



CENTRAL Chronicle



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LIQUOR SCAM

SC quashes ED case against former IAS officer, son

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI): The Supreme Court on Monday quashed the money laundering case against former IAS officer Anil Tuteja and his son Yash in the alleged Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam in Chhattisgarh, saying there were no proceeds of crime.



IAS officer Anil Tuteja and his son Yash.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan quashed the complaint after noting that since no ex-facie scheduled offence (main offence) exists against them, no offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was made out.

"As there is no scheduled offence, there cannot be any proceeds of crime as defined under clause 2(u) of the PMLA. If there is no proceeds of crime, the offence under PMLA is not made out," the bench ruled.

Additional Solicitor

General SV Raju, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate (ED), indicated that the probe agency may lodge a fresh complaint against the accused in view of additional material the agency has recovered during the investigation.

The bench said it is not going to intervene in the proceedings which are likely to be initiated.

On April 5, the top court had indicated that it may quash the money laundering case against the father-son duo, saying there were no proceeds of crime.

'Corrupt Congress overlooked needs of poor'

I ended party's licence to loot

Jagdalpur, Apr 08:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hit out at the opposition Congress, saying it overlooked needs of the poor for decades since Independence and never understood their pain.



'PM failed' to protect rights of tribals'

Addressing the BJP's 'Vijay Sankalp Sankhad' rally in Bastar district, which will go to polls on April 19, he also said the Congress' manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections has the imprint of the Muslim League. During the Congress regime, corruption had become the country's identity, and the party thought it had a licence to loot, he said.

The Congress on Monday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "failed" to protect the rights of tribal communities in Chhattisgarh and asked whether he will ever meaningfully commit himself to tribal welfare. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posed questions to Prime Minister Modi ahead of his rally in Bastar. "The dealings of the BJP here (Bastar) have shown that their friendship with corporate cronies runs much deeper than their sense of duty to the people," he said.



Jairam Ramesh

How many will be jailed before polls?: SC's big remark

New Delhi, Apr 08: Observing that everyone who makes allegations on social media cannot be put behind bars, the Supreme Court on Monday restored the bail to a YouTuber who was accused of making derogatory remarks against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin in 2021.

"If before elections we start putting behind bars everyone who makes allegations on YouTube, imagine how many will be jailed?" a bench of justices

Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan told senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Tamil Nadu government, as it set aside the order cancelling A Duraimurugan Sattai's bail. The apex court said that the accused did not misuse his liberty by protesting and expressing his views and also rejected the request of the state government to impose a condition on Sattai to refrain from making scandalous remarks while on bail.

Bihar has 'maximum anti-incumbency': Prashant Kishor

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI): Political strategist Prashant Kishor has said that Bihar has a lot of space for a new party as it has "maximum anti-incumbency" following the nearly 35-year rule of ideologically similar formations headed by either Lalu Prasad Yadav or Nitish Kumar. His comments came as his ongoing 'Jan Suraj' yatra through his home state is expected to end with the formation of a political party before the assembly polls in the latter half of the next year.

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ये हैं मोदी की गारंटी

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Rice Mill gutted in fire at Durg

Bhilai, Apr 08:

A rice mill was gutted in a fire at village Kuthrel in Durg in the wee hours of Monday. Fire destroyed the mill causing a loss of over Rs 50 lakhs. Fire tenders from Durg conducted fire fighting operations and doused the flames.

According to information, the mishap occurred at the Rice Mill of Chhagan Lal Chadak situated at village Kuthrel of Anda Police Station limits. The control room of Fire and Emergency services received information regarding the mishap around 05:00 hrs



after which Fire tenders were sent to the spot. The first fire tender reached the spot around 05:20 hrs. The firemen discovered that it was a massive blaze after which three more fire tenders were sent to the spot. Fire was spreading fast due to dry paddy and gunny bags. The firemen managed to prevent the fire from spreading and with sustained efforts, doused the flames completely. Fortunately, there were no casualties. It is suspected that an electric short circuit triggered the fire. Further investigations are on.

BMC imposes fine for blocking drains

Bhilai, Apr 08:

The health department of Bhilai Municipal Corporation carried out a special campaign and took action against the people who blocked or encroached the drains. They collected Rs 14000 as fine. To prevent water logging during rainy days, the Municipal Corporation Bhilai is conducting cleaning works of small and big drains. Plenary action is also being taken against those who conduct illegal construction, put goods on the drains or who cause choking of drains by dumping garbage. The Commissioner is also visiting different areas to monitor the cleaning work.

On the instructions of Commissioner Devesh Kumar



Dhruv, all the zone commissioners are conducting morning visits to inspect the city sanitation works. On Monday, when Zone-2 Commissioner Yesha Lahare reached Vrindanagar Gaurav Path with her team, she found that the owner of Rajni Tiles shop had

placed the selling material on the drain. The material was creating obstruction in the cleaning of the drain. A Rs 2000 fine was imposed on the owner of this Tiles Shop. Similarly, Rs 5000 were recovered from Maya Yadav of Supela, Rs 5000 from Mintu Singh in Kailash

Nagar and Rs 2000 from Ashok Kumar.

It needs to be mentioned here that the health staff of the zone regularly visited the area and counselled the people who were creating obstructions in the drain. They were given time to remove the illegal construction and building material. When the BMC team revisited the area, they found that there was no change in the situation and the drain was blocked. Action has been taken against those people who did not remove the obstacles even after counselling. On the instructions of the Commissioner, keeping in mind the size of the drains in all the zone areas, deep cleaning of drains is being done using JCB machines and workers.

Corporator resorts to agitation against her party's local government

After endless water woes at Bhatapara of Kohka**Bhilai, Apr 08:**

The Bhatapara area of Kohka is suffering from water woes for the last 25 years as the local civic body has failed to ensure water supply in this area. Aggrieved residents led by the local INC Corporator staged a demonstration on Tuesday. Later, Mayor Neeraj Pal reached the dharna spot and assured for making water arrangements through bore wells and tankers.

On Monday, residents of Kohka Ward 13 Bhatapara launched a dharna as they



have been deprived of water supply for the last 25 years. Under the leadership of Ward 13 Corporator Anju Sinha, they staged a

protest and raised slogans against the working style of the civic body administration.

The people said that it

has become difficult to even fetch two buckets of water. High rise water tank has been constructed recently in Kohka, but even

after 7 years, about 600 families of Bhatapara, Hagri pond and Bandhan pond area are deprived of water supply.

Mayor Neeraj Pal reached the protest site and assured the people that water arrangements would be made immediately. It will take time to deliver water through pipelines. Considering the situation, he immediately instructed the officials to make arrangements for water supply through bore wells and water tankers in the affected areas.

Mayor Neeraj Pal said that it is the first priority to provide basic facilities to the people. Water supply arrangements will be made within two days. He said

that people will not have to wander for water.

The women of Ward 13 said that they do not want water from the tanker and need a permanent solution. They said that the tanker will make arrangements for 10 days, after which the situation will remain the same. The women asserted that the BMC administration should supply water to their homes through pipelines.

Ward 13 Corporator Anju Sinha said that highly aggrieved denizens resorted to agitation on Monday. She said that there is a great problem with water in the locality. Unfortunately, the corporation was not paying attention.

Alert officials avert fire mishap at Union Bank

**Bhilai, Apr 08:**

The alert staff of Union Bank of India averted a fire mishap at the Supela branch on Monday. According to information, a ceiling fan caught fire possibly due to overheating. The bank staff responded immediately and used the fire extinguishers to douse the flames.

People spotted emerging smoke from a fan around 12:00 hrs at the Union Bank branch located at Supela Square. The panicked customers rushed out of the building. Meanwhile, some bank employees used the portable fire extinguishers and doused the flames. They managed to prevent the fire from spreading and causing loss.

First randomization of EVM / VVPAT conducted

**Bhilai, Apr 08:**

Under the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, the EVMS to be used in the Lok Sabha constituency 07 Durg were randomised on Monday. The first randomization was conducted in the presence of Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Chaudhary, 3102 ballot units, 1875 control units and 2012 VVPAT are available in the district, out of which BU-100, CU-100 and VV-PAT 100 have been isolated for training

and awareness. A total of 1385 polling stations have been set up in all the assembly constituencies of the district, including 246 polling stations in Patan assembly constituency, 230 in Durg rural assembly constituency, 224 in Durg city assembly constituency, 169 in Bhilai Nagar assembly constituency, 256 in Vaishali Nagar assembly constituency and 260 polling stations are there in Ahiwara assembly constituency. After randomization, additional EVMS

including BU-1342, CU-115 and VVPT - 114 will be kept safe. Additional Collector Arvind Ekka, Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer Bajrang Dubey and Additional Collector Yogita Dewangan, Joint Collector Harvansh Singh Miri, Deputy Collector Lavkesh Kumar Dhruv, ARO Sonal David, Deepak Nikunj, Mukesh Raote, Mahesh Gupta, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Amit Parihar and representatives of political parties were present.

BSP employees of Merchant & Wire Rod Mill, felicitated with Shiromani Awards

Bhilai, Apr 08:

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant employees of the Merchant & Wire Rod Mill (MWRM) 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. Munish Kumar Goyal, CGM (MWRM) was the chief guest of the Award Ceremony. Mementos and Certificates were presented to all the awardees.

Mukesh Singh Thakur, Dy Mgr (Operations-WRM), and Deepak Tiwari Dy Mgr (Operations-MM) were awarded 'Pali Shiromani' Awards for their performance during the quarter of October to December 2023.

The 'Karm Shiromani' awardees included Rajiv Reddiwar, Chargeman cum Master Operator (Operations-MM), and



Ayodhya Kumar Verma Master Technician (WRM) for October 2023, Pushpak Raj Deshmukh, Chargeman cum Sr Technician (MM), and Maheshwar Prasad, Master Technician (WRM) for November 2023, and Shiv Kumar Mahajan, Chief Master Operator (MM), and Narela Hari Narayan, Master Operator (WRM) for December 2023.

For the month of

January 2024 Karm Shiromani awardees included Sanjay Kumar, Chief Master Technician (MM), and Irshad Ahmed, Master Operator (WRM), Narayan Singh Netam, Master Operator (MM), and Babu Rao, Master Operator (WRM) for February 2024, and Pramod Kumar Singh, Master Operator (MM), and Ravindra Kumar Nagle, Master Operator (WRM) were awarded

Karm Shiromani for their commendable performance in the month of March 2024.

Chief Guest MK Goyal, in his address congratulated the awardees and encouraged everyone present to work in the future with the same spirit while keeping strict adherence to safety protocols.

Respective section heads, including SK Harirmani, GM (MM), NK Khare, GM (WRM), SK

Nayak, GM (MM), Anupama Kumari, GM (WRM), and Birendra Kumar, DGM (MM) were present on this occasion, along with other Senior Officials and departmental employees in large numbers. Samayla Ansari, Dy Mgr (Pers-Mills Zone-1) compered the programme and proposed the Vote of Thanks.

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.

JLN Hospital launches 'Mission Lakshmi' on World Health Day

Bhilai, Apr 08:

On the occasion of World Health Day-2024, SAIL Bhilai Steel Plant's Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Centre, in association with the Corporate Social Responsibility Department (CSR) launched 'Mission Lakshmi' - a women's comprehensive health related scheme on Monday. Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A) inaugurated 'Mission Lakshmi' by unveiling its logo in the presence of Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS), JY Sapkal, CGM (TSD&CSR), Dr Pramod Binayake, Dr Vineeta Dwivedi, Dr K Thakur, CMOs (M&HS), SM Shahid Ahmad, GM (M & S - medical), Shivratan, GM (CSR) ACMOs of M & HS Department, Senior Consultants, Para-Medical Staff, hospital staff, departmental employees of CSR and M&HS Departments, Women Contractual Workers in large numbers.



healthcare including free health check-up, health related information, distribution of health supplements like Iron, Folic Acid and Albendazole tablets and diagnostic facilities like blood haemoglobin level test and Pap smear, would be provided to young girls and women. The theme of World Health Day-2024 is 'My Health, My Right'.

Chief Guest Pawan Kumar stated that 'Mission Lakshmi' has indeed been named aptly. Lakshmi is the Goddess of wealth, and in today's scenario, good health is perhaps our true wealth. Having good health, one can earn money in life. Through 'Mission Lakshmi', comprehensive

women's healthcare shall be ensured, he said.

Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS) in his address stated that women are progressing in all areas of life. While being busy with domestic chores at home, and looking after their family and work, women are often not able to pay required attention to their own health. This mission has been initiated to ensure their comprehensive health care, Dr Ravindranath said.

Dr Nisha Thakur shared insights on symptoms, diagnosis and prevention of Breast cancer and gynecologic cancers, while Paromita Dasgupta gave detailed information about balanced diet. Consultants of Hospital's

Obstetrics & Gynaecological Department resolved the doubts and questions related to anaemia and cancer posed by the attendees of the programme. A Quiz based on women's health was also conducted by Dr Priya Sahu.

The programme began with lighting of the ceremonial lamp. At the outset Dr Manisha Kango, ACMO (M&HS) presented the Welcome Address and provided brief information on 'Mission Lakshmi'. Dr Shubhasmita compered the programme, while Dr Roshan Hussain ACMO (M&HS) proposed Vote of Thanks.

In the first phase of this scheme, women contractual workers engaged in

BSP's hospitals have been included under 'Mission Lakshmi', whereby they will be provided timely health check-up, adequate counselling and medical treatment. It is noteworthy that SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant organises several health care programs and awareness workshops from time to time, aimed at welfare of its women employees.

The year 2024 marks the 76th Anniversary of World Health Organisation, and as a part of celebration WHO has chosen 'My Health, My Right' as the theme of World Health Day 2024 which focuses on the fundamental human right: access to quality health care, education and information.

Lok Sabha polls 46 candidates in fray for three seats including Rajnandgaon

Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund and Kanker Lok Sabha segment which goes to poll on April 26. Maximum 19 candidates are in the Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha seat which would witness contest against former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel as the Congress candidate against the sitting MP Santosh Pandey. While 18 candidates are in fray in Mahasamund seat, 9 candidates would be contesting in Kanker (ST) seat. Former Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu is the Congress nominee against former MLA Rupkumari Choudhary from Mahasamund whereas Bhojraj Nag from BJP would be facing the contest against Biresh Thakur from the Kanker seat which would go to polls on April 26. It is learnt that five candidates have withdrawn their candidature for the above three seats till the last date of withdrawal here on Monday.

HYU: Half the annual examinations over, about 5 lakh answer sheets evaluated

Bhilai, Apr 08:

Almost half of the annual examinations being conducted by Hemchand Yadav University, Durg are over. These mainly include the graduate level BCA and B Com examinations, whereas, the post-graduate level examinations will continue till April 23. Giving this information, Deputy Registrar of Examinations of the University, Dr Rajmani Patel said that till now the university has received about 07 lakh answer sheets of the annual examination from across 70 examination centres of the university. Out of these, about five lakh fifty-five thousand answer sheets evaluation is near completion.

Dr Rajmani Patel revealed that the university administration is trying to declare results of many of the examinations held by April 15, including the courses whose exams have been completed. Dr Patel further revealed that about 75 cheating cases have been registered in the annual examinations of the university. These

will be resolved soon by the Professors' Cheating Case Redressal Committee constituted by the University.

Dr Patel said that various student organizations, parents and students have appealed to the university administration not to confiscate mobile phones in cheating case. The request has been made on the grounds that many students live on rent in the city and they need to make online payment through mobile for their daily expenses but due to mobile being seized in the university, they have to face difficulties every day. Taking immediate cognizance of this, Vice Chancellor, Dr Aruna Palta decided in the meeting of university officers that in case of copying from mobile, the document will be printed from the student's phone in the examination hall itself and after getting it signed by the concerned student, room invigilator and the principal of the examination centre, the mobile will be immediately returned to the concerned candidate.

Congmen resorting to politics over Jheeram valley incident: BJP

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 08: Bharatiya Janata Party's state election in-charge Nitin Nabin has fiercely targeted the state Congress over the Jheeram incident and demanded to expose the inter-linkages of Congress and Naxalites.

In a statement issued here, Nabeen said that today Congress is doing petty politics regarding the Jheeram case and is making fun of the martyrdom of its leaders and the feelings of their bereaved families. Instead of asking questions to the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, why are the Congressmen not daring to ask any questions to the Chief Minister of their

previous government, Bhupesh Baghel, who kept boasting of roaming around with the evidence of the Jheeram case in his pocket and in the entire five years, Neither did Baghel himself do anything in the name of investigation nor did he cooperate with the Central Government in the investigation. Nabeen raised the question that why is the Congress party so kind to the culprit of Jheeram? Everyone knows what today's Leader of Opposition Charandas Mahant said and did immediately after the Jheeram Naxalite attack. Now Rahul Gandhi should answer that even if Congress government was in power in Chhattisgarh for 5 years,

why justice was not given in Jheeram case? Taking aim at Congress State President Deepak Baij, Nabeen said that if Baij wants to question then he should question the BJP Mandal President who defeated him. Baij should tell whether he wants to make Kawasi Lakhma victorious or not, whose demand for even narco test in the wake of the Jheeram incident has been raised from the Congress camp itself. Nabeen took a dig at Rahul Gandhi's visit on April 13 and said that Rahul should reply on Mahadev Satta App. Rahul should answer the state for what he did to cheat every section of the state by breaking the promise.

