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BRIEF



91-year-old voter Gayatri Sharma shows her ink-marked finger after casting vote through postal ballot for the Lok Sabha elections under the 'voting from home' facility, in Bikaner.

Setback

Mumbai: In a fresh setback to the Uddhav Thackeray camp ahead of Lok Sabha elections, former Maharashtra minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) deputy leader Babanrao Gholap joined the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday. Shinde said two more MLAs from Rajasthan will join the party in the next two days.

Homage

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday paid homage to Harichand Thakur, who founded the Matua sect, and lauded the community's rich culture and contributions. "I bow to Shree Shree Harichand Thakur Ji on the special occasion of his Jayanti. I reiterate our government's commitment to keep working to fulfil his ideals. I also convey my best wishes for 'Matua Dharma Mahamela' 2024," Modi said in a post on X.

Booked

Thane: The Navi Mumbai police have registered a case against an employee of a credit society for allegedly embezzling Rs 4.2 lakh and cheating an investor, an official said on Sunday. Rameshkumar Patel (32) allegedly committed the crime between April 2002 and March 2023.

Escape

Bhawanipatna: Two prisoners, who were facing trial under the POCSO Act, escaped from Kalahandi district jail in Odisha on Sunday, an official said. The two were in the jail garden this morning and they somehow managed to break the security in the prison which has high walls and watchtowers, he said.

Shot at

Gurugram: A 26-year-old man was shot at by an assailant at a mall here over a drunken altercation early Sunday morning, police said. The victim, hailing from Rajasthan's Suratgarh, got hurt in his thigh and was rushed to a hospital where he is currently being treated, they added. An FIR has been lodged against the accused who managed to flee, the police said.

Weather

High 41 Low 26

Modi's Muslim League, tukde tukde dig at Cong manifesto

Nawada (Bihar), Apr 07 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched a blistering attack on the opposition Congress, charging that its poll manifesto bore the imprint of Muslim League and utterances of its leaders betrayed hostility towards national integrity and Sanatan Dharma.



PM Modi with Union Minister Giriraj Singh during a public meeting ahead of LS elections, in Nawada, Sunday.

Addressing a rally in Nawada district, his second in Bihar in 72 hours, Modi also recounted the 'jungle raj' that prevailed when the state was ruled by the Congress-RJD combine, showering praises on his ally Nitish Kumar and ailing BJP colleague Sushil Kumar Modi for turning things around as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief

Minister respectively. "The manifesto that the Congress has released bears the imprint of the Muslim League. It has not released a poll manifesto but a declaration of appeasement (tushtikaran patra)," alleged Modi. The Prime Minister also came down heavily on AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, without mentioning him by name, who re-

cently objected to raising the issue of abrogation of Article 370, by BJP leaders, during poll campaigns in states like Rajasthan. "The post of the national president of the Congress is not a small thing. And the leader thinks Article 370 has nothing to do with Rajasthan. Is Jammu and Kashmir not an integral part of the country? His thinking betrays the mindset of tukde-tukde gang," alleged Modi. He pointed out that security personnel from all over the country, including Rajasthan and Bihar, have laid down their lives fighting terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, and "their bodies have reached their native places wrapped in tricolour".

Foreign students asked to leave hostel after namaz row

Ahmedabad, Apr 07 (PTI):

Six students from Afghanistan and one from East Africa have been asked to vacate the Gujarat University's hostel rooms for overstaying, an official said on Sunday, in a move coming weeks after some foreign students were attacked for offering namaz on the premises.

Neerja Gupta said, "Six students from Afghanistan and one from East Africa were asked to vacate their hostel rooms after they were found overstaying."

An Afghan and a Gambian delegation had visited the university days after the March 16 attack and held a meeting with the vice-chancellor over safety measures. Talking to PTI, the university's vice-chancellor

These persons had completed their studies and were staying in the hostel as ex-students due to some pending administrative work, she said. The university has ensured that they are no longer required to stay in the hostel and arranged for them to return to their respective countries, Gupta said. "We have completed the required paperwork and they can now safely return to their na-

tive countries. We don't want to keep any former students in our hostel. We have informed the consulates of the respective countries, and they have also directed these students to vacate the hostel," the vice-chancellor said. More than 300 international students are enrolled in Gujarat University, she said. Around two dozen people barged into the government-run university's hostel on the night of March 16 and assaulted students from foreign countries for offering namaz at one of the blocks during the ongoing month of Ramzan, police said.

Latur couple transforms lives of underprivileged children

Latur, Apr 07 (PTI):

In a nondescript village in Maharashtra's Latur district, a couple has created a haven for underprivileged children to educate them and make them self-reliant, and they are now proud parents to 51 boys and girls.

Manus Pratishthan, on 14 acres of land near Budhoda village in AUSA tehsil. The ashram is set up on 1.10 acres, while the remaining land is used for farming and various crops are produced by the children. "Mahatma Gandhi introduced the concept 'Nai Talim' in 1937, dreaming of making villages independent and self-reliant. Similarly, I want to make my children self-reliant. We teach children to make idols and other items by reusing and recycling materials," Sharad Zare told PTI. The ashram's expenses are met through the sale of farm produce and handicrafts made by the children, he said. Over the years, the Zare couple have adopted 51 children from varied backgrounds, including those from red-light areas, orphans, children of sugarcane cutters and farmers who commit-

LS POLLS

Sharad Pawar, Uddhav fighting for political survival

Mumbai, Apr 07 (PTI):

As the campaign for the Lok Sabha elections gathers momentum, Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray, the leaders of two prominent regional parties in Maharashtra, are fighting a battle for political survival.



Pawar as they are out of power and have lost control of their parties - Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), respectively - along with the original name and electoral symbol. The Election Commission and the Maharashtra assembly speaker have recognised the Ajit Pawar-led NCP and Shinde-led Sena as the real NCP and the real Shiv Sena.

Consider weather, climate for '1 nation, 1 poll': IMD

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

With the government contemplating the idea of simultaneous Lok Sabha and state elections, India Meteorological Department chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the authorities should certainly take weather conditions and the climate into consideration when planning for such a massive exercise.



Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

Mohapatra told PTI in an interview that India will experience intense heat during the general election period, and the IMD is providing specialised forecasts to help

authorities prepare better, but it has not proposed a change in the timings of public rallies and voting. Asked about the ideal time to hold elections, given the central government's contemplation of

Yoga Mahotsav

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

The 75-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga on June 21 began on Sunday with a well-attended Yoga Mahotsav in Maharashtra's Pune. Thousands actively engaged in the practice of the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) at the event jointly organised by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) and the National Institute of Naturopathy, Ministry of Ayush, at Pune's Nowrojee Wadia College.

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Eight patients suffer from side-effects

After cataract surgery

Indore, Apr 07 (PTI):

Eight persons allegedly suffered from side-effects after cataract surgery at a hospital in Indore last month, prompting the local administration to seal the medical facility's operation theatre and launch a probe into the

matter, officials said on Sunday. It is difficult to say whether these patients have lost their eyesight or not and things will be clear after the investigation, they said.

A managing trustee of the hospital, however said there was no negligence and claimed the eight patients had a "reaction" in their eyes due to unknown

reasons and all of them were discharged after treatment. The local administration has constituted a three-member committee which has started the probe into the reasons for the side-effects suffered by the patients, District Blindness Control Society manager Dr Pradeep Goyal told PTI.

'Unemployment 'imposed by BJP' biggest issue in LS polls'

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said the biggest issue in the Lok Sabha elections is the unemployment "imposed by the BJP", claiming the youth are struggling to find jobs and the country is staring at a "demographic nightmare".



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge with party leader Sonia Gandhi during a public meeting, ahead of Lok Sabha elections, in Jaipur.

In a post on X, Kharge said the Congress 'Pehli Naukri Pakki' guarantee under 'Yuva Nyay' would remove the barriers that separate work and learning, thereby opening fresh

avenues for career growth. "The biggest issue in these Lok Sabha elections is unemployment, imposed by the BJP. Our

Youth are struggling to find jobs, and we are staring at a demographic nightmare," the Congress president claimed.

Citing the case of India's premier institutes, IITs and IIMs, Kharge said across 12 IITs, around 30 per cent of our students are not getting regular placements.

"Only 20% of 21 IIMs could complete the summer placements so far. If this is the situation in IITs and IIMs, then one can imagine how the BJP has destroyed the future of our Youth across the country," he said.

The rate of youth unemployment under Modi government has tripled since 2014, he said.

ALL FOR HEALTH

Participants during a bicycle rally on the World Health Day, in Bhopal, Sunday.

Extended poll timings, ORS, medical teams to help voters

Deal with heat on poll days

Ranchi, Apr 07 (PTI):

In anticipation of intense heat during the Lok Sabha polls in Jharkhand, comprehensive measures have been put in place to mitigate the effects of heat waves on voters, officials, and security personnel. These include extending poll timings, setting up makeshift sheds, providing ORS and lemon water, and deploying medical teams and ambulances, an election official said. The elections will be conducted in seven phases

from April 19 to June 1, with Jharkhand's voting taking place on May 13, 20, 25, and June 1 for its 14 seats. With over 2.55 crore eligible voters, including 1.25 crore women, increasing voter turnout amidst the heatwave presents a significant challenge for both the state and the Election Commission.

In 2019, Jharkhand's overall voter turnout was 66.8 per cent, lower than the national average of 67.4 per cent. To address this measures such as extending polling hours from 7 am to 5 pm and providing temporary shelters at booths have been implemented.

Police and administrative officers conduct flag march

Divisional Commissioner, IGP, Collector and SP march on streets in Durg



Bhilai, Apr 07:

Recently a meeting of district and police administration officials was organized at Kala Mandir Civic Centre, regarding preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024. Divisional Commissioner SN Rathore reviewed the preparations made so far for the elections by the police and administration

and extended best wishes to the officials for ensuring serious adherence to the model code of conduct, making voters aware about voting and conducting peaceful and fair elections. After the meeting, a flag march was carried out by the district and police administration officials along with hundreds of police officers and jawans with the aim of conducting peaceful elec-

tions and creating a sense of security among the common citizens so that they can vote without any fear.

Before the commencement of flag march, Ram Gopal Garg, Inspector General of Police, Durg Range, briefed all the officers / employees about the purpose of the flag march and gave necessary directions to the jawans. Flag March was conducted in

almost all the localities of Durg. The march began from Kala Mandir and moved across Globe Chowk, Sector-09 Hospital Triangle, 32 Bungalow Triangle and Y-Shape Bridge.

Divisional Commissioner SN Rathore, Inspector General of Police, Durg Range, Ramgopal Garg, Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary, Superintendent of Police, Durg, Jitendra Shukla, ADM Arvind Ekka, District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Dewangan, Additional Collector Yogita Dewangan, Deputy District Election Officer BK Dubey, Additional Superintendent of Police Sukhmandan Rathore, Additional Superintendent of Police Abhishek Jha, police station and chowki in-charges, sector and nodal officers involved in the elections were present.

Durg Police busts job fraud gang; four held

Bhilai, Apr 07:



ASP Sukhmandan Rathore informed that Supela Police had received a complaint from the victims Tivendra Kumar Sinha and others of village Rawa, Dhatmari. They were duped on the pretext of government jobs by Arjun Manikpuri of Supela and his accomplices. Supela Police lodged an FIR and launched an investigation.

Police searched for Arjun Manikpuri, but he was not found at his residence. Police activated the network of informers. Soon, Police received a tip off that Arjun Manikpuri had come to Supela. Acting on this tip off, Supela Police swung into action and nabbed the accused Arjun Manikpuri. During interrogation, he confessed to duping about Rs 71 lakhs from about 15-20 people. On the basis of Arjun's statement, his accomplice Tarun Kashyap was arrested from Raipur

and Hari Vivek Dahriya was arrested from Rajnandgaon on April 05. Another co-accused Kishore Jaiswal was on Sunday.

It needs to be mentioned here that FIRs with charges of fraud are registered against accused Hari Vivek Dahriya at Police Station Ambagarh Chowki of Rajnandgaon and Rajendra Nagar Police Station of Raipur.

Police arrested the accused Durvasa Das

Manikpuri alias Arjun alias Golu (35) son of Balram Das Manikpuri, a resident of Radhika Nagar, Supela; Tarun Kashyap (28) son of Lalu Ram Kashyap a resident village Kanhari (GPM); Hari Vivek Dahriya (39) son of Hari Shankar Dahriya a resident of Prem Nagar Mova, Raipur; and Kishore Jaiswal (36) son of Banshi Lal Jaiswal a resident Gokul Nagar, Raipur under section 420, 467, 468,

471, 120B of IPC. They were produced before the court and have been taken into police remand. Two cars including a Hyundai Venue and S-Cross as well as Rs 71 lakh cash were seized from them.

Inspector Rajesh Mishra (SHO, Supela), SI Amit Andani, Head Constable Upendra Singh, Constable Vikas Tiwari, Vivek Singh, Faraz Khan and Mahatma Sahu played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Dalli-Rajhara Mines gets two new BEML Shovels & a Drill Machine

Bhilai, Apr 07:

To maintain the continuous supply of iron ore to Bhilai Steel Plant and to upkeep the productivity of the mines, new mining equipment including two new Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) Shovels and one Drill Machine were provided to Dalli Mechanized Mines on April 04, 2024. Anirban Das Gupta, Director I/c (SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant) inaugurated the machines at the HEME Garage of Dalli Mechanized Mine and dedicated them to the mines.

Anirban Dasgupta in his address congratulated the Iron Ore Group Dalli



Rajhara and appreciated Dalli Mechanized Mine for its excellent performance in the financial year 2023-24. He also appreciated the collective efforts being made by the Iron Ore Group to ensure a continuous supply of iron ore to the Plant. I hope the inclu-

sion of these new mining machines may enhance the production of our mines while adhering to safety protocols, Dasgupta said.

Samir Swarup, ED (Rowghat), Arun Kumar, CGM (Rowghat) RB Gaharwar, CGM (Mines)

IOC, Rajhara, PM Shirpurkar, Sukanto Mondal, Bipin Kumar, General Managers (Mines) were present on this occasion along with Anand, DGM (Mines), Pankaj Kumar, Mgr (Mines), Senior Officials from Bharat Earth Movers

Limited (BEML), other Senior Officials and departmental personnel of BSP-Mines. The Rajhara Mechanized Mine, another important mine of the Iron Ore Group, also received a new BEML shovel, which was inaugurated by Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), in the presence of BK Giri, ED (Mines), C Srikant, GM (Mines-Rajhara), and other Senior Officials and departmental personnel of Rajhara Mechanized Mines.

It is noteworthy that the Dalli and Rajhara Mines are important mines of the Dalli Rajhara iron ore cluster and play an important role in supplying iron ore to the Plant.

Truck driver robbed at knifepoint; two arrested

Bhilai, Apr 07:



A truck driver from Nagpur was robbed mobile and cash at knifepoint near Kosa Nullah Toll Plaza on the intervening night of Sunday. Police have arrested two local youth on charges of loot.

ASP Sukhmandan Rathore informed that they had received a complaint from the victim truck driver Vicky Devidas Uikey, a resident of Nagpur Maharashtra. Around 13:30 hrs on the intervening night of Sunday, two youths intercepted his truck near Kosa Nullah Toll Plaza and robbed Rs 3000 cash and mobile at knifepoint. Police lodged a case and investigations

were launched. On the basis of the CCTV footage, police nabbed the suspects Krishna Rajbhar and Sameer Khan. During interrogation, they confessed to committing robbery. The looted mobile phone and Rs 1740 cash were seized from them.

