singh and other district-level police officer and TIs were present.

Collector holds review meeting of agri and cadre departments

Central Chronicle News

Korea, June 04: Under the chairmanship of District Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh, a review meeting of agriculture and cadre departments was convened in the district collectorate here, in which the Collector reviewed the preparations for the upcoming Kharif season with the Deputy Director of the Agriculture Department.

He said that all the departments should cooperate with the farmers by staying in the field, and prepare an action plan for Rabi crops in advance and said that farmers should be encouraged for millets crops.

He said that efforts should be made to increase the bi-cropped area, for this he instructed the farmers to be iden-

tified. While reviewing the Godhan Nyaya Yojana the Collector said that Godhan Nyaya Yojana is a priority scheme of the government, negligence in its implementation will not be tolerated.

Instructing the work to be done seriously, he said that continuous procurement should be done in all the Gothans. He instructed the officers of the Horticulture Department to develop gardens in all Gothans and said that all central and state-funded schemes should be linked with Gothans, so that people would be benefited.

In the state-funded schemes related to agriculture he discussed about Kisan Samridhi Yojana, Organic Farming Mission, Crop

Demonstration Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana, Saur Sujala Yojana, Organic Farming Mission, Akti Seed Promotion Scheme, Pulses Promotion Scheme, Shakambhari under Krishak Samagra Vikas Yojana.

A detailed discussion was held about tube well mining under the scheme, Kisan Samridhi Yojana. Along with this, a detailed review was done regarding the information of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana and registration of farmers holding forest rights under the scheme, E-KYC, Rainfed Area Development Scheme, National Agriculture Development Scheme, Food and Nutrition Security Scheme, Extension Reforms Scheme.

River 'Haf' dries as heat wave intensifies

Central Chronicle News

Pandariya, June 04: Rive Haf has dried this season, as heat waves continue to rise, subsequently effecting ground water Level. The River has dried up in front of Bisheshara village, but in 2020 and 2021, the river had not dried, and as more than 200 villages be dependant on the river there has raised a challenge to handle water scarcity.

Originating from Maichal Ranges, the river joins Shivanth River near Nandghat passing through Bemetara district. The length of this river is about 35 to 40 km and is the biggest and longest river of the district. About 10 years ago this river was in the



form of Sadwahni River, in which water used to flow throughout the year.

But for the last 7-8 years this river is drying up during the summer season. In the last two years, due to Corona, there was flow of water in the river throughout the year and the people of the village have called

for its conservation.

Due to increasing pollution in the river and sand mining along with haphazard water exploitation, the river is becoming an obstacle. Also due to the presence of many stop dams in the river, water remains filled in many villages, while villages without stop

dams, suffer of water scarcity. Many villages including Bisheshara, Rouha, Manjholi, Devpura, Dhobghatti, Navagaon Hatha, Domsara, Piparkhuti, Kharhatta have water problems and the villagers have demanded construction of stop dams near the river.

Central govt did not provide justice to wrestler daughters: Sahu

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, June 04: Mahila Congress leader and District President Fingeshwar Mrs. Pushpa Sahu has said that the Parliament is the voice of the people but when new, grand Parliament building was inaugurated, women players who brought medals for the country were humiliated on the streets near the

Parliament. Women wrestlers who



are fighting for their

rights near the Parliament House were humiliated and women players were beaten on the streets with the force of dictatorship. Sahu further said that democracy does not run only on buildings, it runs on the voice of the people. She also condemned the action and said that this is absolutely wrong; today the whole country is sad of Central government's arrogance and injustice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to General Public that Original sale deed duly executed by Dilip Singh & Nanakram Poptani in favour of Smt. Sushila Sahu W/o Shri Rajnish Sahu Vide Document No 1726, dated 04.08.2008, Registered in the Office of Sub-Registrar Bilaspur (C.G.) has been lost/Misplaced by present Owner Smt. Jageshwari Sahu W/o Shri Brijesh Sahu. That written intimation duly given in the Police Station Sarkanda, Bilaspur (C.G.) on dated 15.05.2023 in this regard. Now Smt. Seema Yadav W/o Shri Ramesh Yadav (intending Purchaser) has applied for Loan from My client Bank of Baroda Mungeeli Road Branch, Bilaspur (C.G.) if any person/ Bank/ Corporation/ Society/ Institution/ Govt. or Non Govt. Authority etc. objectives with documentary proof to undersigned office within 7 days from the Date of Publication, without any reference to such claim the same, if any shall be considered as waived & My client shall be enable to create mortgage on said property. Place: Bilaspur Date: 04.06.2023 (Ashok Dubey) Advocate Beside Sr. MIG-5, Nehru Nagar Bilaspur (C.G.) Mob-9425543073

BRIEF



A man shows his uncle photo on his mobile to the media, who is still missing, two days after the triple train mishap, at Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital in Balasore district, Odisha, Sunday.

Snakebite

Sonbhadra: Two minor girls were killed after being bitten by a snake in a village in Obrha area here, police said on Sunday. Rita (4) and Sita (7) were bitten by a snake while they were asleep on Saturday night in Bariipur village, SHO Avinash Kumar Singh said. They were rushed to the community health centre, where they died, he said.

Collision

Barabanki: Three people, including two motorcyclists, were killed in a collision between two trailer trucks on the Banda-Bahraich Highway near the Burhwal crossing here, police said on Sunday. The driver of a speeding truck lost control over his vehicle, which jumped the divider and collided with another truck on the other side of the highway, they said. Two motorcyclists — Raju (36) and Kalyan (30) — returning from a wedding were killed after getting trapped between the trucks following the accident, they added.

Mishap

Ballia: Two persons were killed and 11 others injured in separate road accidents in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia and Balrampur districts, police said on Sunday. A clerk of the commercial tax department was killed when his motorcycle was hit by a speeding tractor in Alavpur village in the Sukhpura area of Ballia Saturday night, they said. The deceased was identified as Mahesh Srivastava (47), police said, adding he was returning from duty when the incident occurred.

Fire

New Delhi: Fire broke out at a hostel of the Maulana Azad Medical College here on Sunday morning but there was no loss of life, officials said. According to them, the information about the blaze at the old boys hostel was received at 6.09 am. Seven fire tenders were rushed to the site. The fire had affected the AC, furniture and clothes in a room on the first floor of the building, a senior fire official said.

Shot dead

Prayagraj: A teenager was shot dead here by unidentified assailants, police said on Sunday. Adil Ali, who runs an e-rickshaw, was shot on Saturday night, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Deepak Bhuker said. An FIR against three persons has been registered on a complaint by the victim's father.

'Threat of pandemics far from over'

● **Need to strengthen health-based surveillance system**

Hyderabad, Jun 04 (PTI)

The threat of pandemics is far from over and the current need is to integrate surveillance systems of countries under the "One Health" framework and strengthen it, Union Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar said on Sunday.

"The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted that partnerships are most fruitful only when developed during peacetime and not amidst an ongoing pandemic, and that we need to focus on creating resilient health systems, with primary health as its corner-



Bharati Pravin Pawar

stone," Pawar said in her address at the third G20 Health Working Group meeting here. G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Tourism, S P Singh Baghel, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, and Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, were present on the occasion. Pawar further stated that the "partnership

we share as G20 members is vital and facilitates in building trust, sharing knowledge, creating networks and working together to achieve meaningful impact and results."

Pawar also highlighted the need for availability of safe, effective and quality medical countermeasures.

Stating that India's G20 presidency is working towards building consensus for an end-to-end global medical countermeasure ecosystem, following a network of networks approach and leveraging existing global and regional initiatives, Pawar urged the leadership of G20 countries to create an interim platform which will be guided by the **I n t e r g o v e r n m e n t a l** Negotiating Body (INB) process and will feed into the

same. "Pandemics may not wait for the finalization of the Pandemic Treaty and hence, the time to act is now," she stated. Pawar also informed the delegates of India's proposal of a global initiative on digital health, a WHO-managed network to converge ongoing initiatives in use of technology in the global health arena. She stated that this initiative can enable bridging the digital divide amongst nations and ensure that the fruits of technology are made available to every citizen of the world. Underscoring the contribution of Indian traditional knowledge systems to health-care, G Kishan Reddy stated that "Indian traditional knowledge system propagated preventive and holistic wellbeing for all".

B'deshi diplomat visits Odisha hospitals

● **To look for injured train passengers**

Balasore, Jun 04:

A senior Bangladeshi diplomat, Sheikh Marefat Ali Islam, on Sunday visited Soro Hospital in Odisha's Balasore district to provide consular assistance to Bangladeshi passengers injured in the triple train crash.

Islam told PTI that few Bangladeshi passengers were recuperating in different hospitals in Odisha but there was no news of death of any citizen of that country in the crash.

"One Bangladeshi passenger admitted at a Bhadrak hospital was discharged after treatment. Another has been referred to SCB Medical

College in Cuttack. On Saturday, I had visited a Balasore hospital," he said.

"If there's any information on injured Bangladeshi patients, please dial our deputy high commission at Kolkata - 9038353533," Marefat, second secretary in the Bangladesh deputy high commission which looks after eastern India, added.

"Several unclaimed bodies are lying in a few hospitals in Bhubaneswar. We will have to find out if there are any Bangladeshis among them," he added.

He thanked the Odisha government for providing support in tracing the injured and dead Bangladeshi citizens in various hospitals.

MP Congress to move court for judicial probe

● **Into collapse of idols at Mahakal Lok corridor**

Bhopal, Jun 04 (PTI)

The Congress will approach the Madhya Pradesh High Court to seek a judicial probe into the collapse of six of seven 'Saptarishi' idols at the 'Mahakal Lok' corridor in Ujjain, a party leader said on Sunday.

The six idols collapsed at the corridor near the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain following gusty winds on May 28.

A technical team of the Madhya Pradesh Lokayukta on Saturday started a probe into the incident. "We are ready with

a petition to approach the high court. It has been sent to senior lawyers for their go ahead. In all likelihood, we are going to file the petition this coming week," a senior Madhya Pradesh Congress leader told PTI.