Congress is dreaming like Mungeri Lal of making Rahul Gandhi the PM

- **BJP's counterattack on Congress's statement**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 08: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Spokesperson Ranjana Sahu said that Congress is dreaming like Mungerilal of making Rahul Gandhi the PM. After the crushing defeat of Congress in the recent Chhattisgarh Assembly elections, the mental balance of Congress leaders has completely deteriorated. In a statement issued here, she claimed that seeing the apparent defeat in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Congressmen are mak-

ing their situation ridiculous by making absurd statements and actions.

BJP Spokesperson said that not only India but the whole world has seen the way the successful Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given direction to the country in the last 10 years. She claimed that Modi has implemented public welfare schemes including housing, toilets, pure drinking water, roads, medical care, expansion of railway services for the poor of the country. Sahu said that Congressmen should get their glasses checked because their eyes are not able to see the development works and schemes happening in the country coming to fruition.

Materials worth over Rs 40 cr including 10 cr cash seized

Raipur, Apr 08: During the code of conduct, Rs. 40,77,00,000 have been seized so far across the state. Out of this, Rs 10 crore 50 lakh in cash, liquor worth Rs 77 lakh, drugs worth Rs 4 crore 77 lakh, gold and silver jewellery worth Rs 2 crore 9 lakh and other products worth Rs 22 crore have been seized.

COLOURFUL DECORATION



Temples have been illuminated with colourful lights for the nine-day festival of 'Navratri' starting on Tuesday.

LS polls: Randomization of EVM and VVPAT among political parties

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Apr 08: For the Lok Sabha elections, the first randomization of EVM and VVPAT machines was done in front of the representatives of political parties for Raipur district today in the Red Cross meeting room. After randomization, the list along with the ID numbers mentioned in the finalized EVM ballot unit, control unit and VVPAT machine was made

available to the political party representatives.

Collector Dr Gaurav Singh has urged the representatives of all parties to ensure a fair and transparent election process. After randomization, the machines will be kept safe in the strong room as per the assembly.

In the process of randomization, there are a total of 1797 polling stations under Raipur district. From this, 20 percent ballot

and control units and 30 percent VVPAT machines were selected. Randomization of 356 ballot units, 356 control units and 535 VV Pat FLC OK machines was done.

Before using EVM and VVPAT machines in polling stations, randomization of the machines is done at various stages for transparency. After randomization, its printout was taken out and copies of it were given to the office bearers of all political parties after getting them signed. On this occasion, District Panchayat CEO Vishwadeep, Deputy District Election Officer Umshankar Bande, Additional Collector Devendra Patel and representatives of political parties were present.

'PM did not speak about tribal issues in Bastar'



- **His govt a friend of industrialists**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 08: The NDA government at the Centre is a well-wisher of industrialists and does not care for the welfare of tribals or the poor, claimed Congress leader Radhika Khara on Monday.

Addressing a press conference here, the AICC spokesperson said Prime Minister

Narendra Modi was silent on the issues facing tribals during his rally in Bastar earlier in the day.

"Chhattisgarh Congress chief Deepak Baij had said if the PM was a well-wisher of people of Bastar, then he should declare that Nagarnar Steel Plant (in Bastar) will not be privatised and locals would be given priority in jobs there," Khara said.

Baij had also asked the PM to speak on a

bill related to reservation of tribals that is pending with the Governor as well as announce stopping of tree felling in Surguja for a "mine of Adani", she said.

"But the PM remained silent on these issues and left after doing jumlebaaji (poll rhetoric). This shows the Modi government is not a friend of the tribals or the poor. It is a well-wisher of only industrialists," she alleged.

Rahul to launch campaign from Bastar on April 13

Raipur, Apr 08: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi would launch the election campaign for the 11 Lok Sabha segments of Chhattisgarh on April 13. He would be addressing the public meeting at Bastar on April 13 which would go to polls on April 19.

According to the information received, several more senior leaders from the Congress would be campaigning in next few days. With the prominent leaders from Chhattisgarh itself contesting the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress has to depend on the central leadership for the campaigning. However, the former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel would be availing to campaign in 7 Lok Sabha seats of third phase of Parliamentary polls after April 26 as the polling in his Rajnandgaon segment would be held in second phase on that day.

Jewellery, cash worth Rs 4.5 lakh stolen

- **From agri varsity officer's house**

Raipur, Apr 08: Lakhs of rupees have been stolen from the house of branch officer of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University. The family members had left home in the evening for different work. Meanwhile, unidentified thieves entered the house and made away with gold, silver jewellery and cash worth Rs 4 lakh 44 thousand.

According to Telibandha police Ajay Sharma, resident of Professor Colony Krishak Nagar Jora, is working as a branch officer in Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur. He had come to Raipur City at around 4 pm on April 5 for work. His wife Rashmi

Sharma and son Aadhar Sharma were present in the house. When the professor returned to the colony at around nine in the night, he saw that the door of the house was open. Ajay called his wife from outside but he did not get any response. When he called her over phone she told that she had gone out for a walk in the colony. After this he went inside the house and saw that the cupboard was open and the locker was broken. The items kept in the cupboard were scattered.

The cash amount kept in the cupboard locker was Rs 3 lakh 35 thousand and gold ring, gold earring, gold earring, silver vessel, silver coin worth Rs 10, 9000 totaling Rs 4 lakh 44 thousand were stolen by unidentified thieves.

Bookie arrested while operating online betting

Raipur, Apr 08:

Police have arrested one Kamal Khatwani for allegedly operating online betting. On strict interrogation over betting operations he told that a person named Pankaj alias Rahul had given him different mobile numbers and IDs for betting operations.

Pankaj alias Rahul also conducts betting operations through the residents of Goa,

Pune and Mumbai. Pankaj is absconding. Kamal Khatwani was arrested and mobile was seized from his possession and action was taken under Gambling Act.

Raipur Police is continuously taking action regarding online betting. On Monday, information was received that a person was conducting online betting through mobile phone near Samleshwari Nagar parking under

Devendra Nagar police station area.

A person of the same description described by the informer was identified and caught. During interrogation, the person revealed his name to be Kamal Khatwani resident of Devendra Nagar, Raipur. When the team members checked the mobile phone kept with him, he was found to be conducting online betting.

Young man crushed to death by elephant

- **Tree villagers save their lives by running away**

Jashpur, Apr 08:

A Villager named Amir Ekka, who had gone to cut trees in Farsabhar forest of Jashpur forest division today, was crushed to death by an elephant. Three other people present there saved their lives by running away. The

Forest Department team reached the spot after getting information about the incident and seized the villagers' motorcycle and a large quantity of wood from the spot.

In fact, an elephant went on rampage for hours at the Lailunga bus stand in Raigarh district. The angry mob chased the elephant into the forest. Angry elephant came to

Farsabhar forest area of Jashpur district and attacked four villagers who had gone to cut wood. Three youths managed to save their lives by running away from the elephant attack.

After receiving information about the incident, forest staff reached the spot and seized 3 bikes and a huge pile of cut wood from the forest.

'Youthfulness is about embracing life's challenges'



- **From screens to souls : Smita Jayakar's path to artistic enlightenment**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 08: On Monday evening, the Prabha Khaitan Foundation hosted an event in collaboration with Ehsaas Women of Raipur under the vertical "The Write Circle" featured the eloquent hosting of Smita Jayakar.

"I didn't start anything, things happened for me," says Smita while recalling her journey. Her introduction is multifaceted and cannot be confined to a single word. Her career has been a journey of experimentation and exploration. Initially, she graced the small screen with her memorable characters. Later, as the curtains rose on the big stage, we witnessed her leaving an indelible mark among renowned names in movies like Devdas, Hum Dil de Chuke Sanam, Safarosh etc... Regardless of the presence of any superstar

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ You know how words are, react and respond responsibly.
- ◆ Our souls are like birds, it's when we balance our inner and outer selves we fly.
- ◆ Don't love become love. Don't change, transform.
- ◆ Why be a reptile and slither when you can be a bird and fly?

in the frame, her talent always captivated the audience. Beyond being a skilled artist, her persona exudes depth and humanity. Today, we also recognize her presence on social media, where she shares anecdotes and experiences from her career and life. During the conversation

with Kirti Kiradatt, Smita delved into the spiritual impact on various aspects of her life and said "Chakras are like flowers, it requires attention and awareness to bloom". She emphasized youthfulness that transcends age—it's about embracing life's challenges, remaining resilient even in adverse circumstances, and continually creating new possibilities.

Aanchal Garcha delivered the welcome note. She is the founder of Budding Bookworms - an exclusive reading, writing and language enhancement program for children, co-founder of Oorja Ladies Society and Literati, a local book club and a fellow Ehsaas Woman. Srishti Trivedi delivered the thank you note. She is a lawyer turned entrepreneur and founder of Project Getout a local community venture, and also a fellow Ehsaas Woman.

Raipur to host International Challenge Badminton in November



- **Decision taken at Annual General Body meeting**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 08: Chhattisgarh State Badminton Association (CSBA) would be organizing CM Trophy International Challenge Badminton Tournament in Raipur from November 12 to 17.

Above decision was taken at the Annual General Body meeting held to discuss the sports calendar for the upcoming months.

Providing the above information, the Joint

Secretary of Association Anurag Dixit said that All India Inter Institutional Badminton Tournament would also be held in Raipur from July 17 to 20 to create an atmosphere for the sports in the region.

He further told that State Badminton Tournament in various age groups would also be held at Raigarh, Janjgir, Surajpur, Dantewada and Mahasamund in next few months.

It is notable that the CM Trophy International Challenge in a major Badminton event in which players from various countries participated in last year's end.

Many MVY beneficiaries yet to get 2nd installment: Cong

Says it will give Rs 8333 to women every month after formation of Cong govt at Centre

Raipur, Apr 08:

Congress has demanded that the government should tell how many women have been credited with the second installment of Mahtari Vandan Yojana (MVY). According to Pradesh Congress Communication head Sushil Anand Shukla most of the women who had received the first installment have not yet received the second installment.

After giving the first installment, the BJP government is not giving the second installment to the women, said Shukla, adding that government is only making statements about giving the second installment.

He demanded that government should make public the names of the women in whose accounts the second installment has been deposited. Questioning BJP's intentions he said that when money was not coming into the accounts of women before the Lok Sabha elections, then it was guaranteed that the

MVY will be scrapped after the Lok Sabha elections. Vishnu Deo Sai's government has proved that lies, rhetoric and broken promises are Modi's guarantee, he said, adding that double engine government is only exploiting Chhattisgarh. He said that married women between 18 to 21 years of age were completely cheated. Even the money of those who were declared eligible has not yet been credited to their accounts, he said. Shukla said that women

will protest against BJP's breach of promise and will form the Congress government at the Centre. If Congress government is formed at the Centre, poor women of the state will get Rs 1 lakh, he said, adding that direct transfer will be done annually. That means approximately Rs 8333 will be given to women every month and Rs 5 lakh will be deposited in the accounts of poor women in 5 years, he said, adding that amount will be deposited by the Congress government.

With the aim of empowering women prisoners through legal rights and providing them information about their rights, Pro Bono Club of Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU) organized an important awareness camp. The event was organized at Raipur Central Jail on 6 April 2024 with the help of Dr Praveesh Kumar Rajput, Convener of Pro Bono and Dr Kaumudi Challa, Convener of Legal Aid and Social Services Committee. Eight students of Pro Bono Club learned about

Pro Bono Club of HNLU organizes awareness camp for women prisoners

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Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Penal Code in the awareness camp. Important provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) were discussed and information was provided to the women prisoners about their human rights.

Leading the student team in the camp, Ms Sarah Samuel talked about the importance of the rights and basic facilities of the prisoners. Discussions were held with about 50 women prisoners, convicted criminals and women in jail under court investigation and important information was provided on their rights and justice.

The camp received significant support from the jail authorities, especially Ms Khushboo Mishra (Jail Superintendent), Praveen Mishra (Secretary DLSA, Raipur) and two DLSA Legal Assistants.

Two-day national seminar organized

By The Amity Law School on 'Navigating the complexities of war: Perspectives & Insights'

Raipur, Apr 08:

The Amity Law School of the Amity University Chhattisgarh, Raipur and National Law Club collaborated to organize a two-day National Seminar titled "Navigating the Complexities of War: Perspectives and Insights."

In his inaugural address Professor (Dr.) Piyush Kant Pandey, Vice Chancellor of Amity University Chhattisgarh, addressed the utilization of warfare from ancient India till today. He emphasized the manner in which the Mauryan and Gupta dynasties exerted their distinctive military strategies to dominate global history. He gave an interesting example of the Great Wall of China to understand the importance of strategic preparation in

any task including the warfare. The keynote speech was given by Dr. Bhavna Mahadew, Lecturer University of Technology, Mauritius illuminated the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its catastrophic effects on humanity. DNLU Registrar Dr. Shailesh Hadli underscored the significance of character in both times of peace and war while emphasizing the difficulties of military leadership. Dr. Pratapsingh B. Salunke MNLU expounded upon the significance of language and effective communication in the resolution of conflicts, emphasizing that while war narratives may be idealized, the actual state of affairs is quite different. Prof. Dr. Vishnu Konoorayar, Hidayatullah National

University, Dr. Aneesh Pillai Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Dr Anju Mishra University of South Bihar shared their expertise. A thorough comprehension of the intricacies pertaining to warfare, international law, and conflict resolution was imparted through the seminar. Through the cultivation of discourse and the exchange of specialized knowledge, Amity Law School maintains its steadfast dedication to the progression of knowledge and the advancement of worldwide peace and stability.



Law University, examined the five levels of warfare and emphasized the increasing peril associated with each level. Author and scholar Professor of HNLU Dr. Yogendra Shrivastava examined the principles of nonviolence and the ideologies of Mahatma Gandhi by extracting insights from a variety of religious texts. According to Mr. Siddharth Deoras Faculty ICFAI, ideological conflicts between commu-

nist and democratic factions escalated during World War II, resulting in a multitude of proxy wars. The Greek Civil War, the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, and the Afghanistan conflict are some examples. These conflicts brought to the forefront the worldwide struggle for democracy.

In the concluding remarks of the seminar, the geopolitical dynamics in the region were analyzed,

with an emphasis on the stability potential created by recent diplomatic developments involving Iran, Arab Gulf states, and the United States. Day two on the event started with an inaugural session presided over by faculty Anirudha Chaudhary KIIT, Raj Kiran Tripathi GNLU, and Ajay Kumar Barnwal Banas Hindu University. The Technical Session further followed it in which Dr Nalini Ambad Savitribai Phule Pune

The conference imparted delegates with a comprehensive understanding of a wide range of subjects, including arms control, international security, war crimes, and justice.

The title sponsor of the National Seminar was Chanakya Law Academy, and the media and knowledge partners were Finology Legal and Law Bhoomi and VC Law Chamber, respectively.

The Event coordinators Dr. Anukriti Mishra and Ms. Shruti Shrivastav, whereas student coordinators Ankit Mahapatra and Aryansh Shukla oversaw the event. The program was well attended by the participants from all over India both online and offline. All faculty and staff members of the ALS supported and attended the program.



The seminar also covered the evolution of warfare, the function of international law in conflict prevention and resolution, and international humanitarian law, all of which were of immense value.

The relationship between academic cheating and teachers is a complex and multifaceted one. Teachers play a crucial role in fostering an environment of academic integrity, and their actions can influence students' attitudes and behaviors. Here are several aspects to consider regarding academic cheating and teachers:

Teachers can actively promote academic integrity by educating students about the importance of honesty, the consequences of cheating, and the value of independent learning. Establishing clear expectations for assignments, assessments, and ethical conduct helps prevent confusion and reduces the temptation to cheat. Teachers need to be vigilant during assessments to detect signs of cheating. This may involve implementing varied assessment methods, observing student behavior, and

using technology tools for plagiarism detection. Teachers play a key role in enforcing academic integrity policies and ensuring that consequences for cheating are consistent and fair. Clear consequences act as a deterrent. Creating an environment where students feel supported and encouraged reduces the likelihood of cheating. When students believe their teachers care about their success, they may be less inclined to resort to dishonest practices. Teachers can contribute to a positive learning environment by providing the necessary resources and support for students to succeed legitimately. Teachers should be aware of the various pressures students face, such as academic stress, competition, and external expectations. Addressing these issues may reduce the likelihood of cheating. Establishing open lines of communication allows students to express their challenges and seek assistance, reducing the need for dishonest shortcuts. Teachers serve as role models for students. Demonstrating ethical behavior, acknowledging mistakes, and emphasizing the importance of integrity contribute to a culture of honesty. As technology evolves, teachers need to adapt their teaching methods and assessment strategies to address new challenges related to academic cheating facilitated by technology. Encouraging collaborative learning environments where students work together to achieve common goals can foster a positive academic culture. Providing individualized attention allows teachers to better understand their students' strengths and weaknesses. This understanding enables them to offer targeted guidance and support, reducing the

likelihood of students resorting to cheating due to feelings of inadequacy or frustration. Offering constructive and timely feedback on assignments helps students grasp concepts more effectively. When students see the value in learning and improvement, they are less likely to engage in dishonest practices. Institutions can provide professional development opportunities for teachers to enhance their knowledge of academic integrity and effective strategies for preventing and addressing cheating. Facilitating a collaborative environment where teachers can share successful strategies for maintaining academic integrity fosters a collective commitment to ethical education. Shifting the focus from rote memorization to critical thinking encourages students to engage with the material more deeply. When assessments

require thoughtful analysis, the incentive to cheat diminishes. Recognizing and accommodating diverse learning styles and preferences can contribute to fair assessment practices. When assessments align with students' strengths and abilities, the temptation to cheat may decrease. Teachers can involve parents in promoting academic integrity by fostering a collaborative relationship. Sharing information about the importance of honesty and seeking parental support can reinforce ethical values at home. In summary, teachers have a vital role in preventing academic cheating by creating a culture of integrity, educating students, and addressing the root causes that may lead to dishonest behavior. Through a combination of prevention, detection, and positive support, teachers contribute significantly to

maintaining academic integrity within educational institutions. The relationship between academic cheating and teachers extends beyond prevention and consequences. Teachers serve as mentors, guides, and advocates for students' ethical development. By adopting a holistic approach that includes personalized attention, professional development, and an emphasis on critical thinking, educators can create an environment that not only deters cheating but also nurtures a culture of integrity, responsibility, and lifelong learning. Through these efforts, teachers play a pivotal role in shaping not just students' academic journeys but their characters and ethical foundations.