The accused Krishna Rajbhar (20) son of Vinod Rajbhar, a resident of

Shakti Nagar, Chhawani and Sameer Khan (24) son of Abdul Rahim, a resident of Shakti Nagar, Chhawani were arrested under section 394 of IPC. They were produced before the court and have been sent to jail on judicial remand. The accused Krishna Rajbhar is a habitual criminal of Chhawani area.

Training organised for Election Expenditure Monitoring teams

Bhilai, Apr 07:

Under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Chaudhary, Election Expenditure Monitoring (FST, SST, VST, VVT, AEO, Account) teams have been constituted in the district for the smooth conduct of Lok Sabha Elections 2024. A training session was organised for these teams at BIT Durg. At the outset, ADM Arvind Ekka suggested the officers to understand the intricacies of the work and activities assigned to them and discharge their responsibilities by paying serious attention to the guidelines of the Commission. EEM



Nodal Officer Dr Diwakar Singh Rathore, Joint Director Fund Accounts and Pension, informed the team members in detail about their work. He gave information regarding election expenditure, purpose of election expenditure monitoring, statutory provisions, proceedings during rallies of Star

Campaigners, Conduct of Elections Rules 1961 and EEM mechanism. Master Trainer Pushpendra Kumar Verma informed about the works of FST, SST, VST, VVT, AEO, Account Team and the seizure proceedings. Income Tax Officer Ranjani Sree Kumar highlighted in detail the work of

the Income Tax Department during the elections. Lead Bank Manager Dilip Nayak gave information about generating QR code and cash transfer in banks. Manoj Chandrakar explained about the process of uploading cases under ESMS and C-VIGIL. During the training, the doubts of the team members were also resolved. Additional Collector Yogita Dewangan, SDM Mukesh Raote, Joint Collector Harvansh Singh Miri, Nodal Officer EEM, Deputy Collector Mahesh Singh Rajput and officials of EEM (FST, SST, VST, VVT, AEO, Account Team) were present.

Bhilai, Apr 07:

The final round presentations of Chairman Trophy for Young Managers (CTYM) 2023-24 was organized at SAIL level on April 05, 2024. Technical papers were presented at Management Training Institute (MTI) Ranchi by the finalist teams from various units representing SAIL's integrated steel plants and other services units. The team representing SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) brought glory to Bhilai by winning this prestigious title. The team from BSL Bokaro ended up as 1st runners-up while the team from RSP Rourkela was ad-



judged 2nd Runners up. The team from BSP comprised of Sonal Shrivastava Manager (RCL), Siddharth Roy Manager (Blast Furnace) and Vinay Kumar Pawar Dy Manager (LDCE/RMP-ID). The theme of the competition was "Sustainable Future through ESG (Environment & Social

Governance) Adoption-Challenges & Way Forward for SAIL". It is noteworthy that in this competition, all executives in SAIL up to the age of 45 years are eligible to participate. The objective of the competition is to encourage self-confidence among young managers through reading and management concepts.

The winning and runners-up teams of SAIL CTYM Trophy are honoured by Chairman, SAIL every year. The winning team from BSP will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 30,000 per member along with an opportunity to take a three-day visit to a foreign steel plant. It is worth mentioning that BSP teams have been successful in winning this prestigious trophy three times and becoming runners up once in last four years. BSP teams won the trophy nine times so far. Out of 19 competitions held so far, BSP teams won the top position in 2004-05, 2007-08, 2009-10, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2016-17, 2020-21, 2021-22 and now in 2023-24.

Bihar youth arrested for cannabis smuggling

Bhilai, Apr 07:

On the instructions of SP Jitendra Shukla, Durg Police are conducting a special drive against the people involved in illegal smuggling, peddling and trade of narcotics and other intoxicants. Cops are maintaining vigil on the activities of suspects and criminal record holders. The network of informers has also been activated. In this sequel, police received a tip off regarding a drug smuggler, who was waiting for customers at Nehru Nagar Square. Police team swung into action and the suspect was taken into custody. On searching, police recovered 41.85 kgs of cannabis worth Rs 8.37 lakhs. The accused identified as Rajpal Mahato (24) son of Late Suresh Mahato, a resi-



dent of Gopalganj, Bihar was arrested under section 20(b) of NDPS Act. He was produced before the court and has been sent to jail on judicial remand. Inspector Rajesh Mishra (SHO, Supela), Sub Inspector Pramod Sinha, ASI Rajesh Singh, Head Constable Prakashchandra Tiwari, Upendra Singh, Constable Vishal Singh, Vivek Singh, Ajit Singh, Kapil Chaudhary and Junaid Siddiqui played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Director I/c visits M&HS and TSD at the onset of FY 2024-25

Bhilai, Apr 07:

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant concluded the past financial year 2023-24 with several records & accomplishments. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c SAIL-BSP visited Medical & Health Services Department and Town Administration Dept the other day and met a cross-section of executives and personnel, congratulating them for their performance and motivating them to perform better in the current Financial year 2024-25.

Anirban Dasgupta was accompanied by Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), Subrata Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Dr AK Panda, ED (F&A), Samir Swarup, ED (Rowghat), and Pawan

Kumar, ED (P&A), and Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS), at both departments.

Director I/c Dasgupta, along with the respective Executive Directors were welcomed by Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS) at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital & Research Centre. The respective CMOS, Addl CMOS, Senior Consultants, and Hospital Staff were also present on this occasion.

Dr Ravindranath M presented a brief report on the achievements and challenges faced in the past financial year and also highlighted the plans for the newly commenced year 2024-25.

Addressing the M&HS Collective, Anirban Dasgupta stated that



health services is an essential part of the employee welfare of our organization. Despite many challenges, M&HS department has done well to provide the best possible health services to employees and treatment facilities for citizens of Bhilai.

We shall endeavour to further improve the health services by upgrading diagnostic equipment, he said, extending his best

wishes to M&HS Collective for the current year. At the Town Administration Building, JY Sapkal, CGM (TSD & CSR) welcomed Dasgupta, Director I/c and the EDs, on behalf of the Town Services Dept. He presented a brief on the department's performance in the last financial year. Senior Officers of TSD's respective sections including Public Health,

Horticulture, Enforcement, and CSR, were present on this occasion along with the departmental employees.

Anirban Dasgupta in his address stated that the work done by the Town Services Department is as crucial as the production at the Plant. It's a thankless job because despite working round the clock throughout the year, the department has to face

criticism even for small shortcomings. In financial year 23-24, TSD has generated a record revenue, which is praiseworthy. All the respective sections including Enforcement have worked tirelessly to free BSP's lands and properties from encroachment. We must strive to provide the best services to Township's residents and make Bhilai an ideal Township, he said. We must set higher goals for this year. My best wishes to the TSD Collective for even better results in Financial Year 2024-25, he said.

Executive Directors present also shared their valuable insights and suggestions and motivated the employees of both departments to achieve higher in the current Financial Year.

PM Modi has increased honour of 140 cr India all over the world: Sai

● Appeals party workers to ensure LS candidate victory from Raigarh LS seat with record margin

Raipur/Pathalgaon, Apr 07: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai addressing the party workers in Pathalgaon said that there was a time when the Presidents of USA and Russia were popular and were in the news and there was no information about India's PM. But right since Narendra Modi took over the reins as the Prime Minister, India is back in news all over the world. Wherever PM Modi goes to any part of the country, the entire atmosphere becomes in his favour and now even the people of USA and Russia are keen to shake hands with PM Modi and there are many who even takes his blessings touching his feet. PM Modi has brought major transformation and changes India's look out to increase the honour and prestige of 140 cr Indians.

Speaking further Sai said that few Congress leaders have passed cheap remarks against PM Modi and termed him as 'chowkidar Chor', 'maut ka soudagar', but the people giving befitting reply to all of them have put them (Cong) in the Opposition. Now recently Charandas Mahant has given cheap statement against out PM and it the



people who will give him right response and entire army of Congmen will be wiped out.

Saying that the party is paying special attention towards development in Bastar and Surguja division, CM said that his government has increased the purchasing of tendupatta to Rs 5500 per standard lot and its time period too has been extended for 15 days. The schemes of distribution of 'charan-padukas' (boots) for tendupatta pluckers, which was stopped by ex-CM Baghel will be re-started. To ensure that the people of Bastar region get all basic amenities, the BJP government has launched 'Niyad Nellanar Yojana' and under this the villagers will get roads, electricity, pure drinking water, schools, hospitals and others and LGP cylinders at Rs 500 each; the landless labourers will get Rs 10000

per year and all these promises would be completed after LS polls one-by-one and therefore he appealed all the ensure BJP's victory in the forthcoming LS polls.

Gheraoing the Congress, CM Sai charged that Bhupesh Baghel had made Chhattisgarh as the crime capital and centre of corruption. They did not completed the promises made to the people and made the entire state bankrupt, by being involved in looting and corruption. It is by doing corruption in 'Narwara...' scheme, they even did not spared the sacred cow from cow-dung scam. The youth were made habitual of Mahadev Satta App and he took Rs 508 as protection money to keep this App continued and for which an FIR has been lodged against him. Sai said that the accused involved in

the scams during Congress government are behind the bars and those sleeping in comfy mattresses are made to sleep in hard-stone in the jail and are facing the punishment for the crime they committed and after this there is beginning of good governance of BJP in the state.

Sai said that seeing the record presence of crowd, it appears as if it is not party workers' convention, but a general public meeting and he appealed the voters to ensure victory of BJP's LS candidate Bhai Radheshyam Rathia with record votes and added that he has come to make Modi as PM for the third time in order to fulfill all the promises made under Modi-ki-Guarantee. He also appealed the party workers of Raigarh LS seat to ensure BJP's candidate victory with record votes and work hard likewise.

FLEX OF HOARDINGS



Due to strong winds in the morning hours, the flexes in the hoardings in some part were torn due to strong winds here on Sunday.

Two arrested with ganja worth Rs 2.5 cr

Raipur, Apr 07: Bhatapara-Baloda Bazar Police have busted a racket of Ganja peddlers who were peddling Ganja by using ambulance. Two persons involved in peddling ganja were arrested and 750 kg of ganja worth about Rs 2.5 crore has been recovered from their possession. The matter was disclosed by SP Sadanand Kumar on Sunday.

SP Sadanand Kumar said that ganja peddlers were continuously peddling Ganja by adopting new tactics. Similarly, information about ganja peddling in ambulance



was received, on which Bhatapara Rural police intercepted the ambulance and caught Ganja peddling. Upon search, 750 kg of ganja was found in the ambulance, whose estimated value is around Rs 2.5 crore.

SP said that peddlers were carrying ganja by using life-saving ambulance as they knew that everyone gives way to the ambulance. The ambulance caught today was found to have different number plates from three

states, which the peddlers kept changing as per their need and were able to easily reach their destination.

According to the peddlers, they have been involved in this activity since long. After arrest peddlers are being interrogated. On this success, the IG has also talked about honoring the police officers busting this racket. Ganja is peddled often via Sarangarh-Bilaigarh via Bargarh in Odisha and peddlers consider this route very easy. For the first time, they had chosen Balodabazar Bhatapara route with the help of ambulance and were caught.

Woman fall victim of lifting in inter-state bus

● Lost Rs 15000 in cash and jewellery

Raipur, Apr 07: There was a case of lifting in an inter-state bus service and in this the role of bus driver and conductor seems to be suspicious. These lifters loot the passengers of their purses, suitcase, trolley bag and other items.

Today on Sunday a woman from Amrawati to Raipur fell victim of this lifting. Neha Jagmalani was travelling from Amrawati to Raipur along with her son in Payal Travel's bus and was coming to her father's house in Raipur. After boarding in Amrawati, she fell asleep and in the morning when she woke up from sleep, she found her purse to be lighter. When she checked the purse, cash of Rs 15000 and jewellery were found

to be missing. She inquired from the conductor and it was of no help. Neha and her family member filed report in Tikrapara thana on Saturday evening.

It is notable here that two-three months back also a purse of woman coming from Maharashtra to her house in Devendra Nagar in city was also stolen and till date there are no disclosure of the crime. The bus driver and conductor picks up passengers mid-way from village with less of fare in these long-travel inter-state buses. The travel owners ensuring of safe express service, do get pre-booking done from Raipur to Pune, Nagpur and Hyderabad. But in-between these buses run like passenger services and it is here that the pick-pocketers, lifters and other clean-up their hand.

Youth nabbed in rape and blackmailing incident

Raipur, Apr 07: A youth was taken into arrest on charges of rape and blackmailing after the victim came and filed a report in Tikrapara thana in person. In the complaint she informed that she works in a hotel in IVY Hotel at Pachpedhinaka in 2023 and here one Chandrakant Sahu alias Chandu S/o Vishnu Ram Sahu (29), R/o Chote Kareli ward No. 12, Thana Magarlod, District Dhamtari also used to work and both became good friends as well. Slowly they fell in love with each other and their friendship too became strong and taking advantage Chandrakant Sahu took her to a nearby hotel and established physical contact going against her wishes.

After this he took her nude photographs without informing her and later showed it to her and again



established physical contact 2-3 times. The accused forced the victim to establish contact quite often and used to threaten her to upload her photographs in the media and started blackmailing her and even uploaded her obscene photographs in the social media. On this a complaint under section 376, 376(2) and 384 of IPC was filed and under 67 (A) of the IT Act was filed

against the accused.

A police team was formed and the accused was nabbed from a located even after conducting raid at his residence in Chote Kareli, Thana Magarlod of Dhamtari district, as he was frequently changing his location as obtained by the Cyber Cell. Finally it was after checking him at multiple locations, he was nabbed and taken into arrest.

Prisoner escapes from Hospital, reaches Jagdalpur jail himself

Raipur, Apr 07: A prisoner in Jagdalpur jail escaped from Raipur Ambedkar Hospital. Prisoner Sanjay Singh, was admitted to Ambedkar Hospital since March 6 for cancer treatment.

According to reports, late on Saturday evening the prisoner escaped from the hospital by dodging the jail guard Prince Soni and reached Jagdalpur jail himself. The prisoner is lodged in Jagdalpur jail since 2010 in a murder case. A case has been registered against the prisoner in this matter. Action is also being taken against the watchman for negligence. Said prisoner is a resident of Tehsilpara of Narayanpur.

Fire breaks out in incense stick factory



● In Bhanpuri; goods worth lakhs gutted

Raipur, Apr 07: After a major fire incident in depot store of CSEB few days back in Gudhiyari, a massive fire broke out in incense stick factory in Bhanpuri.

On getting informa-

tion about the incident, two fire-brigade vehicles reached the site and doused the fire.

The reason behind fire breaking out is reported to be short-circuit.

Due to this fire in incense stick, goods worth lakhs are likely to have got gutted in fire and this case is that of Khamtarai thana area.

Durg district takes centre stage ahead of Lok Sabha polls

Raipur, Apr 07: Durg district, a bustling metropolis which played a key role in the state's economic and educational growth, has turned into a political hotspot ever since the declaration of candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Four candidates of the opposition Congress, including former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, and two of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the Lok Sabha elections hail from Durg district, bringing it to the centre stage ahead of the polls. Durg district was founded in 1906 after being carved out from Raipur.

In 1973, the district was divided and a separate Rajnandgaon district came into existence.

Durg was bifurcated again in 2012 and two new districts - Bemetara and Balod - came into existence. With the establishment of the Bhilai Steel Plant, a flagship unit of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), in 1955 in Durg district, it has grown rapidly

and become a hub of economic activity, attracting people from all over the country.

After the formation of Chhattisgarh in 2000, Bhilai city developed as an educational hub with the setting up of technical institutes and coaching centres for engineering and medical entrance exams.

With the announcement of candidates by the BJP and Congress for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the political significance of the district has become a point of discussion among experts in the state. Congress's candidate Bhupesh Baghel from Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha seat, Devendra Yadav from Bilaspur seat, Tamradhwaj Sahu from Mahasamund seat and Rajendra Sahu from Durg seat, all hail from the Durg district.

