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'Corruption increases when Cong comes to power'

Dantewada, Apr 13:

Union minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said corruption increases every time the Congress comes to power whereas there was not a single allegation of irregularity against the Narendra Modi government in its 10-year rule.

Addressing a rally in Geedam in Dantewada district, the Defence minister said the Congress would be finished in the state after the Lok Sabha polls and the party would be extinct like dinosaurs in the next few years.

"Corruption increases whenever the Congress comes to power. Since Independence, the party has faced charges of corruption. However, no one can point a finger or level a single corruption charge at the Narendra Modi government," Singh said. The



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh being welcomed by BJP President Kiran Singh Deo on his arrival, at the Jagdalpur Airport in Bastar district, Saturday.

Congress is like a piece of rusted iron and it has started resembling the "house" of reality show 'Big Boss' since all the leaders are busy tearing each other's clothes, he said. He also slammed Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Misa Bharti for claiming Modi would be

jailed if the Bharatiya Janata Party lost power.

"Leaders who are in jail are trying to mislead people to garner votes," he said in an apparent reference to the conviction of Bharti's father and former Bihar chief minister Lalu Yadav in the fodder scam.

IAF completes 40 yrs of flying

In ruthless terrain of Siachen

New Delhi, Apr 13 (PTI):

The IAF on Saturday recalled its contribution in 'Operation Meghdoot' 40 years ago when its tactical and strategic airlifters and key helicopters had ferried men and material to "dizzying heights" in Siachen, the world's highest battlefield. The Indian Army marked four decades of its presence on the strategically-significant Siachen glacier. Operation Meghdoot was launched on

April 13, 1984, when the Indian Army and Indian Air Force had advanced to the Siachen glacier to secure the heights dominating the northern Ladakh region, officials said. Playing an "irreplaceable role" in this effort, IAF's tactical and strategic airlifters, AN-12s, AN-32s and IL-76s transported stores and troops and air-dropped supplies to high altitude airfields, from where Mi-17, Mi-8, Chetak and Cheetah helicopters "ferried men and material to dizzying heights on the glacier, far above the limits set by the helicopter manufacturers," a senior official said.

BRIEF



Akal Takht head granthi Giani Malkit Singh along with other Shiromani Committee officials holds a 'Nishan Sahib' flag at Golden Temple complex on the occasion of 'Baisakhi' festival, in Amritsar, Saturday.

Alert

Bhubaneswar: The Special Relief Commission (SRC) in Odisha on Friday put several districts on alert in the wake of the IMD forecasting return of heatwave conditions in parts of the state from April 15, officials said.

NIA custody

Bengaluru: A special NIA court here on Saturday granted the national agency 10 days custody of two accused in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case for further investigation. Mussavir Hussain Shazib and Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taahaa were produced before a National Investigation Agency special court judge today.

Diversion

New Delhi: As many as 22 flights were diverted at the Delhi airport on Saturday evening due to bad weather, according to an official. Of them, 9 flights were diverted to Jaipur, 8 to Lucknow, 2 to Chandigarh, and 1 each to Varansi, Amritsar and Ahmedabad.

Fire

Mumbai: A fire broke out on two floors of an eight-storey building at Bandra-Kurla Complex here on Saturday afternoon and the firefighting operation is underway, an official said. No one was reported injured in the blaze that erupted around 3.15 pm on the third and fourth floor of the Balaram building located next to the family court, the fire brigade official said.

Weather
High 31 Low 22

Iran seizes Israel-linked ship off UAE coast

Dubai, Apr 13 (AP):

Commandos from Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard rappelled down from a helicopter onto an Israeli-affiliated container ship near the Strait of Hormuz and seized the vessel Saturday, the latest in a series of attacks between the two countries.

The Middle East had braced for potential

17 Indians on ship

Of the 25 crew members aboard the container ship seized by Iran's Revolutionary Guards off the UAE coast on Saturday, 17 are Indian, sources here said. The container ship, MCS Aries, was seized near the Strait of Hormuz by carrying out a "heliborne operation", and it is now headed towards the territorial waters of Iran, the country's state-owned IRNA news agency reported. A source said, "We are aware that Iran has taken control of a cargo ship 'MSC Aries'."

Iranian retaliation over a suspected Israeli strike earlier this month on an Iranian consular building in Syria that killed 12

people, including a senior Guard general who once commanded its expeditionary Quds Force there.

The Israeli war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip meanwhile is now 6 months old and is inflaming decades-old tensions across the whole region. With Iranian-backed forces like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Yemen's Houthi rebels also involved in the fighting, any new attack in the Mideast threatens to escalate that conflict into a wider regional war.

CBI books Megha Engg in Rs 315-cr bribery case

Second-biggest electoral bond buyer

New Delhi, Apr 13 (PTI):

The CBI has registered an FIR against Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd, which was the second-biggest buyer of electoral bonds worth Rs 966 crore, in an alleged bribery case. Eight officials of the NISP and NMDC and two officials of MECON were also

named in the FIR for receiving alleged bribe of around Rs 78 lakh in clearing bills of Rs 174 crore of Megha Engineering in connection with works related to Jagdalpur integrated steel plant, officials said Saturday. Megha Engineering had emerged as the second-biggest buyer of electoral bonds and donated the highest amount of about Rs 586 crore to the BJP, according to the data released by the Election Commission on March 21.

Mohd Nur Hasan and Minlun identified as key conspirator

New Delhi, Apr 13 (PTI):

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge sheet against two accused, including the key conspirator, in last year's Manipur car bomb blast case in which three people were

MANIPUR CAR BLAST NIA charges two accused

injured, an official statement issued on Saturday said. The agency filed the charge sheet before a special NIA court in Manipur's Bishnupur on Friday, it said.

The explosion, triggered by a bomb planted in a Mahindra Scorpio, took place on a bridge adjoining Phougakchao Ikhai Awang Leikai and Kwakta area, along Tiddim road (NH-02), in Kwakta ward

no. 07 (KMC), Bishnupur on June 21, 2023. Three people were injured in the blast which damaged the bridge, an electric pole, electrical assets and surrounding houses.

Mohammed Noor Hussain alias Tomba alias Mohammed Nur Hasan and Seiminlun Gangte alias Minlun, who was identified as the key conspirator, were arrested in connection with the blast.

BJP to release its poll manifesto today

New Delhi, Apr 13 (PTI):

The BJP will release its manifesto - Sankalp Patra - for the Lok Sabha polls on Sunday, with its planks of welfare and development besides a roadmap for 'viksit Bharat' expected to figure prominently in its election agenda. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders of the party are expected to attend the unveiling of the manifesto at the party head-

quarters that coincides with the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar, a towering leader from the Dalit community and an architect of the Indian Constitution. As the BJP government has fulfilled most of its core ideological promises, including the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and the repeal of Article 370, all eyes will be on how the ruling party's larger cultural and Hindutva agenda figures in the manifesto.

CHARAK FESTIVAL

Hindu devotees swing using ropes during an acrobatic performance during the 'Charak' festival celebration, at Kedarchandpur in Murshidabad district, Saturday.

CENTRE'S BIG ORDER 'Remove drinks, beverages from 'health drinks' category'

New Delhi, Apr 13 (PTI):

The government has asked all the e-commerce companies to remove drinks and beverages, including Bournvita, from the health drinks category from their portals. "National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), a statutory body constituted under section (3) of the Commission of Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act 2005 after its inquiry under Section 14 of CRPC Act 2005 concluded that there is no 'health drink' defined under FSS Act 2006, rules and regulations submitted by FSSAI and Mondelez India Food Pvt Ltd," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in an advisory to all e-commerce companies.

'Terrorists don't play by rules, so response can't have rules'

Pune, Apr 13 (PTI):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that India was committed to respond to any act of terrorism perpetrated from across the borders, and asserted that since terrorists do not play by rules, there cannot be any rules in the country's answer to them.

Attacking the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) dispensation over its response to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008, he said that after a lot of deliberation



S Jaishankar

at the government level, nothing fruitful came out at that time as it was felt that the cost of attacking Pakistan was more than not attacking it.

Interacting with youth on Friday at an event titled 'Why

Bharat Matters: Opportunity for youth and participation in global scenario' here, he asked that if a similar attack happens now and one does not react to it, how can the next such attacks be prevented.

Jaishankar also said that the country's foreign policy has undergone a change since 2014 and it is the way terrorism is dealt with.

When asked about countries with which India finds it challenging to maintain relationships, Jaishankar said India should question

whether it should maintain any relationship with certain countries.

"Well, one is just next to us. Let us be honest, the one country that is very, very difficult is Pakistan, and for that, we should only introspect why. One reason for this is us," he said.

He added that had India been clear from the start that Pakistan was indulging in terrorism, which India should not tolerate under any circumstances, the country would have had a vastly different policy.

SABKA SAATH SABKA VIKAS

THIS IS MODI'S GUARANTEE

Serving the Poor
25 crore people lifted out of poverty
4+ crore houses built, guarantee of housing for all

Opportunity for the Youth
1+ crore youth skilled, achieved self-reliance
1+ lakh Start-ups generated employment opportunities

Honouring the Farmer
12+ crore farmers received ₹6000 per year
Increased MSP for highest number of crops

Saluting Nari Shakti
14+ crore toilets built to ensure women's health, hygiene and safety
1 crore didis became lakhpati, 3 crore more lakhpati didis will be added

Care for the Middle-class
Accessible and affordable healthcare and education
Income tax exemption limit increased from ₹2.5 lakhs to ₹7 lakhs
Affordable electricity, water and connectivity

Once Again Modi Sarkar

Press the lotus button Make BJP win

विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि

स्व. प्रकाशचंद्रजी माहेश्वरी
जन्म : 15-11-1940 महाप्रयाण : 14-4-2005

धर्मयुक्तं सदाद्रं चित्तं पुरुषो कर्म हिते रतः ।
इच्छा बुद्धि प्रयासेन भवति प्राण प्रकाशकम् ॥

जो पुरुष अपने चित्त को सदा भावनामय तथा धर्म युक्त रखते हुए हितकारक कर्मों में लगा रहता है, वह इच्छा, बुद्धि और प्रयास से प्राणों को प्रकाशित करने वाला हो जाता है।

CENTRAL Chronicle परिवार



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की
हरररर
शुभकररररर

गौररर गुरुरर



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रधुर करर हररेशर उपलरर - 'वलररर गुरररर रुररर'

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KAWALJIT SINGH OBEROI

State Chairman Builden Association of India
Chhattisgarh



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'Cong to conduct caste census if voted to power'



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi speaks during a public meeting ahead of Lok Sabha elections, in Bastar district, Saturday.

Central Chronicle News

Bastar, Apr 13: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said if his party is voted to power at the Centre, it will immediately conduct a caste census in the country. Addressing an election rally at Bastar village in Bastar district, he described the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as a fight between two ideologies involving those seeking to protect the Constitution and those

out to destroy it.

He also attacked the Narendra Modi-led government and said President Droupadi Murmu was prevented from attending the consecration of Ram temple in Ayodhya as she is a tribal, and it reflects the Bharatiya Janata Party's mentality.

The rally was held in support of Congress' candidate from Scheduled Tribe-reserved Bastar Lok Sabha seat Kawasi

Lakhma.

"Modi ji has been trying to change the word 'adivasi'. We call you (tribals) adivasi, but they use the term 'vanvasi'. There is a huge difference between vanvasi and adivasi terms", he said.

The word 'adivasi' has a deep meaning. The word expresses your rights on jal, jungle, zamien (water, forest, land), while vanvasi means those who live in the jungle, he said.

The Congress leader said the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) have been attacking religion, ideology and history of tribals.