He said they will seek a judicial probe into the incident by a sitting judge, he said.

The Congress will take on the state Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government that "hasn't spared even gods," he claimed.

The incident smacks of corruption in the installation of idols and development works carried out at the multi-crore corridor, the leader alleged. The first phase of the Mahakal Lok corridor was inaugurated by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi in October last year.

After the idols collapse incident on May 28, MP Congress chief Kamal Nath sought a probe into the "sub-standard construction", while senior party leader Arun Yadav slammed the BJP government, alleging its corruption was "not sparing even gods". The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has denied corruption charges levelled by the Congress and blamed gusty winds for the incident. The MP Lokayukta (anti-corruption ombudsman) has taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of the incident and asked its technical wing to investigate it, an official earlier said.

Radio jockeys to raise awareness about climate change

Kolkata, Jun 04 (PTI)

Radio Jockeys (RJs) will use their voice and fun-filled form of presentation from World Environment Day, June 5, to raise awareness on environmental protection.

Radio listeners in Kolkata will get to know about the actions that cause climate change, and its consequences through the programmes, a UNICEF release said.

The RJs and radio professionals of private FM channels, Akashvani, Community Radio and HAM Radio on Friday gathered at a programme for 'Sensitisation and Call to Action on Mission LIFE for Radio Professionals' organised by UNICEF and CASA and various creative methods were show-

cased for highlighting the issue of climate change and ways to mitigate them.

Any person can switch off the car engine at a traffic signal or put off the lights, AC or fans while leaving the room to lower pollution levels. Turning off the roadside water tap or repairing a dripping faucet at home can go a long way to stem the change in climate patterns. "We RJs will spread such messages in fun-filled, creative and non-directive methods to protect the environment," RJ Ginnie Mahajan from New Delhi and RJ Sumanta Banerjee of Kolkata said.

India has been promoting 'Mission LIFE' to urge an individual and the community to protect the environment.

PROTEST RALLY



Meitei community people of Manipur take part in a protest at Jantar-Mantar in New Delhi, Sunday.

'Our family is devastated': 3 brothers lose lives in Odisha train accident

Baruipur, Jun 04 (PTI)

Three brothers from West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, who were travelling to Tamil Nadu in search of work, lost their lives in the train accident in Odisha's Balasore, officials said.

Haran Gayen (40), Nishikant Gayen (35) and Dibakar Gayen (32), residents of Charanikhali village in Basanti Uttar, usually lived in the southern state most time of the year and did menial jobs there.

They came home a few days back, and were going back to Tamil Nadu this time in the Coromandel Express in search of work as farm labourers.

As the news of their deaths came, a pall of gloom descended on the

village. Their wives fell unconscious as neighbours continued consoling them.

Haran's wife Anajita is a neurological patient, locals said, adding that her treatment was now in question. He is survived by two married daughters and a son who has recently started working at a local eatery.

Besides his wife, Nishikant is survived by a daughter and a son, both minors. Dibakar is survived by two sons and his wife.

"My father and uncles are no more, our family is devastated," said an inconsolable Avijit, the son of Haran. Twelve people from the district have lost their lives in the crash, which happened on Friday evening, officials said.

Son reunites with father while serving food to poor

Ramgarh, Jun 04 (PTI)

A 13-year-old boy reunited with his father after a decade while serving food to the poor during a food distribution event organised by an organisation in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district.

The father, identified as Tinku Verma, was allegedly arrested by police following the mysterious death of his wife in 2013, was sitting in a queue to have free food on Friday afternoon. Incidentally, his son Shivam was serving food. The son saw him and found the bearded face resembled his father.

Meanwhile, the father also recognized his son, who had been handed over to Divine Omkar

Mission, a non-profit organisation for orphaned, abandoned and marginal poor children, by administration officials after his arrest. Then, Shivam was just three years old.

Both father and son hugged each other and they broke down into tears. The emotional scene drew the attention of the manager of the organisation Rajesh Negi.

Negi said that administrative officials had handed over Shivam to the organisation, as his father had been arrested by police following the death of his mother. "There was no one to take care of the little boy," he said. He added that Shivam is now a student of class-8, who studies in the school-run by the organisation.

Reviving Indian Culture and Rituals for Environmental Preservation



By Prof. Man Mohan Prakash

The condition of the environment and its components in India is not hidden from anyone. The figures of India's Environment Status Report 2022, published by Science and Environment and Down-to-Earth, are frightening. It cannot be said how much truth there is in this report, but it can definitely be said that if they are true, then the situation is alarming. According to this report, India ranks 120 out of 192

countries in terms of environmental status. It is a matter of concern that our country has slipped down three places compared to last year's data. We could not even achieve the targets set for housing and drinking water, pollution and waste management, forest cover, and renewable energy production, etc.

Moving away from the statistics, if we reflect on the environmental situation in India, it becomes evident that most of the country's rivers are struggling for their existence. Other underground and surface water sources seem to be dying, at least in summer. Atmospheric temperature is increasing due to various human factors such as increasing carbon dioxide, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and changing weather patterns. Pollution is spreading everywhere. Laws and regulations are proving to be ineffective, at least against those who

spread pollution, whether it is a matter of not burning "paradi," not mixing industrial effluents in water sources, or not burning garbage, etc.

Today, the land is fed up with the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, losing its fertility. Forests are troubled by encroachment, and wildlife is struggling for survival due to various man-made reasons. Conflicts and wars between different countries around the world contribute to all kinds of pollution, harming nature, and causing loss of life and wealth. The development, testing, trade, and use of destructive weapons make the possibility of a third world war imminent. There is no exaggeration if the war between Russia and Ukraine is stopped with the explosion of nuclear missiles and bombs, etc. Overall, human values are eroding, and human civilization groans while nature is

forced to shed tears over its condition. Even in such a situation, big influential and powerful countries are eager to take small countries under their control. All world-level institutions are proving ineffective in establishing peace and harmony.

Most countries in the world are more or less intent on the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources and are oblivious to the problems that harm the environment. Maintaining a natural balance in such a situation becomes a difficult and unsolvable question, not only for all countries but also for nature itself.

All the scientific inventions of humanity have proved helpless before nature. Yet, humans are not ready to understand that without adopting Sanatan Sanskar (eternal values) and a culture and nature-friendly lifestyle, they cannot remain happy and healthy. In fact, for the en-

joyment of both nature and human beings, cordial co-existence is necessary for them to flourish. How long will human beings continue to harm themselves and nature by dismissing Indian Sanatan culture and rituals as unscientific?

We are all well aware that in our scientific Sanatan culture, in the Vedas-Puranas, etc., it has always been emphasized to worship the five elements of nature, considering them equal to gods, and giving them respect and enrichment. The meaning of this is that we should understand the importance of the panch bhoot (five elements) and use them sparingly. We should neither contaminate them nor waste them in the name of religiosity, or by mixing them with pure natural substances after their use in worship. This is only possible when every human being takes a resolution to neither contaminate the god-like

five elements themselves nor allow others to contaminate them. We also have to educate our children about the protection and promotion of the environment and make them responsible.

What can we say about people who are irreligious and influenced by Western culture? They consider Indian culture and rituals unscientific and view the five elements as mere resources for consumption and contamination. Perhaps their actions alienate them from Indian culture and rituals, leading to various environmental problems. That's why respected Indian Prime Minister Modi Ji has emphasized discussing environmental issues at the dining table. The current environmental situation is the responsibility of everyone, from children to elders, and finding a solution requires collective effort. Therefore, there is no better place than the dinner

table to enlighten everyone on this subject.

Indians should understand that our eternal culture and rituals were never unscientific. They have always stood the test of scientificity. Perhaps that is why our Sanatan tradition includes provisions for worshipping plants, animals, rivers, seas, mountains, forests, fields, and barns to preserve and promote natural balance, especially during various Teej and festivals. These occasions serve as a reminder to salute the power and importance of nature. Let us all follow the environmentally friendly Indian culture and rituals, taking a pledge to make nature happy and free from environmental harm. By embracing the environment-friendly Indian culture and values ourselves and transferring them to the next generation, we can flourish with the essence of our traditions and culture.

India no longer lumbering around at relatively slow pace: EAM Jaishankar

Johannesburg, Jun 04 (PTI):

India is no longer "lumbering around at a relatively slow pace", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said and urged the diaspora to be part of the country's growth story.

Speaking at a reception hosted by the Indian diaspora and expatriate community in Cape Town in his honour Saturday evening, he also spoke about the special relationship between India and South Africa, which would celebrate 30 years of new diplomatic ties.



The minister was in the city with his counterparts from Brazil, Russia and China for the BRICS bloc's meeting hosted by South Africa.

"This is no longer the India that was lumbering around at a relatively slow

pace. When it comes to digital, I can assert with a great deal of confidence, that I see practices (and) efficiencies in India which I don't see even if I go to Europe and North America," Jaishankar said.

"This scale of change which is taking place in India, when we speak about the pace of transformation of these nine years, is really something that I think the Indian community abroad, the non-residents abroad and I would say even the friends and well-wishers of India abroad need to understand

is something very powerful and very big that is going on," he said.

The minister said it is important that the diaspora and the people of Indian origin who live abroad also participate and have that sense of involvement in the change in India.

Highlighting the achievements of the Modi government in its nine years in office through policy reforms and actions in various areas to raise the self-reliance of the Indian people, Jaishankar said this was not a protectionist effort.



NATO warships are moored in Old Harbour in Tallinn, Estonia. This year's largest naval exercise in the Baltic Sea, Baltops 2023, started in Tallinn on Saturday and bring fifty NATO warships and close to six thousands personnel to the Estonian capital.

BALTIC SEA SHOWDOWN

At least 500 children killed by war: Zelenskyy

Kyiv, Jun 04 (AP):

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday that Russia's war, now in its 16th month, has killed at least 500 Ukrainian children.

Zelenskyy provided the number hours after rescue workers found the body of a 2-year-old girl who died in one of the latest Russian strikes.