Former chief minister Baghel is an incumbent MLA from Patan assembly seat (Durg district) and Yadav is the sitting legislator Bhilai Nagar seat

(Durg).

Tamradhwaj Sahu was the home minister in the previous Congress government in Chhattisgarh and lost the assembly polls from Durg Rural seat.

Similarly, BJP candidates Vijay Baghel from Durg Lok Sabha seat and Saroj Pandey from Korba seat are also natives of Durg district.

Vijay Baghel is the sitting MP from Durg, which Pandey earlier represented in the Lok Sabha from 2009-14. "The district has been politically relevant since long as it had been the home turf of late political stalwarts like Chandulal Chandrakar and Motilal Vora of the Congress and BJP's Tarachand Sahu (who later quit the BJP)," political analyst R Krishna Das told PTI on Sunday. After the formation of the Congress government in Chhattisgarh in 2018, Durg hogged limelight as a political hub with then CM Bhupesh Baghel and his then two cabinet col-

leagues Tamradhwaj Sahu and Guru Rudra Kumar elected from different assembly constituencies of the same district, he said.

Durg is also a revenue division comprising seven districts - Durg, Rajnandgaon, Balod, Bemetara, Mohla-Manpur, Ambargarh Chowki, Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandei and Kabirdham.

Three other leaders, Mohammad Akbar, Ravindra Choubey and Anila Bhedia, who were ministers in the previous Congress government, belonged to different districts in Durg revenue division, Das noted.

Even Raman Singh, who has served as Chhattisgarh's chief minister thrice, has been elected four times from Rajnandgaon seat which comes under Durg revenue division, he pointed out. Singh is currently speaker of the Chhattisgarh assembly. The focus of the ruling BJP and opposition Congress on Durg while

choosing nominees for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls shows the district's crucial role in the state politics, Das said.

Prof DN Sharma, a renowned educationist from Bhilai, said, "Durg district has been politically significant for a long time. Motilal Vora from the district had served as chief minister of undivided Madhya Pradesh and governor of Uttar Pradesh." One of the best things is that Durg has never seen communal violence as leaders from the district never did politics on communal lines, Sharma said. The upcoming Lok Sabha polls have once again brought Durg to centre stage in the state politics as the two main parties have shown faith in leaders from the district in the selection of candidates, he added. Elections to the 11 Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh will be held in three phases on April 19, April 26 and May 7, and votes will be counted on June 4.

Why reservation of tribals is confined in Raj Bhavan? Congress

Raipur, Apr 07: Questioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bastar, Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Deepak Baij asked as to why 32 percent reservation of tribal community had been confined by BJP in Raj Bhavan for 15 months.

"The previous Congress government had got the Reservation Amendment Bill unanimously passed by the Assembly and sent it to the Raj Bhavan, why is the Raj Bhavan not signing it? The Governor changed but the signature was not done. Raj Bhavan works as per the intention of the Central Government, why is the reservation for the entire community of Chhattisgarh confined, the tribal community is suffering the most loss due to this. Prime Minister

should tell what is he taking revenge from the tribal community?", Baij said in his statement.

Baij said that during the assembly elections, Modi had told the people of Bastar that Nagarnar Steel Plant will not be disinvested. Why is Nagarnar included among the institutions to be disinvested on DIPAM's website till date? he asked and said that this revealed the ill intentions of BJP Congress will not allow the rights of the tribals of Bastar to be sold, he said. After the formation of Congress government at the Centre, the process of selling the Nagarnar plant will be stopped, he said, adding that after the formation of the Congress government at the Centre, Raj Bhavan will be asked to sign the Reservation Amendment Bill.

Polling parties tested to make election work efficient

Raipur, Apr 07: In order to conduct the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024 in a better manner, a test was conducted after training of the polling parties engaged in election work in the district on the initiative of Collector Dr Gaurav Singh. After test the workers engaged in election work can efficiently conduct the elections. The test was conducted in the training session of polling parties starting from April 6 in NIT and Pt Ravi Shankar Shukla University. The test was conducted after the training of former sector officer and master trainer.

The trainees had to answer 25 questions in test and each question carries 2 marks. For this, 10 sets of question papers were prepared and QR codes were generated. MCQ exams were conducted through Google Forms. IT Nodal Officer and Additional Collector Ujjwal Porwar, DIO Verma and his team have special contribution in this work.

CEO asks voters in Bastar to exercise their franchise

Participates in the voter awareness rally under the SVEEP program organized in Jagdalpur

Voting to be conducted by women polling staff in 125 polling centers of district



Chief Electoral Officer Reena Babasaheb Kangale, while addressing the voter awareness rally organized in Jagdalpur city today, said that all the

aware citizens should exercise their right to vote on the voting day besides making other people aware about the importance of voting right and motivating them to vote.

Praising the awareness of the voters during the last assembly elections, she said that people set a

new record of voting percentage in Bastar division. The enthusiasm shown by the voters in this forest area of the state for exercising their franchise is inspiring for the voters of other areas of Chhattisgarh also, she said.

Chief Electoral Officer

Kangale flagged off the voter awareness vehicle and encouraged the disabled people participating in the rally by presenting them flowers. She administered oath to all the citizens participating in the rally to exercise their franchise. The voter awareness rally started from Shaheed Park and reached Hata Ground, where the rally culminated with formation of a human chain. Message of voting on April 19 was given in local dialect.

Collector and District Returning Officer Vijay Dayaram K said that due to the voter awareness campaign for the assembly elections, more than 80

percent voting was done. He said that this time in the Lok Sabha elections, a polling team of women employees had been formed for 125 polling stations in the district. He also informed about conducting voter awareness campaign in all gram panchayats and haat markets under the SVEEP programme.

Superintendent of Police Shalabh Sinha, CEO District Panchayat Prakash Sarve, Divisional Forest Officer Uttam Gupta and other officers, senior citizens, disabled people, members of the third gender and distinguished citizens were present.

CSPDCL forms high level committee to investigate fire incident

In transformer warehouse

To submit report within a week

Raipur, Apr 07:

Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited (CAPDCL) has constituted a high-level inquiry committee to investigate the incident of fire at the regional warehouse located in Gudhiyari. The committee will submit a detailed report on five points within a week.

The committee comprises Executive Director Bhim Singh Kanwar, Executive

Govt will compensate for the damage: CM

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai informed about constituting an investigation committee on social media platform X on the fire in the warehouse of the electricity company. He wrote, a committee has been formed to investigate the incident of fire that broke out in CSPDCL transformer warehouse in Raipur yesterday. The exact cause of the incident will be known after investigation. Government will compensate to those who suffered loss in this incident.

Director Sandeep Verma, ACE Yashwant Shiledar, Additional General Manager (Finance) Gopal Murthy, Chief Security Officer A Srinivas Rao and Superintending Engineer DD Chaudhary.

The committee will investigate the cause of the fire and the officer/

employee/ agency responsible for the accident besides assessing the financial and physical loss caused to the company due to the accident and giving suggestions for alternative arrangements for operation of warehouse and prevention of other such accidents in future.

Congress complains to EC on BJP's cartoon post



Shailesh says BJP people are spreading hatred against Bhupesh Baghel

Raipur, Apr 07:

Before the Lok Sabha elections in Chhattisgarh, poster war is going on between BJP and Congress on social media. On Saturday, BJP again took a dig at Congress by sharing a post on social media. This time BJP has targeted Congress candidate Bhupesh Baghel from Rajnandgaon. Posting the cartoon, BJP said, "People of Rajnandgaon beware, those who rejected the invitation to Shri Ram Temple are now coming to ask for votes. A lesson

must be taught". Congress has complained about this matter to the Election Commission.

Congress War Room President Shailesh Nitin Trivedi complained about the BJP poster to the Election Commission and said 'Lord Ram is adored by all of us'. BJP Chhattisgarh has made a hate post against Bhupesh Baghel on social media, he said, adding that the post is very objectionable and the image of Bhupesh Baghel is being tarnished by calling him anti-Ram. Congress has demanded action against BJP from the Commission under Section 125 of the People's Representation Act 1950.

PMR CME discusses growing use of 3-D printing and robotics

Two days workshop and CME concluded in AIIMS-R, attended by 40 delegates

Social aspect of rehabilitation must be included

Raipur, Apr 07:

To discuss emerging challenges in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR), a two-day workshop and CME concluded at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Friday. PMR experts from across the country urged professionals to use state-of-the-art technology, including 3-D printing and robotics, for the rehabilitation of patients suffering from spinal cord injury, brain stroke, and amputation.

While inaugurating the CME, Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd), Executive Director, AIIMS Raipur, said that the earliest rehabilitation was done for a soldier. The Indian Army is also working with engineers to come up with innovative solutions for young soldiers facing amputation. PMR professionals are doing a wonderful job by providing arti-



1. Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd), Executive Director inaugurating PMR CME in AIIMS.

2. Experts giving hands-on training during the PMR workshop.

cial limbs to everyone, which can fulfil their daily life needs. PMR consultants have a greater role in orthopedics, neurology cases, and stroke patients. We should also talk about the social aspect of rehabilitation. The PMR is more significant for the economically disadvantaged population in the country, he added. Lt Gen Jindal congratulated the organizing committee for including relevant topics in the workshop and CME.

Prof. Renu Rajguru said

and CME are covering emerging topics in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for PG students. Seven important topics were included in the two-day workshop and CME. Three were in workshop format, attended by 40 delegates from around the country, and the remaining topics were in CME format. CME talks about innovations including 3-D printing, robotics, regenerative medicine, rheumatology and rehabilitation, Orthosis and Prosthesis, and Neuro-rehabilitation.

The workshops provided hands-on training with human volunteers and were helmed by esteemed faculties from AIIMS Raipur, MGM Mumbai, AIIMS Kalyani, AIIMS Raebareli, CMC Vellore, IPGMER Kolkata, Doon Medical College Dehradun, and Jupiter Hospital Thane. The workshop and CME was organized under the aegis of the PMR Department at AIIMS and the Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and attended by faculty members and PG students including Prof. Alok Agrawal, Dean (Academics).

that the workshop and CME will be beneficial for all PG students. It will help them understand emerging topics in PMR. Prof. Sanjay Kumar Pandey, HoD, PMR Department, AIIMS Patna, and General Secretary, IAPMR, said that India will need more PMR professionals by 2050 as it will have more spinal injury and sports injury cases. India will surpass other countries in the world in PMR cases. Organizing Secretary Dr. Jaydeep Nandi informed that the workshop

Collector took stock of relief work at Electricity Board's store depot



Compensation amount of Rs 9 thousand given to each family

Raipur, Apr 07:

Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh arrived on Saturday morning to take stock of the fire relief work at Electricity Board's store depot, Gudhiyari and gave necessary directions. Collector is continuously monitoring the situation. The Collector also instructed the revenue officers to distribute compensation immediately. In this connection, the revenue officials immediately dis-

tributed relief amount to 40 families living near the fire site. An amount of Rs 9 thousand each was given to each family. After controlling the fire in the Electricity Board's store depot of Gudhiyari, Home Secretary, Arun Dev Gautam also arrived to take stock of the relief work. Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh and SSP Santosh Singh briefed him about the incident. Home Secretary also took information about relief works. He also inspected the surrounding areas. During this time, police and administration officers and employees were also present.

Joint meeting of Bemetara, Navagarh organized by BJP IT Cell

At BJP central election office in Bemetara LS office

Bemetara, Apr 07:

In the said meeting, IT cell division in-charge Pramod Singh, division co-in-charge IT cell Rakesh Sahu, Lok Sabha IT cell co-in-charge Tarun Parganiha, Harshvardhan Tiwari, social media in-charge Sanjeev Tiwari, district coordinator IT cell Saurabh Mishra, Navagarh Assembly in-charge Ankush Tiwari along with district and assembly and board officials and members of IT cell and social media were present.



In the address by the honorable guests, necessary guidelines were given to make social media a medium to take Modi's schemes to the people. At the end of the workshop, District Convener Saurabh Mishra ex-

pressed his gratitude and promised to follow the instructions given in letter and spirit, and also urged the social media and IT team to be prepared for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Media in-charge Vikas Tamboli gave this.

Marathon and zumba organized by medical students

On the occasion of World Health Day

Raipur, Apr 07:

On the occasion of World Health Day, the Student Union of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College organized a marathon, Zumba and blood donation camp. The marathon was organized till Marine Drive Telibandha. Zumba was also organized after the marathon. This program was organized to spread awareness among the people about "My Health, My Rights". On

this occasion, Professor of Radiology, Dr. Vivek Patre and Chairperson of Student Union and Head of Department of Pathology, Dr. Arvind Neral inspired people to give importance to their health.

The main organizers of the marathon and blood donation camp were Dr. Gagan Mohan Chhabra, Dr. Akash Patel, Joint Secretary of Student Union Sakshi Kannau, Vice President Sanskar Gupta, Shivangi Singh and Ambaleswar Markam. Deepraj Verma became the winner of the marathon.

Many MVY beneficiaries yet to get 2nd installment: Cong

Raipur, Apr 07:

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 complete-

ly 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.

Students aspiring to join the Armed Forces need proper guidance : Maj. Singh

Interview with Major Pravin Singh (Retd) Director, Cardinal Warriors Private Military School with Josh aur Hosh

Reporter: Good day, Major Pravin Singh. It's an honor to have you here today. Could you start by sharing the inspiration behind getting into the education field after leaving Army?

Major Pravin Singh (Retd): Thank you, Ashok Tomar. The inspiration for establishing an educational institution stemmed from my deep commitment to grooming and motivating young individuals to join the glorious career in the Armed forces. Having served as a para-

trooper, I understand the importance of a comprehensive training program for aspiring officers. We not only offer an integrated National Defence Academy written examination but also focuses on the Service Selection Board Interview, providing a holistic approach to the preparation for National Defence Academy.

Reporter: That's commendable, Major Pravin Singh. Could you shed some light on the unique aspects of your ideology and the programs through which you implement it?

Major Pravin Singh (Retd): We stand out by offering guidance for AISSEE/RMS & RIMC en-



trance tests for classes 6 & 9, ensuring a solid foundation for students from a young age. We believe in comprehensive preparation, both academically and psychologically, for the armed forces examina-

tions. Our aim is to produce disciplined and motivated individuals ready to serve our nation with pride.

Reporter: It's evident that your school is making a significant contribution to preparing the future defenders of our country. I've heard that there's a particular focus on candidates from Chhattisgarh. Can you tell us more about this?

Major Pravin Singh (Retd): Absolutely. In Chhattisgarh, there has been a lack of awareness and proper guidance for students aspiring to join the Armed Forces as officers. Despite having immense potential, there are not many volunteers from

Chhattisgarh. Recognizing this gap, we initiated the program providing both online and offline guidance to defense aspirants. Our team of retired officers from the Army, Navy, and Airforce, including Major General Sanjay Sharma (Retd.), Brigadier Ashish Das (Retd.), Capt (In) Alok Mishra, Group Captain Satish Mishra (Retd.), and Major Chakradhar Raut (Retd.), aims to groom and train students, bridging this awareness and guidance gap.

Reporter: That's a noble initiative, Major Pravin Singh. How do you plan to provide this guidance to students in Chhattisgarh?

Major Pravin Singh (Retd): SRK Academy understands the importance of accessibility. Hence, we offer guidance in both online and offline formats. Students can benefit from live classes or self-paced courses covering NDA, AISSEE, RMS, RIMC, and SSB interview preparations. Additionally, schools can integrate our online guidance programs to help their students navigate the intricacies of these examinations and interviews effectively. I would like to lay special emphasis on the huge response from girl cadets who are very enthusiastic once the gates of Sainik School as well National Defence academy has been opened for them.