BJP has been giving your lands to billionaires, he added.

"The President of India was prevented from attending the consecration ceremony of Ram temple in Ayodhya because she is a tribal. Modiji gave this message to the country and this is their thinking", he said.

Highlighting the poll promise of Congress, Gandhi said, We will conduct a caste census immediately after coming to power.

"We will undertake recruitment to 30 lakh vacant government posts, start apprenticeships for youth if voted to power," he added.

Gandhi also claimed that under PM Modi's rule, 22 businessmen accumulated wealth equal to that of 70 crore Indians.

'Modi necessary for development of country and Ch'garh'

Says Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao while campaigning in Kanker-Charama to ensure victory of BJP candidate Bhojraj Nag

Raipur, Apr 13: Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao said that Lok Sabha elections 2024 will give direction to the country. According to him this election is the election of Narendra Modi and there is no alternative to Modi ji. Narendra Modi is necessary for the development of the country, he said while campaigning in Kanker-Charama constituency on Friday. He urged party workers to make Bhojraj Nag victorious in Kanker Lok Sabha constituency.

With BJP candidate's vic-

tory, Modi ji has to be given a strong mandate, he said. Vishnu Deo government in Chhattisgarh has done more work in a short time than the public expected and this has to be told to the people, Arun Sao told the workers. BJP has to form government at the centre. This time the slogan has crossed 400. This will be accomplished with the hard work of the workers, he said. Work has to be done to get a record lead in the booth. Given Modi government's performance in the last 10 years people are ready to vote for Modi ji, he said. He urged the party workers to go for door to door contact to motivate people to vote for BJP.

Earlier Sao offered prayers at Shitala Mata temple of Charama and wished for the happiness and prosperity of the state. The workers at Charama's booth were also filled with enthusiasm.



Last two days for Swadeshi Khadi exhb

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 13: The ongoing Swadeshi Khadi Mahotsav at Chhattisgarh Haat Pandri has received tremendous response and now only two last days are left for the exhibition to end.

In this exhibition, apart from clothes with Khadi fabric, huge range of cot-

ton, silk clothes are being liked by the customers very much and they are purchasing it in large number.

The last date of the Exhibition is April 15 and Director Anurag Mishra appealed people in large number to avail benefit of the rebate being offered on various products in the last two days.

BJP's '400 paar' claim creating doubts: Kanhaiya

Among people about democratic process, EVMS

Bilaspur, Apr 13 (PTI):



The BJP's claim that it will win more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha polls has created doubts among people on the country's democratic process and electronic voting machines, Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar said on Saturday.

In order to protect the Constitution, which the BJP wants to change in order to snatch fundamental rights of people, there was need to transform the 2024 Lok Sabha polls into a mass movement, he added.

Kumar was addressing a rally in Bhadaura village in Chhattisgarh for his party's Bilaspur Lok Sabha candidate Devendra Yadav.

"How does he (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) know his party will get 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections. Is he an astrologer? Such acts raise doubts on the democratic process," Kumar claimed, adding he had met several people during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra who said they had voted for the Congress but saw the "lotus bloom in their areas".

whether the EVM machine is fine or not. They are questioning the credibility of the EVMs," Kumar claimed.

On one hand the BJP is seeking votes and on the other it proclaims it will win more than 400 seats, Kumar said.

"It seems as if they are not asking for votes but are threatening us (the general public). It is arrogance of power and an insult to the country's citizens," he claimed.

The way General Dyer was thrown out by freedom fighters, "general kayar (coward) can also be driven out", Kumar said without taking names.

He was referring to Brigadier General Reginald Dyer who ordered his troops to open fire at a gathering in Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar on April 13, 1919.

It resulted in the deaths of several hundred persons, and the incident sent shockwaves across the world.

Arrangement of drinking water for passengers



Division, free plain and cold drinking water is provided to the passengers by the railway administration. People are benefiting from this facility by getting drinking water from the taps installed in the water booths and water coolers located at various stations of Raipur Railway Division.

A free RO water booth has also been installed on platform number 01 at Raipur Railway Station of Raipur Railway Division. About 953 taps at 283 water booths and about 307 taps at 104 water coolers for cold water have been made available for the provision of drinking water to the passengers on the platforms of all the stations of Raipur Railway Division.

Apart from this, the provision of packaged drinking water at fixed rates is also available at the stalls of railway stations. Passengers can avail all the arrangements for drinking water as per their convenience.

In South East Central Railway Raipur Railway Division

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 13: Drinking water facility has been made available on all the platforms for the convenience of the passengers at the stations of Raipur Railway Division in South East Central Railway Raipur Railway Division.




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Patients' feedback plays pivotal role in enhancing service quality

CM invited for Mahavir Janam Kalyanak Mahotsav on Apr 21



President Amar Barlotia along with Ashok, Sankhala, Rajendra Parakh, Atul Jain and Lokesh Jain were present.

Today, on April 12th, at 6.30 am, Prabhat Pheri was organized like every day. The Prabhat Pheri passed through Shri Nagar Road near Shri Mahesh Bhawan and ended at Shivanand Nagar near Shri Lakshmi Sai Bhawan, Jhanda Chowk, Srinagar. Program coordinator and in-charge Shri Sadhumargi Jain Samta Yuva Sangh, Raipur members along with a large number of devotees were present. Children participated in the Prabhat Pheri wearing costumes and fancy dresses for religious and social messages.

JS in MoHFW Madhukar Kumar Bhagat visits AIIMS-R, Interacts with patients

Madhukar Kumar Bhagat, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, visited All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Friday and suggested having robust cyber security protocols to protect patients' data and privacy. Shri Bhagat also suggested having patients' feedback and suggestions to enhance quality services in healthcare institutions.

Executive Director Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd), while welcoming Shri Bhagat said that AIIMS-R is providing state-of-the-art health care facilities to the



Madhukar Kumar Bhagat, Joint Secretary, MoHFW, Gopuram felicitating prize winners in Swachhata Pakhwada.

patients coming from Chhattisgarh and neighboring states. 'AIIMS is witnessing an average of 3000+ footfalls daily in OPDs and almost 1500 major and minor surgeries every month. Faculty members are also focusing on research projects to come up



Madhukar Kumar Bhagat, Joint Secretary, MoHFW, Gopuram visiting Trauma and Emergency in AIIMS-R on Friday.

with innovative solutions in health care. Recently, AIIMS and IIT-Bhilai implemented an AI-based pilot project to suggest treatment protocols for severe patients in Trauma and Emergency, he said.

Shri Bhagat visited registration counters, Blood Collection Center and interacted with patients and their relatives. He suggested that AIIMS must take feedback on services and suggestions from different stakeholders to improve services. He also visited the Trauma and Emergency Department, CCU, NICU,

Orthopedics Department, and MRD. During his interaction with faculty members he praised discipline and cleanliness in the Institute and congratulated winners for their performance.

Later, while interacting with faculty and employees of the AIIMS, Bhagat said that patients' data and privacy must be protected. He suggested implementing cyber security protocols and reviewing them periodically in view of the recent cyber attack on important installations in India.

AIIMS has been organizing different awareness programs under Swachhata Pakhwada. Medical and nursing students organized nukkad natak and poster exhibitions in different parts of the hospital and created awareness about hygiene and waste disposal during the fortnight. Bhagat also felicitated winners in different programs organized under Swachhata Pakhwada. Kunal Sharma, Deputy Director (Admin), Dr. Dibakar Sahu, and other faculty members were also present during the visit.

Trader from across state and the country gathered in Delhi

In support of Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha candidate Praveen Khandelwal.

Parwani and Mr. Doshi further said that in support of Mr. Khandelwal, traders from all over the state and the country gathered at Red Fort and a press conference was held and a rally was organized. 12 lakh traders of the state express their heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving Praveen Khandelwal the opportunity to contest Lok Sabha elections from Chandni Chowk.

He is quite vocal on issues related to businessmen. Chandni Chowk is considered a bastion of traders and that is why BJP has provided opportunity to Mr. Khandelwal on this seat this time. Bharatiya Janata Party not only encourages every worker who works with honesty and dedication for Mother India but also gives opportunities to move ahead. The community of 9 crore Indian traders is happy with this historic decision. And stands in solidarity with BJP in making India a superpower. Mr.



National Senior Vice President of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), the country's largest trade organization, Mr. Amar Parwani and State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi said that in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024, Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha candidate is in support of CAIT's National General Secretary Mr. Praveen Khandelwal. Traders from across the country including the state have gathered in Delhi.

National Senior Vice President Amar Parwani, Chairman Mangal Malu, Amar Gidwani, State President Jitendra Doshi, Working President Vikram Singhdeo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, General Secretary Surinder Singh, Working General Secretary

zation of traders. He has a good understanding of business and economy. He is quite vocal on issues related to businessmen. Chandni Chowk is considered a bastion of traders and that is why BJP has provided opportunity to Mr. Khandelwal on this seat this time. Bharatiya Janata Party not only encourages every worker who works with honesty and dedication for Mother India but also gives opportunities to move ahead. The community of 9 crore Indian traders is happy with this historic decision. And stands in solidarity with BJP in making India a superpower. Mr.

VC Bansh Gopal Singh appointed to AIU governing council



On the life and works of Dr Ambedkar

On April 12, 2024, a talk on the life of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was organized at Railway Mixed Higher Secondary School, BMY, under the aegis of South East Central Railway Mazdoor Congress (SECRMC), Raipur Division, and Railway Divisional Manager Sanjeev Kumar. According to the information, a lecture series on the life and achievements of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar was organized at Railway Mixed Higher Secondary School, BMY on April 12, 2024. On this occasion, students from various schools participated in a speech competition, shedding light on the struggles and achievements of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Students from Kendriya Vidyalaya BMY, Railway Higher Secondary School BMY, Jyoti Vidyalaya, GSIT School, Gangotri

Mazdoor Congress organizes talk show

On the life and works of Dr Ambedkar

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children who participated in the speech competition were awarded prizes of first (3000/-), second (2000/-), and third (1000/-) from each group at the intermediate and higher secondary levels by the Railway Divisional Manager, and all participants were given certificates. The Principal of the Railway School, Mrs. D. Lakshmi, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the guests, teachers, and other attendees present at the event. The event was hosted by Paras Ram (TGT). All the teachers and staff of the railway school contributed significantly to making the program successful.

AM/NS India empowers rural communities

Through health and education initiatives

AM/NS India, deeply committed to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and the welfare of society, continues to uplift rural communities through impactful initiatives in health and education.

Recently, AM/NS India's CSR team organized free health check-up camps in Palnar and Phulpad Gram Panchayats, Dantewada. Conducted under Project Aarogya, these camps provided quality healthcare services and raised health awareness. A team from the District Hospital treated 185 individuals for various ailments and conducted free pathological investigations for 190 attendees.



In another heartening initiative, AM/NS India celebrated the first Annual Day Function at Banguru Colony Upper Primary School. These initiatives vividly demonstrate AM/NS India's dedication to holistic development, fostering a brighter future for rural communities.

Academic toppers received cycles, symbolizing AM/NS India's unwavering commitment to encouraging academic excellence and supporting educational advancement in rural areas. Block Education Officer Ms. Gayatri Devi lauded AM/NS India's initiatives, recognizing their positive impact on students and the broader community.

Elderly man died in fatal accident

Speeding bus shatters family's wedding plans

The joyous anticipation of a wedding turned into profound sorrow as tragedy struck an elderly man returning home from purchasing essentials for his daughter's marriage. Lalla Ram Verma, 60, a resident of Saloni village near Khairagarh, met with a fatal accident merely 2 km away from his home. The bustling excitement for the impending wedding was abruptly shattered when Lalla Ram's motorcycle was hit by a



speeding bus from Jiya Travels, travelling towards Khairagarh from Durg.