By Dr Shraddha Verma
Dean Faculty of Education,
Kalinga University

Jungle Safari to start from 7 am for tourists

Raipur, Apr 08: In view of the summer season the entry time for the tour in Jungle Safari and Zoo under Safari Tourism in Nandanvan Zoo Safari located in Naya Raipur has been changed to 7 am to 4 pm from April 9 onwards. The time has been changed for the tourists to get a better experience of seeing the wildlife.

Nandanvan Zoo and Safari located in Naya Raipur is a beautiful home to a total of 37 wildlife species including mammals and reptiles. Continuous efforts are being made by the Jungle Safari management to provide a better experience in safari tourism.

According to Director of Jungle Safari, Dhammasheel Ganveer Nandanvan Jungle Safari remains a center of attraction for tourists and continuous efforts are being made by the Jungle Safari management in wildlife conservation and tourism development.

Reena Kangale inspects strongroom and counting center

Reena Kangale inspects strongroom and counting center



Instructions given to ensure all necessary preparations for smooth voting

Raipur, Apr 08:

Chief Electoral Officer, Chhattisgarh, Reena Babasaheb Kangale, during her visit to Dantewada on Monday, inspected the strongroom and various polling centers and gave instructions to ensure all necessary preparations

for smooth voting. Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Kangale took information regarding security arrangements in the strong room and counting centre. She inspected the counting room and gave instructions to prepare a media center in the counting center premises and ensure necessary arrangements for the media representatives. On this occasion Collector and District Election Officer, Mayank Chaturvedi and other officials were present.

'Academic cheating and teachers'

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OBITUARY

Rajesh Jacob

Rajesh Jacob, age 58 years, resident of Tatibandh, Raipur passed away on April 06. His final rites service will start at 3 pm on April 9 from HIG 24, Tatibandh, Raipur. The burial service will be held in Hirapur cemetery. He was survived by wife, Mrs. Leena R. Jacob, Principal, MGM School, sons Ashley and Ansel. Daughter-in-law Steffi, Mother Mariamma Chako and siblings Shobhana, Sadhna and Ranjana.

RKC wins regional sports & cricket tourney 2024



Raipur, Apr 08:

It is heartening to note that there was an Under-17 Boys Cricket Tournament that was organised by CISCE (Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination, New Delhi) to promote Regional Sports and Games in Chhattisgarh. Seven Schools had participated in this tournament, which took place in Rajkumar College, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) on April 4, 5 and 6. The seven participating schools were Rajkumar College, Raipur (the host), The Radiant Way School, Raipur, St. Anne's English Medium School, Banjari, St. Mary's English Medium School, Raipur, Carmel

Convent Senior Secondary School, Raigarh, Salem English School, Raipur and Carmel Public School, Tilda. The result of the final match is as follows-

In the low-scoring finals, The Radiant Way School, Raipur lost all 10 wickets with the scoreboard showing a meagre 55 runs in 14 overs as the bowlers and the fielders of the host team of Rajkumar College, Raipur restricted the guest team to the lowest defending score of the 3-days long Cricket Tournament! The host managed to score 56 runs in only 4.3 overs with the loss of just 1 wicket! Thus the host Rajkumar College, Raipur won the Final match comfortably by 9

wickets and Vedansh Khedia of RKC, (with 38 not out and 1 wicket in the Finals) was adjudged as the Man of the Match in the Finals. Vedansh of RKC also won the coveted title of the Player of the Tournament, with a whopping personal score of 277 runs and 10 wickets in the 3-day long Cricket Tournament. The Honourable Board Members of Rajkumar College, Principal Lt. Col. Avinash (Veteran), Vice Principal, Shivendra Nath Shah Deo, Subedar Major (Hony Capt.) B. Karunakaran, VSM (Retd.) & Saurabh Rizvi (Cricket Coach) highly appreciated the winning team of Rajkumar College.

Gold touches new peak

Crossed Rs 73 thousand per ten grams in Raipur bullion market

Raipur, Apr 08:

Gold has hit a new high due to the influence of the global market. On Monday, the usual price of Gold per ten gm was Rs 73100 in the Raipur bullion market. Silver likewise stayed at Rs 83000 per kilogram in a similar manner. Twenty carat gold touched Rs 61400 and 22 carat gold reached Rs 67250 on Monday in the bullion market. Experts in bullion said that this trend of price fluctuations for gold and silver will persist. In the days ahead, there's a chance that gold prices will rise even more. The price of gold might surpass Rs 75,000 per 10 grams by Akshaya Tritiya. Gold prices have more than doubled over the past five years. According to



Harakh Malu, President of the Raipur Bullion Association, there is still a chance that gold prices would climb. The market is still trending upward. Customers in the bullion market are cautious due to rising prices, leading to more selling than buying. Inquiries about prices are increasing, indicating customers are closely monitoring the market. Lightweight jewellery is being introduced to ease budget strains. The intro-

duction of lightweight jewelry could be a strategic move by bullion institutions to cater to customers looking for more affordable options in light of the price surge. This demonstrates a responsiveness to market demand and an effort to accommodate varying budgets. Bullion traders and jewelers are planning attractive offers for Akshaya Tritiya, aiming to boost sales during the festive occasion.

Classifieds

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Cong, NC finalise seat sharing for LS polls

In J-K, Ladakh**New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTD):**

The Congress and the National Conference on Monday announced contesting the Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh in alliance, with each fielding candidates in three seats.

At a joint press conference here, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said the Congress would contest in Udhampur, Jammu and Ladakh Lok Sabha seats while the National Conference would field candidates in Anantnag, Srinagar and Baramulla.

"I want to formally announce that the National Conference and Congress will jointly contest the elections in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh with three candidates for each

**Congress leader Salman Khurshid and J&K National Conference leader Omar Abdullah during a press conference, in New Delhi, Monday.**

of the two parties," Abdullah said, "The National Conference will support Congress candidates in Udhampur, Jammu and Ladakh seats. The INDIA bloc with contest the polls to help fulfil the aspirations of people of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh

and truly represent them in Parliament," he said.

The seat-sharing agreement was finalised after consultations between the Congress and NC leaders. Member of the Congress seat sharing committee Salman Khurshid was also present during the joint press conference.

Asked whether PDP was still a part of the INDIA bloc, Khurshid said, "PDP is in our alliance. Seat adjustment is one part of the alliance and an overall alliance is a different issue. Since Jammu and Kashmir is small in area, there is not much scope for seat adjustment despite our best efforts."

The PDP has named candidates for three seats in Kashmir, fielding Mehbooba Mufti against DPAP president Ghulam Nabi Azad in Anantnag.

Khurshid said, "The National Conference already has three Lok Sabha MPs and we have decided to give them a chance."

Asked if Omar Abdullah will also contest the polls, the NC leader said in that case one would have to convene another press conference in Srinagar as and when a decision is taken.

VOTING AWARENESS RALLY

**Women participate in a voter awareness rally ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, in Moradabad, Monday.**

IHLD partners with Krafon India to detect active tuberculosis cases

In UP, Uttarakhand

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI): The Institute of Heart and Lung Diseases Research Centre has partnered with Krafon India to detect active tuberculosis cases in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, in line with the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. During its initial phase, the initiative is to conduct active case finding programmes in one district each of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. India aims at eliminating the disease five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals target of 2030. Dr Rahul Chandola, the founder-chairman of the Institute of Heart Lung Diseases Research Centre (IHLD) highlighted its unwavering dedication to contributing to the national TB elimination programme.

NCC Alumni farewell meet at Paradip College

Paradip, Apr 08:

NCC Alumni Association of Paradip College organized a farewell meeting on April 7, 2024 Sunday in the college premises to bid a formal farewell to the outgoing cadets.

Lt. Cdr. Akshaya Chandra Mishra, NCC officer, Paradip College graced the occasion as Chief Guest and gave vent to the past experience of Alumni with conveying good wish and blessings to the Cadets who are to officially leave the college completing their academic programme.

Ambika Prasad Mohapatra, President,



NCC Alumni Association, Paradip College presided over the meeting. Bikram Keshari Moharana, Vice President, NCC Alumni Association coordinated the event. Deviprasad Mishra, Secretary of the association extended his active cooperation and delivered an emotional farewell speech on the occasion.

Quite a large number of NCC Cadets attended the programme. A few teachers of Paradip College joined as invitees and blessed the cadets. At the end S.Cimanchalam, Joint Secretary, NCC Alumni Association extended vote of thanks to all. It was really a wonderful and illustrious moment for all.

Nakia Haji recalls her Eid traditions

Mumbai, Apr 08:

Star Bharat's 'Shaitani Rasmie' lead actress Nakia Haji is leaving no stone unturned to win the hearts of her viewers. Now that Nakia has become everyone's favourite, viewers are also eager to know about her Eid preparations. In an exclusive conversation with Nakia, she shared many important memories related to her Eid traditions, customs and recipes and told the viewers many special things about her Eid preparations.

Talking about the significance of Eid festival and its preparations, actress Nakia Haji said, "For me, Eid is not just a day but much more than that. It is a beautiful tradition where my whole family



gets together to prepare Sev ke Laddu, which we make with a lot of love using ghee and mawa. The

day is not only about delicious food but also about gathering together in this festive moment and shar-

ing a lot of memories."

Further, Nakia expressing her joy of celebrating Eid with her extended family on the sets of 'Shaitani Rituals' says, "This time Eid celebrations are going to be extra special and double as I now have two families - one off-screen with my family and the other on-screen on the sets of 'Shaitani Rituals'.

I am eagerly looking forward to celebrating Eid with both of them and making this beautiful time memorable. The celebrations always create lasting memories that go far beyond the show and are all about the importance of family and reliving old memories with each other. It's a time to get together, strengthen our bonds and cherish these moments."

Hole in one Golf Tournery conducted

Paradip, Apr 08:

Hole In One Golf Tournament 2024 first time conducted at Paradip Golf Club on April 7, 2024 Sunday. The tournament was inaugurated by Mr. Nilabhra Dasgupta, Dy. Chairman, Paradip Port Authority (PPA) cum Patron of Paradip Golf Club. Total 26 nos. of players were participated in the tournament.

Harihar Dash and Asit Kumar Sahoo became champion and runners-up respectively in 0-18 handicap category and Mr. Deepak Sarangi and



Manoj Kumar Mohanta were the champion and

runners-up in 19-24 handicap category respectively.

Nearest to Pin winners was Mr. Bablu Sikdar and

longest drive winners was Sanjeeb Sethy.

The tournament was organized by D.N. Sondhi, President, Paradip Golf club and FA & CAO, PPA, Bablu Sikdar, W o r k i n g P r e s i d e n t, Subhas Acharya, Vice President, Manoj Kumar Mohanta, Secretary, Akshay Chandra Sutar, Captain and all Executive members of Paradip Golf Club in presence of Guest Asish Kumar Bose, Ex Dy. Chairman cum Advisor of PPA. Golf Tournament was organized successfully at Paradip Golf course.

L-G slams Delhi ministers for refusing to attend meetings with him

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTD):

Showing "insensitivity and lack of seriousness", Delhi ministers refused to attend meetings called by Lt Governor VK Saxena to discuss functioning of their ministries following the arrest of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the L-G has said in a letter to the Union home ministry.

Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on March 21 in connection with a money-laundering case linked to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy.

In his letter to the Union home secretary, the L-G said such a consultation was necessary "so that routine works of governance are not hampered" in the backdrop of Kejriwal's detention but the ministers declined his invite on the "specious ground" that the model code of conduct was in force.

"Upon the arrest of Shri Arvind Kejriwal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi and subsequent events, especially those related to public health infrastructure in the city, the impending Summer Action Plan

for water availability, etc playing out in the public domain, Lt Governor had decided to convene a meeting of key ministers of GNCTD dealing with the departments of water, education, health, transport, environment & forest etc," according to the letter from the L-G Secretariat.

An intimation was sent to Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot, Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj for a meeting on April 2, the letter stated.

"However, all the ministers have vide e-mails declined to attend the said meeting on the specious ground that since the model code of conduct is in force, such a meeting would not be appropriate at this stage," it said.

"Hon'ble Lt Governor believes that a consultation of this nature was warranted so that routine works of governance are not hampered in the backdrop of arrest and detention of the chief minister," the letter added.

It was also noted in the letter that "the rationale adduced for not attending the

meeting appears vague and exhibits lack of seriousness and insensitivity to matters affecting the day-to-day lives of the citizens of Delhi".

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I GANESH DUBEY S/O DWARIKA PRASAD DUBEY RESIDENT OF 15/G STREET 5 SECTOR 4 BHILAI 1 DURG (C.G.) 490001 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME GANESH DUBEY S/O DWARIKA PRASAD DUBEY, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME GANESH PRASAD DUBEY S/O DWARIKA PRASAD DUBEY IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

GANESH PRASAD DUBEY
15/G, STREET 5, SECTOR 4, BHILAI 1 DURG (C.G.) 490001

'If voted to power, Cong will transfer Rs 1 lakh into accounts'

Of SC/ST women**Seoni, Apr 08 (PTD):**

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday exuded confidence about winning the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and announced a party-led government will transfer Rs 1 lakh annually into bank accounts of women belonging to SC, ST, and backward categories.

Reaching out to tribals in Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled Madhya Pradesh, Gandhi said they are the original owners of the land and bemoaned that no individual from the community is among promoters of the top 200 companies in the country or part of their senior management.

Addressing a rally at Dhanora in Seoni district, part of the Mandla Lok Sabha constituency which will vote in the first phase on April 19, he assured to provide guaranteed apprenticeships to unemployed youths if the Congress formed the next government at the Centre.

**Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a public meeting ahead of Lok Sabha elections, at Dhanora in Seoni district, Monday.**

He assured that if the Congress came to power, it would settle the indigenous people's claim on their land in just one year.

"Our manifesto mentions three to four revolutionary steps like transferring Rs 1 lakh into (bank) accounts of women belonging to SC and ST categories, backward classes, and for women from poor families. This way we will provide thousands of rupees in their accounts every month," he said.

The Congress has fielded former minister and

MLA Omkar Singh Markam from the tribal-reserved Mandla constituency against the sitting BJP MP and Union minister Fagga Singh Kulaste. The Congress manifesto has also promised to double the money being paid to Asha (community health volunteers) and Anganwadi (child care centre) workers, Gandhi said.

"We will bring a new law to ensure that every unemployed youth in the country gets a one-year apprenticeship in public and pri-

vate sectors during which they will also get Rs 1 lakh as allowance," the former Congress chief said.

After completing the apprenticeship, they will get a job at the same place if they perform well, he added. "After forming a government at the Centre, we will end the contractual system in employment and will fill 30 lakh vacancies in the government sector," Gandhi said.

The Congress government will frame a law to

ensure that farmers get adequate MSP for their crops for which they have been agitating for a long period, the Lok Sabha member from Kerala said.

Gandhi alleged the BJP has been purposely terming tribals as "vanvasis" (forest dwellers) instead of calling them "adivasis" (original inhabitants) with a motive to uproot them from their land and snatch their first right on the water, forest and land.

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India Regional Office Bilaspur, 1st Floor, Opposite Gumber Petrol Pump, Vyapar Vihar Road, Bilaspur, (C.G.) 495004

Requirement of Premises on Rent

Union Bank of India invites proposals for well-constructed premise on lease for Banking purpose at below mentioned places:

Place- Commercial Area/ Region	Desirable Carpet Area
Patalgaon, Dist- Jashpur (Chhattisgarh)	1200 ± 10 % Sq Feet

The proposed premise should preferably be on the Main Road and Ground Floor (with adequate parking space) on rental basis for opening branch including ATM room with separate entrance. The interested person should submit their offer in an envelope superscribing the name of branch location mentioned as above. Inside this envelope, two separate sealed envelopes containing related formats with the name "Technical Bid" and "Price Bid" should be mentioned. Your offer in the prescribed format should be received by 02/05/2024 by 02:30 PM to Regional Head, Regional Office Bilaspur, In front of Gumber Petrol Pump, Vyapar Vihar Road, Bilaspur-495004 (C.G.). These formats can be obtained in-person form the above mentioned office during the office hours (10:00 AM to 05:00 PM) or can be downloaded from Bank's website www.unionbankofindia.co.in under Tender section along with advertisement of this tender. The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Date: 09/04/2024 **Authorised Officer**

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda Estate Tower, Mahamaya Road, Ambilaspur, Distt- Sarguja (C.G.) 497001

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)
[Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice on the date, mentioned below calling upon the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagers to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice / date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below.