Reporter: It sounds like you are not only addressing the current gaps but also striving to make quality guidance accessible to girl cadets. Lastly, Major Pravin Singh, what message would you like to convey to the youth of Chhattisgarh who aspire to join the Armed Forces?

Major Pravin Singh (Retd): To the youth of Chhattisgarh, I would like to say that you have immense potential and capability to clear national-level examinations conducted by UPSC. With the right guidance, training, and determination, you can serve our country with pride. We are here to support you in your journey towards becoming a

dedicated and disciplined officer in the Armed Forces and we are conducting free seminars and webinars with all relevant basic information about how to prepare for NDA and SSB in various cities of Chhattisgarh starting from 31 March 2024 after the board examination. The cities covered will be Raipur, Durg, Bilai, Jagdalpur, Rajnandgaon, Korba, Raigarh and Surajpur.

Reporter: Thank you, Major Pravin Singh, for sharing valuable insights into your endeavors and the impact they are making. We wish you continued success in your mission to shape the future defenders of our nation.

ROAD SHOW

PM's guarantee is 24-carat pure gold: Rajnath Singh

Jaipur, Apr 07 (PTI)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee as 24-carat pure gold and said there is distrust among people about the guarantees of the Congress.

He said Prime Minister Modi delivers whatever the country and people of the country are its witness.

"PM Modi's guarantee is 24-carat pure gold whereas there is a distrust among people about the guarantees of the Congress," Singh told reporters at a press conference here.

The Lok Sabha elections are due in the state on April 19 and 26.

He said that people do not trust the Congress' guarantees because they made big promises but could not deliver them.

The senior BJP leader

said the speed with which work is being done makes every person feel that the country's future is bright.

If there is any credible political party which has no difference between its words and deeds, then it is the BJP, he added.

"Not only in India but abroad, there is no question mark on the credibility of the government.

The commitments made in the manifesto were fulfilled in letter and spirit, whether it was Ram Mandir or the Citizenship Act or Triple Talaq or abrogation of Article 370," he said.

Singh said the 10 years of BJP rule at the Centre have proved to be golden from socio-economic, political, strategic, constitutional and cultural point of view.

There is a positive sentiment in the country about India's success which was

seen never before. Fiscal deficit has reduced, exports are increasing, investment is on the rise, inflation is being controlled, opportunities have also increased and income has increased, he added.

Singh said the NITI Aayog has said that after several financial forums 2014, 25 crore people have come out of the poverty line and there has been a record reduction in the NPA of the bank.

Targeting the Congress, he said it is the same party which could not provide bullet proof jackets, helmets and other essential materials that were required and is making such promises today in its manifesto.

Elaborating about the defence challenges, the minister said there are many challenges from the defence point of view, including cyber war and un-

conventional warfare.

"It is important that India be prepared for all this and we will work from this perspective. If India is strengthening from a defence point of view, it is not for attacking any country in the world but for its own security," Singh said. "India's history has been that the nation has neither attacked any country in the world nor taken an inch of land. This has been the character of India," he added.

He said India wants to maintain good relations with all its neighbouring countries and is also of the view that they will respond in the same manner.

Stating that he had recently asked people how it feels to have elections again and again, Singh said people want that election should not happen again and again.



PM Modi with BJP candidate Ashish Dubey during a road show ahead of Lok Sabha elections, in Jabalpur, Sunday.

K J Patel of IFFCO awarded Shri Jagannath Seva Sanman award



Paradip, Apr 07:

Under the supervision of Ramachandra Dasmohapatra, senior vice president, International Charan Group and Dr. Sharat Chandra Pani, the 'Shri Jagannath Katha Gurukulam-47th Charan Conference' was inaugurated at Duduwla Dharmachaya premises in Puri. The entire Vishnu Sahasranam, fifteenth chapter of Srimad Bhagavad Gita, Hanuman Chalisa, were recited in

front of Mahaprabhu Srijagannath. In the opening ceremony, Mahant of Radhaballava Math, Puja Santha Ramakrishna Das Maharaj, Bhabani Shankar Mahapatra, Krishna Chandra Poojapanda Samantha, Sebayat Gopal Khuntia, Dr. Sharat Mohanty and Pandit Padmanab Tripathy Sharma started the program by lighting the lamp in front of the Lord. International Charan Group Cultural secretary Dr. Shudhendu conducted

the meeting while senior Charan Pandit Ganeshwar Parida, Bansidhar Parida, and Vidyadhar Prushty were present on the stage. Dr. Sharat Chandra Patra appealed to all the Charans to lead a disciplined and well-behaved life. Senior Charans paid tribute to Pandit Sadashiv Rathsharma and praised him for taking the Charan group to the international level. Similarly, while Pandit Padmanab Tripathy Sharma spoke about Shri Jagannath, Dr. Sharat Mohanty discussed Shri Jagannath's Chunara Seva. On this occasion, people who have achieved success in various fields were honoured with Shri Jagannath Seva Sanman. Similarly, K.J. Patel, Unit Head & Director, IFFCO, Paradeep and honoured with Shri Jagannath Seva Sanman for the development of industry and social services.

IIT JEE top performers feted in 'Aarambh 2024'



New Delhi, Apr 07:

Unacademy, hosted Aarambh 2024, the biggest event of the year for IIT JEE and NEET UG aspirants. The occasion celebrated the academic achievements of Unacademy's top performers, with distinguished personalities in attendance including Kartik Aaryan, popular Bollywood celebrity; Karan Johar, acclaimed filmmaker; Anupam

Mittal, visionary business leader; and Sania Mirza, tennis icon.

Aarambh 2024 welcomed Unacademy's IIT JEE and NEET UG toppers, alongside top Unacademy Educators, to celebrate the success of Learners and ignite inspiration among aspiring students nationwide. Unacademy unveiled several initiatives tailored for Learners aspiring to excel in IIT JEE and NEET UG examinations.

'Kerala hotbed for anti-national forces'

● Due to misgovernance of state govt'

Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 07 (PTI): Kerala has become a "hotbed for anti-national forces" due to the "misgovernance" and vote bank politics by the parties which were in power in the state over the years, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said here on Sunday.

Fadnavis, who was in the state capital as part of the BJP's Lok Sabha poll campaign, said that Kerala ought to have been at the forefront and leading the technological and new economic revolution of the country.

But, the state was going backwards, despite its high literacy rate and "wonderful talent", due to the LDF and UDF's "similar agenda of corruption and oppression", he alleged.

He further alleged that "due to misgovernance, it (Kerala) has become a



Maharashtra Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis during a visit to Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Sunday.

hotbed for anti-national forces and just for vote bank, the local governments are shielding the anti-national forces".

"That is why I feel that it is high time that Kerala should come into the mainstream," Fadnavis said at a press conference here.

On being asked about the recent Kannur bomb blast that claimed a life and injured three others - all CPI(M) workers according to the police -- Fadnavis said that "crim-

inalisation of politics has always been here".

"Now that the Election Commission is proactive, all such attempts would be unearthed," he replied.

Regarding queries about the recent telecast of the controversial film - 'The Kerala Story' -- on Doordarshan, the Maharashtra Deputy CM said that once a movie is cleared for public viewing by the censor board, there is no bar on its telecast on any platform.

Mehbooba against Ghulam Nabi in Anantnag

● PDP names candidates for 3 Valley seats

Srinagar, Apr 07 (PTI)

Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti will contest the Lok Sabha polls from the Anantnag-Rajouri seat against DPAP president Ghulam Nabi Azad, making the newly carved out constituency the most high-profile contest in Jammu and Kashmir in these elections.

The National Conference has fielded influential Gujjar leader Mian Altaf Ahmad from the seat and

the Apni Party has named Zaffar Iqbal Manhas. The BJP has not announced its candidate so far.

PDP Parliamentary Board Chief Sartaj Madni on Sunday announced the party candidates for the three seats of Kashmir. The party's youth wing president Waheed Parra will contest the polls from Srinagar and former Rajya Sabha member Mir Fayaz from Baramulla.

The candidates were announced by the party at a press conference addressed by Mufti and Madni. They said the PDP will support the Congress on two Jammu region seats of Udhampur and Jammu.

Asked if the Congress

will reciprocate in Kashmir, the PDP president said she was not extending support to the national party on quid pro basis. "We have decided to support the Congress for the larger fight to save the Constitution and democracy."

"But I would appeal to not only Congress workers but NC workers also to support me so that we can take the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to Parliament," she said. "My appeal to all people of the constituency -- from Anantnag to Rajouri and Poonch -- is to come together as we are passing through a critical stage.

People cannot talk. Talking has become a crime. If someone raises voice, he is labelled as anti-national," she added.

On her party contesting against INDIA bloc partner National Conference, Mufti said she had left the ball in NC president Farooq Abdullah's court.

"We had left the decision to Farooq Abdullah. We would not mind even if they had contested all the seats but they should have at least consulted us.

They should not have demeaned our party and workers by saying they will see our behaviour in Lok Sabha polls before deciding on alliance for Assembly elections," she said.

Awareness about air pollution-related terminologies low among urban poor

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI)

Awareness about air pollution-related terminologies such as air quality index and particulate matter is "significantly" low among the urban poor in Delhi-NCR, according to a survey.

The study conducted from December 2023 to January 2024 covered 500 people in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) cities of Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Gurugram. For the survey, they were divided into two groups -- residents of informal settlements and

slums, and formal middle-class settlements.

"Awareness of air pollution-related terminology

NEW STUDY

was significantly lower among the urban poor. Only 10 per cent of people were aware of air pollution terms like AQI (air quality index) and PM 2.5, while 71 per cent of middle-class settlements were aware," the survey "Saaf Saans" conducted by NGO Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group said.

PM 2.5 levels are fine

particles that have a diameter less than 2.5 micrometers, more than 100 times thinner than a human hair and remain suspended in the air for longer durations and pose health risks as they can enter into the respiratory tract.

The study's findings also highlighted that 33 per cent of urban poor respondents perceived vehicles as the main cause of air pollution, 27 per cent construction activities and 20 per cent stubble burning.

Social media was found to be the most reliable source of information among 29 per cent of

urban poor respondents and 26 per cent of middle-class respondents, the survey said. "Middle-class respondents used air purifiers and indoor plants as measures to reduce exposure to air pollution, while the urban poor depended on face masks and increased water intake," it added. Campaigns on social media and enforcing stricter regulations against "open burning" and construction violations among other measures could check air pollution the respondents said, according to the survey report.

Agnikul puts off for third time launch of Agnibaan sub-orbital rocket

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI)

Chennai-based space start-up Agnikul Cosmos on Sunday called off the maiden launch of its 3D-printed, semi-cryogenic Agnibaan rocket about 92 seconds before lift-off citing some technical issues.

Sunday's was the third attempt at the test launch of the Agnibaan Sub-Orbital

Technology Demonstrator (SORTeD) since March 22, when the test flight was first scheduled to be held at the Agnikul Launch Pad at ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre at

Sriharikota.

The second attempt at the test launch at 7.45 am on Saturday also could not fructify.

On Sunday, the Agnibaan SORTeD launch was scheduled at 5.30 am but was put off to 7.45 am.

"The Agnibaan SORTeD lift-off was cancelled at T minus 92 seconds," the IIT Chennai incubated start-up said. Agnikul is seeking to conduct India's second private rocket launch, following startup Skyroot Aerospace's November 2022 launch of the Vikram-S sub-orbital rocket. Agnibaan is a customis-

able, two-stage launch vehicle that can carry a payload of up to 300 kg into orbit of about 700 km, according to the company.

The rocket uses a semi-cryogenic engine with a mix of liquid and gas propellants, a technology that is yet to be demonstrated by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in any of its rockets. The SORTeD mission is a single-stage launch vehicle demonstration that will be powered by a semi-cryogenic engine, the Agnilet, a sub-cooled liquid oxygen-based propulsion system developed indigenously.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071. Branch Office: Krishna Complex, Opp. Aurobindo Netralaya, Main Road, Sadar Bazar, Raipur-492001.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISIONS RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has taken possession of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction) of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last Date, Time & Place for Submission of Bid
1	3138942000051	1) Mr. Radheshyam Joshi, S/o. Ramvallabh Joshi, 2) Mrs. Kamla Joshi, W/o. Radheshyam Joshi	28.08.2023	14.12.2023	Rs.8,01,636.02 (Rupees Eight Lakh One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Six and Two Paise Only) as of 03.04.2024	13.04.2024 09.00 AM to 05.30 PM	Rs.13,10,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Ten Thousand Only)	Rs.1,31,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty One Thousand Only)	25.04.2024 @ 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM	24.04.2024, before 05.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, Krishna Complex, Opp. Aurobindo Netralaya, Main Road, Sadar Bazar, Raipur-492001

Property Description/ Schedule: All that piece and parcel of diverted land bearing residential Plot No.J-68, total measuring area of 635 Sq.ft. (58.99. Sq.mtrs.), Part of Khasra No.6/33, situated at "Avinash Sun City" Colony, Gram Daldal Seoni, Kushabhau Thakre Ward No.26, P.H. No.41, R.N.M. Raipur-1, Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Plot No.J-69, West by: Plot No.J-67, North by: Boundary Wall and South by: Colony Road.

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **"On Line"**. All payments relating to purchase of above said property to be made in favour of **Jana Small Finance Bank**. The auction will be conducted through approved service provider **M/S. 4 Closure** at the web portal <https://bankauctions.in> and www foreclosureindia.com. For more information and for details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure**; Contact Mr. **Bapi Pradhan**, Contact Number: 8142000030. email id: info@bankauctions.in / pradhan@bankauctions.in. For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank officers Mr. Mahendra Bramhane (Mob. No.9029290202) & Mr. Ajay Naik (Mob. No.9960948687)**. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagees about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagee are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 09.04.2024, Place: Raipur

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

Evaluation of Board copies amidst shortages

Lack of clean toilet and drinking water facilities

Khairagarh, Apr 07:

The Dr. Padumlal Punnalal Bakshi cum Atmanand School in Khairagarh has emerged as the district's first-ever evaluation center for board examinations. More than 300 evaluators are diligently assessing papers from the 10th and 12th board exams on a daily basis. However, amidst this significant milestone, concerns have been raised about the conditions at the evaluation center.

Recently, a team of journalists conducted an inspection following complaints about inadequate facilities. It was discov-



ered that evaluator teachers, committed to their task despite shortages and chaos, were facing challenges including the lack of clean toilets and pure drinking water. Moreover, amidst the scorching heat, they were provided only with fans while checking examination copies.

Urgent need at assessment center

Investigation reveals dire conditions at the assessment center, highlighting critical deficiencies in

essential amenities.

The absence of a water filtration system exacerbates the challenge of providing pure drinking water, forcing teachers to bring water from their homes. Despite previous installation efforts, the state of the RO machine, originally provided by the State Bank, now lies in disrepair.

Similarly, the lack of clean toilet facilities poses a significant concern. With renovation plans stalled due to administra-

Appropriate arrangements have been made for the evaluation of copies of board examinations. However, ongoing renovation work in the school building has led to some challenges.

RL Verma,
Principal and evaluation center in-charge

tive negligence, the school's toilets remain dirty and malodorous. Despite efforts to maintain cleanliness, the outdated facilities perpetuate an environment unfit for evaluation activities. Addressing these shortcomings requires urgent attention from both school authorities and the district administration.

Board exam copy evaluation continues

As of April 6th, a total of 86,693 copies have been

meticulously examined, leaving 23,183 copies pending evaluation. The deadline for completing the evaluation of board examination copies is set for April 14th.

56,427 copies out of a total of 68,951 copies received for the 10th Board have been evaluated, while 30,266 copies out of 40,645 received for the 12th Board have undergone assessment. However, there are still 12,524 copies of class 10th and 10,659 copies of class 12th awaiting evaluation.