The president said in a statement that "Russian weapons and hatred, which continue to take and destroy the lives of Ukrainian children every day," killed the hundreds who had perished since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine started on Feb. 24, 2022.

"Many of them could



have become famous scholars, artists, sports champions, contributing to Ukraine's history," he said.

Zelenskyy said it was impossible to establish the exact number of children who were casualties due to the ongoing hostilities and because some areas are under Russian occupation.

"We must hold out and win this war!" the Ukrainian president said. "All of Ukraine, all our people, all our children, must be free from the Russian terror!"

Rescuers found the 2-year-old's body early Sunday while combing through the rubble of an apartment building in the suburbs of the central city of Dnipro.

The regional governor, Serhiy Lysak, said five children were among 22 people injured by Saturday's attack, which damaged two residential buildings.

The Russians launched more strikes with drones and cruise missiles Sunday, targeting multiple areas of the country, including the capital, Kyiv.

The Ukrainian air force said the country's air defenses downed three of the five Shahed self-exploding drones and four of the six cruise missiles fired.

Ukraine keeps up pressure following Russian declaration of victory in Bakhmut

Outside Bakhmut, (Ukraine), Jun 04 (AP): Watching imagery from a drone camera overhead, Ukrainian battalion commander Oleg Shiryayev warned his men in nearby trenches that Russian forces were advancing across a field toward a patch of trees outside the city of Bakhmut.

The leader of the 127th Kharkiv Territorial Defence Brigade then ordered a target team to get ready. A target was locked. A mortar tube popped out a loud orange blast, and an explosion cut a new crater in an already pockmarked hillside.

"We are moving forward," Shiryayev said after at least one drone image showed a

Russian fighter struck down. "We fight for every tree, every trench, every dugout."

Russian forces declared victory in the eastern city last month after the longest, deadliest battle since their full-scale invasion of Ukraine began 15 months ago. But Ukrainian defenders like Shiryayev aren't retreating. Instead, they are keeping up the pressure and continuing the fight from positions on the western fringes of Bakhmut.

The pushback gives commanders in Moscow another thing to think about ahead of a much-anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive that appears to be taking shape.

Imran Khan likely to be tried in military court: Khawaja Asif

Islamabad, Jun 04 (PTI):

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said the chances were that former prime minister Imran Khan could be tried in a military court for his alleged involvement in the May 9 incidents in which military and state installations were attacked by his party workers, according to a media report on Sunday.

Khan, 70, could stand trial in a military court if evidence of his involvement in the May 9 violence surfaced in the coming days, Asif was quoted as saying by The Express



Tribune newspaper.

He also confirmed that no case had been registered against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief so far in connection with the May 9 attacks.

"Definitely there are chances that Imran Khan

can be tried in a military court," the minister said while responding to a question if the deposed premier could be prosecuted under the Army Act.

His remarks came days after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that Khan will be tried in a military court as the former prime minister was the "architect" of the May 9 incidents. Khan's party found itself in hot waters when protesters allegedly belonging to the party attacked civil and military properties on May 9 following the arrest of Khan in the Al-Qadir corruption case.

People of India are going to defeat BJP: Rahul Gandhi

New York, Jun 04 (PTI):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said after the Karnataka election victory his party will "decimate" the BJP in Telangana and other state polls, emphasising that it is not just the Congress party but the people of India who are going to defeat its hate-filled ideology.

"We have shown in Karnataka that we can decimate the BJP. We did not defeat them, we decimated them. We smashed them in Karnataka," Gandhi said at a dinner event organised here Saturday by the Indian Overseas Congress-USA.

Gandhi arrived in New York after visiting Washington and San Francisco and will address a community rally at the Javits Centre in Manhattan on Sunday.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during an event at the Roosevelt House, home of former US president Franklin D. Roosevelt, in New York, USA.

He said in the Karnataka elections, the BJP "tried everything in the book, they had the entire media, they had 10 times the amount of money we had, they had the government, they had the agency. They had everything and then we decimated

ed them," Gandhi said. "And I want you to know that we are going to decimate them in Telangana next," he said to loud cheers and applause from the gathering. "It will be hard to find the BJP in Telangana after this election." Election in

the southern Indian state is scheduled to be held later this year.

Congress supporters, officials, party members and members of the diaspora gathered in large numbers at the community event that was also attended by New York City Mayor Eric Adams. Apart from the Telangana election, there are elections scheduled for Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh where we will do the same we did to them in Karnataka," Gandhi said to cheers and applause from the supporters. "It is not just the Congress party that is going to defeat the BJP. It is the people of India, the people of Madhya Pradesh, the people of Telangana, the people of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh who are going to defeat the BJP," Gandhi said.

China defends buzzing American warship in Taiwan Strait

Singapore, Jun 04 (AP):

China's defence minister defended sailing a warship across the path of an American destroyer and Canadian frigate transiting the Taiwan Strait, telling a gathering of some of the world's top defence officials in Singapore on Sunday that such so-called "freedom of navigation" patrols are a provocation to China.

In his first international public address since becoming defence minister in March, Gen. Li Shangfu told the Shangri-La Dialogue that China doesn't have any problems with "innocent passage" but that "we must prevent attempts that try to use

those freedom of navigation (patrols), that innocent passage, to exercise hegemony of navigation."

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told the same forum Saturday that Washington would not "flinch in the face of bullying or coercion" from China and would continue regularly sailing through and flying over the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea to emphasise they are international waters, countering Beijing's sweeping territorial claims.

That same day, as a US guided-missile destroyer and a Canadian frigate were intercepted by a Chinese warship as they transited the strait be-

tween the self-governed island of Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, and mainland China.

The Chinese vessel overtook the American ship and then veered across its bow at a distance of 150 yards (about 140 metres) in an "unsafe manner," according to the US Indo-Pacific Command.

Additionally, the US has said a Chinese J-16 fighter late last month "performed an unnecessarily aggressive maneuver" while intercepting a US Air Force reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea, flying directly in front of the plane's nose.

Those and previous inci-

dents have raised concerns of a possible accident occurring that could lead to an escalation between the two nations at a time when tensions are already high.

Li suggested the US and its allies had created the danger, and should instead should focus on taking "good care of your own territorial airspace and waters."

"The best way is for the countries, especially the naval vessels and fighter jets of countries, not to do closing actions around other countries' territories," he said through an interpreter. "What's the point of going there? In China we always say, Mind your own business."

Indian-origin man jailed for defrauding property buyers in UK

London, Jun 04 (PTI):

An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment for fraud offences after he admitted to fleecing potential property buyers, many of them also of Indian origin, out of nearly 16,000 pounds, Scotland Yard said.

Jaspal Singh Juttla, 64, was sentenced at Isleworth Crown Court in London on Thursday on four counts of fraud by false representation and one count of carrying on a regulated activity when not authorised to do so.

The offences occurred between May 2019 and January 2021 and Juttla pleaded guilty to the offences at an earlier hearing in August last year at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. The offences relate to four victims, where property buyers were conned into handing over approximately 15,790 pounds to Juttla impersonating as a

mortgage adviser. "Jaspal Singh Juttla is a persistent fraud who has exploited people in his own community, using their hard-earned money to fund his lifestyle," said Detective Constable Anita Sharma, Financial Investigator in the Central Specialist Crime Unit of the Met Police.

"We are grateful to those victims who have been brave enough to come forward in this case but there may be other people conned by Juttla who have not spoken to police. I urge anyone who suspects they may be a victim of Juttla to come forward and report it by calling Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or contacting them online," she said. The financial investigators from the Met's Economic Crime team believe that there are other victims that have been scammed by the ruse and are yet to come forward. Juttla claimed to be a mortgage adviser and offered to assist victims with property purchases.

PROTESTS IN SERBIA



People march during a protest against violence in Belgrade, Serbia. Tens of thousands of people rallied in Serbia's capital on Saturday in protest of the government's handling of a crisis after two mass shootings in the Balkan country.

3 Chinese astronauts return home safely after a six-month stint in space station

Beijing/Jiuquan, Jun 04 (PTI):

Three Chinese astronauts on Sunday returned safely to Earth on board the Shenzhou-15 manned spaceship after completing their six-month mission to build China's space station.

Shenzhou-15's return capsule carrying astronauts Fei Junlong, Deng Qingming and Zhang Lu, touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 6:33 am (Beijing Time), China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said here.

The three completed their six-month space station mission, it announced.

The astronauts were in good shape, and the Shenzhou-15 manned mission was a success, the agency announced.

The three were replaced by three other astronauts, including China's first civilian who successfully flew to the space station on May 30.

The new set of astro-

nauts will stay in the space station for five months.

Once ready, China will be the only country to own a space station as the International Space Station (ISS) of Russia is a collaborative project of several countries. The ISS station is also set to be decommissioned by 2030.

The significant feature of China's space station is its two robotic arms, especially the long one which can grab objects, including satellites from space.

"We have completed all the scheduled tasks and felt good after returning to the motherland," Fei, the mission commander, said.

Fei had also participated in the country's second crewed space mission, Shenzhou-6, in October 2005.

Deng, who finally got the chance to fly to space after 25 years of preparation, said: "I always believe in the power of dreams and persistence. No matter how old I am, I feel so happy to be needed by the nation."