The Borrower's / Guarantors' / Mortgager's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for the amounts and interest

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Property Mortgaged & Owner of the Property	Date of Demand Notice Possession Notice affixed on Type of Possession	Amount outstanding as on the Date of Demand Notice
1.	Borrower- (1) M/s. Nitesh Dubey, Proprietor- Mr. Nitesh Dubey S/o. Mr. Mahendranath Dubey.	Equitable Mortgage of residential land and double story building in the name of Mrs. Asha Devi S/o. Mahendra Nath Dubey at plot no./ Khasra No. 2070/98 at Shikari Road, Near to Takiya Road, Ambikapur, Distt- Surgajpur (C.G.) Total area of land 861.112 sqft. (0.008 hect.) Bounded by: North- Balance land of Seller, South- House of Babulal, East- Shikari Road and West- 10 Feet Road.	17.01.2024 05.04.2024 Symbolic Possession	₹ 24,80,062.41/- as on 17.01.2024 together with further interest thereon

Date: 08.04.2024 Place : Ambikapur (C.G.) **Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda**

Illegal excavation going on indiscriminately on govt land

In Kohlatola and Kanamera Panchayat

Khairagarh, Apr 08:

Illegal excavation in Chhuikhadan block of KCG district is in news these days and illegal mining by land mafia is going unhindered with revenue loss to government worth lakhs. If sources are to be believed, due to administrative protection, the morale of illegal diggers in Chhuikhadan area is high and this black business is going on continuously right under the nose of the administration. There are reports that government mineral wealth has been looted in village panchayat Kohlatola and Kanamera under Chhuikhadan district area and villagers have opined that due to the weakness of the administration, illegal miners are fearlessly excavating the mineral wealth like Murum etc.



Despite this, no concrete action is being taken by the sluggish Mineral Department of the district and the responsible Revenue Department officials, as the responsible officers and employees of the administration collude with the mineral smugglers and settle the matter by making transactions among themselves, as a result of which contractors

are carrying out work indiscriminately without any fear, causing loss to the government revenue. If sources are to be believed, excavation of mud is also being done in the name of converting the barren land of poor farmers living in these panchayats into agricultural land and mining mafias have already caused revenue loss of lakhs of rupees to the government due to illegal excavations

against the rules, yet the lack of administrative action against this exposes the nexus of the mafias with the administrative department.

Also the mining mafia does mining at night with JCB machines and supplies the mud through highways and trucks and mining work is done at night and early morning to avoid the eyes of the villagers during the day and for fear of being caught after complaints. There are reports that the Kohlatola-Gadabanja Prime Minister Road, which was built about five years ago at a huge cost of about Rs 50 lakh, has now become very bad and dilapidated due to the pressure of vehicles transporting mud on this route after illegal mining. Villagers say that the district administration should pay attention to the entire matter and investigate and take action.

Minister Tank Ram Verma joins 'Booth Vijay Sankalp' campaign

Kharora, Apr 08:

Under the Booth Vijay Sankalp campaign being run on the call of Bharatiya Janata Party national leadership, Revenue and Disaster Management Sports and Youth Welfare Minister of Chhattisgarh Government, Tank Ram Verma, attended the same in village Kutraud Saklor Parswani Tildabandha Ravana Raveli Padkidih of Suhela Mandal.

The Minister attended the booth, put up the BJP flag, made public contact, met the beneficiaries and addressed the gathering and said that the public trusted PM Modi's guarantee and as soon as the BJP government was formed, Vishnu Dev's government fulfilled all the guarantees, even if it was for 2 years. Be it the outstanding bonus of Rs 18 lakh, be it the Prime Minister's residence, be it Rs 3100 worth of paddy to the farmers or be it the matter of giving



Rs 1000 every month under Mahtari Vandan for the empowerment of women, today the mothers are happy with the amount of the second instalment coming into their accounts, he said.

He also said that PM Modi's government has protected the religion of the country by consecrating the Lord Ram Lala in Ayodhya, Section 370 has

been extended, issues like triple talaq have been resolved, tap water scheme for every house has been implemented in the entire country, and today the public is eager to make PM Modi Prime Minister again.

On this occasion, BJP Mandal President Shiv Kataria, General Secretary Hemant Baghmar, Dhaniram Sahu

Yuva Morcha President Karan Verma, Yugal Kishore Verma, Dinesh Chavre, Kirti Verma, Anupam Aggarwal, Koparam Verma, Gangotri Anil Yadu and other BJP workers and rural people including Santram Verma Jaspal Ratray, Bhagirathi Verma Takeshwar Verma, Thaneshwar Baghmar were present.

Swift action against scrap traders



Khairagarh, Apr 08:

The District Police Department has taken swift action against scrap dealers buying stolen scrap in the district. According to information received, action has been taken against 13 accused in 9 different cases who were found buying and selling stolen goods, in a move to curb theft in the district. Police sources said that

household items and iron items were also seized from the possession of the accused under Section 41 (1+4) J.F. 379 and the total value of the seized goods is said to be around Rs 25 lakh and after this action, all scrap dealers have been given strict instructions not to buy stolen goods and advised those selling stolen goods should immediately complain to the police.

SM Haque appointed Trade Commissioner of Saudi Arabia

By India GCC Trade Council & Asian Arab Chamber of Commerce

Kirandul, Apr 08:

Dr. S.M. Haque is appointed as honourable trade commissioner of Saudi Arabia by India GCC trade council & Asian Arab chamber of commerce with approval of Ministry of external affairs, Government of India. The INDIA GCC Trade commission commissioner meeting held at the Diplomat Club of Qatar was attended by representatives from GCC countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain as well as local ministers, Emirati families and TCCs from 40 countries. The conference aimed to strengthen economic ties, enhance mutual understanding and explore possibilities



of cooperation in various fields and was a grand success. "Dr. S M Haque", Trade Commissioner, TCC Council, India, lauded India's role as a "world patron" and its profound responsibility in promoting peace, leadership and trade relations. He emphasised India's desire to engage with Saudi Arabia and highlighted the peace-building initiatives

undertaken by the India TCC Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. S M Haque, Trade Commissioner, TCC Council, India, appreciated India's role as a "world mentor" and its profound responsibilities in promoting peace, leadership and trade relations. He emphasised India's desire to engage with Saudi Arabia and highlighted the peace-building ini-

tatives undertaken by the India TCC Chamber of Commerce. Trade Ambassador Dr. Asif emphasized the importance of strong people-to-people relations to promote mutual understanding and cooperation, emphasising on economic ties between India and Saudi Arabia.

"AYMAN AL QUDWA, President Asian Arab chamber of commerce" emphasised on the strong and enduring relations between India and Saudi Arabia and highlighted the cooperation in various fields and was a grand success.

"Dr. Asif President Indian economic trade organisation" emphasized the importance of strong people-to-people relations to promote mutual understanding and cooperation, emphasising on economic ties between India and Saudi Arabia.

Foundation Day of BJP held

Kharora, Apr 08:

On the auspicious occasion of Bharatiya Janata Party Foundation Day, the occasion was celebrated today in Ward No. 14 of Kharora Mandal. On this occasion, worship was done by garlanding the oil paintings of Mother India, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

On the occasion of Foundation Day, Bharatiya Janata Party flag was hoisted and Nagar Panchayat President Anil Soni and former District President Dr. Gulab Singh Tikriha, General Secretary BJP's Ghanshyam Chandrakar were also present. Prominently present



were Chhagan Yadav Mandal, Sitaram Yadav, Situ Bhatia, Ramesh Sharma, Murli Dhar Pansari, Sunny Pamwani, Purnendra Padhyay, Mrs. Purnima Dhankar, Mukesh Sahu, Rakash Rathore, Ashok Verma, Rajesh Verma, Ambika Banchor, Seema Verma and other distinguished citizens of the ward participated in the program.

BJP takes out silent rally

In protest against statement by Leader of Oppn

Rajim, Apr 08:

In protest against the statement given by Leader of Opposition Dr. Charandas Mahant against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP on Thursday took out a silent rally from Gayatri Mandir in Rajim to Pt. Sunderlal Sharma Chowk and condemned the statement of Leader of Opposition. Addressing the BJP workers before



the silent rally, former Agriculture Minister and Mahasamund Lok Sabha coordinator Chandrashekhar Sahu said that the statement given by the Leader of Opposition Charan Das

Mahanta about attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a stick is a reflection of his mentality and said that after the Assembly elections, the Congress is already upset after seeing its crushing

defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.

He said that being a senior and experienced Congress leader of Chhattisgarh, Charandas Mahant should keep this in mind that this kind of language should not be used even in political rivalry. On this occasion, Rajim MLA Rohit Sahu said that there is opposition in politics, but Leader of Opposition Charandas Mahant's statement of lathicharge is condemnable.

On this occasion, District BJP President Rajesh Sahu, former

Rajim MLA and Lok Sabha co-convenor Santosh Upadhyay, Assembly Convener Bhagwat Harit, State Working Committee member Dr. Shweta Sharma, former District President Ramkumar Sahu, District General Secretary Anil Chandrakar, District Minister Mileschwari Sahu, Rajim Mandal President Kamal Sinha, Senior leader Ashok Rajput, BJP leader Jitendra Sonkar, District Panchayat member Chandrashekhar Sahu, and a large number of BJP workers were present.

BJP celebrates its foundation day

Nandini-Ahiwara, Apr 08:

The foundation day of Bharatiya Janata Party was celebrated in Ahiwara area on April 6th. On this occasion, a wreath was placed on the photograph of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. BJP workers gathered on the foundation day in the office of State Working Committee member Dau Anand Tamrakar located in Nandini Township Market of Ahiwara and BJP flags were put up in every house.

State Working Committee member BJYM Dau Anand Tamrakar said that Bharatiya Janata Party is the largest political organization in the entire world today. Bharatiya



Janata Party is continuously active towards building a strong, powerful, prosperous, capable and self-reliant India. This time, after crossing 400 in the Lok Sabha elections, Narendra Modi will become the Prime Minister for the third consecutive time and take India further in the direction of

making India a world leader. During this, Mahila Morcha Durg District Minister Mamta Janghel, Durg BJYM special invitee member Rahul Chandel, BJYM Ahiwara Mandal Vice President Sahil Khan, Pritam Yadav, Aryan Jain, Rishi Mudaliar and other workers were present.

Variety of programmes mark annual function at DAVPS

On the theme of 'precious relationship'

Nandini-Ahiwara, Apr 08:

The annual function concluded with great pomp in the huge courtyard of DAV Public School, Nandini Mines with this year's theme of 'Precious Relationships'. In which all the students participated enthusiastically. Chief guest of the program was Bipin Kumar Giri (Executive Director Mines Bhilai Steel Plant) and Smita Giri, special guests Prashant Kumar (Regional Officer DAV Institutions Chhattisgarh Zone A), Kailash Malhotra (M/C Limestone Equipment Planning Bhilai Steel Plant), P. Ekka (G.M. Nandini Mines). There was a dignified presence of Rajkumar Sharma (DAV Monnet Raipur), Ravi Bhaskaran Principal (DAV ACC Jamul), Priyanka Shukla

(DAV Sector-2 Bhilai), Rashmi Sahu and parent representatives Vishwajeet Raut and Sohan Chandrakar.

At the beginning of the program, the lamp was lit and a welcome dance was presented followed by the state song. In this sequence, the Principal of the School Dr. BP Sahu presented the annual report and said that the school is making every possible effort for the overall development of children through academic and co-scholastic activities. The Chairman of the programme P. Ekka in his address said that 'I have full confidence that in this way the school children will perform better in academic and co-scholastic activities and will bring glory to their parents and the school'.

On this occasion the students presented various colorful programs. In the first cultural class on the lines of 'Precious Relationships', the little



ones from UKG Nursery enthralled everyone by showing the importance of parents and their valuable relationship in their unique style. In the same way, the children of classes 1 and 2 gave their presentation on the unique relationship between brother and sister and left everyone's hearts emotional by showing the wonderful relationship between grandparents. After this, the farewell scene of the most unique of priceless relationships, deep as the ocean between the father and daughter, brought

tears in everybody's eyes by showing it in a unique way. After that, Chhattisgarhi dance in which the colors of daughter's life, sweet disputes between brother and sister, sometimes love with her friend as well as daughter's in-laws' house was depicted along with the folk culture of Chhattisgarh.

In this series of programs, a drama was presented by the students in which how children are becoming victims of depression due to the ambitions of their parents and it also conveyed how im-

portant it is to have the support of loved ones to come out of this depression. After this, the important relationship of friendship was presented by the students through Bollywood actors and their special expressions, everyone was thrilled to see the special bond of friendship among all relationships. Later the students presented a dance drama in which an attempt was made to show the sacrifice and sacrifice of the parents, how the parents work hard for their children, educate

them, sacrifice everything for them and when the children grow up, so we move ahead in our life.

Ekka said that in the race of modernity or should I say, people become so engrossed in earning wealth and fame that their God-like parents become victims of neglect. Seeing this, the eyes of the audience were filled with tears. In this sequence, the best presentation was poet Mir Saheb's poem 'Nanda Jaha Re', in which the students showed how rural traditions are becoming extinct in the hustle and bustle of modernity. Along with reminding people about farming practices, rituals and customs used by elders, women, children and other sections of people in olden times, typical Chhattisgarh words in a charming voice made everyone feel the fragrance of Chhattisgarhi soil.

Thereafter, in the night 2022-23, the meritorious students were honoured

and also the teachers of the school, Umashankar Sahu, Amar Bahadur Singh, Bappaditya Bagh and Shri Kishore Chandra Barik were honoured for the highest percentage of marks in their subject in the third examination result. The students of the school who brought glory to the school by passing NEET, JEE etc. examinations were also honoured. During this, the 'sixth edition' of the school's annual magazine 'Vedantika' was released. Also, Vayu Sadan was honoured for its best performance in the inter-house cultural competitions held throughout the year.

Thereafter, special guest Prashant Kumar blessed the students with encouraging words and said that it is the fundamental duty of the school to hone the talents and teach values among the students. Along with education, such cultural activities should be organized from time to time for skill development

of students. People must set high goals in their life and hard work is very necessary to achieve that goal. At the end of the program, the chief guest Vipin Kumar Giri in his blessings praised the excellent performance of the students and while encouraging them said that after parents, educational institutions play an important role in making children good citizens. Teachers provide quality education to make children cultured. The way the students of the school have performed excellently is the result of the tireless hard work of the teachers and students.

At the end of the program, cultural in-charge Mrs. Ranu Khanduja expressed her gratitude. The program was completed under the able guidance of Principal Dr. V.P. Sahu and under the leadership of teachers. The stage was coordinated by Vappaditya Bagh and Pratima Gajpal. The program was concluded with peace lesson.

EU Red Sea navy mission commander hopes for more ships to repel Houthi attacks

Brussels, Apr 08 (AP)

The commander of a European Union naval mission in the Red Sea wants to significantly increase its size to better defend against possible attacks by Houthi rebels based in Yemen, as just four warships are patrolling an area twice the size of the 27-nation bloc.

The EU mission — dubbed Aspidos, from the Greek for “shield” — has escorted 68 ships and repelled 11 attacks since it was established less than two months ago. It only defends civilian vessels and does not take part in any military strikes. The southern part of the Red Sea is deemed a high-risk zone.

“Just a single transit of one of our ships between the two larger distances to the area might take about 10 days, and also to cross the high-risk area takes almost two days,” Greek navy Rear Admiral Vasilios Gryparis, the commander of the mission, told reporters in Brussels on Monday.

He said the high-risk zone “has seen multiple attacks in the past months” ranging from threats and intimidation to “complex attacks” using “shore, air and sea-based assets, drones and ballistic missiles.” No one has been hurt. Nineteen of the 27 EU nations are involved in the mission but only four frigates are patrolling.

Iran-backed Houthi rebels, which control much of Yemen’s north and west, launched a campaign of drone and missile attacks on shipping in the Red Sea in November. They have also fired missiles toward Israel, although those have largely fallen short or been intercepted.

The attacks have hit maritime trade to Egypt and Europe, with only around half the usual number of ships moving through the area.

It’s added up to two weeks of transit time for vessels that want to avoid the Suez Canal, hiking transport costs and shipping insurance.

The rebels have described

their campaign as an effort to pressure Israel to end its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The ships targeted by the Houthis, however, largely have had little or no connection to Israel, the US or other nations involved in the war.

Their campaign has continued despite more than two months of US-led retaliatory airstrikes.

The EU mission also remains “very vigilant” for any spike in attacks following last week’s airstrike, widely blamed on Israel, which destroyed Iran’s consulate in Syria, killing 12 people, including two elite Iranian generals, Gryparis said. Top Iranian officials have promised to retaliate.

RALLY IN US TO SUPPORT PM MODI



Members and supporters of the Overseas Friends of BJP take part in a rally in support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of upcoming Lok Sabha elections in India, in USA.

Trump declines to endorse a national abortion ban

● Says it should be left to the states

New York, Apr 08 (AP):

Former President Donald Trump says he believes abortion should be left to the states in a video released on Monday outlining his position after months of mixed messages and speculation. “Many people have asked me what my position is on abortion and abortion rights,” Trump said in the video posted on his Truth Social site.

“My view is now that we have abortion where everybody wanted it from a legal standpoint, the states will determine by vote or legislation or perhaps both. And whatever they decide must be the law of the land — in this case, the law of the state.”

He declined to lay out a timeline for when he believes abortion should be banned. He went on to describe the current legal landscape, in which differ-

ent states have different restrictions following the US Supreme Court decision ending Roe v. Wade.

“Many states will be different. Many will have a different number of weeks or some will have more conservative than others and that’s what they will be,” he said. “At the end of the day it’s all about will of the people.”

Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, had written on his social media site Sunday night that he planned to issue a statement on “abortion and abortion rights” after he sidestepped questions about when in a pregnancy he believes the line should be drawn.