A dedicated team of 340 teachers is diligently providing their services in this crucial task. Among them, 184 evaluators are focusing on assessing papers for the 10th board, while 156 evaluators are dedicated to the evaluation of 12th board papers.

Police officers trained and honoured for excellence

Korba, Apr 07:

Under the leadership of Superintendent of Police Siddharth Tiwari, a comprehensive training session was conducted for all gazetted officers, station in-charges, and other police personnel in Korba. The training focused on familiarizing officers with the new legislations including the Indian Justice Code 2023, Indian Civil Defense Code 2023, Indian Evidence Code 2023, and VIP security protocols.

Approximately 70 officers actively participated in the training sessions, which employed modern instructional techniques including presentations and interactive discussions. Through detailed



presentations, officers gained a thorough understanding of the nuances of the new laws and the importance of VIP security measures.

In recognition of exemplary performance, Superintendent of Police Siddharth Tiwari felicitated police station in-charges who demonstrated exceptional dedication and efficiency in their du-

ties. These officers were presented with certificates of appreciation, acknowledging their outstanding contributions to law enforcement. Specifically, officers were commended for their prompt execution of warrants and their instrumental role in the installation of new CCTV cameras, enhancing surveillance capabilities within the community.

BJP foundation day celebrations reverberate across divisions

MLA Marpacchi foresees accelerated development under BJP

Party workers rally in support of Dr. Saroj Pandey

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Apr 07: The Bharatiya Janata Party's foundation day was marked with fervour and enthusiasm across all four assembly divisions on Saturday. In Marwahi North, Marwahi South, Pendra Rural, and Semra Mandal, party workers unfurled the party flag, symbolizing their unwavering commitment to the BJP's principles.

As the celebrations unfolded, Marwahi North Division MLA Pranav Marpacchi graced the oc-



casation as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, MLA Marpacchi provided guidance to the workers in light of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, directing their focus towards the Congress party.

Marpacchi launched a scathing attack on the Congress, accusing the party of being entrenched in dynastic politics and

jeopardizing national security prior to 2014. He specifically targeted the party's focus on dynastic politics and

Highlighting the significance of the upcoming elections, Marpacchi expressed optimism about

Dr. Saroj Pandey's candidacy for Lok Sabha. He emphasized that under Dr. Pandey's leadership, both Korba Lok Sabha and Marwahi Assembly would witness accelerated development. He cited Dr. Pandey's stature in central politics as instrumental in securing better infrastructure, healthcare, and educational facilities for the region.

The celebrations were attended by prominent party leaders including District President Kanhaiya Rathore, District General Secretary Lalji Yadav, and Divisional President Kishan Singh, among others. Their presence underscored the collective commitment of BJP workers towards advancing the party's agenda of progress and development.

Kurud area unites in Holi celebration meeting

Oath taking ceremony marks new leadership

Anwari, Apr 07:

The spirit of unity and celebration reverberated through the tribal community hall of village Parswani as the Holi meeting and oath-taking ceremony unfolded in Kurud area on April 6th.

Amidst the vibrant hues of Holi, members of the Gond community from Kurud area gathered to commemorate the festival with warmth, harmony, and camaraderie. As colors of affection and solidarity adorned each other's faces, heartfelt wishes filled the air.

Following the joyous Holi Milan program, attention turned to the solemn oath-taking ceremony of the new officials of Kurud area.



Commencing with prayers to Param Shakti Bada Dev, the ceremony honored retiring officials of the Gond Samaj Kurud area while welcoming and entrusting responsibilities to the newly elected leaders.

Under the patronage of Basant Dhruv, the oath was administered to the new zone president, Lokeswar Netam, and his entire team. Addressing the gathering, Basant Dhruv expressed confidence in the leadership's ability to steer the

society towards progress and enlightenment. He emphasized the importance of raising awareness on socio-economic issues and safeguarding tribal rights in the face of looming threats.

President of Gond Samaj Kurud Tehsil, Lalit Thakur, underscored the need for vigilance in protecting water, forest, and land reservations, cautioning against potential dangers in the future.

Amidst reflections on the past and aspirations

for the future, retiring President Harishchandra Mandavi passed on his experiences and well-wishes to President Lokeswar Netam and his team. Acting President of Kurud Tehsil, Tejram Chhedaiya, rallied the community to uphold the fight for reservation rights.

The gathering witnessed heartfelt addresses from village president Bharosa Ram Padoti, Lokeswar Netam, Radhelal Mandavi, and other community members, reflecting the unity and resolve of the Kurud area. The event, attended by hundreds of women, men, and children, concluded with a promise to navigate future challenges together as a resilient community.

Bhakta Mata Karma is revered for the entire society: Sahu

Bemetara, Apr 07:

Under the leadership of Bemetara Nagar unit Sahu Samaj, Bhakta Mata Karma Jayanti was organized in the Karma temple. First of all, the devotees garlanded on the oil painting of Maa Karma and lit the lamp with reverence. The programme was started by the guests by lighting the lamp and performing the Aarti of devotee Mata Karma. MLA Deepesh Sahu participated as the chief guest in the program. Along with this, the office beares of Sahu Samaj and all the officials of Nagar Sahu Samaj were present. On this occasion a colourful cultural program was also presented by small children.

Bemetara MLA Deepesh Sahu, who was present as the chief guest in the Bhakta Mata Karma Jayanti program, said that Bhakta Mata Karma is



revered not only by the Sahu community but by the entire society. She has set an ideal through her sacrifice and penance in human life. He said that the devotees tell us about the life of Karma Mata, her ideals and principles, encouraging people to adopt their ideal marriage, serving parents and respecting and honouring elders, safety of women and daughters and apart from honouring the devotees. On the occasion of Karma Jayanti, they were asked

to organize and strengthen the society, stop conservative dowry system, foeticide, drug addiction. Guests and office beares of Sahu Samaj were present in the program on occasion of Karma Jayanti and they also expressed their views about his life and ideal principles.

On this occasion, Municipality President Shakuntala Mangatram Sahu, Parmeshwar Sahu, all the officials of Sahu Nagar Unit and people from Samaj were present.

Police arrest 11 gamblers, assets seized

Timely action on Samadhan App complaint

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Apr 07: Prompt response from law enforcement led to the arrest of 11 individuals involved in gambling activities, following a complaint received through the Samadhan app (9479191792). Superintendent of Police Bhavna Gupta swiftly directed the cyber cell and the Marwahi police station team to initiate action upon receiving the report.

A joint operation conducted by the cyber cell and the Marwahi police station led to the apprehension of the culprits in the forest of Dharhar village. The individuals caught red-handed included Radheshyam Mahant,



Shankar Rajak, Jitendra alias Kunjilal Jaiswal, Fateh Mohammad, Binod Jaiswal, Subhash Jaiswal, Sada Kashyap, Mohan Lal Kashyap, Rohit Jain, Jai Prakash Pandey, and Sunil Pandey. The raid resulted in the confiscation of Rs 2,23,000 in cash, along with gambling paraphernalia,

cards, and carpets. Additionally, two vehicles—a white Scorpio (MP18-C-7595) and a gray scooter (CG 10 BD 4508) worth Rs 18,00,000 were seized from the possession of the accused.

Superintendent Bhavna Gupta urged the public to utilize the Samadhan app

as a direct means of communication with the police department. She assured anonymity for informants providing confidential information, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in maintaining law and order.

The success of the oper-

ation was attributed to the commendable efforts of the cyber cell team, including UNI Suresh Dhruv, UNI Manoj Hanotia, and Principal Ravi Tripathi, as well as personnel from the Marwahi police station, led by Inspector Sanip Ratre and Head Constable Ramkrishna Mishra.

Motivational speech on 'Power of your Subconscious Mind' held

At Allons Public School

Bemetara, Apr 07:

The Motivational Speech on "Power of your Subconscious Mind" at Allons Public School was delivered by Awadhesh Patel, Director cum Principal, Samadhan Degree College, Bemetara. The programme started by lighting a lamp in front of the statue of the Goddess Saraswati Devi by Awadhesh Patel, teachers & students.

Awadhesh Patel asked the students about the usages of the time. He advised the students to invest their time for their bright future instead of its useless spending. According to him, the investment of the time will

help them to equip them with skills. The skills will help the students to earn their livelihood in the adverse situation also. The subconscious mind refers to the part of our mind that operates below the level of conscious awareness. It's responsible for storing memories, emotions, habits, beliefs, and automatic bodily functions. The subconscious mind is where memories are stored, both short-term and long-term. It plays a crucial role in learning and retaining information. Many cognitive processes, such as language acquisition and skill development, are heavily influenced by the subconscious mind.

Our emotions and habits are largely controlled by the subcon-



scious mind. It's where emotional responses are generated, and where habitual behaviors are formed. Positive habits, such as exercising regularly or practicing gratitude, can be cultivated through the power of the subconscious mind. Our subconscious mind holds our beliefs about ourselves and the world around us.

These beliefs shape our self-image and influence our thoughts, feelings, and actions. By changing limiting beliefs and adopting empowering ones, we can harness the power of the subconscious mind to create positive changes in our lives.

The subconscious mind is also where creativity and intuition reside. Many

breakthrough ideas and solutions emerge from the depths of the subconscious. By tapping into this creative reservoir through techniques like meditation, visualization, or dream analysis, individuals can access innovative insights and solutions to problems. Some proponents of the power of the subconscious mind be-

lieve that it has the ability to manifest our desires and goals. By programming the subconscious with positive affirmations, visualization, and goal-setting techniques, individuals can align their thoughts and actions with their aspirations, thereby increasing the likelihood of achieving them.

There's evidence to suggest that the subconscious mind can influence physical health and well-being. Practices such as hypnosis, meditation, and guided imagery have been used to tap into the healing potential of the subconscious, with reported benefits ranging from pain relief to immune system enhancement. Finally, the subconscious mind controls numerous automatic bodily functions, such as breathing, heartbeat, digestion, and immune response. These functions operate without conscious effort, allowing us to focus on higher-level tasks and activities.

According to him, strong will power and optimistic attitude helps us to achieve our aims. Concentration and positive thinking are essential for our success. He said

that 80 percent of diseases in the modern era are caused by psychological disorders. He also told that the human mind regulates the bodily activities. He told about the importance of the lifelong learning by storytelling method. Our subconscious mind is the foundation of our success. The students became aware about the conscious and subconscious mind after listening to his great thoughts. Mithilesh Kumar Chauhan felicitated Awadhesh Patel by presenting a memento to make the programme memorable. The anchoring was done by Anish Chandrakar, a student of class XII Science. A vote of thanks was given by Banani Kar. The teachers & the students were present on this occasion.

Imran refrains from denotifying Bajwa despite betrayal

Islamabad, Apr 07 (PTI):

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan on Saturday said that he did not de-notify former Army chief Gen (ret) Qamar Javed Bajwa despite his actions during the removal of PTI government in 2022 'felt like a betrayal', according to a media report.

Khan, 71, who was ousted from power in April 2022 via the opposition's no-confidence motion, had blamed Gen Bajwa for playing a vital role against his government.

Speaking to journalists in an informal conversation during the hearing of the Toshakhana reference in Adiala Jail, Khan said: "Although General Bajwa's actions felt like a betrayal, we [the then PTI



government] refrained from convening a committee to confront him".

During the conversation, Khan once again called for negotiations for the betterment of the country. "It's for the betterment of Pakistan, so convince me for negotiations. If I could meet Gen Qamar

Bajwa twice following the removal of our government, then I could meet anyone. Right now, it is not about me, but is about Pakistan," he said. Khan said that he could have de-notified General Bajwa despite his "betrayal", however, he chose not to as he did not want to confront

the Pakistan Army. On the Toshakhana reference, the former prime minister said that he and his wife Bushra Bibi were convicted in the reference by claiming that the value of the jewellery set was Rs 3 billion while the real value was Rs 18 million.

In this regard, he said that he would file a case against the chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the prosecution witness Inam Shah.

Khan said that the former spy chief General Faiz Hameed (Retd) and General Bajwa informed him about corruption within the Sharif family and their acquisition of cars from Toshakhana. However, the PTI founder said that their cases have not been pursued.

UNESCAP report projects widening tax gap in Pakistan

Islamabad, Apr 07 (PTI):

A top UN agency report has assessed that Pakistan's tax gap stands at around 3 per cent of the GDP and could go to over 12 per cent against the existing level of 9 per cent of the GDP, a media report said on Saturday.

On the macroeconomic front, the United Nations Economic and Social Survey of Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) 2024 projected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 2 per cent and inflation at 26 per cent for the ongoing fiscal year.

"The GDP growth rate is projected to go up to 2.3 per cent in FY25 while inflation would fall to 12.2 per cent," reported The

News International.

On tax gap, the UNESCAP states that despite their low tax levels, tax gaps in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are moderate, although such gaps are not necessarily small if measured as a share of current tax revenues rather than as a share of the GDP.

This suggests that better tax policies and administration alone may not help bridge the vast development financing gaps in low-tax countries. Overall improvements in socio-economic development and public governance would be needed as well as tax revenue enhancement on a larger scale.

The Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) tax-to-

GDP ratio hovers around 9 per cent of the GDP keeping in view the projected annual tax collection target of Rs 9,415 billion for the current fiscal year. The UNESCAP has estimated that the tax-to-GDP ratio could go up to 12 per cent of the GDP.

It further states that Pakistan's economy faced political unrest that had adverse impacts on business and consumer sentiment, while a massive flood disrupted agricultural production.

Pakistan secured an IMF agreement in mid-2023 which would help with further assistance from such bilateral partners as China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan set to repay USD 1 billion against Eurobond

Islamabad, Apr 07 (PTI):

Pakistan is set to repay a foreign debt worth USD 1 billion against a 10-year Eurobond maturing in the middle of this month which will reduce the stock of the debt acquired through the selling of bonds in international markets to below USD 7 billion. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) told The Express Tribune that it was ready to repay the bond anytime and was waiting to receive instructions to do so from the finance ministry.

The move will reduce the stock of the debt acquired through selling Eurobonds and Sukuks (bond-like instruments used in Islamic finance) in international markets to below USD 7 billion. This has enhanced the coun-



Competitors run at the start of the Paris marathon on the Champs-Elysees avenue, with the Arc de Triomphe in the background, in Paris, Sunday, April 7.

PARIS MARATHON

UNGA President praises India's digitalization advancements

United Nations, Apr 07 (PTI):

UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis has lauded India's use of digitalisation that has helped achieve financial inclusion and poverty reduction, underlining that this gives the country a "comparative advantage" and its lessons can be shared with the global community. "Let me say first of all that since I've been to India, every time I think of India, I think 'Incredible India'. And I mean this in all earnestness... And I saw it when I was there. The specific example to which I can refer is India's use of digitalisation," Francis, President of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, told PTI in an exclusive inter-



view here. He referred to the country's tourism tagline of 'Incredible India.' Francis was in India from January 22-26 this year on an official visit, during which he held a bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in New Delhi and also travelled to Jaipur and Mumbai.

During the visit, his interactions with government officials, civil society members and think tanks focused on issues such as sustainability, multilateralism, accessibility, and

digital public infrastructure. The UN leader lauded India's use of digitalisation to alleviate poverty and bring millions of people into the formal economic system "simply through the use of a handset and a digitalisation model." He underscored that digitalisation is important because it is "productive, it drives cost down, makes economies more efficient, makes things cheaper."

He cited the example of digitalisation helping Indian women, and farmers across the length and breadth of the country and in far-flung places to negotiate their prices, deal with banks and make payments without having to leave their homes, farmlands or areas.

OFFERING TRIBUTES



Relatives light a candle for a young woman killed in a cross-border attack by Hamas that killed or kidnapped hundreds of revelers at the Nova music festival, at the site in Re'im, southern Israel, Sunday, April 7, on the sixth month anniversary of the Oct. 7, 2023 attack.