Lalla Ram sustained severe head and facial injuries in the collision. Despite immediate efforts to rush him to Khairagarh's District Civil Hospital, he tragically succumbed to his injuries en route. The entire village, eagerly awaiting the wedding ceremony slated to commence that day, found itself plunged into mourning.

Eyewitnesses recounted the harrowing moment when the bus collided with Lalla Ram's

motorcycle, underscoring the devastating consequences of speeding on the roads. Following the incident, authorities promptly conducted a post-mortem examination and handed over Lalla Ram's body to his grieving family. Speaking on the matter, DSP Pratibha Lahere, in-charge of Khairagarh police station, assured that an investigation into the accident had been initiated. Meanwhile, the atmosphere in both the family and village of the deceased remains somber as they grapple with the sudden loss of a beloved member amidst what was supposed to be a time of celebration.

SVEEP campaign by SAGES Khopra

Khopra, Apr 13: Swami Atmanand Government Excellence School Khopra organised a cycle rally to spread awareness among the localite voters and to educate them about the importance of exercising their franchise. The enthusiasm, high spirits and eagerness were clearly reflected as they were shouting the slogans cheerfully with full vigour along with their teachers. They urged the local residents to step ahead and to ensure a better future. Incharge principal Mrs Soma Banik administered the oath ceremony and the staff pledged to hold their accountability towards their civic duty.

Construction of NTPC Lara stage-II begins

Lara, Apr 13:

Akhilesh Singh, HOP (Lara) performed the bhumi puja work for commencement of SG civil soil excavation work for construction of Stage-II at Lara on 12th April 2024. It is to mention that Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for this project on 24th February 2024. Another 1600 megawatt (800x2) will be constructed at Lara. These two units will be laced with Ultra Super Critical technology which is 01 percent more efficient than present Super Critical Technology. Efficiency of Ultra super critical unit is 41.5 percent and Super Critical unit is 40.5 percent. With this technical advancement this plant will play a crucial role from environmental point of view, as less coal will be required for producing electricity. With less coal consumption there will be less environmental impact. Being a pithead plant of NTPC and coal requirement will be met from its own captive Talaipali coal mine, per unit



energy input cost will be considerably less from other power plants. With all these attributes this power plant will play a vital role to fulfil the growing energy need of Chhattisgarh as well as central and western parts of the country. Half of the generated electricity is provided to home state Chhattisgarh. Being the fastest growing state Chhattisgarh will be highly benefited by NTPC's Lara power plant to provide affordable electricity to accelerate its growth momentum.

The contract for construction of stage-II has been awarded to BHEL for setting up 2x800 MW Lara Supercritical Thermal Power Project Stage-II for rupees 15529.99 crore on EPC basis. As per contract term the unit-III & IV will be commissioned after 48 month and 52 months accordingly from 30th August 2023 which is the date of approval for investment by NTPC Limited.

Besides power production, vicinity of Lara power plant, Raigarh district and Chhattisgarh at large will be benefited by CSR-CD activities in the form education, health, drinking water and infrastructure development.

RKC wins Under-14 Boys football tourney

Raipur, Apr 13:

Continuing the winning spree, Rajkumar College, Raipur won the Final Football Match against The Radiant Way School in style. The matches of the tournament were held in the premises of Rajkumar College under the aegis of CISCE Sports and Games, 2024 for Chhattisgarh Regional Under 14 Boys Football Tournament, 2024 on April 11-12. Five ICSE Schools participated in it, which included the host school of RKC. The five were 1. Rajkumar College, Raipur (CG001), 2. The Radiant Way School, Raipur (CG011), 3. St. Mary's English Medium School, Raipur (CG022), 4. Salem School, Raipur (CG002) and Royal Kids Convent, Rajnandgaon (CG008).

The Final Football match was played between Rajkumar College, Raipur and The Radiant Way



School, Raipur: Rajkumar College became the Winner with a score of 3-0 goals. The highest scorer of the tournament was Yatharth Thakkar of RKC, who scored 6 goals in the tournament. The Radiant Way School became the Runner Up.

Board Members of Rajkumar College, Principal Lt. Col. Avinash Singh (Veteran), Vice Principal Shivendra Nath Shah Deo, Subedar Major (Hony. Capt.) B. Karunakaran and Football Coach Bhoiraj Yadav, highly appreciated the winning team of Rajkumar College, informs Shivendra Nath Shah Deo, Vce Principal, Rajkumar College, Raipur, in a press release.

Classifieds

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'EC takes care of electoral rolls, not me'

Hyderabad, Apr 13 (PTI):

Rejecting BJP Hyderabad Lok Sabha candidate K Madhavi Latha's allegation of about six lakh bogus votes in the constituency, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday said the Election Commission takes care of the issue of voters' lists. Owaisi, who is seeking re-election from Hyderabad constituency, wondered what his role was in the matter.



AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi during his door-to-door election campaign for Lok Sabha polls.

"By speaking like this, you are insulting Hyderabad electorate, which includes brothers from backward class and Dalits, minority Muslims, Christians who are going out to vote. Because of their votes, every party is getting votes and AIMIM is successful," he told reporters.

Asked about the reported comments of a Congress leader in Hyderabad that he has to be friends with the AIMIM, Owaisi said his party does not have any alliance with any party in

Telangana for the Lok Sabha elections. His party has formed PDM in Uttar Pradesh and his colleague MP in Maharashtra Intiaz Jaleel is holding talks on the issue in the western state.

To a query on the Centre's advisory to Indians not to travel to Iran or Israel till further notice, Owaisi pointed out that the union government had signed an agreement with Israel as per which 6,000 Indian workers had gone to that country. "After sending 6,000 Indian citizens into the jaws

of death, you issue an advisory. What type of humanity is this by the Narendra Modi government?" he asked.

He demanded that the government immediately call back those 6,000 Indian citizens. Lashing out at the Israeli government, Owaisi said it was committing a "genocide" against Palestinians.

Asked about the BJP candidate's alleged comments about his attire, he claimed that there is hate against his food, beard, 'hijab' and existence. "But, the people of Hyderabad would not make hate successful. (They will) make love successful."

Responding to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's reported comments that China has not occupied any Indian land, he said on X social media platform that SP of Leh had earlier stated that our soldiers are unable to go to 26 of the 65 patrolling points in Ladakh.

CHARAK FEST



A young devotee performs a ritual during the 'Charak' festival celebration, in Agartala, Saturday.

RJD releases poll manifesto

Promises 1 crore govt jobs, Rs 1 lakh to poor 'sisters'

Patna, Apr 13 (PTI):

The RJD, the largest constituent of Mahagathbandhan in Bihar, on Saturday released its election manifesto for the Lok Sabha polls, promising 1 crore government jobs and Rs 1 lakh per year to "sisters" from poor families on Raksha Bandhan. Former deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav, while releasing the RJD's election manifesto 'Parivartan Patra', said the party is making 24 "jan vachan" (public promises) for the 2024 polls, and it will fulfill these commitments.



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav addresses during the release of 'Parivartan Patra' for the Lok Sabha elections, at the party office, in Patna, Saturday.

will start on Independence Day this year... it will be like 'berozgari se azadi' (freedom from unemployment)," he told reporters. "Unemployment is our biggest enemy but the BJP leaders never

talk about it. They had promised 2 crore jobs... but we deliver on our promises," he said. "On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan this year, we will start providing Rs 1 lakh annually to our sisters be-

longing to poor families," the RJD leader said. The manifesto further promised the implementation of the Old Pension Scheme for government employees and LPG cylinders at Rs 500.

New twist in 'Kismat Ki Lakiro Se'

With the entry of a new character

Mumbai, Apr 13:

'Celebrating a remarkable milestone of 500 episodes, "Kismat Ki Lakiro Se" has solidified its place as a beloved show among viewers, consistently delivering entertainment. With its engaging storyline and introduction of intriguing characters, the series has endeared itself to audiences.

As the plot progresses to heighten the drama, the entry of the new character named 'Gulaal' (played by Pratik Prihar) has built curiosity among the viewers. Described as eccentric and unconventional,



Gulaal's unique persona is set to shake things up in the storyline.

His arrival, and his marriage with Kirti, takes everyone by surprise. However, the real motive behind Gulaal's marriage to Kirti will unravel in the

upcoming episodes, promising to add further twists to Shradha's life.

Speaking about the new entry in the show and shedding light on the upcoming drama Sumati Singh playing the character of Kirti shares her in-

sight. She says, "Firstly, I'm immensely grateful to the audience for giving us the love and support to complete 500 episodes.

The upcoming track is going to be filled with more drama; it's going to be a roller coaster ride for the viewers with the introduction of a new character, Gulaal. He has come with an exterior motive, but since Varun's death has affected Kirti deeply, she is devastated and in anger.

So, when Gulaal proposes to marry her, she agrees to create havoc in Shradha's life. Gulaal's entry is going to take the storyline on an interesting track. It will be interesting to watch the upcoming episode, and I can't wait for the viewers to watch it."

DKM Memorial PCL tournament concludes



Paradip, Apr 13:

The 14-day-long Dillip Kumar Mishra (DKM) Memorial Paradip Cricket League (PCL) tournament was successfully concluded on Friday at the NAC Grounds in Madhuban of Paradip. In this tourna-



ment, GDC Blaster was the champion while Sriram Sporting was the runner-up and Paradip Super King XI was the second runner-up.

On the concluding cere-

mony, Basant Biswal, Chairman, Paradip Municipality joined as the chief guest while Dr.Durga Prasad Sethy, Dy.CMO,Paradip Hospital Deputy

team. All these programs were conducted by Rabindra Das, president of Paradip Cricket League and coordinated by all members of PCL and others.

Chief Medical Officer of Paradip Port Hospital, Sriman Narayan Mishra, ATM, Paradip Port Authority, Akshyat Patel, Commandant, CISE, Paradip, Barun Mishra, Akshya Chandra Sutar, Regional Head, ACE Commercial and Subash Acharya of OSL Group were present as the guests of honour and awarded trophies to the winners, runners-up

NAME CHANGE DECLARATION

It is hereby informed to the general public that I am Anusuiya Dugga D/O Dhurum Dugga, Age 29 years, resident of Village Risewada, Post-Amoda, Tehsil or Police Station-Narharpur, District Kanker Chhattisgarh, India. That in all my Government and other necessary records my name is Anusuiya Dugga D/O Dhurum Dugga and at present I am known and recognized by this name. That as a result of astrological reasons for my marriage, I want to change my present name to Anusuiya Dugga D/O Dhurum Dugga and also want to change my name in my necessary documents. That I want to change my name to Anika Dugga D/O Dhurum Dugga instead of my current name Anusuiya Dugga D/O Dhurum Dugga. That after the above announcement, from today onwards I should be known and recognized by the new name Anika Dugga instead of Anusuiya Dugga. That I, Anusuiya Dugga D/O Dhurum Dugga and Anika Dugga D/O Dhurum Dugga, both are the same person, hence from today onwards I should be addressed as Anika Dugga. That from the date of publication of the above declaration, my new name Anika Dugga should be considered effective and applicable over my old name Anusuiya Dugga. That in case of conflict between the above two names, my new name Anika Dugga should be given recognition and strength and my old name Anusuiya Dugga D/O Dhurum Dugga should be replaced by the new name Anika Dugga D/O Dhurum Dugga and it should be considered effective and valid. That I will edit or execute all future government or non-government works using my new name Anika Dugga D/O Dhurum Dugga and my old name Anusuiya Dugga will not be used. That if any person has any objection or suggestion regarding my above declaration, he can send written objection or suggestion to the address mentioned below within 15 days from the date of publication of the information, after the above period the objection or suggestion will not be accepted.