Republican-led states have ushered in a wave of new restrictions following the overturning of Roe v. Wade in 2022. Democrats believe the fight over abortion rights helps them at the polls and have outperformed expectations in elections since.

“You must follow your

heart on this issue,” Trump said in his message. “But remember, you must also win elections to restore our culture and, in fact, to save our country, which is currently and very sadly a nation in decline.”

Trump had long argued that the Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe gave those who oppose abortion rights “tremendous power to negotiate.”

He said he wanted to use that leverage to strike a deal that he hoped would “make both sides happy” and bring the country “together” — even though the issue is one of the most contentious in American politics, with opponents viewing abortion as murder and proponents seeing it as a fundamental women’s right.

Trump had suggested last month in a radio interview that he was leaning toward supporting a national abortion ban at around 15 weeks of pregnancy — early in the second trimester.

JPMorgan’s Dimon warns inflation, political polarization

● Wars creating risks not seen since WWII

New York, Apr 08 (AP)

The nation’s most influential banker, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon, told investors Monday that he continues to expect the US economy to be resilient and grow this year. But he worries geopolitical events including the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war, as well as US political polarisation, might be creating an environment that “may very well be creating risks that could eclipse anything since World War II.”

The comments came in an annual shareholder letter from Dimon, who often uses the letter to weigh in on broad topics like politics, regulation and global events and what it might mean to JPMorgan Chase, as well as the broader economy.

“America’s global leadership role is being challenged outside by other nations and inside by our polarized electorate,” Dimon

said. “We need to find ways to put aside our differences and work in partnership with other Western nations in the name of democracy. During this time of great crises, uniting to protect our essential freedoms, including free enterprise, is paramount.”

Dimon had particular concerns with continued large amounts of deficit spending by the US government and other countries, as well as the need for countries such as the US to remilitarise and continue to build out green infrastructure, all of which will likely keep inflation higher than investors expect. Because of these issues, Dimon said he is less optimistic that the US economy will achieve a “soft landing,” which he defined as modest growth along with declining inflation and interest rates, compared to the broader market. While he says the investors are pricing in a “70 per cent to 80 per cent” chance of a soft landing, Dimon thinks the chances of such an ideal outcome are “a lot less” than that.

Pakistani man to get 80 lashes for making false allegations against wife

Karachi, Apr 08 (PTD):

In a rare punishment, a Pakistani court has sentenced a man in Sindh province to 80 lashes for refusing to admit the paternity of his child and falsely accusing his ex-wife of adultery.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (Malir) Shehbaz Bohyo convicted Fared Qadir under Section 7(1) of the Offence of Qazf (Enforcement Of Hadd) Ordinance, 1979 for disowning his legal child and making false accusations against his ex-wife, Dawn News reported on Monday. The section of the ordinance reads: “Whoever commits qazf liable to hadd shall be punished with whipping numbering eighty stripes.”

“It is crystal clear that the accused is a liar and had fabricated an allegation of Qazf upon the complainant regarding illegitimacy of her daughter... Thus, he is convicted and sentenced to 80 stripes each under section 7(1) of the Qazf Ordinance, 1979,”

the order said.

The court ruled that after the conviction, his evidence shall not be admissible in any court of law following the confirmation of the conviction from the Federal Shariat Court.

“As the accused is sentenced to whipping only... he shall remain on bail, provided that he agrees to appear at the time and place designated by this court for the execution of the punishment of whipping, following the confirmation of the conviction and sentence by the court of appeal, and submits a bail bond for Rs 100,000,” the verdict said.

The convict’s ex-wife, who got married in February 2015, said they happily lived together for one month and in December 2015 gave birth to a baby girl.

However, her ex-husband failed to provide maintenance or take her back to his home. When she moved to a family court the judge ruled in her favour and directed

the convict to provide maintenance for his daughter and former wife.

However, the husband submitted two applications in court during the proceedings of the execution application, requesting a DNA test for the baby girl and disowning his daughter. These applications were subsequently withdrawn by him.

However, the complainant filed an application seeking legal remedy against her ex-husband for levelling serious allegations against her.

During the trial, the accused denied allegations regarding his ex-wife and said she had only lived with him for six hours after their marriage and then left the home to never return. However, the court noted that the accused neither testified under oath nor produced any witnesses to support his claims, adding that the defence also failed to bring any evidence regarding the accused making an apology or filing applications over a misunderstanding.

SOUTH KOREA’S MILITARY SPY SATELLITE LIFTS OFF



In this photo provided by South Korea Defense Ministry, South Korea’s second military spy satellite lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. South Korea has launched its second military spy satellite into space, days after North Korea reaffirmed its plan to launch multiple reconnaissance satellites this year.

Palestinians returning to Khan Younis after Israeli withdrawal find an unrecognisable city

Deir Al-Balah, Apr 08 (AP)

Streams of Palestinians filed into the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis on Monday to salvage what they could from the vast destruction left in the wake of Israel’s offensive, a day after the Israeli military announced it was withdrawing troops from the area.

Many came back to the Gaza Strip’s second-largest city to find their former hometown unrecognisable. With scores of buildings destroyed or damaged, piles of rubble now sit where apartments and businesses once did. Streets have been bulldozed. Schools and hospi-

itals were damaged by the fighting.

Israel sent troops to Khan Younis in December, part of its blistering ground offensive that came in response to a Hamas-led attack on October 7 into southern Israel. Israeli authorities say 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed and roughly 250 people taken hostage.

The war, now in its seventh month, has killed more than 33,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to local health authorities, displaced most of the territory’s 2.3 million people and left vast swaths of the beleaguered

Gaza Strip uninhabitable.

“Many areas, especially the city centre, have become unfit for life,” said Mahmoud Abdel-Ghani, who fled Khan Younis in December when Israel began its ground invasion of the city. “I found that my house and my neighbours’ houses turned to rubble.”

Israel’s withdrawal of troops from Khan Younis signalled the end of a key phase in its war against Hamas and brought Israeli troop levels in the tiny coastal enclave to one of the lowest since the war began.

Israel said the city was a major Hamas stronghold and says its operation over

the past few months killed thousands of militants and inflicted heavy damage to a vast network of tunnels used by Hamas to move weapons and fighters. It also claimed to have found evidence that hostages were held in the city. With no military presence in the city, Hamas could seek to regroup there as it has in other areas where the military has scaled back forces.

The latest Israeli withdrawal also cleared the way for some Palestinians to make their way back to the area to comb through the mountains of debris to try to hold on to any possessions that remained.

Najwa Ayyash, who also

was displaced from Khan Younis, said she was unable to reach her family’s third floor apartment because the stairs were gone.

Her brother climbed his way up through the destruction and pulled down some possessions, including lighter clothes for her children.

Bassel Abu Nasser, a Khan Younis resident who fled after an airstrike hit his home in January, said much of the city turned into rubble.

“There is no sense of life there,” the 37-year-old father of two children said. “They left nothing there.” On Sunday, shortly after the military announced it had with-

drawn, lines of Palestinians could be seen leaving Khan Younis with scant possessions.

By foot and on bicycle, they carried plastic bags and laundry hampers with whatever they could gather back to where they were displaced to. One carried a rolled-up mattress. Another a standing fan. One man used his bike to move plywood. The military exodus from Khan Younis comes ahead of an expected Israeli offensive in Rafah, Gaza’s southernmost city where hundreds of thousands have fled fighting elsewhere to seek shelter and which Israel says is Hamas’ last major stronghold.

Espionage scandal rocks Austria

Vienna, Apr 08 (AP):

Austria faces its biggest espionage scandal in decades as the arrest of a former intelligence officer brings to light evidence of extensive Russian infiltration, lax official oversight and behaviour worthy of a spy novel.

Egisto Ott was arrested March 29. The 86-page arrest warrant, obtained by The Associated Press, alleges among other things that he handed over cellphone data of former high-ranking Austrian officials to Russian intelligence, helped plot a burglary at a prominent journalist’s apartment, and wrote up “suggestions for improvement” after a Russian-ordered killing in

Germany.

Ott is suspected of having provided sensitive information to Jan Marsalek, a fugitive fellow Austrian wanted on suspicion of fraud since the collapse in 2020 of German payment company Wirecard, where he was the chief operating officer. The warrant says chat messages provided by British authorities link Marsalek directly to the Russian intelligence agency FSB. German and Austrian media have reported that Marsalek is believed to have had connections to Russian intelligence since at least 2014. He is now thought to be in Russia. Thomas Riegler, a historian and espionage expert affiliated with the Austrian Center for

Intelligence, Propaganda and Security Studies, said the case has “the potential for one of the biggest espionage stories in recent Austrian history.”

“The case is special given its international dimension and the fact that it is not only about espionage but also about the infiltration of the Austrian political system and the weakening of the country’s internal security,” he said. Austria, which was located next to the Iron Curtain during the Cold War and long had good connections with Moscow, is a European Union member with a policy of military neutrality — and a longstanding reputation as a spying centre.

Vatican blasts sex change surgery, surrogacy and gender theory

● Grave threats to human dignity

Vatican City, Apr 08 (AP)

The Vatican on Monday declared sex change operations and surrogacy as grave threats to human dignity, putting them on par with abortion and euthanasia as practices that violate God’s plan for human life.

The Vatican’s doctrine office issued “Infinite Dignity,” a 20-page declaration that has been in the works for five years. After substantial revision in recent months, it was approved March 25 by Pope Francis, who ordered its publication.

In its most eagerly anticipated section, the Vatican repeated its rejection of “gender theory” or the idea that one’s gender can be changed. It said God created man and

woman as biologically different, separate beings, and said they must not tinker with that plan or try to “make oneself God.”

“It follows that any sex-change intervention, as a rule, risks threatening the unique dignity the person has received from the moment of conception,” the document said.

It distinguished between transitioning surgeries, which it rejected, and “genital abnormalities” that are present at birth or that develop later. Those abnormalities can be “resolved” with the help of health care professionals, it said.

The document’s existence, rumoured since 2019, was confirmed in recent weeks by the new prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, Argentine Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández, a close Pope Francis confidante.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
ENGAGEMENT OF CONTRACTUAL TEACHERS
 Employment Notice No.:E/PB/R/CT/2024/E-837, Date:05.04.2024.
 Walk-in-Interview will be conducted for engagement of part-time teachers on contract basis for the academic session 2024-25 for providing service in South East Central Railway’s Mixed Higher Secondary School, Railway Colony, Charoda, District Durg.
 The details are as under: **Name of Post & No. Of Vacancy:** PST=03 (English Medium), **Monthly Remuneration:** ₹ 21,250/-, **Venue & Time:** Mixed Higher Secondary School, Charoda, South East Central Railway, **Between 09.00 AM & 10.00 AM.** **Date of Interview :** 17.04.2024.
 ● Candidates is hereby advised to bring all original documents.
 For further details, please log on to this Railway’s website at <https://secr.indianrailways.gov.in>→Recruitment/News/Press Release->Raipur.
PR/R/Sr.DPO/IP/05 For Divisional Railway Manager(P), Raipur
 f South East Central Railway @secrail



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Fostering Unity in Governance

In the intricate web of Indian federalism, today's events have underscored a pressing need for collaboration and cooperation between the central government and state administrations. The Supreme Court's remarks during a hearing on Karnataka's plea for drought relief funds have brought this imperative to the forefront, urging a shift from adversarial dynamics to harmonious governance. At the heart of the matter lies a fundamental tension: the balance of power and resources between the union and its constituent states. This tension often manifests in disputes over fund allocation, policy implementation, and jurisdictional boundaries. However, as guardians of justice and arbiters of constitutional principles, the judiciary has a pivotal role in steering this delicate relationship towards constructive engagement. In its hearing, the Supreme Court aptly emphasized the detrimental effects of adversarial approaches between the centre and states. Instead of engaging in contests of power and jurisdiction, the court rightly advocated for a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect. Such an approach is not merely pragmatic but essential for effective governance and the protection of citizens' rights. The case brought forth by Karnataka, seeking relief funds amidst a drought crisis, serves as a poignant example of the challenges inherent in federal governance. The state's plea for assistance was met with bureaucratic delays and political posturing, highlighting systemic shortcomings that hinder timely and effective responses to pressing issues. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Karnataka, eloquently articulated the frustrations of state governments grappling with central indifference and bureaucratic inertia. His plea for prompt action on a long-pending drought report underscores the urgency of addressing administrative bottlenecks and expediting relief measures. Conversely, the central government's response, questioning the timing of Karnataka's petition amidst electoral fervor, raises valid concerns about the politicization of governance. While electoral cycles undoubtedly influence decision-making, they should not overshadow the imperative of addressing pressing humanitarian crises and upholding constitutional obligations. Moreover, the recurring disputes between the centre and southern states over fund allocation and tax devolution underscore broader systemic issues that warrant attention. The recent spate of petitions and protests from states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala reflects deep-seated grievances regarding fiscal autonomy and equitable resource distribution. These grievances extend beyond mere political posturing and resonate with the core principles of federalism and cooperative governance. The fight for financial autonomy is not merely a matter of partisan politics but a quest for dignity, empowerment, and socio-economic justice for millions of citizens across the nation. The parliamentary debates and street protests that have ensued in response to these disputes highlight the urgency of addressing systemic inequities and fostering inclusive governance mechanisms. Finance Secretary TV Somanathan's assurance of uniform guidelines for fund allocation is a step in the right direction but must be accompanied by concrete measures to address regional disparities and administrative biases. The role of the Finance Commission in facilitating equitable resource distribution cannot be overstated. By providing an independent mechanism for assessing states' fiscal needs and recommending devolution formulas, the Commission plays a crucial role in mitigating inter-state tensions and promoting fiscal federalism.

India's Vigilance Amidst China's Border Tactics

China's announcement of plans to establish 175 border villages, in addition to the 628 Xiaokang (prosperous villages) already along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), poses a grave threat to India's sovereignty. These villages serve as strategic assets for China, aimed at bolstering military readiness and asserting territorial claims. While China rapidly expands its presence along the LAC, particularly in areas like Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh, India must respond assertively. The establishment of these villages, especially in Ladakh, demands immediate intervention from both military forces and local communities. India's response, though swift, must be intensified. Recognizing the implications of China's village strategy, India must ensure that these populated areas are not excluded from border negotiations, as stipulated by the 2005 Border Defence Cooperation Agreement. Failure to act decisively risks conceding territory to Chinese control. The Vibrant Villages Programme, aimed at transforming summer border settlements into year-round tourist attractions, is a step in the right direction. However, it requires expedited implementation to counter China's aggressive tactics effectively. To prevent these areas from falling into Chinese hands, settling the Ladakhi people in these regions is imperative. Not only does this reclaim Indian territory, but it also utilizes the resilience and familiarity of the Ladakhi people with the harsh terrain. The Indian government must address the grievances and aspirations of the Ladakhi community promptly. Recent activism, highlighted by Ladakhi activist Sonam Wangchuk's call-off of the march to the LAC, underscores the urgency for meaningful engagement and empowerment of border communities. It is crucial for the Indian government to complement Wangchuk's reasonable approach by fulfilling the aspirations of the people. The Ladakhi community, with its stake in defending the LAC, must be empowered to actively participate in safeguarding India's borders. India faces a critical juncture in safeguarding its territorial integrity along the LAC. Immediate and decisive action is required to counter China's aggressive village-building tactics and empower local communities to defend India's borders effectively.

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

KAVU THEENDAL CEREMONY



Devotees participate in Kavu Theendal ceremony during the annual 'Bharani' festival, at Kodungallur Bhagavathy Temple in Thrissur district, Monday, April 8.

India's Evolving Role in Global Medical Tourism: Leading the Way

DR. KRISHNA KUMAR VEPAKOMMA



Medical tourism, the practice of traveling abroad for medical treatment, has garnered significant momentum worldwide, driven by the pursuit of high-quality care, cost-effectiveness, and the allure of recovery in picturesque settings. Several nations have emerged as frontrunners in this domain, offering world-class healthcare services coupled with a hospitable environment for international patients. Among these destinations, India stands out, presenting a compelling proposition with its state-of-the-art medical infrastructure, skilled healthcare professionals, and an array of affordable treatment options.

India's Emergence as a Medical Tourism Hub
India's prominence in medical tourism is further underscored by the dynamic shifts in the global healthcare landscape and cross-border synergies. Emerging technologies, evolving economic and demographic trends, and changing consumer preferences have collectively fueled the expansion of the medical tourism sector. Leveraging its advanced facilities, proficient workforce, and diverse healthcare offerings, India is primed to capitalize on these trends and sustain its leadership in the industry.

Diverse Healthcare Offerings
Beyond conventional medical treatments, India's appeal in medical tourism extends to rejuvenation services and holistic wellness practices. Ayurveda, yoga, and naturopathy are integral components of India's healthcare heritage, drawing visitors seeking holistic healing experiences. Furthermore, the nation serves as an ideal hub for conducting clinical trials, boasting a vast and varied patient pool, streamlined regulatory frameworks, and highly skilled researchers. This presents lucrative opportunities for private

biopharmaceutical firms to harness India's rich diversity and robust healthcare ecosystem for conducting efficient and cost-effective clinical trials.

Luxury Healthcare Facilities
In recent years, India has witnessed the emergence of luxury hospitals, signaling a significant evolution in the medical tourism landscape. These upscale facilities not only deliver top-tier medical care but also prioritize providing patients with a luxurious and comfortable experience. With personalized treatment regimens, opulent accommodations, holistic wellness services, and cultural enrichment activities, luxury hospitals redefine the benchmarks of medical tourism, attracting discerning patients seeking a comprehensive healthcare journey.

