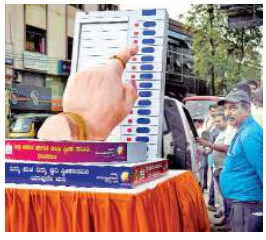


BRIEF



A voting awareness tableau vehicle plies across the city as part of an election campaign under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme, ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, in Hubballi, Thursday.

Electrocution

Thane: Three migrant labourers, all aged 19, died of electrocution while working on a water tank in Maharashtra's Thane district on Thursday, an official said. The incident took place around 11 am at Jambul village near Ambernath. The labourers got an electric shock due to faulty wiring of a pump in a water tank. They were rushed to a hospital where doctors declared the trio dead, the official said.

Emergency landing

New Delhi: An Apache helicopter of the Indian Air Force made an emergency landing in Ladakh and sustained damage due to undulating terrain and high altitude, the IAF said on Thursday. The incident took place on Wednesday and both the pilots on board are safe, it said.

Mishap

Itanagar: A woman died, while three others sustained minor injuries, when the vehicle they were travelling in was hit by a large boulder in Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday, police said. The Pangin-bound vehicle, with four people on board, was coming from Pasighat in East Siang district, when the boulder fell on the vehicle during a rockslide between Gaaling and Kebang villages in the morning, a police officer said.

Evacuate

New Delhi: Coast Guard has evacuated a critically injured man from an Indian fishing boat in the Gulf of Khambat, officials said on Thursday. The fisherman was administered initial treatment by a medical team of the Coast Guard and later shifted to a government hospital in stable condition for further medical management, the defence ministry said in a statement.

Rescued

Vijayapura: After a nearly 20-hour-long rescue operation, the two-year-old boy who fell into a borewell in Lachyana village of Indi Taluk in this district was safely rescued on Thursday afternoon, police said. The boy was heard crying inconsolably as the rescue operation was underway. Celebrations broke out as the infant Satvik Satish Mujagond, who was trapped at a depth of 16 feet inside the borewell, was brought out safely.

Weather
High 40 Low 26

MARKET
NIFTY 22,514.65
SENSEX 74,227.63

BULLION
GOLD 69,929
SILVER 79,860

JAGGI MURDER CASE

HC maintains lifer of 27 accused

■ Including Yahya Dhebar and shooter Chiman Singh
■ Rejects appeal of accused

Raipur/Bilaspur, Apr 04:

Chhattisgarh High Court has upheld the punishment of the accused in the famous Jaggi murder case. The High Court has rejected the appeals of all the accused in the famous Jaggi murder case. The Division Bench of the Chief Justice rejected the petition and upheld the life sentence. Chhattisgarh High Court, in its important decision, has rejected the appeal of 27 accused in the murder case of NCP leader Ramavtar Jaggi. Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Arvind Verma



Division Bench has upheld their life imprisonment. The debate on the appeal of the accused in the murder case of NCP leader Ramavtar Jaggi was completed on February 29 in the division bench of Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Arvind Kumar Verma. The court had reserved the decision. Those sentenced to life imprisonment include two CSPs of that time and one then police station in-charge, apart from Yahya Dhebar

What was the case.....

Nationalist Congress Party leader Ramavtar Jaggi, during the tenure of first Chief Minister Ajit Jogi, was shot dead in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh on June 4, 2003. The entire state was shaken by this murder that took place during that time. The investigation of this high profile murder case that took place during the assembly elections was handed over to the CBI. A total of 31 accused were made in this case, out of which two, Baltu Pathak and Surendra Singh, became government witnesses.

'Full faith in judiciary'

After the appeal of the convicts was rejected, Ramvatar Jaggi's son Satish Jaggi said that he had full faith in the judiciary. Our family members kept saying from the beginning that this was a political conspiracy.

Amit Jogi conviction stalled....

Satish Jaggi has filed a separate petition against the acquittal of Amit Jogi in the case. Due to pending SLP in the Supreme Court, the hearing of this case is stalled in the Chhattisgarh High Court.

and shooter Chiman Singh.

In the last hearing, after continuous debate, the arguments were presented on behalf of the accused. On the third day, CBI's counsel presented arguments. Along with this, the lawyers on behalf of the accused also cross-examined the action of CBI. After hearing the arguments of all the parties, the court asked everyone to present their arguments in writing and reserved the decision. Satish Jaggi has filed a separate petition against the acquittal of Amit Jogi in the case. Due to pending SLP in the Supreme Court, the hearing of this case is stalled in the Chhattisgarh High Court. Leaving aside the above case, the High Court has started hearing on the appeal of the accused.

Night launch of N-capable Agni Prime successful



New generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime being successfully flight-tested from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha, Thursday.

New Delhi, Apr 04 (PTD)

India has successfully carried out a night launch of new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile 'Agni Prime' from the Abdul Kalam Island off the

coast of Odisha, boosting the country's strategic deterrence capability. The defence ministry said the test-flight was carried out on Wednesday evening and it met all the trial objectives, validating the reliable performance, as confirmed from the data captured by a number of range sensors deployed at different locations. The Strategic Forces Command (SFC), along with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), carried out the flight test of the missile that has a strike range of 1,000 to 2,000 km. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO, SFC and the armed forces for the successful test flight and stated that the successful development and induction of the missile will be an excellent force multiplier for the military.

Gourav Vallabh quits 'anti-Sanatan' Cong, joins BJP



New Delhi, Apr 04 (PTD):

Gourav Vallabh joined the BJP on Thursday hours after he quit the Congress, saying he can neither raise anti-Sanatan slogans nor abuse "wealth creators" day in and day out and was joining the ruling party due to his support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's agenda of "Viksit Bharat". Former Bihar Congress president Anil Sharma and RJD leader Upendra Prasad also joined the BJP in the presence of its national general secretary Vinod Tawde.

HC ON SANDESHKALI

'Even if 1% true, it is absolutely shameful'

Kolkata, Apr 04 (PTD):

Observing that it would be "highly shameful" if even one per cent of the allegations of sexual assault in Sandeshkhali were found to be true, the Calcutta High Court on Thursday said that West Bengal's image as the safest state for women will fall.

Petitioner-lawyer Priyanka Tibrewal submitted a voluminous compilation before the court which she said contained around 100 affidavits of alleged victims of sexual assault, apart from those of land grabbing and violence. "If at least one per cent (of the allegations) is true, it is highly shameful," a division bench presided by Chief Justice T

S Sivagnanam said. The division bench was hearing a suo motu motion on alleged sexual assault and land grabbing at Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district and petitions seeking transfer of investigation of these cases to the CBI.

Opposing the prayers for transfer of investigation, West Bengal's Advocate General Kishore Dutta claimed before the division bench that central agencies have lost the trust posed in them. He questioned the conviction rate of central agencies in cases they were probing in the state, while the Enforcement Directorate's counsel accused it of non-cooperation in taking forward investigations.

'Modi ka guarantee' to give citizenship: PM

Cooch Behar, April 04 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday slammed opposition bloc INDIA for spreading canards about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), asserting that it is "Modi ki guarantee to provide citizenship to those who have faith in Maa Bharati (Mother India)".

Addressing a mega rally at Rash Mela grounds in West Bengal's Cooch Behar, Modi criticised opposition parties for their efforts to protect the corrupt, asserting his determination to ensure their punishment and promising even stricter action in the next five years.



PM Modi during an election campaign rally in support of NDA candidates ahead of Lok Sabha elections, in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal, Thursday.

Referring to recent incidents in Sandeshkhali, where allegations of sexual abuse against TMC leaders surfaced, Modi assured that the "culprits of Sandeshkhali will spend the rest of their lives in jail". "They (INDIA bloc) never cared for margin-

alised communities. Now that we have brought CAA, they are spreading rumours and lies. It is Modi ki guarantee to provide citizenship to those who have faith in Maa Bharati," he said. His comments come against the backdrop of a campaign

FRESH PLEA IN SC

'CAA, related rules brought to safeguard rights of minorities'

■ From Pak, Afghanistan & Bangladesh

New Delhi, Apr 04 (PTD):

The 2019 Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the subsequent rules have been brought to safeguard the right to life, liberty and dignity of persecuted non-Muslim minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, said a fresh plea filed in the Supreme Court.

While refusing to stay the operation of the Rules that would give effect to the CAA, a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud had on

March 19 asked the Centre to respond to the applications seeking a stay on the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 till the apex court disposes of the pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the CAA. Meanwhile, lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay has moved the top court with an application for making himself a party to the ongoing litigations on the CAA and its rules. The fresh plea, filed through lawyer Ashwani Dubey, seeks dismissal of the pending PILs of various petitioners including the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) on various grounds.

'Tremendous arrogance' in Cong leadership: Nirupam



Mumbai, Apr 04 (PTD):

A day after being expelled from the Congress, former MP Sanjay Nirupam hit out at the grand old party on Thursday and claimed there is "tremendous arrogance" in the party leadership.

Addressing a press conference here, Nirupam further claimed the Congress is now history and has no future and that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is a

merger of three "sick units". There are five power centres in the Congress - the three Gandhi family members, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and (party general secretary) K C Venugopal, Nirupam said. "The Nehruvian secularism which has no place for religion in the society has expired," he claimed. The opposition MVA comprises the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar). Taking note of complaints of indiscipline and anti-party statements, Kharge late Wednesday approved Nirupam's expulsion from the party for six years with immediate effect.

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SC asks both NCP factions to abide by its order



New Delhi, Apr 04 (PTD)

Days before the first vote for the Lok Sabha polls is cast, the Supreme Court on Thursday asked the rival NCP factions led by party founder Sharad Pawar and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar to abide by its directions on the use of symbols, party names and disclaimers in publicity material for the elections.

On March 19, the top court had allowed the Sharad Pawar faction to use 'Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar' as its name and 'man blowing turba' (a traditional trumpet also known as tutari) as the symbol for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and assembly elections in four states. Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal

Pradesh and Odisha are being held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls.

The Election Commission has recognised the faction led by Ajit Pawar as the "real" Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and allotted it the 'clock' poll symbol used by the outfit before the split.

The apex court has said to which faction the 'clock' symbol ultimately goes will depend on the outcome of the proceedings initiated by Sharad Pawar against the EC's decision.

The top court had directed the Ajit Pawar bloc to issue a public notice in English, Hindi and Marathi newspapers making it clear that the matter of allocation of the 'clock' symbol is sub judice before the court and its use is subject to the final outcome of the proceedings.

RAMKRISHNA CARE HOSPITALS

अब तक 250000+ जनरल, लेप्रोस्कोपिक सर्जरी एवं 250+ रोबोटिक सर्जरी

उपलब्ध सुविधाएं-

- रोबोटिक सर्जरी
- मिनिमली इनवेसिव सर्जरी
- कैंसर की सर्जरी
- हार्निया सर्जरी
- मोटापा कम करने की सर्जरी
- छोटी एवं बड़ी आंत की सर्जरी
- अपेंडिक्स, गॉल ब्लैडर की पथरी, आहार नली, पित्ताशय एवं फेफड़ों की सर्जरी
- पाईल्स, फिशर एवं फिस्टुला संबंधित सर्जरी
- ब्रेस्ट कैंसर संबंधित सर्जरी
- बच्चेदानी एवं ओवेरियन सिस्ट की सर्जरी

विशेषज्ञों की टीम

डॉ. संदीप दवे, डॉ. जव्वाद नकवी, डॉ. एस. तामरकर, डॉ. विक्रम शर्मा

श्रेष्ठ एवं विश्वसनीय

रामकृष्ण केयर हॉस्पिटल

पचपेड़ी नाका, धमतरी रोड, रायपुर। अपॉइंटमेंट: 07716165656

Voter Awareness Programme held at Kala Mandir

- Elderly, divyangs and other people pledge to vote
- Collector inspects painting exhibition of divyang students

Bhilai, Apr 04:

Various events are being organised under the SVVEEP program with the aim of ensuring maximum participation of people in the festival of democracy. In coordination with the Election Officer and Social Welfare Department, the awareness programmes are being organised for persons with disabilities, senior citizens and transgender community. Voter awareness program was organized on Thursday at Kala Mandir in Civic Center, involving the disabled students of Humanity Lions Borsi, Sneha Sampada Vidyalaya Bhilai and senior citizens of old age home, Bright Education and Human



Welfare Committee Durg, Prayas Hearing Handicapped Institute Supela Bhilai, Trividha Vikas Samiti Bhilai and Tulsu Lok Vikas Sansthan Bhilai. The program started with the display of Election Surya (Formation) in which all the people present were made to stand in a queue like the rays of the sun and everyone was sworn in to exercise their franchise. Thereafter, Chief Guest Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary visited the art gallery where the students of various institutions were put on display.



To understand the problems faced by blind disabled people, Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary and Chief Executive Officer District Panchayat Ashwani Dewangan, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Bhilai Devesh Dhruv, Deputy Election Officer Bajrang Dubey, Additional Collector and Assistant Returning Officer Bhilai Yogita Dewangan, Deputy Collector Lavkesh Kumar Dhruv acted blindfold using a blind stick. Thereafter, the Chief Guest Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary garlanded the portrait of Ma

Saraswati and lit the lamp. The chief guest and special guests of the program were welcomed by Amit Parihar, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department, with a tree pot. He gave a brief description of the voter awareness program. Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary, while addressing the gathering, said that everyone should take a pledge to cast their vote on the day of voting for the Lok Sabha elections. Everyone must encourage the families and other people to exercise their right to vote. Chief Executive Officer

and Nodal Officer of Election SVEEP Program Ashwani Dewangan informed that wheelchairs will be available in all polling stations and the Divyangs and elderly will not need to stand in queues. He asked the officials also not to waste their vote, their right and their duty. Everyone should participate in the festival of democracy, he said. On the occasion, Principals of various institutions including Pushpa Shirke, Raju Rajput, Soumya Dwivedi, Ajay Deshmukh, Rajesh Pandey, Rajni Shirke, Ashok Bhatt, Prakash Gedam, Deepak Chapira, and President / General Secretary of Senior Citizens Association Gajanand Sahu, Dr DK Mandariki, DR Sahu, Purushottam Sahu, US Pawar, Jantram Thakur, Vinay Tiwari, Arun Verma, other distinguished citizens and officials from the Social Welfare Department were present.

Joint training of sector officers and sector police officers today

Bhilai, Apr 04:

As per the instructions of Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Choudhary, assembly wise sector officers have been appointed under the district for the Lok Sabha elections 2024. Joint training of all sector officers and sector police officers has been organized on April 05 from 3 pm at Kala Mandir, Civic Center Bhilai. Training will be imparted to the sector officers by master trainer Dr Sanjay Kumar Das, assistant professor at Government College, Vaishali Nagar and Nardha High School Lecturer HS Bhuwal. The presence of all sector officers and sector police officers will be mandatory in the training. All sector officers and sector police officers will sit with their assembly constituency-wise teams at the training venue, so that proper coordination can be established. All Assistant Returning Officers and all Nodal Officers will also be compulsorily present in this training. For proper management of the said training, SDM Bhilai Lavkesh Dhruv has been appointed as the nodal officer.

Meeting of EEM parties on April 06 at BIT

Bhilai, Apr 04:

As per the instructions of Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Choudhary, EEMs (FST, SST, VST, VVT, AEO, Account Team) have been constituted in the district for the smooth conduct of Lok Sabha Elections 2024. Dr Diwakar Singh Rathore, Joint Director, Fund Accounts and Pension and Assistant Nodal Officer, will impart training to these teams at BIT on 06 April 2024. Training will be given in 02 shifts on 06 April 2024 at BIT Mechanical Hall. Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer BK Dubey informed that in the first shift from 11 am to 1 pm, training will be given to the parties of assembly number 62 Patan, 63 Durg Rural, 64 Durg City and 65 Bhilai Nagar. Similarly, in the second shift from 2 pm to 4 pm, training will be given to the teams of assembly numbers 66 Vaishali Nagar, 67 Ahiwara, 68 Saja (partial) and 69 Bemetara (partial). Additional Collector and Deputy District Election

Officer BK Dubey has requested the Superintendent of Police Durg, Assistant Commissioner Central GST, Divisional Forest Officer Durg, Assistant Returning Officers, Bhavna Ali, Joint Commissioner State Tax Durg, Assistant Commissioner Excise District Durg, Regional Transport Officer Durg, Postal Superintendent Bhilai, Head Post Office Main Post Office Durg, Mahesh Singh Rajput Nodal Officer EEM Lok Sabha Election 2024, Dr Diwakar Singh Rathore, Assistant Nodal Officer EEM Lok Sabha Election 2024, Ranjani Shrikumar, Income Tax Officer District Nodal Officer Lok Sabha Election Expenditure Monitoring 2024, AEO Lok Sabha Elections 2024, Dilip Nayak, Manager Lead Bank Office, Bank of Baroda and Deputy Director Public Relations and Nodal Officer MCMC, to attend the training of EEM teams with PPT or training material of the provisions related to the enforcement department.

RBMP organises holi and IWD get-together



Bhilai, Apr 04:

Rashtriya Brahman Mahila Prakosth (RBMP), Durg - Bhilai, organised a get together on the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD) and Holi. The program began with offering prayers to Lord Parshuram. Senior Journalist and Central Chronicle Bureau Chief Bhavana Pandey and RBMP National Executive member Sarojini Rao lit the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the programme. The organisers welcomed the guests with saplings. President Asha Tripathi, Vice President Neelam Tiwari, Secretary Geeta

Pandey, Treasurer Savita Tripathi, Cultural in-charge Bindu Mishra were honoured. Asha Tripathi presented the annual report. The first half of the programme was dedicated to IWD. Information was given about Women's Day. Anju Tripathi recited a poem on Women's Day while Asha Tripathi presented a dance. Asha Tripathi and Geeta Pandey presented a song and Special Advisor Meena Shukla also presented a melodious song. Asha Tripathi, Geeta Pandey and Sudha Sharma conducted the games sessions. After lunch, the Holi get together programme was organised.

Vineeta Pandey and Dr Mansi Gulati were the guests of the second session. Vineeta Pandey also gave information about the Samaj and encouraged people to live together. Renowned Gynaecologist Dr Mansi Gulati gave information about women's health and also spoke about good touch and bad touch. Women presented poems, songs and dance on Holi. They enjoyed playing holi with gulal and flowers. Division in-charge Sangeeta Dwivedi, State General Secretary Anju Tripathi, Woman President of Saryupareen Mahila Group Urmila Upadhyaya, Saryupareen Sakhiya President Mamta Shukla, Sudha Mishra, Sudha Sharma, Pushpa Tiwari, Arun Tiwari, Aradhana Tripathi, Meena Shukla, Kumud Mishra, Preeti Mishra, Sushmita Mishra, Sushma Mishra, Sushma Dubey, Sheela Shukla and others were present. The programme displayed the unity of Rashtriya Brahman Mahila Prakosth.

Plate Mill employees feted with Shiromani Awards

Bhilai, Apr 04:

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant employees of the Plate Mill were awarded with the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani' Awards under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' of Bhilai Steel Plant, for displaying commendable performance at the workplace. The Award Ceremony was held in Plate Mill Conference Hall. RK Bisare, CGM (Plate Mill) was the chief guest of the Award Ceremony. Deenbandhu Sahu, Sr Mgr (P Mill), and Niranjan Mahanta, AGM (P Mill) were awarded 'Pali Shiromani' Awards for their performance during the quarters of July to September 2023, and October to December 2023, respectively.