Union Bank of India advertisement for E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Includes details of properties, total dues, and reserve prices.

Indian Overseas Bank advertisement for E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties. Includes details of properties, total dues, and reserve prices.

STATE BANK OF INDIA advertisement for E-Auction Notice. Includes details of properties, total dues, and reserve prices.

Voting determines future of our country: Rathore

Collector appeals voters to use their franchise

Cuisine, rangoli, henna, salad, cooking competitions organised under SVEEP

Bhilai, Apr 13:

Under the aegis of District Administration, the Women and Child Development Department organised a voter awareness program at Khalsa School in Durg. The department organized various competitions like rangoli, henna, salad decoration and cuisine, etc for voter awareness.

Under the SVEEP, Anganwadi workers and supervisors made the voters aware about 100% participation in the great fes-



tival of democracy on 07 May. They raised slogans and carried voter awareness placards. As part of the voter awareness campaign, the song 'Bharat Hame Jaan Se Pyaara Hai' was presented by the students of Kalyan College.

Divisional Commissioner Satyanarayan Rathore, Election Expenditure

Observer Prasanna V Pattansethi and Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Choudhary inspected the rangoli, painting, henna, salad, ready-to-eat dishes prepared by the participants. District administration officials also clicked selfies in the 'There is nothing like voting, we will definitely vote' selfie booth.

Divisional Commissioner Satyanarayan Rathore addressed the program and gave the slogan 'Go to vote.' He said that people should contribute to strengthen the democracy of the country by casting their votes. Voting is not only a right but also a duty. This is our constitutional right, it determines our and the country's fu-

ture. Voting is the most important right; voters should recognize its power and ensure participation in elections. The youth and women pledged to participate in the great festival of democracy.

Collector and District Election Officer said that to ensure 100 percent voting in the district in the Lok Sabha elections 2024,

a voter awareness program is being run by the SVEEP team to increase the voting percentage. The Collector also encouraged the youth to work as volunteers to assist elderly, disabled and pregnant voters in reaching the polling booths. She said that all the women associated with the Women and Child Development Department should take a pledge to exercise their franchise and ensure participation of other people in the elections. Everyone must spare half an hour for the country on 7th May.

Chief Executive Officer District Panchayat Ashwani Dewangan, while addressing the workers and supervisors of the Women and Child Development Department, said that Matrishakti will operate 51 percent of the polling

stations in the Lok Sabha elections 2024. The youth were asked to participate in the voting process as well as make citizens aware about voting. He appealed to the youth to use their franchise.

SVEEP Brand Ambassador Dr Vishwanath Panigrahi is visiting door to door to encourage the voters: Dr Vishwanath Panigrahi also participated in the voter awareness program. He said that he is making continuous efforts with the aim of achieving 100 percent voting in the district in the Lok Sabha elections 2024. He pledged to visit door-to-door and distribute voting invitation cards to the people. Through this campaign, he will convey this message to approximately 1 lakh voters. Along with Dr Vishwanath Panigrahi, messengers of

Yuvodaya Durg also participated in the program and participated in various programs.

District administration officials, Anganwadi workers, supervisors and youth took oath to vote fearlessly and peacefully without being influenced by any kind of inducement. Additional Collector Arvind Ekka and Yogita Dewangan, Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer Bajrang Dubey, Joint Collector Harvansh Miri, Observer Prasanna V Pattansethi, Municipal Corporation Durg Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, SDM Deepak Nikunj, Mukesh Raote, Lavkesh Dhruv, Women and Child Development Department Officer Ajay Sharma a large number of Anganwadi workers and supervisors were present.

Expenditure Observer Prasanna V Pattanashetti conducts inspection

Bhilai, Apr 13:

Election commission of India has appointed Prasanna V Pattanashetti (IRS) as Election Expenditure Observer for Parliamentary Constituency 07 Durg for Lok Sabha Elections-2024. Representatives of political parties and the general public can contact the expenditure observer directly on the above mobile number 7647046173.

The Expenditure Observer inspected the various branches established for election related works in the Collectorate premises. He interacted with the officials and questioned them about



their work. Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Choudhary was also present. Expenditure Observer Prasanna V Pattanashetti inspected the election control room, material storage room,

election expenditure monitoring room. He sought information about the works done so far. The Expenditure Observer also visited the Media Monitoring and Certification Branch (MCMC). Here, he inter-

acted with the officers and members of print media, electronic media, social media and FM radio monitoring unit and gave necessary guidelines to the officers and employees regarding media monitoring. He gave instructions to closely monitor every aspect of social media along with print media. Collector Choudhary informed Observer Prasanna V Pattanashetti about the preparations for the election process in the district and the work being done by various branches. Deputy District Election Officer BK Dubey and in-charge / nodal officers of all the branches were present.

CM to attend Dr Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations at Sector 6

Bhilai, Apr 13:

The birth anniversary celebration of Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar is being jointly organized by The Buddhist Society of India, Bhilai and Bhara ti ya Ba udh Mahasabha, Bhilai at Sector 6.

On April 14, the programme will begin with Samuhik Vandana at 9 am. Thereafter, a rally will be taken out from Ambedkar Bhawan, which will move across Sector 6 A Market, 7 Million Chowk, 5 Million Chowk, Sector 4 Chowk, BSNL Chowk and conclude at Dr Ambedkar



Park Sector 1. The rally will be welcomed by Tathagat Samaj Kalyan Samiti Bhilai.

Celebrations in the

evening will begin at 18:00 hrs. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will grace the function as chief guest. Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, MP Vijay Baghel, MLA Devendra Yadav, Mayor Neeraj Pal, Haji Jamil Ahmed, Kriparam Thakur, Hira Lal Thakur, RD Deshalhara and other guests will attend in the programme. Varsha Bagde (President of The Buddhist Society of India - Bhilai) and Savita Meshram (President, Bharatiya Baudh Mahasabha Bhilai) will preside over the programme. Vice President

Vinod Wasnik will propose the vote of thanks. General Secretary Sudhesh Kumar Ramteke and General Secretary RamraoDhok will comper the programme. Engineer Sneha from Uttar Pradesh and Ashok Wankhede (Tiger) from New Delhi, will deliver the keynote address. In the cultural programme, there will be a spectacular presentation by Vikas Raja from Maharashtra and artist Kishore Kumar Pagla from Uttar Pradesh, informed Sudhesh Ramteke and RamraoDhok, general secretaries of both the organizations.

Agricultural drone promises to transform farming practices

Revolutionizing Agriculture: New 16-Liter Drone takes Flight

As the agriculture industry continues to evolve, innovations like the 16-liter drone offer promising solutions to meet the growing demand for sustainable food production.

Bhilai, Apr 13:

In a groundbreaking collaboration between Wobble Lab, SSIPMT Raipur, and CSVTU Bhilai, a new agricultural drone promises to transform farming practices. Designed by a team led by Pankaj Yadav, Flight Instructor, and spearhead-



ed by Purusottam Ajay Kumar, Founder of Wobble Lab, along with Siddharth Singh, Co-founder, and Rajkumar, Test Pilot, this 16-liter drone is set to revolutionize precision agriculture.

The drone's development marks a significant

milestone in agricultural technology, offering farmers advanced capabilities for crop monitoring, pest control, and fertilization. With its precise spraying mechanism and efficient navigation system, the drone aims to optimize resource usage while maxi-

mizing yields. "Our collaboration aimed to address the evolving needs of modern agriculture," says Purusottam Ajay Kumar. "Through rigorous testing and innovation, we've created a drone that not only meets but exceeds industry standards." Pankaj Yadav emphasizes the drone's user-friendly interface, enabling farmers to easily integrate it into their existing operations. "We've prioritized simplicity without compromising on performance," he explains. "Farmers can now access cutting-edge technology with minimal training."

Siddharth Singh highlights the environmental benefits of the drone, citing its ability to reduce chemical usage and minimize ecological impact. "Our focus was not just on productivity but also on sustainability," he says.

"By targeting specific areas with precision, we can minimize the environmental footprint of agriculture."

Rajkumar, the test pilot, expresses confidence in the drone's capabilities after extensive field trials. "We've rigorously tested the drone in various agricultural settings, ensuring its reliability and effectiveness," he states. "Farmers can trust this technology to deliver results consistently."

As the agriculture industry continues to evolve, innovations like the 16-liter drone offer promising solutions to meet the growing demand for sustainable food production. With the expertise of the Wobble Lab team and the support of academic institutions like SSIPMT Raipur and CSVTU Bhilai, the future of farming looks brighter than ever.

RMC Commissioner instructs to stop using dilapidated cultural building



Bhilai, Apr 13:

Seeing the dilapidated cultural building in RsaliBasti, Monica Verma, the Rsali Municipal Commissioner expressed her concern on its continued use and asked for it to be duly declared as dilapidated and unfit to use. She stressed that public use of the building should be banned from today itself.

During her visit to various wards, the Commissioner inspected the 30 year old cultural building of RisaliBasti and noticed it to have become dilapidated. The plaster of the ceiling and walls had come off. Corporation Commissioner therefore found it to be unfit asked Public Works Department to write information on the wall.

On reaching

Muktidham, she asked to build separate sheds for wood and cremation. Seeing the plants like celery, vermilion, camphor, clove, red sandalwood, grapes etc. planted in the premises, instructions were also given to take good care of them. Thereafter, she inspected the polling booth at Risali Basti School and also checked the arrangements.

Calculus question paper instead of Algebra, HYU cancels B Sc 1st year maths exam

Bhilai, Apr 13:

The annual examination of Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, for the current academic session is in going on for both the old course and new course. On April 13, 2024, in the morning shift examination of B Sc/B Sc B Ed first year (Mathematics subject) new course, the date was fixed for Algebra but when the question paper packets were opened the paper inside was of Calculus instead of Algebra. As a result, the university administration had to cancel the examination of B Sc/B Sc B Ed first year new course to be held on Saturday. Giving this information, Deputy Registrar of Examinations of the University, Dr Rajmani Patel said that for the first

time in the period of 09 years since the establishment of the university, this type of error has been found in the question paper.

Explaining the possible reason for this confusion in question paper, Dr Rajmani Patel informed that on April 13, there were examinations for both new course and old course. In the old course, the first paper is Algebra and the second paper is Calculus, whereas in the new course, the first paper is Calculus and the second paper is Algebra. Probably due to this similarity, the error is likely to have occurred during the printing of question papers. Dr Patel further clarified that the packets of question papers received from the printing press are not opened in the University. These are

sent directly to the examination centres. Therefore, the examination department of the university did not realize the error in the question paper.

According to Dr Patel, as soon as the question papers were distributed to the candidates in the examination halls this morning, the error came to notice and was brought to the knowledge of the examination center coordinators. The coordinators in turn informed the university administration. It being a holiday, Dr Aruna Palta, the Vice Chancellor, discussed the situation with the officials online and thereafter gave instructions to postpone the examination of B Sc/B Sc B Ed first year new course. The old course examination was conducted as usual.

Sharda Ramteke's radio talk show today



Bhilai, Apr 13: The radio talk programme of Sharda Ramteke, former president of Gitanjali Shikshan Samiti Durg and retired science teacher from BSP, will be broadcast from Akashvani Raipur on Dr Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14. The show is scheduled to begin at 7.30 am. The topic of the talk is 'Invincible Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar.' This talk show will also be available on "NewsOnAir" mobile app.