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 65

Preserving Sedition Law

Balancing Security and Civil Liberties

In a report submitted to the government, the Law Commission has recommended the retention of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), commonly known as the sedition law. While acknowledging concerns over its misuse, the panel suggests implementing procedural safeguards and guidelines to curb any potential abuse. The report highlights the need for clarity in the usage of Section 124A and emphasizes that sedition should not be repealed solely based on its colonial origins. The Law Commission argues that the law plays a crucial role in safeguarding the security and integrity of the country, making its retention essential. The report addresses the criticism that other laws, such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Security Act, cover elements of sedition, but not comprehensively. Without the provision of sedition, expressions inciting violence against the government would fall under more stringent counter-terrorism legislations, lacking the necessary balance in handling such cases. The report dismisses the argument that sedition should be repealed based on the practices of other countries, emphasizing the importance of considering India's ground realities. While recognizing the historical context of sedition as a tool used against India's freedom fighters, the report stresses that its colonial origins alone do not justify its repeal. Instead, the Law Commission suggests introducing legal mechanisms to prevent misuse and protect genuine victims. Repealing the provision entirely, according to the report, would grant subversive forces the freedom to further their agenda, posing significant risks to the nation's security and integrity. However, critics argue that the Law Commission's stand on this issue contradicts the spirit of the Supreme Court's rulings and observations. The higher judiciary has repeatedly emphasized civil liberties in its judgments on sedition cases. The Supreme Court has questioned why a colonial-era law, previously employed by the British to silence leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak, has not been repealed. In recent years, Section 124A has been misused to suppress voices of dissent, targeting journalists and activists. The retention of Section 124A, in the presence of other stringent laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Security Act, raises concerns about the erosion of India's democratic credentials and unreasonable restrictions on freedom of speech and expression. It is argued that the sedition law, often used as a tool by the State to commit excesses, undermines the nation's constitutional framework. Repealing Section 124A becomes crucial to restore balance and protect civil liberties. While the Law Commission's recommendations shed light on the complexities surrounding the sedition law, a balanced approach is necessary. Striking a delicate balance between individual rights and national security is the key to any potential amendments. The government must carefully consider the Law Commission's insights while addressing the concerns raised by critics. The preservation of the sedition law should be accompanied by stringent safeguards to prevent abuse and ensure the protection of both individuals and the nation.

Digital Sovereignty in India

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

The rapid pace of technological advancements, including AI, social media, and other technological innovations, is leading to transformative changes in societies worldwide. In this context, the concept of digital sovereignty has gained significant importance. Digital sovereignty refers to a nation's capacity to exert control and assert independence over digital technologies, data, and information within its jurisdiction. It encompasses the ability of a country to govern its digital infrastructure, establish policies and regulations, and manage the flow of data in accordance with its unique values, interests, and legal frameworks. The concept of digital sovereignty has gained prominence as technology and digital services have become pervasive in various aspects of society and the economy. It encompasses concerns about data privacy, cybersecurity, national security, economic competitiveness, and the protection of cultural values and norms. Digital sovereignty includes measures taken by countries to safeguard their digital ecosystem, such as establishing data protection laws, implementing cybersecurity measures, promoting the use of domestically developed technologies, and regulating the flow of data across borders. These measures are often aimed at reducing dependence on foreign technologies and services, protecting national interests, and ensuring that digital activities align with the country's laws and policies. Some examples of digital sovereignty initiatives include data localization requirements, where countries mandate that certain types of data must be stored within their borders, and the development of domestic digital infrastructure, such as national internet networks or cloud services. However, digital sovereignty is a complex and evolving concept, and its implementation can vary across countries. Balancing the benefits of global digital connectivity with the need to protect national interests and values is an ongoing challenge for policymakers in the digital age. In India, the concept of digital sovereignty has gained increasing attention in recent years. In India, the government has implemented various measures to assert control over digital technologies, data, and information in the country. Key aspects of digital sovereignty in India include data localization, cybersecurity initiatives, development of domestic digital infrastructure, promotion of digital payments, and internet governance and content regulation. The government has established cybersecurity initiatives, such as the National Cyber Security Policy and the Cyber Swachhta Kendra, to protect critical infrastructure and data. Emphasis has been placed on developing domestic digital infrastructure through initiatives like the National Knowledge Network and National Data Centers. Digital payments and financial technology have been promoted to reduce cash dependence and strengthen financial sovereignty. The government has also introduced regulations to govern digital content and platforms, ensuring compliance with laws and cultural values. While asserting digital sovereignty, the Indian government recognizes the importance of balancing it with global connectivity, innovation, and economic growth. Efforts to achieve digital sovereignty in India are ongoing, with a focus on aligning the digital ecosystem with national interests, security, and values.

(Writer is Professor & Principal Retd.)

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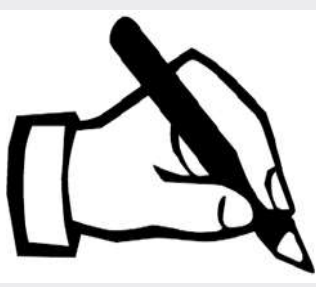
SNAN RITUALS OF LORD JAGANNATH



Priests perform 'Snan' (holy bath) rituals of Lord Jagannath, Bhalbhadra and Subhadra on 'Purnima' ahead of the Rath Yatra festival, in Ranchi, Sunday, June 4.

Forests are the lifeline of our world

ER PRABHAT KISHORE



Life and pure environment on earth are complement each other and trees play the role of catalyst in this work. But unfortunately under the guise of so-called development, natural resources are being exploited and trees are being cut indiscriminately by humans, which has adversely affected the environmental balance.

Presently the whole world is suffering from Pandemic Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), one of the major cause of which is the disturbance of nature and ecological imbalance. Currently the main thrust to combat the pandemic is the production of artificial oxygen in laboratories, which is nothing but result of neglecting natural source of this life supporting gas, i.e. trees. Ideally a country must have at least 33% of its areas covered with forest, but currently it is just 20% in India. The Central as well as State governments have separate jumbo-sized ministries and departments for this purpose; but despite huge expenditure of public money, even after 73 years of independence all have failed to achieve this goal.

Trees & plants are the major components of the environment. They balance the proportion of

Carbon Di-oxide in the atmosphere. Gradual rise of temperature on earth is not a natural disaster, but a scientific and environmental problem. There is a certain proportion of oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and other gases in the air. Steep growth of factories & motor vehicles, rapid pace of urbanization, population rise and indiscriminate reaping of forests have led to unexpected increase in the proportion of Carbon di-oxide in the atmosphere. With the rise in population, the consumption of oxygen and the production of carbon di-oxide have also increased. There has been gradual rise in carbon di-oxide gas due to conventional source of energy such as burning of coal, wood, petroleum, cowdung etc. This gas has a tendency to pass sunlight through it, increasing the temperature of the atmosphere and resulting in unwanted geographic & seasonal changes.

The emitting smoke from factories & vehicles not only contains carbon di-oxide but also harmful carbon mono-oxide, nitrogen oxide, lead oxide, carbon particles, heavy hydro-carbon, formaldehyde, benzene, which pollutes the atmosphere and affects the cells in

the human's lungs to become cancerous. The Ozone-layer protects us from the harmful ultra-violet rays of the Sun. Industrial chemicals, particularly chloro-carbon and nitrogen oxides from nuclear and atomic explosions, damage the Ozone-layer. If these chemicals are not controlled, then the Ozone-layer of the earth will be damaged upto 25 to 30% in the coming 50 years, resulting in rapid increase in atmospheric temperature and danger of cancer to human and animal bodies. A report reveals that at present, pollution from municipality is 45.62%, Bio-medical/chemical - 20%, Various mode of transport - 14%, Industry - 6.4%, Thermal power station - 6.4% and from other sources is 6.7%.

In various religious literatures, the importance of trees has been highlighted. In Sanskrit literature, trees like Peepal, Neem, Tulsi, Bargad/Vat, Anwala have been worshiped and cutting of green trees have been prohibited. Obviously, the Holy literatures have glorified the trees due to its life-supporting quality. In the Matasya Puran, a tree has been mentioned as equivalent to ten sons (Dash Koop Samavapi Dashvapi Samohridah. Dash Hridsamah Putron Dash Putra Samo Drumah). In the Bhagwad Gita (10.26), Bhagwan Krishna have glorified the Vat/Bargad tree as "Ashvatthah Sarva Vrikshanam". In Yajurved, the tree has been said to be the reflection of Bhagwan Shiva. As Shiva ingested the poison and released the Amrit, in the same way trees desiccate the poison (poisonous gases like Carbon di-oxide) and pump out Amrit in the form of oxygen.

Gautam Buddha has attained enlightenment under the Peepal

tree called Bodhi Vriksh in Bodhi Gaya. As per Buddhist scriptures, nature creates as well as preserves life and it is the duty of the people to preserve the plant considering it as living being. All the 24 Jain Tirthankars meditated under the tree to attain enlightenment. Islamic literature mentions that "whoever plants a tree and diligently looks after it until it matures and bears fruit, will be rewarded by Allah as charity". Holy Bible says "God made trees with seed bearing fruits. He gave us the possibility to increase their numbers by planting seeds." Actually all these aspects have been emphasised keeping in mind the social concern regarding the importance of trees & plants for the conservation of the environment.

Forests are not just densely covered areas of trees & plants, but are the source of livelihood of human as well as other biological creatures. It is responsible for rain, reduces the effects of natural calamities like tsunami, prevents soil erosion, minimizes air pollution, produce shelter for birds and wild animals, availability of food etc. It is the source of numerous herbal plants for the manufacture of medicines. In other words, it is the lifeline for millions of people and other living creatures.

Conservation of the environment is not possible only through some government initiatives; civil societies too have to come forward. Otherwise, in coming days, due to the unexpected rise of carbon di-oxide and damage to Ozone-layer, the earth would be so much heated that existence of life on the earth will be in danger mode.

(The author is an engineer and educationist, Patna, Bihar)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tragic Rail Catastrophe

In a devastating incident near Balasore district in Odisha, a triple train collision has claimed the lives of nearly 300 individuals and left over 900 injured. This harrowing event stands as one of the worst accidents of the century. My deepest condolences and prayers go out to the grieving and affected families. However, amidst the sorrow, we are compelled to question the reasons behind such occurrences and seek accountability. The truth must be unveiled. Are there no signaling and safety systems in place within the Indian railways? Will these horrific accidents become the norm for India's railway system? It appears that the government's focus lies solely on launching luxury trains, disregarding the need for crucial improvements to the overall railway infrastructure. This tragic incident is an outcome of that negligence. In the past, railway ministers would resign in the wake of train accidents. Will the current railway minister follow suit?