Integration of Artificial Intelligence
The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into India's healthcare sector has played a pivotal role in enhancing the medical tourism experience. AI-driven technologies offer personalized treatment plans, virtual assistance through chatbots, telemedicine solutions, and improved operational efficiency, thereby enriching patient experiences and outcomes. With the rapid adoption of AI across healthcare domains, India is poised to revolutionize the medical tourism industry, ensuring superior treatment outcomes

and heightened patient satisfaction.

Commitment to Patient Care
India's ascent as a global leader in medical tourism is underpinned by its exceptional healthcare infrastructure, unwavering commitment to patient care, and proactive embrace of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence. The country's diverse array of offerings, encompassing luxury healthcare facilities, traditional therapies, and opportunities for clinical research, cater to the evolving needs and preferences of international patients.

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, India remains steadfast in its commitment to maintaining its position at the forefront of the medical tourism industry, delivering unparalleled quality care to individuals seeking healthcare services abroad.

In conclusion, India's dominance in medical tourism is bolstered by its cutting-edge infrastructure, diverse healthcare options, luxury facilities, and embrace of AI. With an unwavering commitment to patient care and continuous innovation, India emerges as a global leader, catering to the evolving needs of international patients with excellence and compassion.

(Writer is Professor & Principal (Retd.) Newspaper Columnist.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tighten laws on tinted glasses

Tinted sunglasses, to cut off the light entering the interiors of cars was borne out of necessity until a Supreme Court judgement of 2012 changed that. These tinted glasses fell into disrepute after a few unscrupulous elements used them for nefarious activities. Several crimes against women were committed under the protection of tinted glasses. Besides, law enforcers could not clearly decipher whether or not drivers followed rules. Although only seventy percent of visual light transmission (VLT) is allowed for front and rear windshields of cars, and fifty percent for the windows, car owners are found to be flouting this requirement under the law quite often much to the consternation of the police. When the intention is evil, can the action be virtuous? The present fine of Rupees 100 for first time offenders and Rupees 300 for subsequent offenders is too meagre. Provisions for stringent punishment under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, have to be made.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

India's Diplomatic Challenges

India faces diplomatic complexities as it ascends on the global stage. Despite countering terrorism and regional volatility in West Asia, Western powers seem indifferent, leveraging India to balance against Chinese influence. Amid tensions, India must dispel accusations and safeguard its sovereignty to avoid negative portrayals by Western media. As hostilities escalate in West Asia, strategic decisions are imperative to maintain India's global image and navigate through delicate diplomatic terrain.

MK Nair, Raipur

What an Irony!

It has been declared that for the first time the country is witnessing such an election where the Opposition is not claiming victory. Now the question arises how can any force confidently arrive at the conclusion that they are certainly emerging victorious even before the first vote gets cast, leave alone final counting of results which is still almost 2 months away. Isn't it a wonder how can BJP/NDA afford to claim victory so months beforehand. In this atrocious perspective, it is entirely wrong to cast aspersions on the integrity of the EVMs as being done by almost all Opposition parties.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

Decoding Elite Athlete Metabolism Dynamics

Travis Nemkov

If you've spent any time scrolling through the health and wellness corners of social media, you've likely come across many products claiming to improve your metabolism. But what exactly is your metabolism?

Everything you expose your body to – from lifestyle to an airborne virus – influences your physical characteristics, such as your blood pressure and energy levels. Together, these biological characteristics are referred to as your phenotype. And the biological system that most directly influences your phenotype is your metabolism.

So if you are eating something, take medications, smoke or exercise, your metabolism is responsible for transferring that biological information throughout your body for it to adapt. Your metabolism consists of a network of tens of



thousands of molecules and proteins that convert the food you eat into the energy and building blocks your body uses to move, grow and repair itself. At the chemical level, energy metabolism begins when the three macronutrients – carbohydrates, fats and protein – are broken down atom by atom to release electrons from chemical bonds. These electrons charge components in cells called mitochondria.

Akin to how batteries work, mitochondria harness this electrical potential to create a different form of chemical energy that the rest of the cell can use.

Simply put, a primary role of metabolism is to convert chemical energy into electrical energy and back into chemical energy. How this energy is transferred throughout the body might play a central role in determining whether you're sick

or healthy. I am a biochemist who studies the various networks of metabolism that are used as your body changes. My team and I have been able to define specific traits of metabolism, such as the presence and amount of certain metabolites – products made from breaking down macronutrients – across a wide range of conditions. These conditions include diseases such as COVID-19, diabetes, multiple sclerosis and sickle cell anemia, to experiencing unique environments such as radiation exposure, high altitude, aging and sports performance. Each of these settings influences which parts of your metabolic network are used and how they communicate with one another.

Given the alarming rise in obesity and its associated metabolic syndrome – about 1 in 8 people across the globe was living with obesity in 2022 – defining a healthy or

impaired metabolism can help identify what's gone wrong and how to address it.

Elite athletes offer a prime population to study metabolic function at its best, since their network of molecular and chemical reactions must be finely tuned to compete on the world stage.

Traditionally, lactate threshold has been a critical measure of athletic performance by pinpointing exercise intensity when lactate starts to rise in muscles and blood. Contrary to common belief, lactate is not merely a waste product but an energy source as well, and it accumulates when it's produced faster than mitochondria can use it. While a moderately active person might reach their threshold at an exercise intensity of around 2 watts per kilogram, elite cyclists can sustain an intensity up to nearly two to three times higher.

BRIEF

New CEO



New Delhi: NIIT Ltd on Monday announced the appointment of Pankaj Prabhakar Jathar as its new Chief Executive Officer. The appointment shall be with effect from July 1, 2024, the company said in a regulatory filing. Jathar replaces Sapanesh Lalla who will continue to serve as non-executive director at NIIT Limited and remain CEO of NIIT Learning Systems. Gurgaon-based NIIT is a skills and talent development company offering online & offline training courses.

Investment

Mumbai: Kotak Mahindra Bank's asset management arm Kotak Alternate Asset Managers Ltd on Monday said it raised Rs 2,000 crore to invest in equities. Kotak Alternate Asset Managers' 'Iconic Fund' is a Sebi-registered category III Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) and an open-ended platform conceptualised as an equity multi-advisor portfolio solution, according to a company statement. The fund aims to solve the challenge of building and maintaining equity portfolios amid the difficulties faced by investors due to the market volatilities.

Appointment



New Delhi: Japanese electronics firm SHARP on Monday said it has appointed Sujai Karampuri as the Chairman for its India business. His appointment will be with retrospective effect from March 1, 2024. He will spearhead the display business and elevate SHARP's brand presence in India, and bring strategic partnerships in manufacturing and technology transfer of the company's engineering products, components and solutions, the company said in a statement.

FD rates

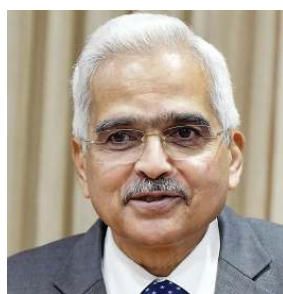
New Delhi: Bajaj Finance, part of Bajaj Finserv, has increased fixed deposit (FD) rates for most tenures by up to 60 basis points (bps). Bajaj Finance is a deposit-taking non-banking financial company registered with the Reserve Bank of India. Effective April 3, 2024, the company has increased FD rates for senior citizens by up to 60 basis points in the 25-35-month tenure and 40 basis points in the 18-24-month tenure.

Governor Das for greater participation of banks in rupee derivatives in India, abroad

Mumbai, Apr 08:

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday stressed the need for greater participation of Indian banks in rupee derivatives market, both domestically and offshore, while being prudent. The governor noted that participation of domestic banks in derivative markets remains limited with only a small set of active market-makers.

Also, participation of Indian banks in global markets is growing but it is quite small. "Domestic banks are dealing with market-makers in global markets rather than with end clients and are yet to emerge as market-makers of note globally," Das said in his keynote address at the FIMMDA-PDAI Annual Conference in Barcelona. Of course, he added banks need to do their own due diligence, assess their risk appetite, and then move forward carefully in this direction.



"Going forward, our focus should be on enhancing and widening the participation of Indian players in markets for INRderivatives, both domestically and offshore, while being prudent," the governor said. He noted that the recent financial market reforms undertaken by the Reserve Bank are aimed at providing a strong bedrock for markets to move to the next trajectory for meeting the growing funding requirements in the economy, providing cost-effective hedging options and competing effectively in global markets. There

are, however, some areas which call for attention, he said, while highlighting specific areas where more can be done. Das said transparency in pricing remains work in progress and more can be done.

"The retail customer is yet to get a deal at par with large customers. There is a need for effective market-making and finer pricing for smaller deals on NDS-OM," he said. Divergence in pricing in FX markets for small and large customers is wider than what can be justified by operational considerations, Das said, and added that banks may need to do more to facilitate the use of the FX Retail platform.. "We continue to see banking channels being used by certain persons or entities to fund activities on unauthorised FX trading platforms.

This warrants enhanced vigilance by the banks," the governor said.

Coffee exports rise 13.35 pc to 1.25 lakh tonnes in January-March

New Delhi, Apr 08:

Coffee shipments from India rose 13.35 per cent to 1,25,631 tonnes during January-March period of this year on higher demand for Robusta coffee, according to the official data. The country had exported 1,10,830 tonnes of coffee in the same period in 2023. India, Asia's third-largest producer and exporter, grows Arabica and Robusta varieties of coffee. Arabica coffee bean has lesser caffeine content than the Robusta. Arabica has a sweet and smoother taste, while the Robusta is generally more bitter and harsher on the taste buds. According to the Coffee Board of India's latest data, export of Robusta coffee bean rose by 18 per

cent to 69,637 tonnes in the first quarter of the 2024 calendar year from 59,050 tonnes in the year-ago period. However, the shipment of Arabica coffee bean declined to 13,419 tonnes from 15,468 tonnes in the said period. Instant coffee exports rose 16,218 tonnes during January-March of this year as against 15,238 tonnes in the year-ago period, while re-export of coffee also increased to 26,239 tonnes from 20,952 tonnes in the said period.

In terms of value, total coffee exports were at Rs 3,644 crore during January-March of 2024, higher than Rs 2,604.44 crore achieved in the year-ago period. The unit value realisation was Rs 2,90,057 per tonne.

Huge opportunities to enhance Australia, India collaboration in skills training sector: Philip Green

New Delhi, Apr 08:

There are huge opportunities to further enhance collaboration between India and Australia in the skills training area in sectors such as digital technology, renewable energy and infrastructure, High Commissioner of Australia to India Philip Green said on Monday. He said Australia's skill training is globally competitive and its training courses are developed in consultation with the industry.

"We would like to be a bigger part of India's journey as it goes to fill its skills demand which is so massive over the next decade," Green said here at the Australia-India Skills Partnership Summit. India is the fifth largest economy in the world and is growing at 8

PRODUCT LAUNCH



TM Narasimhan, Managing Director, Motorola India; Prashanth Mani, Executive Director, Motorola APAC; Ruben Castano, Global Head for Customer Experience and Design, Motorola and Shivam Ranjan, Marketing Head - APAC, Motorola, at the Motorola Edge 50 Pro launch at Aerocity, in New Delhi.



per cent per annum and that makes it the fastest growing large economy on the planet. "Every country in the world will be interested in India at this moment," he said, adding that the economies of the two countries are highly complementary. "We have many of the skills and attributes, metals and minerals and energy that India would need for the next phase of its growth," the High Commissioner

said, adding that a million people of Indian origin are there in Australia. "I am very confident that we can build a strong partnership... one of the most important feels on which we think that partnership can build relates to skills and training," he said, adding, "our education and training providers already delivered skills training to almost 50 nations worldwide". Huge skills training opportunities are there in sectors like digital technology including applications for AI; energy (renewables); healthcare such as nursing and medical training, infrastructure, and logistics. A 33-member Australian future skills delegation is here to build partnership momentum with Indian institutions, universities, and corporate providers.

Adani unit to set up EV charging stations at new MG dealerships

New Delhi, Apr 08:

A unit of a joint venture between Adani group and French energy giant TotalEnergies will set up EV charging stations at new MG dealerships to bolster the charging network, the company said on Monday. "Adani TotalEnergies E-Mobility Limited (ATEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Total Gas Limited (ATGL), and MG Motor India signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen the EV charging infrastructure in India," it said in a statement. In terms of MoU, ATEL will set up CC2 60 kW DC chargers at upcoming MG dealerships to bolster the charging network and enhance customer accessibility. "The

partnership will also provide a comprehensive solution encompassing supply, installation, commissioning, operations, and maintenance of charging infrastructure. In addition, a digital platform will be launched to facilitate a seamless customer experience, covering discovery, user authentication, charging, and billing settlement through a dedicated mobile application," it said. Adani-Total Gas Ltd, the city gas retailing venture of Adani group and TotalEnergies, retails CNG to automobiles and pipes cooking gas to household kitchens in several cities across the country. It has expanded into EV business, setting up chargers at CNG stations as well as other customer points.

Gold jumps Rs 350 to hit fresh record high of Rs 71,700 per 10 grams

New Delhi, Apr 08:

Gold prices in the national capital hit an all-time high on Monday and jumped Rs 350 to Rs 71,700 per 10 grams following a pick-up in safe-haven demand for the precious metal, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal prices have seen remarkable gains so far in 2024, becoming costlier by over Rs 7,700 per 10 grams. In the previous session, gold had ended at Rs 71,350 per 10 grams. Silver prices also soared Rs 800 to scale a fresh peak of Rs 84,000 per kg. In the previous trade, it had settled at Rs 83,200 per kg. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at a record high of Rs



71,700 per 10 grams, up Rs 350, taking bullish cues in the overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the international markets, spot gold at COMEX was trading at USD 2,336 per ounce, up USD 7 from the previous close. Traders didn't pay atten-

tion to the upbeat US jobs report and instead focused on the bullion's upward trend that has been going on for a few weeks. This caused the price of gold to reach another record high on Monday, Gandhi added. Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities, said, "Gold prices continued their upward trajectory, supported by a surge in global COMEX prices, which touched USD 2,350 per ounce in the early morning hours. "The ongoing buying of gold by global central banks has provided significant support to prices, along with sustained geopolitical tensions and the anticipation of imminent interest rate reversals.

Automobile retail sales log double-digit growth in FY24: FADA

New Delhi: Automobile retail sales in India saw double-digit growth in 2023-24 driven by record off-take of passenger vehicles, three-wheelers and tractors, dealers' body FADA said on Monday. The retail sales across segments rose by 10 per cent to 2,45,30,334 units last fiscal as compared with 2,22,41,361 units in 2022-23. The Indian automobile sector achieved a commendable double-digit growth across categories with two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger vehicles (PV), tractors and commercial vehicles registering strong demand, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj Singhania said in a statement.

Rupee settles on flat note at 83.31 against US dollar

Mumbai, Apr 08:

The rupee settled on a flat note on Monday at 83.31 (provisional) against the US dollar, as the support from positive domestic equities was negated by the strength of the American currency in the overseas market. Forex traders said investor sentiments got a boost as crude oil prices retreated from their elevated levels, but the strength of the American currency in the overseas market weighed on the local unit and restricted the uptick. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.27 against the greenback. The unit hit an intra-day high of 83.23 and a low of 83.33. The local unit finally settled at 83.31 (provisional) against the dollar, unchanged from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee



appreciated 8 paise to close at 83.31 against the US dollar as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the benchmark interest rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the seventh time in a row. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on the rise in risk appetite in global markets on reports that Israel has withdrawn its soldiers from Southern Gaza. Fill inflows and strength in the domestic markets may also support the rupee. "However, a positive tone in the greenback

may cap sharp gains. Investors may remain cautious ahead of inflation data from the US and India later this week. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in the range of Rs 83.10 to Rs 83.50," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.07 per cent higher at 104.37 on declining expectations of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve following a strong jobs report and hawkish comments from Fed officials last week. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.92 per cent to USD 90.33 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex advanced 494.28 points, or 0.67 per cent, to close at an all-time high of 74,742.50 points.

Sebi cracks down on finfluencer, orders to impound Rs 12 cr 'unlawful gain'

New Delhi, Apr 08:

Sebi has barred Ravindra Bharti Education Institute, co-founded by finfluencer and YouTuber Ravindra Balu Bharti, from the securities market and directed to deposit Rs 12 crore "unlawful gain" earned from the alleged unregistered investment advisory business. It has been directed to deposit the amount to an interest-bearing escrow account creat-

ed specifically for the purpose in a nationalised bank. Additionally, the regulator has barred Ravindra Balu Bharti, his wife Shubhangi Ravindra Bharti and directors -- Rahul Ananta Gosavi and Dhanashri Chandrakant Gosavi -- from the securities market. Also, these persons have been restrained from associating themselves with any intermediary registered with Sebi in any capacity. Ravindra Bharti Education

Institute Pvt. Ltd. (RBEIPL) was founded in 2016 by Ravindra Balu Bharti and his wife. The company claims to be primarily involved in imparting training or education related to pre-stock market trading activities. In its interim order issued on Friday, the regulator noted Ravindra Bharti Education Institute was involved in imparting advice relating to investing in, purchasing, selling or otherwise dealing with securities or investment products in lieu of consideration. Investors were lured to take the advisory services by projecting returns in the range of 25 per cent to 1,000 per cent. It further noted that Ravindra Bharti Education Institute was providing investment advisory services, without obtaining registration from Sebi, which is in violation of regulatory norms.