BSP's Plant Garage revamps under-breakdown Front End Loader

Bhilai, Apr 13:

The Plant Garage which is responsible for providing logistical support for material handling and transportation of various raw and processed materials to facilitate the steel-making process in Bhilai Steel Plant, has revamped an under-breakdown Front End Loader completely with in-house resources and minimum investment.

The revamped front-end loader was handed over to the Plant for works in a function held at Plant Garage premises on April 12, 2024 in the presence of Asit Saha CGM I/c (M&U), and SK Gajbhiye, CGM (Mechanical). Asit Saha and SK Gajbhiye appreciated the Plant Garage Collective for revamping this essential



asset of the plant by utilizing the in-house resources and encouraged the collective to always be prepared for future challenges and resolve them with the same spirit.

The Earth-moving equipment repairing section of the Plant Garage completed the revamping challenge successfully under the technical expertise of PK Kamble, Sr Mgr (PG), and the guidance and motivation of BD Babu GM &HoD (Plant Garage),

and Pradipta Bhaumik, GM (Plant Garage). The equipment was handed over to K Gnananand, GM (Operations-PG).

The front-end loader of model TWL-3036 was under breakdown in the Plant Garage Department due to the failure of major assemblies like the engine, transmission, Hydraulic system, etc. Several spares that had to be imported otherwise were modified and made to be compatible with the existing technolo-

gy of the loader thus contributing immensely to cost savings.

Transportation of raw materials like coal, coke, sinter, ore fines, etc., in the Plant are done by Haulpak Dumpers, Hyvas, and tipper. Material handling activities like loading and dozing are carried out by front-end loaders, excavators, and dozers. Out of the fleet, front front-end loader plays a significant role in material handling activities.

Gopi Thotakura to become 1st Indian space tourist

Washington, Apr 13 (PTI):

Gopi Thotakura, an entrepreneur and a pilot, is set to become the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin's NS-25 mission.

Thotakura was selected as one of the six crew members for the mission, making him the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian to venture into space after the Indian Army's Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma in 1984.

The flight date is yet to be announced, the aerospace company said.

This mission will be the seventh human flight for the New Shepard programme and the 25th in its history. To date, the programme has flown 31 hu-



Crew of Blue Origin's NS-25 space mission; Mason Angel, Sylvain Chiron, Ed Dwight, Ken Hess, Carol Schaller and Gopi Thotakura)

mans above the Karman line, the proposed conventional boundary between Earth's atmosphere and outer space.

New Shepard is a fully reusable sub-orbital launch vehicle developed for space tourism by Blue Origin.

According to Blue Origin, "Gopi is a pilot and

aviator who learned how to fly before he could drive." He is the co-founder of Preserve Life Corp, a global centre for holistic wellness and applied health located near Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. In addition to flying jets commercially, he pilots bush, aerobatic, and

seaplanes, as well as gliders and hot air balloons, and has served as an international medical jet pilot.

A lifelong traveller, his most recent adventure took him to the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

Andhra Pradesh-born Thotakura is a graduate of Embury-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Other crew members of the flight include Mason Angel, Sylvain Chiron, Kenneth L. Hess, Carol Schaller, and former Air Force Captain Ed Dwight, who was selected by President John F Kennedy in 1961 as the nation's first Black astronaut candidate but was never granted the opportunity to fly to space.

During the flight, each astronaut will carry a postcard to space on behalf of Blue Origin's founda-

tion, Club for the Future.

This programme gives students access to space on Blue Origin's rockets, including an all-digital method to create and send postcards. The Club's mission is to inspire and mobilise future generations to pursue careers in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) for the benefit of Earth.

From an environmental standpoint, nearly 99 per cent of New Shepard's dry mass is reused, including the booster, capsule, engine, landing gear, and parachutes.

New Shepard's engine is fuelled by highly efficient liquid oxygen and hydrogen. During the flight, the only byproduct is water vapour with no carbon emissions, the company said.

ISRAELI-OCCUPIED WEST BANK



Akef Abu Alia, 48, inspects the damage at his torched house and vehicles, in the West Bank village of al-Mughayyir, Saturday, April 13, 2024. Dozens of Israeli settlers stormed into a Palestinian village in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Friday, shooting and setting houses and cars on fire.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard seizes a container ship near Strait of Hormuz

Amid tensions with Israel

Dubai, Apr 13 (AP):

Commandos from Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard rappelled down from a helicopter onto an Israeli-affiliated container ship near the Strait of Hormuz and seized the vessel Saturday, the latest in a series of attacks between the two countries.

The Middle East had braced for potential Iranian retaliation over a suspected Israeli strike earlier this month on an Iranian consular building in Syria that killed 12 people, including a senior Guard general who once commanded its expeditionary Quds Force there.

The Israeli war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip meanwhile is now 6 months old and is inflam-

ing decades-old tensions across the whole region. With Iranian-backed forces like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Yemen's Houthis rebels also involved in the fighting, any new attack in the Mideast threatens to escalate that conflict into a wider regional war.

Iran's state-run IRNA said a special forces unit of the Guard's navy carried out the attack on the vessel, which other media in the country widely identified as the Portuguese-flagged MSC Aries, a container ship associated with London-based Zodiac Maritime.

Zodiac Maritime is part of Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer's Zodiac Group. Zodiac declined to comment and referred questions to MSC, which did not immediately respond.

Earlier, a Middle East defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymi-

ty to discuss intelligence matters, shared a video of the attack with The Associated Press. In it, the Iranian commandos are seen rappelling down onto a stack of containers sitting on the deck of the vessel. A crew member on the ship can be heard saying: "Don't come out." He then tells his colleagues to go to the ship's bridge as more commandos come down on the deck. One commando can be seen kneeling above the others to provide them potential cover fire. The video corresponded with known details of the MSC Aries. The helicopter used also appeared to be a Soviet-era Mil Mi-17 helicopter, which both the Guard and the Iranian-backed Houthis of Yemen have used in the past to conduct commando raids on ships. The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations described the

vessel as being "seized by regional authorities" in the Gulf of Oman off the Emirati port city of Fujairah, without elaborating.

The MSC Aries had been last located off Dubai heading toward the Strait of Hormuz on Friday. The ship had turned off its tracking data, which has been common for Israeli-affiliated ships moving through the region.

Iran since 2019 has engaged in a series of ship seizures and attacks on vessels have been attributed to it amid ongoing tensions with the West over its rapidly advancing nuclear program.

In previous seizures, Iran has offered initial explanations about their operations to make it seem like the attacks had nothing to do with the wider geopolitical tensions — though later acknowledging as much.

Indian-American-Belgian actor's 'Minimum' to open UK Asian Film Festival

In London

London, Apr 13 (PTI):

Indian-origin American-Belgian actor Rumana Molla's directorial debut starring Naseeruddin Shah will open this year's UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF) with a world premiere here on May 2.

'Minimum', described as a poignant immigrant tale, is set in Belgium within the context of an Indian family and also stars Molla in a key role along with actors Namit Das, Saba Azad and Geetanjali Kulkarni.

It kicks off an array of films and tributes to well-known Indian artists, such as Shabana Azmi, as part of the annual festival which will be running across London, Leicester, Oxford and Glasgow until May 12.

"The UK Asian Film



A still from the film 'Minimum' which will open the 2024 UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF) in London on May 2.

Festival this year celebrates feminism, diversity and empowering emerging British Asian talents," said UKAFF Founder and Director Dr Pushpinder Chowdhry.

"Our 'Creative Minds of Tomorrow' initiative at the BFI Southbank offers exclusive, behind-the-scenes insights and skills

workshops led by industry experts, empowering aspiring filmmakers to craft diverse narratives," she said. "Through unique cinematic experiences, we aim to shape their identities, boost self-confidence and encourage learning from diverse perspectives," she said.

This year's "Climate of

Change" theme for the festival, now in its 26th year, has been chosen to reflect a sense that the air is shifting to move on from the lived experiences of the recent past.

"Our programme will take communities on a journey away from the familiar, challenging comfort zones to embrace the transformative. In this critical juncture of political and economic uncertainty, our festival emerges as a vital platform, amplifying voices, igniting conversations and fostering empathy," said UKAFF Creative Director Samir Bhamra.

The festival's Closing Gala at the Kiln Theatre in London will see playback singer Kavita Krishnamurthy and actress Karisma Kapoor felicitated with awards for their contributions to the artistic scene and Hindi cinema.

River barges break loose in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, Apr 13 (AP):

A large group of river barges broke loose and floated down the Ohio River in Pittsburgh, damaging a marina and causing bridge closures before the boats were pinned to the riverbank or went over a dam downstream, officials said.

Pittsburgh police, fire and emergency medical services responded around 11:25 pm on Friday to reports of the barges "floating uncontrolled" down the river, Pittsburgh Public Safety said in a statement. The

area had been hit by flooding after heavy rains Thursday. There were no reports of any injuries after the 26 barges broke free, including 23 loaded with dried cargo including coal. There were no hazardous materials on board the vessels, the city said. Peggy's Harbor, a marina on the river, sustained extensive damage. The city said 11 barges were held against the riverbank and secured by a tugboat near Brunot Island, while 14 continued further down the river and six went over the Emsworth Dam.

US firm launches diabetes educational programme for Asia

Singapore, Apr 13 (PTI):

A US-based global diabetes care company on Saturday launched a regional educational initiative in Singapore for the region including India.

Dr Shailendra Bajpai, Medical & Public Affairs Director Asia for Embecta, said Embecta is committed to supporting Singapore's fight in the war against diabetes.

"With Singapore serving as our hub to launch the emERGE education programme across the region, we hope that more healthcare practitioners in Asia and beyond will be able to benefit from

Singapore's strong model of healthcare," Bajpai said. New Jersey-based Embecta's emERGE education programme is developed in collaboration with Diabetes Singapore and the Association of Diabetes Educators in Singapore.

The Singapore launch was attended by healthcare practitioners, advocacy group leaders, and trade and industry partners. The rate of diabetes is rising at an alarming pace. The International Diabetes Federation projects that 783 million people, or 1 in 8 adults, will be living with diabetes by 2045. In Singapore, the

number of residents living with diabetes is estimated to grow to one million by 2050, said Embecta, citing the data.

The programme will be launched in 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Approximately 5,000 general practitioners, diabetes nurse educators and lead pharmacists are expected to benefit from the series of four interactive webinars delivered by senior faculty in the next year. "Embecta's heritage is

built on a century of innovation and dedication to the diabetes community, and we are committed to continuing this legacy by addressing the needs of today and anticipating the challenges of tomorrow," said James Chiang, VP and General Manager, Asia, for Embecta.

"As we proceed with emERGE, we not only aim to educate but also to inspire and empower. The programme is a call to action for all stakeholders in the diabetes community to collaborate, share insights, and apply knowledge to transform the lives of those affected by diabetes."

Ten people die in shelling in Russian-occupied Ukraine

Kyiv, Apr 13 (AP):

At least 10 people, including children, died after shelling late on Friday struck a Russian-occupied town in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region, a local Kremlin-installed official said, blaming Ukraine for the attack.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian officials reported at least three civilian deaths elsewhere in the country that they said resulted from Russian attacks.

Russian emergency services on Saturday were working in the rub-

ble in hopes of saving civilians trapped underneath the debris of their homes in Tokmak, in a part of southern Ukraine that Moscow has illegally annexed from Kyiv, according to the Kremlin-installed regional head Yevhen Balitsky. The Tokmak municipal administration reported on Telegram that the shelling struck three apartment blocks on Friday evening. Five people were pulled alive from the rubble, Balitsky said, and a total of 13 people were hospitalised.

SONGKRAN WATER FESTIVAL



A woman reacts as a bucket of water is splashed on her during the Songkran water festival to celebrate the Thai New Year in Prachinburi Province, Thailand, Saturday April 13, 2024.