Karm Shiromani awardees included Nemi Charan Chandrakar, Master Operator, for September 2023, Kriparam Gajendra, OCT, for October 2023, Rameshwar Prasad Pandey, OCT for November 2023, Dharmendra Kumar Singh Thakur, Master Operator, for December 2023, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Master Operator,

for January 2024, and Bharat Lal Choudhary, Chief Master Technician, for the month of February 2024. Mementos and Certificates were presented to all the awardees. Addressing the gathering, Bisare congratulated the awardees and encouraged everyone present to work in the future with the same spirit while keeping strict adherence to safety

protocols. This has been possible due to BSP's work culture and team spirit Bisare said. Sanjay Tripathi, Bhaskar Roy, C Srinivas Seshu, AK Jain, General Managers of the Plate Mill Department were present on this occasion, along with other Senior Officials and departmental employees in large numbers. The program was compered by

Vijay Kumar, Asst Mgr (Personnel). Minu Chauhan, and Neeta Sarvare also contributed for organizing the programme successfully. The main objective of felicitating the employees under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' is to acknowledge their sincere efforts and motivate them to work with the same spirit while maintaining healthy competition. Under this scheme, the employees displaying exemplary work performance in a particular month are awarded with 'Karm Shiromani Award' while 'Pali Shiromani Award' is given to those who have performed commendably in a particular quarter of a year.

Highest ever loading of Saleable Steel recorded

Bhilai, Apr 04:

Besides recording best ever performances in all the main parameters of production in fiscal year (FY) 2023-24, SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has also recorded best ever performances in production of dry BF coke used as fuel for blast furnaces, material handling by Ore Handling Plant (OHP), production of lime and calcined dolomite by Refractory Material Plant 3 (RMP 3) and High Tensile plates by Plate Mill. Dry BF Coke production of the Plant's Coke Ovens & Coal Chemicals

- Best Ever Performances recorded by Coke Ovens, Ore Handling Plant & RMP-3 in fiscal year 23-24

Dept at 3.19 million tonnes (MT) in FY 2023-24 was the best ever for any fiscal year so far, surpassing previous best of 3.12 MT recorded in FY 2010-11. Total material handling of 22.23 MT by OHP during FY 2023-24 has been the highest ever in any fiscal year, surpassing previous best of 20.75 MT in 2022-23. Modex unit, RMP 3 has also recorded highest ever production of 6.34 lakh tonnes of lime and calcined dolomite in



2023-24, surpassing previous best of 4.96 lakh tonnes in 2022-23. Plate Mill that undertook an extensive capital repair during the year, recorded best ever production of 2,63,230 Tonnes of special steel High Tensile grade plates

in FY 23-24, surpassing previous best of 2,37,708 Tonnes in FY 2014-15. Both Merchant Mill and Wire Rod Mill have registered handsome growth in production over previous fiscal 22-23. With best ever performances recorded by

production shops, Bhilai Steel Plant recorded its highest ever loading of 5.21 MT of saleable steel during the fiscal year 2023-24, surpassing previous best of 4.77 MT in FY 2022-23. In the area of technoeconomics, the Plant's Blast Furnaces recorded best ever Coal Dust Injection (CDI) rate of 120 kg per tonnes of hot metal in FY 23-24. The Plant's largest blast furnace, BF 8 recorded best ever Productivity of 2.20 Tonnes per Cubic Metre per Day as against 2.12 T/Cu.M/Day recorded in FY 22-23.

Town Services Department conducts major anti-encroachment operations in FY 2023-24

- Eviction campaign to continue
- Over a thousand encroachments evicted in two years

Bhilai, Apr 04:

The Enforcement Section under SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Town Services Department, took continuous stringent action in compliance of the Decrees passed by the Estate Court against the illegal encroachers, Land Mafias, and unauthorized vendors in the Bhilai Township and BSP's lands in the adjoining areas. Such anti-encroachment actions shall continue uninterrupted in the newly commenced Financial Year as well. It is noteworthy that under the guidance of TSD the Enforcement Section has taken action against more than 1,000 encroachers in the last two financial years, in the



presence of Police Officials and Judicial Authorities. A total of 76 cases were solved by the Enforcement Section in the financial year 2023-2024, in compliance of the 76 decrees passed. Among which the number of land decrees was 37 and the number of house decrees was 39, whereby 43.5 acres of unlawfully encroached BSP's land was reclaimed. The Enforcement Section also evacuated 137 unlawfully occupied BSP Quarters. In compliance with the

decree by the Estate Court, the Old Soap and Masala Factory unlawfully occupied for the last several years was also evicted and sealed on December 26, 2023. As many as 27 Gumtis, established by Nagar Nigam Risali on the road near BSP Market, were evicted on December 12, 2023, which were being operated without obtaining NOC from BSP-TSD. The illegal occupants of New Civic Center Shop No 100 Mirage Cinema were evicted and the premises was sealed. A large part of

this premises was earlier vacated from illegal occupants on February 04, 2023 and sealed. 35 illegal shops being run near Sector 04 A-Market were also removed on March 16, 2024. An illegal encroachment on HSCIL godown constructed on BSP land in Sector 03, Opposite to Boriya Gate, Road was demolished on March 11, 2024 in compliance with the court's decree. During this operation, approximately 20,000 square feet of land was freed from encroachment. About 2.5



acres of land was freed from the encroachers on February 07, 2024, near HSCL Colony Maroda. Whereas on January 23, 2024, illegal encroachment was vacated from about 30,000 square feet of BSP land located at Shivpara Newai. Apart from this, residential construction along the Newai Road canal at Risali Newai area was also evicted on January 28, 2024, whereby about 4 acres of BSP's land was claimed-back from encroachment. The Khasra Nos 02 and 28,

village Chikhli, bearing about 12 acres of BSP land was freed from illegal encroachment on April 15, 2023. On April 09, 2023, an illegal brick kiln being operated in the Newai area of the Plant's 9.5 acres land, was also freed from encroachment. Around 103 illegal shops were removed from Sector-2 to Bhilai Power House Railway Station road and from Equipment Square to Flyover Bridge Power House. Also as many as 125 illegal carts, stalls etc. were seized from

the main roads and inter-sections of the township and over 230 illegal carts and stalls were evicted. As many as 25 joint anti-encroachment operations were conducted by the Enforcement Section, with the support of the Traffic Police to remove illegal pushcart vendors, from the Township's main roads. Around 9,600 illegal banners and posters put up in the township area were also removed under these operations. Around 522 notices were issued by the

Enforcement Section under BSP's TSD warning illegal encroachers, and 491 such encroachers were given advice and counselling. Along with this, about 525 illegal encroachments were demolished by the enforcement team in the last financial year. The Survey Reports of 607 properties were made and 516 spots were also inspected. In the financial year 2021-22, 212 cases of illegally occupied houses, 289 in the financial year 2022-23 and 137 in the financial year 2023-24 have been vacated and handed over to the TSD. Similarly, 102 Decrees by the Estate Court in year 2021-22, 116 in year 2022-23 and 76 cases in year 2023-24 have been vacated from illegal occupancy and handed over. The Town Services Department of the SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant will continue this action to free the Bhilai Steel City from illegal encroachers.

Congmen not having faith on system of democracy: Sai

Comments upon appeal by ex-CM Baghel to file 384 nomination papers

Bilaspur, Mar 04:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai commenting upon the appeal to file nomination papers by 384 candidate for Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha (LS) seat said that neither there will be any such issue, nor will bear any outcome. Sai said that first they should get so many nomination papers filed and added that the people who themselves do



not have faith in the major festival of elections in the democracy, what else can be said. CM Sai had come to take part in the party workers' samelan held in Beltara VS

To another question on comments by Congress leaders on RSS, CM Sai said that they are not aware of RSS ideology and therefore they are passing such comments. Those who have passed such comments do not know that there are many a Congress stalwarts who are all praise for RSS's working and ideology from time-to-time.

area here on Thursday. Sai further said that with such an appeal, there is now an atmosphere created in favour of BJP and there is lot of enthusiasm among the party

workers. On the other hand, there is feeling of helplessness in Congress, he alleged. Claiming that the party would win all the 11 LS seats from Chhattisgarh, CM Sai commenting upon the issue of holding polling through EVM said that if any other party or candidate wins apart from Congress, then there is no question raised about fault in EVM. But on losing any election, they always speak about holding voting through ballot paper and this is not a new thing and the people have understood everything.

Rally organised under SVEEP program at Govt Science College

Raipur, Apr 04: As per the instructions of District Election Officer and Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh, on Thursday a rally was organised at Government Science College, Raipur under the voter awareness program and well-organized voter education and election participation program. Rangoli competition was also organised on which students participated enthusiastically. On this occasion, Principal of the college Dr. P.C. Choubey, SVEEP Nodal Officer Dr. Ravi Banjare, Dr. Mithilesh Gupta, Dr. Indu Madrik, Dr. Saroj Sharma, Dr. P.C. Sharma and Dr. Mitisha Baidya were present.

COMPLEX NETWORK



The linemen of the electricity department have started clearing the bunch of electrical wires from different chowks and localities to make it underground.

Congress complains to EC against HM Vijay Sharma

Raipur, Apr 04:

The Congress lodged a complaint with the Chief Election Commissioner alleging that Chhattisgarh state Home Minister Vijay Sharma had violated the Model Code of Conduct. According to the memorandum, the Model Code of Conduct is currently applicable throughout India. In this particular scenario, the Home Minister of the Chhattisgarh government, Vijay Sharma, led the BJP party workers in violating the Code of Conduct by attacking the home of Dr. Charandas Mahant, the state leader of the opposition. The attempt to infiltrate the bungalow by breaching the security measures by a group of BJP leaders and workers is highly condemnable. Chhattisgarh Police stood silent as a mute spectator during the said demonstration, the Home Minister of

Home Minister broke law and order and constitutional decorum by leading the crowd to the bungalow of the leader of the opposition.



the state, who has the constitutional responsibility of handling the law and order of the state, is guilty of breaking the law. The above protest by the Home Minister of Chhattisgarh himself is a gross violation of the dignity of his post and a violation of the Model Code of Conduct. Congress Party demands that immediate legal/appropriate action be taken against Chhattisgarh Home Minister Vijay Sharma for violating the Model Code of Conduct. Also, as long as the Lok Sabha elections

are going on. Home Minister Vijay Sharma should be dismissed from the post of minister. Those who submitted the memorandum included State Congress Communication Department President Sushil Anand Shukla, Congress Law Department State President Deva Dewangan, Machua Congress State President M.R. Nishad, senior spokesperson Dhananjay Singh Thakur, Ghanshyam Raju Tiwari, Surendra Verma and Satyaprakash Singh were present.

Sao rejects Mahant's clarification on his statement against PM

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 04: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao has rejected the clarification given by the Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Dr. Charandas Mahant over his statement against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Talking to section of media persons here on Thursday, the Deputy CM Arun Sao said that the language used by Mahant is unacceptable and added that it is an insult to the culture and tradition of Chhattisgarh. He further claimed that Congress is not able to compete against BJP before public as they have failed to connect to people. Sao alleged that Mahant is trying to spoil the har-



mony in Rajnandgaon but the people are intelligent enough and would not fall prey to the political move of Congress. He further said that people are with the PM Modi and would ensure victory of BJP to make Modi the Prime Minister for the third time. Sao also launched attack on former Deputy Chief Minister TS Singhdeo and sought his opinion on the corruption during the Congress regime.

52 candidates file papers for 3 LS seats

Going to polls in 2nd phase

Raipur, Apr 04 (PTD):

As many as 52 candidates, including former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, have filed nominations for the three Lok Sabha seats going to polls in the second phase of the general elections in Chhattisgarh, officials said on Thursday. During the day, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Santosh Pandey filed his nomination from the Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha seat. Elections to the 11 Lok Sabha seats in the state will be held on April 19, April 26 and May 7 and votes will be counted on June 4. Polling in Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund and Kanker (Scheduled Tribe reserved), all having

Naxalite presence in some pockets, will be held in the second phase on April 26. The BJP had won these seats in 2019. The nominations for the second phase had to be filed by Thursday evening. A total of 52 candidates have filed 95 nominations for these three seats, a poll official here said. Some of the candidates have filed nominations in more than one seat, he said. Twenty-three candidates filed nominations from Rajnandgaon, 19 from Mahasamund and 10 from Kanker, he said. The BJP candidate Pandey was accompanied by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai when he filed his nomination at Rajnandgaon collectorate. Deputy Chief Ministers Vijay Sharma and Arun Sao, state BJP chief Kiran Deo and other leaders

were also present. Sitting MP Pandey, who had polled 6.62 lakh votes last time, is seeking his second term from Rajnandgaon. Congress has fielded senior leader and former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel in this seat. Talking to reporters, Sai exuded confidence that the people of Rajnandgaon will re-elect Pandey, whom he described as an "energetic MP". "Pandey has always raised the voice of common people in Parliament. He never ignored the interests of people in his constituency. People of Rajnandgaon will again elect Pandey and he will do all-round development of Rajnandgaon under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the double engine government," he added.

Former Mayor of Bilaspur Vani Rao joins BJP



Hundreds join saffron brigade before party chief

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 04: With the election campaigning gaining momentum, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday received major boost to the electoral prospects as senior Congress leader and former Mayor of Bilaspur Municipal Corporation (BMC) Vani Rao joining the saffron brigade. Apart from her, the

prominent members from Ramnami community as well as folk artist Shahid joined BJP at party office situated at Kusbhau Thakre premises during which the State BJP President and MLA Kiran Singh Deo and others were present. More than 300 leaders from various parties and other section of society joined BJP. State BJP General Secretaries Sanjay Shrivastava and Ramu Rohra as well as former Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel were also present on the occasion.

Silver jewellery worth Rs 10 lakh seized

Raipur, Apr 04: In view of safety and security for the Lok Sabha polls and prevention of crimes, it is as per direction of the SSP Santosh Kumar Singh, the surprise checking of all the vehicles in all thana areas of Raipur district is being carried out. In this context, under guidance of Addl. SP (City) Lakhani Patle and City (SP) (Kotwali) Yogesh Sahu's supervision, the thana staff was carrying out checking of vehicles at Moudhapara thana area on April 3. During this while checking a car, silver jewellery worth Rs 10 lakh and the vehicle at Moudhapara Thana and taken the matter under investigation.

NIT to jointly conduct study on Mahanadi Basin



Enters an agreement with NIT Rourkela

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 04: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur and National Institute of Technology Rourkela would jointly take up a 3 year study on Mahanadi River Basin for the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. The study titled "Condition Assessment and Management Plan for Mahanadi River Basin" is part of Ministry initiative to conduct similar studies for preparing River Basin Management Plans

for major Indian Rivers such as Mahanadi, Cauveri, Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, and, Periyar. In February memorandum of agreement (MoA) was signed between the Consortium of Institute's NIT Raipur, NIT Rourkela, IIT Kanpur (coordinating Institute) and National River Conservation Directorate of Department of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti for taking up the study as a follow up. An official inauguration of a Centre for Condition Assessment and Management Plan for Mahanadi River Basin

(Mahanadi) was done at NIT Raipur the centre was inaugurated jointly by professor Vinod Tare founding head cGanga and Emeritus professor IIT Kanpur, Dr. NV Ramana Rao Director, NIT Raipur (in person) and Dr. K Umamaheswar Rao, Director, NIT Rourkela (in online mode). Prof. Sameer Bajpai, the centre head at NIT Raipur and Prof. Kishanjeet Kumar Kathua, center head (Mahanadi) and Dr. Chandan Kumar Singh were present in the inaugural of the centre. Prof. Vinod Tare told that NIT Rourkela and NIT Raipur would conduct the extensive study on the Mahanadi river basin in Odisha and Chhattisgarh. There study would assess the present conditions of the river and collect data on several parameters and recommend future directions to Mahanadi River Basin Management.

ABVP activists hold demo against Atmanand School teachers



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 04: Akhli Bharati Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) members on Thursday held demonstration at Government Atmanand School Gogaan to register protest against the behaviour of the teachers with the students. Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the ABVP West Region Convener Man Sahu and

Neel Rajput said that several complaints have been received against teachers who reportedly not only abuse the students with bad words but would keep on threatening them to not to give marks in the Practical exam. They further said that a memorandum have been submitted to the Principal seeking action against the teachers against whom several complaints have been filed.

Modi govt raised inflation and unemployment in last 10 years: Deepak Bajj

Raipur, Apr 04:

Raipur, April 4: State Congress President Deepak Bajj said that the Modi administration has raised unemployment and inflation over the past ten years. Even after serving two terms, the prime minister ought to explain what happened to his 2014 promises. After pledging to lower inflation in 100 days, what transpired? What happened of farmers' incomes being doubled? Modi ought to mention that, ten years later, Indian farmers are still marching toward Delhi in demand of a support price guarantee. Why did young people not receive 2 crore employment, and why did petrol and diesel continue to cost Rs 35 per litre? Why did not every person's account receive Rs 15 lakh? What happened to the promises that every homeless per-



son would have a house by 2022 and that every citizen will receive Rs 15 lakh in their bank account along with bringing black money from overseas? Why can't the women in this country live in a safe environment? Instead of making statements, the Prime Minister should give an account to the public of his promises of last 10 years. State Congress President Deepak Bajj said that Modi had said that the income of farmers will double. To achieve this target by 2022, there was a need for a 10 percent year-on-year increase in farmers' income since 2015. The actual growth has been only 3.5 percent. At this pace the guarantee will be fulfilled only in 2035. According to NCRB data, 30 farmers commit suicide every day.

manifesto. In 2023, the central government admits that only 1.2 crore jobs have been created since 2014. This is not even one twentieth of the original guarantee. Currently, four out of ten graduates under the age of 25 are unemployed. According to the report of International Labour Organization, 83 percent of the total unemployed in the country are unemployed youth. State Congress President Deepak Bajj said that Modi government cheated women in Ujjwala also. Despite subsidy, more than 1.2 crore families did not buy cylinders in 2022-23. Another 1.5 crore beneficiaries took only one cylinder. Shows the failure of Modi government's schemes. Modi ran the government only on slogans and speeches for 10 years. The public will take account of this in this Lok Sabha.

State Congress President Deepak Bajj said that the demonetization plan of the Modi government proved to be a curse. Return of black money, curbing terrorism, ending corruption - all guarantees have failed. 99 percent of the banned currency has returned to the system. Demonetization was no less than economic terrorism. State Congress President Deepak Bajj said that Modi government cheated women in Ujjwala also. Despite subsidy, more than 1.2 crore families did not buy cylinders in 2022-23. Another 1.5 crore beneficiaries took only one cylinder. Shows the failure of Modi government's schemes. Modi ran the government only on slogans and speeches for 10 years. The public will take account of this in this Lok Sabha.

Vote responsibly and carefully: Collector Dr Singh

Training for voting conducted from PBT, EDC

Raipur, Apr 04:

Under the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, training was given for voting through postal ballot on Thursday in the Red Cross meeting room of the Collectorate premises. Collector Dr. Gaurav said that voting through postal ballot is a very responsible task. The polling team should discharge its responsibilities with great discretion. Training should be taken in a better way. Also work by following the flow chart. Collector Dr. Singh said that basic facilities have been ensured in the polling facility centre. Medical team, drinking water and other essential things will be available. Dr. Singh said that the polling team



should check the registrar after voting and also get the signatures of the voters. During the training, Joint Collector Brijesh Singh and Master Trainers Mr. Rakesh Dedhwan and Mr. Ajit Huda told the polling teams that the ballot boxes should be sealed before the start of voting in the facility center. Seal the box properly once it is completely empty. Take the signatures of the agents present on the sealing paper and card-

board and the presiding officer should sign it. The entire sealing process will be video-graphed. Officials said that about 11,500 employees will be deployed for the Lok Sabha elections in which about 25 hundred people will vote through postal ballot in the convenience centre. The remaining employees will be given EDC. Facilitation centers will be built in town halls and training centers. Form 12 and 12(A) will be given at the time of training. By

filling which the employees will be able to vote through PBT and EDC. Also, information was given regarding the importance of postal vote, eligibility, process, Form-12, Facilitation Centre, pre-voting process in the Facilitation Centre, authentication, Form-13, closing of voting, absentee voters. On this occasion, District Panchayat CEO Mr. Vishwadeep, Additional Collector Nidhi Sahu and other officers and employees were present.