MK Nair, Raipur

Devastating Train Disaster

The news of the train collision tragedy in Odisha, claiming the lives of over 200 individuals and leaving close to 1000 injured, sent shivers down the spine. This incident is widely regarded as one of the most tragic accidents in the country, prompting serious concerns about the negligence of railway department officials. It is crucial for the government to contemplate the implementation of anti-collision devices to minimize the occurrence of such incidents. Instead of merely declaring a state mourning, a thorough investigation must be conducted to uncover the truth and ensure that such a tragedy is never repeated. Let us learn from this heartbreaking event and take the necessary measures to prevent future calamities.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Train accident can't be tolerated

According to report the collision of three trains which ended up in over 288 people deaths and over 1200 were injuries no human being will ever digest this sorrow. Signal failure is a clear case of railway officials' negligence, which can't be tolerated under any circumstances. According to an initial investigation, Coromandel Express received a signal to enter the main line, but it was disregarded, causing it to enter the loop line instead, where it collided with a goods train that was waiting there. Another thing there was no Kavach system implemented on this route. In order to fulfil the goal of zero train accidents, railway board across length and breadth of the country should implement the Automatic Train Protection system, aka Kavach as soon as possible at least now onwards.

Dr. Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Overcoming Projections: India's Remarkable GDP Growth



Yash Pal Raihan

India's GDP growth of 7.2 percent, despite lower projections from international rating agencies, is a testament to the nation's determination and perseverance. Despite facing numerous obstacles and adversities, the Indian economy has achieved a remarkable feat, establishing itself as the fastest-growing economy in the world. This exceptional performance is a clear indicator that India is heading in the right direction.

Highlighting Resilience: A Closer Look at Growth Indicators The growth figures for 2022-23 underscore the resilience of the

Indian economy in the face of global challenges, as pointed out by the Prime Minister. However, it is crucial to recognize that this growth indicator is not a singular measure, but rather a compilation of various components that demonstrate the nation's positive trajectory. Notably, the agricultural sector experienced accelerated growth, expanding by 5.5 percent compared to 4.1 percent in the previous period. Additionally, the electricity, gas, water supply, and utility services segment demonstrated robust growth of 6.9 percent, further reinforcing the positive momentum.

The services sector, encompassing trade, hotel, transport, communication, and related services, witnessed a substantial GVA growth of 9.1 percent during the fourth quarter. This impressive performance stands in stark contrast to a mere five percent growth reported a year ago, as per the data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Such resilience and optimism, accompanied by compelling macroeconomic indicators, exemplify the promising trajectory of the Indian economy and the unwavering spirit of its people.

Sustaining Momentum: Challenges on the Horizon While celebrating India's economic achievements, it is vital to remain cognizant of the various fac-

tors that could influence sustained growth. Factors such as the rise in home loan EMIs and their impact on household budgets, contraction in exports leading to potential employment issues, and the consequences of climate change on crop production demand our attention. Furthermore, concerns have surfaced regarding subdued demand for passenger vehicles, especially small cars, and the declining sales of medium and heavy commercial vehicles. The FMCG sector also faces pressure from weaker rural demand caused by inflation, while IT companies have adjusted their revenue and hiring guidance for FY24 due to global developments. These challenges underscore the need for cautious optimism as we progress.

Morgan Stanley's Positive Outlook India's Transformation and Reforms

Recent reports by Morgan Stanley, the global financial firm, shed light on India's remarkable progress on the economic front. The report underscores India's transformation over the past decade, positioning itself favorably in the world order with significant positive implications for the macroeconomic and market outlook. The present government's policies have played a pivotal role in this transformation. The report specifically identifies ten

significant changes since 2014, including the reduction of corporate tax rates to align with other major economies and substantial investments in infrastructure. Other noteworthy achievements highlighted by Morgan Stanley include the surging collection of goods and services tax (GST) and the increasing share of digital transactions as a percentage of GDP, signifying the formalization of the economy. Direct transfers and other initiatives also contribute positively to India's overall economic progress.

Moving Forward: Cautious Optimism and Continued Vigilance

While the Indian economy continues to move in the right direction, it is imperative to exercise caution and remain vigilant. The road ahead may not be entirely smooth, as challenges persist in various sectors. However, by recognizing these challenges and adopting appropriate measures, India can overcome obstacles and further strengthen its economic foundation. The combination of resilience, positive growth indicators, and strategic reforms sets the stage for a prosperous future. With careful and measured steps, India can ensure that its journey toward sustained economic growth remains on track.

To sustain the positive momentum, policymakers must remain vigilant and responsive to changing

economic dynamics. Continuous monitoring of high-frequency indicators by the Reserve Bank of India and timely policy interventions can mitigate potential risks and bolster economic stability. This proactive approach will enable the government to navigate challenges effectively and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

It is noteworthy that India's journey toward economic growth has been driven by a combination of prudent policy decisions, structural reforms, and the resilience of its people. However, it is crucial to ensure that the benefits of growth are inclusive and reach all sections of society. Efforts to address income inequality, enhance social welfare programs, and prioritize sustainable development should remain at the forefront of the government's agenda.

By adopting a careful balance of optimism and prudence, India can sustain its economic momentum and build a brighter future for all its citizens. The nation's journey toward sustained economic growth and prosperity requires continuous vigilance, strategic reforms, and an unwavering commitment to inclusivity. With these principles guiding our actions, India can navigate the road ahead with confidence and pave the way for a prosperous future.

BRIEF

OMRON Healthcare

Chennai: OMRON Healthcare, manufacturers of blood pressure monitors and cardiovascular disease prevention and management service provider expects to commence operations at its Tamil Nadu plant by March 2025, the company said. OMRON Healthcare would be setting up a facility to manufacture blood pressure monitors in Origins by Mahindra, Chennai.

Sterling Holidays Resorts

New Delhi: Sterling Holidays Resorts Ltd, a part of Thomas Cook India group, plans to add a new hotel every month in the second half of this year to cash in on the robust growth witnessed in domestic tourism, according to a top group official. The company expects the number of properties to increase to 55 during the course of next year, Thomas Cook (India) Chairman and Managing Director Madhavan Menon told PTI.

NCLT

New Delhi: Insolvency tribunal NCLT approved 180 resolution plans in FY23, the highest-ever number so far, resulting in a total realisation of Rs 51,424 crore from stressed assets. While, in terms of realisation of the amount for creditors, this is the second highest after FY19, when the total realisation was Rs 1.11 lakh crore after completing 77 insolvency proceedings including some big-ticket matters such as Essar Steel and Monnet Ispat. This has helped creditors of debt-ridden firms in FY23 to realise 36 per cent of their total admitted claims of Rs 1,42,543 crore for the year ended March 31, 2023.

Minus Zero

Mumbai: Marquee angel investors-backed self-driving startup Minus Zero on Sunday unveiled an autonomous vehicle based on a camera-sensor suite. With the ability to scale up to Level 5 autonomy capabilities, the vehicle named zPod, can drive itself in all environmental and geographical constraints, company's co-founder Gagandeep Reehal announced. Co-founded in 2021 by Reehal and Gursimran Kalra, the Bangalore-based tech platform plans to produce fully-autonomous vehicles on the lines of the ones by global tech giants such as Tesla and Google.

Brigade Enterprises

New Delhi: Realty firm Brigade Enterprises will launch 10 housing projects this fiscal across Bengaluru and Chennai with an estimated construction cost of Rs 3,000 crore as it looks to encash rising demand for residential properties, its MD Pavitra Shankar said. In an interview with PTI, she sounded extremely bullish on India's residential market and said the company would like to grow housing sales by 15-20 per cent during the current 2023-24 fiscal.

'India deserves to have non-stop flights to more overseas destinations'

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):



Air India chief Campbell Wilson

Asserting that India deserves to have international non-stop connectivity to more destinations, Air India chief Campbell Wilson has said the country has in some respect not been able to control its own destiny as a consequence of not having a healthy domestic airline industry.

Wilson, who is piloting Air India's massive expansion plans in terms of fleet as well as routes, also said that IndiGo succeeding well and Tata airlines coming together provides a good competitor to the strength of IndiGo.

"It should hopefully allow for a market that is more sustainable, ideally profitable that will allow airlines to invest in new

products, expand network and also lead India to assume its place on the world aviation stage..." he told PTI in a recent interview.

Tata Group took over Air India and Air India Express from the government in January last year.

Currently, the group has four carriers under its fold -- Air India, Air India Express, AIX Connect (earlier known as AirAsia India) and Vistara, a joint

venture with Singapore Airlines.

The group is also in the process of merging Air India Express and AIX Connect, and Vistara with Air India.

Responding to a query about the crisis at Go First, Wilson said it is very unfortunate.

Cash-strapped budget carrier Go First stopped flying from May 3 and is undergoing voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings.

This is not the first time that an airline has failed in the country and "it does I think underscore the industry structure that has prevailed has not been conducive for a healthy, vibrant, profitable industry", the Air India CEO and Managing Director said. "As a consequence of

not having a healthy domestic airline industry, India has in some respects is not able to control its own destiny. Some foreign airlines coming into India have been the ones that have reaped the benefits of the growing Indian market as opposed to the Indian airlines.

"We continue to make sure that we put in the investments in aircraft, products, people and systems. We will have a significantly sized, professionally run, expansion-oriented high quality airline," Wilson said.

He also said that Air India is investing USD 70 billion at list price for 470 new aircraft and that is with the explicit purpose of providing more services, especially international connectivity.