Missing Israeli teen found dead in West Bank

Al-Mughayyir (West Bank), Apr 13 (AP): Israel's army said Saturday the body of a missing Israeli teen has been found in the occupied West Bank after he was killed in a "terrorist attack."

The disappearance of 14-year-old Binyamin Achimair sparked a large attack by settlers on a Palestinian village on Friday and Saturday. The events marked the latest in escalating violence in the territory at a time when Israel is waging war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The army said security forces were pursuing those suspected of killing the teen.

On Friday, one Palestinian man was killed and 25 others were wounded in an attack on the village of Mughayyir, Palestinian health officials said. Israeli troops delayed the ambulance carrying the body of the 26-year-old man for several hours, but it eventually got through. Dozens of settlers returned to the village's outskirts on Saturday, burning two homes and several cars. Palestinian health officials say over 460 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank by Israeli fire since the war in Gaza erupted in October.

Palestinian crisis presents opportunity to reform UN

Says S African foreign minister Pandor

Johannesburg, Apr 13 (PTI):

The Palestinian crisis has presented an opportunity to reform the UN, to make it more representative and effective at the Security Council level, and to protect the innocent from harm in future conflicts, South African foreign minister Naledi Pandor has said.

Speaking as the chief guest at an Eid gathering organised at Brixton here

on Thursday, Pandor, the minister of International Relations and Cooperation, criticised the Israeli incursions into Gaza as "arrogant breaches of international law by Israel and the allies of Israel. She said that a new "low point" has been reached with respect for human rights. "The war, as well as the genocidal intent of Israel and the failure of the UN to stop the murder of thousands of Palestinians and to show respect for international humanitarian law, indicated to all of us that the world had reached a new low point in respect for justice and human rights," she

said. Pandor said the Palestinian crisis has also presented an opportunity to reform the UN - to make it more representative and effective at the Security Council level.

"(We need to) empower it with practical capacity to protect the innocent from harm in any future conflicts," she said. "The reason for establishing the UN was to ensure that as the globe, we would settle all conflicts in that body and should any violence ensue against innocent people, we made it the duty of the UN Security Council to ensure that the innocent are protected," she said.



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India's Defiant Resolve

New Frontier Against Terrorism

In a resolute declaration of India's stance against terrorism, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar emphasized the nation's unwavering commitment to retaliate against any acts of terrorism originating from across its borders. Speaking at an event titled 'Why Bharat Matters: Opportunity for youth and participation in global scenario,' Jaishankar engaged with the youth, highlighting the imperative for a robust response to terrorist threats. Jaishankar's address underscored the pivotal shift in India's foreign policy since 2014, particularly in the realm of counterterrorism. Reflecting on past instances, he criticized the response of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government to the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, lamenting the lack of decisive action. He pointed out the hesitance at that time, attributing it to a perceived high cost of engaging with Pakistan. Drawing attention to historical precedents, Jaishankar delved into the origins of cross-border terrorism dating back to 1947. He recounted instances of aggression, such as the incursion into Kashmir by tribal invaders backed by the Pakistan army. He emphasized the need for clarity in labeling such acts as terrorism and denounced any attempts to legitimize them. In addressing challenges in maintaining diplomatic relationships, Jaishankar candidly acknowledged Pakistan's status as a formidable obstacle. He called for introspection on India's part, emphasizing the need for unequivocal condemnation of terrorism emanating from its neighbor. He highlighted missed opportunities in the past, advocating for a proactive approach towards confronting terrorism. Jaishankar's remarks resonated with the sentiment prevalent after the Mumbai attacks, where the nation overwhelmingly favored a robust response. He lamented the lack of decisive action at that time, citing extensive deliberations that yielded no tangible results. He stressed the importance of not allowing terrorists to act with impunity, emphasizing the absence of rules in their modus operandi. The Minister's address encapsulated the essence of India's evolving foreign policy, characterized by a balanced blend of continuity and change. He highlighted the paradigm shift in the approach towards terrorism, signaling a departure from past hesitations. Jaishankar reiterated the imperative of a proactive stance against terrorism, emphasizing the need for decisive action to prevent future attacks. India's resolve to combat terrorism without compromise underscores its commitment to safeguarding its citizens and upholding global security. Jaishankar's articulation of this stance serves as a clarion call for unity and vigilance in the face of persistent threats. As India navigates the complex geopolitical landscape, its unwavering determination to confront terrorism head-on reaffirms its status as a responsible global actor. Jaishankar's address epitomizes India's steadfast resolve to combat terrorism, signaling a departure from past hesitations and embracing a proactive approach. It underscores the imperative of decisive action to safeguard national security and uphold the principles of peace and stability. India's unwavering commitment to countering terrorism sends a clear message to the world: terrorism will not be tolerated, and those who perpetrate it will be held accountable.

Charting a Path to Peace for Ukraine

Switzerland's forthcoming international conference in June, aimed at fostering dialogue for a sustainable peace in Ukraine, beckons a critical juncture in global diplomacy. However, the path to resolution appears fraught with challenges as key stakeholders, notably Russia, express skepticism and reservations. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's willingness to engage contrasts sharply with Vladimir Putin's disdainful rhetoric. Putin's dismissive tone underscores Russia's adamant stance against any peace plan perceived as neglecting its interests. His skepticism, echoed by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, underscores the perceived Western agenda behind the talks. Yet, the indispensable nature of Russia's involvement cannot be overstated. Any lasting solution necessitates Moscow's participation and consent. Dismissing Zelenskyy's proposals outright, Putin has highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses Russia's concerns. The United States and its allies' eagerness to seize the initiative is understandable but carries inherent risks. Attempts to marginalize Russia may backfire, prolonging the conflict and exacerbating global disruptions. The Swiss summit must transcend geopolitical posturing, prioritizing inclusivity and genuine dialogue. Switzerland, as the host nation, bears a weighty responsibility in facilitating meaningful engagement. Upholding its commitment to peace, Switzerland must leverage its diplomatic prowess to coax Russia to the negotiating table. Additionally, the involvement of influential actors like China is paramount for a holistic resolution. India, with its amicable relations with both Ukraine and Russia, stands as a potential mediator. Its proactive engagement can lend credence to the summit's objectives and mitigate Western-centric perceptions. India's nuanced approach, emphasizing inclusivity and dialogue, could catalyze breakthroughs where others falter. As the June summit approaches, concerted efforts are imperative to transcend geopolitical divides and prioritize Ukraine's long-term stability. The international community must recognize that sustainable peace hinges on inclusive dialogue and genuine collaboration. Failure to do so risks perpetuating a conflict with far-reaching consequences. In navigating Ukraine's peace talks, diplomatic pragmatism must prevail over geopolitical brinkmanship. Only through earnest dialogue and inclusive engagement can a path towards lasting peace be forged. The June summit represents a pivotal opportunity to chart a course towards reconciliation and stability in Ukraine and beyond.

VAISAKHI FESTIVAL



Security personnel conduct a route march on the occasion of 'Vaisakhi', at Har Ki Pauri ghat in Haridwar, Saturday, April 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sober pilots needed

Globally, pilots are expected not to consume spirits eight hours within or before flying. Some countries do have a twelve-hour restriction. India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the aviation regulator, is doing a reasonable job though surprise checks are the need of the hour. Recently, an Air India pilot failed the pre-mandatory breath analyser test before she was to operate a domestic flight. Last month, Air India terminated a pilot who was found drunk after flying an international flight. The aviation regulator is strictly invoking the Civil Aviation (Requirement) rules. It is worthwhile to mention that if the pilots fail their mandatory test for the first, second and third time, their licences are suspended for three months, three years and for life respectively. In the first half of 2023, as many as 33 pilots and 97 cabin crew failed the breath analyser test. As alcohol interferes with the psychosomatic functioning of a person, drunk pilots are big threats to hundreds of lives.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Tragic Negligence

In Mahendragarh, six children died and 20 were injured when an allegedly drunk driver overturned their school bus lacking a fitness certificate. The aftermath reveals glaring negligence; government rules are flouted, and many buses operate in similar perilous conditions. Authorities act only post-tragedy, while leaders offer condolences without addressing systemic failures. Urgent action is needed; the district administration must be held accountable and face criminal proceedings. Yet, the negligence extends beyond; why weren't the Traffic Police and RTO officials vigilant? Timely intervention could have prevented this tragedy. Let's demand justice for the young lives lost.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Strategic Imperative

Delaying integrated theatre commands jeopardizes national security. Urgent action is needed to ensure cohesion among armed forces. In today's dynamic global landscape, unity is paramount for resilience against emerging threats. Establishing integrated commands is imperative for India's sovereignty and must transcend bureaucratic hurdles.

MK Nair, Raipur

Ethical Awakening

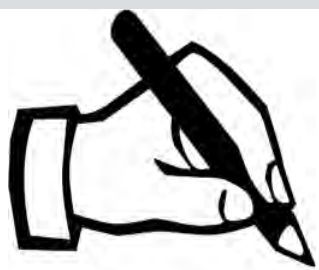
The appointment of Sadanand Date as NIA Director General brings hope for integrity. Yet, the prevalence of self-interest among bureaucrats undermines public trust. This fuels disillusionment, especially among young voters. The trend of pardoning transgressions for political gain erodes electoral ethics. Our leaders and bureaucrats must prioritize conscience over personal agendas. Honesty in duty is imperative for restoring faith in governance.

Shikumar Mishra, Raipur

No respite from expensive Air Ticket



SATISH SINGH



India's IndiGo airline has become the world's third largest airline with a market capitalization of Rs.1.47 lakh crore, overtaking USA's Southwest Airlines. Now USA's Delta Airline is in first place in the world with a market capitalization of Rs.2.53 lakh crore, while Ireland's Ryan Air Holding airline is in second place with a market capitalization of Rs.2.16 lakh crore.

InterGlobe Airlines is ranked fourth in the world with a market capitalization of Rs.1.47 lakh crore, while Southwest Airlines is ranked fifth with a market capitalization of Rs.1.44 lakh crore, Air China is ranked sixth with a market capitalization of Rs.1.21 lakh crore, Singapore Airlines and United Airlines are ranked seventh with a market capitalization of Rs.1.19 lakh crore respectively and Turkish Airlines is ranked eighth with a market capitalization of Rs.1.09 lakh crore.

According to the updated data of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Indigo airline has a share of 60.2 percent in India's aviation sector in terms of number of passengers, while Air India is in second place, with a share of 12.2 percent. Vistara's stake is 9.9 percent and Air Asia's stake is 6.1 percent. The total share of airlines flying under the Tata group is 28.2 percent. Among other airlines, SpiceJet's stake is 5.6 percent, Akasa Airlines' stake is 4.5 percent and other airlines' stake is 1.5 percent.

In the month of March last year, Indigo Airlines was ranked 14th in the list of world's airlines based on market capitalization, but Indigo overtook United Airlines in terms of market capitalization in December 2023, then, Air China Airlines in January 2024 and Singapore Airlines behind in February 2024.

Indigo Airline's shares have increased by 50 percent in the last 6 months, while in the last one year its shares have given a return of 102.55 percent to investors. At the same time, last month its shares gave a return of 18.25 percent to the investors. Since January 1 this year, its shares have given a return of 27.78 percent to investors.

IndiGo Airlines had announced the results for the December quarter of the financial year 2023-24 on February 2, 2024, according to which IndiGo's net profit increased by 110.7 percent year-on-year to Rs.2,998 crore, compared to Rs.1,422.6 crore in the same quarter last year. Not only this, but IndiGo had also registered a net profit of Rs.188.9 crore in the second quarter. For the first time in the last 5 years, an Indian aviation company has registered profit in the second quarter of any financial year, as the second quarter is considered a season of weak demand for the aviation industry.