Instructions given to install CCTV camera in long distance buses

- Rate lists to be mandatory
- Police officials hold a meeting of passenger bus operators

Raipur, Apr 04:

As per the orders of Senior Superintendent of Police, Raipur, Mr. Santosh Kumar Singh, A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police, Traffic, Raipur, Mr. Om Prakash Sharma and Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic, Raipur, Mr. Gurjeet Singh held a necessary meeting regarding the security arrangements of the passenger vehicle bus operators and conductors operating from the interstate bus stand. In the meeting Royal Travels, Mahindra Travels, Kanker, Rajdhani, Manish, Payal, Nadesh, Jeevan, Naveen, Radhekrishna, Silpi, Jagirdar, Dubey, Gupta, Rajhans Travels operators



and driver operators were present.

During the meeting, Mr. Om Prakash Sharma, A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police, Traffic, Raipur, gave the following guidelines to the bus operators for the safety, facilities and smooth traffic arrangements of the passengers: Rate list will be mandatorily pasted at a visible place in all the buses and tickets will have to be booked at the prescribed rate only. Legal action will be taken in case of complaint of charging excess fare,

CCTV is mandatory for the safety of passengers in long distance passenger buses.

After leaving the Raipur bus stand, the passengers can be boarded only by stopping at Pachpedinaka and Tatibandh Chowk. Apart from this, if any passenger is boarded anywhere on the road, action will be taken against no parking under the Motor Vehicles Act.

The passenger bus coming from Jagdalpur disembarks the passengers at Pachpedinaka Chowk due to which the traffic system

at the Chowk gets disrupted and a jam situation is created. In this regard, it was decided that now the vehicles coming from Jagdalpur will disembark directly at the bus stand.

During the meeting, Zone No. 06 in-charge Mr. Himanshu Chandrakar, present from the Municipal Corporation, was directed to install CCTV cameras around the bus stand for the security of passengers and vehicles. Hawkers book seats for buses outside the bus stand, which is unfair, hence they will be com-

pletely banned.

During this time, the bus operators agreed to strictly follow the instructions given by the A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police, besides, tickets are sold by illegal hawkers near the bus stand, which creates a situation of unnecessary debate in which the action will be taken.

In the said meeting, A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police Traffic Raipur Mr. Om Prakash Sharma, Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic Raipur Mr. Gurjeet Singh, Police Station Incharge Tikrapara Inspector Durgesh Raote, Police Station Incharge Traffic Bhathagaon Bus Stand Inspector Siddheshwar Pratap Singh, Municipal Corporation Zone-06 Incharge Himanshu Chandrakar, Chhattisgarh President of Transport Association Mr. Anwar Ali and all the travel operators were present.

'Sweep Sakora' Campaign: A melodic call to vote and water for birds

Nurturing democracy and nature through song and action



Raipur, Apr 04:

In a touching initiative to promote voter participation amidst scorching temperatures, the 'Sweep Sakora Campaign' orchestrated a symphony of civic duty and compassion. Led by Principal Pushpa Kispotta and Assistant Nodal Officer-SVEEP Dr. Lata Mishra of Government BED College-Shankar Nagar, the campaign unfolded with a chorus of voices singing for both birds and democratic fervour. As the sun beat down, clay pots brimming with water were strategically placed to offer respite to distressed birds, symbol-

izing the intersection of environmental stewardship and civic responsibility. B.Ed student teacher Hemdhar Sahu's impassioned plea through song, "Pakshee Ko Bachane Denge Jal, ... Matadaan Ham Kareng To, Hoga Behatar," "Sweep Sakora, Oh Sathi Sweep Sakora" encapsulated the spirit of the campaign, calling upon all to embrace both ecological care and democratic engagement. Student Union President Smriti Dubey echoed this sentiment with the stirring refrain, "Jaana He Na, Vote Debar Haman La Jaana He Na." In a show of unity, academic members of the

college including Dr. D.K. Bodle, Bhavna Chauhan, Dr. Seema Agarwal, and others rallied for 100 per cent voter turnout. M.Ed. Trainee Dr. Gopa Sharma emphasized the importance of bold and impartial voting, while student teachers from various disciplines affirmed their commitment to the democratic process. With voices raised in harmony and hands extended in solidarity, the 'Sweep Sakora Program' demonstrated that the essence of democracy lies not only in the act of voting but also in the collective efforts to uplift communities and safeguard the environment.

Will Cong hit every Indian who loves PM, asks Ranjana

Dhantari, Apr 04:

The very statement by Leader of Opposition in VS Dr Charandas Mahant has created sensation in the state's politics and he had commented on PM Narendra Modi immediately after the Baghel's nomination rally that he wanted persons who can hit Modi on his head. Reverting on it, ex-MLA Dhantari Ranjana Dipendra Sahu said that this reflects Congress true intentions and which is same for all its leaders and just faces are different. Sometimes they term PM as 'mout ka soudagar' and sometimes passes caste-based harsh words. She termed the statement of need for a person to hit PM on his head as highly shameful and said that such a



statement on the PM is being strongly condemned by BJP and questioned the Congmen that when every Indian loves the PM, then whether they would be spared or not? Ranjana Sahu said that they all are part of 'Modi-ka Pariwar' (Modi's family) and every child is also Modi's family. By passing such sarcastic comments, the Congress has shown its

true intentions and this clearly shows their mental bankruptcy. The very party which speaks in favour of democracy and she questioned whether they have fielded goons in the polls, through whom they speak about using lathis and scolding others. The very party which uses the slogan that of 'Mohabbat ke bazar mein nafrat ki dukan' are themselves using 'Nafrat ki dukan ke saath Lathi se var' and this shows their true intentions. Mahant who is now at the age of carrying a stick to be a bit more stable should think of using lathi to hit the PM of the country and for this they field the goons and corrupt in the elections and to which the people of the state will show the right place in this LS polls.

Awareness rally took place under guidance of Collector Dr. Singh

Raipur, Apr 04:

Under the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, a voter awareness rally was organised on Wednesday under the leadership of Collector and District Election Officer Dr. Gaurav Singh. The rally started from Collectorate complex and after passing through Shankarnagar, Turning Point, Khamhardih Police Station Chowk, Avantibai Chowk, Telibandha Ravigram Chowk and ended at Telibandha Pond. The bike rally was flagged off by Family Court Judge, Hemant Shroff. While administering the oath to the citizens at Telibandha Pond, Collector Dr. Singh said that they should vote in

- Administered oath to voters and appealed to cast their vote

maximum numbers in the festival of democracy. Voting is the right of all of us in which voters play a big role. The Collector said that May 7 has been declared the date of voting for Raipur Lok Sabha. More and more people should reach the polling centers and vote and encourage their family members as well as the people in the neighborhood to vote.

During the programme, famous poet Abhay Nirbhik enlivened the patriotism by reciting a poem on his visit to India and said, "It is important to honor the great festival



of democracy.

As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, many activities are being organized from time to time to make voters aware under the SVEEP program. Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh and the district administration team

left the Collectorate on bike with voter awareness placards.

The rally riders came out carrying a placard behind them on which various messages like power of vote, recognize voters, its connection with strong democracy, our call, vote, become great were given

to make the voters aware. At Telibandha pond, the collector gave a message to the riders participating in the bike rally.

Apart from this, the oath of voter awareness was administered to the distinguished citizens. Under voter awareness, voter awareness was also organized through Zumba and street drama by the team of AIG, Sanjay Sharma. On this occasion, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mr. Abinash Mishra, District Panchayat CEO Mr. Vishwadeep and other officers, employees and distinguished citizens were present.

After the program, sweep walk was done in Telibandha pond as part of voter awareness.

Film 'Bengal 1947' presents rich culture and heritage of India: Pandey

Raipur, Apr 04:

Acclaimed producer Satish Pandey, a two-time national award winner, opens up about how his latest film "Bengal 1947" starring Devoleena Bhattacharjee is being appreciated by young audiences and garnering accolades despite releasing alongside A Listed films like Crew and Godzilla. Directed by Akashaditya Lama and produced by Satish Pandey, Rishabh Pande, and Akashaditya Lama, "Bengal 1947" released on March 29th.



Sharing about the kind of response the film is getting, he states, "The film is generating a phenomenal response among young audiences, who are captivated by the love story between Shabri and Mohan. Interestingly, this generation, accustomed to finding love through dating

apps, finds the old-fashioned romance in the film deeply personal and relatable." He further adds, "This is mine and Rishabh's (who is a documentary filmmaker) debut feature film as a producer, and the overwhelming response we've received is a true testament to our success as storytellers. I'm incredibly grateful to the entire team for their unwavering support throughout

this incredible filmmaking journey. While niche cinema can be challenging, it allows us to create films that make a difference, bringing important societal values to the forefront and sparking meaningful conversations. I have not made this film for commercial purpose or to make money but for people to know about our history. I've been an International Film Festival Jury for the last 5 years and I always wanted to make a film on a very different subject." In his words, here's what makes "Bengal 1947" a must-watch: "This film is an opportunity to celebrate our country's culture and connect with our roots. Our history is a valuable asset, and understanding and learning from it are essential. Today's youth are heavily influenced by internation-

Raipur, Apr 04:

Seventeen-year-old Jay was diagnosed with Sickle Cell disease at the age of 2. Initially, his family opted for the standard treatment, which included regular blood transfusions and a few medications. While the treatment helped him survive the disease, Jay experienced frequent excruciating episodes of pain that were difficult to bear. Gradually, the frequency and severity of these pains became overwhelming, raising concerns about his survival, according to his father, Raju Diwan, a resident of Korba district in Chhattisgarh. During one of their visits to the hospital, they met a boy who was the same age as Jay and had undergone a bone marrow transplant in January 2023. His transplant was performed by Dr. Gaurav Kharya, director of the Centre for Bone Marrow Transplant at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in Delhi. The parents of this boy shared their story,



explaining how the transplant had relieved him of the pain and other complications caused by Sickle Cell disease. Inspired by this encounter, Jay's family decided to pursue a bone marrow transplant and consulted Dr. Gaurav Kharya. Dr. Kharya invited them to Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in Delhi for the treatment. "Currently, bone marrow transplant is the only curative treatment available for Sickle Cell Anemia, and its success rate has significantly improved in recent years," says Dr. Kharya. He says the advancements in

treatment methodologies have enhanced the success of various types of transplants, including haploidentical (half-matched) transplants, matched related donor (MRD) transplants where a sibling provides the bone marrow, as well as unmatched and unrelated donor transplants. "Precise planning is crucial for successful transplants, and in most cases, patients are given a new lease on life. The earlier the transplant is performed, the better the patient's chances of recovery, as repeated infections and other complications can

affect the body's ability to heal," says Dr. Kharya. In July last year, Jay and his family traveled to Delhi, where further tests were conducted on Jay, his mother, and his father to determine the best donor. His father was found to be a better match. Jay underwent two rounds of chemotherapy, followed by radiation, to eliminate his original bone marrow cells. Afterward, the donor's cells were transplanted into his body. Six months later, Jay is now free of pain and ready to begin his Class 12 studies, eager to catch up on the education he missed during his years of illness. Raju expresses only one regret—that they had not made the decision to pursue a bone marrow transplant sooner. Most patients with Sickle Cell disease go for standard treatment—regular blood transfusions and oral medications—to manage the disease. However, the quality of life for these patients deteriorates with age.

Hawan ceremony performed at DAVPS



- For peace & tranquillity

Bacheli, Apr 04:

The Hawan ceremony was conducted in DAV Public School, Bacheli on April 2 to seek the grace and choicest blessings of the almighty for the new academic session 2024-2025. The Hawan was performed religiously under the divine fervour and spirituality. Hawan incharge

Bivash Paul conveyed the message that, "Hawan is performed for the serenity of the soul and for the pious environment". He showered his blessings on behalf of the Principal Dr. Chetna Sharma and her team on the students and guided them to work with dedication and determination and grab the bright future that awaits them. Panchamrit was distributed to all.

Second randomization of polling personnel held

- In the presence of an observer
- Randomization of polling personnel done from the districts of Bastar Lok Sabha constituency

Jagdalpur, Apr 04:

Online second randomization for appointment of polling parties for Lok Sabha elections 2024 was conducted by General Observer J. Ganesan in the NIC room of the district office. It was under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer (DEO) Vijay Dayaram K second randomization of polling booths, Sangwari polling



booths, youth polling booths, disabled polling booths and reserve polling booths for all three assembly constituencies of Bastar district was done.

After this, through video conferencing, observer Ganesan interviewed polling personnel, youth polling teams, helicopter polling teams, foot

polling teams, reserve teams and general public from Narayanpur, Bijapur, Dantewada, Sukma and Kondagaon districts of Bastar Lok Sabha constituency. Randomization of polling parties was done.

On this occasion, District Election Officers and Sub District Election Officers of the respective

districts were present. During the randomization, CEO District Panchayat and Nodal Prakash Survey of the SVEEP program, Deputy District Election Officer Praveen Verma, Assistant Returning Officer Bharat Kaushik, other SDMs and election office employees were present in the NIC room.

SECR breaks records, tops revenue charts

- Achieves highest ever freight loading and earnings

Raipur/Bilaspur, Apr 03:

South East Central Railway Zone has once again made headlines by breaking its own records in freight loading and gross earnings for the financial year 2023-24. With an impressive 236.02 million tonnes of freight loaded, surpassing the previous year's figure by approximately 10%, the railway zone has secured its position as a frontrunner in the industry. Notably, the earn-



ings from these operations have soared to an unprecedented Rs 29,490 crore, marking a significant milestone for the Indian Railways. Additionally, the railway authorities have emphasized their commitment to improving infrastructure and passenger amenities, further enhancing their service standards.

RELIGIOUS RITUALS



The Thacholi family members offer chickens during 'Kozhikallu Moodal' ceremony to mark the beginning of the Meena Bharani celebrations at the Kodungallur Sree Kurumba Temple, in Thrissur district, Thursday.

'Ashok Chavan joining BJP has given party booster dose'

Sambhajinagar, Apr 04 (PTI):

The induction of former chief minister Ashok Chavan has given a "booster dose" to the BJP in Nanded, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Thursday.

Fadnavis was addressing a BJP rally in Nanded, some 270 kilometres from here, after party colleague and sitting MP Pratap Patil Chikhlikar filed his nomination papers. Chikhlikar had defeated Chavan, who was with the Congress at the time, by more than 40,000 votes in the 2019 polls.

"Chikhlikar had got 43 percent votes when Chavan was contesting against him. Now,

Chavan is with us and Chikhlikar's vote percentage will go above 50. Chavan joining BJP has given a booster dose to the BJP in Nanded," Fadnavis said.

Fadnavis said Chavan, when he was in the Congress, supported the N a g p u r - M u m b a i Samruddhi Expressway plan while his party colleagues at the time as well as leaders of the NCP and Uddhav Thackeray had opposed it.

"When the idea to connect Nanded with the Samruddhi Expressway came up, we decided to do it. We have an agenda to develop Marathwada and Vidarbha. Now, the development of Nanded and all of Marathwada will gather pace," the deputy



Devendra Fadnavis

CM said.

Chavan said he and Ajit Gopchade (in Rajya Sabha) and MPs from Nanded, Hingoli and Latur will work jointly to develop Marathwada. A chance has come after a long time that Nanded will have five MPs, Chavan claimed.

"The opposition parties

held rallies here and had only one agenda and that was Ashok Chavan. They should speak about development and other issues as well.

We don't want to experiment by giving the country in the hands of others. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken the country on the path of development with speed," Chavan said.

Hailing Chikhlikar, Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule said people must vote for him as he worked for every segment of Nanded.

"Chavan has accepted the leadership of PM Modi. He is senior to me and I will work under his leadership," Chikhlikar said on the occasion.

ICG conducts Maritime Search & Rescue workshop at Paradip

Paradip, Apr 04:

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) District Headquarter No.7 Odisha, conducted a two day Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR), Workshop for all the Stakeholders of the State of Odisha on 03-04 April 2024 at Paradip.

The workshop was attended by representatives of various agencies that is INMCC, Odisha Maritime Academy (OMA), Paradip Port Authorities (PPA), Department of Fisheries, CISF, Marine Police, Odisha State Police, Customs, Forest Department and other concerned stakeholders.



Indian Coast Guard is the nodal agency in the country for Maritime Search and Rescue in the Indian EEZ. The workshop was aimed at sharing of

expertise, so as to improve coordination and enhance readiness amongst various agencies towards combating Maritime SAR along the coast of Odisha.

The workshop was inaugurated by DIG Sanjay Negi, Commander Coast Guard, district Odisha. Speaking on the occasion, the District Commander

welcomed and thanked all participants and emphasised the need of better coordination amongst agencies for providing effective Maritime SAR and thus making our oceans safe.

On the first day of workshop, representatives from ICG and various resource agencies delivered presentations on respective roles including response and capabilities.

A Table Top Exercise was conducted on the second day. The workshop provided vital experience to participants from various agencies to foster optimum synergy and to be well prepared to save precious life and property at sea.

AMC endeavours to set benchmark in professionalism, courage beyond call of duty

New Delhi, Apr 04 (PTI):

The Army Medical Corps, after completing 260 years of service, has endeavoured to enhance optimal combat medical care and set a benchmark in professionalism, courage and compassion beyond the call of duty, officials said on Thursday. The Corps celebrated its 260th raising day on Wednesday.

"Raised in 1764, the Corps has rendered selfless service to the nation over centuries of progress, development, dedication and sacrifice, both in combat and in peace, living up to the Corps' motto of 'Sarve Santu Niramaya' meaning 'let all be free from disease,'" the defence

ministry said in a statement.

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande and Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari attended an event in Delhi organised to mark the raising day, and to honour the achievements and celebrate the "esprit de corps of AMC", it said on Thursday.

A video commemorating distinguished achievement of the Armed Forces Medical Services was also screened during the event that was attended by more than 700 of its veterans as well as civil and service dignitaries.

The Army Medical Corps raising day celebrates the contributions of thousands of officers,

junior commissioned officers and other ranks who have been successful in impacting the lives of the Armed Forces personnel, families and veterans. As part of UN peacekeeping missions and HADR activities on foreign soil, the Corps has excelled in every sphere of medical care, it added.

In its endeavour to enhance optimal combat medical care and superlative state-of-the-art peacetime medical care, the Army Medical Corps, in its 260th year, has set a benchmark in professionalism, courage and compassion beyond the call of duty while relentlessly marching towards the ultimate goal of 'Swastha Bharat, Viksit Bharat', it added.

It's better to travel by helicopter and do farming than take photos from it: Shinde

Sambhajinagar, Apr 04 (PTI):

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday launched a veiled attack on his former party head Uddhav Thackeray, quipping that it's better to travel by helicopter and do farming than take photos from it.

Shinde, who heads the Shiv Sena, was in Hingoli for the filing of nomination of his newly announced party candidate Baburao Kadam. Earlier, the party had fielded sitting MP Hemant Patil for the seat.