The world's oldest man says the secret to his longevity is luck, plus regular fish and chips

London, Apr 07 (AP):

The world's oldest man says the secret to his long life is luck, moderation — and fish and chips every Friday.

Englishman John Alfred Tinniswood, 111, has been confirmed as the new holder of the title by Guinness World Records. It follows the death of the Venezuelan record-holder, Juan Vicente Pérez, this month at the age of 114. Gisaburo Sonobe from Japan, who was next longest-lived, died March 31 at 112.

Tinniswood was presented with a certificate by Guinness World Records on Thursday at the care home where he



lives in Southport, northwest England.

Born in Liverpool on August 26, 1912, a few months after the sinking of the Titanic, Tinniswood lived through two world wars, serving in the British Army Pay Corps in World War II.

The retired accountant and great-grandfather said moderation was key to a healthy life. He never smokes, rarely drinks and follows no special diet, apart from a fish and chip supper once a week.

"If you drink too much or you eat too much or you walk too much — if you do too much of anything — you're going to suffer eventually," Tinniswood told Guinness World Records.

But ultimately, he said, "it's pure luck. You either live long or you live short, and you can't do much about it."

The world's oldest woman, and oldest living person, is 117-year-old Maria Branyas Morera of Spain.

Six security personnel, 12 militants killed in separate incidents

Quetta: Six security personnel, including a senior police officer, died while 12 militants were killed in separate terror incidents and security operations in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces in the past two days, officials said on Sunday.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan armed forces, said in the Balochistan province, four militants were killed in two separate incidents. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), eight militants were killed in the Kot Sultan area of Kulachi tehsil in Dera Ismail Khan district when security forces carried out an operation against them, the ISPR said. The security forces recovered weapons, ammunition and explosives from the slain militants, it added.

Some of his party leaders in touch with establishment: Imran Khan

Islamabad, Apr 07 (PTI):

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has said that some of his party leaders are in contact with the powerful establishment, as he expressed willingness to hold a dialogue with anyone amidst the crack-down on his party.

Khan's remarks came as he spoke to reporters after the hearing of the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case on Saturday, the Dawn newspaper said. Khan, 71, said that he was ready to hold a dialogue with anyone for the sake of the country.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder said if he could hold talks with former army

chief Qamar Javed Bajwa, who he later accused of being instrumental in the fall of his government in April 2022, then he could meet anyone since the country was passing through a difficult phase.

Khan said that a few leaders in the PTI "are still in contact with the establishment", apparently for negotiations. However, he did not elaborate.

He also claimed that the mandate of the PTI had been stolen and "efforts were being made to take over the party".

Since falling out with the powerful military, Khan's party has been facing a crackdown. The party faced pressure in the form of arrests and

dese-rtions in the wake of the May 9 violence that broke out after Khan's arrest last year.

Since his removal from power in a no-confidence motion in April 2022, the cricketer-turned-politician has been convicted in at least four cases.

Khan said his spouse Bushra Bibi was being allegedly targeted to exert pre-ssure on him and added that those pointing fingers at her were doing so in a bid to 'dismantle' the party.

Khan said he had never entered into a confrontation with the military. He claimed that the ex-army chief 'backstabbed' him, adding he could have de-notified him but he exercised restraint.

Cricket tourism and hospitality takes off in the US

Washington, Apr 07 (PTI):

The presence of a large diaspora population from cricket-fanatic countries like India, Pakistan and Australia appears to have created a new form of the tourism and hospitality domain in the US.

Founded by an Indian-American couple from Bihar, Florida-based Cricketbuster is trying to capture this "cricket mania" among the Indian-American population and those from the cricket-playing nations by offering them customisable travel packages that include official match tickets, hotels, flights, cruises and many other attractions for international cricket tournaments and the all-important T20 leagues all across the world. "We are developing sports e-commerce here.



We got approval from the International Cricket Council (ICC). We have the right to sell the packages. (Cricket match) tickets are also included in the package. We are creating an experience," Vinny Kumar, chief operating officer of Cricketbuster, told PTI in an interview.

Kumar along with his wife Rashmi Kumar co-

founded this company a few years ago. Beginning with the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in India last year, Cricketbuster is the official OTA (online travel agency) for the ICC.

"It's just not that you're buying a ticket or coming to the stadium. Suppose you're going to New York because we have an India-Pakistan match there this

year... you don't know which hotel you have to stay in, how far you stay from the stadium, and what other attractions you want to visit in New York," Kumar said.

"So, we have an all-inclusive package, which has an official match ticket, which is a tough spot to find. In addition to that, we can also help you to find

the right hotel, right inter-city transfers," he said in Orlando this week, where he had come to attend the annual convention of Asian American Hotel Owners Association.

"It's like a one-stop shop, you can just buy the package and you go to the stadium, watch the game and come back. And we will take care of the entire trip. This is what we are trying to do. We have received support from the ICC. We are the only company in the United States who takes care of that," Kumar said.

The company was founded by the Kumar couple in 2019, but soon the COVID-19 pandemic struck. However, in 2021, Cricketbuster got its first tournament in Dubai, and it took almost 500 fans from the United States to the United Arab Emirates.



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Heat Crisis

Protecting Our Outdoor Labor Force

As the scorching sun intensifies its assault, a profound threat looms over the backbone of our nation—the outdoor workforce. The rising temperatures, forecasted to peak during the April-June period, herald a perilous era for workers toiling under the open skies. The dire warning from the India Meteorological Department paints a stark picture: above-normal temperatures are poised to engulf vast swathes of our country. Particularly vulnerable are the central and western regions, bracing for the harshest impact of this impending heatwave. In the face of this imminent danger, researchers advocate for urgent reforms in outdoor labor practices. Flexibility in work hours and mandatory breaks emerge as indispensable measures to help workers cope with the sweltering conditions exacerbated by climate change. Professor Vimal Mishra's elucidation on the perils of humid heat underscores the gravity of the situation. Working in such conditions not only strains the body to its limits but can also lead to fatal consequences—a fate no worker should endure. The findings of international studies resonate with alarming clarity. With each degree of warming, millions of outdoor workers face the daunting prospect of reduced productivity and compromised health. The tropics, home to a substantial portion of the global workforce, stand at the precipice of a perilous future. The ramifications extend beyond productivity, transcending into matters of public health. A poignant study conducted in Tamil Nadu unveils the grim reality faced by pregnant women working in extreme heat. The heightened risk of miscarriages and adverse birth outcomes underscores the urgent need for intervention. Empowerment and awareness emerge as potent tools in safeguarding the well-being of our outdoor labor force. Mishra's call for adaptive measures resonates deeply—we must equip our workers with the knowledge and agency to navigate these treacherous conditions. Venugopal's plea for heightened awareness among outdoor women workers strikes a chord. Primary healthcare centers, pivotal in their role, must spearhead initiatives to educate and protect these vulnerable individuals. Inaction is not an option. The time for decisive action is now. Governments, employers, and communities must unite in a concerted effort to shield our outdoor workforce from the impending heat crisis. It is not merely a matter of labor rights but a testament to our collective commitment to human dignity and well-being. As temperatures soar, let us not falter in our resolve. The heat may be relentless, but our determination to safeguard our workers must be unwavering. Together, let us forge a future where no worker is left to endure the scorching burdens of the sun unprotected.

Manifesto Realism

Yash Pal Raihan



In the cacophony of election fervor, manifestos emerge as political scriptures, promising a utopia to the electorate. However, beneath the veneer of lofty ideals lies the harsh reality of deliverability—a realm where many manifestos falter. Reflecting on past elections, it becomes evident that manifestos often serve as political theater rather than pragmatic roadmaps. The BJP's 2014 campaign, marked by the infamous "15 lakh rupees to every citizen" promise, was later dismissed as mere electoral rhetoric by party leaders. Similarly, the grandiose commitment to doubling farmers' income was deemed unattainable when challenged in court. Now, as the Congress unveils its manifesto, replete with promises of social justice, farmer welfare, and employment, skepticism lingers. While the intent to uplift the marginalized and empower the youth is commendable, historical precedent casts doubt on the feasibility of such pledges. The Congress's pledge to conduct a national caste census and implement sweeping agrarian reforms mirrors past rhetoric that failed to materialize under previous administrations. The disparity between promise and action raises legitimate concerns among voters, especially regarding the party's track record in fulfilling similar commitments during its tenure. Moreover, the Congress's internal strife adds another layer of uncertainty. As defections plague the party, questions arise about its ability to maintain cohesion and implement its agenda effectively. A manifesto loses its potency when the very party presenting it grapples with internal discord. Amidst these challenges, the electorate remains vigilant. While manifestos serve as a barometer of a party's vision, voters scrutinize their realism. Promises of poverty alleviation and job creation evoke skepticism, given their recurrent inclusion in past manifestos with little substantive follow-through. However, amidst the skepticism lies hope. The Congress's proposals for job creation, educational relief, and healthcare reform demonstrate a commitment to addressing pressing issues. Yet, the party must bridge the gap between rhetoric and action to earn the electorate's trust. In essence, manifestos offer a glimpse into a party's aspirations. But it is the execution of these aspirations that defines its credibility. As the electorate navigates through the sea of promises, they seek not just grand ideas, but tangible results. Only then can manifestos transcend political theater and become blueprints for meaningful change.

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.

WORLD HEALTH DAY



Women riders during a bicycle rally on the World Health Day, in Bhopal, Sunday, April 7.

Insider-outsider debate is unwarranted



R.K. SINHA



Fortunately, for the right-thinking men and women in this country, insider-outsider question has not been raised so far in this year's election. It has not been a debatable point. The focus has shifted to corruption and role of central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate or ED. The filing of nomination papers is on and an intensive campaigning has been launched for the upcoming Lok Sabha election. The tempo is rising day by day. But, no one is asking whether the candidate in a particular constituency is an insider or outsider. This debate is unnecessary because everyone who is an Indian is an insider. But a few leaders in this country love to create controversies and survive only because of such baseless debates. It may be recalled that several time chief minister of Gujarat and 2014 Lok Sabha candidate Narendra Modi was also called an outsider by vested interests. It's another matter that voters gave a damn to them. Similarly, a controversy was created when Arun Jaitley had contested from Amritsar in 2014. The Congress had raised this bogey even at that time.

Surprisingly, this question was raised by a party which had fielded an outsider as early as in 1952 when the first Lok Sabha election was held. A Malayali, C. Krishnan Nair, was selected for a Delhi seat. He was endearingly called Delhi Gandhi. Nair had played an important role in establishment of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). He had also won the Lok Sabha elections held in 1957. The same Congress which had given ticket to Nair had made Sucheta Kriplani, who was born in Ambala and belonged to a Bengali family, its candidate for New Delhi seat. Later, Sucheta ji had become chief minister of the biggest state of the country, Uttar Pradesh also. Sucheta's husband was a famous freedom fighter Acharya Kripalani who was an MP from Bhagalpur and later from Sitamarhi in Bihar. He was a Sindhi. Shri. S.M. Banerjee was a long-time MP from Kanpur. A Bengali-speaking Banerjee had migrated from Bengal to Kanpur. He was a famous labour leader. Clearly, those who have asked insider/outside question do not know that every Indian citizen has an equal right to live any-

where or contest elections from anywhere. George Fernandes, after Kriplani, is another example. He hailed from the South, joined labour movement in Mumbai, but; had made Bihar his second home. Biharis too did not consider him an outsider and treated him like their own. He used to speak Bhojpuri and Maithili, two local dialects with ease. The people of Bihar sent George to the Lok Sabha several times from Muzaffarur, Bihar. He won the Lok Sabha elections from Mumbai as well. The country has hardly seen a labour leader like George—a simple man with casual look—dishevelled hair, unironed dress (kurta-pyjama) and ordinary chappal. But as a speaker he was sharp and logical. He used to always do homework and come prepared for a debate in the House. A man of international standing, he had given tough time to treasury benches. The caste equations did not favour him but he had won one election after another with ease. In 1962 as well as in 1967, Bihar sent a Marathi to the Lok Sabha. He was from Pune. There have been many other such leaders in the Rajya Sabha, but rarely in the Lok Sabha. Limaye's childhood was spent in Maharashtra. He completed his education from there. But he chose Bihar to contest elections. For the first time, he reached Parliament by winning the election from Munger in 1962. In 1964, the Socialist Party and Praja Socialist Party were merged and the United Socialist Party was formed. Madhu Limaye went to the Lok Sabha for the first time on USP ticket. In

1973, Limaye won the election from Banka in Bihar. Insider, outsider issue was, fortunately, not raised in other countries like Mauritius, Trinidad, Guyana, Kenya, Fiji, and Britain. In the caribbean country Guyana, Cheddi Jagan of Indian origin had become President in the 60s. After that, Indians like Shivsagar Ram Gulam (Mauritius), Navin Ram Gulam (Mauritius), Mahendra Chaudhary (Fiji), Vasdev Pandey (Trinidad), S. Ramanathan (Singapore), Rishi Sunak (Britain), Kamala Harris (America) have become Prime Minister, Vice President and President of different countries. Recently, an Indian citizen, Tharman Shanmugaratnam, was elected President of Singapore. So, we have to come out of castes, language, religion, gender etcetera. It is because we have members in parliament from Africa to Europe and America and New Zealand. This means that Indians who had gone to far off countries in search of employment are now deciding the fate of those countries. The list of MPs outside is long. To mention a few, Meva Ramgovind (South Africa), Parminder Singh Marwah (Uganda) and Sonia Virdi (Kenya). Sonia, in fact, is the first Asia-origin woman MP in Kenya. Canada which has many migrants from Punjab and Haryana has also several MPs of Indian origin. Therefore, the only lesson to now learn is, stop insider-outsider debate—without delay.

(The writer is a senior editor, columnist and former MP)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Saffron Washing Machine

The zealous claim of BJP that it wants to "remove corrupt people from public life" is indeed 100% correct. Among the 25 Opposition leaders (from "corrupt" parties) who have chosen to cross over to the BJP, as many as 23 have managed to earn a reprieve with corruption cases against them either closed or put in the "cold storage". It proves that BJP is nothing but a "saffron-coloured washing machine" which can turn even the "blackest" leader to absolutely "pristine white". So naturally BJP acts as the "social detergent" helping public life get rid of all stain of corruption.

Kajal Chatterjee, West Bengal

Medical Milestone

In a groundbreaking medical advancement, Richard Slayman, 62, received a kidney transplant from a genetically modified pig at Massachusetts General Hospital. Just two weeks after the surgery, Slayman was discharged, marking a significant leap in organ transplantation. This success offers hope to countless patients awaiting transplants. Dr. Leonardo V. Riella, the medical director, and the hospital team deserve commendation. The possibility of harvesting multiple organs from transgenic animals could revolutionize healthcare. Slayman's bravery inspires, potentially saving numerous lives. This achievement in xenotransplantation highlights the remarkable progress of science. While hoping for widespread accessibility, it's crucial to recognize such achievements amidst skepticism. It's a stark contrast to beliefs dismissing scientific advancements, reaffirming the importance of medical progress.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Media in Turmoil

Since the rise of AI-driven internet, the fourth estate, synonymous with media and journalism, faces a triple threat. Firstly, there's a significant decline in readership as online content consumption surges, causing newspapers to lose revenue. Secondly, advertising income dwindles as tech giants like Google and Facebook dominate the ad market. Lastly, AI algorithms replace human journalists, reducing their numbers and compromising investigative reporting. However, there's hope for journalism's revival. Internet giants should pay for news content, and global bodies like the EU and G20 must address tech companies' responsibility. Failure to resolve these issues jeopardizes the fourth estate's crucial role in upholding democratic values.