Indian airline IndiGo becoming the third largest airline in the world in terms of market capitalization can be a matter of joy and pride. This can also be a matter of

happiness for the investors investing in the stock market, because investors have earned a lot of money by investing in its shares, but this cannot be a moment of pride for the needy passengers, because even today, the number of needy passengers is high among the passengers traveling by air. For leisure travellers the cost of air tickets may not matter, but for those traveling to treat a sick person or to contribute to a job, attend an important meeting, etc. The increase in ticket prices has become a cause of difficulty.

An analysis by travel website Ixigo showed that fares on some airlines have climbed as much as 39 per cent in the period from April 1 to 7 compared to the period from March 1 to 7. During this period, one-way fares for flights between Delhi and Bangalore have increased by 39 percent, while airfares from Delhi to Srinagar have increased by 30 percent. At the same time, there has been an increase of 12 percent in the airfare between Delhi and Mumbai and an increase of 8 percent in the airfare between Mumbai and Delhi. Only 1 IndiGo flight flies per day between Patna to Ahmedabad and Ahmedabad to Patna, whose fare in the month of April had reached the level of more than Rs.22,000, which is usually between Rs 6,500 to Rs 8,000. However, other airlines with 1 or 2 stops have fares below Rs.10,000.

Indigo Airlines, the country's largest airline, has a fleet of more than 320 aircraft, which makes more than 1900 trips every day to domestic and international cities. However, IndiGo had a grounded fleet of 74 aircraft in December 2023. At the same time, 90 aircraft of Go First, SpiceJet, Air India and Vistara were standing on the ground. According to experts, more than 200 aircraft will be grounded in the next few months, whose number was 164 by

December 2023.

In the year 2024, 150 new aircraft have been added to the fleet for domestic flights, which is 34 percent more than the new aircraft added last year. Nevertheless, this number is unable to meet domestic demands. The number of domestic passengers is increasing by 24 percent on year-on-year basis. In the year 2023, the total number of domestic passengers has increased to more than 15.2 crores.

This year the aviation industry is facing many challenges in increasing capacity in line with the demand. It is even using larger aircraft on domestic routes. Despite this, there remains a huge gap between demand and supply. Apart from IndiGo, due to frequent cancellation of flights of other airlines and strong passenger demand, air fares have already increased by 20 to 25 percent.

Passengers have to pay more for air tickets for domestic flights in summer. Right now, the prices of tickets of all the airlines going towards the hill stations are skyrocketing. Air ticket prices are expected to increase further during summer vacations. However, air ticket prices in India were much cheaper in the world 18 to 24 months ago.

According to Honourable Civil Aviation and Steel Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, the price of air ticket is decided on the basis demand and supply. Though, the Parliamentary Standing Committee, which works under the Aviation Ministry and makes recommendations to control the price of air tickets, has also stressed on stopping the increase in air ticket prices during holidays and festivals. Despite this, there is no possibility of reduction in the price of air tickets soon, because today many aircraft are standing on the ground and due to operational issues, the operation of the aircraft is also being cancelled.

Jalianwala Bagh - An Immortal History of Indian Freedom Movement

AMITAVA BASU

In 1919 a Committee chaired by a British judge, Sir Sidney Rowlett, recommended the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act. In March 1919 the British Legislature passed the Act, which was commonly called the "Rowlett Act" after the name of the chairperson of the committee recommending the legislation. The Act empowered the British Government to arrest anyone suspected of revolutionary movement that was termed as terrorist activities and to detain the persons arrested for up to two years without trial. The Act also authorised the police to search without a warrant. Further, the Act placed severe restrictions on the freedom of press. In other words, the Rowlett Act provided the British Government enormous powers to

repress political activities and movement for freedom of India from British colonisation.

The repressive Rowlett Act was resisted by the Indians. Mahatma Gandhi led a nationwide satyagraha movement opposing the Act. Rallies were organised in various cities to protest against the Act. Workers went on strikes in railway workshops to demonstrate their solidarity in this protest. Shops were closed as mark of protest against this Act.

Two nationalist leaders of Punjab, Dr. Satya Pal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, who stood firmly for the principles of freedom, non-violence and religious unity, gave call for a general strike and urged the people to carry out Satyagraha against the Rowlett Act. It was this call that led to their arrest on 10th April, 1919.

On 13th April, 1919, around

twenty-five thousand unarmed people consisting of men, women and children of different caste and religion assembled at Jalianwala Bagh to protest against the tyrannical Rowlett Act and arrest of two nationalist leaders, Dr. Satya Pal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew. Jalianwala Bagh, a garden near Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar within the Indian province of Punjab, sprawled over six to seven-acre area, with a huge open area, and surrounded on three sides by ten-foot-tall walls and dwellings. Jalianwala Bagh had exit only on one side since it was surrounded by buildings on the other three sides.

Suddenly, a British military officer, Brigadier General Reginald Dyer entered Jalianwala Bagh with his troops. He ordered his troops to carefully guard the only entry-exit gate of Jalianwala

Bagh to prevent anyone from leaving the place. Without warning the people to evacuate, he instructed his troops to fire, which lasted for about ten minutes and continued till the ammunition was exhausted. Brigadier Dyer ordered his soldiers to fire at the densest portions of the crowd in front of Jalianwala Bagh's guarded exit through which the anxious people were trying to leave. The firing and the consequent stampede resulted in death of several thousand people and many more injured.

This barbaric incident shocked Rabinathan Tagore, the Nobel Laureate, to such an extent that he renounced his knighthood and many other patriotic Indians reacted strongly. The brutal massacre at Jalianwala Bagh inspired countless immortal revolutionaries like Udham Singh, Bhagat Singh to fight for the freedom of

India. The inhumane repression of the British of unarmed people carrying peaceful protest at Jalianwala Bagh was a turning point in the freedom struggle of India and served as a precursor to Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation agitation of 1920-22, and many ordinary citizens who may have been initially ambivalent, got involved in the independence movement to throw out the British oppressors from the Indian soil.

13th April, 1919 marks the immortal story of Indian freedom struggle. Jalianwala Bagh incident is reminder of the dangers of colonialism and imperialism and the importance of respecting the sovereignty and autonomy of other nations. It also reminds the need to uphold the fundamental human rights.

(The writer is a Development Practitioner based at Delhi.)

Khairagarh gears up for high-stakes election showdown

Amit Shah's rally promises political fireworks



Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Apr 13: The political arena in Khairagarh is set to witness an electrifying event as Union Home Minister Amit Shah gears up to address a massive public gathering this Sunday.

Fateh Maidan serving as the stage, Shah, alongside senior BJP leaders, will rally support for Santosh Pandey, the MP candidate for Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha constituency.

The anticipation is palpable as preparations intensify for Shah's helicopter arrival from Raipur airport to

Pipariya in Khairagarh at noon. From there, he will head straight to Raja Fateh Singh Maidan to galvanize the crowd in favor of the BJP candidate.

State-level leaders have been meticulously coordinating efforts, ensuring every detail is in place for what promises to be a monumental gathering.

Ghamman Sahu, BJP District President, emphasized the importance of continuous monitoring to ensure the success of the event.

Workers from Khairagarh, Chhukhadan, and Gandai districts are expected to flock to the venue to catch a glimpse of the Union Home Minister and pledge their support.

The organizational machinery of the BJP has been working tirelessly under the guidance of key figures like Rajesh Munat, Bhupendra Savanni, Narayan Chandel, and Sanjay Srivastava.

Local BJP leaders, including MLA Vikrant Singh and youth leader Khamman Tamrakar, have been actively involved in coordinating arrangements.

Tribal community celebrates temple inauguration



Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Apr 13: In a testament to communal harmony and collective effort, the tribal Kanwar Paikra community in village

Kanharपुरी has dedicated four to five years towards the construction of the Ram Janaki temple, known as Ayodhya Dham. The culmination of their hard work will be marked by the installation of the temple's idol on Saturday, April 13.

Sharing their plans for the upcoming celebrations, villagers announced a series of events. On April 14, a Kalash Yatra will traverse the entire village, symbolizing unity and devotion. The following day, April 15, will witness Pran Pratishtha (idol consecration) and the distribution

of Prasad. A special Bhajan session featuring Saint Mahatmas is scheduled for April 16, while April 17 will host a grand Ram Janmotsav program.

Proudly emphasizing their selfless dedication, members of the Kanwar Paikra community high-

lighted their invaluable contributions to the temple's construction, which stands as a testament to their unity and resolve. Importantly, they emphasized that the project received no assistance from individuals or leaders outside their community.

DIET volunteers ignite voter awareness campaign

Students spearhead wall writing campaign for fair voting

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Apr 13: In a bid to promote active participation in the electoral process, volunteers from the District Institute of Educational Training (DIET) have launched a voter awareness campaign under the guidance of local authorities.

Acting on the directives of Collector and District Election Officer Chandrakant Verma, and with the support of ADM Prem Kumar Patel, Deputy District Election Officer Surendra Kumar Thakur, and SVEEP Nodal Lajji Dwivedi, these volunteers are spreading awareness across 56 polling stations in



Central Chronicle News

the district. Taking a creative approach, students initiated a wall writing campaign to underscore the importance of fair and comprehensive voting. Led by individuals such as Abhinav Soni, Veer Singh, Kirtan Kanwar, Geetanjali Kanwar,

Homeshwari Sahu, Ritu Chandravanshi, Chandrika Chandravanshi, Tikeshwari Pal, and Diet's SVEEP nodal Krishna Kumar Verma, the campaign aims to empower citizens with the knowledge and motivation to exercise their voting rights diligently.

Liquor shops to remain closed during elections

- District prepares for dry day on April 24 6pm to 26 ahead of elections
- Measures implemented to ensure fair polling environment

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Apr 13: In anticipation of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the Khairagarh-Chhukhadan-Gandai (KCG) district has announced a dry period as part of efforts to maintain a fair and orderly voting environment.

The directive, issued by Collector and District Election Officer

Chandrakant Verma, mandates the closure of all liquor shops in the district starting 48 hours before the polling concludes on April 26.

The dry period will come into effect from April 24 at 6 pm and will extend until the end of polling on April 26.

During this time, the operation of local liquor shops, as well as establishments serving both do-

mestic and foreign liquor, will be suspended. Transactions involving liquor will be strictly prohibited, with stringent measures outlined under the Excise Act to penalize any violations.

This proactive step aims to uphold the integrity of the electoral process, ensuring that voters can participate freely and without undue influence.

SVEEP program organized in government schools

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Apr 13: In a proactive effort to promote voter awareness during the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, citizens, including school and college students, have taken to the streets across urban and rural areas under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant.

Through the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program, various engaging activities such as drama performances, rallies, slogan-writing competitions, essays, speeches, mehndi contests, and poster making sessions have been organized to inform 100% of the electorate.



Central Chronicle News

As part of this comprehensive campaign, government schools in Amgaon, Pasan, and Tuman, under Development Blocks Pali and Podi-Upora, orchestrated a powerful message through human chain formations, emphasizing the importance of maximum voter turnout.

Enthusiastic students actively participated in the initiative, urging voters to exercise their rights responsibly by choosing candidates based on merit, free from inducements or

intimidation. Furthermore, the National Service Scheme (NSS) students of Kamla Nehru College contributed to the cause by adorning walls with slogans, further amplifying the message of voter awareness within the community.