Addressing a rally, Shinde said, "I'm criticised for travelling by helicopter (to a farm) and doing farming. But why is there so much pain when the son of a farmer becomes a chief minister? It is better to travel on a helicopter and

do farming than do photography from it," he said. The CM added, "When I engage in farming, my hands reach the soil and I'm connected to it."

Thackeray, who headed the original Shiv Sena before a rebellion by Shinde split it in June 2022, is known for his passion for photography. The former Maharashtra chief minister had in the past taken aerial shots of forts in the state and published photo books.

Shinde's Shiv Sena is now a part of the ruling 'Mahayuti' alliance, also comprising BJP and Ajit Pawar-led NCP. Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and NCP (SP) under Sharad Pawar belong to the opposition bloc Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Talking about the Maratha reservation, an issue that kept his government on edge on several occasions, Shinde said, "We have given our word to the Maratha community regarding the quota and our government fulfils its promises. Some individuals are trying to gain political mileage out of this issue, but people from the community should be cautious of such people."

Thursday is the last day for filing nominations in Hingoli and the neighbouring districts of Parbhani and Nanded. These seats will go to polls in the first phase on April 26. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Hemant Patil of undivided Shiv Sena had defeated Congress nominee Subhash Wankhede by 2.77 lakh votes.

Yavatmal, Apr 04 (PTI):

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday said that in order to make India a superpower, it was imperative that Narendra Modi becomes the prime minister of the country once again.

He also attacked the opposition INDIA bloc for failing to project a prime ministerial candidate and for not having any agenda. Shinde was addressing a gathering after his party Shiv Sena's Rajashri Patil filed her nomination as the ruling Mahayuti's Yavatmal-Washim Lok Sabha seat candidate. Patil is the wife of sitting Hingoli MP Hemant Patil.

Referring to PM Modi, Shinde said, "This is an important (Lok Sabha) election for India because a patriot has become the

prime minister. He is the one who showed courage and abrogated Article 370 and constructed Ram temple in Ayodhya."

"There is no alternative to making Modi ji the prime minister once again if India is to be turned into a superpower," he said.

Targeting the INDIA bloc, he said the opposition neither has any agenda, nor a 'jhenda' (flag) nor a leader.

"The opposition does not even have a prime ministerial candidate and their alliance is falling apart. On the one hand, there are Modi haters, while on the other there are the ones whose aim is to move ahead with development agenda," he said.

The government led by PM Modi has policy and takes decisions, while the opposition indulges in corruption, he added.

'For making India superpower, it's necessary that Modi becomes PM again'



Without naming any opposition leader, Shinde said they stay abroad for four months every year, while PM Modi works continuously without any leave.

Targeting Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, he said they abandoned the ideology of Shiv Sena founder late Bal Thackeray. "How will people forgive them? My government connects with people directly unlike

those who ran the government through Facebook," Shinde said.

According to him, he joined the Mahayuti as Thackeray snapped ties with the BJP and joined the Congress.

While Sena's Hingoli MP Hemant Patil has not been nominated this time, the party's Yavatmal-Washim MP Bhavana Gawli also failed to get its ticket this time from her constituency.

He assured the leaders from his party that he would stand firmly behind the sitting MPs from Yavatmal-Washim and Hingoli Lok Sabha seats even if they have not been renominated this time.

The CM praised sitting Yavatmal-Washim MP Bhavana Gawli, saying that the work done by her will help the party's new candidate Rajashri Patil.

"In politics, we have to take some decisions considering the equations. But while doing this, Eknath Shinde will not abandon anyone who has been left out (in ticket allocation) and will stand firmly with all of them...No one will be abandoned in Mahayuti," he said. He expressed confidence that Yavatmal-Washim candidate Patil will win by a record margin.

'Bengal education minister trying to spoil my relation with CM'

Kolkata, Apr 04 (PTI):

Days after Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu labelled him as 'insane' amid discussions on the operational confusion in state-run universities, Governor C V Ananda Bose on Thursday said such remarks came after he had already endorsed names for interim vice-chancellors, as proposed by the minister.

The governor said that Basu's allegations was an attempt to tarnish his relationship with his constitutional colleague, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"Minister Shri Bratya Basu has called Governor 'insane' and suffering from Alzheimer. This is at a time when as desired by the HCM, HG has accepted all the 4 names suggested by the Minister for appointment as interim VCs of the vacant universities," the Raj Bhavan posted on X.

"HG feels that the Minister is spoiling the relation between the HG and HCM HG holds HCM in very high regards," the post added.

The governor's office also issued 'strict' warnings to the VCs who 'stall' university activities citing the state education depart-

ment's "illegal" order contradicting Supreme Court judgments.

"Chancellor issues strict warning to those Vice Chancellors who scuttle or stall University activities quoting illegal orders of the Department of Higher Education of Govt. of West Bengal, which are contrary to the Supreme Court judgments. This is to protect the interests of the student community," the post said.

Basu had also accused the governor of taking "illogical and inconsistent steps" with regard to functioning of state universities. Responding to it, the

Governor issued a statement on Wednesday night affirming his commitment to safeguarding the autonomy of these institutions against government interference.

Bose asserted that the chancellor, as the head of the university, has the right to communicate directly with the VC, and vice versa, without involving additional authorities.

He criticised rules passed by the West Bengal assembly in December 2019, which sought to establish an intermediary body between the chancellor and the VC, undermining university autonomy.

● In Odisha

Koraput (Odisha), Apr 04 (PTI):

The announcement of Congress party's candidates for Koraput and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seats highlighted the absence of prominent political families, including those of former Odisha chief minister Giridhar Gamang and ex-Koraput MP Jayaram Pangri.

If they opt not to run as independent candidates, it would be the first time in over five decades that these influential families won't be in the electoral competi-

tion in this tribal-dominated district. Gamang (81), who served as the chief minister of Odisha from February to December 1999, had represented the Koraput Lok Sabha nine times between 1972 and 2004 before facing defeats to the BJD in 2009 and 2014.

Despite his wife, Hema Gamang, also having represented the Koraput Lok Sabha seat in 1999, the landscape changed when the Gamang family switched allegiance from Congress to BJP in 2015, later aligning with Bharat Rashtira Samithi before returning to the grand old party in January.

Although Gamang's son Sisir sought the Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seat, and Hema applied for the Gunupur assembly constituency under Koraput Lok Sabha seat, the denial of tickets to Gamang family members by Congress sidelines them from the electoral process, potentially for the first time since 1972.

According to political observers, the Gamang family's debacle in electoral politics started in 2009 when Gamang lost the Koraput LS seat on a Congress ticket to his rival BJD's Jayaram Pangri. In the same year his wife Hema lost the assembly polls from Gunupur as-

sembly seat.

In 2014, Gamang was again defeated by BJD's Jhina Hikkaka from Koraput LS seat and his wife, who had switched over to BJD from Congress and contested the 2014 assembly poll from Laxmipur lost the election, in spite of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's wave sweeping across the state. Similarly, Pangri who had entered the state assembly at age 25 by winning the Pottangi assembly constituency under Koraput Lok Sabha seat in 1977 as a Janata Party candidate was denied a Congress ticket despite his recent entry to the party.

Krida Bharti district unit meeting concludes

**Rajim, Apr 04:**

The meeting of Krida Bharti district unit was conclude here with the officials of Krida Bharti dis-

trict unit paying a courtesy visit to Chhattisgarh State Minister Sumit Upadhyay and discussed many issues including the expansion and programs

of Krida Bharti. During the meet, District Sports Bharati Minister Sharad Parkar, Vice President Puran Yadav, Vice President Ramesh Patel, Prachar Prasara Dharma Verma, Harishchandra Nishad, Somnath Patel, Madan Nishad, Ash Kumar, Rajesh Dhiwar, Prem Singh Nagesh, Yoga Head Chitralkha Nagesh, Yoga Exercise Instructor were present. Prem Singh and Chitralkha were appreciated for training the players for Police Army recruitment and Kailash Sahu was congratulated for securing second position in the All India Civil Service Athletics Games 800 meter race.

Anganwadi centres running without fan in scorching heat

**Rajim, Apr 04:**

Many Anganwadi centres in the region are running without fan and airing capacity in the scorching heat, causing discomfort to the children and staff. Therefore District President of Anganwadi Workers Association, Mrs. Dulari Sahu, District Vice President Kalyani Mishra, Block President Ishwari Verma have submitted a memorandum to District Women and Child Development Officer Ashok Pandey, demanding that in view of the heat, the center

should operate only from 7 to 11 in the morning. It is noteworthy that in Rajim city itself, there are 30 Anganwadi centers operating in different localities and there are 318 centers operating in the block, which has been divided into 12 sectors. Ready to eat packets were earlier supplied to Anganwadi centers by women's groups, but now distribution is being done directly by the government. According to the information, children of 03 to 06 years are kept in Anganwadi centre and many activities are conducted here.

Evaluation of board copies to be completed by April 14

Khairagarh, Apr 04:

The evaluation of board copies are expected to be completed by April 14 in the district, with more and more teachers having been put on duty to complete the evaluation of 10th and 12th board copies as soon as possible. Within six days, evaluation of more than 45 thousand copies of the board has been completed, out of which 29,379 copies of class 10th and 15,316 copies of class 12th are included. The services of 250 to 300 teachers are being used for the evaluation and each teacher is checking 40 copies a day. Due to Lok Sabha elections, the evaluation of 10th and 12th board copies has to be completed as soon as possible, which is being done at Dr.



Padumlal Punnal Bakshi School located at KCG district headquarters. The deadline for evaluation has been fixed for April 14 and more than one lakh copies of 10th and 12th board have reached for evaluation. Assistant Board and Center In-charge of State Higher Secondary School, R.L. Verma and strong

room in-charge Sunil Guni said that till now the evaluation of 29379 copies of 10th board and 15316 copies of 12th board has been completed, as per the guidelines for evaluation. Teachers are also arriving at the scheduled time and conducting evaluation till 5 pm and the teachers are arriving in all subjects for evaluation.

Kinjal and Nemita achieve remarkable milestone

**Dongargaon, Apr 04:** Kinjal, daughter of Gopiram Nevla, and Nemita, daughter of Nemchandra Verma, both students of Government Primary School, Sanginkachar, have secured admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Dongargaon.

The selection of Kinjal and Nemita for this prestigious institution is a testament to their academic prowess and dedication to learning. Headmistress Sahu and teachers Patel, Jitendra Sinha, Purshottam Yadav, Ganeshwar Sinha, Sagar Verma, and Lomas Nevla extended their heartfelt congratulations to the students, emphasizing the bright future that awaits them.

Disabled, senior citizens and third gender voters honoured

Voter awareness campaign conducted under SVEEP program

Bijapur, Apr 04:

On the guidelines of the Election Commission of India, a voter awareness campaign is going on extensively in the district under the SVEEP program. In the same sequence, in the District Panchayat, the Collector, District Election Officer and Nodal Officer of SVEEP honored the disabled, senior citizens and voters of third gender. More than 100 voters participated in the program organized by CEO District Panchayat Hemant Ramchandra Nandanwar in which 06 third gender voters of the district enthusiastically participated in the awareness campaign and pledged to exercise their franchise. All the vot-



ers chanted the slogan in one voice that "The disabled have decided to go to vote" and "Friends, no one should be left out and come forward to vote." During the program, the Collector said that there will be support from the disabled and senior citizens in all the polling centers of the district and for this, arrangements for necessary facilities like ramp, wheel chair, etc. have been ensured. Necessary support should be provided by volunteers to elderly people above 80 years of age

and disabled voters and a request for arranging free transportation can be made by dialing toll free number 1950. Every possible effort is being made as per the guidelines of the Commission to increase the percentage of voting and achieve 100 percent voting, so that no voter is inconvenienced. Deputy Director Social Welfare Department Kamleshwar Patel gave detailed information about the facilities provided to the disabled, elderly and third gender voters.

Voter awareness campaign being run by Scout & Guides

Korba, Apr 04:

Under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant, in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024, a voter awareness program is being conducted under SVEEP to create awareness about voting among the common people in the district. People are being informed about the importance of voting by organizing activities like short videos, posters, slogan writing, rangoli, painting, essay, speech, debate etc. by college students and Scouts & Guides cadres. In this series, a voting awareness campaign is being run through short videos and posters under the SVEEP program by Scouts, Guides, Rover, Ranger of Bharat Scouts and Guides Korba. Under the campaign, the common people are being made aware of playing their important role in strengthening democracy and at the same time, people in their family and surrounding areas are being motivated to vote.

AGM of Dhivar Samaj Pargana Rajim concluded

**Rajim, Apr 04:**

The annual general meeting of Dhivar Samaj Pargana Rajim concluded on a note of unity and determination at the social building in Amapara, Rajim. Addressing the gathering, MLA Rohit Sahu expressed his deep bond with the Dhivar community, emphasizing his role not just as a leader but as a beloved member of the community. He acknowledged the community's unwavering support and pledged to continue serving them faithfully, recognizing the debt owed to society. State President Suresh Dhiwar highlighted the community's significant presence

as the third-largest community in Chhattisgarh, according to the caste census. Despite this, he emphasized the ongoing struggle for constitutional recognition and rights, urging collective action to secure their rightful place. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed leaders including Nagar Panchayat President Rekha Raju Sonkar, along with Sharad Parkar, Puran Yadav, Somnath Patel, and other dignitaries. Pargana President Ramu Tarak, Pargana Secretary Tuka Ram Tarak, and Treasurer Jhadu Ram Tarak, among others, also contributed to the enriching discussions.

Shravan Sahu elected District President of AIMA

Anwari, Apr 04: Youth social worker Shravan Kumar Sahu of the city was elected to the post of District President of Dhamtari district unit of All India Media Association. The election process was conducted online in a democratic manner on the web portal of AIMA Media. In this election, out of 37 members of Dhamtari district associated with the organization, 28 members exercised their franchise, in which Shravan Sahu got 16 votes and his nearest rival Somnath Sahu got 12 votes. On being elected as District President National President of Aima Media Foundation Mahesh Sharma, National Incharge Kaushik Ghosh Chaudhary, Nagar Panchayat President Tapan Chandrakar, Leader of Opposition Bhanu Chandrakar, Chairman Manish Sahu, Ashish Sharma, Young Journalist Deepak Sahu, and others have sent congratulations.

Villagers' long-standing demand fulfilled in Deori

Rajim, Apr 04: Residents of Gram Panchayat Deori are rejoicing as their years-long wait for drain construction has finally come to an end, thanks to the dedicated efforts of area MLA Rohit Sahu. The much-awaited project, initiated by MLA Sahu and funded through the District Panchayat Fund, reached completion with the successful Bhoomi Pujan ceremony held earlier in Deori. The newly constructed drains now stand as a testament to the MLA's commitment to improving the infrastructure and addressing the needs of the community. For years, villagers had struggled with the absence of proper drainage systems, enduring difficulties caused by rainwater flooding the streets and roads during monsoon seasons. With the installation of concrete drains, this persistent problem has been effectively resolved, providing a permanent solution and enhancing the quality of life for residents. Expressing their gratitude for the transformative initiative, community leaders including Sarpanch Bhagwat Sahu, former Sarpanch Nandkumar Sahu, Deputy Sarpanch Digesh Sahu, and numerous others conveyed their heartfelt thanks to MLA Rohit Sahu.

Colleagues bid farewell to dedicated lineman

Simga, Apr 04:

After an illustrious career spanning 36 years, 4 months, and 10 days, Lineman Banshi Sahu bid farewell to his colleagues at the Simga sub-centre amidst a heartwarming celebration filled with drums and music. Banshi Sahu, who served at the Jhiria Headquarters under the Simga Electricity Department Distribution Centre, officially retired on March 31, marking the end of a dedicated tenure within the Electricity Department. His journey began with a posting in the Balodabazar Construction Division, and throughout his service, he remained a highly regarded figure, earning admiration for his diligent work ethic despite facing various challenges. During his farewell ceremony, A.E. V.K. Sahu and J.E.



Saurabh Dewangan expressed their appreciation for Banshi Sahu's invaluable contributions and camaraderie. They conveyed their best wishes for his future endeavors, emphasizing the enduring support and friendship they shared with him. In a gesture of gratitude and respect, Banshi Sahu was presented with a shawl, a memento, and heartfelt well-wishes by his colleagues. Accompanied by drums and musical instru-

ments, they escorted him to his residence in Brahmin Colony, expressing their fond farewells and appreciation for his years of service. The celebration was attended by numerous colleagues and well-wishers from the electricity department, including Gajendra Verma, Rakesh Dewangan, Kanshi Bai, and many others, who joined in commemorating Banshi Sahu's remarkable career and wishing him a fulfilling retirement.

Bijapur bandh call remained ineffective

Bijapur, Apr 04:

The call of 'Close Down' by Maoist organizations upon the traders, transporters and common citizens of Bijapur and Sukma districts remained ineffective on 3 April, here after Bijapur Collector Anurag Pandey and SP Dr. Jitendra Yadav, called a meeting of all the traders, petrol pumps and bus operators of the district to stay away from the 'Bandh'. Additional SP and SDM Bijapur warned all the traders of the district not to make the Maoist bandh call successful and appealed to operate their establishment normally like other days. Traders' associations spontaneously opened their establishments as usual and life remained normal in the district. Collector himself visited the market of



Bijapur and also had morning breakfast in a hotel, which had a positive impact on the public. Not only this, the Collector also symbolically requested all the officers and employees to purchase their household and essential items on this day, following which the market situation remained quite good. Apart from Bijapur, sub-divisional officers, CEOs and CMOs were also seen in the field in B h a i r a m g a r h , Bhopalpatnam, Awapalli,

Usur and inspired the public against the hollow ideology. Let it be known that continuous searching is being done by the police personnel to end the atmosphere of fear and terror and as a result, 13 Maoists were killed during the encounter on Tuesday. The Collector has expressed his gratitude to the traders association, transporters, retailers and residents of the district for running their establishments by expressing confidence in the administration.

Hiralal Ghritalhare's body handed over to Medical College



Mandira Hasaud, Apr 04: The body of Hiralal Ghritalhare, the founding member of progressive Chhattisgarh Satnami Samaj, was handed over to Medical College Raipur as per his wishes. Hiralal Ghritalhare 85 years old, left his mortal remains on 02 April 2024 at 07 pm in the morning at his home village Baroda Saragaon, and as per his wish; family members, community heads and dignitaries after paying their last respect handed over his remains to the Anatomy Department of Medical College. At the time of body donation, Deputy HOD of Anatomy Department Dr. Jagriti Aggarwal Dr. Praveen Kurre Dr. Kaushal Chakraborty Santosh Sharma Progressive Chhattisgarh State Treasurer of Satnami Samaj Shyami Tande State Executive Member Ashwini Bablu Trivendra Subhash Kosre Raipur City President Namdas Markande Jitendra Azad District President Youth Raipur City Hemant Bhardwaj State Executive Member Youth Vijay Tandon Krishna Kosle and his team of doctors and dignitaries were present.