Gaming emerges as top violative sector as digital scrutiny intensifies

Mumbai, Jun 04:

The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) released its annual complaints report for 2022-23 which contains several startling observations, especially those pertaining to advertising in the digital space. During the period, ASCI reviewed 7,928 advertisements across different media, including print, digital and television. ASCI has stepped up its scrutiny of ads nearly 2 folds over the last 2 years. TV and print advertisers continued to be highly compliant at 94%, however the overall compliance is lower at 81% due to digital. Hence, digital ads emerged not just as a leading violator, with 75% of ads processed being from the digital space, but also as the least compliant. This raises serious concerns about the safety of consumers in the

online space. As per the report, the real-money gaming industry surpassed the education sector to emerge as the most violative sector, moving from fifth to first place. An astounding number (92%) of gaming advertisements reviewed by ASCI for FY 2022-23 did not adhere to the guidelines for real money gaming and failed to inform consumers about the risks of financial loss and addiction. The sector also gained the dubious distinction of being the least complaint, with only 50% of ads being modified voluntarily after they have been called out. It may be remembered that ASCI had released its guidelines for the Real-Money gaming sector in December 2020, and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had thereafter released an advisory asking all parties to comply with the guidelines.

Private sector investment set to witness significant increase: R Dinesh

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):



Private sector investment is set to witness a significant increase, as capacity utilisation in several key sectors has already crossed 80 per cent and economic growth is estimated to be 6.7 per cent in the current financial year, newly elected CII President R Dinesh said on Sunday.

He also exuded confidence that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will maintain status quo on interest rate in the next bi-monthly monetary policy to be announced later this week.

On why the government unsuccessfully keeps on nudging private companies to increase investment, the CII president

told PTI that the period between 2016 to 2019, was not good for growth and in 2020 there was COVID.

"We have circumstances beyond our control which hampered demand We did come out of the COVID much faster," he said, adding there are signs of improvement.

Citing the CII's annual CEOs survey, he said all sectors have crossed 75 per cent capacity utilisation and the figure was 80 per cent in key sectors like cement, steel, chemicals and

Renault Nissan Automotive progresses towards Carbon Neutrality vision

Chennai, June 04 (PTI):



Automobile manufacturer Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd was progressing towards its Carbon Neutrality goal which was launched in February this year.

The Chennai plant of the company already initiated a campaign to replace single use plastic items with eco-friendly alternatives.

Renault Nissan Automotive Pvt Ltd (RNAIPL) in a statement on Sunday said it was making strong progress towards achieving its 2045 Carbon Neutrality goal and it would cross several important milestones by 2030. According to the statement coinciding with the World Environment Day observed on June 5, every year, the roadmap to attain the carbon neutrality encompasses three

areas --increasing of share of green energy, aggressively improving efficiencies in energy usage, and continuous adoption of energy efficient technology at its Oragadam plant.

As of FY 2022-23, the company's strategy has already allowed the automaker to cut down the equivalent of 87,500 tonnes of CO2 emissions every year.

"At RNAIPL, our unwavering commitment to environmental responsibility is imprinted in everything we do. We have set ourselves on an ambitious roadmap to Carbon Neutrality by 2045 and this

goal underlies our drive towards utilization of more green energy, optimization of energy consumption." company managing director Keerthi Prakash said.

"...we aim to further consolidate this position not only within the Alliance, but also within the industry." The Chennai plant currently sources close to 60 per cent of the electricity from renewable sources. The plant would expand its in-house solar plant capacity from 2.2MW to 14 MW through additional installation of rooftop solar panels and floating solar panels on the plant's pond by 2026.

FPIs investment hit 9-month high at Rs 43,838 cr in May

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) pumped in Rs 43,838 crore in Indian equities in May, the highest level in nine months, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, and reasonable valuations.

FPIs continued the buying stance in June too, and invested Rs 6,490 crore in just two trading sessions of the month, data with the repositories showed.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said that inflow by FPIs will continue in the current month since the latest GDP data and high-frequency indicators reflect a robust economy gaining further strength.

According to the data,

FPIs invested a net sum of Rs 43,838 crore in the Indian equities in the entire month of May.

This is the highest level of investment by FPIs in the last nine months. Before this, they put in a net sum of Rs 51,204 crore in equities in August 2022, data showed.

This came following a net infusion of Rs 11,630 crore in equities in April and Rs 7,936 crore in March.

The March investment was mainly driven by bulk investment in the Adani Group companies by US-based GQG Partners. However, if one adjusts for the investments of GQG in Adani Group, the net flow was negative.

Moreover, in the first two months of the year, FPIs had pulled out over Rs 34,000 crore.

OPEC+ producers weigh more production cuts

Frankfurt, Jun 04 (AP):

The major oil-producing countries led by Saudi Arabia and Russia are wrestling with whether to make another cut in supply to the global economy as the OPEC+ alliance struggles to prop up sagging oil prices that have been a boon to US drivers and helped ease inflation worldwide.

The 23-member group is meeting on Sunday at OPEC headquarters in Vienna after sending mixed signals about possible moves.

Saudi Arabia, dominant among the oil cartel's members, has warned speculators that they might get burned by betting on lower prices. Russia, the leader of the non-OPEC allies, has indicated no change to output is expected.

The decision comes amid uncertainty about when the slow-growing global economy will regain its thirst for fuel for travel and industry, and with producers counting on oil profits to bolster their coffers.

Oil prices have fallen even after OPEC+ slashed 2 million barrels per day in October, an-



gering US President Joe Biden by threatening higher gasoline prices a month before the midterm elections. Then, several OPEC members led by the Saudis made a surprise cut of 1.16 million barrels a day in April.

International benchmark Brent crude climbed as high as USD 87 per barrel but has given up its post-cut gains and been loitering below USD 75 per barrel in recent days. US crude has dipped below USD 70.

Those lower prices have helped US drivers as the summer travel season kicks off, with prices at the pump averaging USD 3.55, down USD 1.02 from a year ago, according to auto club AAA.

Falling energy prices also helped inflation in the 20 European countries that use the euro drop to the lowest level since before Russia invaded Ukraine.

UAE's Minister of Energy and Industry Suhail al-Mazrouei arrives for the 35th OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) and non-OPEC ministerial meeting in Vienna, Austria, on June 4.

State-owned coal firms taking various measures to make mining sustainable: Pralhad Joshi

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):



From planting saplings to development of eco-parks, state-owned coal companies are taking various measures to reclaim abandoned mines, infusing multi-core investments, coal and mines minister Pralhad Joshi said.

Other initiatives of the ministry include adoption of modern technologies like gasification of coal, installation of renewable energy projects, conservation of water bodies etc, the minister told PTI in an interview.

"Our Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) has set a vision to make India net zero by 2070. In line with his vision, our PSUs are taking various efforts to make the coal mining a sustainable exercise. We are doing our bit for climate change issue. They are spending thousands of crores to meet this goal," he said ahead of the World Environment Day on June 5. Coal India Ltd (CIL) along with its eight subsidiary companies and NLC India Ltd function under the administrative control of the coal min-

istry. Joshi, who is also the minister for parliamentary affairs, added that "from 2014-15 to 2022-23, we have increased the green cover over 16,262 hectares of land, planting about 37.03 million saplings".

Public sector units have drawn a plan to develop a green cover area of 2,500 hectares (ha) planting 50 lakh saplings in the ongoing 2023-24 fiscal, taking the total count to over 42 million trees.

He further said that around 30 eco-parks have been developed on barren lands near mineral-less mines across the country and another 30 new eco-parks will be developed in next 3-4 years in the coal bearing states like West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha with the total estimated cost of around Rs 200 crore.

RBI interest rate decision, global trends to drive markets this week: Analysts

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):

The Reserve Bank of India's interest rate decision, domestic macroeconomic data and global trends will dictate terms in the equity markets this week, analysts said.

Trading activity of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) will also influence markets, they added. "The Indian market will be closely monitoring the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting scheduled for June 6-8, 2023. Aside from that, market participants will be keeping an eye on the progress of monsoon," said Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

Gour further said that the movement of the rupee against the dollar and crude oil prices will remain in focus.

"These factors will be closely monitored, as they have the potential to influence market sentiment. Additionally, macroeconomic indicators will play a significant role in shaping the market mood in the near-term," Gour said.

Aiming to maintain leadership position in SUV segment this fiscal: CFO Manoj Bhat

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):



Mahindra & Mahindra is looking at maintaining leadership position in the fast growing sports utility vehicle segment in the current fiscal with demand remaining robust for its model range, according to the group CFO Manoj Bhat.

The company, which is sitting on an order backlog

of 2.92 lakh units for sports utility vehicles (SUV), also plans to ramp-up production capacity by the end of this year, as it looks to cut waiting periods on various models. In an interaction with PTI, Bhat said there is a huge demand for company products which is evident with the number of open bookings generated by the auto major.

Expect PV segment growth to moderate to 5-7 pc this fiscal: Shailesh Chandra

New Delhi, Jun 04 (PTI):



Tata Motors expects the passenger vehicle industry growth to moderate to 5-7 per cent in the current financial year as compared with 27 per cent sales growth in the last financial year with dip in pent-up demand, according to a top company executive. In order to sustain

growth, the auto major is looking to introduce new products including CNG and electric models, while bolstering its existing range with new interventions. In an analyst call, Tata Motors Managing Director, Passenger Vehicle and Electric Vehicles, Shailesh Chandra noted that pent-up demand in the passen-

ger vehicle segment has now clearly gone down, barring certain new launches in a few popular sports utility vehicle segments.

He noted that due to pent-up demand and low inventory levels last fiscal, the industry reported a steep growth of 27 per cent year on year as compared with FY22.



Varun Dhawan is all geared up for the last schedule of spyverse 'Citadel'

Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan is all prepped for the last schedule of his upcoming Indian adaptation of the series 'Citadel'. Varun took to Instagram, where he shared a picture from the airport. He is seen wearing a light brown T-shirt paired with a hat. For the caption he wrote: "Last sched spyverse."

It isn't clear where the actor is travelling for the shoot. However, if reports are to be believed the 'Bhediya' star is on his way to Serbia. The series also stars Samantha Ruth Prabhu. Helmed by 'The Family Man' creators Raj and DK, 'Citadel' is the Indian counterpart of the larger international series of the same name which has been originally created by the director duo, Russo Brothers. The global version of the series stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Richard Madden.