Arka Goswami, Durgapur, West Bengal

Wake up to Trauma to Beat Depression



By Vickey Prasad

Before we plunge into the discussion of depression, an invisible psychological leviathan swallowing day by day millions of lives across countries, let us first understand lucidly what trauma is. Basically, trauma is a psychological wound or injury caused by the fear of harm and threats or by the actual harm that occurred to us—physically, mentally, emotionally, or sexually. Similar to the physical ailments that do invade the immunity system of an individual's body, there are a variety of mental ailments,

disorders, and conditions that do deactivate, to say metaphorically, the marrows of life, such as the urge to recreate, the passion to achieve the set goals, the endeavors to undertake any sort of responsibility, the involvement in social gatherings, and so on. In such critical situations, nothing but pessimistic thoughts dawn on and compel the traumatized person to dissociate from everything, including life. Thus, the prolonged condition of staying in a state of brooding and bereft of vitality without any hope to venture out into what we call a 'normal' life defines the acute state of depression. Nevertheless, what problematizes our lives is our unknowability of those traumatic experiences. We fail drastically to make sense of them, and as a result, we find ourselves struggling seamlessly into a dark loop of depression. There is a distinguished theory in the discourse of traumatology and emotional wellbeing called Name It to Tame It, a theoretical proposition introduced by Dr. Daniel Siegel. The theory implies a technique to cope with any traumatic situation in our daily lives. Let's simplify it more. Unless we know, understand, and name the specific kind of emotion, existen-

tial threat, or psychological ailment, it will not help us tame it properly. Here, taming means the act of regulating all the troubled emotions and thoughts that push us into the vortex of vexation, indecision, and ultimately, inaction, so that we can control them in the best possible ways. The most effective skill to cope with trauma before landing on the darkest territory of depression is to develop a tuning with aesthetic vocations on a personal level. How does it help in the abatement of traumatic thoughts? As soon as something unpleasant attacks us, either physically or mentally, that accident immediately creates an energy field of negativity around us. This negative energy called trauma terminates all our endeavors of amusement. Therefore, what we have to understand is that we need to cling to our aesthetic habits at any cost by deactivating the source of negativity emerging from the unpleasant memory of the accident. We have to be vigilant of the fact that any traumatic experience is devastating our psychic balance, simply by snatching away the marrows of life discussed above. Reviving ourselves by means of embracing aestheticism helps to a great extent to cope with trauma.

Dr. Shoma Morita's Japanese psychotherapy, known as Morita Therapy, has successfully treated a variety of mental disorders and challenges. In this therapy, we have to calm ourselves down and then try our best to cognize the fluctuations of our thoughts and our tormenting feelings so that we can re-ground our behaviors in reality. According to the structural aspect of the therapy, there are four stages: intensive repose, light monotonous activities, meaningful activities, and social reintegration. Through these stages, we can tell ourselves that things around us will not change the way we wish; rather, we can accept the befallen situations in order to return to the track of normalcy cognitively, emotionally, and physically. A change in our perspective of living does assuage the intensity of traumatic experiences and prevent us from falling into the pit of depression. For instance, it is a certain fact that life is not a bed of roses, nor is it full of thorns only. The philosophy behind healing and getting rid of trauma is that we have to acknowledge, experience, and bear the reality of life, which is replete with radiance of joy, hope, and celebration, on the one hand, and despair of dejection, loss, and melancholia, on the

other. Another most effective way to not let the monster of depression creep inside you is to accept the fact that it's okay to feel whatever you feel. No matter how bad the circumstances have become, we need to calm down, take a deep breath, and ask three fundamental whys: First, why should I destroy my whole life if failure is a part of our lives? Second, why should I bother about those who have hardly been a part of my journey throughout? Third, why should I value my near and dear ones as well as whatever appeals to me? Answering these three whys makes us resilient and eager to combat trauma, though we have many other coping skills. Depression will always be defeated if we inculcate within ourselves the values of self-compassion and self-realization and create a positive self-image that is nonchalant to negative thoughts. (The writer is a poet, editor, independent columnist and PhD Research Fellow, working on Trauma and Memory Studies at National Institute of Technology Raipur. Views expressed are personal.)

(Author: PhD Research Scholar, National Institute of Technology, Raipur.)

BRIEF

Embassy REIT

Chennai: Embassy Real Estate Investment Trust, which owns and operates a 45.4 million sq ft of office infrastructure, has agreed to purchase Embassy Splendid TechZone from Embassy Sponsor for an enterprise value of Rs 1,269 crore marking its foray into the Chennai market. To fund the acquisition plans, Embassy REIT would raise Rs 2,500 crore through Institutional Placements and reduce its existing portfolio leverage from 30 per cent to 27 per cent, the company said on Saturday.

Sebi

New Delhi: To facilitate ease of doing business, Sebi has proposed that certain changes in the private placement memorandum of alternative investment funds can be submitted directly to the regulator rather than through a merchant banker. Also, the proposed move would rationalise the cost of compliance for alternative investment funds (AIFs). In its draft circular, Sebi said that certain changes carried out in private placement memorandum (PPM) are not required to be filed through merchant bankers and can be filed directly to the regulator.

Tata Steel India

New Delhi: Tata Steel India has reported a 6 per cent growth in deliveries to 19.90 million tonnes in FY24, supported by higher demand from retail, automotive and railway segments. In India, the company produced 18.85 million tonnes (MT) of steel during the preceding 2022-23 financial year, Tata Steel said in a statement on Saturday.

Credo

Kolkata: Credo Centre of Excellence, in partnership with the Apparel Skill Council, has unveiled the "first" fashion incubation centre in the country in Kolkata to boost the Rs 40,000 crore textile industry of West Bengal, an official said. "This is the first fashion incubation centre in India and the first PPP model centre approved by the Apparel Made Ups Home Furnishing Sector Skill (AMHSSC) Council under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Adani to invest Rs 2.3 lakh cr in renewable energy, manufacturing capacity

Khavda, Apr 07:

Adani Group will invest about Rs 2.3 lakh crore through 2030 in India's most ambitious renewable energy expansion and solar and wind manufacturing capacity addition ever as it shrugs off a short-seller attack to pursue its trademark rapid growth plans. Adani Green Energy Ltd, India's largest renewable energy company, will invest about Rs 1.5 lakh crore in expanding capacity to generate electricity from solar energy and wind power at Khavda in Gujarat's Kutch to 30 gigawatts from 2 GW currently and another Rs 50,000 crore in 6-7 GW of similar projects elsewhere in the country, a top company official said. Adani New Industries Ltd (ANIL), a unit in the group's flagship Adani



Enterprises Ltd, will invest close to Rs 30,000 crore in expanding solar cell and wind turbine manufacturing capacity at Mundra in Gujarat. AGEL, which currently has an operating portfolio of 10,934 megawatts (10.93 GW), is targeting 45 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. 30 GW of this will come up at just one location at Khavda - the world's largest renewable energy project. "We have just now commissioned 2,000 MW (2 GW) of capacity at Khavda

and plan to add 4 GW in the current fiscal (financial year ending March 2025) and 5 GW every year thereafter," said Vneet S Jaain, Managing Director, AGEL. To support these plans as well as meet requirements of other domestic renewable players and export market, ANIL plans to expand its cell and module manufacturing facility at Mundra to 10 GW by 2026-27 from current 4 GW, Jaain, who is also a director on the board of ANIL, said.

Crystalline silicon is turned into cells capable of converting sun rays into electric current and mounted on modules before being placed in high radiation areas such as Khavda. Electricity thus generated is wired to the transmission grid for onward movement to customers.

Maruti Suzuki eyes 3 lakh exports in FY25, 8 lakh by 2030

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

On the back of record exports last fiscal, Maruti Suzuki India is confident of its overseas shipments crossing 3 lakh units in FY25 as part of gradual scaling up to meet the target of up to 8 lakh units by 2030, according to a senior company official.

The company plans to launch more models in its various export markets that span over 100 countries while also enhancing distribution network, having taken best practices from India such as making bank finance available at dealerships, strengthening service facilities and parts availability to the export markets. "Till about three years ago our exports were in the range of 1 to 1.2 lakh cars a year. Both as a national vision and as a business ambition, we decided to scale up drastically and from those levels and in 2022-23 we reached about



2.59 lakh units exports and in 2023-24 we completed 2.83 lakh," Maruti Suzuki India Executive Director Corporate Affairs Rahul Bharti told PTI. He further said, "The interesting part of this is that it bucked the trend of industry. While the rest of the car industry exports actually shrunk by 3 per cent, Maruti Suzuki was able to grow by about 9.3

per cent to 2.83 lakh units a year. With this 42 per cent of all cars exported from India are from Maruti Suzuki." Bharti said the company's strategy is aligned with the government's vision under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to step up India's exports for the country to capture a larger share of the global trade to meet the ambi-

tions of 'Viksit Bharat'. "We are not only doing this with existing models. Even for the EV, the start of production of which will be in FY25, we would start export, and export it to advanced markets like Japan and Europe," he noted.

On the road ahead for exports, he said, "We hope to keep improving it steadily and by 2030 we have a target of 7.5 lakh to 8 lakh units total exports."

When asked if the company can cross the 3 lakh units mark in exports in FY25, Bharti said, "Yes certainly. It is possible barring any major surprises."

Sharing the company's strategy for increasing exports, Bharti said, "We don't have all the models in all the 100 markets now. Therefore, the way to enhance exports is more model launches in more countries of the world and at the same time more distribution network."

FPIs withdraw Rs 325 crore from Indian equities so far in Apr

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

FPIs have turned cautious as they pulled out Rs 325 crore from Indian equities in the first week of this month owing to relatively high valuations and the upcoming general elections. The net outflow came after a staggering investment of Rs 35,000 crore in March and Rs 1,539 crore in February, data with the depositories showed. Going ahead, Geojit Financial Services Chief Investment Strategist VK Vijayakumar said the US 10-year yield has spiked to 4.4 per cent, which will impact FPI (foreign portfolio investor) investment flows into India in the near term. However, FPI selling



will be limited despite the high US bond yields since the Indian stock market is bullish and has been setting new records consistently, he added. Smallcase Manager and Senior Research Analyst at Capitalmind Krishna Appala believes that FPIs might return post-elections or upon early signs

of a US Fed rate reduction. According to the data with the depositories, FPIs withdrew Rs 325 crore from Indian equities this month (till April 5). "Relatively high valuations and the looming general elections have made FPIs cautious, leading them to hold back from aggressive investments in

the equity markets at this juncture," Appala said.

On the other hand, FPIs have made a net investment of Rs 1,215 crore in the debt market during the period under review.

Indian government securities (G-Sec) 10-year yield standing at 7.1 per cent and the US 10-year at 4.3 per cent present a compelling case for FPIs. The risk-reward ratio is prompting them to shift their focus from equities to the higher yields offered by bond instruments in the US and India.

Moreover, FPIs have been pumping money into the debt markets for the past few months, driven by the upcoming inclusion of Indian government bonds in the JP Morgan Index.

NTPC aims for 40 MMT coal production in FY25

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

State-owned power giant NTPC on Sunday said it has set a 40 million metric tonnes (MMT) coal production target for its captive mines for 2024-25.

The ambitious target will help NTPC achieve a significant 17 per cent year-on-year growth in captive coal production, an NTPC statement said.

According to the statement, NTPC has set a target of 40 million metric tonnes (MMT) of coal production from its captive mines for FY25.

This will fulfil over 15 per cent of coal requirement through captive mines in FY25. Thereby, strengthening fuel security for the power major, it added.



The company has achieved a coal despatch of 34.15 MMT, and the production stood at 34.38 MMT at the end of March 31, 2024.

To achieve sustained growth in coal production, NTPC has implemented a range of strategies and technologies.

These include the adoption of rigorous safety

measures, improved mine planning, equipment automation, workforce training, and implementation of continuous monitoring and analysis systems.

These initiatives have played a vital role in optimising operations, enhancing productivity, and ensuring the safety of the workforce, the statement said.

Haier India launches range of air conditioners

New Delhi, Apr 07:

Haier Appliances India, launched its latest range of Super Heavy-Duty air conditioners. Featuring Hexa Inverter and Supersonic cooling technology the new range is equipped to deliver a 20 X faster cooling experience and enables 65% energy savings.

Haier India continues its dedication to crafting customer-inspired innovations while adapting to their evolving needs. The new range sets a high standard in the industry as it pivots on advanced features like HEXA Inverter Technology, Supersonic Cooling in just 10 seconds, Frost Self-Clean Technology and Intelli Convertible 7-in-1. Catering to the demand for rapid cooling in the summer and prioritizing the customer's comfort, the new range seam-

lessly integrates innovation, design, and energy efficiency. Commenting on the launch, NS Satish, President, Haier Appliances India said, "At Haier, we believe in designing products powered with innovative technologies that make our customer's life smarter, convenient and comfortable."

India experiences extreme weather conditions, especially the harsh summer season. Keeping these conditions in mind, we have designed the new range of Super Heavy-Duty air conditioners to ensure optimum cooling in extreme temperatures and even take care of energy efficiency with Hexa Inverter technology to maximize comfort, reliability, and performance. We are geared up to cater to the evolving consumer demand and aiming for a double-digit growth trajectory in 2024."

AARI Inaugurates 'Moto Vault' superbike showroom

Bhopal: To widen the spectrum of its premium offerings, Adishwar Auto Ride India Pvt. Ltd. (AARI), a Mahavir Group company, announced the launch of its latest venture - Moto Vault, a multi-brand superbike franchise in Raipur. The announcement comes in line with the company's commitment to set up multiple touchpoints across India to ensure every customer has the best superbike experience. The state-of-the-art showroom under the banner of M/S Speed Nation Ring road No: 1, near D Mart, opp. Vinayak Vihar Colony, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492001. It showcases the global range of superbikes from international brands like Moto Morini, Zontes and QJ Motor.

Indigenous robotic solutions get an edge as enterprises look for customised AI-based automation

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

Enterprises looking for integration of AI-based automation systems in various business operations are preferring home-grown robotic solutions over global competitors, according to industry players.

Those engaged in logistics, warehousing and retail chain management have been scrambling for artificial intelligence-based automated solutions at a time when the competition is intense for quick and cost-effective delivery of products and services, irrespective of order quantity and distance.

Made-in-India robots come with the ease of customisation and implementation flexibility with dif-



ferent applications having unique requirements, said Sheshadri P V, Executive Vice President of Reliance Retail, which has integrated automation in grocery and fashion & lifestyle verticals.

"Grocery has limited SKUs (Stock Keeping Units) but fashion comes

with much more complexities in terms of SKUs which need to be managed. Technologies for both of them would be different," he explained.

Noida-based company Addverb which has been in the robotics manufacturing business since 2016 has more than 20 products

in the market across the world.

The company said 30 per cent of its business comes from overseas but a large chunk comes from domestic clients.

Addverb almost doubled its revenue to Rs 450 crore in the last fiscal and aims to reach Rs 1,000 crore in the current fiscal.

"Robots that we are building are not only for India but for the whole world. So we are getting them certified with various international certifications," said Sangeet Kumar, Co-founder & CEO, Addverb.

Kumar also announced his company's foray into the healthcare segment with the launch of three types of robots for the sector.

Vistara chief says over 98 pc pilots have signed new contract



New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan on Saturday said the airline hopes to stabilise operations for this month by this weekend and that more than 98 per cent of pilots have signed the new contract. The full service carrier faced significant disruption in operation earlier this week due to the non-

availability of crew and many flights were cancelled. In a statement, Kannan said the situation has already improved with its on-time performance improving for the last three days. "We hope to stabilise our operations for the rest of April 2024 by this weekend," he said. Referring to the new contract for pilots, he said some pilots have some con-

cerns and queries regarding the contract. The airline is engaging with them to clarify and resolve the concerns, Kannan said and added that "over 98 per cent of pilots have signed the new contract". Vistara has around 1,000 pilots.