Voters getting facilities and solutions through mobile apps

Korea, Apr 04:

Election related work has become easier due to the continuous work related to elections by the Election Commission of India, rules and procedures for the candidates, use of new technology at different times to solve the problems of voters. As much as voting is important for a healthy democracy, it is equally important for every voter to be aware, therefore keeping this in mind, the Election Commission has developed mobile apps for different purposes so that the problems of voters and common citizens can be solved by downloading the apps on their mobile instead of going to the office. Through the Voter Helpline App, voters can easily find their assembly, polling booth and simple se-



rial number in the voter list by entering their Voter Identity Card (EPIC) number. If EPIC number is not known then voters can search their name in the voter list by filling their details like name, relative name, age, and gender and constituency information. If the voter's mobile number is registered in the voter list then the voter can also download his e-EPIC. In case the mobile number is not registered, one can

also download e-Epic by applying for necessary correction. Through this app, voters can also apply for addition, deletion, transfer or amendment of their name. Through the Voter Helpline App, voters can get information about the candidates of their constituency and any other area. Also through C-Vigil App, a common citizen can directly send photographs and videos of violations of the

Model Code of Conduct during the election process to the Election Commission. During elections, if any citizen sees that the Model Code of Conduct is being violated, then he can send his complaint on this app. Complainants can download the C-Vigil application on their phones and directly upload photos, videos or audios of the incident. Distribution of money or gifts to woo voters, giving inflammatory speeches, putting up banners and posters without permission, distribution of liquor, holding meetings without permission, transportation of unauthorized material, meetings after the end of campaign time, campaigning within 200 meters of the polling station, complaints about such matters can be made through this app.

Shakunti Devi honoured in retirement function

Assistant Commissioner acknowledges dedicated service

Baikunthpur, Apr 04:

Shakunti Devi, a diligent servant of the Office of the Assistant Commissioner Tribal Development, was honoured upon her retirement. Assistant Commissioner Usha Lakra bestowed upon her a shripal during a ceremony held on March 31 at the Pre Matric Girls Hostel Baikunthpur, where Devi had been posted. Addressing the gathering, Lakra expressed gratitude for Devi's dedicated service, highlighting the invaluable contribution

made by government employees like her. Emphasizing the significance of the occasion, Lakra noted that while retirement is a natural progression, the legacy of the retired individual remains embedded in their work. The ceremony witnessed an outpouring of affection as colleagues and hostel staff came together to bid farewell to Devi. Hostel superintendent Deepawali Rajwade, along with Rashmi Jaiswal and Deepak Patle, joined in honoring the retiree. Notably, the emotional farewell was attended by Devi's family members, including her son Shailesh Khakha, Kamlesh Khakha, and their loved ones.

Pakistan rules out talks with banned TTP militants

After Afghan Taliban minister's advice

Islamabad, Apr 04 (PTI):

Pakistan on Thursday ruled out any talks with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and vowed to fight all militant outfits and defeat them, a day after a senior Afghan Taliban leader urged Islamabad and the banned terrorist organisation to sit together and negotiate for peace. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch was responding to a question at her weekly briefing about a suggestion to Islamabad by Afghanistan's deputy interior minister to hold talks with the rebels. Afghan Deputy Interior Minister

Mohammad Nabi Omari, while addressing an iftar gathering in the southeastern Khost town on Wednesday, advised Pakistan and the outlawed TTP to resolve their issues through dialogue as the violence in Pakistan "is spreading to Afghanistan". "Pakistan remains committed to fighting against all the terrorist outfits which have targeted Pakistan and the symbols of Pakistan-China friendship," she said, adding that following the security audit and enhancement of security measures, the Chinese projects in Pakistan are functional. To the suggestion by Afghanistan, the

spokesperson instead said that Pakistan expects the Afghan authorities to take urgent action against the terrorist outfits and their leadership for the crimes they are committing and terrorist incidents they are responsible for in Pakistan. "Wars and revolutions create widows, create orphans, destroy the country and the economy," Omari said while adding the Afghan Taliban have been through wars and revolutions. Pakistan has repeatedly urged the Afghan Taliban to take action against the TTP fighters who are using Afghan soil to attack Pakistan.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party calls off Islamabad rally on April 6

Islamabad, Apr 04 (PTI):

To demand Imran Khan's release

Citing religious reasons, jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party has announced cancelling its much-hyped rally that was scheduled to be held here on Saturday to demand the release of the party founder, who has been incarcerated since August last year after his conviction in various cases.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan took to X on Wednesday to inform his party's supporters that the decision has been taken because of the Laylat-ul-Qadr - the blessed night that Muslims seek in the odd-numbered nights of the last 10 days of Ramzan, Geo News reported. He also urged the supporters to pray for the release and safety of all party

workers and leaders, including Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi. Last month, the PTI had announced to stage a grand power show at the Parade Ground to ensure 71-year-old Khan's release, who has been jailed since August last year in different cases ranging from corruption to leaking state secrets. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) had also directed the authorities to grant permission to the party to hold a public gathering in the federal capital. "One's right of assembly cannot be taken away," IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq said on March 27 while hearing PTI's petition seeking the court's permission to hold a public rally in Islamabad.

Zardari notes with concern 'baseless' claims against Army by 'certain political party'

Islamabad, Apr 04 (PTI):

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has voiced his grave concern about the "baseless and unsubstantiated" allegations levelled by a specific political party and its few individuals against the Army for their political interests.

Zardari made the veiled jibe at jailed former prime minister Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party when Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen. Asim Munir called on the new President on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the Army chief also extended felicitations to Zardari on his appointment as the 14th President of Pakistan last month. An official press release issued by the Presidency said, President Zardari



noted with "grave concern the baseless allegations levelled by a specific political party and its few individuals against the institution and its leadership to accrue narrow political interests and resolved to deal with such disruptive elements with an iron hand". Zardari

was apparently referring to the attack on the role of the Pakistan Army by Imran Khan and his party on his unceremonious ouster from power in April 2022 and the reported backing the powerful establishment gave to the current dispensation led by the Pakistan Muslim League of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

The powerful army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 75-plus years of existence, has wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy.

During the meeting, the COAS apprised the president regarding the ongoing operations of the Army against terrorism and highlighted the operational preparedness against conventional threats.

BRIDGE COLLAPSE



Cranes continue salvage work as wreckage of the Francis Scott Key Bridge rests on the container ship Dali, Wednesday, April 3 2024, in Baltimore.

Southeast Asian countries consider ways to boost 'green financing'

As region chokes on smog

Luang Prabang (Laos), Apr 04 (AP):

Senior finance and central bank officials from Southeast Asia and major economies met Thursday in the scenic Laotian city of Luang Prabang to discuss ways to help the region build resilience against shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters brought on by climate change. The need for faster progress was dramatically apparent as the city and surrounding region were engulfed in heavy smoke from fires - some set to clear forests for crops, some ignited by record high temperatures and tinder-dry

conditions. The air quality index early Thursday was nearly 300, or "very unhealthy."

Laos and other countries in Southeast Asia have committed to seeking more sustainable ways to feed their people and power their economies. The question is where the money will come from to do that.

Green finance is among several items on the agenda of the finance meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations related to countering the mounting impacts of global warming. The officials also were set for talks on an ASEAN infrastructure fund and disaster risk fi-

nancing and insurance, according to the agenda provided by hosts of this week's meetings.

Also on the list, refining a "taxonomy" to help identify and agree on projects that support ASEAN's sustainability agenda and align with its climate change commitments and other goals.

The 10 member nations of ASEAN - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam - range from tiny but wealthy Brunei and Singapore to big, fast growing economies like Vietnam and Indonesia. They have pledged to cut carbon emissions to help

reduce the impact of climate change but are struggling to find ways to unlock financing needed to make that transition.

ASEAN members are extremely vulnerable to extreme weather, drought and rising sea levels. Investments in clean energy need to increase by five to seven times, to more than \$200 billion a year, according to various estimates. Laos and its neighbors also are contending with a raft of other regional troubles, including human trafficking, a growing illicit drug trade and fast-growing enclaves of online scam centers run by criminal syndicates.

Maldives still considers India as a friend: Minister

Male, Apr 04 (PTI):

The Maldives still considers India a friend, the tourism-dependent country's economic minister has said while defending President Mohamed Muizzu's stand against the presence of "foreign soldiers" in the archipelago nation in the Indian Ocean.

Within hours of taking oath last November, Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, asked India to withdraw its 88 military personnel from the country, saying their presence was a threat to Maldives' sovereignty.

During an interview with Turkey-based news outlet TRT World on Wednesday, Maldives' Economic Minister Mohamed Saeed was asked whether Male can be friends with both China and India, to which he responded that Maldives is a friend of all countries, not just the two.

'China played 'pivotal role' in promotion of Buddhism globally

Beijing, Apr 04 (PTI):

China has held a major conference of influential Asian Buddhist monks where its top monk has affirmed that Beijing has played a "pivotal role" in the promotion of Buddhism globally.

The conference on Buddhism was part of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference held in Boao, Hainan province in the last week of March.

In this year's forum, the Chinese Buddhist monks held an interactive session organised for the first time with their counterparts from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia and South Korea, according to a report from the official media here.

At the conference organised by the Chinese think tank, there was no representation from India, from where Buddhism came to China in 68 AD.

In recent decades, the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) has permitted the Sinitised or Chinese version of Buddhism to be practised at home after the crack-down on Buddhist temples during its founder leader Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1976 aimed at purging remnants of capitalists and traditional elements from the society.

Beijing also seeks to project it globally as part of its efforts to tap into Buddhism's global influ-

ence. Speaking at the meeting in Boao, Yan Jue, president of the Buddhist Association of China said "Chinese Buddhists have, through the large-scale translation of scriptures, elucidation of Buddhist thought, establishment of sects, institutional innovation and cultural integration, embodied the original intention of the Buddha, inherited the essence of Buddhism, enhanced the compatibility of Buddhism with East Asian cultures, civilisations, societies and people, and promoted the spread of Buddhism to countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam".

His deputy Yin Shun said China played a "pivotal role" in promoting the religion globally, state-run China Daily reported this week.

"Buddhism, followed by a significant portion of Asia, is the oldest religious tradition advocating peace", he said.

"When Buddhism was introduced to China, it integrated with native Confucian and Taoist philosophies, creating a uniquely Chinese form of Buddhism.

This tradition spread to Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, Europe, the Americas and beyond, becoming an influential force in promoting global peace. Throughout history and today, China has played a pivotal role in the spread of Buddhism," he said.

Finland will keep its border with Russia closed

Helsinki, Apr 04 (AP):

Finland will extend the closure of its border crossing points with Russia beyond the current April 14 deadline "until further notice" due to a high risk of organised migration orchestrated by Moscow, the Finnish government said on Thursday.

The Finnish Interior Ministry said in a statement that the Nordic country's national security and public order would come under serious threat if the estimated hundreds of third-country nationals were to continue to attempt to enter from Russia without proper documentation.

"Based on information provided by public authorities, the risk that instrumentalised migration (by Russia) will resume and expand as seen previously remains likely," the ministry said.

Finland closed the 1,340-kilometre land border late last year after more than 1,300 migrants without proper documentation or visas - an unusually high number - entered the country in the three months since September, not long after Finland joined the NATO alliance.

Most of the migrants hail from the Middle East and Africa, from countries including Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Somalia, Syria and Yemen.

Russia launches drone attack on Kharkiv that kills 4 people and wounds 12

**Kyiv, Apr 04 (AP):**

Russian troops launched waves of Shahed drones against the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv overnight, killing four people and wounding 12, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said Thursday. Russia attacked Ukraine's second-biggest city with at least

15 drones, some of which were shot down by air defense.

Three rescuers were killed when Russia struck a multistorey building damaged in an earlier strike. Six people were wounded at that location. Another 14-story building was hit by a drone, killing a 69-year-old woman.

Kolkata graduate's team makes final of 'toughest' TV quiz in UK

**London, Apr 04 (PTI):**

A London-based computational science graduate from Kolkata has answered a series of complex questions as part of his university's team to make it to the last leg of what is among television's "toughest" quiz tournaments in the UK. Sourajit Debnath, 31, will join his four-member Imperial College London team as they go head-to-head with University College London (UCL) in the BBC's 'University Challenge'

grand final to be telecast on Monday.//////In clips being aired from the show this week, Debnath can be seen dressed in a red and black kurta dominating a set of bonus questions on BAFTA-winning video games.

"I feel honoured to have been given a chance to be a part of the history of this long-running British institution," said Debnath. "Imperial's team is unusually well-rounded this year and each teammate has their own selection of niches, or specialisms to

borrow from quiz parlance. All other things being equal, I'm responsible for covering maths, physics, and general science, along with pop culture and the humanities side," he shared.

Debnath has completed a Master's in Applied Computational Science and Engineering at the Department of Earth Science and Engineering at Imperial College London, a degree he chose to pivot to a career in computational science.

In India, he was a space scientist at U.R. Rao Space Centre, the spacecraft-making arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), where he worked on the 2019 Indian lunar lander/rover mission Chandrayaan-2, among other spacecraft.

US election: Trump leads Biden in 6 of 7 battleground states, says latest opinion poll

Washington, Apr 04 (PTI):

Ahead of the upcoming US election scheduled for November, President Joe Biden is trailing behind his main opponent Donald Trump in six of the seven battleground states, according to a latest opinion poll.

Voters are broadly dissatisfied with the national economy and there are deep doubts about Biden's capabilities and job performance, the survey conducted by the Wall Street Journal revealed.

Trump leads between two and eight percentage points in six battleground states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and North Carolina. However, Biden is leading Trump by three points in Wisconsin.

In every state in the survey, negative views of the president's job performance outweigh positive views by 16 per-

centage points or more, with the gap topping 20 points in four states. By contrast, Trump earns an unfavourable job review for his time in the White House in only a single state - Arizona - where negative marks outweigh positive ones by 1 percentage point, The Wall Street Journal reported.

According to Real Clear Politics, which keeps tracks of all the major national polls, Trump and Biden are in a neck-to-neck fight this fall. An average of major national polls shows that Trump is leading Biden by 0.8 percentage points.

"Biden and Trump both easily became their party's presumptive nominees last month, but each candidate will face a long and difficult campaign in a rematch of the 2020 contest. In a race expected to be razor-tight, a handful of battleground states will likely determine the winner." The Hill newspaper said Wednesday.

न्यायालय कलेक्टर बलौदाबाजार-भाटापारा सूचना

क्रमांक/4995/कले./रीडर/2024 बलौदाबाजार, दिनांक 26.03.2024

आवेदक बैंक ऑफ बडौदा की ओर से प्राधिकृत अधिकारी शाखा शंकर नगर रायपुर द्वारा अनावेदकगण प्रो. श्रीमती अनिता सिंह पति शशि भूषण सिंह पता 5 वी मंजिल शाप नं. 523, प्रोसेसिंग पाईट, अभनपुर रोड, रायपुर, जमानतदार श्रीमती निर्मला शर्मा पति सूर्यकाश शर्मा पता परशुराम वार्ड नं. 08, ग्राम हथनी, भाटापारा तहसील भाटापारा जिला बलौदाबाजार-भाटापारा(छ.ग.) श्रीमती अनिता सिंह पति शशि भूषण सिंह पता हेला बाजार, महाप्रभुजी बैटक के पास, हाजीपुर वैशाली विहार के किरुद्ध आवेदन पत्र अन्तर्गत धारा 14 विलीय आरिक्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूतिहित का प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 के तहत बैंक संपत्ति का भौतिक कब्जा पुलिस की सहायता से प्राप्त प्रस्तुत किया गया है, जो इस न्यायालय में विचारार्थीन है।

एतद् द्वारा अनावेदकगण प्रो. श्रीमती अनिता सिंह पति शशि भूषण सिंह पता 5 वी मंजिल शाप नं.523, प्रोसेसिंग पाईट, अभनपुर रोड, रायपुर, जमानतदार श्रीमती निर्मला शर्मा पति सूर्यकाश शर्मा पता परशुराम वार्ड नं. 08, ग्राम हथनी, भाटापारा तहसील भाटापारा जिला बलौदाबाजार-भाटापारा(छ.ग.) श्रीमती अनिता सिंह पति शशि भूषण सिंह पता हेला बाजार, महाप्रभुजी बैटक के पास, हाजीपुर वैशाली विहार के किरुद्ध आवेदन पत्र अन्तर्गत धारा 14 विलीय आरिक्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूतिहित का प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 के तहत बैंक संपत्ति का भौतिक कब्जा पुलिस की सहायता से प्राप्त प्रस्तुत किया गया है, जो इस न्यायालय में विचारार्थीन है।

संयुक्त कलेक्टर, वास्ती, कलेक्टर बलौदाबाजार-भाटापारा

GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA

(A Central University established under the Central Universities Act, 2009, No.25 of 2009)

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CENTRAL Chronicle

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Shunning Double Standards Combatting Terrorism

The remarks by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in Astana underscore the critical need for unified action against terrorism while upholding the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Doval's call for shunning double standards in combating terrorism resonates deeply amid the ongoing global struggle against this pervasive menace. Terrorism knows no boundaries and respects no sovereignty. It is imperative that all member states of the SCO, including India, China, and Pakistan, unite in the fight against terrorism, regardless of political differences or strategic interests. The barbaric terror attack at Crocus City Hall in Moscow serves as a stark reminder of the ever-present threat posed by extremist elements. In his address, Doval rightly emphasized the importance of holding accountable the sponsors, financiers, and facilitators of terrorist activities. Pakistan's continued support to various terror groups, including those designated by the UN Security Council, underscores the urgent need for collective action within the SCO to root out terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Doval's assertion regarding the need for connectivity projects to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states is particularly pertinent in light of concerns over China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). While connectivity projects offer potential benefits for regional development, they must not come at the expense of sovereignty or be used as instruments of coercion. India's commitment to enhancing transit trade and connectivity within the SCO framework demonstrates a proactive approach towards regional cooperation. However, this commitment must be balanced with a firm stance on safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity, especially in the face of geopolitical challenges. The SCO must prioritize counterterrorism efforts, including the prevention of cross-border terrorism and the use of technology by terrorist organizations. Effective mechanisms for cooperation, such as the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), must be strengthened to combat terror financing and ensure swift action against perpetrators. The security situation in Afghanistan remains a pressing concern, with terrorist networks posing a significant threat to regional stability. India's support for humanitarian assistance, inclusive governance, and counterterrorism efforts in Afghanistan reflects its commitment to promoting peace and security in the region. As India assumes a proactive role within the SCO, it is essential to align its priorities with the acronym SECURE: Security, Economic Cooperation, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity, and Environment Protection. By upholding these principles, the SCO can emerge as a potent force for regional stability and prosperity.

Sudan's Cry

Urgent Intervention Required

Arka Goswami



In the heart of Sudan, amidst the echoing gunfire and dwindling dreams of its youth, lies a nation in turmoil. Once vibrant schools and bustling colleges now stand haunted by fear, as the relentless conflict between the Sudanese military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Force (RSF) rages on. The situation is further exacerbated by dwindling food and power supplies, plunging Sudan deeper into despair. At this critical juncture, it is imperative for the international community, including stalwarts like India, to step up and extend a helping hand to the innocent Sudanese populace. Collective efforts must be made to restore peace and stability, safeguarding the lives of the vulnerable and downtrodden. International organizations must unite their voices and exert pressure on the conflicting parties to seek lasting peace. By leveraging regional players and deploying economic incentives, coupled with a staunch commitment to upholding human rights, a pathway towards reconciliation can be forged. In this endeavour, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) emerges as a beacon of hope. With its track record of mediating conflicts and facilitating dialogue, IGAD stands poised to play a pivotal role once again. Comprising eight nations from the Horn of Africa, IGAD's neutral stance and developmental ethos make it well-suited to navigate the intricate political landscape of Sudan. Empowering IGAD with technological assistance and monitoring teams can ensure effective enforcement of ceasefires and foster regular communication between the warring factions. Moreover, IGAD can serve as a conduit for channelizing humanitarian aid to alleviate the suffering of the millions caught in the crossfire. Financial assistance, coupled with stringent peacekeeping conditions, must form the bedrock of international support. Only through sustained efforts and unwavering commitment can Sudan be steered towards a path of progress and prosperity, sparing countless lives from further devastation. As the world watches, the time for action is now. Let us stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan, extending a lifeline of hope amidst their darkest hour. Together, let us heed their cry for peace and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.