Indian CEOs average salary at Rs 13.8 cr, up 40 pc compared to pre-COVID-19: Deloitte report

New Delhi, Apr 08:

The average CEO compensation in India stood at Rs 13.8 crore, up 40 per cent compared with pre-COVID-19 times, and more than half of the overall remuneration is linked to short-term and long-term incentives, says a Deloitte report. According to the Deloitte India Executive Performance and Rewards Survey 2024, average CEO compensation stands at Rs 13.8 crore, while CEOs who were also promoters or members of the promoter family are paid Rs 16.7 crore on average. "Promoter CEO compensation outpacing professional CEO compensation is primarily driven by two factors. Professional CEOs change more often than



promoter CEOs due to the longer tenure of promoter CEOs at an aggregate. "But it is also important to note that the range of promoter CEO compensation is very wide, and that affects the higher averages," said Anandrup Ghose, Partner, CHRO Programme Leader, Deloitte India. According to Deloitte, while CEO

compensation has increased, more than 50 per cent of target compensation is 'pay-at-risk'. For professional CEOs, pay-at-risk at 57 per cent is much higher than for promoter CEOs at 47 per cent. Professional CEOs have 25 per cent of their target compensation delivered through long-term incentives, which for most com-

panies, is paid through share-linked incentives. According to Deloitte, CEO compensation in India has seen high-single-digit annualised growth rates. "The wide gap between median and average CEO compensation (Rs 9.3 crore versus Rs 13.8 crore) indicates the wide range of compensation numbers and some outliers on the higher end," it added. While assessing CEO and CXO performance, most companies use a holistic scorecard that includes a mix of financial and non-financial metrics and targets. However, incentives for CEOs and CXOs are still tilted towards financial company-level growth with those scorecards.

Mudhipar village facing acute water crisis

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Apr 08: Mudhipar, a prominent village known for its size and model status in the block, is grappling with a severe drinking water shortage. As the scorching summer sun beats down after the festivities of Holi, the situation worsens, deepening the region's water crisis.

Despite being designated an Adarsh Gram, Mudhipar finds itself excluded from the benefits of the Jal Jeevan Mission, leaving residents desperate for relief. With the arrival of summer, the situation becomes dire, particularly in wards 12, 16, and 17, where the water problem persists unchanged for years.

Repeated appeals to the Gram Panchayat



Sarpanch Kumari Bai and her husband Ghansyam Sinha have fallen on deaf ears, frustrating residents who feel

neglected and ignored. With each passing day, the situation grows more critical, leaving villagers anxious about the days

Tap connections installed, water lacks
In a village with a population of about 6 thousand, tap connections were provided under the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme. However, despite the installation, the promised water supply remains elusive. Despite nearly a year passing since the connections were installed, the anticipated water flow has yet to materialize.

Tank construction delay impacts water supply
Construction of a water tank in Mudhipar village, part of the Jal Jeevan Mission, remains incomplete. The project, intended to alleviate water scarcity, faces delays due to commission fraud. Consequently, the village's drinking water problem persists, with one out of three planned tanks yet to be finished.

Villagers paying bills for nonexistent water
Despite receiving no water supply, villagers in Mudhipar continue to pay water taxes to the Panchayat. Residents report that their taps remain dry, yet they are billed monthly. The Gram Panchayat allegedly employs operators to control the water supply, but they only activate the taps without clarity on which ward receives water.

Shiromani Ma Karma Jayanti festival celebrated

Kalash yatra highlights devotion in village Jaroda**Central Chronicle News**

Kharora, Apr 08: The spirit of devotion and celebration filled the air in Gram Panchayat Jaroda as the revered Saint Shiromani Ma Karma's 100th birth anniversary, known as Ma Karma Jayanti Mahotsav, was commemorated with great enthusiasm. Organized by Ma Karma Mandali and embraced by villagers, the festival saw the grand procession of Kalash Yatra in honor of Karma Mata.

The procession, led by devotees chanting 'Jai Kara', made its way from Karma Chowk through Bazaar Chowk, adorned with women gracefully balancing



urns atop their heads. Amidst the fervour, devotees fervently worshiped Goddess Karma, and offerings were made to seek her blessings. The atmosphere was further enlivened with the distribution of Prasad and recitations of Ramayana.

The festival witnessed the participation of esteemed community leaders and representatives, including

President Parikshetra Saragaon Sahu, former Sarpanch Ishkumar Sahu, and Rural President Sukhram Sahu. Notable figures such as District Vice President Chandrakant Verma and Sarpanch Dhanjay Verma also graced the occasion with their presence, alongside various members of the Tehsil Sahu Union Youth Cell and Karma Mandali.

District police take swift action against IPL betting

Four accused arrested red handed**Central Chronicle News**

Khairagarh, Apr 08: The district police have made significant strides in combating illegal betting associated with the IPL cricket tournament. Following a report published by Central Chronicle detailing widespread betting activities, the district police, under the direction of SP Trilok Bansal, sprang into action.

This prompted a joint operation involving the cyber cell unit and Chhuikhadan police, resulting in the arrest of four individuals caught red-handed engaging in online betting.

The impact of this news reverberated throughout



the police department, leading to swift action. Acting on instructions from SP Trilok Bansal and as part of Abhiyaan Samarth, all police officers, including those from the cyber cell, were mobilized to curb illegal betting activities. On April 7, the cyber cell team received crucial information regarding online betting activities in Kandrapara Chhuikhadan. A joint investigation ensued, culminating in the arrest of a

suspect identified by informants.

Efforts yield arrests in two locations

Under the directives of SP Trilok Bansal and as part of Abhiyaan Samarth, all police officers, including those from the cyber cell, were mobilized to curb illegal betting activities, particularly in Kandrapara Chhuikhadan. A joint investigation ensued, culminating in the arrest of a



tirelessly to ensure the success of this event.

The festival organizers extend a warm invitation to all public representatives

and lovers of religion to join in the festivities. The efforts of community leaders and volunteers, including Sarpanch Thakur Ram Dhruv and Deputy Sarpanch Bhushan Sahu, have been instrumental in orchestrating this cultural extravaganza.

Engaging performances by artists such as Toman Sahu, Narayan Sahu, and Kamal Sahu promise to captivate attendees, while the collective efforts of individuals like Munna Dhruv and Dr. Chinta Ram Sahu contribute to the festival's vibrancy. With the support of the entire community, the Shri Ram Manas Gaan Festival is set to be a resounding success, fostering unity and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh.

Remembering late Phoolchand Jain: Tribute ceremony held

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Apr 08: The Saraswati Shishu Mandir Higher Secondary School recently observed the death anniversary and tribute day of the late Phoolchand Jain, commemorating his enduring legacy and contributions. Presided over by Vice Chairman Pt. Deenanath Upadhyay of the Vivekananda Child Welfare Committee, the solemn occasion witnessed dignitaries and guests paying homage to the departed soul.

The tribute program commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by esteemed guests, including Ravindra Puranic, Treasurer Jethmal Kotadiya, and Manas Pratap Singh.



Welcomed with traditional rituals by the school principal Chandrabhan Tiwari, the guests were honoured with tilak, Shriphal, and floral tributes, symbolizing reverence and gratitude.

An uplifting song performed by school teacher Sambodh Shrivastava added a poignant touch to the pro-

ceedings. Speaking on the occasion, Vice President Pt. Dinanath Upadhyay reminisced about Phoolchand Jain's spiritual strength and deep-rooted principles, emphasizing the significance of fulfilling his final wishes through this tribute.

The presence of Dongrigarh Hostel

Superintendent Sunil Thakur, Deendayal Vanvasi Hostel Superintendent Kanhaiya Lal Verma, and other esteemed members of the school committee underscored the collective reverence for the late Phoolchand Jain.

President of Vivekananda Child Welfare Committee, Prakash Lodha, extended gratitude to all attendees, while Dinanath Kesharwani pledged support for the construction of the Bharat Mata Temple. The ceremony, expertly conducted by school principal Narendra Srivastava, served as a touching testament to the enduring impact of Phoolchand Jain's life and teachings on the community.

Tamradhwaj Sahu mobilizes support in Fingeshwar

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Apr 08: Mahasamund Lok Sabha candidate for Congress, Tamradhwaj Sahu, held a crucial meeting with Congress workers in Fingeshwar, urging them to actively campaign for the party and communicate the Congress manifesto to voters.

During the gathering, Sahu emphasized the illustrious history of the Congress in Mahasamund Lok Sabha, highlighting the achievements of senior leader Vidyacharan Shukla and his significant contributions to the development of Chhattisgarh.

Sahu urged party workers to emulate this history by intensifying their efforts and engaging with



voters on the ground. The meeting witnessed a strong show of support from Congress workers, who unanimously resolved to ensure Sahu's victory in the upcoming elections.

District Congress Committee President Bhavsingh Sahu and Block Congress President Rupesh Sahu, along with

several other party leaders, expressed their unwavering commitment to the campaign. The presence of numerous party workers, including Sugharmal Aade, Dhanraj Suryavanshi, and Nehru Ram Sahu, underscored the unity and determination within the Congress ranks.

Senior leaders Omprakash Banchhor and

Bisouha Harit also addressed the gathering, further galvanizing support for Sahu's candidacy.

The meeting, conducted by Councilor Kamlesh Yadu, highlighted the cohesive efforts of Congress workers and their readiness to propel Tamradhwaj Sahu to victory in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Kiosk inaugurated at Mohra bus stand

Village leaders and residents collaborate for comfort**Central Chronicle News****Central Chronicle News**

Kharora, Apr 08: In a heartwarming display of community spirit, a kiosk has been inaugurated at Mohra bus stand to offer cold water to passengers. This initiative, made possible through the collaboration of local business-

men and villagers, aims to provide much-needed relief, especially during the scorching summer months.

Every year, similar kiosks will be set up at various locations to ensure that people have access to cool water while travelling. The villagers present

at the inauguration expressed their appreciation for such thoughtful arrangements, emphasizing the importance of staying hydrated during hot weather conditions.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by esteemed village leaders including Sarpanch Sadharam Navrange, along with Pyarelal Verma, Sanjay Verma, RK Sarsiha, Dr. Manoj Biswas, Rajkumar Verma, and Chhatrapal Verma. Residents, including Shankar Yadav, Vijay Yadav, Sanat Yadav, Ashish Verma, Vijay Verma, and Parmeshwar Verma, also joined in to support this community-driven initiative aimed at ensuring the comfort and well-being of travelers.

Forest patrol team thwarts illegal teak wood smuggling

**One arrested amid seizure****Central Chronicle News**

Mainpur, Apr 08: In a significant victory for forest conservation efforts, the Mainpur forest patrol team intercepted a pickup vehicle loaded with illegal teak wood in the Case Forest Range near National Highway 130 C, close to Devbhog Mainpur Adgadi.

Despite the perpetrators' attempts to evade capture by exploiting the dense forest, the forest department's vigilant efforts led to the arrest of one individual, Phanes Netam, hailing from Sakin village-Gona, Tehsil Mainpur district - G a r i a b a n d (Chhattisgarh).

The operation unfolded during a routine mass patrolling exercise aimed at safeguarding forests and wildlife in the Behradih complex under the

Mainpur sub-zone. Forest Department's Naresh Lal Nag, along with Deputy Forest Range Officer and Range Assistant, devised a strategic plan to monitor suspicious activities, leading to the interception of the illegal operation.

Upon hearing the sound of a goods carrier vehicle within the forest area, the team swiftly cordoned off the area, prompting the criminals to flee, abandoning their Mahindra Bolero Maxi cargo vehicle and a

Platina motorcycle. The seized vehicle was found loaded with ten pieces of wet teak logs concealed under yellow-colored polythene sheets.

Accused vehicle owner Phanes Netam was apprehended on the scene, while efforts are underway to track down the other four absconding criminals. Formal proceedings were initiated, including the preparation of a seizure deed for the confiscated goods and vehicles, esti-

mated to be worth approximately 5.25 lakhs.

The successful operation owes much to the dedication and coordinated efforts of the forest patrol team, including Naresh Lal Nag, Ishwari Markam, Udhoram Dhruv, and Devdutt Tiwari, among others.

Their relentless commitment to forest protection and law enforcement ensures the preservation of precious natural resources for future generations.

Punjab face unpredictable SRH in mid-table IPL clash

Mullanpur, Apr 08 (PTD):

An inconsistent Punjab Kings will hope to come out with an attacking display to match the ultra-aggressive approach of Sunrisers Hyderabad as the two teams clash in a mid-table battle in the IPL here on Tuesday.

Both SRH and PBKS will be looking to win and two losses from their four matches to be tied with two other teams in the middle with four points and they will be desperate to break out of the mid-table logjam first.

While SRH have been unpredictable sometimes they have displayed their might with the bat with their top-order firing on all cylinders on most occasions. But the same cannot be said about the Kings.

SRH recorded the highest team total in the history of the IPL en route their win over Mumbai Indians, while they also notched up a convincing six-wicket win over reigning champions Chennai Super Kings



on Friday. The likes of Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Heinrich Klaasen and Aiden Markram have consistently taken the attack to the opposition bowlers, providing the team with blistering starts.

PBKS too have plenty of big-hitting potential with their batting line-up boosting off Shikhar Dhawan, Jonny Bairstow, Liam Livingstone. But apart from the skipper, none has been able to consistently put up a show so far.

Punjab will hope that their Indian players -- Prabhsimran Singh and Jitesh Sharma -- step up just like Shashank Singh, who pulled off a jailbreak in their last match against Gujarat Titans with his highest ever T20 score -- 61 runs from 29 balls.

Both the teams are coming into the match after a win and it could well be a battle of the powerplay when they face off at the newly-built Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Cricket

Stadium, which will host only its second IPL game on Tuesday. Bowling department remains a concern for both teams. While Punjab has struggled at the death overs, Sunrisers faltered with the new ball.

South African pacer Kagiso Rabada emerged as their best bowler with six wickets, but inconsistencies of the likes of death-over specialist Arshdeep Singh and Harshal Patel is a concern. Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar has also

been expensive though Harpreet Brar has done well so far.

For Hyderabad, the likes of Jaydev Unadkat, Mayank Markande and Bhuvneshwar Kumar have conceded too many runs.

Despite all his experience, Bhuvneshwar has struggled with the new ball though he managed a wicket in the last game. T Natarajan, who returned after missing two games in between, has also claimed four wickets so far.

Skipper Pat Cummins, who has taken five wickets in four games, has looked good but he will need consistent support from his other bowlers.

The Sunrisers bowlers dished out a lot of variations like cutters and slow balls to trouble the batters and they would hope to keep the momentum against the Kings.

a 3-2 head-to-head count between SRH and PBKS in the last five meetings, indicating that a tight battle is likely to be on the cards on Tuesday.

Nagal stuns world number 38 Arnaldi



Monte Carlo, Apr 08 (PTD):

Sumit Nagal on Monday became the first Indian player to win a singles main draw match at an ATP Masters event on clay when he shocked world number 38 Matteo Arnaldi in a grueling three-set contest in Monte Carlo.

Nagal, who entered the ATP Masters 1000 event via qualifying route, erased a one-set deficit to turn the tables on his Italian opponent for a memorable 5-7 6-2 6-4

win in the first round. He will next take on world number seven Holger Rune from Denmark.

This is Nagal's third victory over a top-50 player and second time in the current season. The 26-year-old had topped the then world number 27 Alexander Bublik in straight sets at the Australian Open in Melbourne at the start of the 2024 season.

He had also defeated then world No. 22 Chilean Cristian Garin in

In Monte Carlo for maiden win at Masters level

Argentina Open in March 2021. Nagal, who qualified into the main draw with wins over higher-ranked players, has ensured himself a career-high rank of 80 on a day when he touched career-high rank of 93. Nagal had also qualified for the Indian Wells Masters in March this year but fell to formidable Canadian Milos Raonic in the first round. He had also competed in the Qualifiers of the Miami Masters but could not make the main draw.

The first set was an even keel with both players breaking each other once. Serving to stay in the set, Nagal lost his serve in the 12th game with Arnaldi attacking the Indian's first serve.

However, Nagal remained unperturbed and broke his rival twice in the second set for a comfortable 4-1 lead. His serve came under pressure in game six but he held and closed the set for a decider.

India retains men's individual and team gold

In Asia-Oceania 24-hr ultra-running Championships

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTD):

Amar Singh Devanda smashed his own national record en route retaining the individual gold medal and helping the men's team to finish on top of the podium for the second consecutive edition of the IAU 24-hr Asia-Oceania Ultrarunning Championships in Canberra, Australia.

Devanda completed a distance of 272.537 km in the 24-hour run to win the gold in the competition which ended on Sunday.

He had also won a gold in the previous edition held in Bengaluru in 2022 by completing a distance of 257.618 km. Devanda rewrote his national record by nearly 15 km, according to information provided by the Athletics Federation of India.

Among other Indians in the fray, Ullas Narayana finished third by completing a distance of 245.574 km

while Saurav Ranjan was fourth with 240.137 km.

The Indian men's team also retained the gold medal with a combined total distance of 758.248 km.

The results of the best three competitors from a country are added to the team rankings.

The Australian team was second with 719.560 km while New Zealand was third with 636.679 km.

India had won the men's team gold medal in 2022 in Bengaluru with a total distance of 738.359 km.

In the women's section, Shashi Mehta was the best-placed Indian at eighth in the individual competition with a total distance of 190.772 km.

The Indian women's team of Mehta, Meenal Kotak and Preeti Lala finished fourth by completing a total distance of 527.354 km. Australia (666.580 km) won the women's team gold, while New Zealand (568.401 km) and Chinese Taipei (551.686 km) took silver and bronze respectively. Indian women's team had won silver in the 2022 edition.