District plans vibrant cultural event under SVEEP

- Educators gather to coordinate district-level rangoli program

Central Chronicle News

Sukma, Apr 13: In a bid to foster community engagement and promote voter awareness, Sukma District Collector Haris S, in collaboration with Chief Executive Officer and SVEEP District Nodal Officer Shri Laxman Tiwari, has announced plans for a district-level Rangoli cultural program under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.



Central Chronicle News

The event is scheduled to take place at Mini Stadium Sukma on April 15. In preparation for this vibrant cultural celebration, a meeting was convened at the Collectorate meeting room, chaired by District Education Officer S.R. Mandvi and Assistant Commissioner Sharat Shukla. Attendees, including teachers, school principals, cluster coordinators, and superintendents, engaged in detailed discussions regarding the necessary arrangements for the Rangoli competition and the subsequent cultural program. Teachers, cluster

coordinators, and students will join forces on April 15 from 6 am to prepare for the Rangoli program, with the event itself commencing at 4 pm. The meeting also saw the participation of key figures such as Assistant Project Coordinator Ashish Ram, District Sports Officer Virupaksh Purnik, Block Resource Coordinator Deepak Barse, Assistant Block Education Officer Prafull Daniel, as well as principals and educators from various schools across the district.

परम पूज्य
बाबा साहेब डॉ. भीमराव अम्बेडकर
की 133वीं जयंती की हार्दिक मंगल कामनाएं..

भारतीय बौद्ध महासभा, भिलाई
(पं.क. 1119)

बाबा साहेब डॉ. अम्बेडकर सांस्कृतिक भवन से -6, भिलाई

अध्यक्ष आयु. सविता मेश्राम	उपाध्यक्ष विनोद वासनिक	उपाध्यक्ष कृष्णा बंसोड़कर	उपाध्यक्ष देवानंद मेश्राम
महासचिव रामराव टोक	सचिव धर्मपाल गजभिये	सचिव अशोक शसामकुंवर	उपाध्यक्ष भागवत बागड़े
उपकोषाध्यक्ष अशोक नदेश्वर	लेखापाल प्रदीप सोमकुंवर	सह सचिव कीर्ति लाजेवार	सह सचिव अजय अड़कने

प्रचार प्रभारी - ठनेंद्र कामड़े

कार्यकारिणी सदस्य :
बसंत नदेश्वर, इंद्र कुमार रामटेके, बुद्ध प्रकाश मेश्राम, आयु. प्रियवंदा वासनिक, जे.बी. पाटिल, हरिकिशन भोवते, आशीष चौहान, प्रितेश पाटिल, द्वारिका प्रसाद भईर, रंजू खोब्रागड़े, ज्ञानचंद टेंभुरकर, जालेंद्र उके

भारतीय संविधान निर्माता, समाज-सुधारक, भारत रत्न

बाबा साहेब डॉ. भीमराव अम्बेडकर
की जयंती के अवसर पर
देशवासियों और प्रदेशवासियों को अनेक-अनेक हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

अनिल मेश्राम
राष्ट्रीय संगठन सचिव - दि बुद्धिस्ट सोसायटी ऑफ इंडिया
प्रदेश अध्यक्ष - अजा/अजजा अखिल भारतीय परिसंघ छ.ग. राज्य कार्य. प्रान्ताध्यक्ष - अजाक्स, छत्तीसगढ़

भारतीय संविधान के निर्माता
डॉ. बाबासाहेब भीमराव अम्बेडकर की 133वीं जयंती के अवसर पर प्रदेशवासियों को विनम्र अभिवादन...

अजीत वैद्य
(अजय)
पार्षद वार्ड नं.-12

दि बुद्धिस्ट सोसायटी ऑफ इंडिया
(भारतीय बौद्ध महासभा)
पंजीयन क्रं.3227/F982

संस्थापक बोधिसत्व डॉ. बाबा साहेब आम्बेडकर
बुद्ध विहार एवं विपश्यना केन्द्र, सेक्टर-6, भिलाई (छ.ग.)

डॉ. बाबा साहेब आम्बेडकर सार्वजनिक जयंती समारोह 2024 में आप सभी का हार्दिक स्वागत है।

जीवन सुर्वेरी वीरचन्द्रा	के.के. चौहान उपपदा	निर्मला पजभिये उपपदा	सुधेश कुमार लण्डे संयोजक	नरेंद्र रोन्डे कोषाध्यक्ष	अरुण कुमार वैद्य कार्यक्रम सचिव	उषा मेश्राम सचिव	शारदा मेश्राम सचिव	यशवंत लण्डे सचिव	दिनेश काण्डे सचिव	सुभाष पजभिये सचिव	अमित पजभिये सचिव	रमन पजभिये सचिव	अजय रामटेके लेखापाल	
अध्यक्ष वर्षा बागड़े	सुजाता चौहान सचिव	निर्मला रामटेके सदस्य	लता मेश्राम सचिव	रत्नमला वैद्य सचिव	कविता वानरडे सचिव	कविता शर्मा सचिव	सविता शर्मा सचिव	कमल लक्ष्मण सचिव	जवा रामटेके सचिव	संगीता मोहं सदस्य	रघुनंद शर्मा सचिव	सत्यम पजभिये सदस्य	योगेश शर्मा सदस्य	दिपक वासनिक उपाध्यक्ष

Will keep alive Article 370 issue: Omar Abdullah

Srinagar, Apr 13 (PTI):

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the Supreme Court upholding the abrogation of Article 370 does not close the issue and his party will keep it alive till a dispensation comes at the Centre that is willing to discuss the restoration of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

"This government will not remain forever. There is no power on earth that can keep Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi in office in perpetuity, there is no power on earth that can



Omar Abdullah

keep the BJP in office forever. Every government has a finite term, some are longer, some are shorter. Why would you assume that no government will come in future that will be unwilling to talk to us on Article 370," Abdullah told

PTI in an interview here.

Abdullah, who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from north Kashmir Baramulla constituency, said the Supreme Court verdict on petitions challenging abrogation of the Article 370 was unfortunate. "I would like to believe that there will be a government in the future that will be happy to engage with us on our core issues of the special status of J-K and until that comes, we will keep our struggle alive," he said.

"We will continue to fight for it and struggle for it. A stamp of the SC does not close the issue, be-

cause if a stamp closes the issue, then we had a stamp on Article 370 much before this one and the SC found in favour of Article 370. So, yes, the recent judgement is unfortunate, but that won't stop our political fight," the former J-K chief minister said.

He claimed that several opposition parties were also on the same page. "Even now we have friends who talk in favour of the restoration of 370, whether it is in Tamil Nadu or West Bengal or the Left. We have friends outside of J-K who see eye to eye with us on the issue of 370," he added.

Kukis and Meitis united on one point: Not right time for LS polls

● In Manipur

Imphal, Apr 13 (PTI): The Kukis and Meitis may be at loggerheads in Manipur but their thoughts on one point converge - this is not the right time for Lok Sabha elections in the restive state.

It has nearly been a year since ethnic violence broke out between the hill-majority Kukis and the valley-majority Meitis. It has not only killed over 200 people and displaced around 50,000 but also sharply divided Manipur along ethnic lines. Elections for two Lok Sabha seats in Manipur will be held on April 19 and 26.

Vedanta's healthcare initiatives benefit around 4 lakh people

● In Odisha & Chh'garh

New Delhi, Apr 13:

On the occasion of World Health Day, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has announced benefitting around 4 lakh people in Odisha & Chhattisgarh through its community health interventions in FY24. The company has been serving its communities through high-quality health services, encouraging the adoption of preventive healthcare and providing quality curative health services to the local populace. Well-aligned with the theme of this year, "My health, my right", the com-

pany is empowering people to champion the right of everyone, everywhere to have access to quality health services, education, and information, in under-served, remote regions.

The company undertook several initiatives across its operations: in Jharsuguda, Odisha, home to the company's mega aluminium plant; at its operations in Lanjigarh, home to its world-class alumina refinery; at BALCO, India's iconic aluminium producer and a unit of Vedanta Aluminium located in Korba, Chhattisgarh; and at Vizag General Cargo Berth (VGCBB) port operations. In Jharsuguda, the company organised mega drives through mobile

healthcare vehicles and the distribution of informative leaflets in nearly 30 villages to sensitize the community to adopt healthier lifestyles. Additionally, a pilot breast cancer screening camp was also conducted at the Vedanta Aluminium supported Jharsuguda Diagnostic Centre, one of the largest multi-facility diagnostic centres in Odisha.

In Korba, Chhattisgarh, the company kicked off an assistive device distribution drive towards creating a more inclusive, supportive, and equitable community, by distributing walking sticks, tripods, crutches, walkers & wheelchairs to elderly & specially-abled persons.

Teachers in Bengal express concern over functioning of higher edu institutes

Kolkata, Apr 13 (PTI):

Twelve college and university teacher associations have expressed concern over the functioning of state-run higher educational institutes in West Bengal and the role of both the state government and governor on the issue.

The 12 associations objected to the 'advisory' sent by the higher education department to keep the department in the loop about every single policy meeting as well as the "unilateral" report card sought by the governor, general secretary of Jadavpur University Teachers Association (JUTA) Partha Pratim Roy told PTI on Saturday. Apart from JUTA, other teacher asso-

ciations include CUTA, WBCUTA, RBUTA, BUTA, VUTA, KUTC, WBSUTA, MAKAUTTA, Teachers of Presidency University, Diamond Harbour Women's University. The teacher bodies said, "For the restoration of academic sanity and democratic environment within campuses against the powers that are trying their best to destroy the same, we will take protest initiatives on April 19 in all colleges and universities of West Bengal." The state government in an advisory earlier this month had made it mandatory for state-aided, state-run universities to intimate the higher education department about any meeting of EC, Senate, Syndicate or Court - all

high-level decision-making autonomous bodies of the institutes concerned. The issue to have permanent VCs in 31 state universities is currently pending before the Supreme Court which had asked the governor, state and UGC to form their own search committees and submit the lists to it. A higher education official said the concern about the advisory by teacher bodies are unfounded as the government only wanted to be apprised about some of the meetings of the EC, and Court and like-wise without influencing their decision and autonomy. This was in consonance with the act passed by the assembly which is awaiting the nod of the chancellor.

'Sangh values' run through my veins: Bansuri Swaraj

● Can't think of filling mother's shoes

New Delhi, Apr 13 (PTI):

Bansuri Swaraj, the BJP candidate from the New Delhi Lok Sabha seat and daughter of late Union minister Sushma Swaraj, said the values of Sangh run through her veins and that she cannot even think of filling her mother's shoes owing to her stature and legacy.

In an interaction with PTI editors at the agency's headquarters, Bansuri Swaraj reminisced the deep connection she had with her mother since childhood and revealed that she has continued the late minis-



ter's tradition of sending BJP veteran L K Advani his favourite cake on his birthday every year.

Bansuri Swaraj, the only child of Sushma Swaraj and Swaraj Kaushal, said while growing up, there was a strict rule in the house - she had to converse with her mother in Hindi, and father in English - which made her proficient in both the languages. Forty-year-old Bansuri Swaraj, the youngest BJP candidate

in Delhi, said she had a normal upbringing which has kept her grounded while her family consisting of her parents and grandparents had a nationalistic outlook. "I humbly submit that I am in politics not because of Sushma Swaraj, and I say this with great responsibility. My 'Sangh Ayu' (affiliation) is 24 years. I started my political life as an ABVP worker," she said. "I have served the party and organisation as a lawyer for the last 10 years. I got the first responsibility in the party as co-convenor of the legal cell of Delhi BJP, four years after the passing away of my mother," she added. As far as dynasty

is concerned, Bansuri Swaraj said she deserves the same opportunities as anyone else. Politics should not be forbidden for me just because my mother was a public representative, she said.

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