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

AFTERMATH OF EARTHQUAKE IN TAIWAN



A police officer stands guard near a partially collapsed building a day after a powerful earthquake struck in Hualien City, eastern Taiwan, Thursday, April 4.

Gut bacteria and the immune system

How aging changes the microbiome and can lead to inflammaging

NARVEEN JANDU



The human immune system changes with age. Immune responses start to become less robust as people get older, which makes them more vulnerable to certain infections and diseases. However, immune system aging looks different from person to person. Research has shown that changes to the composition and diversity of the microorganisms in the gut may explain these differences in immune system aging.

The gut microbiome – the population of microorganisms that lives in the gastrointestinal tract – helps the body maintain a stable internal environment when it is faced with external changes. This is known as homeostasis. The gut microbiome supports homeostasis in different ways, such as through helping to keep the immune system alert, and digesting dietary fibre into short-chain fatty acids to strengthen the intestinal wall.

The gut microbiome also helps us to regulate our inflammatory reactions. Inflammation helps the body fight microorganisms that cause disease, and helps repair damaged tissues. However, as the composition of our gut microbiome changes with age, a low level of inflammation can become constant throughout the body. This is called inflammaging.

When inflammaging develops in the gut, it leads to a decrease in immune responses, which puts people

at a higher risk for infection and disease. Let's take a closer look at the gut microbiome and how it changes with age.

Gut microbiome imbalances in older adults

Our gastrointestinal tract can be compared to a densely populated city inhabited by a variety of different bacteria, fungi, archaea and viruses collectively called the gut microbiota. In fact, compared to other parts of the body, the gut microbiome has the largest number of bacteria. In a healthy gut microbiome, there are four dominant families (or phyla) of microorganisms, including Firmicutes, Bacteroidetes, Proteobacteria and Actinobacteria.

Firmicutes and Bacteroidetes make up around 80 to 90 per cent of the gut microbiota in the digestive tract. Firmicutes help with the production of short-chain fatty acids to support intestinal health and the secretion of mucus to improve intestinal wall defence. Bacteroidetes metabolize complex carbohydrates into vitamins and nutrients, and help promote glucose metabolism.

The gut microbiome and immune system work closely together. The microorganisms in the gut send out signals that are detected by immune sensors. This allows the immune system to regulate the beneficial bacteria in the gut, helping maintain immune homeostasis. Through this interaction, the adaptive immune system also receives stimuli from harmful substances called antigens, which trigger an immune reaction.

However, as people age, the composition and balance of microorganisms in the gut changes. This gives rise to microbial dysbiosis, which means there is a reduction in the number of beneficial bacteria in the gut, alongside a higher number and pro-inflammatory organisms and bacteria that can cause disease. In addition to this,

research has also shown that the general diversity of bacteria in our gut also decreases with age.

Over time, the shortage of beneficial bacteria such as Firmicutes in older adults starts to compromise the integrity of their intestinal barrier, causing it to become leaky. This is because the Firmicutes family plays a very important role in keeping the intestinal wall healthy and strong by producing a short-chain fatty acid called butyrate. Short-chain fatty acids such as butyrate help provide nutrients to strengthen the intestinal wall, inform immune responses and lower inflammation.

When intact, the intestinal barrier works to prevent harmful bacteria from passing through the intestinal wall, entering the circulatory system and reaching important organs. However, when there are not enough gut bacteria to produce the short-chain fatty acids that are needed for the intestinal wall to function, bacteria are able to enter the bloodstream. This contributes to the formation of intestinal inflammaging, which refers to a low level of inflammation that becomes steady throughout the body with age.

How inflammaging works

Inflammaging creates an environment that is prone to inflammation, which is caused and maintained by several factors. These can include microorganism imbalances in the intestines (microbial dysbiosis), psychological stress, physical inactivity, poor nutrition and chronic infections.

When the body is exposed to these factors on a regular basis, cellular senescence occurs. Cellular senescence is a state in which cell growth is permanently arrested, which means that cells are no longer able to self-renew. Eventually, this leads to a decrease in immune responses, which are important to prevent foreign substances and pathogens from entering the body.

Maintaining a healthy balance of gut microbiota

There is a common saying that claims "you are what you eat." Indeed, nutrition and diet play an important role in regulating the number of different microorganisms that live in the gut. This means that diet may also play a key role in the immune function of older adults.

The Mediterranean diet, known for its lower intake of refined carbohydrates, saturated fats, dairy products and red meat, has been shown to have a positive effect on the balance of microorganisms in the gut and the strength of the intestinal barrier. The Mediterranean diet has also been linked to a lower risk of Type 2 diabetes in older adults, allowing these individuals to live a longer and healthier life.

The use of probiotics and prebiotics can also help fight age-related inflammation. Probiotics, such as Lactobacilli and Bifidobacteria, are live microorganisms that can be consumed to support overall health. More specifically, probiotics help improve the function of the intestinal barrier and regulate immune responses by modifying the composition of the gut microbiome. However, there is still some debate around whether the acidic conditions in the stomach allow probiotics to survive long enough to be able to move into the intestine.

It is clear that the immune system has an intricate relationship with the gut microbiome. A healthy and well-balanced gut microbiome will strengthen the intestinal barrier, which helps to reduce inflammation throughout the body and support the immune system.

To achieve this, it is important to maintain a healthy and well-balanced lifestyle as we grow older. This can include lower intake of dairy products and red meats, and harnessing the benefits of probiotics and prebiotics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump's Advantage

Former President Donald Trump's potential return to the White House could positively impact India-US relations. Trump's emphasis on the economy and employment, coupled with his 'America First' policy, gives him an edge over Joe Biden. However, legal challenges pose a hurdle to his campaign. Biden's age and lack of appeal compared to Trump further bolster the former president's prospects. Despite uncertainties, Trump's re-election could lead to strengthened ties between India and the United States.

MK Nair, Raipur

Travel Turmoil

Vistara passengers faced significant disruptions due to numerous flight delays and cancellations recently. The upcoming merger with Air India has exacerbated challenges for employees. Unfavorable contract revisions, such as transitioning to a fixed salary for fewer hours, raise concerns. Addressing seniority issues is imperative. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation's request for a comprehensive report is justified, given the severe inconvenience experienced by flyers.

Rajesh Kumar Soni, New Delhi

Job Exodus

Rising unemployment rates in India are driving young individuals to seek employment overseas, often resorting to menial jobs in Southeast Asia. The Ministry of External Affairs must monitor the migration of professionals, particularly in IT, to countries like Cambodia and Myanmar, and facilitate repatriation for Indians trapped in exploitative situations. Additionally, major Indian cities are witnessing a surge in cybercrime activities. Moreover, a significant number of Indian students migrate annually to countries like the US, UK, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada in pursuit of employment opportunities. The government must address these concerning trends with urgency.

Sebastian George, Goa

Sovereignty Stand

India's resolute rejection of China's attempts to rename several locations in Arunachal Pradesh is commendable. The Dragon's unilateral actions cannot alter established sovereignty and historical facts. Arunachal Pradesh remains an integral part of India, despite Beijing's unfounded territorial claims. The renaming endeavor not only lacks logic but also undermines the essential mutual respect between neighboring nations. It represents a futile display of cartographic aggression with no bearing on ground realities. India's stance is unequivocal: no renaming efforts will change its borders or its unwavering commitment to its territory. The international community must acknowledge and uphold India's sovereignty to ensure regional stability and preserve the principle of territorial integrity.

Shabari Ganesh, Champaran

Addressing the Challenges of Digital Addiction in Children

Manoj Kumar K.P

In today's digitally dominated era, the pervasive influence of technology on children's development has become a pressing concern. A recent survey conducted by Baatu Tech, a leading smart parent solution company, has uncovered alarming statistics that underscore the widespread issue of digital addiction among children aged 5 to 16 years. With approximately 60 per cent of children displaying behaviors indicative of potential digital addiction, it is evident that we are confronted with a crisis that demands immediate attention and effective intervention strategies.

The findings of the survey offer valuable insights into the multifaceted risks associated with prolonged screen exposure during the formative years of childhood. From compromised sleep quality and diminished physical activity to social withdrawal and academic underperformance, the adverse effects of ex-

cessive screen time are profound and far-reaching. As parents grapple with the complexities of managing their children's digital consumption, with a staggering 85 per cent expressing difficulties in regulating online content, it is imperative that we acknowledge the gravity of the situation and take proactive measures to address it.

One of the most concerning revelations of the survey is the extent to which children are surpassing recommended screen time limits on a daily basis, with an alarming "70-80 percent" exceeding these thresholds. This overindulgence is primarily fueled by two dominant platforms: gaming and social media. While these platforms offer opportunities for entertainment and social interaction, they also pose significant risks, including exposure to inappropriate content and the potential for addiction.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the issue of digital addiction among children. With the

shift to online learning, parents were compelled to provide their children with mobile devices for educational purposes. However, once children gained access to these devices, there was limited control over their usage time. This challenge was particularly pronounced for working parents who struggled to monitor their children's screen time, as their wards had unrestricted access to mobile devices throughout the day.

Although the pandemic may have subsided, schools continue to rely on online technologies for various purposes, such as assignments, report cards, schedules, notifications, and presentations. Therefore, it is essential to recognize that the responsibility for addressing digital addiction extends beyond parents. While parental guidance and supervision play a crucial role in shaping children's digital habits, broader societal efforts are indispensable in mitigating the adverse effects of excessive screen time.

Another significant finding of the

survey is the underutilization of parental control features, with only 10 per cent of parents currently leveraging these tools. This represents a substantial opportunity for intervention. By harnessing the power of parental control features and implementing strategies to limit screen time, parents can exert greater control over their children's digital consumption habits. Moreover, fostering open communication channels with children about the importance of balanced screen time and the potential risks associated with excessive usage is paramount.

Educational institutions must integrate digital literacy programs into their curricula to equip students with the skills necessary to navigate the digital landscape responsibly. Policymakers should enact legislation that promotes responsible digital practices and holds technology companies accountable for safeguarding children's online well-being. In turn, technology companies must prioritize the development of

tools and features that empower parents to manage and monitor their children's digital activity effectively.

Furthermore, fostering a culture of digital mindfulness within families and communities is essential. Encouraging alternative activities such as outdoor play, hobbies, and family bonding time can help reduce reliance on screens and promote healthier lifestyle habits. By embracing a holistic approach to childhood development that prioritizes physical activity, social interaction, and mental well-being, we can mitigate the negative effects of digital addiction and cultivate a generation of resilient and digitally literate individuals.

In conclusion, addressing digital addiction requires collaborative efforts from parents, educators, policymakers, and technology companies. By prioritizing education, regulation, and parental empowerment, we can ensure children develop healthy relationships with technology, navigating the digital landscape safely and responsibly.

BRIEF

Appointment



New Delhi: Audio entertainment platform Pocket FM on Thursday said it has roped in former marketing and creative strategy head Vinet Singh as vice president for branding and communications. In this role, Singh will spearhead the brand marketing, communications and creative charter, and will work closely with Pocket FM Co-Founder and CEO Rohan Nayak.

New Director



New Delhi: Honda Cars India on Thursday said it has appointed Ruyto Shimizu as the company's new Director (Marketing & Sales). He replaces Yuichi Murata who has moved to Honda Mexico as President. Shimizu has been associated with Honda for over 25 years and has worked across several international markets during the span of his career including Japan, China and Thailand, the automaker said in a statement.

Premium models

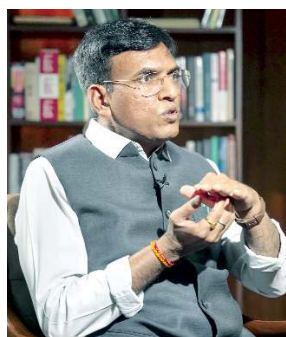
Mumbai: Toyota Kirloskar Motor is looking to drive in more premium models in the country with customers gradually moving towards bigger-sized vehicles in the market, according to a senior company executive. The company, which sells models like Innova and Fortuner, on Wednesday expanded its range in the country with the introduction of entry-level SUV Urban Cruiser Taisor.

No increase in prices of essential medicines this fiscal year: Mandaviya

New Delhi, Apr 04:

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday said there will be no increase in prices of essential medicines this fiscal year in view of negligible growth in wholesale price-based inflation. In an interaction with PTI editors at the news agency's headquarters here, Mandaviya - the Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister - assured that this is "Modiji's guarantee".

When asked about reports and speculations of hike in rates of essential drugs, he said, "It is absolutely incorrect. There will be no increase in the price of medicines". The minister said the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), which



is under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, annually revises the ceiling prices of scheduled medicines on the basis of Wholesale Price Index (WPI). "NPPA monitors and fixes the prices of essential medicines based on WPI," Mandaviya said. When inflation rises, it leads to a hike in prices and when it goes down, the prices come down, the

minister said. "This year the inflation has not increased. It is just 0.005. Therefore companies are not going to increase prices this year. This is Modiji's guarantee," Mandaviya asserted. As per the provisions of Drug Price Control Orders (DPCO) 2013, drugs are categorised as scheduled and non-scheduled formulations. The formulations, which are listed in Schedule-I of DPCO 2013, are scheduled formulations also referred to as essential medicines.

In case of non-scheduled formulation, a manufacturer is at liberty to fix the price, the minister said, adding that prices of essential medicines would not go up this fiscal. During the calendar year 2023 over the correspon-

ding period in 2022, the annual change in WPI with base year 2011-12 was +0.00551 per cent as per data published by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Accordingly, the NPPA in its meeting on March 20, 2024 approved the WPI increase of 0.00551 per cent for the scheduled medicines. Based on the above mentioned WPI, there will be no change in the prevailing ceiling prices for 782 medicines and the existing ceiling prices will continue to prevail up to March 31, 2025, according to an official statement earlier this week. Ceiling price of 54 medicines, ranging from Rs 90 to Rs 261, will have a miniscule increase of Rs 0.01.

CBDT enables ITR filing for FY24; 23,000 returns filed in 4 days

New Delhi, Apr 04:

The Income Tax department on Thursday said ITRs 1, 2, 4 and 6 have been made available on e-filing portal from April 1, 2024, and about 23,000 returns have already been filed for the 2023-24 fiscal year. This is for the first time in recent years that the Income Tax department has enabled taxpayers to file their I-T Returns on the first day of the new financial year and, is a step towards ease of compliance and seamless taxpayer services. ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are simpler forms that cater to a large number of small and medium taxpayers. ITR-2 is filed by people having income from residential property. In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said it has facilitated taxpayers to file their Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for the 2024-25 Assessment Year (relevant to Financial Year 2023-24) from April 1, 2024. "The ITRs - i.e. ITR-1, ITR-2 and ITR-4 - commonly used by taxpayers are available on the e-filing portal from April 1, 2024 onwards for taxpayers to file their returns. Companies will also be able to file their ITRs through ITR-6 from April 1 onwards," the CBDT said.

Veg thali gets dearer by 7 pc in March on onion, tomato price surge: Crisil

Mumbai, Apr 04:

The cost of a vegetarian thali became dearer by 7 per cent in March primarily due to the rise in onion, tomato, and potato prices, an arm of domestic rating agency Crisil said on Thursday. A cool down in poultry prices led to a 7 per cent decline in non-vegetarian thali, Crisil Market Intelligence and Analysis said in its monthly "Roti Rice Rate" report.

The cost of a vegetable thali - comprising roti, vegetables (onions, tomatoes and potatoes), rice, dal, curd and salad - increased to Rs 27.3 per



plate in March from Rs 25.5 in the year-ago period, but was cheaper than Rs 27.4 in February 2024, it said. "The cost of the veg thali increased due to a surge of 40 per cent, 36 per cent and 22 per cent on-year in prices of onion, tomato and potato, respectively, due to lower arrivals of onion and potato and low base of last fiscal for tomatoes," the report said.

Vedanta begins mining operations in Goa's Bicholim block

New Delhi, Apr 04:

Vedanta on Thursday said it has commenced mining operations at Bicholim mineral block in Goa. The mining in Goa came to a grinding halt in March 2018 after the Supreme Court quashed 88 mining leases. "Heralding a new era of inclusive development, Vedanta Sesa Goa commenced mining operations at Bicholim Mineral Block- Block 1 in the state of Goa," the company said in a statement. Vedanta Limited had in 2022 emerged as a successful bidder for the mining block which was auctioned. Vedanta was the highest bidder with

63.55 per cent revenue for Bicholim Mining Block, spread over 485 hectares. According to the company, Bicholim Mineral Block is the first auctioned mine to become operational since 2018, when the Supreme Court imposed a blanket ban on mining in the coastal state. "Vedanta Sesa Goa's commencement of its operations in Goa's Bicholim Mineral Block signify a new chapter of collaboration between Vedanta and the state of Goa, reinforcing a shared vision for progress and prosperity for the state of Goa."

"Bicholim Mineral Block is the first auctioned mine in the state

to become operational and heralds a new era of larger revenue share with the government for development of the state and welfare of local communities," the company said.

This significant milestone, the company said, marks a pivotal moment for both the local community and the economy of Goa, ushering in prospects of employment, growth, development, prosperity. "Commencement of iron ore mining at Bicholim is a very significant development and opens new & additional vistas for the progress and socio-economic development of the people of Goa."

Balmer Lawrie to add more business verticals over three years: CMD

Kolkata, Apr 04:

Diversified PSU Balmer Lawrie will add more business verticals to its existing ones over the next three years, a company official said on Thursday. With an overall revenue of around Rs 2,300 crore at present, its eight business verticals are industrial packaging, greases and lubricants, refinery and oilfield services, chemicals, logistics services, logistics infrastructure, cold chain, travel and vacations.

"We are going to add more business units. These will be free trade warehousing zone (FTWZ), plug-and-play

temperature-controlled warehouses, third-party logistics and ethanol production," CMD Adika Ratna Sekhar said. Shekhar said the company would spend Rs 500 crore for foraying into the new verticals over a period of two to three years.

"From the present revenue of Rs 2,300 crore, the target is to achieve Rs 6,000 crore in the coming three years," he said. Sekhar also said selected employees have undergone mentoring from the International Coaching Federation (ICF), a global organisation for coaching and mentoring corporate professionals.

Rupee rises 9 paise to close at 83.44 against US dollar

Mumbai, Apr 04:

The rupee on Thursday recovered 9 paise to close at 83.44 (provisional) against the US dollar, tracking a firm trend in domestic markets and upbeat macroeconomic data. A weak US dollar against major crosses overseas also supported the domestic unit. However, elevated crude oil prices and sustained foreign fund outflows capped the sharp gain, forex traders said. Moreover, market participants remained cautious ahead of the Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel's decision to be announced on Friday, they added. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.44 against the greenback. The unit hit an intraday high of 83.42 and a low of 83.46. The local unit finally settled at 83.44 (provisional) against the dollar, higher by 9 paise from its previous close.

Govt pulls all stops to ensure uninterrupted power supply this summer: RK Singh

New Delhi, Apr 04:



The government has asked all power plants to operate at full capacity as it pulls all the stops to meet peak electricity demand in the searing summer season, Power Minister R K Singh said on Thursday. With the meteorological department forecasting a harsh and long summer, the government has asked all plants that are shut for maintenance or other reasons, to quickly start operating and harness surplus power available at generating stations dedicated to specific users.