A section of pilots have raised concerns about the new contract that will result in pay revision, sources had said earlier. According to Kannan, the airline is addressing the current situation on a war footing and continuing to hire more pilots.

The airline is also carefully scaling back operations slightly to provide the much-needed resilience, and a buffer in the rosters, he noted.

Voda Idea gets board nod to raise Rs 2,075 cr from Aditya Birla group

New Delhi, Apr 06 (PTI):

Debt-ridden telecom firm Vodafone Idea on Saturday said its board has approved raising Rs 2,075 crore from promoter Aditya Birla group and increasing its authorised share capital to Rs 1 lakh crore.

The company will seek shareholders' approval at an extraordinary general meeting on May 8 on the proposals, it said in a regulatory filing.

The Vodafone Idea board has approved "issuance of up to 1,395,427,034 equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each at an issue price of Rs 14.87 per equity share (including a premium of Rs 4.87 per

equity share), aggregating to Rs 2,075 crore to Oriana Investments Pte. Ltd (Aditya Birla Group entity forming part of the promoter group), on a preferential basis," the filing said.

The board also approved an increase in the authorised share capital of the company from existing Rs 75,000 crore, divided into Rs 70,000 crore equity share capital and Rs 5,000 crore preference share capital, to Rs 1 lakh crore, the filing said.

The increased authorised share capital of the company will be divided into Rs 95,000 crore equity share capital and Rs 5,000 crore preference share capital.

Four of top 10 valued firms add Rs 1.71 lakh cr to mcap

New Delhi, Apr 07 (PTI):

Four of the top 10 valued firms added Rs 1,71,309.28 crore to their market valuation last week with HDFC Bank and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) emerging as the biggest gainers in line with an overall positive trend in equities.

On the other hand, six companies from the top 10 pack took a Rs 78,127.48 crore hit to their market valuation with index major Reliance Industries accounting for the majority of the losses.

Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 596.87 or 0.81 per cent. It hit an all-time high of 74,501.73



on April 4.

While Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, State Bank of India and LIC were the gainers from the top 10 pack, Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, ITC and Hindustan Unilever faced losses in their valuation.

The market valuation of

HDFC Bank jumped Rs 76,880.74 crore to reach Rs 11,77,065.34 crore. LIC added Rs 49,208.48 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 6,27,692.77 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of TCS climbed Rs 34,733.64 crore to Rs 14,39,836.02 crore and that of State Bank of India went up by Rs 10,486.42 crore to Rs 6,82,152.71 crore.

However, the valuation of Reliance Industries tanked Rs 38,462.95 crore to Rs 19,75,547.68 crore. The mcap of Bharti Airtel eroded by Rs 21,206.58 crore to Rs 6,73,831.90 crore and that of ICICI Bank dived Rs 9,458.25 crore to Rs 7,60,084.40 crore.



॥ जय श्री राम ॥



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India lose 2-4 against Australia in second hockey Test

Perth, Apr 07 (PTI):

The Indian men's hockey team dished out a much-improved performance as compared to its previous game but it still lost 2-4 to Australia in the second Test of the five-match series here on Sunday.

After the 1-5 drubbing they received on Saturday, the Indians were able to play in equal terms against their formidable opponents in the first and second quarters of the match.

Despite their efforts, India faced an early setback as Australia took the lead in the sixth minute through Jeremy Hayward's powerful low drag-flick from a penalty corner. However, India managed to draw level soon after with Jugraj Singh converting a penalty corner in the ninth minute. The Indian team



gained further momentum when skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored his 180th career goal just before half-time, giving India a 2-1 lead.

The third quarter proved to be decisive as Australia mounted relentless pressure on the Indian

defense, scoring three goals within a short span. Hayward struck again with his second goal from a penalty corner, followed by Jacob Anderson's deflection and Nathan Ephraums' timely slap, taking the score to 4-2 in favor of Australia.

Despite India's efforts to mount a comeback in the final quarter, the Australian defense held firm, denying India any further goals. The match ended with Australia securing their second consecutive victory in the five-match series.

Candidates Chess

Praggnanandhaa stops Gujrathi's applear

Toronto, Apr 07 (PTI):

Indian grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa came up with a spectacular game to down compatriot Vidit Gujrathi in the third round of the Candidates Chess tournament here.

It turned out to be a satisfying day for the only sibling to make to the Candidates ever as R Vaishali also scored her first victory in the event at the expense of Nurgyl Salimova of Bulgaria in what was also the lone decisive game in the Women's section.

In the men's section, D Gukesh tried to make some headways but could not really dent the solid defences of Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia, while Frenchman Firouza Alireza's extra pawn came to a naught against top seed Fabiano Caruana of United States.

The other American Hikaru Nakamura, however, had no difficulty in getting an easy draw as



black against Nijat Abasov of Azerbaijan. In the women section, Koneru Humpy played out an easy draw with white against Zhongyi Tan, Tinjie Lei of China signed peace with Aleksandra Goryachkina of Russia, while the other Russian Kateryna Lagno split the point with Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine.

With 11 rounds still to come in both eight-players double round-robin tournament, Caruana, Gukesh and Nepomniachtchi share the lead on two points apiece in the men's

section. They are now followed by Gujrathi and Praggnanandhaa on 1.5 points each. Nakamura, Alireza and Abasov complete the line up another half point behind.

In the women's event, Zhongyi Tan with two points remained a half point clear of nearest rival Goryachkina with Humpy, Vaishali, Lagno on their toes with 1.5 points each.

Lei, Muzychuk and Salimova share the sixth spot with one point each in their kitty.

Praggnanandhaa chose

an accelerated Schielmann defence out of a Ruy Lopez that is seldom seen in top GM games. Pragg, as he is fondly called, is known to spring surprises beyond imagination of his opponent, and Gujrathi realized this very early in the opening.

That Gujrathi was obviously in for a long grinding game as his first white after a brilliant start was visible as he spent a lot of time in the opening but then the complications were clearly above the human mind.

The game fluctuated in the early middle game between an equal position and sometimes favouring Gujrathi but it was not easy to find all the best moves every time he was posed a question.

In the end Gujrathi was left to play 11 moves in about five minutes with the position not favouring him and as is often the case, the ticking away clock took its toll on the Indian.

Tiafoe, top-seeded Shelton advance to US Men's Clay Court Championship final



Houston, Apr 07 (AP):

Defending champion Frances Tiafoe and top-seeded Ben Shelton will play for the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship title after winning semifinal matches.

Tiafoe, ranked 21st, defeated Luciano Darderi 6-2, 7-6 (2) and looks to become the event's first repeat champion since Steve Johnson did it in 2017 and 2018.

After a dominant open-

ing, Darderi rallied for a second-set tiebreaker. But Tiafoe was relentless and clinched his first ATP final of the season on his opponent's double fault.

"Great performance from me today," said Tiafoe, who credited more aggression and more fun for his return to the final. "It's a little different clay out here in Houston, you can play more like a hard court." Shelton came back from losing a first-set tiebreaker to beat Tomas Martin Etcheverry 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4 and reach the second ATP final of his career and his first on clay.

Shelton, a 21-year-old ranked 16th, acknowledged it took him until a few games in the second set to find his form. "You have a lot of time out here, playing on clay. The game just moves a little bit slower, you have more time to process," Shelton said. "I tried to use that to my advantage today and really happy to be in the finals my first time here in Houston."

CSK bank on home advantage against unbeaten KKR

Chennai, Apr 07 (PTI):

Defending champions Chennai Super Kings would expect a lot more from their top-order as they aim to get their campaign back on track against a power-packed Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL here on Monday.

Back-to-back defeats would not create panic in the forever calm CSK dressing room but the management will be keen to fix the flaws going ahead.

Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and the highly rated Rachin Ravindra need to up their game to provide CSK the start they need in the power-



play. Gaikwad is striking at 118.91 while Ravindra will be itching to make an impact after not doing much in the previous two games.

CSK's leading run scorer has been Shivam Dube

who has tallied 148 runs at an impressive strike rate of 160.86. It remains to be seen if the young Sameer Rizvi is brought back into the team. The 20-year-old uncapped batter displayed promising intent in his

six-ball 14 versus Gujarat Titans but a duck against Delhi Capitals in the subsequent game led to him being dropped against SRH. Pacers Mustafizur Rahman and Matheesha Pathirana missed the last game due to different reasons, exposing the chinks in CSK's bowling attack. If they remain unavailable for the KKR game, CSK will need to think out of the box to make up for their absence.

Thus, the onus will be upon Deepak Chahar, Tushar Deshpande and Mukesh Choudhary, alongside spinners Moeen Ali, Ravindra Jadeja and Maheesh Theekshana.

Smriti Mandhana among icon players

In inaugural Women's Maharashtra Premier League

Pune, Apr 07 (PTI):

India women's team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana was on Sunday unveiled as one of the icon players for the inaugural edition of the Women's Maharashtra Premier League (WMPL), which will be held in June this year.

The Maharashtra Cricket Association made the formal announcement of the franchise-based T20 tournament featuring four teams which will be held under the aegis of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the state governing body said. "MCA will be the first association from the BCCI to start a state league for women," the MCA said in a release. The tournament will be held at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium here in Gahunje from June 24. Among the icon players in the tournament will be Mandhana, Devika Vaidya, Anuja Patil, Kiran Navgire and Shradha Pokharkar.



The tournament's opening edition will have a price money of Rs 20 lakh for the winning side and Rs 10 lakh for the runner-up along with other individual prizes.

The auction for teams will be held on April 27 whereas the auction for the players will be on May 11.

Mbappe sets up late equalizer as French leader PSG

Paris, Apr 07 (AP):

Kylian Mbappé came off the bench and set up a late equalizer as runaway French league leader Paris Saint-Germain and rock-bottom Clermont finished 1-1.

Mbappé took a pass from striker Goncalo Ramos and masterfully played it back into the penalty area in the 85th minute. PSG is 13 points clear of second-



placed Brest, which hosts relegation battler Metz on

Sunday, and a record-extending 12th league title

seems a formality. After this weekend, there are only six rounds and 18 points remaining.

PSG faces Barcelona in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal at Parc des Princes on Wednesday, and coach Luis Enrique left out Mbappé, goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and other first-teamers. Mbappé went on against Clermont midway through the second half.

Classifieds

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Chronicle

Messi scores in his return, helps Inter Miami get a 2-2 tie against Colorado



Fort Lauderdale, Apr 07 (AP):

Lionel Messi returned and helped salvage a tie for Inter Miami. Messi scored shortly after checking in to begin the second half and helped set up Leo Afonso's go-ahead score two minutes later. But Cole Bassett scored in the 88th minute for the Colorado Rapids and the game ended in a 2-2 tie on Saturday night. It was Messi's first appearance for Inter Miami since a hamstring issue led to him getting subbed out early in the second half of a CONCACAF Champions Cup match against Nashville on March 13. He had missed four Inter Miami games since, plus two games with Argentina. He wasted little time announcing his return Saturday. Messi's fourth goal in as many MLS matches this season came in the 58th minute, beating Colorado keeper Zach Steffen with a low shot that hit the left goalpost, then skidded back across the goal mouth before settling into the next just inside of the right post.

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14 places identified as 'drug hot spots' in Jammu

● Efforts on to wipe out drug menace

Jammu, Apr 07 (PTI)

Fourteen locations have been identified as 'drug hot spots' in Jammu, police on Sunday said, highlighting various efforts aimed at eliminating the drug menace in the city.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Vinod Kumar said that 71 cases related to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act were registered and 85 peddlers arrested along with large quantities of contraband substances, primarily heroin, so far this year.

"We have identified 14 lo-

cations as drug hot spots in the city and carried out 85 raids at these places besides increasing the presence of manpower. These locations were also brought under increased surveillance of district special branch officials," the officer told reporters here.

He said that 13 notorious drug peddlers were booked under the stringent Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act in the past three months compared to a total of 24 last year.

"We have launched a two type strategy to tackle drug menace with primary focus to create awareness among people and secondly rehabilitation of drug addicted youth who are

treated as victims," the SSP said.

"Police has recently opened a state-of-the-art drug rehabilitation centre which is equipped with all facilities and a qualified staff," he added.

Seeking active support of people in eradicating the drug menace, he said even if any police personnel was found involved in drug peddling, strict action will be taken against such persons as per the prevalent laws.

"Of the total cases, police has busted the forward and backward linkages of 27 cases and attached three properties of notorious drug peddlers while similar action is on cards against others," he said, adding the investiga-

tions have so far not revealed a direct link of narcotic smugglers across the border.

The SSP said the police are also keeping surveillance on former Over Ground Workers of terrorists to ensure that they are not recycled and get involved in narco-terrorism.

"There was no instance where drug smugglers used luxurious vehicles...in fact, most of the arrests were made from public transport," he said.

He said that separate teams have been constituted in view of the Lok Sabha polls, while additional manpower have been deployed at checkpoints to ensure free and fair elections.

PERFECT LANDING



Indian Air force's fighter aircraft Sukhoi 30MKI lands on the Lucknow-Agra expressway, in Unnao, Sunday.

New Collector Anup Saha takes charge

Paradip Jagatsinghpur, Apr 07: -

Anup Saha has joined as the new District Collector and takes charge in Jagatsinghpur district on Saturday. Earlier, Saha was serving as State Project Director of OSEPA and Member Secretary of Mo School and Labor Commissioner. After assuming office, District Collector Saha reviewed the preparations for the upcoming elections with Additional District Collectors, Chief Development and Executive Officers of District Councils, Deputy District Collectors and



other district level officials. All the constituencies, polling booths and necessary facilities in the district wanted everyone's cooperation to conduct the elections in a transparent, fair and impartial manner. Addressing Jagatsinghpur district as

a literate and conscious district, the District Collector advised the department officials to resolve the issues and follow the code of conduct during the election.

Additional District Magistrate Abhimanyu Behera, Sambit Rout, Raut, Lalit Mohan Behera, ADM, Paradip, Ravi Narayan Jethi, Chief Development and Executive Officer of the District Council, Pradeep Kumar Sahu, Deputy Magistrate and other senior officials of the district welcomed the new Magistrate with offering flowers.

'Over 24k displaced people to vote from relief camps'

● 50 % LS polling stations in state vulnerable

Imphal, Apr 07 (PTI)

Eleven months of conflict, over 50,000 displaced people and a prevailing anti-poll sentiment in a section - the Election Commission in violence-hit Manipur is gearing up for the challenging task of holding Lok Sabha elections in the state in less than two weeks even as the campaign scene is muted so far. Chief Electoral Officer Pradeep Kumar Jha said over 24,500 displaced people have been

identified as eligible to vote and special polling arrangements have been made in relief camps to enable them to exercise their franchise.

"A total of 2,955 polling stations will be set up in the state for the Lok Sabha elections, out of which around 50 per cent have been identified as sensitive, vulnerable or critical. We are also setting up 94 special polling stations to facilitate voting by internally displaced persons (IDPs)," Jha told PTI.

According to the Election Commission of India (ECI) norms, a 'vulnerability mapping' of hamlets, villages and electoral seg-



Manipur CEO Pradeep Kumar Jha

ments that may be expose to threat and intimidation is conducted ahead of polls. "Steps have been taken to identify history sheeters, trouble mongers, and persons causing vulnerability

and bound under CrPC. These critical and vulnerable polling stations will be brought under webcasting and videography along with deployment of micro observers and additional deployment of CAPF (central armed police forces)," Jha said. Special teams have been formed to deal with voters with empathy and voter awareness activities have also started, he said. "The activities are being designed keeping in mind the sentiments of the displaced people who have lost the comfort of being in their home and there is

some level of frustration and negativity," he added.

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