Vicky, Sara-starrer 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke' rakes in Rs 5.49 cr on Day 1

Filmmaker Laxman Utekar's latest directorial 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke', which hit the screens on June 2, has minted Rs 5.49 crore on its first day of release.

Starring Sara Ali Khan and Vicky Kaushal, the film revolves around Kapil and Somya, a happily married couple from Indore who live in a joint family and decide to get a divorce one fine day. Things don't go as planned as their family gets to know of it, and thus begins a comedy of errors.

Film trade analyst Taran Adarsh took to Twitter and wrote:

"#ZaraHatkeZaraBachke takes off on Day 1. Silences naysayers and pessimists, who had predicted [below] 2 cr start. Got a boost due to Buy-1-Get-1 free ticket offer + affordable ticket pricing, which has given its biz the required push. Fri - 5.49 cr #India biz."

"The *national chains* contributed a healthy 3.35 cr on Day 1. #PVR: 1.54 cr #INOX: 1.11 cr #Cinepolis: 70 lacs ZaraHatkeZaraBachke is expected to maintain the momentum on Sat and Suna The Buy-1-Get-1 free ticket offer continues till Sun night, which should help the film post a strong total in its opening weekend. #ZHQB."



Stebin Ben lends voice to campaign against plastic pollution



crooned the theme song for the campaign. Titled Tik Tik Plastic, the music video will be unveiled at the special event which will be held in Mumbai on the World Environment Day, i.e. 5th of June, 2023.

Starring prominent personalities from the entertainment industry, the music video also stars Vidya Balan, Alia Bhatt, Rajkumar Rao, Neeti Mohan amongst others, sung by Stebin Ben.

Talking about the collaboration, Stebin Ben says, "Despite several measures over the years to minimise the use of plastic, the rampant usage of it has been a primary factor in contributing to the pollution of environment. As a responsible citizen, it is our collective duty to not only ensure minimal use of plastic and opt for alternatives, but also create awareness to promote others to avoid using plastic."

One of the most popular and loved singers of the nation currently, Stebin Ben has joined hands with Bhamla Foundation for their campaign against single use of plastic under the cause to create awareness against plastic pollution. The singing sensation will not only extend his support to the cause banking upon his huge fan-base but also has

Rajnesh Duggall talks about his international debut with 'Postcards'



Actor Rajnesh Duggall is back with a new series titled Postcards, which marks his international debut. The film is helmed by the makers of 'Namaste Wahala' Hamisha Daryani Ahuja. Actors Sola Sobowale, Richard Mofe, Rahama Sadau and Tobi Bakre also play pivotal characters in it. Rajnesh said: "Postcards is a very special project. It's all about dealing with different emotions that people go through in their life. "I play the role of a doctor in an Indian hospital, as the trailer suggests. The Postcards series is a story that everyone can relate to in some way or the other. Set in Cosmopolitan Mumbai and Lagos, it is about a bunch of people whose lives intersect in a series of life-changing events," he shared.



'Kaal Bhairav Rahasya' Season 1 to return on Star Bharat again

Kaal Bhairav Rahasya season 1, which premiered in 2017, was one of the best running show on Star Bharat, which got the viewers hooked to their television screens. The show started Rahul Sharma in the lead role. Iqbal Khan, Sargun Kaur Luthra, and Chavi Pandey were also seen in pivotal roles on the show. The show, which grew to become one of viewer's favourite, is all set to have a rerun on Star Bharat again from 5th June 2023. The show's lead Rahul Sharma and Iqbal Khan speak about their excitement upon learning about their show 'Kaal Bhairav

Rahasya' season 1 rerun. Rahul Sharma, who played the lead role of Rahul in the show, says, "I am filled with absolute joy upon receiving the news of Kaal Bhairav Rahasya's Season One re-run on Star Bharat. As the lead actor of this remarkable show, it holds a special place in my heart. It has brought about a profound transformation in my life, as I had been devotedly worshipping 'Kaal Bhairav' for seven years. The show itself, named 'Kaal Bhairav Rahasya', was a divine gift and blessing that felt like a dream come true, especially considering my name is Rahul, aligning perfectly with the show's."

Sana Amin Sheikh spills bean on her 'Tum Bin Jaun Kahan' character

Actress Sana Amin Sheikh, who has been roped in for the upcoming romantic drama titled 'Tum Bin Jaun Kahan', has shared the details of her role. In the show, Sana plays the lead character of Zaara who is a female servant.

The show follows the story of a family of Kaneez (female servants) based in Lucknow and takes a dramatic turn when one of the Kaneez falls in love with a guy from upper caste who is engaged to her best friend.

Talking about her role, Sana shared: "I am thrilled to be playing Zaara. As I am a Muslim, I have always wanted to play a Muslim character on screen and this will be my very first time. The highlight of the series is that it's structured and well written script. Zaara is a Kaneez, who falls in love with a guy from the upper caste creating quite a stir and havoc."

"We have started shooting and I am thoroughly enjoying it, while I am giving 100 per cent to my character Zaara. I am really excited for the audiences to witness it," she added. The show has gone on floors and will be out on Atrangi TV and OTT this year.



Become guardians of our mother nature!

Environmental conservation has become vital in today's rapidly changing world, demanding our unwavering focus and responsible action. Now, more than ever, it is crucial for each of us to channel our efforts toward protecting and preserving our planet. On World Environment Day, &TV artists embrace and urge everyone to be guardians of our nature and advocate for environmental protection, revealing their diverse initiatives towards nurturing mother nature. These include Mohit Dagga (Ashok, Doosri Maa), Himani Shivpuri (Katori Amma, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Rohitashv Gour (Manmohan Tiwari, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai).



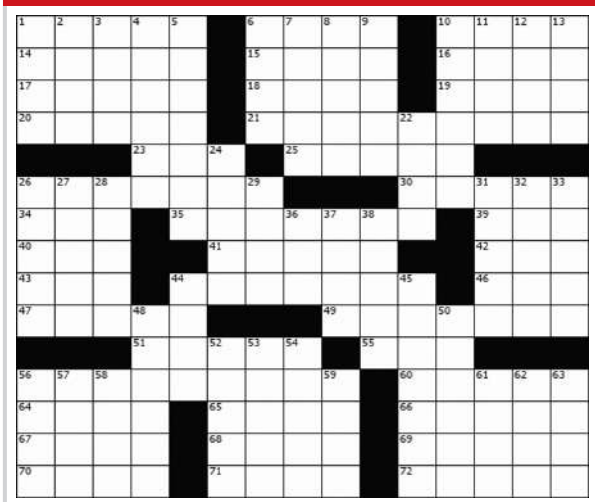
Himani Shivpuri, aka Katori Amma from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "Embracing eco-friendly practices is our strongest ally in safeguarding our planet. In my commitment to this cause, I have made conscious choices to re-

duce single-use plastic, opting for plastic-free alternatives during grocery shopping and daily needs. Carrying cotton or jute bags has become a habit. Moreover, I prioritise energy conservation by utilising LED or CFL bulbs instead of incandescent lighting, benefiting from their longer lifespan and energy efficiency. Natural lighting is also preferred, enabling energy preservation and the joy of basking in the sunlight. Recognising the impact of our daily habits and making small improvements can heighten our environmental awareness and pave the way for transformative changes."

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

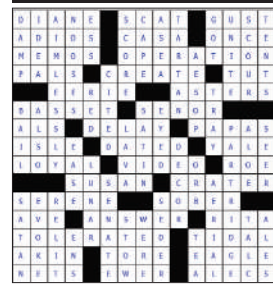
CROSSWORD

666



- ACROSS**
- Lariat
 - Specks
 - Cherished animals
 - Pungent bulb
 - Bible book
 - False god
 - Coastal birds
 - Mortgage
 - Three squared
 - Perspire
 - Began
 - Make a doily
 - Put into effect
 - Angers
 - British noblemen
 - Hollywood's ____ West
 - Went in
 - Enjoy a buffet
 - Baby's meal garb
 - Spanish "mister"
 - Espionage org.
 - Genesis woman
 - Arch enemy
 - Biblical boat
- DOWN**
- Plenty
 - Afresh
 - Father
 - Beethoven work
 - Visible to the audience
 - Sandwich shop
 - Atmosphere layer
 - Locomotive
 - Christmas visitor
 - Fiesta item
 - Revise copy
 - Hue
 - Winter coaster
 - Like summertime tea
 - Nervous
 - Implant
 - Unspicificated
 - Rise up
 - Mushroom part
 - Summarize
 - Dens
 - Ante
 - Compass point (abbr.)
 - Stood up
 - Clapton and Roberts
 - Neck part
 - Toy racer (2 wds.)
 - Upper bodies
 - Take a breath
 - Japanese, e.g.
 - Large spoon
 - Grain towers
 - Grain towers
 - Voice range
 - Fright
 - Single time
 - Inferior grades
 - Responsibility
 - Caesar's city
 - Bird's home

SOLUTION 665



WOMEN'S JR ASIA CUP

India look to continue winning run against Malaysia

Kakamigahara, Jun 04 (PTI):

A resounding start to its campaign, notwithstanding, the Indian women's hockey team will look to guard against complacency when it takes on Malaysia in its second Pool A match of the Junior Asia Cup here on Monday.

The Indian women started their Junior Asia Cup sojourn with a morale-boosting 22-0 crushing of a lowly Uzbekistan.

As many as eight players -- Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Mumtaz Khan, Annu, Sunelita Toppo, Manju Chorsiya, Deepika Soreng, Deepika and Neelam, registered their names on the scoresheet as India ticked all the boxes against Uzbekistan.

Annu slammed a double hat-trick, while Mumtaz Khan and Deepika fired in four goals each. Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sunelita Toppo and Deepika Soreng found the net twice in India's tournament opener. And come Monday, India will look to carry on their superlative form against Malaysia. India



captain Preeti said they would look to carry on their form in the remaining matches of the tournament. "We've had a fantastic start to the tournament, establishing a strong foundation, and our aim is to maintain that same level of determination as we face Malaysia," she said in a release.