The government is also ensuring that thermal power plants - the backbone of India's electricity supply - have enough coal stocks to last through June and has asked all units to offer their uncontracted or surplus power in power exchanges. In an interview

with PTI, Singh exuded confidence of meeting peak summer demand without any disruption. He said, "We are mobilising our entire capacity whether it is thermal, hydro, renewable or gas-based. So I think we will meet the demand." The Ministry of Power has projected a peak power demand of 260 gigawatt (GW) this summer (April-June), higher than the record of 243 GW in September last year. The ministry had projected 229GW of peak power demand last year, but due to unseasonal rains the all-time high demand was recorded at 243GW in September 2023. However, this year the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that India is set to experience extreme heat during the April-June (summer) period, with the central and western peninsular parts expected to face the worst impact. Besides, above-normal heatwave days are likely over most parts of the plains during summer. Ten to 20 days of heat waves are expected in different parts of the country against a normal of four to eight days, as per IMD projections earlier this week. Singh said, "The Coal stocks are fine at power plants. Currently we have a coal stock of around 45 million tonnes (at power plants)."

World Bank President Banga invites Rakesh Mohan

To join economic advisory panel

New Delhi, Apr 04:

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) member Rakesh Mohan has been invited by World Bank President Ajay Banga to join the World Bank Group's Economic Advisory Panel. The panel will be chaired by Lord Nicholas Stern, Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics, with Indermit Gill, Chief Economist of the World Bank Group, and Senior Vice President for Development Economics, serving as co-chair, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) said in a

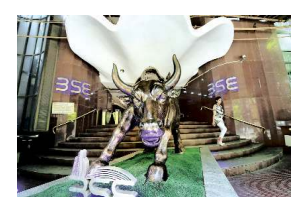
statement on Thursday. Mohan is President Emeritus and Distinguished Fellow at the CSEP. The panel will focus on strategic issues for the World Bank Group in relation to their objectives, research agenda, and actions, it added. According to the statement, the panel will also provide advice on key issues that may arise with respect to the World Bank's research and policy outputs. Each panel member will have a two-year term. Mohan served as a Senior Fellow in the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University and held the position of Professor in the Practice of International Economics and Finance at the School of Management from 2010 to 2012.

Sensex, Nifty hit record highs as HDFC, TCS rise

Mumbai, Apr 04:

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply to hit record fresh highs on Thursday, propped up by buying in IT, consumer durables and financial stocks amid expectations of a robust corporate performance. Besides, investors lapped up select banking stocks expecting a status quo in the interest rate decision of the RBI's monetary policy committee, analysts said.

The six-member rate-setting panel, which began its deliberation on Wednesday, will announce the decision on Friday. The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 350.81 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at its life-



time high of 74,227.63. During the day, the index oscillated between the high of 74,501.73 and the low of 73,485.12. The broader NSE Nifty also hit its fresh peak of 22,514.65, gaining 80 points or 0.36 per cent. As many as 31 components of the 50-share benchmark ended with gains. Both indices had ended lower in the previous two sessions. On March 7, Sensex recorded its previous peak of 74,119.39. Nifty scaled its previous high of 22,493.55.

Motorola launches its highly anticipated edge50 pro in India

Mumbai, Apr 04:

Motorola, India's best 5G smartphone brand, today hosted the global first launch in India for its new premium smartphone - the motorola edge 50 Pro, the latest addition to its edge franchise. This smartphone is a quintessence of intelligence meeting art and is set to disrupt the premium smartphone segment. This smartphone features the World's 1st only AI Powered Pro-Grade Camera with True Colors and vast range of human skin tones validated by Pantone1 and also the World's 1st and only True Color Display on a smartphone, validated by Pantone. The motorola edge 50 Pro further boasts a beautifully crafted harmonious design and comes in the World's 1st



Hand made design in Pearl Finish, handcrafted in Italy at its back. Additionally, it also features a powerful Snapdragon® 7 Gen 3 processor offering generative AI features and other disruptive features such as a blazing fast 125W TurboPower charging,

50W wireless charging, IP682 underwater protection and up to 12GB RAM with a 256GB Storage. Equipped with the World's 1st AI Powered Pro-Grade Camera with true color output validated by Pantone, the motorola edge 50 Pro is loaded with advancements that turn everyday moments into

beautifully captured memories. The camera meets Pantone's evaluation and grading criteria by authentically simulating the full range of real-world Colors. Furthermore, Pantone SkinTone Validated assures the camera captures results representing the vast spectrum of human skin tones. The advanced camera system of the motorola edge 50 Pro utilizes the power of moto ai to deliver phenomenal performance enhancements in both photos and video. The new AI Photo Enhancement Engine makes it effortless to capture perfect photos with every shot. No professional expertise required, it uses AI to simultaneously apply settings from multiple shooting modes into one to deliver peak quality.

India's services sector growth hits 13-and-a-half-yr high in Mar on robust demand conditions: PMI

New Delhi, Apr 04:

India's services sector witnessed one of the strongest growth rates in over 13-and-a-half years in March on the back of strong demand that spurred sales and business activity, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index rose from 60.6 in February to 61.2 in March, one of the strongest expansions in total sales and business activity in close to 14 years. In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. The HSBC India Services PMI is compiled by S&P Global from



responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies. "India's services PMI rose in March, following a small dip in February, on the back of strong demand that spurred sales and business activity. Service providers in-

creased hiring at the fastest pace since August 2023 in order to expand production capacity," said Ines Lam, Economist at HSBC. The upturn was largely attributed to healthy demand conditions, efficiency gains, and positive sales developments, the survey said.

Companies signalled a substantial improvement in new order intakes during March. The rate of growth was one of the best seen since June 2010. New export business rose at the fastest rate since the series started in September 2014. Survey participants reported gains from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East. Services companies indicated that the substantial upturn in new business volumes added pressure on their capacities. Accordingly, service providers recruited additional staff in March. "The latest increase in employment was the 22nd in as many months, and the joint-strongest since November 2022," the survey said.

Triveni Sangam's sanctity threatened by increasing alcohol consumption

Rajim's revered status faces challenge amidst growing alcohol culture

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Apr 04: Known as the Prayagraj of Chhattisgarh, Rajim holds sacred significance as the confluence of three rivers - Sondhur, Pari, and Mahanadi - forming the revered Triveni Sangam. Renowned for hosting the state's prestigious Kumbh Mela on its banks, the sanctity of this revered site faces a new challenge as it increasingly becomes a hub for alcohol consumption.



Evidently, this area has transformed into a gathering spot for alcohol consumption, casting a shadow over the tranquil atmosphere.

During the Kumbh Mela, both government liquor shops in Rajim and Navapara are shuttered for a fortnight to prevent devotees from succumbing to intoxication. However, the discovery of empty liquor bottles suggests clandestine gatherings where groups of individuals engage in drinking and serving liquor with apparent impunity.

Rajim, hailed as the "king of pilgrimages" across India, draws devotees from far and wide for spiritual pursuits, including darshan, worship, and ritual bathing. The city's significance is further underscored by its association with Lord Vishnu,

Devotees demand continuous police patrol

In response to the escalating concerns over alcohol abuse at Triveni Sangam, devout visitors including Raghunandan, Omprakash, Mayank, Rambharosa, Mukesh, Khilavan, Anil, Hemraj, Bishat, and others have voiced their vehement opposition. Asserting that the sanctity of this sacred site must be preserved, they emphasize that drug abuse is intolerable in a place of religious reverence. Calling upon the police administration to take decisive action, devotees advocate for continuous police patrol to deter illicit activities. They stress the importance of counselling for those involved in such acts, with strict measures to be taken if necessary. Their impassioned plea underscores the imperative of liberating the holy site from the grip of alcohol, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts across the bordering districts of Gariaband, Raipur, and Dhamtari to ensure effective policing and safeguard the spiritual sanctity of Triveni Sangam.

embodied as Rajeev Lochan and Bholenath Kuleshwarnath Mahadev. Despite its revered status, the proliferation of alcohol consumption threatens to tarnish Rajim's sacred image.

The presence of government liquor shops in both Rajim and Navapara, coupled with

the allure of the riverside ambiance, has contributed to the burgeoning number of alcoholics frequenting the area. As temperatures rise, the riverbanks have become an enticing retreat for alcohol enthusiasts, prompting growing concerns among residents and devotees alike.

Voter Awareness spurs community cleanup drive



- In Bijapur District
- District officials rally residents to prioritize cleanliness and voting participation

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Apr 04: In a concerted effort to promote voter awareness, Bijapur District embarked on a comprehensive cleanliness campaign spanning government buildings, schools, and public spaces, under the aus-

pices of the Election Commission's directives. Guided by the visionary leadership of Collector and District Election Officer Anurag Pandey, this initiative aimed not only to instill a sense of civic duty but also to underscore the intrinsic link between cleanliness and democratic participation.

At the forefront of the cleanliness crusade, Deputy Collector Dilip Uike, and a cadre of dedicated officers and employees lent their unwavering support.

tribute towards maintaining cleanliness within the premises. Encouraging a culture of responsibility, Nandanwar urged staff members to extend this ethos beyond the workplace, emphasizing the importance of advocating for 100% voting turnout in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Amidst the spirited cleanup efforts, Deputy Director Panchayat Geet Kumar Sinha, Deputy Collector Dilip Uike, and a cadre of dedicated officers and employees lent their unwavering support.

DEO oversees efficient evaluation procedures

At Government BR Sao Hindi Higher Secondary School

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Apr 04: Government BR Sao Hindi Higher Secondary School Evaluation Center received an unexpected visit from District Education Officer Chandra Kumar Dhritalhare to oversee the evaluation process. To the relief of officials, the evaluation was found to be proceeding smoothly, ensuring the timely assessment of answer sheets.

Jaimangal Singh Dhruv, Evaluation Center Officer, reported that a total of 49,500 answer sheets from both class 12th and 10th were submitted for evaluation by the Board of Secondary Education, Raipur.

Remarkably, 32,000 answer sheets have already been evaluated, with nearly all subjects of class 12th nearing completion. Concurrently assessments for class 10th are also underway, with the evaluation set to con-

clude by April 8.

During the visit, Principal PC Divya, along with Rajendra Kshatriya, Sunil Pathak, Krishna Kumar Navrang, and Vikram Singh, engaged in discussions with District Education Officer Dhritalhare regarding the enhancement of facilities for the school's development. Assurances were made by the District Education Officer to address these concerns promptly.

Alpha National School celebrates academic excellence

- At annual examination report ceremony

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Apr 04: In a joyous celebration of academic achievements, Alpha National School in Dauchora proudly declared its annual examination report in a ceremonial event graced by the esteemed presence of District Panchayat President, Viplav Sahu.

In a heartfelt address, Viplav Sahu underscored the pivotal role of today's educational environment and teachers in shaping the course of human life. He emphasized the need for conscientiousness and

unwavering vigilance in teaching, acknowledging the evolving landscape influenced by factors like civilization, population pressure, and limited resources.

Sahu eloquently portrayed educational institutions as modern-day fathers, guiding and nurturing the minds of tomorrow. He advocated for the cultivation of children's perceptive capacity and critical thinking, stressing the importance of fostering a conducive environment where young minds can blossom into conscientious citizens.

Sahu concluded his remarks with heartfelt gratitude, extending his best wishes to the students for



crafting a brighter future for themselves and society at large. The event, attended by renowned personalities including the distinguished homeopathy doctor, Dr. Ghanshyam Dhekware, witnessed the felicitation of meritorious students

who excelled in various academic domains.

Nursery to Class 5, a spectrum of students showcased exceptional prowess, with names like Prayag Sahu, Vaidehi Singh, Devansh Dewangan, Shreya Thakur, Juveriya Bano,

Divyansh Mankar, Lovely Dewangan, Rishita Vaishnav, and Kavita Verma shining brightly as they clinched the top positions in their respective classes.

Under the benevolent guidance of the school's Principal and dedicated professors, certificates and medals were bestowed upon deserving students, recognizing their diligence and commitment to academic excellence.

The event radiated with the exuberance of proud parents and the infectious enthusiasm of young learners, symbolizing a community united in its pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment.

Sand mafia defies authorities, resumes illegal mining

Administrative oversight raises concerns over collusion and corruption

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Apr 04: In a daring display of impunity, the sand mafia resumed illegal mining operations on the second day of proceedings, brazenly defying government seals placed on seized Chain Mountain machines.

Despite stringent measures taken by mineral officers to curtail illegal sand mining activities at Champaran and Parasda Joshi sand ghats, the audacious actions of the sand mafia have raised serious concerns about political patronage and administrative corruption.

On April 2, following directives from the collector,

mineral officers apprehended and sealed six major Chain Mountain machines. However, the conspicuous absence of any arrests or seizures of hiwa vehicles - known for transporting sand loads daily - raised suspicions of collusion.

Today, the sand mafia escalated their defiance by breaking the seals on the seized machines and resuming mining operations at Parasda Joshi sand ghat under cover of darkness.

Upon receiving reports from concerned villagers, inquiries were made with Mineral Officer Fagulal Nagesh and SDM Rajim. Despite being informed of the situation, Mineral



Inspector Subhash Sahu failed to respond to multiple calls for information. Villagers reported wit-

nessing Mineral Inspector Sahu transporting two broken sealed chain mountings to Panduka police station, while a third mounting was rendered inoperable after being tampered with by the sand mafia.

On discussing this matter with District Collector Deepak Agarwal on mobile at 5.30 pm, he expressed ignorance about this matter and said that I will get the matter seen.

Despite assurances from Collector Agarwal to investigate the matter, concerns persist over the integrity of administrative oversight and the prevalence of illicit activities under political protection in the region.

Vikrant Singh mobilizes support for BJP's Santosh Pandey

- Ahead of Lok Sabha elections
- Grassroots campaigning gains momentum

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Apr 04: With the Lok Sabha elections on the horizon, Vikrant Singh, District Vice President and State Working Committee member, has embarked on a spirited campaign to bolster support for BJP candidate Santosh Pandey. Taking his message directly to the people, Singh has been tirelessly traversing the region, visiting markets and rural

areas to galvanize voters in favour of Pandey.

Venturing into the heart of communities across Ataria, Bhipuri, Keshala, Borampur, Joratarai, and Maroda, Singh has been fervently rallying workers at the grassroots level. He extolled the transformative leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing a decade of unparalleled achievements that have propelled India into the realms of good governance and development.

Singh reiterated the resounding mandate received by the BJP from the people of the state, underscoring the government's unwavering commitment to uplift all sections of soci-

ety, including villages, the underprivileged, laborers, farmers, youth, and women. Emphasizing the significance of effective booth management and grassroots efforts, Singh stressed the party's determination to secure maximum votes for the BJP across every precinct.

Joined by esteemed BJP leaders such as Harprasad Verma, Keshav Chandel, Devkumar Sen, Ganesh Verma, and Vikesh Gupta, Singh's campaign resonates with a unified vision for progress and prosperity, encapsulating the ethos of development-driven governance championed by Santosh Pandey and the BJP.

Persistent illegal liquor trade plagues Bazaar Ataria

Bazar Atariya, Apr 04: The rampant trade of illicit liquor continues to plague the streets of Bazaar Ataria,

with vendors brazenly conducting their unlawful business, even amidst the formation of the district. Despite

Illegal liquor being sold indiscriminately under the nose of the administration



hopes for stricter enforcement measures, the influx of new illegal vendors has fueled a surge in liquor sales, fetching exorbitant prices. Despite the formation of the district, the proliferation of liquor vendors has remained unchecked, casting doubts on the efficacy of law enforcement. The palpable absence of police intervention in the market has emboldened liquor vendors, exacerbating the situation. Of particular concern is the unabated drink-

ing culture flourishing in local dhabas, where liquor is surreptitiously served under the guise of food. This clandestine trade not only fuels alcohol consumption but also contributes to escalating altercations among patrons. Shockingly, authorities have yet to step foot in these establishments, raising eyebrows among residents.

As dusk falls, a throng of patrons converges upon select dhabas in the market, indicative of the pervasive drinking culture. Revellers lament the scarcity of liquor, alleging complicity between dhaba owners and illicit vendors in meeting demand.

Centuries-old village Rewa grapples with severe water scarcity

Residents forced to travel nearby villages for clean drinking water

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Apr 04: As temperatures soar and the sun beats down relentlessly, the ancient village of Rewa, boasting a rich history spanning 2500 years, finds itself embroiled in a dire water crisis. Home to over 5000 inhabitants, Rewa struggles with water scarcity year-round, with the situation escalating to critical levels during the scorching summer months.

Despite numerous efforts, the village's thousands of tube wells have failed to yield satisfactory results, leaving residents with limited access to clean drinking water. Desperation drives villagers to neighboring vil-



lages like Kukra, two kilometers away, where they queue for hours at communal water sources, often resorting to heated altercations amidst the ordeal.

With no viable alternatives, many residents are forced to consume untreated water from canals, tube wells, ponds, or wells, risking their

health in the process. The once-vital Bandhwa pond, spanning 75 acres within the village, now stands polluted and unfit for consumption, exacerbating the water crisis.

Calls for infrastructural interventions resonate among villagers, who advocate for the conversion of the Bandhwa pond into a reservoir or dam,

alongside the installation of pipeline networks to channel water from ample sources to Rewa and surrounding areas. Despite these appeals, the community continues to grapple with the arduous daily task of fetching water from distant villages, a burden borne by women, children, and the elderly alike.

Classifieds

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Mustafizur-less CSK face unpredictable Sunrisers Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Apr 04 (PTI):

Without their in-form bowler Mustafizur Rahman, Chennai Super Kings will need to sharpen their all-round game when they take on an unpredictable Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL here on Friday.

Consistency is the hallmark of CSK who would be looking to restore "normal service" following their first loss of the season against Delhi Capitals.

It is a long tournament and an odd dip in performance is expected, as mentioned by the CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad after the game in Visakhapatnam.

However, he and his opening partner Ravindra Ravindra will need to be ready for the moving ball after being found wanting on that front against Delhi.

The majority of cricketing world wants M S Dhoni to bat higher than number eight, especially after his 16-ball 37 in his very first outing with the bat this season.

However, that is unlikely to happen as Dhoni would want the likes of Shivam Dube and Sameer Rizvi to finish the job ahead of him.

In the bowling department, CSK will need to rethink their combination



with Mustafizur back in Bangladesh to process his visa for the T20 World Cup in the USA and Caribbean. The overseas combine of

Mustafizur and Matheesha Pathirana has been working well for CSK who could bring in a like-for-like replacement for the

Bangladesh cricketer in Mukesh Choudhary. Shardul Thakur is also yet to get a game thus far. Their opposition

Sunrisers Hyderabad will be looking to make the most of home comforts in their second game at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium.

The batters will take immense confidence from their record showing against Mumbai Indians here. The pressure is piling up on opener Mayank Agarwal who is yet to make an impact.

The game against Gujarat Titans was Sunrisers' first batting failure in the tournament and they would be looking for immediate course correction.

Even on the bowling front, the likes of Jaydev Unadkat, Mayank Markande and Bhuvneshwar Kumar have proved expensive. The seasoned

Bhuvneshwar has especially been disappointing with the new ball and is yet to pick up a wicket in three games. Skipper Pat Cummins have kept things tight with a sub 8 runs per over economy rate to complement his four wickets in three games. He will need support from others on Friday night.

The pitch in the opening game here produced more than 500 runs, raising hopes of another six-hitting slugfest.

Mbappe scores a deflected goal as PSG beats Rennes 1-0

Paris, Apr 04 (AP):

Kylian Mbappe saw his first-half penalty saved but then scored with a deflected shot moments later as Paris Saint-Germain beat Rennes 1-0 to reach the French Cup final.