Kohli's value beyond strike-rate, should be in for T20 WC: Lara

Bengaluru, Apr 08 (PTD):

Legendary Brian Lara asserted that Virat Kohli's value transcends cold numbers, and the West Indian virtuoso has little doubt that the star batter should be a part of India's T20 World Cup squad.

Kohli stood in the eye of a social media storm after making a 67-ball hundred for Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Rajasthan Royals in their IPL 2024 match at Jaipur, which was the joint slowest hundred in the competition alongside Manish Pandey's century in 2009.

"The strike-rate depends on position, and for an opener strike-rate of 130-140 is pretty alright. But if you are coming in the middle-order then you may be required to hit at 150 or 160. As you have seen in this IPL, batsmen are hitting at 200 in the latter part of an innings.

"But an opener like Kohli always has the



chance of starting at 130, but through the overs and finish at 160 or even higher, which is alright," Lara said on Monday during the Star Sports Press Room which was also attended by former India batter Ambati Rayudu.

"But if you ask me, India's top three in the World Cup should be Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill irrespective of all these. And for RCB, it should not be about one person, as it has to be a team effort," said Lara.

Hockey India goes with tried-and-tested

In picking core probables for women's national camp

Bengaluru, Apr 08 (PTD):

Seasoned campaigners like goalkeeper Savita Punia and forward Vandana Kataria were on Monday included in Hockey India's 33-strong list of core probables with some new faces also finding their way into the pruned group that will train here till May 16 for the upcoming FIH Pro League fixtures.

The HI had earlier selected 60 players for the camp before trimming the squad strength based on the selection trials which were held here on April 6 and 7 after the recent National Championship.

The Indian women's hockey team is set to travel to Antwerp and London to face Argentina, Belgium, Germany, and Great Britain in the FIH Hockey Pro League starting May

22. Hockey India High Performance Director Herman Krus said the new core group has the potential to achieve big things in future.

"The 14th Senior Women's National Championship was used to filter out the best hockey players from across the country, and over the last week the coaches and selectors have further hand-picked the 33 players they believe have the potential to propel the Indian women's hockey team to greater heights," said Krus. The familiar faces include current skipper Punia, defender Nikki Pradhan, mid-fielders Salima Tete, Ajmina Kujur and Nisha.

India's first-choice forwards like Lalremsiami, Sangita Kumar and Kataria were also in the group. HI had promised a revamped national camp after the team failed to qualify for the Paris Olympics, a big step backwards after the historic fourth-place finish in the Tokyo Olympics.

I like it when people expect me to win matches: Yash Thakur

Lucknow, Apr 08 (PTD):

Unlike many, Yash Thakur quite likes the burden of expectations. So, when his Lucknow Super Giants skipper K L Rahul saw a match-winner in him after Mayank Yadav's injury breakdown, the young pacer got the impetus he needed to fetch his maiden five-wicket haul in the IPL.

The 25-year-old from Vidarbha had the spotlight firmly planted on him after pace spearhead Yadav suffered a side strain and left the field mid-match against Gujarat Titans here on Sunday night.

Thakur returned figures of 5/30, including the wicket of GT captain Shubman Gill. This was his maiden five-wicket haul in the IPL and helped his team defeat Gujarat Titans by 33 runs, besides earning him the player of the match honours.

"Mayank is an extraordinary player and the speed he generates. I know my limitations and I know



my strength and I only back my strengths," Thakur said of his teammate, who has bowled the fastest delivery of this IPL.

Giving an update on Yadav, Thakur said his now famous teammate is doing fine.

"Nothing to worry. All good," he said.

Thakur, who wanted to be a wicketkeeper at the beginning of his cricket journey, credited his match-winning haul to the backing of Rahul.

"After Mayank left the field, (KL) Rahul bhai only said that 'may be this is your day, you can win the match for us'.

Shelton outlasts Tiafoe to win US men's clay court championship



Houston, Apr 08 (AP):

Ben Shelton captured his second career ATP Tour title, outlasting defending champion Frances Tiafoe 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 on Sunday to win the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship.

Shelton, 21, had 11 aces on the way to becoming the youngest player to win this event since Andy Roddick did it at 19 years old in 2002.

Shelton has had his issues on clay courts. He was 2-7 in his career on the slower surface and had lost his last five clay-court matches before starting tournament play

this week. But Shelton survived three three-set matches to take the title, his first since winning in Tokyo this past October.

The former Florida Gator standout won 83% of his first-serve points according to Infosys ATP Stats to triumph after 2 hours, 16 minutes.

He and Tiafoe are friends who had joking and kind words for each other after the match.

"I know this one stings," Shelton said. "Sorry you didn't go back-to-back titles, but you're that type of player who can go back-to-back. I want to see you do it again this year."

Sindhu and Co face tough challenge in BAC medal hunt



Ningbo (China), Apr 08 (PTD):

Olympic qualification ranking points adds another layer to the competition, which will see some high-octane battles between the top shuttlers this week.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, has shown signs of regaining her old touch when she dragged the likes of Tokyo Games gold medallist Chen Yufei to three games in French Open quarters.

On a comeback trail after recovering from injury, Sindhu's frustration of not being able to close out narrow matches was evident when she smashed her racquet following a razor-thin loss against Thailand's Supanida Katethong in Spain Masters.

Star Indian shuttlers, including PV Sindhu, will face a tough test against some of the world's best when they begin their medal hunt at the Badminton Asia Championships which will start with the qualifiers here on Tuesday.

The last-minute withdrawal of world No. 1 pair and defending champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty might have taken a bit of sheen away but it will put the onus on the singles stars to put their hands up during the continental individual Championships.

The fact that it is the last major event to award

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ARMY CHIEF TO FORCE

'Be prepared for 'black swan' events, expect the unexpected'

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI)



Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pandey addresses the student officers from the Indian Armed Forces and other countries undergoing the 79th Staff Course at Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), at Wellington in Nilgiris district, Monday.

difficult to predict.

The Army Chief pointed out the emergence of new trendlines triggered by this rapid change, underscoring how disruptive technologies are reshaping conventional combat force ratios.

Highlighting India's ascent on the global stage, Gen Pandey stressed the growing need to safeguard India's national interests across expanding strategic horizons.

The Army Chief called for strategic balance, underscoring the necessity for India to be strong and self-reliant in defence capabilities.

He also shed light on the Indian Army's ongoing "transformative initiatives", particularly emphasising the forces' approach in making 2024 the "year of technology absorption".

He highlighted the key areas of focus in the process and said it includes aligning and synergizing technology at strategic, operational, and tactical levels within existing systems.

Under the new initiative, mapping futuristic and emerging technologies as drivers of military technology is a priority, he said, adding strengthening the defence technology ecosystem to maintain a lead in the military technology curve is another focus area.

The Army Chief said the force is ensuring that acquisition and procurement facilitates the seamless induction of technology and it fosters "techno warriors and commanders".

Gen Pandey was addressing the faculty and officers of the 79th Staff Course, including 36 officers from friendly foreign nations.

His address covered critical topics such as national security, the geostrategic landscape and emerging trends, and the Indian Army's transformational initiatives. Addressing the geo-strategic landscape and emerging trends, Gen Pandey highlighted the unprecedented scale and speed of change in the current global arena.

TMC team meets EC, wants ED, CBI chiefs changed



A ten-member TMC delegation addresses the media after meeting with the full bench of EC, in New Delhi, Monday.

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI)

Leaders of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) sat on a 24-hour dharna outside the Election Commission's office here, demanding that the chiefs of CBI, NIA, ED and Income Tax Department be changed.

A delegation of the TMC leaders, including Derek O'Brien, Dola Sen, Saket Gokhale and Sagarika Ghose, met a full bench of the Election Commission (EC) over their demands.

The TMC has been al-

leging that the central probe agencies have been targeting opposition parties at the behest of the BJP-led Centre.

"The BJP is misusing central agencies against us. The way NIA, ED and CBI are working and targeting TMC leaders is shameful. We would request the EC to ensure a level playing field for all political parties," Sen told reporters at the Kolkata airport before leaving for New Delhi.

The TMC alleged on Sunday an "unholy alliance" between the NIA

and the BJP ahead of elections, prompting the central investigating agency to deny any mala fide intention and label the entire controversy as "unfortunate".

A team of the NIA was allegedly attacked by a mob on Saturday when it went to arrest two main suspects in a 2022 blast case in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district, sparking a political slugfest with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accusing the investigators of assaulting the villagers.

Sonowal urges ULFA(I) to come for talks

Tinsukia (Assam), Apr 08 (PTI)

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, BJP's nominee for Dibrugarh Lok Sabha constituency, on Monday urged ULFA (Independent) to come for talks and resolve all issues through discussions.

In an interview with PTI before commencing his day's campaign in the assembly segments of Tinsukia district within his constituency, Sonowal emphasised the dedicated efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah towards restoring peace in the state.

"We have always wanted ULFA to come forward for talks. Let us sit together to discuss to find out an amicable solution", Sonowal said.

He highlighted the Prime Minister's commitment to fostering peace and development across the Northeast region, citing the earnest endeavours made by both Modi and the home minister over the past decade.

"During the last ten years, both the PM and the home minister have made sincere efforts to bring peace in the state and the region", the Minister for Shipping, Ports, Waterways and Ayush said.

Accords have been signed with the pro-talks faction of the ULFA, which was disbanded earlier this year, and all groups of the NDFB, Dimas and Karbi insurgent outfits.

ULFA(I) is the only insurgent outfit in Assam which is yet to come for discussions.

Asked about Dibrugarh

and Tinsukia being former hubs of ULFA activities, Sonowal remarked that those days are now in the past.

"If there is peace, there will be development and progress. A peaceful environment fosters motivation for hard work, leading to enhanced earning potential for people from all walks of life," he remarked.

Sonowal affirmed his commitment to continue the transformative efforts initiated by Modi.

"The change in the region is being realised through the efforts of Modiji and we will continue to do so after he becomes the Prime Minister for the third successive term", Sonowal added.

The Union Minister is contesting the Dibrugarh Lok Sabha seat for the third time, having wrested it for the first time from

the Congress in 2004 as an Asom Gana Parishad candidate.

He lost the seat to Congress candidate in 2009 and shifted to Lakhimpur in 2014 from where he won and went on to become a minister of state in the first cabinet of Modi.

He became Assam Chief Minister in 2016 and after he was succeeded by the current incumbent Himanta Biswa Sarma, he went on to become a Rajya Sabha member in 2021.

Sonowal replaced sitting BJP MP and Union Minister Rameswar Teli as the party's Dibrugarh contestant.

He is locked in a triangular contest the other two being Assam Jatiya Parishad's Lurinjoyoti Gogoi as the United Opposition Forum nominee and the Aam Aadmi Party's contender.

Kannur's country bomb blast sparks political controversy

• Ahead of Lok Sabha polls

Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 08 (PTI)

With the Lok Sabha polls just weeks away, the recent country bomb blast in northern Kannur that killed a person and injured three others who were allegedly making the crude explosive has triggered a political quarrel in Kerala. The opposition Congress has accused activists of the ruling CPI(M) of direct involvement in bomb-making, while the Marxist party has denied the charges and distanced itself from the allegations and the persons who were injured in the blast.

Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly V D Satheesan alleged on Monday that the person responsible for making the bomb, who was killed in the blast, was affiliated

with the ruling party. Those who were injured in the explosion, which took place at Panur in Kannur district on Friday, and those who had taken them to the hospital were also CPI(M) workers, he said.

"Those who went for the funeral of the deceased person were also activists of the CPI(M). Then how can the ruling party evade responsibility for making the bomb?" Satheesan asked while talking to reporters here.

Asking whether the bomb was made to kill the activists of the Congress-led UDF, he also accused Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who holds the home portfolio, of promoting criminals. "The chief minister is the one who encourages all criminals in the state. Then he says that they will win the Lok Sabha polls. The LDF will not win even a single seat," the LoP remarked.

Meanwhile, Vijayan assured the public that he would take stringent action, beyond politics, against those involved in bomb making but defended the CPI(M) in the ongoing row.

He also justified the visit of the party's local leaders to the house of Sheril, a resident of Kaivelikkal who had succumbed to blast injuries, saying they did not do anything "prohibited".

While speaking to reporters at Adoor in Pathanamthitta, Vijayan said the making of bombs cannot be accepted at any cost. "There is no need to make bombs in our state. Legal actions have already been taken in this regard. There is no need to see things politically. It (bomb-making) was a crime, and we have taken action against those in

While replying to a question, the CM further

said he does not think that visiting the house of a deceased person is a "prohibited act" and said consoling the family members was not at all a wrong thing.

CPI(M) State Secretary M V Govindan also defended the party in the bomb blast incident and said it had no role in it.

The party's stand is that there should be no conflict anywhere, he said, and claimed that the CPI(M) is viewing even the attacks against it with self-restraint. He also accused a section of the media in the state of working as a megaphone of the right wing and spreading false propaganda against the CPI(M). Govindan also justified the visit of party members to the house of the blast victim, and said that visiting the house of deceased persons is a "part of the culture", the leader said.

FOLK DANCE COMPETITION



Students perform 'Bhangra' during a folk dance competition at Guru Nanak Dev University, in Amritsar, Monday.

41% constituencies have 3 or more candidates with criminal cases: ADR

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI)

Forty-two of the 102 Lok Sabha seats going to polls in the general election's first phase are constituencies that have three or more candidates facing criminal cases, according to a poll rights body.

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 1,618 candidates out of the 1,625 contesting the elections in its first phase on April 19.

Out of the 1,618 candidates, 16 per cent or 252 candidates are named in criminal cases, with 10 per cent or 161 candidates facing serious criminal charges, according to the analysis of their affidavits

LS POLL PHASE-I

by the organisation.

Seven candidates have murder cases lodged against them, while 19 are implicated in attempt to murder cases.

Eighteen candidates have declared in their affidavits cases related to crimes against women, and one of them, faces rape charge under section 376 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the ADR, which did the analysis along with National Election Watch, a coalition of civil society groups for domestic election monitoring, said.

The organisation said that 35 candidates are linked to cases of hate

speech.

The analysis showed that 42 or 41 per cent of the 102 seats scheduled to go to polls in the first of the seven-phase elections are "red alert" constituencies.

"Red alert" constituencies are those where three or more contesting candidates have declared criminal cases in their affidavits.

The analysis showed that among major parties, there are criminal cases against all four candidates of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), 13 (59 per cent) of the candidates of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), three (43 per cent) of seven can-

didates of the Samajwadi Party (SP), two (40 per cent) of five candidates of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), 28 (36 per cent) of 77 candidates of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and 19 (34 per cent) of 56 candidates of the Congress.

The number stood at 13 (36 per cent) out of 36 candidates of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and 11 (13 per cent) out of 86 candidates of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

In tandem with the revelations on criminal backgrounds, the ADR said the analysis also highlights wealth disparities among candidates.

It said, according to affidavits, around 28 per cent

of candidates in the polls' first phase are "crorepatis" with assets exceeding Rs 1 crore. The average assets per candidate stands at Rs 4.51 crores, with notable discrepancies observed across party lines, the ADR found.

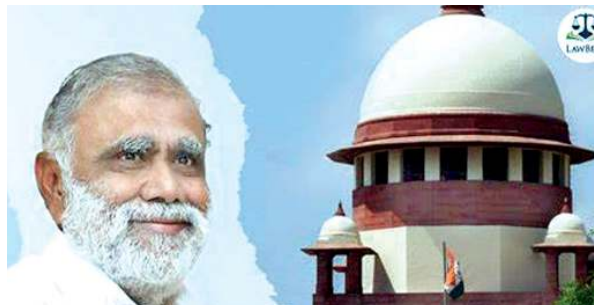
The analysis showed that among the major parties, more than Rs 1 crore assets have been declared by all four candidates of the RJD, 35 (97 per cent) of 36 candidates of the AIADMK, 21 (96 per cent) of 22 candidates of the DMK, 69 (90 per cent) of 77 candidates of the BJP, 49 (88 per cent) of 56 candidates of the Congress, four (80 per cent) of five candidates of the TMC and 18 (21 per cent) of 86 candidates of the BSP.

SC stays proceedings against TN minister Periyasamy

New Delhi, Apr 08 (PTI)

In a relief to Tamil Nadu Rural Development Minister I Periyasamy, the Supreme Court on Monday stayed till further orders the proceedings against him in a corruption case.

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Prashant Kumar Mishra said since the top court is examining the appeal of the minister, who has chal-



lenged a February 26 Madras High Court order which set aside the trial

court order discharging him in the case, the proceedings in the matter

CORRUPTION CASE

need to be stayed.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Periyasamy, said the apex court had granted Periyasamy the liberty to approach the trial court for deferment of the proceedings but his application was dismissed.

"The trial court said that the high court has fixed a time frame for completing

the trial and hence dismissed my application for deferment of proceedings," the senior lawyer said. The bench then passed the order for stay of proceedings before the court in Chennai. In an application filed through advocate Ram Sankar, Periyasamy sought the apex court's direction for deferment of trial and exemption from personal appearance in the graft case before a Chennai court.

'Charaideo Maidams may get UNESCO heritage tag this year'



Jorhat (Assam), Apr 08 (PTI): Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said the Maidams of Charaideo, burial mounds of Ahom royals, are set to attain UNESCO World Heritage Site

status by the end of this year. Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dedication to Assam, Sarma urged the public to support him for a third consecutive term. Addressing an election rally at Charaideo under Jorhat Lok Sabha seat, Sarma recounted his meeting with Modi where he had placed the request for recommending the 'Maidams' as the country's nomination for UNESCO World Heritage site label.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं
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