"The solid victory in our opening match has bolstered our confidence, pro-

viding the impetus required to carry us forward in the tournament. It's worth noting that Malaysia boasts a formidable team, and thus we anticipate a closely fought contest." Malaysia, on the other hand, too have started the tournament on a promising note, registering a comfortable 7-0 win over Chinese Taipei. And they would be eager to test their mettle against the

Indians. Notably, both the teams last locked horns in 2015 during the women's Junior Asia Cup and it was India that emerged victorious with a 9-1 win. Looking at the strength of both the teams, the Indians definitely will start as favourites. After Malaysia, India will face Korea on Tuesday, followed by their final pool game against Chinese Taipei on June 8.

Sri Lanka bounces back to beat Afghanistan in second ODI

Hambantota, Jun 04 (AP):

Sri Lanka bounced back to beat Afghanistan by 132 runs on Sunday to square the three-match one-day series.

It was Sri Lanka's biggest win over Afghanistan in ODIs and makes amends for its disappointing performance in the first ODI on Friday, which they lost by six wickets.

Having set Afghanistan a stiff 324-run target, fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera dismissed the dangerous Rahmanullah Gurbaz cheaply for two runs to give his side an early advantage.

Although Afghanistan put together two strong partnerships after that, the required run rate kept climbing and the Afghans lost their way trying to keep pace.

Opening batsman Ibrahim Zadran continued his good form, posting 54 runs while captain Hashmatullah Shahidi

top scored with 57 runs, but once Sri Lanka dismissed the top order there was not much resistance from the rest of the batters.

From 146-2, Afghanistan collapsed to be bowled out for 191 runs in 42.1 overs, losing their last eight wickets for just 45 runs.

Spinners Wanindu Hasaranga and Dhananjaya de Silva shared six wickets between them to seal a comprehensive win for the home side.

Sri Lanka's batting put on a show giving the team confidence ahead of the World Cup qualifiers in Zimbabwe this month.

Afghanistan have already qualified for the World Cup and despite the heavy defeat on Sunday, will feel positive with star Rashid Khan expected to feature in the final game on Wednesday. The leg-spinner was ruled out of the first two with a back injury.



Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga (L), Dasun Shanaka (C) and Dhananjaya de Silva celebrates after taking the wicket of Afghanistan's Fareed Malik (not pictured).

Rahane's do-or-die showdown in WTC Final



London, Jun 04 (PTI):

Ajinkya Rahane is set to play his first red-ball game for India in 18 months and potentially faces a do-or-die situation in the World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval beginning June 7.

Making a quick switch from T20 to the five-day format, Rahane plans to "keep it simple" and will

be hoping that the impeccable timing he displayed through the IPL travels with him to London.

The tough call of dropping both Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara from the Test team after the series loss in South Africa was taken in early 2022 but the latter made his way back into the side after a bumper run in county cricket in the same year.

Rahane, a veteran of 82 Tests, had to wait a year longer for his comeback. He earned his national call up after getting the runs in the Ranji Trophy and more recently following his reinvention in the IPL that left everyone impressed.

In all probability, he might not have got the recall if Shreyas Iyer was fit but both form and luck played a part in his return. With the much younger Iyer having already proved himself in the middle-order, the clock will be ticking for Rahane when he goes out to bat at The Oval.

Abhinav, Gautami combine to win India's second gold at Suhl Junior World Cup

Suhl (Germany), Jun 04 (PTI):

Indian shooters Gautami Bhanot and Abhinav Shaw combined well to claim the gold medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the ISSF Junior World Cup here on Sunday. The Indians shot a total of 17 in the gold medal contest.

Oceanne Muller and Romaine Aufrere of France settled for the silver medal in the event with an aggregate score of 7 in the final.

Norway's Pernille Nor-Woll and Jens Olsrud Oestli finished third on the podium after scoring 17 in the bronze medal match against Italians Anna Schiavon and Luca Sbarbati, who shot 13.

The other Indian pair in the mixed rifle event, Swati Chowdhury and Saalim finished seventh in the qualification with a total score of 624.3.

The duo of Gautami Bhanot and Abhinav Choudhary to win silver



tion, with a total score of 628.3.

Meanwhile, in the 10m air pistol mixed team competition, Sainyam, fresh from her gold medal-winning feat in the individual air pistol final on Saturday, paired up with

Abhinav Choudhary to win silver after shooting 12, finishing behind gold medallists Juri Kim and Kanghyn Kim, who shot 16.

Suruchi Inder Singh and Shubham Bisla bagged the bronze medal with a score 16, finishing ahead of fourth-placed Nigina Saidkulova and Mukhammad Kamalov

(14) of Uzbekistan. Sainyam, who won the individual women's air pistol gold on Saturday, and Abhinav had topped the qualification with a combined effort of 578, while Suruchi and Inder had finished fourth with a score of 571, to make it to the medal rounds.

after shooting 12, finishing behind gold medallists Juri Kim and Kanghyn Kim, who shot 16. Suruchi Inder Singh and Shubham Bisla bagged the bronze medal with a score 16, finishing ahead of fourth-placed Nigina Saidkulova and Mukhammad Kamalov

Nkunku shines as Leipzig beats Frankfurt to retain German Cup

Berlin, Jun 04 (AP):

Leipzig retained the German Cup with a 2-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt in the final thanks to a deflected goal and an assist from Christopher Nkunku.

There were few clear chances for either team as they seemed wary of allowing their opponents space to counter.

It took a stroke of fortune for Nkunku to score in the 71st minute as the French forward's shot from the edge of the penalty area bounced off two different Frankfurt defenders, leaving goalkeeper Kevin Trapp with no chance.

Nkunku, who marked the goal with is expected to leave Leipzig for Chelsea at the end of the season.

Dominik Szoboszlai made sure of the win in the 85th when the Frankfurt defense crowded Nkunku, who passed for the unmarked Szoboszlai to fire a shot past Trapp.

Leipzig's second cup title came after beating



RB Leipzig players celebrate after winning the trophy in the German soccer cup, DFB Pokal, final match between RB Leipzig and Eintracht Frankfurt at Olympiastadion in Berlin, Germany.

Freiburg on penalties last year, and the fourth time in five years that the club backed by drinks giant Red Bull was in the cup final. Frankfurt last won the cup in 2018.

Frankfurt fans heavily outnumbered Leipzig supporters at the Olympiastadion and cheered as Leipzig received the trophy from German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Leipzig's win means

Bayer Leverkusen, which placed sixth in the league, qualifies for the Europa League again after reaching the semifinals this season.

Frankfurt, which won the Europa League last season, would have qualified with a cup final win but has to settle for the third-tier Europa Conference League instead. Leipzig was already assured of a Champions League spot.

Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood ruled out of WTC final

■ Nesar gets call-up

London, Jun 04 (PTI):

Australia suffered a big setback after senior fast bowler Josh Hazlewood was ruled out of the upcoming World Test Championship final against India, having failed to recover from a side strain picked up during his IPL stint in India.

The WTC final is scheduled at the Oval from June 7-11.

Australia included fast bowler Michael Nesar in the squad with Hazlewood reportedly being given further more time to recover and prepare for the Ashes in England.

Nesar has been playing in the County Championship for Glamorgan this season and has been in fine rhythm, having taken 14 wickets in his last three games which includes 7/32 against Yorkshire. He has played two Tests for Australia and has got seven wickets.

However, it is fast medium bowler Scott Boland, who looks a more likely first XI starter in Hazlewood's absence, in



conditions which suits seam-up, hit-the-deck the type of deliveries.

The five-Test Ashes series in England will start on June 16, and Hazlewood, who has already missed a plenty of Test cricket action for Australia, will get more time to be ready for the all-important series.

Hazlewood sustained the side strain during his injury-marred stint with Royal Challengers Bangalore in the recently-concluded IPL in which he played only three games without much success before flying back home.

Lionel Messi bids farewell to Paris amid boos

Paris, Jun 04 (AP):

Lionel Messi didn't care about the boos in his final game for Paris Saint-Germain as the French league champion lost to Clermont 3-2.

Disrespectful PSG supporters booed Messi when the Parc des Princes announcer read his name on a warm evening.

A few minutes later, Messi walked onto the field with a smile on his face, holding his three children's hands before the team photo and kissing them on their foreheads before kickoff. "I would like to thank the club, the city of Paris and its people for these two years. I wish you all the best for the future," Messi told the club website. In two seasons at PSG, Messi won two French leagues and the French Champions Trophy and notched 32 goals and 35 assists in all competitions.

Messi scored in a 1-1 draw at Strasbourg a week ago to help PSG clinch a record-extending 11th French league title. By notching a 496th career league goal, the



PSG players celebrate their title after the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Clermont at the Parc des Princes in Paris, France.

Argentine genius also broke Cristiano Ronaldo's scoring record for Europe's top five leagues. The World Cup winner didn't sign the contract extension that Qatar-backed PSG offered him and has been strongly linked with a move to a Saudi club where he could earn more money than Ronaldo. Inter Miami is another possible option but wouldn't be able to match the Saudi offer of hundreds of millions of dollars. Messi tried hard to get on the scoresheet on the

to be more and more content that creeps in, so I think we've got to be proactive about that."

Cummins wants his teammates to consider national duty bigger than anything else but said that would be a challenge in these times of cash-rich franchise-based leagues.

Cummins reveals IPL's game-changing power

Beckenham (UK), Jun 04 (PTI):

The IPL has ended the monopoly of international cricket on players' time, said Australia captain Pat Cummins, who feels going forward it will be a challenge to persuade players to prioritize national duty over franchise cricket.

Cummins agrees that Trent Boult's decision to deny a New Zealand central contract for lucrative T20 league around the world has been in the offing since IPL changed the complexion of the game a decade ago.

"It's been coming for a while, but I think it is here now," Cummins was quoted as saying by Sydney Morning Herald ahead of the World Test Championship Final against India at The Oval starting June 7.

"International cricket doesn't have a monopoly on players' time, like it did in the past. The IPL changed that a decade ago, but there's just going