PSG goes for a record-extending 15th French Cup trophy when it faces first-division rival Lyon on May 25 in Lille.

Rennes beat PSG in the 2019 final, with Mbappé sent off in extra time for a crude challenge, and looked largely in control during the first half Wednesday at Parc des Princes.

Mbappe was having a quiet game when he appeared to let himself tumble as he earned a penalty cutting into the area from the left flank. Veteran goalkeeper Steve Mandanda guessed correctly, diving low to his right and palming away the star's spot-kick in the 37th minute.

Three minutes later, Mbappé was celebrating after finishing off a long counterattack with a deflected strike that hit a defender and wrong-footed Mandanda as it rolled into the bottom left corner.

Mandanda made a smart save from his France teammate



Mbappe early in the second half, but Rennes did not create enough in attack to threaten Gianluigi Donnarumma in the PSG goal.

Coach Luis Enrique's team remains on course for a treble.

PSG leads the French league by 12 points with only seven rounds remaining and faces Barcelona — Enrique's former club — in the quarterfinals of the Champions League. The first leg is in Paris next Wednesday.

Five Indian shuttlers, including Anmol Kharb, enter quarterfinals

■ Kazakhstan Challenge

Astana, Apr 04 (PTI):

Young shuttler Anmol Kharb continued to impress as she progressed to the women's singles quarterfinals along with four other Indians at the Kazakhstan International Challenge here on Thursday. Besides Anmol, in-form Devika Sihag, former national champion Anupama Upadhaya, seventh seed Tanya Hemanth and Isharani Baruah also entered the last 8 in women's singles. Reigning senior national champion Anmol, who played a pivotal role in Indian women's team winning an unprecedented gold at the Badminton Asia Team Championships in February, beat UAE's Nurani Ratu Azzahra 21-11 21-7 in the second round. The 17-year-old Anmol will face Japan's Sorano Yoshikawa next. Sihag, who won two international challenge titles out of the four finals that she reached this season, outwitted fourth seeded Azerbaijan's Keisha Fatimah Azzahra 21-12 21-12 to set up a meeting with compatriot Anupama, who beat Czech Republic's fifth seed Tereza Svabikova. Seventh seed Tanya saw off Israel's Ksenia Polikarpova 21-11 21-18 and will next square off against fellow Indian Isharani, who accounted for New Zealand's Tiffany Ho 21-10 20-14. Sihag won the Swedish Open and Portugal International, while finishing runner-up at Estonian International and Dutch International.

Cash prize with annual award huge thing: Salima Tete



New Delhi, Apr 04 (PTI):

A first-time winner of the Hockey India women's Player of the Year honour, mid-fielder Salima Tete says the award is significant not just for her morale but is also a "huge thing" for her farmer family back in Jharkhand due to the prize cheque of Rs 25 lakh that came with it.

The 22-year-old was rewarded for her consistency in the game throughout the year, in the Hockey India annual gala on Sunday last.

"When my family heard that I had been presented the award, they were also really proud of me. As

part of the honour, we also receive cash incentives, which is also a huge thing for me. When I win this money, my family wins this money," Tete said in a press release issued by Hockey India.

The player was born into extreme poverty in Jharkhand's Barki Chhapar village in Simdega district. She has five siblings, four of them sisters.

"I express my gratitude to Hockey India for making such provisions, and because of their support, I am able to provide and help my family members in our day-to-day lives," she added.

PCB chief furious over handling of young pacer's injury

Lahore, Apr 04 (PTI):

The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Mohsin Naqvi, is furious over the way board officials have handled the injury of young fast bowler, Ehsanullah.

Ehsan, 21, made a big impact in last year's Pakistan Super League with his pace and subsequently went on to play in three T20 matches against Afghanistan in Sharjah and two ODIs at home against New Zealand.

But after the New Zealand series he suffered an elbow injury and was sidelined for remaining events including the Asia Cup and World Cup.

Unfortunately for the youngster an incorrect diagnosis of his injury and a botched-up surgery in Lahore has meant he is yet to recover completely.

According to a PCB source, the initial diagnosis was done by a senior doctor on the board's medical panel, due to which time was wasted on trying to rehabilitate him without surgery.

Stimac remains coach despite criticism



New Delhi, Apr 04 (PTI):

The under-fire Igor Stimac will remain in charge of India's FIFA World Cup second round qualifying matches against Kuwait and Qatar as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has asked the head coach of the senior men's team to focus on the upcoming two games.

This comes a week after the technical committee headed by Indian football great I M Vijayan recommended the sacking of the Croatian World Cupper after the shocking defeat to Afghanistan in the home

leg match in Guwahati on March 26.

A committee, constituted by AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey and headed by vice-president N A Haris, following the loss to Afghanistan, held discussions with Stimac during a virtual meeting on Tuesday.

Vijayan, who is a member of the AIFF executive committee and the chairman of the technical committee, said: "I am happy that we had a good discussion with the head coach. In the World Cup qualifiers, we have two matches in hand with a chance to make Round 3 for the first time in history." It is time we focussed on the next two matches and stayed solidly behind the national team so that they could do their best." Three members of the committee, including Haris, Vijayan and Climax Lawrence could not attend the meeting. During the meeting, Stimac was also asked to explain his comments before the Afghanistan home game, where he had said that he would resign if India failed to qualify for round three of the qualifiers.

Unacceptable, embarrassing: Ponting

Visakhapatnam, Apr 04 (PTI):

Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting has lashed out at his side after the "unacceptable" and "embarrassing" 106-run battering at the hands of Kolkata Knight Riders.

The Capitals endured a forgettable outing here on Wednesday, first conceding 272 runs in the allotted 20 overs and then getting bowled out for 166 in 17.2 overs for one of their heaviest defeats in the tournament's history.

"It's pretty hard to assess right now. I mean I was almost embarrassed with our first half of the game today," Ponting said at the post-match press conference.

"To concede that many runs...we bowled 17 wides and it took us two hours to bowl our overs as well, so we were two overs behind again, which means the guys bowling last two overs only get to bowl with four fielders outside the circle."

The Capitals never looked like they were in the game be it with the ball or the bat, crumbling under the weight of the mammoth total, the sec-

Azarenka, Kalinina move into 3rd round



Victoria Azarenka celebrates a point win over Elisabetta Cocciaretto of Italy.

■ At Charleston Open

Charleston (US), Apr 04 (AP):

Victoria Azarenka and Anhelina Kalinina both advanced into the third round at the rain-delayed Charleston Open on Wednesday after their matches were delayed several hours.

Azarenka, seeded 12th at the season's first clay-court tournament, defeated Elisabetta Cocciaretto 6-1, 6-2 while the 15th-seeded Kalinina ousted past

champion Caroline Wozniacki 6-2, 6-3.

Wet weather slowed progress with players in the first matches not heading to play until 5:30 p.m.

Matches originally scheduled for Wednesday night, including defending champion Ons Jabeur, the second seed, against Miami Open winner Danielle Collins, and 2016 Charleston champion Sloane Stephens against Leylah Fernandez, have been postponed.

Mayank Yadav can be fast-tracked into international cricket: Broad



Mumbai, Apr 04 (PTI):

Indian pace sensation Mayank Yadav does not need to go through the domestic grind and can be fast-tracked into international cricket which will toughen up his body for the inevitable injury breakdowns,

feels England fast bowler great Stuart Broad.

Broad, who retired from all formats last year with 604 Test wickets, feels that like him, Yadav too can learn at the highest level by starting young but must also brace himself for the ups and downs.

"I don't think he needs to come through a grind of playing (domestic) cricket, his body will naturally harden up with the quality of cricket he is going to play," Broad, a member of the Star Sports Incredible Star Cast, told PTI in an exclusive interaction at the channel's studio here. "He has got a really smooth run up, he has got a brace front-leg delivery (when the bowler's leg acts as a brake to help transfer the run up speed into action), he knows the line and length, he is trying to bowl and has genuine pace," he said.

Pant fined Rs 24 lakh for second over rate offence



Visakhapatnam, Apr 04 (PTI):

Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant has been fined Rs 24 lakh for a second over rate offence in the 2024 Indian Premier League.

Pant was guilty of maintaining a slow-over in the game against Kolkata Knight Riders here on Wednesday. The rest of his teammates were fined 25 per cent of their match fees.

"Rishabh Pant, the Delhi Capitals captain, has been fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during their TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match against Kolkata Knight Riders..." said the IPL in a statement. "As it was his team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences, Pant was fined INR 24 lakhs." "The rest of the members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined either INR 6 lakhs or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser," it added. Delhi Capitals lost the game to KKR by 106 runs after the latter smashed 272 for seven, the second highest total in IPL history. It was Delhi Capitals' third loss in four games.

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Prez launches India's first homegrown CAR T-cell therapy

For cancer patients
Mumbai, Apr 04 (PTD):

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday launched India's first indigenously-developed CAR T-cell therapy for cancer treatment, hailing it as a major breakthrough that provides "new hope for humankind" in the battle against the disease.

Developed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and Tata Memorial Centre, the gene-based therapy is being rolled out in India at about one-tenth of its price outside the country, a senior official said.

Speaking at the launch event at IIT Bombay here, Murmu said the indigenous development of the therapy was an example of the Make in India initiative. A CAR T-cell therapy involves modifying a patient's T cells (a type of immune system cell) in the laboratory and using them



President Droupadi Murmu addresses during the launch of the first indigenous CAR-T cell therapy, in Mumbai, Thursday.

to attack and destroy cancer cells. The 'NexCAR19 CAR T-cell therapy' is the country's first 'Made in India' CAR T-cell therapy which is expected to bring down the cost of treatment significantly. This therapy is considered a phenomenal advance in medical sciences, the president said in her speech.

"The development of this therapy is also an example

of the 'Make in India' initiative and speaks volumes about Indian scientists and physicians," she said.

"The launch of India's first gene therapy is a major breakthrough in our battle against cancer. As this line of treatment, named CAR T-cell therapy, is accessible and affordable, it provides a new hope for the whole of humankind," Murmu added.

Sudeep Gupta, director of the Tata Memorial Centre, said the CAR T-cell therapy was enormously expensive and out of the reach of an overwhelming majority of people.

NexCar19 needs to be custom manufactured for every patient under the most stringent conditions, but it has been rolled out at approximately one-tenth of the price at which it is available outside India, he said. IIT Bombay director Prof Subhasis Chaudhuri said the treatment costs approximately Rs 4 crore abroad against Rs 30 lakh in India. The low-cost CAR T-cell therapy is a huge achievement for the country and for cancer patients, and places India firmly on the global map of cell and gene therapy, he said.

"Just like Chandrayaan-3 that launched India's entry into elite space club, the CAR-T cell therapy heralds India's entry into the cell and genetic engineering group," Chaudhuri said.

Pappu Yadav files nomination from Purnea LS seat

As independent

Purnea (Bihar), Apr 04 (PTD):

After being denied a ticket by the Congress, former MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav on Thursday filed his nomination papers from the Purnea Lok Sabha seat in Bihar as an independent candidate.

As per the seat-sharing arrangement for Bihar, the RJD, the Congress senior ally in the state, will contest Purnea.

No Congress leader accompanied him when Yadav reached the office of the returning officer to file his nomination papers, riding on a motorcycle.

Moments before filing his nomination, the disgruntled Congress leader said, "I will be with the party till my last breath."

Talking to reporters after filing his nomination



Congress leader Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav rides a bike during a procession before filing nomination as an independent candidate for the upcoming Lok Sabha election, in Purnea, Thursday.

papers, Yadav said, "I have the support of Congress. I am contesting as an independent candidate...many people conspired to end my political career. The people of Purnea have always supported Pappu Yadav above caste and creed. I will strengthen the INDIA alliance...and I resolve to make Rahul Gandhi stronger."

Yadav said he filed his nomination because "people in Purnea wanted me to contest".

"I will keep fighting for the welfare of the people of Purnea, Seemanchal and Bihar," Yadav said.

Pappu Yadav had won the Purnea seat thrice in the 1990s.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) candidate Bima Bharati already filed her nomination papers from the Purnea constituency in the presence of RJD

ELECTION TRAINING



An electoral officer demonstrates the functioning of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) during a training programme for polling officials, ahead of Lok Sabha elections, in Mumbai, Thursday.

Manjunath vs Manjunath in Rural Bengaluru LS seat

Ramanagara (Karnataka), Apr 04 (PTD):

With multiple namesakes in the fray against him in the Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha seat, BJP candidate Dr C N Manjunath on Thursday said that these are old strategies which "show panic" in the rival camp.

Manjunath was speaking to reporters here after filing his nomination papers.

"These are very old strategies. I will not call it anything else but strategy. This shows that some people are panicked," Dr Manjunath, a renowned cardiologist, who was the director of government-run Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, said.

Dr Manjunath has many namesakes as competitors in this election. The near-

est is Manjunatha C N who is a native of Channarayapattana in Hassan district, whose father's name is Nanjundappa. Dr Manjunath's father's name is Nanjappa. The passport photographs of both these candidates show them in a black blazer and tie.

Other namesakes are Manjunath K from Papareddyapalya in Bengaluru, N Manjunatha from Indiranagar slum in Rajajinagar in Bengaluru and Manjunath C from Shakti Garden in Mudalpalaya in Bengaluru.

"People are wise, educated and thoughtful. They know that I am contesting on the lotus symbol from a national party BJP as an NDA candidate," Dr Manjunath said. He ruled

out chances of any confusion that the presence of many namesakes would create among voters.

Dr Manjunath is the son-in-law of former Prime Minister and JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda and brother-in-law of former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy. The BJP and JD(S) entered into an alliance in September last year.

While BJP is fighting the election in 25 constituencies, JD(S) is contesting in three - Kumaraswamy from Mandya, his nephew Prajwal Revanna from Hassan and M Malleesh Babu from Kolar. However, as part of their seat-sharing agreement between both parties, the BJP decided to field Manjunath as their candidate.

ED attaches Rs 31-cr worth Ranchi land 'belonging' to Soren

Court takes cognisance of charge sheet

Ranchi, Apr 04 (PTD):

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached land measuring 8.86 acre, allegedly owned by former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren in Ranchi, as part of a money laundering investigation against him and his associates, the federal agency said on Thursday.

It had filed a charge sheet against the 48-year-old JMM leader and four others - Bhanu Pratap Prasad, Raj Kumar Pahan, Hilariyas Kachhap and Binod Singh - on March 30 before a special

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court here.

The court took cognisance of the prosecution complaint on Thursday, the ED said in a statement.

The ED requested the court for confiscation of the 8.86-acre plot.

Soren was arrested in this case by the ED in January after he was questioned at his official residence in Ranchi by the ED.

He had resigned as the chief minister before that. He is currently lodged in the Birsa Mundal central jail at Hotwar in Ranchi under judicial custody.

The money laundering investigation stems from multiple FIRs registered by

Jharkhand Police in land "scam" cases against several persons including government officials.

The prime accused in the case is former Jharkhand revenue department official and custodian of government records Prasad, who is alleged to have "misused" his official position by providing assistance to several persons including Soren in their activities linked to illegal occupation, acquisition and possession of proceeds of crime in form of landed properties, the agency said in a statement.

"A racket of land mafia is active in Jharkhand which use to forge the land records in Ranchi," it claimed.

Probe found, the ED said,

the ownership records of lands have also been "forged" to extend favours to the said land mafia and subsequently, on the basis of forged land records, such land parcels are sold to other persons.

"Original land records of ownerships are either tampered or concealed to facilitate unlawful acquisition, possession and use of such properties," it said.

Prasad, the ED said in its charge sheet, was a member of a syndicate which was involved in acquiring lands by fraudulent means which included tampering with original government registers, falsification of government records and manufacturing fake documents.

HC IN NAXAL CASE 'Mere delay in trial in grave offences not ground for granting bail'

Mumbai, Apr 04 (PTD):

Mere delay in trial pertaining to grave offences by itself cannot be a ground to grant bail, the Bombay High Court said while rejecting bail to a 38-year-old man arrested for his alleged involvement with Naxals and for facilitating the 2019 Gadchiroli blast case that killed 15 police personnel.

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Manjusha Deshpande said accused Kailash Ramchandani had knowingly facilitated a terrorist act and that there was prima facie evidence of his complicity in the case.

The court on March 5 dismissed the plea filed by Ramchandani. A copy of the order was made available on Thursday.

"Mere delay in the trial pertaining to grave offences by itself cannot be a ground to enlarge an accused on bail, dehors the facts," HC said.

"We cannot be oblivious of the fact that 15 police personnel were killed in a mine blast, which took place on 1st May 2019," the court added.

The evidence submitted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the prosecuting agency, prima facie indicates the

complicity of Ramchandani in the conspiracy, the HC said.

"Ramchandani was in touch with the Naxals. He would visit the jungle and had informed the co-accused of the passing of the police vehicle on the fateful day. Thus, we find the appellant (Ramchandani) had knowingly facilitated the commission of a terrorist act," the court said.

Ramchandani (38), a businessman, was arrested in July 2019 and has been charged under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime

Act (MCOCA).

Ramchandani sought bail on merits and also on the ground of delay in the commencement of the trial as even charges had not been framed in the case till date. He also sought parity with co-accused Satyanarayana Rani, who was granted bail by HC in 2022.

Ramchandani is accused of passing on information about vehicular movements of the Quick Response Team (QRT) personnel, 15 of whom were subsequently killed along with a civilian in an attack by Naxals near Jambhulkheda village in Gadchiroli district in May 2019.

TRADITIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT



Assamese actor Gayatri Mahanta plays a traditional musical instrument during the inauguration of 'Bor Asom' Bihu exhibition, in Guwahati, Thursday.

Savarkar's kin questions delay in probe into defamation complaint

Against Rahul Gandhi

Pune, Apr 04 (PTD):

Satyaki Ashok Savarkar, a grand-nephew of Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, on Thursday alleged that there was an inordinate delay by Pune police in the probe of his criminal defamation complaint against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

The probe should be expedited, he told reporters here after police on April 2 sought more time from a local court to submit a report on the complaint.

Satyaki Savarkar filed a complaint in the court last April, accusing the Congress leader of making false claims about the late revolutionary in a



Satyaki Ashok Savarkar

speech in London in March 2023.

Gandhi claimed in his speech that Savarkar had written in a book that he and five to six of his friends once beat up a Muslim man and he (Savarkar) felt happy, the complaint alleged.

No such incident had ever taken place, and Savarkar never wrote any such thing anywhere, it said, terming Gandhi's al-

legation as fictitious, false and malicious.

Speaking at a press conference here on Thursday, Satyaki Savarkar said the court had earlier asked Vishrambaug police to verify the proof submitted by him, and file a report by May 27. In such cases, the court generally asks for preliminary probe and then decides whether there are enough grounds to register a First Information Report (FIR).

He had submitted a YouTube link of Gandhi's London speech as proof, Satyaki said.

"The court issued the orders in January this year, but so far nothing concrete has been happened in the probe. Why is there a delay? Is it that YouTube is not responding to the po-

lice's query, or are the police under pressure?" asked Savarkar, adding that he expected police to file their probe report in time. His lawyer Sangram Kolhatkar said that Vishrambaug police on April 2 sought more time for submitting a report, claiming that YouTube did not give them required information.

As per the order copy provided by Savarkar's lawyer, the court noted that information was awaited from YouTube, and police had sought a date after the Lok Sabha elections as they would be busy with security duties during the polls. Time was being granted accordingly, the court said, though the order

did not mention the next date. Satyaki, meanwhile, also said he was appealing to Maharashtra Home Minister Devendra Fadnis to look into the issue so that V D Savarkar got justice.

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